

Word Parts Dictionary

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McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers

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*Standard and Reverse Listings of
Prefixes, Suffixes, Roots and
Combining Forms*

by

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*To Dona Sheehan,
salubrious wife and gift*

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Preface

This dictionary is based on word parts — those prefixes, suffixes, combining forms and roots which show up repeatedly to form words — and is meant to be used in conjunction with a standard dictionary and a thesaurus. It can help to retrieve words only dimly remembered, or it can lead to specific new words which otherwise might never have been discovered. And since a single recurrent letter combination often unlocks the partial meaning of dozens of words, it can act as an efficient way to expand one's general vocabulary.

The *Word Parts Dictionary* is divided into three sections.

Part I, the standard Dictionary, allows a reader to find the meaning of word parts conveniently arranged in alphabetical order, together with an example. For instance, Part I would reveal that the word part **-nov-** can mean either “new” (for instance, *novelty*) or “nine” (for instance, *novenary*), so the user would then become alert to context clues. This section is particularly useful to the person who has set out to expand his or her vocabulary. It is also a convenient place to consult to find actual examples after using Part II. Generally, one example is provided for each meaning.

Part II, the Finder, allows a user to start with a meaning or concept and then find the word parts which express that meaning. It is a reverse dictionary. For instance, one would learn that the meaning “color” is carried by the word parts **chromato-**, **-chrome**, **chromo-**, **-chroous**, **-pigm-**, **-tinct-**, and **-ting-**. Armed with that information, a user could then consult his or her memory or turn to the appropriate pages of a standard dictionary to find a variety of words which a thesaurus would not have contained. The alternative to finding such word parts is endless paging through an unabridged dictionary.

Part III, Categories, is also a reverse dictionary, but this time with the word parts arranged in clusters of meaning. For example, Part III would enable a reader to find, in one convenient listing, word parts which express many specific colors. Each color would also appear in Part II, of course, but in an isolated, alphabetical fashion.

This dictionary focuses on four kinds of word parts.

Prefixes (*pre*): A prefix is a syllable, group of syllables, or word united with or joined to the beginning of another word to alter its meaning or create a new word. For example, *re-* is a prefix in the word “redevelop.” The hyphen at the end of the prefix indicates that it usually starts a word.

Suffixes (*suf*): A suffix is a syllable, group of syllables, or word added at the end of a word or word base to change its meaning, give it grammatical form, or form a new word. For example, *-ette* is a suffix in the word “kitchenette.” The hyphen at the start of the suffix indicates that it normally ends a word.

Combining forms (*comb*): A combining form is a word form that occurs only in compounds, or in compounds and derivatives, and that can combine with other such forms or with prefixes and suffixes to form a word. For example, *cryo-* is one of the combining forms in the word “cryogenic,” and *-genic* is the other one. The hyphens indicate that *cryo-* usually starts the word in which it appears and that *-genic* usually ends the word in which it appears.

Bases (*base*): A base is a stem or a root, a generally short letter combination that conveys a recurrent meaning all by itself without being involved in a compound word. Prefixes and suffixes may be added to it. For example, *-dict-* is a base in the word “predictable.” The two hyphens indicate that it may appear at any location in a word: front, back, or middle. Thus, we have “dictation,” “contradict,” and “predictable.”

PART I
Dictionary

A

a⁻¹ *see* ad-

a⁻², ab-, abs- *pre* from; off; away;
down (avert, abduct, abscond)

a⁻³, an- *pre* not; without (anoxia,
anandrous)

-a⁴ 1. *suf* singular feminine ending
(Roberta); 2. plural ending (phe-
nomena)

abdomino- *comb* abdomen (ab-
dominocentesis)

abiet- *base* fir (abietic)

-able 1. *suf* able to (durable); 2. ca-
pable of being (drinkable); 3. wor-
thy of being (lovable); 4. having
qualities of (comfortable); 5.
tending to (peaceable)

ablut- *base* bathe; wash away (ablu-
tion)

-ably *suf* adverb form of -able
(affably). *See* -ible

ac⁻¹ *see* ad-

-ac² *suf* of; pertaining to (cardiac).
See -ic

acantho- *comb* spiny; thorny (acan-
thocyte)

acar-, acari-, acarin-, acaro- *comb*
mite; tick (acarine, acariasis,
acarinoses, acarophobia)

accipit- *base* falcon; hawk (accip-
itrine)

-acea *suf* plural for names of animal
classes or orders (Cetacea)

-aceae *suf* plural for names of plant
families or orders (Rosaceae)

-acean, -aceous *suf* of the nature of;
like; characterized by; belonging
to (crustacean, crustaceous)

acer⁻¹ *base* sharp; needle-like
(acerose)

acer⁻² *base* maple (aceric)

acerb- *base* harsh; bitter (acerbic)

acerv- *base* heap (acervate)

acet-, aceto-, acetyl- *comb* acetic;
acetyl; vinegar (acetamid, ace-
tometer, acetylcholine)

acetabul- *base* saucer (acetabuli-
form)

acetar- *base* salad (acetaryious)

acheron- *base* hell; underworld
(acherontical)

achlu- *base* darkness (achluopho-
bia)

aci- *base* needle (acicular)

acid- *comb* sour (acidosis)

acinaci- *comb* scimitar (acinaci-
form)

acini- *comb* grape (aciniform)

-acious *suf* characterized by; full of
(audacious)

acipenser- *base* sturgeon
(acipenserine)

-acity *suf* quality of (tenacity)

acou-, acoust- *comb* hearing; sound
(acouesthesia, acoustical)

acrid- *base* grasshopper (acridid)

acro- 1. *comb* pointed (acro-
cephaly); 2. highest (acrospire); 3.
extremity (acroataxia)

acromio- *comb* upper arm; shoulder
(acromioclavicular)

actino- 1. *comb* [zoology] posses-
sion of tentacles (actinomorphic);
2. [physics/chemistry] presence of
actinic rays (actinometry); 3. light
ray (actinotherapy)

acu-, acul- *comb* sharp (acumen, ac-
uleate)

aculei- *base* spine (aculeiform)

acuti- *comb* sharp-pointed (acutifo-
liate)

-acy *suf* quality; position; condition
(democracy)

ad⁻¹ 1. *pre* motion toward (ad-
vance); 2. addition to (admit);

3. nearness to (adjoin) **NOTE:**
ad- can change to: **a-** (ascribe); **ac-** (acclaim); **af-** (affirm); **ag-** (ag-grade); **al-** (allege); **an-** (announce); **ap-** (approve); **ar-** (arrive); **as-** (assent); **at-** (attrition)
- ad²** *suf* of or relating to; used to form names of 1. collective numerals (monad); 2. some poems (Iliad); 3. some plants (cycad)
- ad³** *suf* [anatomy]: toward; in the direction of (dorsad)
- ade** 1. *suf* the act of (blockade); 2. product of (pomade); 3. participant (brigade); 4. drink made from (lemonade)
- adelph-** *base* brother (Philadelphia)
- aden-, adeni-, adeno-** *comb* gland or glands (adenalgia, adeniform, adenography)
- adip-, adipo-** *comb* fat (adipose, adipocellular)
- adjut-, adjuv-** *base* help (adjutant, adjutant)
- adren-, adreno-** *comb* adrenal gland (adrenalitis, adrenotoxin)
- adul-** *base* flattery (adulation)
- adular-** *base* blue (adularescent)
- ae** *suf* plural ending (antennae)
- aed-** *base* yellow fever mosquito (Aedes)
- aede-** *base* genitals (aedeagus). *Also* aedoe- (aedoeomania)
- aedi-** *base* temple; shrine; habitat (aedicule). *See* edi-
- aegr-** *base* illness (aegritude)
- aei-** *base* always; ever; continued (aeipathy)
- aeluro-** *see* ailuro-
- aemia** *comb* blood condition (hyperaemia). *See* -emia
- aen-** *base* metallic brown (aeneous)
- aenio-** *base* brass (aeniolithic)
- aequor-** *base* sea; ocean (aequorial)
- aer-, aeri-, aero-** *comb* air; gas (aerate, aeriferous, aerobatics)
- aerug-** *base* green-blue; verdegriis (aeruginous)
- aerumn-** *base* toil; trouble (aerumnous)
- aescul-** *base* horse chestnut (aesculin)
- aestiv-** *base* summer (aestivate)
- aestu-** *base* boil up (exaestuating). *Also* estu- (estuosity)
- aet-** *base* eagle (aetites)
- aetheo-** *base* unusual (aetheogamous)
- aetio-** *base* cause (aetiology). *See* etio-
- aev-** *base* time; age (mediaeval)
- af-** *see* ad-
- afflat-** *base* breathe on; inspiration (afflatus)
- Afro-** *comb* African (Afroasiatic)
- ag-** *see* ad-
- agalma-** *base* image; statue (stylagmatic)
- agap-** *base* love (agape)
- agar-** *base* mushroom (agariciform)
- agath-** *base* good (agathism)
- agati-** *comb* agate (agatiforous)
- age** 1. *suf* act; condition; result of (marriage); 2. amount; number of (acreage); 3. cost of (postage); 4. place of (steerage); 5. collection of (peerage); 6. home of (hermitage); 7. to act (forage)
- agglut-** *base* stick to (agglutination)
- agito-** *comb* excited; restless (agiotophasia)
- agmat-** *base* fracture; break (catagmatic)
- agn-** *base* lamb (agnification)
- agnosia** *comb* loss of knowledge (prosopagnosia)
- agogue** 1. *comb* leading; directing

(pedagogue); 2. inciting (dema-gogue); *adj.* -agogic (hemagogic)
agon- *base* contest; struggle (antagonist)
agora- *comb* open space (agoraphobic)
-agra *comb* sudden pain; seizure (pelagra)
agrest- *base* rural; field (agrestic)
agri- *comb* field; earth; soil (agriculture)
agri- *base* wild; savage (agriologist)
agro- *comb* field; earth; soil (agronomy)
agrost- *base* grass (agrostography)
-agrypn- *base* sleeplessness (agrypnod)
-aholic *comb* person addicted to or obsessed with ___ (workaholic)
aichm- *base* needle (aichmophobia)
aichur- *base* pointed (aichurophobia)
ailuro- *comb* cat (ailurophobia).
Also aeluro- (aeluromania)
-aire *suf* person characterized by or occupied with (legionnaire)
aischro- *base* smut; obscenity (aischrolatria)
al⁻¹ *see* **ad**-
al⁻² *comb* the (alchemy)
-al³ 1. *suf* belonging to; like; of (theatrical); 2. nouns from *adj.* (perennial); 3. act or process of (acquittal); 4. [chemistry] having aldehydes (chloral)
ala- *base* wing (alation)
alacr- *base* promptness (alacrity)
alaud- *base* skylark (alaudine)
-alb- *base* white (albino)
alcelaph- *base* antelope (alcelaphine)
alcid- *base* auk (alcidine)
alea- *base* dice; chance (aleatory)
alectoro-, alectryo- *comb* cock;

rooster (alectoromachy, alectryomancy)
-ales *suf* ending for scientific Latin names of plants (Liliales)
aleth- *base* truth (alethiology)
aleuro- *base* flour (aleuromancy)
alex-, alexi-, alexo- *comb* to ward off; keep away (alexiteric, alexipyretic, alexocyte)
alg- *base* cold (algid)
alge-, algesi-, -algia, algo-, -algy *comb* pain (algetic, algesimeter, neuralgia, algophobia, coxalgy)
ali⁻¹ *comb* wing (aliform)
-ali⁻² *base* another; other (alien)
-alim- *base* nourishment; food (alimentation)
-aliph- *base* unguent; fat (aliphatic)
-alis *suf* ending for scientific Latin names (borealis)
-allac-, -allag- *base* exchange; mutually binding (synallactic, synallagmatic)
allant(o)- 1. *comb* membrane: fetal (allanto-chorion); 2. sausage-shaped (allantoid)
-allaxis- *base* exchange (morphallaxis)
allelo- *comb* of one another; reciprocal (allelomorph)
alli- *base* garlic (alliaceous)
allo- *comb* variation; reversal; departure from normal (allonym)
-ally *suf* to form certain adverbs (terrifically)
alog(o)- *base* unreasonable (alogotrophy)
alopec- *base* fox (alopecoid); baldness (alopecia)
alphito- *base* barley (alphitomorphous)
alter- *comb* another; other (alternate)
alti-, alto- *comb* high (altimeter, altocumulus)

alumino- *comb* aluminum (aluminosilicate)
alut- *base* leather (alutaceous)
alv- *base* belly (alvine)
alve- *base* beehive (alveary)
alveolo- 1. *comb* connected with alveolus (alveolodental); 2. small cavity; socket (alveolopalatal)
alyt- *base* police officer (alytarch)
-am- *base* love; friendship (amity)
amar- *base* sour (amarine)
amaranth- *base* purple (amaranthine)
amath- *base* dust (amathophobia)
amaur- *base* dim; dark (amaurosis)
amaxo- *base* automobile (amaxophobia)
ambag- *base* oblique; indirect (ambagious)
ambi-, ambo- *comb* both; around (ambience, amboceptor). *See* **amphi-**
ambig- *base* uncertain (ambiguity)
ambly- *comb* dullness; dimness (amblyopia)
ambul- *comb* walk (somniaambulate)
amelo- *comb* enamel (amelogenesis)
amensi- *base* amnesia (amensiphobia)
ament⁻¹ *base* insanity (amentia)
ament⁻² *base* catkin (amentaceous)
amic⁻¹ *base* friend (amicable)
-amic⁻² *suf* amide related (lactamic acid)
amido- *comb* amide radical (amido-hydrolases)
-amine *comb* having one hydrogen atom (Dramamine)
amino- *comb* in the ammonia molecule replaced by an alkyl or other nonacid radical (aminophenol)
amita- *base* aunt (amitate)
ammino- *comb* containing amines (ammino-chloride)
ammo- *comb* sand (ammochryse)

ammonio-, ammono- *comb* containing ammonia (ammonioferric, ammonotelic)
amn- *base* river (amnicolist)
amnes- *base* forgotten (paramnesia)
amnio- *comb* amniotic sac; membrane: fetal (amniocentesis)
amorpho- *comb* shapeless; irregularly shaped (amorphogranular)
-ampel- *base* vine (ampelopsis)
amphi-, amphi- *comb* on both sides; surrounding (amphibology, amphoteric). *See* **ambi-**
-ampl- *base* large (amplifier)
ampull- *base* bottle (ampule)
amycho- *base* scratch; irritate (amyctic)
amygdalo- *comb* almond-shaped (amygdalophenin)
amyl-, amylo- *comb* of starch (amylamine, amyloimeter)
an⁻¹ *pre* not; lacking (anarchy)
an⁻² *see* **ad-**
-an⁻³ 1. *suf* belonging to; of; characteristic of (diocesan); 2. born in; living in (American); 3. believing in; following (Mohammedan)
ana⁻¹ *pre* up; upon; back; again; anew; throughout (anabolism)
-ana⁻² *suf* plural: collective (Americana)
anacard- *base* cashew (anacardiaceous)
anaps- *base* turtle (anapsid)
anat- *base* duck (anatine)
anathem- *base* curse (anathematize)
-ance 1. *suf* the act of (utterance); 2. quality or state of being (vigilance); 3. a thing that __ (conveyance); 4. a thing that is __ (dissonance); *adv.* **-ancy** (constancy)
ancip- *base* doubtful; two-edged (ancipitous)
-ancon- *base* elbow (anconitis)

ancry- *base* anchor (ancryoid)
ancylo- *comb* bent; crooked; stiff (ancylostomiasis). *Also* **ankylo-** (ankyloglossia)
ancylostom- *base* hookworm (Ancylostoma)
andro-, -andry *comb* man; male (androgenous, polyandry)
-androus 1. *comb* man; male (polyandrous); 2. *BOT*: having stamens (diandrous)
-ane *suf* denoting a hydrocarbon of the paraffin series (methane)
anemo- *comb* wind (anemometer)
anet- *base* soothing (anetic)
aneth- *base* dill (anethated)
angin- *base* strangulation; heart attack (angina)
angio- *comb* vessel; case; pot (angiocarp)
Anglo- *comb* English (Anglo-Irish)
angui- *base* snake (anguiform)
anguill- *base* eel (anguilliform)
angul- *base* angle (angularity)
angusti- *comb* narrow (angustifoliate)
anhydro- *comb* anhydride (anhydroglucose)
-anim- *base* spirit; life (animation)
aniso- *comb* unequal; dissimilar (anisometropia)
ankylo- *comb* bent; crooked; stiff (ankylosis). *Also* **ancylo-**
-ann-, -enn- *base* year (annual, biennial); yearly (anniversary)
annul- *comb* ring (annular)
ano¹ *pre* upward; above (anotropia)
ano² *comb* anal; ring-shaped (anorectal)
anom-, anomo- *comb* unusual; irregular; abnormal (anomalous, anomocarpous)
anomalo- *comb* irregular; uneven (anomalogonatus)

anophel- *base* mosquito (anopheline)
ansa- *base* handle (ansated)
anser- *base* goose (anserine)
-ant 1. *suf* performing an act (defiant); 2. person who performs (accountant); 3. impersonal physical agent (lubricant)
ante- *pre* before in time, order, or position (antedate)
antero- *comb* anterior; front (anterolateral)
-anthema *comb* rash; eruption (enanthema)
antho- *comb* of flowers (anthomania)
-anthous *comb* having flowers of a specified kind or number (monanthous)
anthraco- *comb* coal; carbuncle (anthracomancy)
anthropo- *comb* human (anthropology)
anti- 1. *pre* against; hostile (antibor); 2. operating against (antiballistic); 3. preventing, curing, neutralizing (antitoxin); 4. opposite; reverse (antiperistalsis); 5. rivaling (antipope)
antio- *comb* set against (antiopelmus)
-antiq- *base* old; ancient (anti-quoted)
antlo- *base* flood (antlophobia)
antro- *comb* nearly closed cavity; antrum (antroscope)
anu- *base* circular; ring-shaped (annulus)
-anus *suf* scientific word ending (Platanus)
aorto- *comb* extremity (aortoclasia)
ap- *see* **ad-**
apat- *base* deceit (apatite)
apeir- *base* infinite; endless (apeirogon)

apert- *base* open (apertometer)
aphe-, -aphia *comb* sense of touch (aphophobia, dysaphia)
aphro- *base* foam (Aphrodite)
aphrodisio- *base* sexual (aphrodisiac)
api- *comb* bee (apiculture)
-apical, apico- *comb* apex; tip (periapical, apicotomy)
apio- *base* pear (apiocrinite)
apo- *pre* off; from; away from; separation (apococate)
apocris- *base* to give or receive answers (apocrisiary)
apolaust- *base* enjoyment; self-indulgence (apolaustic)
aporet- *base* doubt (aporetic)
apostem- *base* abscess (apostematous)
appell- *base* call to; name (appellation)
appet- *base* craving (appetite)
apricat- *base* sunbathing (aprication)
-aps-, -apt-¹ *base* joining (synapse, synaptic)
-apsia *comb* touch (parapsia)
apt-² *base* ability (aptitude)
aqua-, aque-, aqui- *comb* water (aquatic, aqueduct, aquiclude)
aquil- *base* eagle (aquiline)
ar-¹ *see* **ad-**
-ar² 1. *suf* pertaining to (angular); 2. one who __ (burglar); 3. connected with __ (collar)
arach- *base* peanut; ground nut (arachidic)
arachn-, arachno- *comb* spider; cobweb (arachnophobia, arachnodactylia)
-araneo- *base* spider (araneology)
arat- *base* farming; tillage (aratory)
-arbor- *base* tree (arboretum)
arcan- *base* secret (arcane)

arch-¹ *pre* main; chief; principal (archbishop)
-arch² *comb* ruler (patriarch)
archaeo-, archeo- *comb* ancient; original (archaeology, Archeozoic)
archi- *pre* [biology] primitive (archiplasm)
-archy *comb* rule; government (monarchy)
arci- *base* arch (arciform)
arct- *base* moth (arctian)
arcto- *comb* bear (cynarctomachy)
arctoid- *base* raccoon; weasel (arctoidian)
ard-¹, **ars-** *base* burn (ardor, arson)
-ard², **-art** *suf* one who is or does too much (drunkard, braggart)
ard-³ *base* erect; steep; laborious (arduous)
arde- *base* heron (ardeid)
ardu- *base* laborious; steep (arduous)
aren- *comb* sand (arenicolous)
arenaceo- *comb* sandy (arenaceous, argillaceous)
arene- *base* spider (areneiform)
areo-¹ *comb* Mars (areology)
areo-² *base* thin; rare (areometer)
argent-, argenti-, argento- *comb* silver (argentite, argentiferous, argento-cuprous)
argillaceo- *comb* clay (arenaceous, argillaceous)
argillo- *comb* clay (argillo-calcareous)
argyro- *comb* silver (argyrophyllus)
-aria *suf* [botany/zoology] used to form names of groups and names of genera (Planaria)
-arian *suf* age; sect; occupation; social belief (Unitarian)
arid- *base* dry (aridity)
ariet- *base* ram (arietine)
-arious *suf* relating to; connected with (vicarious)

-aris *suf* scientific word ending (Polaris)

aristo- *comb* best (aristotype)

arithm- *base* number (arithmetic)

-arium *suf* location; receptacle (solarium)

armo- *base* shoulder (armomancy)

arrhen- *comb* male (arrhenotoky)

arseno- *comb* having arsenic (arsenopyrite)

arterio- *comb* artery (arteriosclerosis)

arthr-, arthro- *comb* connected with a joint (arthrectomy, arthrodynia)

arthropod- *base* millipede (arthropodal)

arti- *comb* workmanship (artifact)

-articul- *base* joint (multiarticular)

artio- *comb* even number (artiodactyl)

artiodyctyl- *base* giraffe (artiodactylous)

arto- *comb* bread (artophagous)

arundi- *base* reed (arundiferous)

-ary 1. *suf* relating to; like (legendary); 2. thing/person connected to __ (military)

as-¹ *see* **ad-**

as-², **asin-** *base* jackass (asinine)

ascari- *comb* intestinal worm (ascariasis)

asco- *comb* [botany] sac (ascocarp)

-ase *suf* that decomposes; names of enzymes (amylase)

-asis *suf* condition resembling; disease names (psoriasis)

-asm *suf* result of an action (orgasm)

asmato- *comb* song (asmatographer)

asper- *comb* rough (asperity)

aspid- *base* shield (aspidomancy)

assid- *base* unceasing (assiduity)

-ast *suf* one who is __ (entusiast)

astac- *base* lobster (astacian)

aster-¹ *comb* star (asteraceous)

-aster² *suf* diminution; inferiority; worthlessness; slight resemblance (poetaster)

asteroid- *base* starfish (asteroidean)

asthen-, astheno- *comb* weakness (asthenopia, asthenobiosis). *See* **-esthenia**

astra- *comb* lightning (astraphobia)

astragalo- *comb* anklebone; dice (astragalonavicular, astragalomancy)

astro- *comb* star; celestial activity (astronomy)

at- *see* **ad-**

-ata *suf* result of; plural ending (stomata)

atax-, ataxi-, -ataxia, ataxio-, ataxo- *comb* confusion; disorder (ataxaphasia, ataxiamnesic, psychataxia, ataxiophemia, ataxophobia)

-ate¹ *v.* 1. *suf* to become (maturate);

2. cause to become (invalidate);

3. form or produce (salivate);

4. provide or treat with (refrigerate);

5. put in the form of; form by means of (delineate);

6. to arrange for (orchestrate);

7. to combine; infuse; treat with (chlorinate)

-ate² *adj.* 1. *suf* characteristic of (collegiate); 2. having; filled with (passionate); 3. [biology] having or characterized by (caudate)

-ate³ *n.* 1. *suf* office; function; agent; official (directorate); 2. person or thing that is the object of an action (legate); 3. [chemistry] a salt made from an acid ending in -ic (nitrate)

ate-⁴ *base* ruinous; reckless impulse (atephobia)

atelia-, atelo- *comb* incomplete; undeveloped (myelatelina, atelocardia)

ather- *base* smelt (atherine)
athero- *comb* deposit: soft materials (atherogenic)
-athlon, -athon *suf* event; contest (pentathlon, walkathon)
-atic *suf* of the kind of (chromatic)
-atile *suf* possibility; quality (volatile)
-ation 1. *suf* the act of (alteration); 2. condition of being (gratification); 3. the result of (compilation)
-ative *suf* relating to; tending to (correlative)
atlanto- *comb* [anatomy] pertaining to the atlas, top vertebra (atlantoaxial)
atlo- *comb* of the neck (atloid)
atmo- *comb* steam; vapor; air (atmosphere)
-ator *suf* doer; agent; actor (educator)
-atory *suf* of the nature of; pertaining to; produced by (accusatory)
atrament- *base* ink (atramental)
-atresia *comb* imperforate; lacking an opening (colpatresia)
atreto- *comb* imperforate; lacking an opening (atretocyst)
atrio- *comb* cavity, esp. a chamber of the heart (atrioventricular)
atro- *comb* black (atrorubent)
-atrophia, atrophic 1. *comb* malnutrition (metatrophia); 2. progressive decline (neuratrophia, myotrophic)
atto- *pre* one-quintillionth (attogram)
atychi- *base* failure (atychiphobia)
-auchen- *base* neck (maerauchenia)
audac- *base* boldness (audacity)
audi-, audio- *comb* hearing (auditorium, audiology)
-aug- *base* grow; increase (augment)

augur- *base* soothsaying; divination (augury)
aulo- *comb* pipe; reed (aulophyte)
auranti- *base* orange (aurantiaceus)
aur(i)-¹ *comb* ear (auricle)
aur(i)-², auro- *comb* gold (auriferous, aurous)
auricalc- *base* copper; gold (auricalceous)
auriculo- *comb* outer ear; lobe (auriculo-temporal)
-auror- *base* dawn (aurorean)
aurora- *comb* radiant emissions in both hemispheres (aurora borealis)
austro- 1. *comb* wind: south (austromancy); 2. eastern (Austro-Hungarian)
auto- *comb* self; self-moving (autobiography)
autumn- *base* fall (autumnal)
auxano-, auxeto-, auxo- *comb* increase; growth (auxanogram, auxetophone, auxochrome)
auxil- *base* help; assistance (auxiliary)
avar- *base* greed (avarice)
aven- *base* oats (avenaceous)
avern- *base* hellish (avernal)
avia-, avio- 1. *comb* bird (aviary); 2. flight (aviator)
avid- *base* eager (avidity)
av(in)- *base* grandmother (avitic)
aviono- *comb* flying (avionics)
-avunc- *base* uncle (avunculate)
av(us)- *base* grandfather (avital)
axi-, axio-¹, axo- *comb* related to an axis (axial, axiomesial, axometer)
-axill- *base* armpit (periaxillary)
axin- *base* ax (axinomancy)
axio-² *comb* values (axiology)
azo- *comb* [chemistry] nitrogen (azobenzene)
-azur- *base* sky-blue (azureous)

B

baccato- *comb* bearing berries (baccato-tuberculous)

bacci- *comb* berry (baccivorous)

bacill-, bacilli-, bacillo- *comb* rod-shaped bacillus (bacillema, bacilliform, bacillotherapy)

back- 1. *comb* of the back (backache); 2. behind (backfield); 3. prior (backdate); 4. opposing (backlash)

-bacter, bacteri-, bacterio- *comb* of bacteria (aerobacter, bactericide, bacteriology)

bacul- *base* rod (baculine)

balaen- *base* whale (balaenoid)

balani-, balano- *comb* acorn; gland (balanitis, balanorrhagia)

balatro- *base* buffoon (balatrophobia)

balaust- *base* pomegranate (balaustine)

balbut- *base* stutter; stammer (balbutiate)

ballist- *base* projectile (ballistic)

balneo- *comb* baths; bathing (balneology)

banaus- *base* mechanical (banausic)

-bar *comb* atmospheric pressure; weight (isobar)

barb- *comb* beard; tufted (barbate)

bari-, baro- *comb* atmospheric pressure weight (baritone, barograph)

bary- *comb* heavy difficult (baryphonia)

basi-, baso- *comb* [biology] the base; at or near base (basidigitale, basocellular)

-basia *comb* [medicine] ability to walk (abasia)

basiat- *base* kiss (basiation)

basidio- *comb* base (basidiomycetes)

basil- *base* king (basilic)

-bat- *base* walk; go; pass (diabatic)

batho-, bathy- *comb* depth; deep (bathometer, bathysphere)

bato-¹ *comb* height (batophobia)

bato-² *comb* brambles (batology)

batracho- *comb* frog; toad (batrachophagous)

batto- *comb* repetition (battologize)

bdell- *base* leech (bdellatomy)

be- 1. *pre* around (beset); 2. completely (besmear); 3. away (bereave); 4. about (bemoan); 5. make (besot); 6. furnish with (befriend); 7. cover(ed) with (becloud)

beati- *base* happy; blessed (beatitude)

-bell- *base* war (bellicose)

-belo- *base* arrow (beloid)

-belon- *base* needle; pin; sharp object (belonoid)

bene- *pre* good; well (benefactor)

benzo- *comb* [chemistry] benzine (benzo-phenone)

benzoxo- *comb* [chemistry] benzoyl group (benzoxycetanilide)

benzyloxy- *comb* [chemistry] benzyl group (benzyloxyamine)

beryl- *base* green (berylline)

betul- *base* birch (betulaceous)

bi- 1. *pre* having two (biangular); 2. on both sides in two ways (bilingual); 3. every two (biweekly); 4. using two (bilabial); 5. involving two (bipartisan); 6. [botany/zoology] twice; doubly; in pairs (bipinnate); 7. [chemistry] having twice as many atoms or chemical equivalents for a definite weight of

the other constituent of the compound (sodium bicarbonate);
8. organic compounds having a combination of two radicals of the same composition (biphenyl)

bib- *base* drink (bibulous)

biblio- 1. *comb* of books (bibliography); 2. of the Bible (bibliomancy)

bili- *comb* gall; bile (biligenic)

-bility *suf* power to do or be (responsibility)

bin- *pre* two (binaural)

bio- *comb* living; life (biography)

-biosis *comb* way of living (symbiosis)

-bis- *pre* two; twice (bisferious)

bland- *base* flattery (blandishment)

-blast, -blastic, blasto-, -blasty
comb formative; germinal; embryonic; developing (mesoblast, osteoblastic, blastoderm)

blatt⁻¹ *base* cockroach (blatta)

blatt⁻² *base* purple (blattein)

-ble *see* -able

blenn-, blenno- *comb* mucus; slime (blennadenitis, blennostasis)

-blep- *base* sight (ablepsia)

blepharo- *comb* eyelid (blepharotomy)

blesi- *base* stammering (blesiloquent)

-bly *see* -ably

-bole *comb* thrown down/out/in/together/beyond (hyperbole)

bolet- *base* fungus; mushrooms (boletus)

-bolic, bolo⁻¹, **-boly** *comb* thrown down/out/in/together/beyond (catabolic, bolometer, epiboly)

bolo⁻² *base* ray; radiant energy (bolometer)

-bomb- 1. *base* bee (bombilation);
2. silk; silkworm (bombycinous)

bon- *base* good (bonanza)

borea- *base* north (boreal)

borbor- *base* filthy talk (borborology)

boro- *comb* [chemistry] boron (boroflouride)

-bosc- *base* to feed (hippoboscid)

botano- *comb* plant (botanomancy)

botaur- *base* bittern (botaurus)

-bothr- *base* pitted; grooved (bothrenchyma)

-bothro- *base* pit; mine (bothrodendron)

botry(o)- *comb* grapes (botryose)

-botul- *base* sausage (botulism)

bou-, bu- *comb* ox; cow (boustrophedon, bulemia)

-bound 1. *comb* constrained (snow-bound); 2. going toward (west-bound)

-bov- *base* cow (bovine)

brachi-, brachio- *comb* arm; upper arm (brachialgia, brachiopod)

brachisto- *comb* short (brachistocephal)

brachy- *comb* short (brachycardia)

bract- *base* leaf (bracteate)

brady- *comb* slow; delayed (bradyarthria)

-branchia, branchio- *comb* gills (pulmobranchia, branchiopod)

brassic- *base* broccoli; cabbage (brassicacious)

brepho- *comb* fetus (brephotrophic)

brevi- *comb* brief; little; short (breviloquence)

brom-, bromo- *comb* stench (bromidrosis, bromopnea)

bromato- *comb* food (bromatology)

bromel- *base* pineapple (bromeliaceous)

bromo- *comb* [chemistry] bromine (bromoderma)

bronch-, bronchi-, bronchio-, broncho- *comb* the windpipe (bronchadenitis, bronchiectasis, bronchiogenic, bronchoscope)

bronto- 1. *comb* thunder (bronto-graph); 2. [paleontology] hugeness (brontosaurus)
-brotic *comb* inclined to eat (scolobrotic)
bruch- *base* caterpillar (bruchus)
brum-¹ *base* winter (brumal)
brum-² *base* foggy (brumous)
brun- *base* dark brown (brunneous)
brux- *base* grind (bruxism)
bryo- *comb* moss (bryophyte)
bu- *see* bou-
bubal- *base* antelope; buffalo (bubaline)
bubo- *base* groin (bubonocoele)
buccin- *base* trumpet (buccinatory)
bucco- *comb* cheek (buccolabial)
bucerat-, bucorac- *base* hornbill (Buceratinae, Bucoracinae)
bufo- *comb* toad (bufotoxin)

bulbo- *comb* bulb; bulbous (bulbospinal)
-bulia *comb* will (dysbulia)
bullat- *base* bubble; blister (bullate)
-burg, -burgh *comb* city; town; village (Vicksburg, Pittsburgh)
-burger *comb* sandwich made on a roll or bun (cheeseburger)
burs-, burso- *comb* pouch; purse; sac (bursar, bursopathy)
buteo- *comb* hawk; buzzard (buteonine)
butyro- *comb* butter (butyrometer)
bux- *base* box-tree (buxiferous)
by- 1. *pre* near; close by (bystander); 2. side (bystreet); 3. secondary (by-product)
-byon- *base* plug; stuff (rhinobyon)
-byss- *base* depth (hyperbyssal)
byssi- *comb* flax (byssinosis)

C

caball- *base* horse (caballine)
cachex- *base* ill health (cachectic)
cachin- *base* laugh (cachinnate)
caco- *comb* bad; poor; harsh (cacophony). *Also* **kako-** (kakistocracy)
cacumin- *base* tip (cacuminate)
cad- *base* fall (cadence)
cadav- *base* corpse (cadaverous)
-cade *comb* procession; parade (moltorcade)
caduc- *base* transitory; perishable (caducous)
caec- 1. *base* blind (caecilian); 2. intestinal pouch (caeciform)
caed- *see* -cide
cael- *base* heavens (caelometer). *See* celest-
caeno-¹, **ceno**-, **coeno-** *comb* in common (Caenozoic, cenobite, coenobium)

caeno-² *comb* new (caenogenesis). *Also* **caino-** (cainophobia)
caes- *base* blue; gray; green (caesious)
-caine *comb* synthetic alkaloid in anesthetic drugs (novocaine)
cal-, cale- *base* heat (decalescence, caleficient)
calam- *base* reed (calamiform)
calar-, calat- *base* inserted (intercalary, intercalated)
calathi- *comb* cup; basket (calathiform)
calcaneo- *comb* heel-bone (calcaneofibular)
calcareo- *comb* of lime (calcareousulfurous)
-calce- *base* shoe (discalced)
calci- *comb* calcium; lime (calcify)
calcitr- *base* kick (recalcitrant)

-calcul- *base* count; pebble (calcula-
tor)

-cali- *base* nest; hut (caliology)

calig- *base* fog; mist (caliginous)

calli- *comb* beautiful (calligraphy)

callithri- *base* marmoset (callith-
ricid)

callo- *base* beautiful (callomania)

calo-, **calori-** *comb* heat (calorecep-
tor, calorimeter)

calumn- *base* slander (calumniate)

calv- *base* bald (calvarium)

calyc- *base* cup-shaped (calycan-
themy)

calypto- *comb* hidden; covered
(calyptoblastic)

calyptri- *base* hood (calyptriform)

-camb- *base* change; exchange (ex-
cambition)

cameli- *base* camel (cameline)

-camp¹ *base* field (campimeter)

-camp² *base* caterpillar (campodei-
form)

campan- *base* bell (campanology)

-campsis, **campto-** *comb* bent
(phallocampsis, camptomelia)

campylo- *comb* crooked; bent
(campylosporous)

can¹ *base* dog (canine)

can² *base* gray (canescent)

canalic- *base* groove (canaliculate)

cancell- *base* barrier; latticed (can-
cellate)

cancr- *base* crab (cancrine)

cand- *base* white (candescent)

cantho- *comb* eye: corner of (can-
thoplasty)

-cap- *base* take; hold; receive (re-
capture). *Also* cep/cip (receptacle,
recipient)

capel- *base* shopkeeper (capeloc-
racy)

capilli- *comb* hair (capilliform)

-capit- *base* head (decapitate)

-capnia, **capno-** *comb* smoke;

vapor; carbon dioxide (acapnia,
capnomancy)

capri- *base* goat (capriform)

capsuli-, **capsulo-** *comb* capsule
(capsuliform, capsulolenticular)

carbo- *comb* [chemistry] carbon
(carbohydrate)

carbol- *base* of phenol (carbolize)

carbon- *base* charcoal (carbonara)

carcer- *base* jail (incarcerate)

carcharin- *base* shark (carcharinid)

carcin(o)- *comb* cancer (carcino-
genesis)

cardi-, **-cardia**, **cardio-**, **-cardium**
comb heart (cardiagra, tachycar-
dia, cardiology, myocardium)

-carin- *base* keel; ridge (carinula)

cario- *comb* tooth disease; caries
(cariogenic)

carni- *comb* flesh (carnivore)

carnoso- *comb* fleshy (carnoso-
fibrous)

carot- *base* stupefying; soporific
(carotic)

-carp, **-carpic**, **carpo**¹, **-carpous**
comb fruit; seeds (endocarp, en-
docarpic, carpophore, monocar-
pous)

carpho- *comb* straw; dry (carphol-
ogy)

carpo² *comb* wrist (carpopso-
sis)

carto- *comb* map; card; piece of
paper (cartographer). *Also* **charto-**
(chartometer)

caryo- *comb* nucleus (caryopsis).

Also **karyo-** (karyokinesis)

cas- *base* fall (cascade)

case- *base* cheese (caseation)

cassidi- *base* helmet (cassidiform)

cassiter- *base* tin (cassiterite)

-cast *comb* transmit (telecast)

castan- *base* brown; chestnut (cas-
taneous, castanet)

castella- *base* fortification (incastel-
late)

castig- *base* chasten; reprove (castigate)

castor- *base* beaver (castoreum)

castr- *base* camp (castronian)

casuar- *base* cassowary (casuarina)

cata-, cath- *pre* down; through; against; completely (catabolism, cathartic). *Also* **kata-** (katabatic)

catagelo- *base* ridicule (catagelophobia). *Also* **katagelo-**

cataglott- *base* tongue-kissing (cataglottism)

catagm- *base* fracture (catagmatic)

caten- *base* chain (catenation)

cathar- *base* clean; purge; purify (catharize)

cathart- *base* buzzard (cathartine)

-cathex- *base* retention (acathexis)

cathis- *base* sit; seat (cathisma)

catoptro- *comb* mirror (catoptromantic)

caudo- *comb* tail (caudo-femoral)

cauli-, caulo- *comb* stem; stalk (caulicolous, caulocarpic)

caum- *base* heat (caumesthesia)

caupon- *base* tavern; innkeeper (cauponate)

-caust- *base* burn (holocaust)

caut- *base* heed; carefulness (precautionary)

cauter- *comb* caustic; burning (cauterize)

cava- *comb* hollow (cavate)

caval- *base* horse (cavalry)

-cave, cavi-, cavo- *base* hollow (cavate)

-ce *suf* multiplicative suffix (twice)

cebo- *comb* monkey (cebocephalic)

cecid- *base* gall; tumorous plant tissue (cecidomyian)

ceco- *comb* intestinal pouch; cecum (cecostomy). *Also* **caec-** (caeciform)

-ced-, -cess- *base* move; go; give way (concede, procession)

cedr- *base* cedar (cedrine)

-cele *comb* tumor; swelling (cystocele); hernia (perineocele)

-celer- *base* speed (accelerate)

celest- *base* heavens (celestial)

celido- *comb* spot; surface marking (celidography)

celio- *comb* abdomen (celiomyositis)

celli- *comb* cell (celliferous)

cello- *comb* cellulose (cellophane)

celluli-, cellulo- *comb* cell; cell wall (celluliferous, cellulo-fibrous)

celo-¹ *1. comb* celom (celomate); *2. hernia* (celotomy); *3. abdomen* (celoscopy). *Also* **coelo-** (coeloscope)

-celo-² *base* dry; burnt (celosia)

celsi- *base* dignity; eminence; lofty position (celsitude)

Celto- *comb* Celt; Celtic (Celtogermanic)

cen- *base* meal (cenatory)

-cene *comb* geological epoch (Miocene)

ceno-¹ *comb* new; recent (cenogenesis). *Also* **caeno-, caino-, kaino-** (Caenozoic, Cainozoic, Kainozoic)

ceno-² *comb* in common; common (cenobite). *Also* **coeno-** (coenobite)

ceno-³ *comb* empty (cenotaphic). *Also* **keno-** (kenosis)

cenoto- *comb* new (cenotophobia)

-centered *comb* focused on (market-centered). *Also* **cainoto-, kainoto-** (cainotophobia, kainotophobia)

-centesis *comb* puncture (amniocentesis)

centi- *1. comb* hundred-fold (centipede); *2. hundredth part* (centigram)

centri-, centro- *comb* center (centripetal, centrobatic)

-centric 1. *comb* having __ center (polycentric); 2. focused around __ (ethno-centric)

-cep¹ *base* take (receptor). *See* **-cap-**

-cep² *base* onion; bulb (cepivorous)

cephal-, **-cephalic**, **cephalo-**, **-cephalous**, **-cephaly** *comb* head; skull (cephalitis, dolichocephalic, cephalopod, brachycephalous, dolichocephaly)

cephalopod- *base* squid (cephalopodal)

-ceptor *comb* taker; receiver (neuro-receptor)

ceras- *base* cherry (cerasin)

cerato- *comb* horn; hornlike (ceratophyllous). *Also* **kerato-** (keratoglobus)

cerator- *base* rhino (ceratorhine)

cerauno- *comb* thunder (ceraunoscope). *Also* **kerauno-** (keraunoscope)

-cerca, **-cercal**, **cerc-** *comb* having a __ tail (Schistocerca, heterocercal, Cercopithecus)

cerebri-, **cerebro-** *comb* brain (cerebritis, cerebrospinal)

-cern- *base* to sift (excernent)

cero- *comb* wax (cerograph)

cerr- *base* evergreen oak (cerrial)

cerul- *base* blue (cerulean)

cerumini- *comb* wax-like secretion (ceruminiferous)

ceruss- *base* white (cerussal)

-cerv- *base* deer; elk; moose (cervine)

cervico- *comb* cervical; of the neck (cervicodorsal)

cervis- *base* beer (cervisial)

cespitoso- *comb* growing in dense tufts or clumps (cespitoso-ramose)

-cess-, **-ced-** *comb* move; go; give way (procession, concede)

-cet- *base* whale (cetology)

-chaem- *base* low (chaemacephalic)

chaeti-, **chaeto-** *comb* hair; bristle; seta (chaetiferous, chaetophorous)

chalast- *base* laxative; relaxant (chalastic)

chalax- *base* hailstone (chalaxa)

chalco- *comb* copper; brass (chalcocite)

chalyb- *base* steel (chalybean). *See* **iron**

chamae- *comb* low-growing; dwarf-like (chamaedorea)

chao- 1. *base* abyss (chaotic); 2. atmosphere (chaomancy)

charadr- *base* sandpiper, snipe, plover, woodcock (charadrine)

charit- *base* love (charity)

charto- *comb* paper; map (chartomancy)

chasma- *comb* fissure (chasmophobia)

cheilo- *comb* lip (cheiloplasty). *See* **chilo-**

cheima- *comb* cold (cheimaphilic)

cheir(o)- *comb* hand (macrocheiria). *See* **chiro-**

-chela, **cheli-** *comb* claw (isochela, cheliferous)

chelic- *base* a swallow (chelidonian)

-chelo(n)-, **chelys** *base* turtle (chelonian, Lepidochelys)

chemo- *comb* chemicals (chemotherapy)

cheno- *base* goose (chenopod)

chero¹ *comb* happy (cherophobia)

chero² *base* hyrax (cherogrill)

cherso- *base* dry (chersonese)

-chezia *comb* defecation condition (hematochezia)

chili- *comb* one thousand (chiliasm)

chilo- *comb* lip (chiloplasty)

chilopod- *base* centipede (chilopodal)

chim- *base* transplant; tissues from foreign source (chimera)

Chino- *comb* Chinese (Chino-Tibetan)

-chion- *base* snow (chionodoxa).

See **-chium**

chiro- *comb* hand (chiromancy).

Also **cheiro-**

chirur- *base* surgeon (chirurgery)

-chium *base* snow (hedychium). *See* **-chion-**

chlamyd- *comb* cloak; sheath (chlamydeous)

chloro- 1. *comb* green (chlorophyll); 2. having chlorine (chloroform)

choano- *comb* funnel (choanocyte)

chol-, chole-, cholo- *comb* bile; gall; anger (chologogue, cholecyst, chololith)

chondr-, chondrio-, chondro- *comb* cartilage (chondrify, chondriosome, chondroblast)

chord-, -chorda *comb* cord; sinew (chorditis, (Protochorda). *Also* **cord-** (cordotomy)

-chorea, choreo- *comb* involuntary movement; spasm; dance (labiochorea, choreophrasia)

chori- *comb* apart; separate (choripetalous)

chorio- *comb* membrane; skin (choriocele)

choristo- *comb* apart; separate (choristophyllus)

choro- *comb* region; land (chorology)

choroid- *comb* membrane; skinlike (choroideremia)

chrem-, chremat- *base* wealth; money (chrematistic)

chreo- *comb* useful (chreotechnics)

chresis- *base* used for doing (catachresis)

chresmo- *comb* oracle (chresmomanancy)

chresto- *base* useful (chrestomathic)

chromato- *comb* color; chromatin (chromatogenous)

-chrome 1. *comb* color (monochrome); 2. chromium (ferrochrome)

chromo- *comb* color (chromosome)

chrono- *comb* time (chronometer)

-chroous *comb* colored (xanthochroous)

chrys(o)- *comb* yellow; golden (chrysocarpous)

chyl-, chyli-, chylo- *comb* connected with chyle; digestive fluid gastric juice (chylaqueous, chyliferous, chylocyst)

chymo- *comb* partially digested food (chymotrypsin)

-chys-, -chyt- *base* to pour (synchysis, synchytic)

-cib- *base* food (cibarious)

cica- *base* scar (cicatrix)

cichlo- *base* thrush (cichlomorphous)

cichor- *base* chicory (cichoraceous)

ciconi- *comb* stork (ciconiiform)

cicur- *base* tame (cicuration)

-cid- *base* fall (incident)

-cidal, -cide, -cidious, -cidism *comb* killing (homicidal, patricide, parricidious, suicidism)

cilii-, cilio- *comb* cilia; hairlike process (ciliiferous, cilioretinal)

cimic- *base* bug (cimicoid)

cimol- *base* chalk; light earth (cimolian)

-cinc- *base* ring; girdle (cincture)

cinchon- *base* quinine (cinchonism)

cinninn- *base* curl (cinninnal)

cine- *comb* movement; movie (cinematography). *Also* **kine-** (kinescope)

ciner- *base* ashes (incinerate)

-cing- *base* ring; girdle (cingulate)

cinqe- *base* five (cinquefoil)

-cion *suf* variation of **-tion** (suspicion)
-cip- *base* take (recipient). *See* **-cap-**
circin- *base* round (circinate)
circul- *base* circle (circulate)
circum- *suf* around; about; surrounding (circumscribe)
cirr(h)i-, cirr(h)o- *comb* curl; ringlet; tendril (cirriferous, cirrocumulus)
cirso- *comb* enlarged vein (cirsectomy)
cis⁻¹ *suf* on this side of; near (cisalpine). *See* **citra-**
-cis², **-cise-** *base* cut; cut off (incision, precise)
ciss- *base* ivy (cissoid)
-cisto- *base* chest; container (cistophorous)
-cit- *base* arouse (incite)
citra- *comb* on this side of; near (citramontane). *See* **cis-**
citro- *comb* citric (citromalic)
civ- *base* citizen (civic)
clad- *base* leaf (cladode)
clado- *comb* branch (cladophyll)
-claim, clam- *comb* say; speak; tell (exclaim, exclamation)
clar- *base* clear (clarified)
-clasia, -clasis, -clastic *comb* break fracture; fragment (osteoclasia, onychoclasia, aclastic)
clasmato- *comb* fragment (clasmatoocyte)
clathr- *base* lattice; bars (clathrate)
claud- *base* lame (claudication)
claustr- *comb* closed; shut (claustrophobia)
-clav- *base* nail (inclavate)
clavato- *comb* studded; knobbed (clavototurbinate)
clavi⁻¹ *comb* key; collarbone (clavichord)
clavi⁻² *base* club (clavicorn)
-cle 1. *suf* diminutive spelling (par-

ticle); 2. place; means (receptacle)
cleido- *see* **clido-**
-cleisis *comb* closure (colpocleisis)
cleisto- *comb* shut; closed (cleistocarp)
clem⁻¹ *base* vine (clematis)
clem⁻² *base* mercy; leniency (clemency)
clepto- *comb* robber (cleptobiosis). *See* **klepto-**
clerico- *comb* clerical and (clerico-political)
clero- *comb* chance; lot (cleromancy)
clido- 1. *comb* key (clidomancy); 2. clavicle (clidomastoid). *Also* **cleido-** (cleidomancy)
climac- *base* stairs; ladder rungs (climacophobia)
clin- *base* bed (clinoid)
-clinal, -clinate, -cline, -clinic, clino-, -clinous *comb* sloped; bent; directed toward; inclined (anticlinal, proclinate, incline, matroclinic, clinodiagonal)
-clisis *comb* proneness; bending (pathocclisis)
-clit- *base* bend; inflect; lean (heteroclitral)
-clithr- 1. *base* closed; shut (clithral); 2. keyhole (clithridiate)
-cliv- *base* slope (proclivity)
cloac- *base* sewer (cloacal)
-clonic, -clonus *comb* spasm; twitching (synclonic, myoclonus)
-clud-, -clus- *base* closed; shut (exclude, reclusive)
clupe- *base* herring (clupeoid)
clype- *comb* like a shield (clypeiform)
-clysis *comb* irrigation (peritoneoclysis)
clysm-, clyst- *base* enema (clysmic, clysterize)

-cnem- *base* leg; tibia (gastrocnemius)
cnido- *comb* nettle; stinging organ (cnidophore)
co⁻¹ 1. *suffix* together; with (co-operation); 2. joint (co-owner); 3. equally (coextensive); 4. complement of (cosine). NOTE: **co-** can change to: **col-** (colleague); **com-** (commingle); **con-** (convulse); **cor-** (correlate)
co⁻² *suffix* trade names (Pepsico)
cobalti-, cobalto- *comb* cobalt (cobalti-cyanide, cobalto-cyanide)
-coccal, -coccic, cocco-, -coccoid, -coccus *comb* of or like a bacterium; bacteria names; berry-like; grainlike (staphylococcal, staphylococcic, coccobacillus, staphylococcoid, staphylococcus)
cocci- *comb* berry (coccigerous)
coccy-, coccygo- *comb* coccyx (coccyalgia, coccygodynia)
cochle(a)- *base* snail (cochleiform)
cochleari- *base* spoon (cochleariform)
cochlio- *comb* spiral (cochliocarpous)
-coct- *base* cook; boil (decoction)
-coele *comb* cavity; chamber (blastocoele)
coeli- *comb* heaven; sky (coelicolist)
coelo- *comb* hollow (coelodont)
coen- *base* meal (coenaculous)
coeno- *comb* in common (coenobite). Also **ceno-** (cenobite)
cogit- *base* know; think (cogitation)
-cogn- *base* know; related by blood (recognize, cognation)
coimet- *base* cemetery (coimetrophobia). Also **coemet-**
coit- *base* intercourse; coming together (coition)
col⁻¹ See **co-**
col⁻² *base* strain; filter (colander)

colaco- *base* parasite (colacobiosis)
colar-, colat- *base* strain (colarin, colation)
-cole, -colent *comb* [botany] inhabit; habitat (arboricole, accolent). See **-colous**
coleo- *comb* sheath; scabbard (coleorhiza)
coleopter- *base* beetle (coleopterous)
coli⁻¹, **colo-** *comb* colon (coliform, coloenteritis)
coli⁻² *comb* sieve (coliform)
coll⁻¹ *base* neck; collar (decollate, colliform)
coll⁻² *base* glue (collenchyma)
coll⁻³ *base* hill (colliculate)
-colleto- *base* one who glues or fastens (colletocystophore)
collodio- *comb* collodion (collodichloride)
collut- *base* mouthwash (collution)
-colous *comb* growing in; living among (arenicolous). See **-cole**
colp(o)- *comb* vagina (colpocele)
colubri- *comb* snake (colubriiform)
columb- *base* dove; pigeon (columbaceous)
columelli- *comb* small column (columelliform)
column- *base* pillar (columniferous)
-com- *base* treatment (gerocomy)
-coma, comi-, como- *comb* having hair or a hairlike structure (Abrocoma, comiferous, comophorous)
comest- *base* eat up (comestible)
comico- *comb* humorous (comico-cynical)
comit- *base* affable; courteous (comity)
conat- *base* attempt; desire (conative)

concavo- *comb* concave (concavo-convex)
concess- *base* grant; yield (concession)
conchi- *comb* shell (conchiferous)
concin- *base* adjusted; suitable; harmonious (inconcinny)
-cond- *base* put together (incondite)
condyl- *comb* knob; protuberance (condyloid)
conger- *base* pile (congeries)
congru- *base* come together (congruency)
coni⁻¹, **-conia**, **conio-** *comb* dust; granules (coniosis, fibroconia, coniofibrosis). Also **konio-** (koniosis)
coni⁻², **cono-** *comb* cone (coniferous, conodont)
conico- *comb* conical (conico-cylindrical)
conist- *base* dusty place (conistery)
conjugato- *comb* coupled; paired (conjugato-palmate)
connict- *base* blink (connictation)
conniv- *base* blink (connivance)
connochaet- *base* gnu (connochaetes)
conoido- *comb* nearly conical (conoido-hemispherical)
consil- *base* in accord; agreeing (consilience)
contig- *base* adjacent (contiguous)
contin- *base* unceasing (continuous)
contorto- *comb* twisted (contortofoliaceous)
contra- *pre* against; contrary; opposite (contradiction)
contre- *pre* opposite (contrecoup)
contum- *base* insolence; stubbornness (contumely)
convexo- *comb* rounded; convex (convexo-concave)
-cop- *base* beat; strike (syncope)

coph- *base* deaf (cophosis)
copi- *base* abundance (copious)
copro- *comb* excrement; filth (coprolite); obscenity (coprology)
coraci-, coraco- 1. *comb* coracoid bone; beaklike (coraco-acromial); 2. crow; raven (coraciiform, coracomorphic)
coralli- *comb* coral (corallidomous)
corb- *base* basket (corbula)
cord- *comb* cord; sinew (cordotomy). Also **chord** (chorditis)
cordato- *comb* heart-shaped (cordato-ovate)
cordi- *comb* heart (cordiform)
core⁻¹, **coreo-**, **-coria**, **coro-** *comb* pupil of the eye (corelysis, coreoplasty, isocoria, coroplastic). Also **-koria** (leukokoria)
core⁻² *base* bug (coreopsis)
-cori- *base* leather (coriaceous)
cormo- *comb* trunk; stem (cormophyly)
-corn, corni- *comb* horn (unicorn, corniform)
corneo- 1. *comb* with a horny admixture (corneo-silicious); 2. cornea of eye (corneoiritis)
cornic- *base* little tentacles; antennae (corniculate)
cornu- *base* horn (cornucopia)
corolli- *comb* crown; flower garland (corolliflorous)
coroni-, corono- *comb* crown (coroniform, coronofacial)
-corp- *base* body; bulk (incorporate)
corrugato- *comb* wrinkled (corrugato-striate)
cortici-, cortico- *comb* bark; cortex (corticiform, corticotropin)
corv- *base* crow; magpie, raven (corvine)
corymbi- *comb* cluster (corymbiferous)
coryn- *base* rod; club (coryniform)

-coryph- *base* top; summit (coryphodon)
coscino- *comb* sieve (coscinomancy)
-cosm, cosmo- *comb* world; universe (macrocosm, cosmotheism)
costi-, costo- *comb* rib (costiform, costotome)
coturn- *base* quail (coturnine)
cotyle-, cotyli-, cotylo- *comb* cup-shaped; hollow; hipjoint socket (cotyledonary, cotyliform, cotylosacral)
counter- 1. *comb* opposite; contrary to (counterclockwise); 2. in retaliation (counterplot); 3. complementary (counterpart)
couphe- *comb* frail; fragile; tender (coupfolite). *Also* **kouphe-** (koupfolite)
coxo- *comb* hip (coxodynia)
-cracy *comb* form of government (theocracy)
-craft *comb* work; skill; art; practice of (woodcraft)
cranio- *comb* skull (craniofacial)
-cranter- *base* wisdom teeth (syncranterian)
crapul- *base* excessive eating and drinking (crapulence)
-crasia 1. *comb* mixture (spermacrasia); 2. loss of control (coprocrasia). *Also* **-crasy** (idiocrasy)
-crass- *base* thickened; condensed (incrassated)
crastin- *base* tomorrow (procrastinate)
-crat *comb* participant in government (democrat)
-crataeg- *base* hawthorn (crataegin)
crater- *base* bowl (crateriform)
crateri- *base* crater (crateriform)
cratic- *base* lattice (craticle)
-crease *comb* grow (decrease)
crebr- *base* frequent (crebrous)
crebri- *comb* ridged (crebrisulcate)

-cred- *base* belief; trust (incredible)
-crem- *base* burn (incremable)
cremno- *base* precipice (cremno-phobia)
cremo- *comb* hanging (cremocarp)
cren-¹, crenato-, crenulato- *comb* notched; scalloped (crenellation, crenato-serrate, crenulato-dentate)
cren-² *base* fountain; spring (crenic)
creo- *comb* flesh (creophagous). *Also* **kreo-** (kreophagy)
-crep- *base* shoe (hippocrepian)
-crepit- *base* crack; creak; crackle (decrepit)
-crepus- *base* twilight (crepuscular)
-cresc- *base* grow; build up (crescitive)
crescenti- *base* crescent (crescentiform)
cretaceo- *comb* [geology] chalk formation (cretaceo-tertiary)
crev- *base* crack; rift (crevice)
cribri- *comb* sieve (cribriform)
cricet- *base* gerbil; muskrat (cricetine)
crico- *comb* ring; circle (cricothyroid)
-crin- *base* cup; calyx (crinoidal)
crini- *comb* hair (criniferous)
crino-, -crine *comb* secretion (crinogenic, endocrine)
crio- *comb* a ram (criocephalous)
-crisp- *base* curl; wrinkle (incrispated)
crist- *base* crested (cristate)
crit-¹ *base* judge; decide (criticism); *Also* **krit-** (kritarchy)
-crit² *comb* separate (hematocrit)
crith- *comb* barley (crithology)
critico- *comb* critical and (critico-historical)
croce- *base* saffron (croceal)
crocodil- *base* crocodile (crocodilian)

cromny- *base* onion (cromnyomancy)

cross- *suf* transverse; contrary (crossroads)

crosso- *suf* fringed; tasseled (Crossopterygian)

-crot- *base* beat; strike (catacrotic)

crotal- *base* rattlesnake (crotaliform)

cruci- *comb* cross (cruciferous)

-cruent- *base* bloody (incruent)

cruur- *base* blood (cruorin)

-crur- *base* leg (crural)

crymo-, cryo- *comb* cold; freezing (crymophilic, cryogenics)

crypto- *comb* secret; hidden; covered (cryptogram)

crystallo- *comb* crystal (crystallogenic)

cteno- *comb* comb (ctenobranch)

-cub- *base* lie; recline (incubator)

cubi-, cubo- *comb* cube; dice (cubi-contravariant, cubo-octahedron)

cubito- *comb* [anatomy] ulna and ___ (cubito-carpal)

cucul- *comb* cuckoo; roadrunner (cuculiform)

cuculli- *comb* hood; cowl (cuculiform)

cucumi- *comb* cucumber (cucumiform)

cucurbit- *base* gourd (cucurbitin)

-cula, -cule, suf diminutive (Auricula, molecule)

culici- *base* gnat; mosquito (culiciform)

culin- *base* kitchen (culinary)

culmi- *comb* plant stem; straw (culmicolous)

culmin- *base* peak; top (culmination)

culp- *base* fault; blame (exculpate)

cult- *base* worship (cultism)

cultel- *base* knife (cultellary)

cultri- *comb* knife (cultrirostral)

-culture *comb* tillage; raising (vini-culture)

-culum, -culus *suf* diminutive (curriculum, fasciculus)

cuma- *base* wave; surf (cuma-phytism)

-cumb- *base* lie; recline (recumbent)

cumulo- *comb* heaplike; cumulus and ___ (cumulonimbus)

cunct- *base* delay; tardy action (cunctation)

cuneo- *comb* wedge (cuneo-scapoid)

cunic- *base* hare; rabbit (cuniculous)

cunicul- *base* underground (cunicular)

cup- *base* desire (cupidity)

cupreo-, cupri-, cupro-, cuproso- *comb* copper (cupreo-violaceous, cupriferous, cupromagnesite, cuproso-ferric)

cupress- *base* cypress (cupressineous)

cupuli- *comb* cup (cupuliform)

cur- *base* health; healing (curative)

curculion- *base* weevil (curculionid)

-cur(r)-, -curs- *base* run; go (recur-rent, cursory)

curt- *base* short; abbreviated (curtail)

curvi- *comb* curved; bent (curvilin-ear)

cuspid- *base* point (cuspid)

cuss- *base* strike; shake (percussion)

custod- *base* watchman (custodial)

cuti- *comb* skin (cutisector)

-cy 1. *suf* quality; fact of being; state; condition (democracy); 2. position; rank (captaincy)

-cyam- *base* bean (hyoscyamine)

cyano- 1. *comb* dark blue (cyanosis); 2. cyanide (cyanohydrin)

cyathi-, **cyatho-** *comb* cuplike (cyathiform, cyatholith)
cyber- *comb* relating to computers (cyberphobia)
cyclo- *comb* wheel; circle; cycle (cyclograph)
cyclorraph- *base* fly (cyclorraphous)
cyclostom- *base* eel (cyclostomatous)
-cyesis *comb* pregnancy (polycyesis)
cygn- *base* swan (cygning). *Also* **cycn-** (cycnean)
cylico- *base* bowl (cylicomancy). *Also* **kylixo-**
cylindro- *comb* cylinder (cylindroconical)
cyma-, **cymato-**, **cymo-** *comb* wave; billow (cymagraph, cymatolite, cymoscope) *Also* **kymo-** (kymograph)
cymbi-, **cymbo-** *comb* boat (cymbiform, cymbocephalic)
cyn-, **cyno-** *comb* dog (cynanthropy, cynophobia). *Also* **kyno-**

cyo- *comb* fetus (cyogenic)
cypho- *comb* humped; bent; crooked (cyphonism). *Also* **kypho-** (kyphosis)
cypriani- *base* lewd; harlot (cypriante)
cyprid- *base* sexual (cypridophobia)
cyprin- *base* carp; goldfish; minnow (cyprinid)
cypsel- *base* swift (cypseline)
cyrio- *base* regular; proper (cyriologic)
cyrto- *comb* curved; arched (cyrtometer)
cyst-, **-cyst**, **cysti-**, **cysto-** *comb* like a bladder; pouch; sac; cyst (cystalgia, statocyst, cystiform, cystocarp)
-cyte, **cyto-** *comb* cell (lymphocyte, cytology)
-cythemia *comb* blood cell condition (leukocythemia)

D

dacn- *base* bite; kill (Tridacna)
dacry(o)- *comb* tear (dacryocystitis)
dactyl-, **dactylo-**, **-dactylous**, **-dactyly** *comb* finger; toe (dactyliology, dactylogy, tridactylous, brachydactyly)
dactylio- *comb* finger ring (dactyloglyphic)
daedal- *base* cunning (logodaedaly)
daemon- *see* **demon-**
Dano- *comb* Danish and __ (Dano-Irish)
dapat- *base* sumptuous; costly (dapatical)
daphn- *base* laurel (daphnomancy)

dasy- *comb* hairy or wooly; thick or dense (dasyphyllous)
dasypod- *base* armadillo (Dasypodid)
dasyproct- *base* agouti (Dasyprocta)
dativo- *comb* dative (dativo-gerundial)
de- 1. *pre* away from; off (detrain); 2. down (decline); 3. entirely (defunct); 4. undo; reverse (defrost)
debil- *base* weakness (debility)
dec(a)- *comb* ten (decagon)
decem- *base* ten (decemcostate)
deci- *comb* one-tenth (decimeter)

-decker *comb* having __ decks or in layers (double-decker)

decresc- *base* wane; lessen (decrecent)

decuss- *base* divided crosswise; x-shaped (decussate)

degen- *base* decline (degenerative)

dehydro- *comb* dehydrogenated (dehydrochlorinate)

de(i)- *base* God (deification)

-deictic *comb* demonstrating (epideictic)

deipno- *comb* dinner (deipnophobia)

deka- *comb* ten (dekaliter)

delect- *base* please (delectation)

delinq- *base* fault (delinquency)

delphin- *base* porpoise; dolphin (delphine)

delto- *comb* triangular (deltohedron)

dement- *base* insane (dementia)

demi- 1. *pre* half (demivolt); 2. less than usual (demigod)

-demia *comb* fatty degeneration (myodemia)

demo- *comb* people (democracy)

demono- *comb* demon (demonology)

dendri-, dendro-, -dendron *comb* tree; treelike (dendriform, dendrology, rhododendron)

dentato- *comb* dentate and (dentato-serrate)

denti-, dento- *comb* tooth (denti-form, dentosurgical). *Also* **dont-** (pedodontics)

deoxy- *comb* oxygen removed (deoxyhemoglobin)

deris- *base* mockery; scorn (deristic)

derm-, -derm, derma, -derma, dermato-, -dermatous, -dermis, dermo- *comb* skin; covering (dermabrasion, endoderm, derma-

therm, scleroderma, dermatology, xerodermatous, epidermis, dermoneural)

des⁻¹ *pre* missing; deprived of (desoxydation). *See* **dis-**

-des² *suf* plural ending (proboscides)

desid- *base* wish; desire (desiderative)

desmo- *comb* bond; band; ligament (desmogen)

desmodont- *base* bat (desmodontid)

deuter(o)-, deuto- *comb* second; secondary (deuterogamy, deutoplasm)

dexio- *comb* on the right side (dextrotropic)

dextr(o)- 1. *comb* on the right side (dextrocardia); 2. [chemistry] clockwise (dextrorotatory)

di⁻¹ 1. *pre* twice; double (dichroism); 2. having two (diacid)

di⁻² *pre* away; apart (divest). *See* **dis-**

dia- 1. *pre* through; across (diagonal); 2. apart; between (diaphony)

-diabol- *base* devil (diabolic)

dialy- *comb* separate; distinct (dialysepalous)

diamido- *comb* having two atoms of hydrogen replaced by two of the radical Amidogen NH₂ (diamidobenzene)

diaphano- *comb* transparent (diaphanometer)

diazo- *comb* having a group of two nitrogen atoms combined directly with one hydrocarbon radical (diazamino)

dibromo- *comb* having two atoms of bromine which have replaced two of hydrogen (dibromoaldehyde)

dicarbo- *comb* containing two

- atoms or equivalents of carbon (dicarbopyridenic)
- dichloro-** *comb* two chlorine atoms substituting for hydrogen atoms (dichlorohydrin)
- dicho-** *comb* in two; split; separately (dichotomy)
- dichro-** *comb* two-colored (dichromatism)
- dict-** *base* say; speak; tell (contradiction)
- dictyo-** *comb* net (dictyogen)
- dicyano-** *comb* combined with two equivalents of the radical cyanogen replacing two of hydrogen, chlorine, etc. (dicyanodiamide)
- did-** *base* dodo (didine)
- didact-** *base* teach (didactic)
- didelph-** *base* opossum (didelphine)
- didym-, didymo-** *comb* relating to the testis (didymalgia)
- diethene** *comb* combined with two equivalents of ethene (diethenediamine)
- dif-** *pre* away; apart (differ). *See* **dis-**
- digitato-** *comb* having fingerlike divisions (digitato-pinnate)
- digiti-** *comb* finger; toe (digitigrade)
- digito-** *comb* digitalis; foxglove (digitoleic acid)
- dihydro-** *comb* having two atoms of hydrogen in combination (dihydrobromide)
- diiodo-** *comb* having two atoms of iodine replacing two of hydrogen (diiodomethane)
- dike-** *comb* justice (dikephobia)
- dilat-** *base* expansion (dilation)
- diluv-** *base* flood (diluvial)
- (di)mid-** *base* half (dimidiation)
- (di)min-** *base* lessen (diminution)
- dioxy** *comb* having two atoms of oxygen (dioxybenzene)
- dinitro-** *comb* having two nitro groups per molecule (dinitrobenzene)
- dino-¹** *comb* terrible; mighty; huge (dinosaur)
- dino-²** *comb* whirling (dinoflagellate)
- diomed-** *base* albatross (diomedidae)
- dior-** *base* distinction; definition (dioristic)
- dioscorea-** *base* yam (dioscoreaceous)
- diphy-** *comb* double; bipartite (diphyccercal)
- diplo-** *comb* two; double; twin (diplocephaly)
- diplopod-** *base* millipede (diplopodal)
- dipso-** *comb* thirst (dipsomania)
- diptero-** *comb* having two wings (dipterology)
- dis-** 1. *pre* away; apart (dismiss); 2. deprive of (disbar); 3. cause to be the opposite of (disable); 4. fail; refuse to (disallow); 5. not (dishonest); 6. lack of (disunion)
NOTE: **dis-** can change to **di-** (divest) or **dif-** (differ). *See* **des-**
- discip-** *base* follower; learner (disciple)
- disco-** *comb* disk-shaped (discocarp)
- discophor-** *base* jellyfish; leech (discophoran)
- disso-** *base* double (dissoconch)
- disto-** *comb* remote; farther away (distolabial)
- disulpho-** *comb* acids derived from two molecules of sulphurous acid (disulphoanthraquinic)
- diurn-** *base* day (diurnal)
- diuturn-** *base* lasting; long duration (diuturnal)
- divergenti-, divergi-** *comb* diver-

- gent (divergentiflorous, diverginate)
- doc-** *base* teach (indoctrinate)
- dodeca-** *comb* twelve (dodecagon)
- dogmato-** *comb* pertaining to dogma (dogmatopoeic)
- dolabri-** *comb* ax; cleaver (dolabrium)
- dolero-** *comb* deceptive (dolero-phanite)
- dolicho-** *comb* long; narrow (dolichocephalic)
- dolio-** *base* barrel (dolioform)
- dolor-** *base* pain; sorrow (dolorific)
- dom**¹ *base* house; dwelling (domestic)
- dom**² **1.** *suf* rank of; position of; domain of (kingdom); **2.** state of being (wisdom); **3.** total of all who are (officialdom)
- don-** *base* give (donation). *Also* **-dor-** gift (Dorothy)
- dont** *comb* tooth (orthodontist). *Also* **dent-** (dentifrice)
- dora-** *base* fur; hide (doromania)
- dorm-** *base* sleep (dormitive)
- dorsi-, dorso-** *comb* the back (dorsibranh, dorsoventral)
- double-** *comb* in combination (double-breasted)
- draco-, draconi-** *base* dragon (dracocephalum, draconiform)
- drapeto-** *comb* flee; fugitive (drapetomania)
- drepani-** *comb* sickle (drepaniform)
- driri-** *base* drip (dririmancy)
- drome, dromo-, -dromous** *comb* running; moving; racecourse (hippodrome, dromomania, catadromous)
- droso-** *comb* dew (drosometer)
- drosophyl-** *base* fruitfly (Drosophilidae)
- du-** *pre* two (duplicate)
- dub-** *base* doubtful (indubitably)
- duc(e), -duct-** *base* lead (induce, conductor)
- ducen-** *base* two hundred (ducenarious)
- dulc-** *base* sweet (dulcify)
- dulo-** *comb* slave (dulocracy). *Also* **doulo-** (doulocracy)
- duo-** *comb* two; double (duograph)
- duodec-, duodecim-, duoden-** *base* twelve (duodecuple, duodecimfid, duodenary)
- duodeviginti-** *base* eighteen (duodevigintiangular)
- uplicato-** *comb* doubly (uplicatodentate)
- uplici-** *comb* duplex (uplicipennate)
- dur-, duro-** *base* hard; lasting (endurance, durometer)
- dyna-, dynamo-** *comb* power; strength; energy (dynameter, dynamogeny)
- dynia** *comb* pain (inguinodyn timer)
- dyo-** *comb* two (Dyophysite)
- dys-** *pre* hard; ill; bad; difficult (dysentery)
- dyte-** *base* to get or enter (troglodyte)

E

- e-** *see* **ex-**
- ea** *suf* noun ending (cornea)
- eae** *suf* plant tribes: plural ending (Gramineae)
- ean** *suf* belonging to; like (European)
- ebon-** *base* black (ebony)
- ebur-** *base* ivory (eburnine)

ec- *see* ex-

ecclesiastico- *comb* of the church or clergy (ecclesiastico-military)

-echia *comb* have; retain (synechia)

echidno- *comb* viper (echidno-toxin)

echin- *base* hedgehog; sea urchin (echinate)

echinato-, echino- *comb* prickly; spiny (echinato-dentate, echinococcus)

echinoderm- *base* starfish (echinodermatous)

echinulato-, echinuli- *comb* prickly; spiny (echinulato-striate, echinuliform)

echo- *comb* repeated sound (echo-lalia)

eco- *comb* environment (ecosystem)

-ecoia *comb* hearing condition (dysecoia)

-ectasia, -ectasis *comb* dilation; expansion (colpectasia, anectasis)

ect(o)- *comb* outside; external (ectoderm)

-ectomy *comb* surgical operation; excision; cutting (appendectomy)

ectro- *comb* congenital absence of a part (ectrodactyly)

ed¹ *base* eat (edible)

-ed² *suf* having; provided with; characterized by (pileated)

edaph- *base* floor; ground (edaphic)

-edema *comb* swelling (myoedema)

-edent- 1. *base* lacking teeth (edentulous); 2. order of New World mammals which includes armadillos, sloths, anteaters (edentate)

edi- *base* building (edifice). *Also* aedi-

-ee 1. *suf* recipient (appointee);

2. person (employee); 3. thing (goatee)

-een *suf* diminutive (colleen)

-eer 1. *suf* person who does (engi-

neer); 2. person who writes (sonneteer)

ef- *see* ex-

efficac- *base* effective; competent (efficacious)

egagro- *base* wild goat (egagropile)

ego- *comb* self (egomania)

egress- depart; leave (egressive)

egro- *comb* dead (egromancy): corrupt form of **necro-**

Egypto- *comb* Egyptian and __ (Egypto-Arabic)

eico- *comb* twenty (eicosapentaenoic)

eid-, eido- *comb* shape; form; that which is seen (eidetic, eidoclast)

eiren- *base* peace (eirenarchy)

eis- *pre* into (eisegesis)

eisoptro- *comb* mirror (eisoptrophobia)

-eity *suf* noun of quality or condition (spontaneity)

eka- *comb* one (ekaselenium)

ekist- *comb* settlement; house (ekistics)

-el *suf* diminutive (satchel)

elao-, elaeo- *comb* oil (elaolite, elaeometer)

elaph- *base* deer; stag (elaphine)

-elasmo- *base* metal plate (elasmosaurus)

elat- *base* joy (elation)

electro- *comb* electrical (electromagnetic)

eleo- *comb* oil (eleoma)

elephant- *base* elephant (elaphantine)

eleuthero- *comb* freedom (eleutheromania)

-ella 1. *suf* diminutive (umbrella); 2. bacteria genus (salmonella)

elytri- *comb* wing case (elytriiform)

elytr(o)- *comb* [medicine] vagina (eletroplasty)

em- 1. *pre* in (embed); 2. cause to be

(empower); 3. to place (emplacement); 4. to restrict (embrace)
emberiz- *base* bunting (emberizine)
embol-, emboli-, embolo- *comb* plug; obstruction; patch; stopper (embolism, emboliform, embololalia)
embryo- *comb* fetus (embryogeny)
-eme *suf* [linguistics] significant contrastive unit (phoneme)
-emesis, -emetic, emeto- *comb* vomiting (hematemesis, antiemetic, emetophobia)
-emia *comb* blood condition; blood disease (leukemia). *Also* **-aemia** (hyperaemia)
emmen- *comb* monthly; menstrual (emmeniotherapy)
empor- *base* trade; merchant; merchandise (emporetic)
-empt- *base* buy; take (exempt)
emul- *base* jealous; rivalrous (emulate)
emunct- *base* nose blowing; excretory (emunctory)
emydo- *comb* tortoise (emydosaurian)
en-¹ 1. *pre* in; within (energy); 2. to place (entomb); 3. to cause to be in (enshrine); 4. to restrict (encircle) NOTE: **en-** becomes **em-** before B and P: (embed). *See* **eis-**
-en² 1. *suf* plural form (oxen); 2. cause to be (weaken); 3. cause to have (strengthen); 4. made of (wooden); 5. female (vixen); 6. diminutive (kitten)
enalio- *base* of the sea (enaliosaur)
enantio- *comb* opposite (enantiothetic)
-enarthra- *base* jointed (enarthrosis)
-ence *suf* action; state; quality (excellence). *See* **-ance**
encephalo- *comb* brain (encephalocoele)

-enchyma¹ *comb* sinuous; wavy (colpencychyma)
-enchyma² *comb* infusion (protenchyma)
encom- *base* praise (encomium)
enerv- *base* weakness (enervated)
-ency *suf* act; fact; quality; degree; state; result (emergency)
endeca- *comb* eleven (endecagon). *Also* **hendeca-** (hendecasyllabic)
endo- *comb* inside; within (endocardium)
-ene *suf* hydrocarbons (benzene)
engraul- *base* anchovy (Engraulid)
enigmato- *comb* obscure; enigmatic (enigmatology)
enisso- *comb* reproach; criticism (enissophobia)
-enn- *base* year (biennial). *Also* **-ann-** (annual)
-enne *suf* feminine ending (comedi-
 enne)
ennea- *comb* nine (enneahedron)
enneacent- *base* nine hundred (enneacentenary)
enneaconta- *base* ninety (enneacontahedral)
enneakaideca- *comb* nineteen (enneakaidecahedron)
-enoic *suf* unsaturated acid (eicosatrienoic)
enoptro- *comb* mirror (enoptromancy)
enosi- *base* reproach (enosiphobia)
ensi- *comb* sword-shaped (ensiform)
-ensis *suf* scientific derivatives of place names (carolinensis)
-ent 1. *suf* having the quality of (insistent); 2. person who (superintendent); 3. material agent (emolient). *See* **-ant**
enter- *pre* between; among; mutually (entertain). *Usually* **inter-**

entero- *comb* intestines (enteropathy)

ento- *comb* within; inner (entophyte)

entomo- *comb* insect (entomogenous)

entostho- *comb* from within (entosthoblast)

entre- *base* in; undertaking (entrepreneur)

eo- *pre* early time period; dawn (eolithic)

eoso- *comb* dawn (eosophobia)

-eous *suf* having the nature of; like (beauteous)

epana- *comb* repetition (epanastrophe)

-epeiro- *base* mainland; continent (epeirogenic)

ephem- *base* lasting for a day (ephemeris)

ephipp- *base* saddle (ephippium)

epi- *pre* on; upon; up to; over; on the outside; among; beside; following (epicardium). NOTE: **epi-** can change to: **ep-** (epaxial) and **eph-** (ephedrine)

epicid- *base* pertaining to funeral rites (epicidial)

episcop- *base* bishop (episcopicide)

episio- *comb* vulva (episiotomy)

epistem- *base* knowledge (epistemology)

equ- *base* horse (equine)

equi- *comb* equal (equidistant)

equiset- *base* horsetail (equisetiform)

-er 1. *suf* person who (farmer);
2. person living in (New Yorker);
3. thing or action (double-header); 4. repeatedly (flicker);
5. comparative degree (cooler)

-erel *suf* pejorative (doggerel)

eremo- 1. *comb* alone; solitary (eremophobia); 2. of/in a desert (eremophyte)

-erethis- *base* irritate (erethistic)

-ergasia *comb* interfunctioning of mind and body; work; activity (hypoergasia). Also **ergasio-** (ergasiophobia)

ergo-, **-ergic**, **-ergy** *comb* work; activity; result (ergonomics, neuro-ergic, allergy)

erinac- *base* hedgehog (erinaceous)

erio- *base* wood; fiber (erimeter)

eris- *base* controversy; strife (eristic)

-ern *suf* direction names (southern)

eroso- *comb* incised; indented (erosodentate)

erot- *base* question (erotesis)

eroto- *comb* sexual desire (erotomania)

err- *base* wander (errant)

eruci- *base* caterpillar (eruciform)

-ery 1. *suf* a place to (brewery); 2. a place for (nunnery); 3. practice/act of (robbery); 4. product/goods of (pottery); 5. collection of (crockery); 6. condition/state of (slavery)

erysi- *comb* red; inflamed (erysipeloid)

erythro- *comb* red; erythrocyte (erythrocarpous)

es- *see* ex-

-es *suf* plural ending (dishes)

-esce *suf* incomplete action (incandesce)

-escence *suf* something becoming (convalescence)

-escent *suf* starting to be; becoming (obsolescent)

eschato- *base* last (eschatology)

escul- *base* food (esculent)

-ese 1. *suf* of a country (Portuguese); 2. of a language (Chinese);
3. in the style of (journalese)

-esis *suf* condition; process; action (enuresis)

-esmus *comb* spasm; contraction (tenesmus). *Also* -ismus (vaginismus)

eso- *comb* inner; within (esotropia)

esophag- *base* gullet (esophagus). *Also* **oesophag-** (oesophagalgalgia)

-esque 1. *suf* in the style of (Romanesque); 2. like (picturesque)

-ess *suf* female who (princess)

esse- *base* being; existence (essential)

-est *suf* superlative degree (coolest)

-esthesia-, -esthesio- *comb* sensation; perception (myesthesia, esthesiogenic)

estu- *base* 1. boil (estuant); 2. tide (estuary). *Also* **aestu-**

esur- *base* hunger; appetite (esurient)

-et *suf* diminutive (rivulet)

-eth *suf* ordinal numbers (fiftieth)

ethico- *comb* ethical and (ethicopolitical)

ethmo- *comb* sieve; ethmoid bone (ethmo-turbinal)

ethno- *comb* race; people; culture; nation (ethnology)

etho- *comb* character; behavior (ethology)

-etic *suf* adjective ending (pathetic)

etio- *comb* cause; origin (etiologist). *Also* **aetio-** (aetiology)

-ette 1. *suf* diminutive (dinette); 2. female (suffragette); 3. substitute (leatherette)

-etum *suf* a grove of the plant specified (pinetum)

eu- *pre* good; well (eulogy)

-eum *suf* scientific name ending (peritoneum)

-eur *suf* one who (voyeur)

euro- *comb* east (euroboreal)

Euro- *comb* European (Eurodollars)

Europaeo-, Europeo- *comb* European (Europaeo-Siberian, Europeo-Asiatic)

eur- *comb* [science] broad; wide (eurycephalic)

-eus *suf* scientific name ending (nucleus)

eusuch- *base* alligator (eusuchian)

even- *comb* smooth; consistent (even-tempered)

ever- *comb* always (ever-abiding)

ex- 1. *pre* from; out (expel); 2. beyond (excess); 3. away from; out of (expatriate); 4. thoroughly (exterminate); 5. upward (exalt); 6. not having (exanimate); 7. former (ex-husband). NOTE: **ex-** can change to: **e-** (eject); **ec-** (eccentric); **ef-** (efferent); **es-** (escape)

exa- *comb* quintillion (exameter)

exanim- *base* without life (exanimate)

excito- *comb* [anatomy] stimulating (excito-nutrient)

excub- *base* watchman (excubation)

-exia *See* -orexia

exig- 1. *base* demanding (exigency); 2. scanty (exiguous)

exo- *pre* without; outside; outer part (exocardia)

exousia- *comb* authority (exousias-tic)

explanato- *comb* spread out in a plane or flat surface (explanatofoliaceous)

extero- *comb* outside (exteroceptive)

extra-, extro- *pre* outside; beyond; more than; besides (extraordinary, extrovert)

-ey *suf* characterized by; inclined to (goosey)

F

-faba-, -fabi- *base* bean (fabaceous, fabiform)

-fabr- *base* make; construct (fabrication)

fabul- *base* tale (fabulist)

-fac-, -fec-, -fic- *base* make; do (factory, efficient, fictitious)

-facient *comb* causing to become; making (liquefacient)

facil- *base* easy (facilitate)

facin- *base* wicked; vile (facinorous)

facio- *comb* face (facioplegia)

-faga- *base* beech (fagaceous)

-falc- *base* sickle (falciform)

falco-, falconi- *base* falcon; kestrel; hawk (falconry)

fan- *base* lighthouse; beacon (fanal)

farct- *base* to stuff; obstruct (infarction)

farin- *base* flour (farinaceous)

farr-, farrag- *base* mixed feed grains; spelt (confarreation, farraginous)

fasciculato- *comb* arranged in a bundle (fasciculato-glomerate)

fascio- *comb* fibrous tissue; fascia; bundle (fasciotomy)

fastid- *base* disgust (fastidious)

fastig- *base* gabled; pointed; tapered (fastigate)

fati- *base* prophet (fatidic)

fatic- *base* cleft (fatiscent)

fatu- *base* foolish (fatuous)

fauc- *base* throat (faucal)

faust- *base* fortune; chance (faustity)

fav- *base* honeycomb (faviform)

favill- *base* ashes (favillous)

favon- *base* west wind (favonian)

favoso- *comb* honeycombed (favoso-dehiscent)

febri- *comb* fever (febrifuge)

-fec-¹ *base* make; do (effective). *See* **fac-**

-fec-² *base* filth; dregs (feculent)

fedi- *base* compact; covenant (fedifragous)

fel- *base* cat (feline)

felic- *base* happy (felicify)

femin- *base* woman (feminization)

femto- *pre* one-quadrillionth (femtometer)

fenest- *base* window (fenestrate)

-fer *comb* one that bears; one that produces (aquifer)

-fer- *base* wild animal (ferine)

ferment- *base* yeast (fermentareous)

feroc- *base* bold; fierce (ferocity)

-ferous *comb* bearing; producing; yielding (coniferous)

ferri-, ferro- *comb* containing ferric iron (ferricyanide, ferromagnetism)

ferul- *base* rod; stalk (ferulaceous)

ferv- *base* boil; glow (fervency)

fescinn- *base* obscene (fescinnine)

-fest *comb* assembly or celebration (songfest)

festin- *base* haste; speed (festination)

festuc- *base* stalk; straw (festucine)

fet- *base* stink (fetid)

fibri- *comb* fiber (fibriform)

fibrilloso- *comb* fibril-shaped (fibrilloso-striate)

fibrino- *comb* fibrin (fibrinogen)

fibro- *comb* fibrous matter (fibroadipose)

fibroso- *comb* fibrous (fibroso-calcareus)

-fic *comb* making; creating (scientific). *See* **fac-**

-fication *comb* a making; a creating; a causing (calcification)

- fici-** *base* fig (ficiform)
- fict-** *base* made up (fiction)
- fid-**¹ *base* faith; belief (confide)
- fid-**² *comb* cleft; segment (multifid)
- figur-** *base* form; shape (disfiguration)
- fil-**¹, **fili-**, **filo-** *comb* threadlike (filament, filigrain, filoplume)
- fil-**² *base* child (filial)
- filamento-** *comb* threadlike (filamento-cribrate)
- filari-** *base* worm (filariform)
- fili-** *base* fern (filiiform)
- fim-**, **fimi-** *comb* dung (fimetic, fimicolous)
- fimbr-** *comb* fringe; border (fimbriate)
- fimbriato-** *comb* fringed with hairs (fimbriato-lacinate)
- fimbrilli-** *comb* small fringe (fimbrilliferous)
- fin-** *base* end; limit (infinity)
- Finno-** *comb* Finnish (Finno-Ugric)
- fissi-** *comb* [anatomy] cleft (fissidactyl)
- fissuri-** *comb* fissure (fissuriform)
- fistul-** *base* reed; pipe; tube (fistuliform)
- flabelli-** *comb* fanlike (flabellifoliate)
- flacc-** *base* drooping; weak (flaccid)
- flagel-** *base* whip; lash (flagelliferous)
- flagit-** *base* vicious; wicked (flagitious)
- flat-** *base* wind (flatulent)
- flavido-** *comb* yellowish (flavido-cinerascent)
- flavin** *comb* natural derivatives of flavin (riboflavin)
- flavo-** 1. *comb* yellow (flavopurpurin); 2. flavin (flavoprotein)
- fleb-** *base* weeping; doleful (flebile)
- flect-**, **-flex-** *base* bend (inflection, flexible)
- flet-** *base* weep; cry (fletiferous)
- flexuoso-** *comb* winding; bending; undulating (flexuoso-convex)
- flocc-** *base* wool; tuft (flocculent)
- flori-**, **-florous** *comb* flower; having flowers (floriferous, multiflorous)
- flu-** *base* flowing (fluent)
- flucti-** *comb* undulation; wave (fluctifragous)
- flum-** *base* river (fluminal)
- fluo-**, **fluor-**, **fluoro-** *comb* fluorine; fluorescent (fluophosphate, fluorhydric, fluoroscope)
- fluv-** *base* flowing (effluvia)
- fluvio-** *comb* [geology] river; stream (fluvio-terrestrial)
- fod-** *base* dig; burrow (fodient)
- fold** 1. *suf* having parts (twofold); 2. larger; more (hundredfold)
- foliato-** *comb* leaf-like (foliato-explanate)
- folii-**, **folio-**, **-folious** *comb* leaf (foliiferous, foliolar, unifolious)
- follic-** *base* tube; small bag (follicular)
- foot(er)** *comb* so many feet long (six-footer)
- for-** 1. *pre* away; apart; off (forgo); 2. very much (forladen)
- foramin-** *base* hole (foraminate)
- forc-**, **-fort-** *base* strength (enforcement, fortification)
- fore-** 1. *pre* before (forecast); 2. front part of (forehead)
- forfic-** *base* scissors (forficulate)
- forficul-** *base* earwig (forficulid)
- foris-** *base* outside (forisfamiliate)
- form** 1. *suf* shaped like (oviform); 2. having __ forms (uniform)
- formic-** *base* ant (formication)
- formo-** *comb* [chemistry] formic acid (formo-benzoic)
- fornic-** *base* arch; vault (forniciform)
- foss-** *base* dig (fossorial)

fov- *base* pitted; pockmarked (foveate)
-fract- *base* break (fracture). *Also*
-frag- and **-frang-**
fracto- *comb* ragged mass of cloud (fracto-stratus)
-frag- *base* break (fragmented). *Also*
-fract- and **-frang-**
fragar- *base* strawberry (fragarol)
Franco- *comb* French (Franco-American)
-frang- *base* break (irrefragible). *Also* **-fract-** and **-frag-**
frat- *base* brother (fratricide)
-frax- *base* ash tree (fraxetin)
-frem- *base* roar; murmur (fremescent)
frend- *base* grind; gnash (frendent)
frenet- *base* frenzied (frenetic)
-frig- *base* cold (frigorific)
-fringill- *base* finch (fringillaceous)
-frond- *base* leaf (frondivorous)
fronto- 1. *comb* frontal bone (fronto-parietal); 2. meteorological front (frontogenesis)
fructi-, fructo- *comb* fruit; fructose (fructiferous, fructosuria)
frug-¹ *base* fruit; fructose (frugivorous)
frug-² *base* sparing; thrifty (frugality)
-frument- *base* grain; cereal; corn (frumentaceous)
frust- *base* fragment; piece (frustulent)
fruticuloso- *comb* shrub-like (fruticuloso-ramose)
-fuc- *base* seaweed (fucivorous)
-fuge *comb* driving out; driving away (febrifuge)
-ful 1. *suf* full of (painful); 2. having

qualities of (masterful); 3. having ability to (forgetful); 4. amount that fills (handful)
fulic- *base* coot (fulicinae)
-fulg- *base* bright; flashing (fulgorant)
-fulig- *base* black; sooty (fuliginated)
fuligul- *base* duck (fuliguline)
-fulmin- *base* lightning; thunder (fulmination)
-fulv- *base* brown (fulvescent)
fulv- *base* yellow-brown; tan (fulvous)
-fum- *base* smoke (fumigate)
-fun- *base* rope (funambulist)
-fund- *base* bottom; base (fundamental)
-fundi- *base* sling (fundiform)
funest- *base* fatal; deadly; disastrous (funestous)
fungi- *comb* fungus (fungicide)
funi- *comb* cord; rope; fiber (funiform)
fur- *base* angry (furious)
-furc- *base* forked (bifurcation)
-furfur- *base* bran; dandruff (furfuraceous)
furt- *base* theft; stealth (furtive)
-fus- *base* flow; pour; melt (transfusion)
fusco- *comb* dark brown; dusky; gloomy (fusco-ferruginous)
fusi-, fuso- *comb* spindle; rod (fusiform, fusobacterium)
-fustig- *base* beat; cudgel (fustigation)
futil- *base* useless (futility)
-fy 1. *suf* make; cause to be (deify); 2. cause to have; imbue with (dignify); 3. become (putrefy)

G

- gaea** *comb* earth (Paleogaea)
galact(o)- *comb* milk; milky (galactocete)
-gale¹ *base* weasel (potamogale)
-gale² *base* shark (galeod)
-gale³ *base* cat (galeanthropy)
-galea *base* helmet (galeated)
-gallinac-, -gallinag- *base* poultry: chicken, grouse, partridge, pheasant, quail, turkey, woodcock (gallinaceous, gallinaginous)
Gallo- *comb* French; Gallic (Gallophobia)
galvano- *comb* galvanic; electricity (galvanometer)
gambog- *base* yellow (gambogian)
gameto- *comb* gamete; union (gametophore)
-gammar- *base* sea crab; lobster (gammarolite)
gamo- 1. *comb* sexually united (gamogenesis); 2. joined (gamosepalous)
-gamous, -gamy *comb* marrying uniting sexually (polygamous, polygamy)
ganglio- *comb* nerve cells; swelling; ganglion (ganglioplexus)
-gano- *base* bright; shiny (ganoidal)
garrul- *base* chatter; magpie, jay (garrulous, garruline)
gaso- *comb* gas (gasohol)
gastro-, -gastria, gastro- *comb* stomach (gasteropod, microgastria, gastroenteritis)
gastropod- *base* snail (gastropodal)
-gate *comb* [journalism] concealed scandal (Watergate)
gato- *comb* cat (gatophobia)
gaud- *base* joy (gaudiloquence)
gavi- *base* gull (Gaviae)
gavial- *base* crocodile (gavialoid)
- geitono-** *base* neighbor (geitono-gamy)
-gel⁻¹ *base* ice; frost; freeze (regelation)
-gel⁻² *base* laughter (gelastic)
gelatino- *comb* gelatin (gelatino-albuminous)
-gemelli- *base* twins (gemelliparous)
-gemin- *base* double (geminiflorous)
gemm⁻¹ *base* leaf buds (gemmate)
gemm⁻² *base* jewel (gemmiferous)
-gen 1. *comb* something that produces; origin (oxygen); 2. something produced (endogen). *Also* **-genic** (endogenic); **-genous** (endogenous); **-geny** (endogeny)
-genesis *comb* origination; creation; formation; evolution (parthenogenesis)
-geneth- *base* birthday (genethliacon)
-genetic *suf* origin (phylogenetic)
-genia, genio-, geny⁻¹ *comb* jaw; cheek; chin (microgenia, genioplasty, genyplasty)
genic-, genu- *base* knee (geniculate, genuflect)
genito- *comb* genital (genitourinary)
geno- *comb* race; genetic makeup (genotype)
-geny² *comb* product of (phylogeny)
geo- *comb* earth (geocentric)
gephyr- *base* bridge (gephyrophobia)
ger⁻¹ *base* hold; manage (gerent)
ger⁻² *base* old age (geriatric)
gerasco- *comb* aging (gerascophobia)
Germano- *comb* German (Germanophile)

gero-, **geronto-** *comb* old; elderly (gerodontics, gerontology)

-gerous *comb* producing; bearing; carrying (dentigerous)

gestat- *base* carrying; pregnancy (gestation)

-geton- *base* neighbor (potamogenton)

geum-, **geumat-** *base* taste (geumaphobia, geumatophobia)

-geusia *comb* taste (parageusia)

-gibboso- *base* rounded; humped; convex; protuberant (gibbosolobate)

giga- *pre* billion (gigabyte)

giganto- *comb* gigantic; large (gigantology)

gilv- *base* yellow (gilvous)

gingivo- *comb* gums (gingivoglossitis)

-gingly- *base* hinge (ginglyform)

glabello- *comb* space between the eyebrows (glabello-occipital)

-glabr- *base* smooth; bald (glabrous)

glacio- *comb* glacier; ice (glaciologist)

gladi- *comb* sword (gladiolus)

gland- 1. *base* acorn (glandiferous); 2. yellow-brown (glandaceous)

glare- *base* gravel; sand (glareous)

glauco- *comb* bluish-green; gray; silvery; opaque (glaucoma)

-glea *comb* glue; cement (mesoglea)

-gleb- *base* clod; lump; dirt (glebous)

gleno- *comb* shallow joint-socket (gleno-humeral)

-glia, **glio-** *comb* glue; glue-like (neuroglia, glioblastoma)

glico- *See* **gluco-**

-glir- *base* dormouse (gliriform)

globi-, **globo-** *comb* round; ball-shaped; spherical (globiferous, globosphaerite)

glom- *base* cluster; ball (glomerulus)

glosso- 1. *comb* of the tongue (glossoplegia); 2. the tongue plus (glossopharyngeal); 3. of words; of language (glossology). *Also* **glossia-** (macroglossia)

-glot, **glotto-** *comb* language, communication in; languages, knowledge of (polyglot, glottogony)

gluco- *comb* glycerin; glycerol; glycogen; sugar (glucokinase)

glut- *base* rump (gluteus)

-glutin- *base* glue (glutinate)

glutt- *base* eat; gulp (glutton)

glycero-, **glyco-** *comb* glycerin; glycerol; glycogen; sugar (glycerolysis, glycogenesis)

glycyr- *base* licorice (glycyrrize)

-glyph *comb* carve; engrave (hieroglyph)

-glypha *comb* [zoology] snakes with grooved fangs (Opisthoglyph)

glypto- *comb* carve; engrave (glyptograph)

gnatho-, **-gnathous** *comb* [zoology] jaw (gnathodynamics, prognathous)

-gnomy, **-gnosia**, **-gnosis**, **-gnostic** *comb* judging; determining; knowledge (physiognomy, dysgnosia, diagnosis, diagnostic)

gnoto- *comb* known (gnotobiote)

gog-, **-gogue** *see* **-agogue**

-gomph- *base* bolt; socket; nail (gomphosis)

-gon, **-gonal** *comb* figure with — angles (pentagon, polygon)

gonado- *comb* gonad; sex gland (gonadopathy)

-gone, **-gonium**, **gono-**, **-gony** *comb* reproduction; generation; origin; formation (myelogone, sporogonium, gonothecal, cosmogony)

gonio- *comb* angle (goniometry)

-gracil- *base* slender; lean (graciles-cent)

gracul- *base* jackdaw (graculine)

grad- *base* walk; move; go (gradation)

-grade *comb* a specified manner of walking or moving (plantigrade).
See **-gress-**

Graeco- *comb* Greek (Graeco-mania). Also **Greco-** (Grecophile)

-grall- *base* wading bird (gralline)

grallator- *base* stork; heron (grallatorial)

-gram 1. *comb* written or drawn (telegram); 2. grams: x number of (kilograms); 3. gram: fraction of (centigram)

-gramen-, -gramin- *base* grass (gramenite, graminiferous)

grand- *comb* of the generation older than or younger than (grandfather)

grandi- *base* great; large (grandiloquent)

grandin- *base* hail (grandinous)

grani- *comb* grain; corn (granivorous)

graniti- *comb* granite (granitiform)

grano- 1. *comb* granite: like/of (granolithic); 2. granular (granophyre)

granulo- *comb* granular (granuloadipose)

grao- *comb* old woman (graocracy)

-graph 1. *comb* that which writes/draws/describes (telegraph);
2. that which is written/drawn (autograph). Also **-grapher** (stenographer); **-graphic** (telegraphic); **grapho-** (graphology); **-graphy** (autobiography)

grapto- *comb* writing (graptomancy)

grat- *base* thankful (gratitude)

-graticul- *base* gridiron (graticulation)

-grav- *base* weight heavy; serious (gravimeter)

-gravid- *base* pregnant (multi-gravida)

Greco- *comb* Greek (Greco-Roman). Also **Graeco-** (Graecophile)

-greg- *base* herd; flock (congregation)

grem- *base* bosom; lap (gremial)

-gress- *base* walk move; go (aggressive). See **-grad-**

-gris- *base* gray (griseous)

-grui- *base* crane (gruiform)

-grum- *base* clot (grumous)

gryll- *base* cricket; grasshopper (gryllotalpa)

gubern- *base* ruler; guide (gubernatorial)

gulos- *base* gluttony; voracity (gulosity)

-gust- *base* taste; eat (gustatory)

gutti- *base* drop; gum-yielding (guttiferous)

gutturo- *comb* throat (gutturolabial)

gymno- *comb* naked; stripped; bare (gymnocarpous)

gyn-, gyno- 1. *comb* woman; female (gynarchy); 2. ovary; pistil (gynophore). Also **-gynous** (polygynous) and **-gyny** (monogyny)

gynandro- *comb* of uncertain sex (gynandromorphism)

gyne-, gyneco-, gyneo- *comb* woman; female (gynephobia, gynecocracy, gyneolatry)

-gypso- *base* chalk (gypsophila)

gyro- 1. *comb* gyrating (gyroscope);
2. spiral (gyroidal); 3. gyroscope (gyrocompass)

gyroso- *comb* marked with wavy lines (gyroso-rugose)

H

habil- 1. *base* ability; equipped (rehabilitate); 2. clothing (habiliments)

-habro- *base* graceful; delicate (habroreme)

-hadro- *base* thick (hadrosaur)

haema- *see* **hema-**

hagi-, hagio- *comb* saintly; holy (hagiheroical, hagiology)

halcyon- *base* kingfisher (halcyonine)

-hale *base* breath; vapor (exhale)

-halec- *base* herring (halecomorphic)

-halieut- *base* fishing (halieutics)

-halit- *base* breath; vapor (halitosis)

halluc- *base* toe (hallucar)

halo- 1. *comb* of the sea (halosaurian); 2. of salt (halophyte); 3. of halogen (halogenous)

-ham- *base* hook (hamated)

hama- *pre* together with; at the same time; united (hamarchy)

-hamart- 1. *base* sin (hamartiology); 2. corporal defect (hamartoma)

hamat- *base* barb; hook (hamate)

hand- *comb* hand: of/with/by/for (handcuff)

-hapal- *base* soft (hapalote)

haph- *base* touch (haphalgnesia)

haplo- *comb* onefold; single (haplodont)

hapt-, hapto-¹ *comb* touch; sensation (haptics, haptotaxis)

-hapto-² *base* fasten; combine (haptophore)

harengi- *comb* herring (harrengiform)

hariol- *base* divination (hariolation). *Also see* "Divination" in Part III

harmat- *base* car; chariot (harmatian)

harpax- *base* robber (harpaxophobia)

-hastato-, hasti- *comb* spear (hastato-lanceolate; hastiform)

-haur-, -haust- *base* draw (forth); drain; suck (exhaustiate, haustellum)

-headed 1. *comb* having a __ head (clearheaded); 2. having __ heads (two-headed)

heauto- *comb* of oneself (heautomorphism)

hebdom- *base* week; seven days (hebdomadal)

hebe- *comb* pubescent (hebegynous)

-hebet- *base* dull; blunt (hebetude)

Hebraico- *comb* Hebrew (Hebraico-Hibernian)

hecato-, hecto- *comb* one hundred (hecatophyllous, hectoliter). *Also* **hekto-** (hektograph)

hecaticosa- *comb* one hundred twenty-four (hecaticosachoron)

-heder- *base* ivy (hederaceous)

-hedon- *base* pleasure (anhedonia)

-hedral, -hedron *comb* geometric figure with x number of surfaces (hexahedral, hexahedron)

-hedy- *base* sweet (hedychium)

hegemon- *base* leader; chief (hegemonic)

-hekisto- *base* smallest (hekistotherm)

helco- *comb* festering wound; ulcer (helcoplasty)

helici-, helico- *comb* spiral-shaped (heliciform, helicopter)

helio- *comb* sun; bright; radiant (heliocentric)

helminth(o)- *comb* [botany] worm (helminthogogue)

helo-¹ *comb* nail; spike (helodont)
helo-² *comb* marsh (helobious)
helv- *base* yellow (helvenac)
Helvet- *base* Swiss (Helvetian)
hema-, hemato-, hemo- *comb* blood (hemachrome, hematogenic, hemophilia). Also **haem-** (haemachrome)
hemangio- *comb* blood vessels (hemangiosarcoma)
hemer- *base* day (monohemerous)
hemi- *pre* half (hemicardia)
hemispherico- *comb* hemispheric (hemispherico-conical)
hendeca- *comb* eleven (hendecahedron)
-heno- *base* one (henotheism)
heort- *base* feast day; festival (heortology)
hepatic-, hepato- *comb* liver (hepaticostomy, hepatogastric)
hepta- *comb* seven (heptagon)
heptakaideca- *comb* seventeen (heptakaidecahedron)
-herbi- *base* plant (herbivorous)
-herco- *base* wall; barrier (hercogamy)
heredo- *comb* heredity (heredofamilial)
heresio- *base* heresy (heresiologist)
heri- *base* master (hericide)
-hermen- *base* interpretation (hermeneutical)
hernio- *comb* hernia (herniotomy)
herpeto- *comb* reptile (herpetology)
-hesper- *base* west (hesperian)
-hesperid- *base* the orange (hesperidine)
-hesson- *base* less; inferior (hessonite)
-hestern- *base* yesterday (hesternal)
hestho- *base* clothing; dress (hesthogenous)
hesy- *base* still; quiet (hesychastic)

hetaero- *base* companion; courtesan (hetaerocracy)
hetero- *comb* other; another; different (heterosexual)
-heur- *base* discover; invent (heuristic)
hexa- *comb* six (hexameter)
hexaconta- *comb* sixty (hexacontahedron)
hexacosi- *comb* six hundred (hexacosichoron)
hexadeca-, hexakaideca- *comb* sixteen (hexadecachoron, hexakaidcahedron)
hexakis- *comb* six times (hexakisotahedron)
hexametro- *comb* hexameter (hexametromania)
-hexi- *base* habit; behavior (hexiology)
hibern- *base* winter (hibernation)
Hiberno- *comb* Irish (Hiberno-Celtic)
-hidro- *base* sweat (anhidrosis)
hiem- *base* winter (hiemal)
hieraco- *comb* hawk (hieracosophic)
hiero- *comb* holy; consecrated; sacred (hierophobia)
hilasm- *base* propitiatory (hilasmic)
-himant- *base* strap; thong (himan-topus)
hind- *comb* rear; following (hind-brain)
hippo-, -hippus *comb* horse (hippocrepian, eohippus)
hippocamp- *base* seahorse (hippocampine)
hippocrepi- *base* horseshoe (hippocrepiiform)
hippogloss- *base* halibut (hippoglossoid)
-hirc- *base* goat (hircine)
-hirmo- *base* series; connection (hirmologion)

hirsuto- *comb* having hair of a certain color (hirsuto-rufus)

-hirudin- *base* leech (hirudiniculture)

-hirund- *base* swallow; martin (hirundine)

Hispano- *comb* Spanish (Hispano-American)

-hispid- *base* shaggy; hairy (hispidulous)

histio-, histo- *comb* tissue (histiocytoma, histology)

historico- *comb* historical (historico-geographical)

-histrion- *base* stage-player (histrionically)

-hodiern- *base* today (hodiernal)

hodo- *comb* way; road (hodograph).
See **odo-**

-holco- *base* furrow (holcodont)

holo- *comb* complete; entire; whole (holocaust)

hom- *base* humankind (homicide)

homalo-, homolo- *comb* even; regular; level; ordinary (homalographic, homolographic)

-homar- *base* lobster (homarine)

homeo- *comb* similar; like (homeomorphism)

homichlo- *base* cloud; fog; dimness (homichlophobia)

homil- *base* sermon (homiletics)

homin- *base* humankind (homini-form)

homo- *comb* same; equal (homosexual)

homoeo-, homoio- *comb* similar; like (homoeodont, homoiothermal)

homolo- *comb* corresponding; assenting (homologous). See **homalo-**

-hood 1. *suf* quality; character; state; condition (childhood); 2. whole group of __ (brotherhood)

hoplo- *comb* weapon; armor (hoplophorous)

-hord- *base* barley (hordeaceous)

horm- *base* urge; impel (hormetic)

horo- *comb* hour time; season (horology)

-hort- *base* urge; encourage (exhortation)

-horti- *base* garden (horticulture)

hosp- *base* host (hospitality)

-hum- *base* ground (exhumation)

humano- *comb* human and (humano-taurine)

-humect- *base* moist; wet (humectant)

humero- *comb* shoulder; upper arm (humero-cubital)

hyalo- *comb* [chemistry] transparent; glassy (hyalophane)

-hybo- *base* hump (hybodont)

-hydno- *base* truffle (hydnocarpous)

hydraulico- *comb* hydraulic (hydraulico-pneumatical)

-hydric *comb* the presence of x number of hydroxyl radicals or replaceable hydrogen atoms (monohydric)

hydro- 1. *comb* water (hydrometer); 2. [chemistry] hydrogen (hydrocyanic)

hydroxy- *comb* hydroxyl group (hydroxy-benzene)

hyeto- *comb* rain; rainfall (hyetograph)

hygeo-, hygien- *comb* health; hygiene (hygeiolatry, hygienist)

hygro- *comb* wet; moisture (hygrometer)

hylac- *base* barking (hylactic)

hylaeo- *comb* forest (hylaeosaurus)

hyle-, hylo- 1. *comb* wood (hylephobia, hylophagous); 2. matter (hylozoism)

hylobat- *base* gibbon (hylobatine)

hymeno- *comb* membrane (hymenogeny)
hyo- *comb* hyoid bone (hyoglossal)
hyos- *base* hog (hyoscyamine)
hypedia- *base* responsibility (hypediaphobia)
hypengy- *base* responsibility (hypengyophobia)
hyper- 1. *pre* over; above; excessive (hypercritical); 2. [chemistry] maximum (hyperoxide)
-hyphe- *base* web (hyphomycetes)
hypno- *comb* sleep; hypnotism (hypnophobia)
hypo- 1. *pre* under; below (hypodermic); 2. less than (hypotaxis); 3. [chemistry] having a lower state of oxidation (hypophosphorous)

hypocrater- *base* tray (hypocrateriform)
hypsi-, hypso- *comb* high; height (hypsicephalic, hypsodont)
hyraci-, hyraco- *comb* hyrax: rabbit-like quadruped (hyraciform, hyracodont)
-hystat- *base* lowest (hystatite)
hystero-¹ 1. *comb* uterus; womb (hysterodynia); 2. hysteria (hysteroepilepsy)
hystero-² *comb* later; inferior (hystero-genetic)
-hystric- *base* porcupine (hystriciasis)

I

-i *suf* plural ending (foci)
-ia 1. *suf* country names (India); 2. disease names (pneumonia); 3. festival names (Lupercalia); 4. Gk/Lat. words (militia); 5. plurals >Gk/Lat. (genitalia); 6. [biology] class names (Reptilia); 7. [botany] some generic plant names (zinnia); 8. [chemistry] alkaloid names (strychnia)
-ial *suf* of; pertaining to (magisterial)
-ian/-iana *see* -an/-ana
ianth- *base* violet (ianthine)
-iasis 1. *comb* process; condition; 2. morbid condition (hypochondriasis)
-iatrics, iatro-, -iatry *comb* medical treatment (pediatrics, iatrophysical, psychiatry)
Ibero- *comb* Spanish (Iberian)

-ibility, -ible, -ibly *suf* capable of (sensibility, sensible, visibly)
-ic 1. *suf* having to do with; of (volcanic); 2. like; having the nature of; characteristic of (angelic); 3. produced by; caused by (symphonic); 4. made up of; containing; consisting of (dactylic); 5. [chemistry] higher valence than is indicated by the suffix -ous (nitric); 6. nouns from adjectives (magic)
-ical, -ically *suf* adjective/adverb forms parallel to -ic (angelical, magically)
-ice¹ *suf* condition; state; quality of; action (malice)
-ice² *suf* feminine ending (mediatrice)
-ichno *comb* [paleontology] track; trace; posture; position (ichnology)

ichor- *comb* serous fluid (ichor-remia)

ichthyo- *comb* fish; fishlike (ichthyophagous)

-ician *suf* practitioner; specialist (beautician)

-icity *suf* nouns formed from **-ic** adjectives (publicity)

icono- *comb* figure; likeness; image (iconograph)

icosa-, icosi- *comb* [mathematics/botany] twenty (icosahedron, icositetrahedron: 24)

-ics 1. *suf* art; science (mathematics); 2. activities; practice properties; system (statistics)

icter⁻¹, ictero- *comb* yellow; jaundice (icteric, icteronemia)

icter⁻² *base* blackbird; bobolink; meadowlark; oriole (icterine)

-id¹ 1. *suf* belonging to; connected with (Aeneid); 2. animal group name (arachnid); 3. meteor names (Perseid)

-id² *suf* filled with (vivid)

-ida *suf* [zoology] order/class names (Acarida)

-idae *suf* [zoology] family names (Felidae)

-idan *suf* [zoology] of or pertaining to (arachnidan)

-ide *suf* [chemistry] compound names (chloride)

ideo- *comb* idea; creation (ideology)

-ides *suf* [science] name endings (cantharides)

-idine *suf* chemical compound related to another (pyridine)

idio- *comb* one's own; distinct; personal (idiocracy)

-idion *suf* diminutive (enchiridion)

-idium *suf* [science] diminutive (phyllidium)

idolo- *comb* idol (idolomancy)

-ie *suf* diminutive (doggie)

-ier *suf* person concerned with (glazier)

-iferous *see* **-ferous**

-ific *see* **-fic**

-ification *see* **-fication**

-iformes *suf* [zoology] names: having the form of (Passeriformes)

-ify *see* **-fy**

igneo- *comb* fire (igneo-aqueous)

igni- *base* fire (igniferous)

il- *see* **in-**

-il, -ile *suf* like; having to do with; suitable for (civil, docile)

ilast- *base* propitiatory (ilastic)

ileo-, ilio- 1. *comb* of the ileum (ileostomy); 2. ileac plus (ilio-sacral)

-ilia *suf* able to be __ (memorabilia)

ilic- *base* holly (ilicic)

-ility *suf* quality; condition (sensitivity)

-illa *suf* diminutive (cedilla)

-illo *suf* diminutive (cigarillo)

illyngo- *base* vertigo (illyngophobia)

im- *see* **in-**

-im *suf* Hebrew plural ending (cherubim)

imbri- *base* rain; rain tile (imbriferous, imbricated)

imbricato- *comb* composed of parts which overlap like tiles (imbricato-granulose)

-imido *comb* NH in acid radicals (imidogen)

imino- *comb* NH in nonacid radicals (iminourea)

immuno- *comb* resistant to disease; immune (immunotherapy)

immut- *base* unalterable (immutable)

impari- *comb* odd-numbered; unpaired (imparisyllabic)

imped- *base* snare; delay (impedance)

imper- *base* power; authority (imperial)

impet- *base* rush; assault (impetuous)

in-¹ *1. pre* within; inside; into; toward (inbred); *2. intensifier* (instigate); *3. not; without* (insane). NOTE: **in-** can change to: **il-** (illuminate); **im-** (impossible); **ir-** (irrigate)

-in² *suf* [chemistry] names of neutral substances (albumin)

-ina *1. suf* feminine ending (ballerina); *2. characterized by* (sonatina); *3. [biology] name endings* (Nemertina)

-inae *suf* names of subfamilies of animals (felinae)

inan- *base* empty; foolish (inane)

inaug- *base* start (inaugurate)

incess- *base* unceasing (incessant)

incip- *base* take in hand; begin (incipient)

inciso- *comb* cut into (incisoblate)

incred- *base* scold; rebuke (incredulous)

-indag- *base* trace; search; investigate (indagation)

indi-, indo-¹ *comb* indigo; metallic violet-purple (indirubin, indophenol)

-indigen- *base* native (indigenous)

Indo-² *comb* India (Indo-Malayan)

inducto- *comb* electrical induction (inductoscope)

-ine *1. suf* of; like; pertaining to; characterized by (canine); *2. feminine ending* (heroine); *3. abstract noun ending* (discipline); *4. commercial names* (Vaseline); *5. [chemistry] names of: halogens* (iodine); *alkaloid/nitrogen bases* (morphine); *hydrides* (stibine); *6. of the nature of* (crystalline)

inebr- *base* drunk (inebriated)

inequi- *comb* unequal (inequidistant)

infern- *base* underworld; hell (infernal)

infero- *comb* underneath; low; below (inferolateral)

infra- *pre* below; beneath (infrastructure)

infundib- *base* funnel (infundibuliform)

-ing *1. suf* belonging to; descended from (atheling); *2. present participle* (shifting sand); *3. act of; process* (talking); *4. produced by* (painting); *5. material for* (roofing)

ingen- *base* versatile; clever (ingenious)

ingress- *base* enter (ingressive)

inguino- *comb* inguinal; groin (inguinoscrotal)

-ini *suf* [zoology] group names (Acanthurini)

inimic- *base* hostile (inimical)

iniq- *base* bad; uneven (iniquity)

init- *base* begin; enter (initialize)

innato- *comb* inborn; natural (innato-sessile)

ino- *comb* fiber; fibrous growth (inolith)

inquis- *see* -quire

insect-, insecto- *comb* bug (insecticide, insectology)

insul- *base* island (insularity)

integri- *comb* whole (integripallial)

inter- *1. comb* between; among (interchange); *2. mutual; reciprocal; with each other* (interact)

interno-, intero- *comb* internal; inside; within (internomedial, interoceptive)

intestino- *comb* intestine (intestino-vesical)

intra- *comb* within; inside (intramural)

intro- *comb* into; within; inward (introvert)

inund- *base* flood; overflow (inundate)

inutil- *base* useless (inutility)

-invid- *base* envy; resentment (invidious)

-involver- *base* wrapping; covering (involveriform)

iodo- *comb* iodine (iodoform)

-ion 1. *suf* act; process (solution);
2. state; condition (ambition)

iono- *comb* ion (ionosphere)

-ior 1. *suf* one who ___ (warrior);
2. comparative form (inferior)

-ious *suf* characterized by; having (contentious)

ipse- *base* self (ipseity)

ir- *see* in-

-ira-, -irasc- *base* hatred; anger (irate, irascible)

-iren- *base* peace (irenic)

irid- *base* rainbow (iridial)

iridico-, iridio- *comb* iridium (iridico-potassic, iridio-cyanide)

irido- *comb* iris (iridomotor)

isch- *comb* restriction; deficiency (ischemia)

ischi-, ischio- *comb* hip; ischium (ischialgia, ischiocapsular)

-ise *suf* quality; condition; function (merchandise)

-ish 1. *suf* national connection (Irish); 2. characteristic of; like (devilish); 3. tending to (bookish); 4. somewhat; rather (whitish); 5. approximately (thirty-ish)

-isk *suf* diminutive (obelisk)

-ism 1. *suf* act; result of; practice (terrorism); 2. condition of being (barbarism); 3. qualities characteristic of; conduct characteristic of (patriotism); 4. doctrine; theory; principle of (socialism); 5. devotion to (nationalism);

6. instance of; example of; peculiarity of (Gallicism); 7. abnormal condition caused by ___ (alcoholism)

-ismus *suf* spasm; contraction (vaginismus). *See* -esmus

iso- *comb* equality; identity; similarity (isodactylous)

isoptero- *base* termite; white ant (isopteroous)

-ist *suf* practitioner; believer; person skilled in (theorist)

isthm- *base* narrow passage; neck of land (isthmian)

-istic, -istical *suf* tending towards; acting like (communistic, egotistical)

istiophor- *base* marlin; sailfish (istiophorid)

Italo- *comb* Italy (Italophile)

-ite 1. *suf* native; inhabitant; citizen of (Brooklynite); 2. adherent; believer (Benthamite); 3. manufactured product (dynamite); 4. fossil (coprolite); 5. bodily organ part (somite); 6. salt or ester of an acid ending in -ous (nitrite); 7. mineral or rock (anthracite)

itea- *comb* willow tree (iteatic)

-iter- *base* repeat (reiterate)

ithy- *comb* erect; straight (ithyphallic)

-itic *suf* relating to; of (syphilitic)

-itiner- *base* journey (itinerary)

-ition *see* -ation

-itious *suf* having the nature of; characterized by (fictitious)

-itis *suf* inflammation; disease (bronchitis)

-itive *see* -ative

-itol *suf* names of alcohols with more than 1 hydroxyl group (mannitol)

-ity *suf* state; character; condition (nobility)

-ium *suf* noun ending (opprobrium)
-ive 1. *suf* related to; belonging to; (negative); 2. tending to (creative)
-ivus *suf* [science] name endings (exfoliativus)
-ixo- *base* mistletoe; sticky or clammy like birdlime (ixolite)
ixobrych- *base* bittern (ixobrychus)

ixod- *base* tick (ixodicide)
-ization *suf* used to form noun from
-ize verb (realization)
-ize 1. *suf* cause to be or become; resemble; make (sterilize); 2. become like (crystallize); 3. subject to; treat with; combine with (oxidize); 4. engage in; act (theorize)

J

-jact-, -jacula-, -ject- *base* hurl; throw (jactation, ejaculation, inject)
jaun- *base* yellow (jaundice)
jecor- *base* liver (jecorary)
-jejuno- *comb* of the jejunum (jejunocolostomy)
-jent- *base* breakfast (jentacular)
-joco(s)-, -jocu(l)- *base* joke; jest (jocosity, jocularity)
journ- *comb* day; daily (journalism)
jubat- *base* mane (jubate)
-jubil- *base* joy; elation (jubilation)
jud- *comb* wisdom; law; justice (judiciously)
Judaeo-, Judeo- *comb* Jewish (Judaeophobia, Judeo-Christian)
Judaico- *comb* Judaic (Judaico-Christian)

juglan- *base* walnut (juglandaceous)
jugo- *comb* neck; throat; yoke (jugo-maxillary)
-juli- *base* catkin (juliferous)
jun- *base* young (junior)
-junc- *base* a rush (juncaceous)
junct- *comb* join (conjunction)
jur-, juris- *comb* law (juridical, jurisprudence)
-juss- *base* command (jussive)
-jut-, -juv- *base* aid; help (adjutant, adjuvant)
juven- *comb* young; immature (juvenile)
juxta- *comb* near; beside; close by (juxtaposition)

K

kako- *comb* bad; evil (kakogenesis).
Also caco- (cacophony)
kakorrhaph- *base* failure (kakorrhaphiophobia)
-kal- *base* beautiful (kaleidoscope)
kal(i)- *comb* potassium (kaliopenia)

karyo- *comb* [biology] nucleus (karyokinesis). *Also caryo-* (caryopsis)
kata-. *See cata-*
katheno- *comb* each; every; one by one (kathenotheism)

kathis- *base* sit; seat (kathisma)
kelyph- *base* shell; pod (kelyphite)
keno- *comb* empty (kenotic)
kephalo- *comb* head (kephalotomy).
Also cephalo- (cephalopod)
kera-, kerato- 1. *comb* horn; horn-like; horny tissue (keracele, keratogenous); 2. cornea (keratomy). *Also cerato-* (ceratosaur)
keraulo- *comb* hornblower (keraulophon)
kerauno- *comb* thunder (keraunograph). *Also cerauno-* (ceraunoscope)
kery- *base* proclamation; preaching (kerygma)
keto- *comb* ketone; organic chemical compound (ketogenesis)
-kibdelo- *base* adulterated; spurious (kibdelophane)
kil-, kill- *comb* cell; church; burying place (Kilpatrick, Kilkenny)
kilo- *comb* thousand (kilogram)
-kin *suf* diminutive (lambkin)
kinesi-, -kinesia, -kinesis, kineso- *comb* movement; muscular activity (kinesiology, hyperkinesia, telekinesis, kinesodic)
-kinetic, kineto- *comb* motion (hyperkinetic, kinetograph). *See* cine-
-kinin *suf* hormone names (cyto-kinin)
kino- *base* movement; muscular activity (kinocilium)
klepto- *comb* steal (kleptomaniac).
Also clepto- (cleptobiosis)
klino- *comb* sloped; bent (klinocephalic). *Also clino-* (clinograph)

klope- *comb* steal (klopemania)
kniss- *base* incense (knissomancy)
koilo- *comb* hollow (koilonychia)
koin- *base* common (koine). *See* **ceno-**²
koll(o)- *comb* glue (kolloxylin). *Also coll-* (colloidal)
kolpo- *comb* vagina (kolpoccele).
Also colpo- (colposcope)
koly- *comb* inhibit; restrain (kolytic)
-kompo- *base* boasting (kompology)
koni(o)- *comb* dust (konimeter)
kopo- *base* exhaustion (kopophobia)
kopro- *comb* filth; excrement (koprophilia). *See* **copro-**
-koria *comb* pupil of the eye (leukokoria). *Also -coria* (leucocoria)
kreo- *comb* flesh (kreophagus)
-krio- *base* ram (krioboly). *Also crio-* (criocephalous)
krymo-, kryo- *see* **crymo-**
kryo- *comb* frost; cold (kryometer).
Also cryo- (cryogen)
kyano- *see* **cyano-**
kylixo- *base* bowl (kylixomancy)
kymo- *comb* wave (kymograph).
Also cymo- (cymophane)
kyno- *comb* dog (kynophagous)
kypho- *comb* hump (kyphosis). *Also cypho-* (cyphonism)
-kyrio- *base* authorized; proper (kyriolexy). *Also cyrio-* (cyriologic)
kyto- *comb* cell (kytometry). *Usually cyto-* (cytopathic)

L

-lab- *base* totter; shake; weaken (labefaction)

labar- *base* banner; standard (labarum)

-labido- *base* forceps (labidometer)

labio- *comb* lips (labiodental)

-labor- *base* work (laboriousness)

lac- *base* white (lacteous)

-lacco- *base* reservoir (laccolite)

-lacer- *base* mangle (laceration)

lacert- *base* lizard (lacertilian)

-lchan- *base* vegetable (lchanopolist)

-lacin- *base* fringed; jagged (lacini-form)

lacrim-, lacrimo- *comb* tears; crying (lachrimation, lacrimonasal). *Also* **lachrym-** (lachrymose)

lacti-, lacto- 1. *comb* milk (lactiflorous); 2. [chemistry] lactic acid (lactophosphate)

lactuc- *base* lettuce (lactucarium)

-lacun- *base* cavity; hole (lacunose)

-lacus- *base* lake; pool (lacustrine)

ladron- *base* steal (ladronism)

laeo-, laevo- 1. *comb* on the left (laeotropic); 2. counterclockwise (laevorotation). *Also* **levo-** (levogyrate)

-lagen- *base* flask (lageniform)

-lagnia *comb* desire coition; lust (al-golagnia)

lago- *comb* [zoology] hare (lagopodus)

-lalia *comb* speech disorder (copro-lalia)

lalo- *comb* talking; speech defect (lalopathy)

lamb- *base* lick (lambent)

lamelli- *comb* plate; layer; scales (lamelliform)

lamini-, lamino- 1. *comb* plate; layer (laminiferous); 2. blade of the tongue (laminoalveolar)

-lampad- *base* torch; lamp (lampadomancy)

lampro- *comb* clear; distinct (lamprophony)

lampyr- *base* firefly (lampyrid)

-lana- *base* wool (lanate). *See* **lani-**

lanci- *base* lance (lanciform)

-land 1. *comb* a kind of land (highland); 2. territory or country (England); 3. place with a specified character (cloudland)

lani- *base* wool (laniferous). *See* **lana-**

-lania- *base* to tear; butcher (laniary)

laniar- *base* canine tooth (laniariform)

lanug- *base* hair (lanugo)

laparo- *comb* abdominal wall; flank; loins (laparotomy)

-lapid- *base* stone; gem (lapidary)

laps- *base* slip away; error; fall (elapsed)

lar- *base* gull (larine)

-largi- *base* abundant; copious (largiloquent)

larix- *base* larch (larixinic)

larvi- *comb* larva (larvigerous)

laryngo- *comb* windpipe larynx (laryngoscope)

-lass- *base* weary (lassitude)

-later- *base* brick (lateritious)

-later *comb* one who worships (gastrolater). *See* **-latry**

lateri-, latero- *comb* on the side (laterigrade, laterodeviation)

lati- *comb* wide; broad (latipennate)

latib- *base* hiding place (latibulate)

latici- *comb* latex (laticiferous)

-latra- *base* barking (latration)

latro- *base* robber (latronage)

latroduct- *base* black widow spider (latroductus)

-latry *comb* excessive devotion; worship of (idolatry). *See* **-later**

-laud- *base* praise (applaud)

-lav- *base* wash (lavage)

lazul- *base* blue (lazuline)

-le 1. *suf* small (icicle); 2. person who does (beadle); 3. something

- used for doing (girdle); 4. frequent (wriggle)
- lecano-** *comb* basin; pan; dish (lecanomancy)
- lechrio-** *comb* slanting (lechriodont)
- lecith-, lecitho-** *comb* egg yolk (lecithin, lecithoprotein)
- leco-** *base* dish (lecotropical)
- lect-** *base* read (lectionary)
- leg-¹** *base* read (legendary)
- leg-²** *base* law (legality)
- legia** *comb* read (bradylegia)
- leio-** *comb* smooth (leiomyoma)
- lemma¹** *comb* assumption; proposition (dilemma)
- lemma²** *comb* rind; peel; husk (neurolemma)
- lemnisc-** *base* ribbon (lemniscus)
- lemur-** *base* tarsier (lemuroid)
- len-** *base* gentle; mild; soothing (lenity)
- leno-** *base* entice; pander; wheedle (lenocinant)
- lenocin-** *base* allure; entice (lenocinant)
- lent-** *base* slow (lentitude)
- lentig-** *base* freckle (lentigo)
- lent** *suf* full of (pestilent)
- leo-** *base* lion (leonine)
- lepido-** *comb* [botany/zoology] scaly (lepidodendron)
- lepidopter-** *base* butterfly (lepidoptero-logy)
- lepor-** *base* hare (leporine)
- lepsia-, -leptis-, -lepsy, lepti-, -leptic** *comb* fit; attack; seizure (Epilepsia, catalepsis, catalepsy, epileptiform, narcoleptic)
- lepto-** *comb* narrow; thin; fine; frail (leptocephaly)
- less** *suf* without; lacking; incapable of being (lawless)
- lesto-** *comb* thief; robber (lestobiosis)
- let** 1. *suf* small (hamlet); 2. band (anklet)
- leth-** *base* forgetfulness; drugged state (lethomania)
- leuco-, leuko-** *comb* colorless; white (leucocyte, leukemia)
- levi-** *base* airy; light (levitation)
- levig-** *base* smooth; polished (levigated)
- levo-** 1. *comb* on the left (levogyrate); 2. counterclockwise (levorotatory). Also *laevo-* (laevorotation)
- levul-** *base* sugar (levulose)
- lexia-, -lexis-, -lexy** *comb* speech (dyslexia, catalexis, kyriolexy)
- lexico-** *comb* word; vocabulary (lexicographer)
- libano-** *base* incense (libanomancy)
- libell-** *base* dragonfly (libelluloid)
- liber-** *base* free (liberation)
- libid-** *base* desirous; lustful (libidinous)
- libr-** *base* book (librarian)
- libra-** *base* balance; scale (libration)
- lichen-** *comb* skin disease (lichenolupoid)
- lien(o)-** *comb* spleen (lienogastic)
- liga-** *base* tie; bind (ligament)
- ligamenti-, ligamento-** *comb* having ligaments (ligamentiferous, ligamento-muscular)
- ligni-, ligno-** *comb* wood (lignivorous, lignoceric)
- liguli-** *comb* tongue-like; strap (liguliflorate)
- ligur-** *base* lick (ligurition)
- ligyr-** *base* noise (ligyrophobia)
- like** 1. *suf* characteristic of; suitable for (warlike); 2. in the manner of (bird-like)
- lilaps-** *base* tornado; hurricane (lilapsophobia)
- lili-** *base* lily (liliform)

-lim- *base* mud (limicolous)
-limac- *base* snail; slug (limaceous)
limen- *base* harbor (limenarch)
-limin- *base* threshold (eliminate)
limno- *comb* lake; pond; pool (limnology)
limo-¹ *comb* clayey and (limo-cretaceous)
limo-² *comb* fasting; famine (limotherapy)
linar- *base* flax (linaria)
lineo- *comb* line (lineo-polar)
-ling¹ *suf* person or thing belonging to or concerned with (underling)
-ling² *suf* diminutive (duckling)
-ling³ *suf* direction; extent; condition (darkling)
ling-⁴ *base* lick (lingible)
lingui-, linguo- *comb* language; tongue (bi-lingual, linguopalatal)
linon- *base* string (linonophobia)
lipar- *base* grease; fat (liparocela)
lipo-¹ *comb* fatty (liposuction)
lipo-² *comb* lacking; without (lipostomosis)
lipsano- *comb* relics (lipsanographer)
-liqu- *base* melt; make liquid; dissolve (liquescent)
-lirio- *base* lily (liriodendron)
-liss(o)- *base* smooth (lissotrichous)
-litan- *base* prayer; entreaty (litanical)
-lite *suf* names of minerals; stone (chrysolite)
-lith *comb* stone (monolith)
-lithic *comb* stone-using stage (neolithic)
litho- *comb* stone; rock; calculus (lithosphere)
litig- *base* quarrel; lawsuit (litigation)
-littor- *base* shore (littoral)
-litu- *base* clarion (lituiform)
livid- *base* blue (lividity)

-lixiv- *base* lye; alkaline (lixivation)
lobulato- *comb* having small lobes (lobulato-glomerate)
lochio- *comb* childbirth (lochio-peritonitis)
loco- 1. *comb* from place to place (locomotive); 2. a particular place (locodescriptive)
-locu- *base* word; speech; discourse (interocutor). *Also* **-loqu-** (eloquence)
locust- *base* cricket; locust; grasshopper (locustarian)
lodic- *base* blanket; rug (lodicule)
-logic, -logical *comb* of a science (geologic, biological)
-logist *comb* one versed in __ (biologist)
logo- *comb* word; speech; discourse (logorrhea)
-logue *comb* kind of speaking; kind of writing (monologue)
-logy 1. *comb* kind of speaking (eulogy); 2. science; doctrine; theory/study of (geology)
-loimo- *base* pestilence (loimography). *Also* **læmo-** (læmology)
-lonch- *base* spearhead (lonchidite)
longi- *comb* long (longipennate)
lopho- *comb* [zoology/anatomy] crest; ridge (lophocercal)
-loqu- *base* talk; speech (grandiloquent). *See* **locu-**
-lor- *base* thong; strap (lorate)
lorido- *comb* hump (lordoscoliosis)
-lorica- *base* covering; hard shell (illoricated)
loxo- *comb* [medicine/zoology] slanting oblique (loxotomy)
-lubric- *base* smooth; slippery (lubricity)
luc-, luci *comb* light; clear; dawn (lucidity, lucifugal, antelucan)
lucern- *base* lamp (lucernal)

-**lucr(i)**- *base* profit; gain (lucriferous)
 -**luct**⁻¹ *base* sorrow (luctisonant)
luct⁻² *base* wrestle (luctation)
lucubr- *base* work; nocturnal study (lucubration)
 -**lude** *comb* a play; to play with (prelude)
ludif- *base* hoax; deception (ludificatory)
 -**luetic** *comb* syphilis (paraluetic)
 -**lum**- *base* light (illumination). *See* -**luc**-
lumbo- *comb* loin; lumbar (lumbo-dorsal)
 -**lumbric**- *base* worm (lumbriciform)
luni- *comb* moon (lunitidal)
lunu- *comb* crescent; moon-shaped (lunulite)
 -**lup**- *base* wolf (lupine)
lupan- *base* brothel (lupanar)
lur- *base* yellow-brown (lurid)
lurido- *comb* yellow (lurido-cinerascent)
 -**lusc**- *base* one-eyed (eluscate)
lustr- *base* shining; splendor (illustrious)
lut- *base* mud (lutulent)
luteo- *comb* yellow (luteo-fulvous)
lutjan- *base* snapper (lutjanid)
lutr- *base* otter (lutrine)

-**ly** 1. *suf* characteristic of; suitable to (earthly); 2. happening every — (hourly); 3. in a specified way (harshly); 4. in some direction (outwardly); 5. in some order (thirdly)
lyc-, **lyco**- *comb* wolf (lycanthropy, lycomania)
 -**lych**- *base* lamp (lychnic)
lyg- *base* dark; murky (lygaeid)
lymphaden(o)- *comb* lymph nodes (lymphadenopathy)
lymphangio- *comb* lymphatic vessels (lymphangioplasty)
lymphato- *comb* lymphatic (lymphatolysis)
lympho- *comb* of the lymph (lymphocyte)
lync- *base* lynx (lyncean)
lyo- *comb* dissolution (lyophilic)
lype- *comb* sadness; grief (lypemania)
lyri- *base* lyre (lyriform)
lyrico- *comb* lyric (lyrico-dramatic)
lysi-, **-lysis**, **lyso**-, **-lyte**, **-lytic**, **-lyze** *comb* freeing; relieving; breaking up; dissolving; destroying (lysimeter, lysogen, electrolysis, gazolyte, paralytic, paralyze)
-lyss- *base* rabies (lyssophobia)
-lyte *comb* decomposed substance; dissolved (hydrolyte)

M

-**ma** *suf* result of action (enigma)
macar- *base* happy; blessed (macarism)
macell- *base* meat market (macellarious)
 -**machaero**- *base* sword (machaerodont)
macho-, **-machy** *comb* struggle;

contest; battle; fight (macho-polyp, hieromachy)
maci- *base* thin; lean (macilence)
macro- *comb* long; large (macrocosm)
macropod- *base* kangaroo (macropodine)
macrur- *base* shrimp (macruran)

-macul- *base* spot; stain (immaculate)
mad- *base* wet; moist (madeficient)
mageir- *base* cook (mageiricophobia). *Also* **magir-** (magiric)
-magist- *base* master; head; authority (magistrate)
magneto- *comb* magnetic force (magneto-electric)
magni- *comb* great; large (magniloquent)
mag- *comb* magic (mago-chemical)
maha- *base* mastery; control (maharane)
maieusi- *base* bringing forth; midwifery (maieutic)
-maj- *base* great; large (majority)
mal- *comb* bad; wrong; ill (maldroit)
-malacia, malaco- 1. *comb* soft (gastromalacia); 2. mollusks (malacology)
-malax- *base* soften (malaxation)
Malayo- *comb* Malay (Malayo-Polynesian)
male- *comb* evil (malefaction)
-mali- *base* apple (maliform)
malleo- *comb* hammer (malleo-incudal)
-mallo- *base* wool (mallophagous)
malneiro- *comb* nightmare (malneirophrenia)
mamilli- *comb* nipple (mamilliform)
mammato- *comb* rounded clouds (mammato-cumulus)
mammi-, mammo- *comb* breasts (mammiiferous, mammogram)
-man *comb* human; male (anchor-man)
-mancy, -mantic *comb* divination (necromancy, necromantic)
-mand- *base* command; oblige (mandatory)

mandibulo- *comb* jaw (mandibulo-maxillary)
manduc- *comb* chew; eat (manducation)
mangan-, mangani-, mangano- *comb* manganese (manganbrucite, manganicyanide, manganosiderite)
mani-, manu- *comb* hand (manipulate, manuscript)
-mania 1. *comb* mental disorder (kleptomania); 2. excessive craving (bibliomania)
mano- *comb* thin; rare (manometer)
mansue- *base* tame; mild (mansuetude)
manubr- *base* handle (manubriated)
-marc- *base* faded; withered (marcescent)
mare- *comb* sea (mareography)
marg- *base* border; verge (marginal)
margarit- *base* pearl (margaritaceous)
-margy *base* raging mad (gastro-margy)
mari- *comb* sea (mariculture)
marit- *base* spouse; marriage (marital)
-marm- *base* marble (marmoreal)
-marsup- *base* pouch (marsupial)
-mas *comb* feast day (Christmas)
masculo- *comb* male (masculo-nucleus)
-mastia, masto- *comb* [medicine/zoology] breast: of or like (macro-mastia, mastodynia)
mastic- *base* chew (mastication)
mastigo- *comb* whiplike; scourge bearing (mastigophore)
masto- *comb* breast (mastodynia)
mastoido- *comb* mastoid (mastoido-humeral)
-mataeo- *base* unprofitable; useless; vain (mataeology)

mater-, matri- *comb* mother (maternity, matriarchy)

matertera- *base* aunt on mother's side (materteral)

-math- *comb* learn (opsimath)

matur- *base* ripe (maturity)

-matut- *base* morning (matutinal)

maxi- *comb* very large; very long (maxicoat)

maxillo- *comb* of the maxilla; jaw (maxillo-palatine)

mazo-¹ *comb* placenta (mazolysis)

mazo-² *comb* breast (mazoplazia)

-meal *comb* measure (piecemeal)

meato- *comb* passage channel (meatoscopy)

mechanico- *comb* partly mechanical (mechanico-chemical)

mechano- *comb* machines (mechanotherapy)

-meco- *base* length (mecodont)

-mecon- *base* poppy; opium (meconidine)

-med- 1. *base* s. bladder (medorrhea); 2. *pl.* genitals (medorthophobia)

medi-, medio- *comb* middle (medicommisure, mediadorsal)

mediastino- *comb* membranous partition (mediastino-pericardial)

medico- *comb* medical; of healing (medico-legal)

mega- 1. *comb* large; powerful (megaphone); 2. a million of (megacycle)

megacheiropter- *base* bat (megacheiropteran)

megalo-, -megaly 1. *comb* large; powerful (megalomania); 2. abnormal enlargement (megalocardia, hepatomegaly)

meio- *comb* less (meiosis). Also **mio-** (Miolithic)

meizo- *comb* greater (meizoseismal)

melan-, melano- *comb* black; very dark (melanosis, melanocomous)

-mele *comb* limb; extremity (phocomele)

meleagr- *base* turkey (meleagrine)

melet- *base* meditation (meletetics)

-melia-¹ *comb* limb; extremity (macromelia)

-melia-² *base* ash tree (meliaceous)

melin- 1. *base* badger (meline);

2. tawny (meline)

-melior- *base* make better; improve (ameliorate)

melisso- *base* bee (melissean)

melitto- *base* bee (melittology)

mell(i)- *comb* honey; sweet (mellifluous)

melo-¹ *comb* song; music (melomania)

melo-² *comb* cheek (meloplasty)

melo-³ *comb* limb; extremity (melorheostosis)

membrano- *comb* membrane plus (membranocartilaginous)

mendac- *base* falsehood (mendacious)

mendic- *base* beggar; poor (mendicant)

-menia *comb* [medicine] pertaining to the menses (paramenia)

meningo- *comb* [medicine/anatomy] related to the meninges (meningocele)

-menisc- *base* crescent-shaped (meniscoid)

meno- 1. *comb* [medicine] pertaining to the menses (menopause); 2. month (menology)

mens- *base* month (menses)

-ment¹ 1. *suf* result; product (pavement); 2. instrument; means (adornment); 3. process of doing (measurement); 4. state of being acted on (disappointment)

ment⁻² *base* mind; thought (mentation)

menth- *base* mint (menthaceous)

mento- *comb* chin (mentoplasty)

-mentul- *base* penis (mentulate)

mephit- *base* skunk (mephitic)

-mer, -meran *comb* part; unit (isomer, heteromeran). *Also* **-mere** (blastomere). *See* **mero**⁻¹

-merc- *base* goods (mercantile)

-merd- *base* dung (immerd)

-mere *comb* part; unit (blastomere). *See* **-mer** and **mero**⁻¹

meretric- *base* harlot (meretricious)

-merge, -merse *comb* plunge; dip (submerge, immerse)

merid- *base* noon (postmeridian)

merinth- *base* bind (merinthophobia)

mero⁻¹, **-merous** *comb* part; unit; partial; having __ parts (meroblast, heteromeros)

mero⁻² *comb* thigh (meroceles)

merul- *base* blackbird (meruline)

mesati- *comb* medium (mesati-cephaly)

mesmer- *base* hypnotism (mesmerism)

meso- 1. *comb* in the middle (mesocarp); 2. [anatomy] a mesentery (mesogastrium)

meta⁻¹ 1. *pre* changed (metamorphosis); 2. after (metaphysics); 3. behind; in back (metathorax); 4. beyond; higher (metapsychosis)

meta⁻² [chemistry] 1. *pre* polymer of (metaldehyde); 2. derivative of (metaprotein); 3. acid containing less water combined with the anhydride than other acids of the same non-metallic element (metaphosphoric); 4. characterized by substitutes in the 1,3 position in the benzene ring (metacoumarate)

metacarpo- *comb* metacarpus plus (metacarpophalangeal)

metalli-, metallo- *comb* metal (metalliferous, metallochrome)

metatarso- *comb* metatarsus plus (metatarso-phalangeal)

metax- *base* silk (metaxite)

-meter 1. *comb* device for measuring (barometer); 2. so many meters (kilometer); 3. fraction of a meter (centimeter); 4. having __ metrical feet (pentameter)

-meth- *base* intoxicated (methystic)

metho- *comb* methyl (methoxyl)

methoxy- *comb* methoxy group (methoxychlor)

methyl- *comb* methyl group (methyl-benzene)

methys- *base* drunk; intoxicated (methystic)

metopo- *comb* forehead (metoposcopy)

metr- *base* poem (metrical)

metra-, metro⁻¹ *comb* uterus (metratonia, metrorrhagia)

-metric, -metrics, metro⁻², **-metry** *comb* measure (geometric, econometrics, metrology, chronometry)

-metrio- *base* moderate (metrioccephalic)

mezzo- *comb* middle; half (mezzotint)

micro- 1. *comb* little; small (microbarograph); 2. abnormally small (microcephalic); 3. enlarging what is small (microscope); 4. relation to microscopes (microchemistry); 5. one millionth part of (microgram)

microcheiropter- *base* bat (microcheiropteran)

-mict- *base* urine (micturient). *See* **-ming**

mid- *comb* middle part (midbrain)

-milit- *base* soldier (militancy)

milli- 1. *comb* one thousandth part of (millimeter); 2. one thousand (millifold)
milv- *base* kite — the bird (milvine)
-mim- 1. *base* imitate (mimetic); 2. mockingbird (mimine)
min- *base* threat (minatory)
-ming- *base* urine (retromingent).
See -mict-
mini- *comb* smaller; shorter; lesser than usual (miniskirt)
mio- *comb* less; diminished (miosis). *Also meio-* (meiosis)
-mir- *base* wonder (admiration)
mis- *pre* wrong; bad (miscalculate)
-misc- *base* mixed (immiscible)
miso- *comb* hated; hating (misogyny)
-miss-, -mit-¹ *base* send (dismiss, remit)
mit-², **mito-** *comb* thread (mitosis, mitochondria)
miti-¹ *base* mild; soothing (mitigate)
miti-² *base* mite (miticide)
mitri- *base* miter (mitriform)
mixo- *comb* mixed (mixogamy)
-mnem-, -mnesia, -mnesis *base* memory (mnemonics, amnesia, anamnesis)
-mo *suf* printing books: a suffix to the number designating one of the equal parts into which a sheet is divided, the size of a page varying with the size of the sheet folded (12mo)
-mob- *base* move (immobility)
-mobile *comb* special type of vehicle (bookmobile)
-mochl- *base* lever (hypomochlion)
mogi- *comb* with difficulty (mogi-graphia)
mol- *base* grind (molar)
-molend- *base* mill (molendarious)
-moll- *base* soft (emollient)

mollusc- *base* mollusk (mallusous)
molybdo- *comb* lead (molybdocolic)
molys- *base* dirt (molysmophobia)
-mon- *base* warn (admonish)
monach- *base* monk (monachism)
-monil- *base* necklace (moniliform)
mono- 1. *comb* single; alone; one (monoclinal); 2. containing one atom (monochloride); 3. one molecule thick (monolayer)
monotrem- *base* platypus (monotremal)
-monstr- *base* show (demonstrate)
mont- *base* mountain (montane)
-mony *suf* resulting state (patrimony)
-mor-¹ *base* usage; custom (mores)
-mor-² *base* mulberry (moriform)
-mora- *base* delay (remorate)
-morb- *base* sickly; diseased (morbidity)
-mord- *base* sharp biting; acrid (mordant)
-moriger- *base* obedient; submissive (morigerous)
-morilli- *base* fungus; morel (moriliform)
moro- *base* foolish (morology)
moros- *base* surly (morosity)
-morph-, -morphic, -morphism, morpho-, -morphous *comb* having a specified form (pseudomorph, anthropomorphic, monomorphism, morphology, isomorphous)
mort-, morti- *comb* death (immortality, mortify)
-mosch- *base* musk (moschiferous)
-most *suf* superlatives (foremost)
-motive *comb* moving (automotive)
moto- *comb* motor (moto-sensitive)
-mouthed *comb* having a __ mouth; having __ mouths (large-mouthed)
mov- *base* move (movable)

muci-, **muco-** *comb* snot; mucous membrane (muciparous, mucoprotein)
mucid- *base* musty (mucidous)
mucoso- *comb* partly mucous (mucoso-granular)
-mucro- *base* point (mucronulate)
-mug- *base* bellow (remugient)
mugil- *base* mullet (mugiloid)
muliebr- *base* woman (mulierbrity)
mult(i)- 1. *comb* having many (multicolored); 2. more than two (multilateral); 3. many times (millionaire)
mummi- *base* mummy (mummi-form)
mun- *base* gift (munificent)
-mund⁻¹ *base* world (mundiciduous)
-mund⁻² *base* cleanse (mundation)
-mur⁻¹ *base* mouse (murine)
-mur⁻² *base* wall (immured)
-mur⁻³ *base* mulberry (muriform)
muraen- *base* moray (muraenid)
-muri- *base* brine (muriatic)
-muric- *base* pointed; sharp (muri-cated)
musa- *base* banana (musaceous)
-musc⁻¹ *base* fly (musci-form)
-musc⁻² *base* moss (emuscation)
muscar- *base* brush (muscariform)
muscap- *base* flycatching bird; thrush (muscapine)
musculo- *comb* muscle (musculophrenic)
musico- *comb* music (musicophobia)
muso- *base* poem (musophobia)
muss- *base* mutter; murmur (mussitation)
-mustel- 1. *base* weasel; badger; skunk; polecat; ermine; marten; mink; wolverine; ferret (musteline); 2. tawny (musteline)
-mut- *base* change (immutable)
-mutil- *base* maim (mutilation)

-mutu- *base* reciprocal (mutuality)
-mycete, **myceto-** *comb* fungus of a specified group (schizomycete, mycetoma)
-mycin *comb* derivative of a specified substance from bacteria or fungi; antibiotic (streptomycin)
myco- *comb* mushroom; fungus (mycology)
mycter- *comb* sneer; scoff; nose (mycterism)
-myelia, **myelo-** *comb* spinal cord; marrow (micromyelia, myelogenic)
myia- *base* fly (myiasis)
myo⁻¹ *comb* [medicine/anatomy] muscle (myocardium)
myo⁻² *base* mouse (myomancy)
myox- *base* dormouse (myoxine)
myria- 1. *comb* numerous; many (myriapod); 2. ten thousand (myriameter). *Also* **myrio-** (myriophyllus)
myringo- *base* tympanic (myringitis)
myrist- *base* nutmeg (myristic)
myrmeco-, **myrmic-** *comb* ant (myrmecology, myrmicine)
myrmecophag- *base* anteater (myrmecophagine)
myro- *comb* ointment; perfume (myropolist)
-myrti- *base* myrtle (myrtiform)
myso- *comb* dirt (mysophobia). *Also* **miso-** (misophobia)
mystico- *comb* partly mystical (mystico-religious)
mythico- *comb* partly mythical (mythico-romantic)
mytho- *comb* myth; story (mythoclast)
-mytil- *base* mussel (mytiliform)
-myxia, **myxo-** *comb* slime; mucus (hypomyxia, myxomycete)
-myz- *base* suck (myzostoma)

N

-nacar- *base* orange-red (nacarine)

nano- 1. *comb* dwarfism (nanocephalous); 2. one-billionth (nanosecond). *Also* **nanno-** (nanofossil)

-nao- *base* temple (naology)

-napi- *base* turnip (napiform)

narco- *comb* numbness; stupor (narcolepsy)

-nari- *base* nostrils (nariform)

narr- *base* relate; tell (narrative)

nasc- *base* born (nascent)

nasi-, naso- *comb* nose; nasal (nasicornous, nasolabial)

-nastic, -nasty *comb* plant growth: unequal by some specified means or in a specified direction (hypo-nastic, hyponasty)

-nata- *base* swim (natatorium)

-natal- *base* birth (neonatal)

-nati- *base* buttocks (natiform)

-natremia *comb* sodium (hyponatremia)

-natured *comb* having a __ nature or temperament (good-natured)

naus- *base* sick; seasick (nausea)

-naut-, -nav- *base* ship; sea (nautical, navigate)

navig- *base* voyage (navigable)

ne- *pre* not (nescience)

-nebul- *base* cloud; mist; vapor (nebulous)

necro- *comb* death; corpse; dead tissue (necrology)

necto- *comb* swimming (nectozoid)

necyo- *comb* demon; damned spirit (necyomancy)

-neg- *base* deny (negativist)

-negot- *base* business (negotiate)

-nema- *base* thread (hyalonema)

nemato- *comb* thread; threadlike (nematocyst)

nemor- *base* woods; forest (nemorous)

neo- 1. *comb* new; recent; latest (neo-classic); 2. [geology] chronologically last part of a period (Neocene)

nephal- *base* sober; abstinent (nephalism)

nephelo-, nepho- *comb* cloud (nephelometer, nephology)

nephro- *comb* kidney (nephrotomy)

-nepo- *base* nephew (nepotic)

-ner- *base* liquid (aneroid)

-nerter- *base* the dead (nerterology)

nerv-, nervi-, nervo- *comb* nerve (nervosity, nervifolious, nervovital)

-ness *suf* condition; quality of (greatness)

neuro- *comb* nervous system; nerve (neuropath)

neutro- *comb* neutral (neutropenia)

nev-, nevo- *base* birthmark; mole (nevoid, nevoxanthoendothelioma)

-nex- *base* connect; bind (annex)

nic- *base* victory (epinician)

-nict- *base* wink (nictitate)

nid-, nidi- *base* nest (nidal, nidification)

nidor- *base* smell (nidorous)

nigri-, nigro- *comb* black (nigri-cauline, nigrofuscous)

nihili- *comb* nothing (nihili-parturient)

-nik *suf* one who is __ (beatnik)

nimb- *base* cloud; rainstorm (nimbification)

ning- *base* snow (ninguid)

nitid- *base* lustrous; bright (nitidity)

nitro- 1. *comb* presence of nitrogen

compounds made by the action of nitric or nitrous acid and other substances (nitro-cellulose); 2. the presence of the NO² radical (nitrobenzene); 3. niter (nitrobacteria)

nitroso- *comb* presence of the NO radical (nitrosamine)

-niv- *base* snow (niveous)

noci- *comb* hurt; pain; injury (nociceptor)

nocti- *comb* night (noctiferous)

noctilion- *base* bat (noctilionid)

-nod- *base* knot (nodulose)

-noe- *base* thought; intellect (noetic)

-noia *comb* thought (metanoia)

-nom-, -nym- *base* name (nomenclature, synonymous)

nomato- *see* **onomato-**

-nomia *comb* name (paranoia)

nomo- *comb* law; custom (nomology)

-nomy *comb* systematized knowledge of (astronomy)

non-¹ *pre* negative; not (non-descript)

non-² *base* ninth (nonan)

nona- *comb* nine (nonagenarian)

nonagen-, nonages- *base* ninety (nonagenarian, nonagesimal)

-noo- *base* mind (nooscopic)

Normano- *comb* Norman (Normano-Saxonic)

normo- *comb* usual; normal (normotensive)

noso- *comb* disease (nosophobia)

nosocom- *base* hospital (nosocomial)

nosto- *comb* a return home (nostomania)

nota-, noto- *comb* the back; dorsum (notancephalia, notochord)

-notho- *base* spurious; false (nothosaurus)

-noto- *base* south (notothere)

-nov-¹ *base* new (renovate)

-nov-² *base* nine (novenary)

-noverc- *base* stepmother (novercant)

-nox- *base* harmful (obnoxious)

-nub-, -nupt- *base* marry (connubial, nuptial)

-nubi- *base* cloud (nubiferous)

nuci- *comb* nut (nuciferous)

nucleo- *comb* nucleus: relation to; kernel (nucleoplasm)

nudi- *comb* naked; bare (nudi-branchiate)

-nuga- *base* trifling (nugatory)

nulli- *comb* none (nullify)

-num- *base* count (enumerate)

-numisma- *base* coin (numismatist)

nummi- *comb* coin; disk (nummi-form)

nundin- *base* market; commerce (nundinal)

-nupt- *base* wed (nuptial)

nur(us)- *base* daughter-in-law (nurine)

nuta- *base* sway; nod (nutatation)

-nutr- *base* nourish (malnutrition)

-nychia *see* **onycho-**

nycta-, nycti-, nycto- *comb* night (nyctalopia, nyctitropic, nyctophobia)

-nym- *see* **-nom**

nympho- 1. *comb* labia minora (nymphotomy); 2. nymphs (nympholepsy)

O

- o** 1. *suf* informal abbreviation (ammo); 2. person associated with (politico)
- oario-** *comb* ovary (oariopathy). *See* ovario-
- ob-** 1. *pre* to; toward; before (object); 2. opposed to; against (obnoxious); 3. upon; over (obfuscate); 4. completely; totally (objurgate). **NOTE:** **ob-** can change to: **o-** (omission); **oc-** (occur); **of-** (offer); **op-** (oppose)
- oben-** *base* walrus (obenid)
- obes-** *base* fat; heavy (obesity)
- obit-** *base* death (obituary)
- oblit-** *base* erase (obliteration)
- oblongo-** *comb* with oblong extension (oblongo-elliptic)
- obscur-** *base* dark (obscurant)
- obstin-** *base* stubborn (obstinacy)
- obtusi-** *comb* obtuse; blunted (obtusipennate)
- occid-** *base* west (occidental)
- occipito-** *comb* occipital; skull (occipito-axial)
- occult-** *base* hidden (occultation)
- ocelli-** *comb* spot; eyelet (ocelliform)
- ochlo-** *comb* crowd; mob (ochlophobia)
- ocho**¹ *base* vehicle (ochophobia)
- ocho**² *base* capacious; ample (ochopetalous)
- ochreo-** *comb* containing ochre; light brownish yellow (ochreiferous)
- ochro-** *comb* pale yellow (ochrocarpous)
- ock** *suf* diminutive: small (hillock)
- ocracy** *comb* the rule of any class (tradeocracy)
- octa-, octo-** *comb* eight (octagon, octobrachiate)
- octakaideca-** *comb* eighteen (octakaidecahedron)
- octan-** *base* eighth (octant)
- octocent-** *base* eight hundred (octocentenary)
- octogen-, octoges-** *base* eighty (octogenarian, octogesimal)
- oculi-, oculo-** *comb* eye (oculiform, oculomotor)
- ocy-** *comb* swift (ocydrome)
- ode**¹ *comb* way; path (cathode)
- ode**² *suf* like (geode)
- odi-** *base* hatred (odious)
- odic** *comb* smell (euodic)
- odo-** *comb* road; journey (odometer). *See* hodo-
- odont, odonto-** *comb* tooth (macrodont, odontoblast)
- odori-, odor-** *comb* smell; scent (odoriferant, odorscope)
- odus** *comb* having teeth; names of genera (ceratodus)
- odynia, odyno-** *comb* pain in ___ (osteodynia, odynophagia)
- oeco-** *comb* environment (oecology). *See* eco-
- oego-** *base* open (oegopsid). *Also* oigo- (oigopsid)
- oen-** *comb* wine (oenophile)
- oesophago-** *see* esophag-
- off**¹ *comb* away from (offbrand)
- off**² *suf* a competition (bakeoff)
- ogdo-** *comb* eight (ogdoad)
- oid, -oidal** *suf* shape; like; resembling (spheroid, trapezoidal)
- oidea** *comb* names of zoological classes; names of entomological superfamilies (Molluscoidea)
- oigo-** *base* open (oigopsid)

oiko- *comb* environment (oiko-fugic). See **eco-**
oino- *comb* wine (oinomania). See **oeno-**
-ol *suf* [chemistry] 1. alcohol or phenol (menthol); 2. same as **-ole** (anethol)
-ola *suf* diminutive (variola)
-ole¹ *suf* [chemistry] 1. compound: closed-chain with five members (pyrrole); 2. names of certain aldehydes and ethers (anethole)
-ole² *suf* diminutive (variole)
olea-, **-oleic**, **oleo-** *comb* oil; olein; oleic (oleaginous, palmitoleic, oleomargarine)
-olent *base* giving out a smell (redolent)
oler- *base* vegetables; potherbs (oleraceous)
olfacto- *comb* smell (olfactometer)
oligo- *comb* few; deficiency of (oligophrenia)
olit- *base* vegetables (olitory)
oliv-, **olivaceo-** *comb* dusky green (olivaceous, olivaceo-cinereous)
-ologist *comb* specialist (proctologist)
-oma, **-ome** *suf* morbid growth; tumor; neoplasm; formation (sarcoma, phyllome)
omalo- *see* **homalo-**
ombro- *comb* rain; shower (ombrometer)
ommat- *base* eye (ommatophore)
omni- *comb* all; everywhere (omniscient)
omo⁻¹ *base* shoulder (omodynia)
omo⁻² *base* raw (omophagia)
omphalo- *comb* navel; umbilicus (omphalitis)
-on *suf* [chemistry] 1. elementary particle (gluon); 2. inert gas (neon)
onco- *comb* tumor (oncologist)

-one *suf* [chemistry] a ketone (acetone)
oneiro- *comb* dream (oneirocritic)
-oner- *base* burden (onerous)
-onic *suf* names of acids (gluconic acid)
onio- *base* buy (oniomania)
-onisc- *base* woodlouse (onisciform)
ono- *base* donkey; beast of burden (onology)
-onocrot- *base* pelican (onocrotal)
onom-, **onomato-** *comb* name (onomastic, onomatopoeia)
onto- *comb* being; existence (ontology)
onych-, **-onychia**, **onycho-** *comb* claw; nail (onychosis, leukonychia, onychophagy)
-onym *comb* name (pseudonym)
oo- *comb* egg; ovum (oogamous)
oophoro- *comb* ovary (oophoritis)
op- *comb* eye (opalgia)
-opac- *base* shade; dimness (opacity)
-oper⁻¹ *base* work; labor (operosity)
-oper⁻² *base* lid; cover (inoperculate)
ophio- *comb* snake (ophiolatry)
-ophidia, **ophidio-** *comb* [medicine] venomous snakes (Thanatophidia, ophidiophobia)
ophry- *base* eyebrow (ophryosis)
ophthalmo- *comb* eye (ophthalmoscope)
-opia *comb* eye defect; vision (diplopia)
opio- *comb* poppy juice (opiomania)
-opiso- *base* backwards (opisometer)
opistho- *comb* behind; dorsal (opisthodont)
opo- *comb* juice (opobalsam)
oppositi- *comb* opposite (oppositifolious)

opsi⁻¹ *comb* late (opsigamy)
opsi⁻² *comb* sight; eye (opsiometer)
-opsia *comb* sight; view (hemianopsia)
-opsis 1. *comb* see (synopsis);
 2. likeness; resembling (coreopsis)
opso- 1. *comb* eye (opsoclonus);
 2. cooked meat; relish; rich fare; provisions; sweets (opsomania)
-opsy *comb* examination (biopsy)
-opt⁻¹ *base* wish; choice (optional)
-opt⁻² *base* best (optimism)
optico- *comb* pertaining to sight (optico-ciliary)
opto- *comb* sight; eye (optometry)
opul- *base* riches (opulent)
opus- *base* work (opuscular)
or⁻¹ *base* mouth (orifice)
-or² *suf* person or thing that (inventor)
-or³ *suf* quality; condition (horror)
orag- *base* storm (oragious)
-orama *comb* display; spectacle (georama)
-orat- *base* speak (oratorical)
orbiculato- *comb* partly rounded (orbiculato-cordate)
orbito- *comb* orbit; circle (orbito-nasal)
-orches- *base* dance (orchestic)
orchido⁻¹ *comb* orchid (orchidology)
orchido⁻² *comb* testicle (orchidotomy)
orchio- *comb* testicle (orchiocele)
orect-, **-orexia** *comb* appetite (orectic, dysorexia)
organo- *comb* organ; organic (organography)
-orial *suf* pertaining to an action (conspiratorial)
orient- *base* east; sunrise (orienting)
-orior *suf* relating to; characterized by (meritorious)

orismo- *comb* definition; boundary (orismology)
-orium *suf* a place for __ (auditorium)
orneo-, **orni**-, **ornitho**-, **orno**- *comb* bird (orneoscopic, orniscopic, ornithology, ornomancy)
oro⁻¹ *comb* mouth (orolingual)
oro⁻² *comb* mountain (orogenic).
Also oreo- (oreology)
orrho- *comb* serum (orrhocyst)
ortho- 1. *comb* straight; regular; upright (orthodontia); 2. right angle (orthorhombic); 3. proper; correct; standard (orthography);
 4. [chemistry] that acid of a group containing the same nonmetallic element that has the largest number of OH groups per atom of the nonmetal (orthophosphoric);
 5. [medicine] correction of deformities (orthopedics)
-ory 1. *suf* having the nature of (hortatory); 2. a place for __ (observatory)
orycto- *comb* dug up: fossil or mineral (oryctological)
-oryzi- *base* rice (oryzivorous)
oscheo- *comb* scrotum (oscheitis)
-oscill- *base* swing (oscillation)
oscin- *base* songbirds (oscine)
-oscit- *base* yawn (oscitation)
oscul- *base* kiss (osculation)
-ose¹ 1. *suf* carbohydrate (cellulose);
 2. protein hydrolysis: product of (protease)
-ose² *suf* full of; containing; like (verbose). *See* -osity
-osis 1. *suf* state; condition; action (osmosis); 2. abnormal condition; diseased condition (neurosis)
-osity *suf* full of; containing; like (verbosity). *See* -ose²
-osmia *comb* smell; odor (anosmia)

osmio- *comb* osmium (osmio-chloride)
osmo-¹ *comb* smell; odor (osmodysphoria)
osmo-² *comb* osmosis (osmolarity)
osphresio- *comb* odor; sense of smell (osphresiophobia)
osphy-, osphyo- *comb* loins (osphyalgia, osphyocoele)
-ossi, osseo-, osteo- *comb* bone (ossification, osseomucin, osteoplasty)
ossifrag- *base* osprey (ossifrage)
osti- *base* gate; opening (ostiole)
-ostraca, ostraco- *comb* shell (Lepidostrea, ostracoderm)
ostre-, ostrei-, ostreo- *comb* oyster (ostreaceous, ostreiform, ostreophage)
ot-, oto- *comb* ear (otomorrhagia, otopyosis)
-ota *suf* plural ending of taxonomic names (biota)
-ote *suf* singular ending of taxonomic names (eukaryote)
oti- *base* idleness; leisure (otiose)
-otic 1. *suf* affected with; of (sclerotic); 2. producing (narcotic)
oulo- *comb* gums (oulorrhagy)
ourano- *comb* heavens (ouranomania). *See* urano-
ouro- *comb* urine (ouromancy)
-ous 1. *suf* characterized by; having; full of (generous); 2. [chemistry] having a valence lower than in a compound whose name ends in -ic (sulfurous)

-ousia, -ousian *comb* essence; substance (homousia, heterousian)
out- 1. *comb* situated at; outside (outpatient); 2. going away; outward (outcast); 3. better; greater; more than (outsell)
ovario- *comb* ovary (ovariocentesis). *See* oario-
ovato- *comb* egg-shaped (ovato-deltoid)
over- 1. *comb* above; upper; superior; eminent (overbearing); 2. beyond normal; excessive (overrate); 3. passing across; passing beyond (overshoot); 4. moving lower (overwhelm)
ovi-¹ *comb* egg; ovum (oviduct)
ovi-² *comb* sheep (ovicide)
ovo- *comb* ovum; ovally (ovolecithin)
oxa- *pre* [chemistry] presence of oxygen, especially as replacing carbon in a ring (oxazine)
oxal-, oxalo- *comb* containing the radical ovalyl (oxalamide, oxalonnitrate)
oxy-¹ *comb* sharp; pointed; acute; acid (oxycephalic)
oxy-² *comb* oxygen-containing (oxyacetylene)
oxyur- *base* worm (oxyuricide)
ozo- *comb* smell (ozostomia)
ozono- *comb* ozone (ozonolysis)
ozostom- *base* bad breath (ozostomia)

P

pac- *base* peace (pacific)
pachno- *comb* frost (pachnolite)
pachy- *comb* thick; large; massive (pachyderm)

pachyderm- *base* elephant; tapir (pachydermatous)
paedo-¹ *comb* dirt; soil (paedogenic). *Also* pedo- (pedocal)

paedo-² *comb* child; immature; doll (paedomorphic). *Usually* **pedo-** (pedophile)

-pagia *comb* conjoined twins (ectopagia)

pago- *comb* cold; frost (pagophagia)

pagur- *base* hermit crab (pagurian)

-pagus *comb* conjoined twins (diplopagus)

-paizo- *base* loveplay (paizogony)

palato- *comb* palate; roof of mouth (palatonasal)

palea- *base* chaff; chaff-like (paleaceous)

paleo- 1. *comb* ancient; prehistoric (Paleozoic); 2. primitive (paleolithic); 3. paleontological (paleozoology). *Also* **paleo-** (paleozoic)

-pali-, palil-, -palin- *base* over; again (paliphrasia, palilogy, palinogenesis)

pallio- *comb* pallium; mantle (palliopedal)

pallo- *comb* vibrations (pallometric)

palma- *base* palm tree (palmaceous)

palmati-, palmato- *comb* like the palm of the hand (palmatid, palmatopeltate)

-palp- *base* touch; feel (palpable)

paludi-, palus- *base* marsh (paludicole, palustrine)

palumb- *base* pigeon (palumbine)

palyn- *base* pollen (palynology)

-pampin- *base* vine; tendril (pampiniform)

pan-¹ 1. *comb* all (pantheism); 2. common to all/every (Pan-American); 3. belief in a unified group (Pan-Slavism)

pan-² *base* bread (panivorous)

pancreato-, pancreo- *comb* of the pancreas (pancreatotomy, pancreopathy)

pandur- *base* fiddle (panduriform)

pann- *base* rag (pannose)

-pannychy *comb* lasting all night (psychpannychy)

pant-, panto- *comb* all; every (pantalga, pantograph)

-papaver- *base* poppy (papaverous)

papil- *base* butterfly (papilionaceous)

papilli-, papillo-, papilloso- *comb* papillary; nipple-like (papilliform, papillomatosis, papilloso-asperate)

papulo- *comb* papule; skin elevation (papulopustular)

papyro- *comb* papyrus (papyrology)

par-¹ *base* fraction; portion (partition)

par-² *base* titmouse; chickadee (parine)

para-¹ 1. *comb* protecting from (parapet); 2. using a parachute (paratroop)

para-² 1. *pre* beside; beyond (parallel); 2. [chemistry] an isomer, modification, polymer, derivative of a specified substance (paradichlorobenzene); 3. [medicine] secondary capacity; accessory capacity (paramedical); 4. [medicine] functionally disordered; abnormal (parafunctional); 5. [medicine] like; resembling (paracholera)

-para³ *comb* woman who has given birth; parturient (multipara)

paral- *base* seashore (paralian)

paralip- *base* neglect; omission (paralipomena)

paraphil- *base* unusual sexual practices (paraphilia)

parasit- *base* parasite (parasitical)

pard- *base* leopard (pardine)

pari- *comb* equal (paripinnate)

-paria *comb* genera and order of trilobites; cheeks (Opisthoparia)

parieto- *comb* forming a cavity; parietal; wall (parietomastoid)
pariso- *comb* evenly balanced; almost equal (parisology)
paroem- *base* proverb (paroemiology). Also **parem-** (paremiography)
-parous *comb* producing; bearing; bringing forth (viviparous)
pars- *base* spare; save (parsimony)
partheno- *comb* virgin (parthenogenesis)
parti- *base* division; part (partition)
-partur- *base* giving birth (parturition)
parvi-, parvo- *comb* small (parvifolious, parvoline)
pascu- *base* grazing (pascuant)
pasi- *comb* all; universal (pasigraphy). See **pan-**
-passeri- *base* perching bird; sparrow (passeriform)
-pated *comb* head: type of (bald-pated)
-pater- *base* father (paternity)
-path-, -pathic, patho-, -pathy *comb* suffering; disease; feeling (psychopath, telepathic, pathopoeia, antipathy)
patri- *comb* father (patrimony)
patroc- *base* support; defend (patrocinate)
patroio- *comb* ancestor (patroio-phobia)
patru- *base* uncle (patruity)
patul- *base* open; spread out (patul-ent)
pauc-, pauci- *comb* few (paucity, pauciflorous)
paup- *base* poor (pauper)
-pavid- *base* fearful (impavidity)
-pavon- 1. *base* peacock (pavonine); 2. peacock blue (pavonine)
pax- *comb* peace (Pax Romana)
paxill- *base* pillarlike; stalklike (paxilla)

-pecca- *base* fault; sin; disease (impeccable)
pect- *base* breastbone (pectoral)
pectinato- *comb* like the teeth of a comb (pectinato-denticulate)
pecul- *base* embezzle (peculation)
-pecun- *base* money (impecunious)
ped⁻¹-, -pede, pedi-, pedo⁻¹ *comb* foot (pedal, centipede, pedicure, pedopathy). Also **pod-** (tripod)
ped⁻² *comb* child (pedagogy)
pedati- *comb* pedately; like a foot (pedatid)
-pedia *comb* teach (encyclopedia)
pedicul- *base* lice (pediculosis)
pedion- *base* flat surface; plain (pedionomite)
pedipalp- *base* scorpion (pedipalpus)
pedo⁻² *comb* child (pedodontia)
pedo⁻³ *comb* dirt; soil (pedocal)
pegm- *base* framework; fastening (pegmatite)
pego- *base* spring; fountain (pegomancy)
peir- *base* try; experiment (peirastic)
pejor- *base* worse (pejorative)
-pel- *base* push; drive (propel). Also **-pul-** (propulsion)
pelad- *base* bald (peladic)
pelag- *base* sea (archipelago)
pelec- *base* hatchet (pelecypod)
pelecan- *base* pelican (pelecanid)
pell-, pelli- *base* skin; hide (pellagra, pellibranchiate)
pellarg- *base* stork (pellargic)
-pelm- *base* sole of the foot (antiopelmous)
pelo- *comb* mud; clay (pelophilous)
pelor- *base* monster (pelorization)
pelt-, pelti-, pelto- *comb* shield (peltate, peltiferous, peltogaster)
peltati-, peltato- *comb* shield-shaped (peltatid, peltatodigitate)

pelvi- *comb* pelvis; pelvic; basin-shaped (pelvimeter)

-pend- 1. *base* hang (pendant);

2. pay; weigh (expend). *Also*

-pens- (pension)

pendulin- *base* birds with hanging nests (penduline)

pen(e)- *comb* almost; nearly (penannular)

-penia *comb* poverty; deficiency; tightening (kaliopenia)

pennati- *comb* feather (pennatifid)

penni- *comb* feather; featherlike (penniform)

-penny *comb* monetary unit (half-penny)

peno- *base* punishment (penology)

penta- *comb* five (pentamorous)

pentacost- *base* fifty (pentacostal)

pentakaideca- *comb* fifteen (pentakaidecahedron)

penteconta- *comb* fifty (pentecontaglossal)

penther- *base* mother-in-law (pentheraphobia)

penur- *base* poverty; lack (penurious)

-peo- *base* penis (peotomy)

pepo- *base* pumpkin (pepon)

peps-, pept-, pepto- *comb* digest (pepsinogen, peptic, peptogenic)

per- 1. *pre* through; away (percolate); 2. completely; very (persuade); 3. [chemistry] containing a specified element or radical in its maximum or a relatively high valence (perchlorate)

percepto- *comb* perceived (percepto-motor)

perces- *base* barracuda (Percesocine)

percesoc-, -perci-, -perco- *base* barracuda; perch (percesocine, perci-form, percomorph)

perchloro- *comb* indicates a compound in which there is the maxi-

imum replacement of hydrogen by chlorine (perchlorobenzene)

perd- *base* destroy; lose (perdition)

-perdic- *base* partridge (perdicine)

perdit- *base* wicked (perdition)

perdri- *base* partridge (perdricide)

peregrin- *base* journey (peregrination)

-peregrin- *base* travel; wander (peregrinate)

perenn- *base* lasting (perennial)

-pergamen- *base* parchment (pergameneous)

peri- 1. *pre* around; surrounding (periscope); 2. near (perigee)

pericardio-, pericardio- *comb* relating to the sac surrounding the heart; pericardial (pericardiophrenic, pericardiostomy)

pericul- *base* danger (periculous)

perineo- *comb* perineum (perineocele)

perioste- *comb* periosteum; bone membrane (periosteophyte)

perisso *comb* uneven; strange; redundant (perissodactyl)

-perister- *base* pigeon (peristeronic)

peritoneo- *comb* peritonium; abdominal sac (peritoneoclysis)

perm- *base* lasting; remaining (permanent)

pero- *comb* maimed; malformed (perodactyl)

peroneo- *comb* peroneal; fibula (peroneo-calcaneal)

peroxy- *comb* peroxy group (peroxyborate)

perpet- *base* unceasing (perpetual)

pers- *base* avocado (persea)

persic- *base* peach (persicaria)

-person *comb* person in a specialized activity (chairperson)

-pervic- *base* stubborn (pervicacious)

pesso- *comb* pebble (pessomancy)

-**pessul-** *base* bolt (pessular)
pesti- *comb* injurious plant or animal; pest; plague (pestiferous)
-pet- *base* seek; ask; require (compete)
peta- *comb* quadrillion (petameter)
-petal *comb* moving toward; seeking (centripetal)
petalo- *base* leaf (petaloceros)
petri-, petro- *comb* rock; stone (petrification, petroglyph)
petro- *comb* petroleum (petrodollars)
petrosel- *base* parsley (petroseline)
petuli- *base* petal (petuliform)
-peuce- *base* pine (peucedaneous)
-pexy *comb* fixation: surgical (nephropexy)
-phacell- *base* bundle (phacellate)
phaco- *comb* lens; lentil-shaped (phacolytic). Also **phako-** (phakocyst)
-phaein, phaeo- *comb* dusky; gray; muddy brown (haemophaein, phaeophyl). Also **pheo-** (pheochrome)
-phaeno- *base* showing (phaenogamous). Also **pheno-** (phenocryst)
-phage, phago-, -phagous, -phagy
 1. *comb* eating destroying;
 2. phagocyte (xylophage, phagocytosis, xylophagous, anthropophagy)
-phakia *comb* lens (microphakia). Also **phaco-** (phacolytic)
-phalacr- *base* bald (phalacrophobia)
phalacrocorac- *base* cormorant (phalacrocoracine)
-phalaen- *base* moth (phalaenoid)
-phalang- *base* spider (phalangium)
phall(o)- *comb* penis (phallocampsis)
-phane, -phanic, -phany *comb* appearance; resemblance (allophane, urophanic, epiphany)

phanero- *comb* visible; manifest (phanerogam)
phantas- *base* illusion (phantasmal)
-phar- *base* lighthouse (pharology)
pharmaco- *comb* drugs (pharmacotherapy)
pharyngo- *comb* the pharynx (pharyngology)
-phasco- *base* bag; purse (phascolome)
phascolom- *base* wombat (phascolomian)
-phaseol- *base* kidney bean (phaseolite)
-phasia, -phasic, -phasis, -phasy *comb* speech disorder (aphasia, dysphasic, emphasis, aphasy)
-phasian- *base* pheasant (phasianoid)
phasm- *base* apparition (phasmophobia)
phat- *base* speak (phatic)
-phein- *base* dusky (hemophein). See **phaeo-**
phello- *comb* cork (phellogen)
-phemia, -phemys *comb* speech disorder (paraphemia, heterophemy)
phenac-, phenakist- *base* imposter (phenacite, phenakistoscope)
phenanthro- *comb* [chemistry] phenanthrene (phenanthroline)
pheng(o)- *base* light; luster (phengite)
phenic- *base* purple (phenicine)
pheno- 1. *comb* appearance (phenomenon); 2. phenyl group (phenoxide)
pheo- *comb* dusky; gray (pheochrome). Also **phæo-** (phæophile)
-pher *comb* bearing; carrying (chronopher)
philatel- *base* postage stamp (philatelic)
-phile, -philic, -philism, philo-, -philous *comb* favorably disposed

to; loving; liking (Anglophile, Francophilic, bibliophilism, philology, photophilous)

-philia, -philiac 1. *comb* tendency toward (hemophilia, hemophil-iac); 2. abnormal attraction to (coprophilia)

philomel- *base* nightingale (philomelian)

philosophico- *comb* philosophical and (philosophico-historic)

-phim- *base* narrow (phimosis)

phlebo- *comb* vein (phlebotomy)

-phloem- *base* tree bark (epi-phloem)

phlog-, phlogo- *comb* inflammation (phlogistic, phlogogenous)

phlyc- *base* blister (phlyctenous)

-phobe, -phobia, -phobic, phobo- *comb* fear; hatred; dread (Franco-phobe, claustrophobia, ailurophobic, phobophobia)

phoco- *comb* seal: sea mammal (phocomelia)

phoeaen- *base* porpoise (Phoeaenoides)

phœnicopt- *base* flamingo (phœnicopterous)

pholid- *base* scales (pholidosis)

-phone, phono-, -phony *comb* sound; tone; speech; voice (megaphone, phonology, cacophony)

phonetico- *comb* phonetic and (phonetico-grammatical)

-phor, -phore, -phorous *comb* bearer; producer (phosphor, car-phophore, gonophorous)

phos- *base* light (phosphor)

phospho-, phosphoro- *comb* phosphorus (phosphoprotein, phosphoroscope)

photo- 1. *comb* of light (photodynamics); 2. of photography (photomontage)

-phragma, phragmo- *comb* barrier;

wall; fence (diaphragma, phragmoporous)

phraseo- *comb* phrase; verbal expression (phraseology)

-phrastic *comb* word choice (periph-rastic)

-phrat- *base* clan (phratric)

phreato- *base* well (phreatic)

-phrenia *comb* mental disorder (schizophrenia)

-phrenic, phrenico-, phreno- 1. *comb* diaphragm; midriff (gas-trophrenic); 2. mental condition; mind (schizophrenic, phrenico-tomy, phrenogastric)

phryno- *comb* toad (phryno-derma)

phthart- *base* destructive; deadly (phthartic)

phthino- *comb* wasting away; decay (phthinoplasm)

-phthir- *base* louse (phthiro-phagous). Also **phthyr-**

phthisi-, phthisio-, -phthisis, -phthisis *comb* wasting away; decay; tuberculosis (phthisiology, phthisiogenesis, myelophthisis, panmyelophthisis)

-phthong *comb* voice; sound (diph-thong)

-phthor- *base* corruption (thelyph-thoric)

-phyceae, -phyceous, phyco- *comb* seaweed (Rhodophyceae, Rhodophyceous, phycology)

-phygo- *base* shun; flee (phygo-galactic)

-phylactic, phylacto-, -phylax, -phylaxis *comb* protection; defense; guard (prophylactic, phylactocarp, chartophylax, tachy-phylaxis)

-phyletic *comb* origin (mono-phyletic)

-phyll, phyllo-, -phyllous *comb* leaf

(sporophyll, phyllophagous, monophyllous)
phyllo- *comb* tribe; race; phylum (phylogenesis)
phym-, -phyma *comb* tumor; swelling; outgrowth (phymatosis, osteophyma)
-phyr- *base* mix; mingle (haunophyr)
-phyre *comb* porphyritic rock (granophyre)
physa- *base* flatulence (physagogue)
physali- *comb* bladder; bubble (physaliphore)
physc- *base* swelling; potbelly (physcony)
physi-, physico-, physio- *comb* nature natural; physical bodily (physitheism, physicochemical, physiography)
-physis *comb* growth (prophysis)
physo- 1. *comb* tendency to swell (physocle); 2. relating to air or gas (physometra); 3. bladder (physogastric)
-phyte, phyto- *comb* plant; flora; vegetation (microphyte, phytogenesis)
-piceo- *comb* reddish-black (piceoferruginous)
-pici- *base* woodpecker (piciform)
pico- *comb* one-trillionth (picogram)
picro- *comb* bitter (picroerythrin)
-pict- *base* paint (depiction)
-piesis *comb* pressure (anisopiesis)
piezo- *comb* pressure; strain (piezometer)
pigm- *base* paint; color (pigmentation)
-pign- *base* pledge; pawn; mortgage (impignorate)
-pigr- *base* slow; sluggish; slothful (impigrity)

pil-, pili-, pilo- *comb* hair (depilatory, piliform, piloerection)
-pile- *base* cap (pileolus)
piloso- *comb* hairy (piloso-fimbriate)
pinel-, pinelo- *comb* fat; fatty (pinelitis, pinelosis)
pin- *base* pine (pinaceous)
-pinac- *base* tablet; slab (pinacoid). Also **-pinak-** (pinakoid)
-pingu- *base* fat (pinguence)
pinnati-, pinnato- *comb* like a feather; pinnately (pinnatifid, pinnato-pectinate)
pinni- *comb* fin; flipper (pinni-grade)
pino- *comb* drink (pinocytosis)
pio- *comb* fat (pioscope)
-piper- *base* pepper (piperic)
-piq- *base* stinging; sharp (piquant)
piri-, piro- *comb* pear (piriform, piroplasmosis). See **pyri-**
pisci- *comb* fish (piscivorous)
pisi- *comb* pea (pisiform)
pist-, pisti- *base* faith (pistology, pistiology)
pithec-, -pithecus *comb* primate; apelike (pithecoïd, Australopithecus)
-pityr- *base* bran (pityriasis)
-plac- *base* please; appease (placidity)
placinti- *comb* placenta (placentiform)
placo- *comb* flat plate (placodermal)
plag- *base* kidnap; seize (plagiarize)
plagio- *comb* slanting; oblique (plagiotropic)
-plakia *comb* [medicine] patch (leukoplakia)
-plang- *base* strike; beat (plangency)
plani-, plano-¹ *comb* level; plane; flat (planimeter, plano-concave)
-plania, plano-² *comb* wandering moving (uroplania, planogamete)

-plant- *base* sole of the foot (plantigrade)

-plasia, -plasis *comb* development; growth; change (hypoplasia, cataplasia)

-plasm, plasm- *comb* fluid cell substances of an animal or vegetable (endoplasm, plasmolysis)

-plast, -plastic, plasto- *comb* molded; formed (protoplast, protoplastic, plastotype)

-plasty 1. *comb* forming: act or means (genioplasty); 2. plastic surgery: specific part of the body (thoracoplasty); 3. plastic surgery: tissue from specified source (autoplasty); 4. plastic surgery: for a specific purpose (kineplasty)

plat¹ *base* flat (platen)

plat² *base* silver (plateresque)

platini-, platino- *comb* platinum (plantiniferous, platinocyanide)

platy- *comb* broad; flat (platypus)

plastr- *base* cart; wagon (plastrary)

-pleb- *base* common people (plebiscite)

pleco-, plecto- *comb* twist; twine; plait (plecopteran, plectognath)

-plegia, -plegy *comb* paralysis (paraplegia)

-pleisto- *comb* most (Pleistocene)

plemyr- *base* flood-tide (plemyrameter). Also **plemmir-** (plemmirulate)

-plen-, -pler-, -plet- *base* fill; full (replenish, plerocercoid, complete)

pleo-, pleon-, plio- *comb* more; increased (pleomorphic, pleonasm, Pliosaurus. Also **pleio-** (pleomorphy)

pleonec-, pleonex- *base* greed; avarice (pleonectic, pleonexia)

-plero- *base* full (pleroma)

plesio- *comb* near (plesiosaurus)

pless(i)- *comb* striking; percussion (plessimeter)

plethys- *comb* increase; large number (plethysmometry)

pleuro- 1. *comb* side: on or near (pleurodont); 2. pleura: of or near (pleurotomy); 3. pleural (pleuropneumonia)

-plex *comb* network; folds; layers (cerviplex)

-plexia *comb* stroke (apoplexia)

plicato-, plici- *comb* folded (plicatolobate, pliciform)

plinthi- *comb* brick; squared stone (plinthiform)

plio- *see* **pleo-**

-ploid *comb* chromosones: of a specified multiple of (diploid)

plor- *base* cry (ploration)

plum-, plumi- *comb* feather (plumage, plumiform)

plumb-, plumbo- *comb* lead (plumbism, plumbocalcite)

pluri- *comb* several; many (pluriflorous)

pluto- *comb* wealth (plutocracy)

pluvial- *base* plover (pluvialine)

pluvio- *comb* rain (pluviograph)

-pnea, pneo- *comb* breath; respiration (dyspnea, pneograph)

pneum-, pneumato- 1. *comb* air vapor (pneumatophore); 2. breathing (pneumatometer); 3. spirits (pneumatology)

pneumo-, pneumono- *comb* lungs; air; gas (pneumobacillus, pneumonophorous)

pneusio- *comb* breathing (pneusio-biognosis)

-pnig- *base* choke; suffocate (pnigophobia)

-pocul- *base* drink; cup (poculiform)

-pod, -poda, -pode, podo-, -podous

1. *comb* foot (pleopod, Cephalopoda, pseudopode, podomere, cephalopodous);
 2. having ___ feet (tripod)
- podic-** *base* rump (podical)
- podium** *comb* supporting part; footstalk (monopodium)
- poecilo-** *comb* irregular; many-colored (poecilomere). *Also* **poicilo-**
- pogon-, pogono-** *comb* beard (pogoniasis, pogonotrophy)
- poiesis, -poietic** *comb* making; forming; producing (leukopoiesis, onomatopoeitic)
- poikilo-** *comb* irregular; varied (poikiloderma)
- poimen-** *base* pastoral (poimenic)
- poine-** *base* punishment (poinephobia)
- polari-** *comb* polar (polari-gut-tulate)
- polem-** *base* war (polemic)
- polio-** *comb* gray; gray matter (poliomyelitis)
- polis** *comb* city (metropolitan)
- politico-** *comb* political (politico-religious)
- pollaki-** *comb* many times (pollaki-uria)
- pollic-** *base* thumb (pollicate)
- pollin(i)-** *comb* pollen (pollinosis)
- poly-** 1. *comb* more than one (polychromatic); 2. more than usual; excessive (polyphagia); 3. many kinds or parts (polymorphous)
- polymorpho-** *comb* multiform (polymorphocellular)
- polyped-** *base* frog (polypedatid)
- pomerid-** *base* afternoon (pomeridian)
- pomi-, pomo-** *comb* fruit; apple (pomiform, pomology)
- pomp-** 1. *base* release; sending away (hypnopompic); 2. conductor; guide (psychopomp)
- pon-, -pos-** *base* to place (opponent, opposition)
- pond-** *base* weight (ponderous)
- ponero-** *comb* evil; wicked (ponerology)
- pong-** *base* gorilla; orangutan (pongid)
- ponic** *base* cultivation (geoponic)
- pono-**¹ *comb* pain; fatigue (ponograph)
- pono-**² *comb* work (ponophobia)
- pont-** *base* bridge (pontal)
- poplit-** *base* back of knee (popliteal)
- popul-** *base* people (depopulate)
- porcin-** *base* pork (porcine)
- pори-, poro-** *comb* pore; channel (poriferous, porencephalia)
- porno-** *comb* harlot (pornography)
- poroso-** *comb* filled with pores (poroso-punctate)
- porphyro-** *comb* purple (porphyro-genite)
- porrac-** *base* leek; green (porraceous)
- porrig-** *base* dandruff (porriginous)
- port-** *base* carry (portable)
- porto-** *comb* portal; entrance (portosystemic)
- portulac-** *base* purslain (portulac-
ceous)
- pos-** *see* **-pon-**
- poso-** *comb* dose (posology)
- post-** 1. *pre* after in time; following; later (postgraduate); 2. after in space; behind (postaxial)
- postero-** *comb* posterior; behind (postero-lateral)
- pot-, poto-** *comb* drink (potable, potomania)
- potamo-** *comb* river (potamologist)
- poten-** *base* power; ability (impotency)
- pothiri-** *base* parasite (pothiriophobia)

poticho- *comb* porcelain (poticho-
mania)

pov- *base* poor (impoverished)

-pragia *comb* a quality of action
(bradypragia)

-prand- *base* dinner (postprandial)

-pras- *base* leek-green (prasine)

praso- *comb* leek (prasophagous)

-prat- *base* meadow (pratral)

-prav- *base* crooked; wrong; bad
(impravable)

-praxia, -praxis *comb* movement;
action (hyperpraxia, parapraxis)

pre- 1. *pre* before in time; earlier;
prior to (presuppose); 2. before in
place; anterior; in front of (preax-
ial); 3. before in rank; superior;
surpassing (preeminent); 4. in
preparation for (preschool). Also
prae- (praenomen)

-preca- *base* entreat; pray (impreca-
tion)

precip- *base* steep; headlong
(precipice)

pred- *base* robbery (predation)

-prehend, -prehens- *base* hold;
seize (apprehend, apprehensive)

presby- *comb* old age (presbyaculis)

presbyter- *comb* elder; priest (pres-
byteral)

preter- *pre* past; beyond; outside the
bounds (preternatural)

pri-, prion- *base* a saw (priodont,
prionodont)

prid- *base* yesterday (pridian)

prim-, primi-, primo- *comb* first;
original; early (primacy, primi-
gravida, primogenitor)

primaver- *base* spring (primaveral)

princip- *base* chief; first; main
(principal)

prisc- *base* ancient; primitive
(priscan)

-priv- *base* lack; absence (depriva-
tion)

privign- *base* stepchild (privignal)

pro-¹ 1. *pre* moving forward; mov-
ing ahead of (proclivity); 2. forth
(produce); 3. substituting for; act-
ing for (pronoun); 4. defending;
supporting (prolabor)

pro-² *pre* before in place or time
(prologue)

prob- *base* good; upright (probity)

-probosc- *base* long flexible snout
(probosciform)

procac- *base* bully; insolent (proca-
cious)

procell- *base* storm (procellous)

procellar- *base* albatross (procellar-
ine)

procer- *base* tall; long (procerity)

procto- *comb* rectum (proctology)

procyon- *base* raccoon (procyonine)

-prodit- *base* traitor (proditomania)

-profund- *base* deep (profundiplan-
tar)

prohib- *base* hold back; forbid
(prohibit)

proli- *comb* offspring (proliferous)

-proof 1. *suf* impervious to (water-
proof); 2. protected against
(weatherproof); 3. as strong as
(armorproof); 4. resistive to;
unaffected by (womanproof)

proprio- *comb* one's own (proprio-
ceptor)

pros- *comb* to; toward (prosody)

proso- *comb* forward; anterior
(prosopyle)

prosop(o)- *comb* face (prosopag-
nosia)

prostato- *comb* of the prostate
(prostatectomy)

proteo- *comb* protein (proteolysis)

protero- *comb* earlier; before; for-
mer; anterior (proterogyny)

proterv- *base* stubborn; insolent
(protervity)

proto- 1. *comb* first in time; original

(protocol); 2. first in importance; principal; chief (protagonist); 3. primitive (proto-Arabic); 4. [chemistry] being that member of a series of compounds having the lowest proportion of the specified element or radical; being the parent form of a specified substance (protoactinium)

protother- *base* platypus (Prototheria)

prox-, proximo- *comb* near (proxemics, proximocephalic)

prozym- *base* yeast (prozymite)

-pruin- *base* frost (pruinose)

-prur- *base* itch (pruritic)

-psalid- *base* shears; scissors (psalidodect)

psamm(o)- *comb* sand (psamphilous)

-psar- 1. *base* speckled; 2. starling (psarolite)

-pselaph *base* grope (pselaphognath)

psell- *base* stuttering (psellism)

pseph(o)- *comb* pebble; counter (psephology)

psett- *base* turbot (psettaceous)

pseudo- 1. *comb* fictitious; sham (pseudonym); 2. counterfeit; spurious (pseudepigrapha); 3. closely similar or deceptively similar (pseudomorph); 4. illusory (pseudacis); 5. [chemistry] an isomer or related form (pseudo-cholinesterase)

psil-, psilo- *comb* bare; smooth; mere (psilanthropy, psilodermatous)

-psithur- *base* whisper (psithurism)

-psittac- *base* parrot; macaw; parakeet (psittacoid)

psor- *comb* itch (psoriasis)

psycho- *comb* mind; mental processes (psychology)

psychro- *comb* cold (psychrometer)

psyll- *base* 1. snake charming (psyllic); 2. flea (psylly)

ptarm- *base* sneeze (ptarmic)

pteno- *comb* feathered (ptenoglossate)

-pter, ptero- *comb* wing; wing-shaped; feather; fin (hymenopter, pterodactyl)

pterido- *comb* fern (pteridology)

ptern- *base* heel bone (pterna)

pterocl- *base* sand grouse (pteroclid)

pteron- *comb* wing; feather; fin (pteronophobia)

pterop- *base* bat (pteropine)

pterophyll- *base* angelfish (pterophyllous)

-pteros, pterygo- *comb* wing; wing-shaped; feather; fin (homopterous, pterygoblast)

-pteryl- *base* feather (pterylosis)

ptib- *base* wing (ptiboid)

ptilo- *comb* wing; soft feather (ptilogenesis)

ptis- *base* barley (ptisan)

ptocho- *comb* poor; beggar (ptochocracy)

-ptosia, -ptosis *comb* falling; drooping (phrenoptosis, nephroptosis)

ptyal-, ptyalo- *comb* saliva (ptyalagogue, ptyalogenic)

-ptych- *base* folded (ptychodont)

-ptysis *base* spitting (hemoptysis)

pubio-, pubo- *comb* pubic (pubiotomy, pubofemoral)

-puden- *base* shame; modesty (impudent)

-puer- *base* child (puerile)

puerper- *base* childbirth (puerperal)

pug- *base* attack; fight; fist (pugilistic)

-pugn- *base* fight; oppose (impugn)

-pul- *base* push; drive (propulsion).
Also -pel- (repel)
pulchr- *base* beautiful (pulchritude)
-puli- *base* flea (pulicosity)
pull- *base* chicken (pullet)
pullastr- *base* pigeon (pullastrine)
pulmo-, pulmoni-, pulmono-
 1. *comb* lung (pulmonate); 2. pulmonary (pulmocutaneous, pulmonigrade, pulmonogastropod)
-puls- *base* beating; knocking (pulsation)
pulver- *base* dust; ash (pulverize)
-pulvin- *base* cushion (pulvinate)
-pun¹ *base* punish (impunity)
-pun² *base* purple (puniceous)
-punct-, pung- *base* point; sharp (punctiform, pungent)
punctato- *comb* with points or dots (punctato-striate)
pupa- *base* puppet (pupaphobia)
pupillo- *comb* pupil of the eye (pupillometer)
-pur- *base* pus (suppuration)
-purg- *base* cleanse (purgative)
purpureo- *comb* [chemistry] purple compounds (purpureo-cobaltic)
purulo- *comb* pus (purulo-gangrenous)
pusill- *base* petty; very small (pusillanimous)
pustulo- *comb* pimple (pustulocrustaceous)
-put- *base* think (reputed)
putamin- *base* husk (putaminous)
putea- *base* a well (puteal)
putre-, putri- *comb* rotten (putrefaction, putriform)

pycno- *comb* thick; compact; dense (pycnometer). *Also* **pykn(o)-** (pyknic)
pyelo- *comb* pelvis; kidney (pyelocystitis)
-pygia, pygo- *comb* rump; buttocks (steatopygia, pygopod)
pygm- *base* fist (pygmachy)
-pyle *comb* gate; aperture (micro-pyle)
pylo- *base* gate; aperture (pylon)
pyloro- *comb* pylorus; stomach opening (pylorodiosis)
pyo- 1. *comb* pus (pyogenic); 2. suppurative (pyosis)
pyreto-, -pyrexia *comb* fever (pyretology, eupyrexia)
-pyrgo- *base* tower (pyrgocephalic)
-pyri- *base* pear (pyriform). *Also* **piro-** (piroplasm)
pyrito- *comb* pyrites (pyritohedron)
pyro- 1. *comb* fire; heat (pyromania); 2. [chemistry] a substance derived from the specified substance by or as if by the action of heat (pyrogallol); 3. [geology] formed by heat (pyroxenite)
pyrrho- *comb* reddish (pyrrhocorax)
pyrrhul- *base* bullfinch; bunting (pyrrhuline)
pyrrhulox- *base* cardinal (pyrrhuloxine)
pytho- *comb* corrupt; decomposed (pythogenesis)
pyx- *comb* box (pyxidate)

Q

quadr- *base* four; fourfold; square (quadrangle)

quadragen- *base* forty (quadragenarian)

quadrages- *base* forty (quadragesimal)
quadrato- *comb* four fourfold (quadrato-cubic)
quadri- *base* four; fourfold (quadrilateral)
quadricent- *base* four hundred (quadricentennial)
quadru- *base* four; fourfold (quadrumanous)
quaest- *base* gain; money-making (quaestuary)
quali- *base* characteristics; competence (qualitative)
quanti- *comb* amount; extent (quantitative)
quart-, quarter-, quarti- *base* one-fourth (quartile, quartering, quartisect)
quasi- *comb* seemingly; as if; resembling (quasi-judicial)
quass- *base* shake; beat (quassation)
quat-, quater-, quatr- *comb* four (quatrain, quaternion, quatrefoil)
quattuordec- *base* fourteen (quattuordecillion)
-quer- *base* complain (querimounious)

querc-, querci- *comb* oak (quercine, quercivorous)
querul- *base* complain (querulousness)
quid- *base* nature; essence (quidity)
quiesc- *base* quiet (quiescent)
quin- *base* five; multiple of five (quinary)
quincen- *base* five hundred (quincennial)
quindec(em)- *base* fifteen (quindecemvirate)
quinguagen- *base* fifty (quinguagenarian)
quingages- *base* fifty (quingagesimal)
quinque- *comb* five (quinquevalent)
quint⁻¹, quinti- *comb* five; multiple of five (quintuplets, quintilateral)
quint⁻² *comb* one-fifth (quintile)
-quire, -quiry *comb* seek; search for (require, inquiry)
-quis- *base* seek; search for (inquisition)
quot- *base* how many (quotient)
quotid- *base* daily (quotidian)

R

-racem- *base* cluster (racemiform)
rachi-, rachio- *comb* relating to the spine (rachicentesis, rachimeter).
See -rrhachia
-rad- *base* ray; rod; spoke (irradiate)
radiato- *comb* ray-like (radiato-striate)
radici- *comb* root (radicolous)
radiculo *comb* radicle; rootlike part (radiculoganglionitis)

radio- 1. *comb* ray; raylike (radio-larian); 2. by radio (radiotelegram); 3. [anatomy] radius and (radiobicipital); 4. [medicine] by radiant energy (radiotherapy); 5. [physics] radioactive (radiothorium)
rami- *comb* branch (ramification)
ramoso- *comb* protuberance (ramoso-palmate)
ramul- *base* twig (ramulose)

rani- *comb* frog (raniverous)
rap- *base* snatch; seize (rapture)
-raphan- *base* radish (raphania)
raptor- *base* falcon (raptorial)
rat- *base* emu; ostrich (ratite)
-rater *comb* specified rate or class (second-rater)
-ratio- *base* reasoning; thought (irrational)
re- 1. *pre* back (restore); 2. again; anew (retell)
recti- *comb* straight; right (rectirostral)
recto- *comb* rectal (rectoscope)
recurvo- *comb* bent back (recurvoternate)
-red *suf* condition; state (hatred)
regin- *base* queen (reginal)
-regn- *base* royal; ruling (interregnum)
regul- *base* standard pattern (regulations)
-rel *suf* diminutive (wastrel)
religio- *comb* religion (religio-educational)
relinq- *base* leave; jilt; abandon (relinquish)
reliq- *base* remains; relic (reliquary)
-reme, -remi- *base* oar (trireme, remiform)
reni-, reno- *comb* kidney (reniform, renovascular)
rep- *base* snatch; seize (surreptitious)
repando- *comb* bent back (repandodentate)
-rept- *base* creep; crawl (reptation)
reptil- *base* reptile (reptilian)
repud- *base* jilt; reject (repudiate)
resino- *comb* resin (resino-vitreous)
respirato- *comb* respiratory (respirato-prehensory)
-resti- *base* cord; cordlike (restiform)
reti- *base* net (retiform)

reticulato-, reticulo- *comb* net; network (reticulato-venose, reticuloramose)
retino- *comb* of the retina (retinoschisis)
retro- *comb* backward; back; behind (retroflex)
rhabdo- *comb* rod; wand (rhabdo-coele)
-rhachia *see* -rrhachia
-rhag- *base* grape (rhagite)
-rhage *see* -rrhage
-rhamn- *base* buckthorn (rhamneous)
rhampho- *comb* beak (rhamphotheca)
-rhapfy *see* -rrhaphy
-rhaps- *base* stitch; poem (rhapsody)
-rhea *see* -rrhea
rhegma- *comb* fracture; break (rhegmatogenous)
rhema- *base* word; verb (rhematic)
rheo- *comb* flow; current (rheoscope)
rhet- *base* say; speak (rhetorical)
-rheum- *base* flow; stream (rheumatic)
-rhexis *see* -rrhexis
rhigo- *comb* cold; frost (rhigosis)
rhino- *comb* nose (rhinology)
rhipi-, rhipido- *comb* fan (rhipidate, rhipidoglossate)
rhizo- *comb* root (rhizomorph). *See* -(r)rhiza
rhodo- *comb* rose; rose-red (rhodolite)
-rhoeica *see* -rrhoeica
rhombo- *comb* rhombus (rhombohedral)
-rhonch- *base* snoring (rhonchal)
-rhopal- *base* club; cudgel (rhopalocercous)
-rhopo- *base* petty; restricted (rhopography)

rhyngo- *comb* snout; beak (rhyngophore). *See* -rrhyncha
rhyparo-, rypo- *comb* dirt; filth (rhyparographer, rhyphagy).
Also rypo- (rypophagy)
rhyti- *comb* wrinkle (rhytidectomy)
-ric *comb* jurisdiction; realm (bishopric)
ricinol- *comb* castor oil (ricinolamide)
-ridden *comb* obsessed or burdened with (guilt-ridden)
-rig- *base* wet (rigation)
rigesc- *base* stiff; rigid (rigescence)
-rim- *base* opening; crack (rimose)
-rip- *base* river; water (riparian)
-ris- *base* laugh (risible)
riv- *base* fishing (rivation)
-rix- *base* quarrel (rixation)
rizi- *base* rice (riziform)
-robor- *base* strength (roborant)
roentgeno- *comb* X-rays (roentgenology)
-rog- *base* ask; question (interrogate)
Romano- *comb* Roman and (Romano-Lombardic)
romantico- *comb* romantic (romantico-heroic)
-ror- *base* dew (roriferous)
roseo- *comb* [chemistry] reddish salts (roseo-cobaltic)
-rostell- *base* snout; radicle (rastelliform)
rostrato-, rostri-, rostro- *comb* beak (rostrato-nariform, rostri-form, rostrocarnate)
rot-, roti- *comb* turn; wheel (rotation, rotiform)
rotundi-, rotundo- *comb* round (rotundifoliate, rotundo-tetragonal)
-rrhachia *comb* spine (glycorrhachia). *See* rachio-
-rrhage, -rrhagia *comb* abnormal

discharge; excessive flow (hemorrhage, menorrhagia)
-rrhaphy *comb* suture (cystorrhaphy)
-rrhea *comb* flow; discharge (diarrhea). *Also* -rrhœa (diarrhœa). *See* rheo-
-rrhexis *comb* rupture; bursting (myorrhexis). *See* rhagma-
rrhexo- *base* pinch (rrhexophobia)
-rrhiza *comb* root (mycorrhiza). *See* rhizo-
-rrhoeica *comb* flow (seborrhoeica)
-rrhyncha *comb* snout; beak (oxyrryncha). *See* rhyngo-
-rub- *base* red (rubescence)
rubig- *base* rust (rubiginous)
-ruct- *base* belch; emit (eructation)
-rud- *base* rough; elementary (rudiments)
ruder- *base* stone fragments; rubble; rubbish (ruderal)
rufi-, rufo- *comb* red (ruficaudate, rufo-fulvous)
-rug- *base* wrinkle (erugate)
runc- *base* weed (runcation)
runcin- *base* saw-toothed (runcinate)
runo- *comb* rune (runographic)
rupes-, rupic- *base* rock (rupes-trine, rupicolous)
rupicap- *base* chamois (rupicaprine)
rupo- *base* filth (rupophobia). *See* rhypo-
-rupt- *base* burst; break (disruption)
rur- *base* the country (rural)
Russo- 1. *comb* Russia (Russophobia);
 2. Russian and (Russo-Japanese)
rut- *base* rue (rutaceous)
-rutil- *base* shining; reddish (rutilant)
-ry *see* -ery
ryo- *base* filth (rypophagy). *Also* rupo-

S

-s *suf* plural ending (dogs)

sabul- *base* sand; grit (sabulosity)

saburr- *base* sand (saburration)

-sacc- *base* pouch; bag; cyst (sacculation)

saccharo- 1. *comb* sugar (saccharometer); 2. saccharin and (saccharo-mucilaginous)

sacerdot- *base* priest (sacerdotal)

-sacr- *base* holy; set apart (sacrament)

sacro- 1. *comb* the sacrum (sacroiliac); 2. sacral and (sacrovertebral)

safran- *base* yellow (safranin)

-sagitt- *base* arrow (sagittate)

-salebr- *base* rough; uneven (salebrosity)

-sali- *base* salt (desalination)

-salic- *base* willow (salicaceous)

salino- *comb* salt and (salinosulphureous)

salmoni- *base* salmon (salmoniform)

salpingo- 1. *comb* of a fallopian tube (salpingotomy); 2. of a eustachian tube (salpingitis)

sals- *base* salt (salsamentarious)

-salta- *base* leap; dance (saltatory)

saltu- *base* woods (saluary)

-salub- *base* healthy (salubrious)

-salv- *base* save (salvage)

-san- *base* health; healing (unsanitary)

sanct-, sancti- *comb* holy (sanctuary, santicolist)

sangui-, sanguineo-, sanguino- *comb* blood (sanguicolous, sanguineo-vascular, sanguino-purulent)

sanguisug- *base* leech (sanguisugous)

-sapien- *base* wise (sapiently)

sapon-, saponi- *comb* soap (saponaceous, saponification)

sapor- *base* taste (saporific)

sapro- *comb* [biology] dead; putrefying; decaying (saprogenic)

-sarc-, sarco- *comb* flesh; tissue (ectosarc, sarcology)

sarcin- *base* bundle (sarcina)

-sarmass- *base* loveplay (sarmassation)

sarment- *base* stem (sarmentaceous)

sartor- *base* tailor (sartorial)

sativ- *base* sown; planted (sativous)

sator- *base* sow (satorious)

sauciat- *base* wound (sauciate)

-saur, sauro-, -saurus *comb* lizard (dinosaur, sauropod, ichthyosaurus)

sax-, saxi- *comb* rock; stone (saxatile, saxicoline)

scabi- *base* itch (scabiosity)

scaev- *base* leftsided; unlucky (scaevity)

-scal- *base* climb; ladder (escalation)

-scalpri- *base* chisel (scalpriform)

-scan- *base* climb (scansorial)

-scape *comb* view; scenery (seascape)

scapho- *comb* boat-shaped (scaphoid)

scapi- *comb* stalk; shaft (scapiform)

scapuli-, scapulo- *comb* scapula and; shoulder blade (scapulimancy, scapuloclavicular)

scarab- *base* beetle (scaraboid)

scato- *comb* excrement; feces (scatology)

scatur- *base* spring of water (scaturient)

-scel- *base* leg (isosceles)

sceler- *base* wicked (scelerous)
-scelia *comb* [medicine] condition of the legs (macroscelia)
-schem- *base* appearance; form (schematism)
schisto- *comb* split; cleft (schistocephalus)
schizo- *comb* split; cleavage; division (schizocarp)
-schæno- *base* rope (schænobatic)
schol- *base* school (scholar)
-sci- *base* know (omniscient)
-scia- *base* shadow (macroscian).
Also **scio-** (sciomancy). *See* **skia-**
-scintill- *base* spark (scintillation)
-scio-¹ *base* shadow (sciomancy).
Also **-scia-** (macroscian)
scio-² *comb* knowledge (sciolism)
sciss- *base* cut; divide (scission)
-sciur- *base* squirrel; marmot (sciurine)
sclero- 1. *comb* hard (sclerometer);
 2. of the sclera (sclerotomy)
-scob- *base* sawdust (scobiform)
scolec-, **scolec-** *comb* worm (scoleciform, scolecobrotic)
scoli(o)- *comb* bent; crooked (scoliosis)
scolo- *comb* spike (scolophore)
scolopac- *base* snipe; woodcock (scolopacine)
scolopendri- *base* centipede (scolopendriform)
scombr- *base* mackerel (scombroid)
scopa-, **scopi-** *base* twigs; broom; brush (scoparious, scopiform)
-scope, **-scopic**, **scopo-**, **-scopy** *comb* sight; observation; examination (telescope, microscopic, scopophilia, bioscopy)
scopeli- *base* bony fish; Scopelidae (scopeliform)
scophthalm- *base* turbot (scophthalmus)
scopi- *base* twig; broom (scopiform)

scopul- *base* crag; cliff (scopulous)
-scorb- *base* scurvy (scorbutigenic)
-scoria- *base* slag (scoriaceous)
-scoro- *base* garlic (scorodite)
-scort- *base* fornication; harlot (scortatory)
Scoto- *comb* Scottish and (Scoto-Irish)
scoto- *base* darkness; dimness (scotophobia)
-scrib-, **-script-** *base* write (scribber, manuscript)
-scrobic- *base* furrowed; pitted (scrobiculous)
-scrot- *base* scrotum; testicular sac (scrotocele)
-scrut- *base* examine; search (scrutinize)
-scut- *base* shield; scale (scutiform)
scutel- *base* dish (scutelliform)
scyphi-, **scypho-** *comb* cup; [botany] cup-shaped part (scyphiform, scyphomancy)
Scytho- *comb* Scythian and (Scytho-Aryan)
se- *pre* away from (seclude)
-seb- *base* tallow; grease (sebaceous)
sebo- *comb* sebum; suetlike; tallow (seborrhea)
-sec-, **-sect-** *base* cut (secant, intersection)
-secul- *base* worldly; temporal (secularize)
securi- *comb* ax; hatchet (securiform)
-secut- *base* follow (consecutive).
See **-seq-**
-sed- *base* sit (sedentary)
sedat- *base* allay; calm (sedation)
sedecim- *base* sixteen (sedecimal)
segn- *base* sloth; sluggishness (segnity)
seismo- *comb* earthquake (seismograph)
sela- *comb* flash (selaphobia)

selach- *base* shark (selachoid)
seleno- *comb* moon (selenography)
self- *comb* oneself (self-denial)
sema-, -seme, semeio-, semio-
comb sign; signal; symbol; index;
 symptom (semaphore, micro-
 seme, semeiology, semiotics)
semi- 1. *pre* half (semidiameter);
 2. partly; imperfectly (semicivi-
 lized); 3. twice per __ (semi-
 annual)
semin- *base* seedbed (seminal)
semper- *base* always (semper-
 vivum)
-sen- *base* old (seniority)
seni- *base* six (senary)
-sens-, -sent- *base* feel (sensitive,
 sentimental)
sensori- *comb* pertaining to the
 senses or to sensations (sensori-
 motor)
-sepalous *comb* having a specific
 kind or number of sepals (trisepa-
 lous)
sepi- *base* cuttlefish (sepiacean)
sept- *base* seven (September)
septem- *comb* seven (septempartite)
septen- *base* north (septentrion)
septendecim- *base* seventeen (sep-
 tendecimal)
septi-¹ *comb* seven (septilateral)
septi-², **septico-** *comb* decomposed;
 vitiated (septicemia, septico-
 pyaemia)
septim- *base* seventh (septimal)
septingenti- *base* seven hundred
 (septingentenary)
septo-¹ *comb* decomposed; vitiated
 (septogenic)
septo-² *comb* dividing wall (septo-
 cephalic)
septuagen- *base* seventy (septuage-
 narian)
septuages- *base* seventy (septagesi-
 mal)

septuagint- *base* seventy (septuag-
 intal)
sepul- *base* grave; tomb; burial
 (sepulcher)
-seq- *base* follow (consequence). *See*
-secut-
-ser- *base* bar; bolt (reseration)
Serbo- *comb* Serbia (Serbo-Croa-
 tian)
seri-, sericeo-, serico- *comb* silk
 (serigraph, sericeo-tomentose,
 sericostoma)
serio- *comb* partly serious (serio-
 comic)
sero- *comb* serum (serology)
serot- *base* late in occurrence or de-
 velopment (serotine)
serpen- *base* snake (serpentine)
serrato- *comb* saw-toothed (serrato-
 crennate)
serri- *comb* [entomology/zoology] a
 saw (serrirostrate)
serv- *base* slave (servitude)
-serve *comb* keep; attend to (reser-
 vation)
sesqui- *comb* one and one half
 (sesquicentennial)
sesquipedal- *base* long words
 (sesquipedalophobia)
-sess- *base* sit; perch (insessorial)
setaceo- *comb* bristles and (setaceo-
 rostrate)
seti- *base* bristle (setiferous)
sexagen- *base* sixty (sexagenarian)
sexages- *base* sixty (sexagesimal)
sexcent- *base* six hundred (sexcen-
 tenary)
sexi- *comb* six (sexipolar)
sext- *comb* sixth (sextant)
sexti- *comb* six (sextisection)
she- *comb* female (she-bear)
-ship 1. *suf* quality; condition; state
 of (friendship); 2. rank; office;
 status (kingship); 3. ability; skill
 (leadership); 4. collective: all

individuals of a specified class
(readership)

-siagon- *base* jawbone (siagonology)

sial⁻¹ *base* saliva (sialorrhea)

sial⁻² *base* bluebird (Sialia)

-sibil- *base* hiss; whistle (sibilant)

sica- *base* knife; dagger (sicarian)

-sicc- *base* dry (desiccate)

Siculo- *comb* Sicilian (Siculo-Punic)

-sid- *base* inhere; sit in (insident)

-sidere *comb* star (hagiosidere)

sidero⁻¹ *comb* iron (siderolite)

sidero⁻² *comb* star (siderostat)

siderodromo- *comb* railroad

(siderodromophobia)

-sigil- *base* seal; signet (sigillation)

siliceo-, silici-, silico- *comb* [chemistry] silica: containing or relating to (siliceo-calcareous, siliciferous, silico-alkaline)

silig- *base* winter wheat (siliginous)

siliqu- *base* pod (siliquiferous)

-silur- *base* catfish (silurid)

Siluro- *comb* Silurian (Siluro-Cambrian)

silvi- *comb* tree; forest (silviculture)

sim- *base* ape; chimp (simian)

-simil- *base* like; resembling (dissimilarity)

-simo- *base* snub-nosed (simosaurus)

-simul- 1. *base* at the same time (simultaneous); 2. feign; pretend (simulate)

sinap- *base* mustard (sinapism)

sindon- *base* shroud (sindonology)

singult- *base* hiccup; sob (singultous, singultient)

sinistro- *comb* left: of, at, using (sinistro-cerebral)

sino- *comb* sinus (sinorespiratory)

Sino- *comb* Chinese: people/language (Sinology)

-sinu- *base* bending; winding (insinuate)

sinuato-, sinuoso- *comb* wavy; uneven (sinuato-dentate, sinuoso-lobate)

-sion *see* -ion

siphoni-, siphono- *comb* tube; pipe (siphoniform, siphonostele)

-sis *suf* action; condition (stasis)

-siti- *base* thirst (insitiency)

-sitia, sitio-, sito- *comb* food; eating; appetite (asitia, sitiophobia, sitology)

sitt- *base* nuthatch (sittine)

situ- *base* located; inherent (situation)

-size, -sized *comb* having a specified size (life-size, small-sized)

skeleto- *comb* skeleton (skeleto-trophic)

-skeuo- *base* vessel; utensil (skeuomorphic)

skia- *comb* shadow (skiascopy). *See* scia-

Slavo- *comb* Slav (Slavophile)

smaragd- *base* emerald (smaragdine)

socer- *base* father-in-law (soceraphobia)

socio- *comb* society; social (sociobiological)

sodio- *comb* sodium (sodio-hydric)

-soever *comb* any ___ of those possible (whosoever)

sol- *comb* sun (solarium)

solen-, soleno- *base* [zoology] channel; pipe (solenite, solenoglypha)

sol- *comb* alone (solitude)

-solu-, -solv- *base* melt; dissolve (soluble, solvent)

-soma *comb* [zoology] names of genera (Schistosoma)

somato- *comb* body (somatology)

-some¹ *comb* body (chromosome)

-some² *suf* like; tending to be (tire-some)

-some³ *suf* number: in a specified (threesome)
somni- *comb* sleep (somniferous)
son-, soni-, sono-, sonoro- *comb* sound (sonancy, soniferous, sonogram, sonoro-sibilant)
-sophy *comb* knowledge; thought (philosophy)
-sopor- *base* sleep (soporific)
-sor- *base* heap (sorotrochous)
-sorb-¹ *base* soak up (absorbent)
-sorb-² *base* mountain ash (sorbic)
-sord- *base* dirt; filth (insordescant)
soric- *base* shrew (soricine)
-soror- *base* sister (sorority)
-sote *comb* preserver (creosote)
-soter- *base* salvation (soteriology)
spad- *base* brown (spadiceous)
spadici- *comb* succulent spike (spadicifloral)
spano- *comb* scarce (spanopnea)
sparasso-, sparax- *comb* laceration; tearing (sparassodont, sparaxis)
sparg- *base* sprinkle; scatter (spargification)
spasmo- *comb* spasm; contraction (spasmolysis)
spathi- *base* spatula; broad blade (spathiform)
spatilo- *comb* excrement (spatilomancy)
spatul- *base* shoulder (spatulomancy)
spatuli- *comb* spatula (spatuliform)
-spec(t)-, -spic- *base* look; see (spectator, conspicuous)
-specific *comb* applied or limited to the particular item named (culture-specific)
specio- *comb* specific (speciographic)
spectr- *base* ghost (spectral)
spectro- 1. *comb* radiant energy as exhibited in a spectrum (spectrogram); 2. *of/by* a spectroscope

(spectro-heliogram); 3. mirror (spectrophobia)
speleo-, spelunc- *base* cave (speleologist, speluncar)
sper- *base* hope (sperable)
-sperg-, -spers- *base* sprinkle (insperge, inspersation)
-sperm, sperma-, -spermal, spermatio-, spermato, spermi-, -spermic, spermo-, -spermous *comb* seed; germ; beginning (gymnosperm, spermaphore, gymnospermal, spermatogenous, spermatocyte, spermiducal, endospermic, spermogonium, monospermous)
sphacel- *base* gangrene (sphacelo-derma)
-sphagn- *base* moss (sphagnologist)
-sphair- *base* tennis (sphairistic)
-sphal- *base* error (sphalma)
-sphec- *base* wasp; hornet (sphecoid)
sphenisc- *base* penguin (spheniscan)
spheno- 1. *comb* wedge-shaped (sphenogram); 2. sphenoid bone (sphenoccipital)
-sphere, spherico-, sphero- *comb* sphere (stratosphere, sphericylindrical, spherocyte). *Also* **sphaero-** (sphaeroblast)
-sphingo- *base* bound tightly (sphingometer)
-sphrag- *base* seal; signet (sphragistic)
sphygmo- *comb* pulse (sphygmograph)
sphyr- *base* hammer (sphyrelaton)
sphyraen- *base* barracuda (sphyraenoid)
sphyrn- *base* shark (Sphyrna)
-spici- *base* ear of corn (spiciferous)
spicul-, spiculi-, spiculo- *comb* spiky; pointed (spicular, spiculiferous, spiculofibrous)

-spil- *base* spot; speck (spilosite)
spini-, spino-, spinoso-, spinuloso-
comb spine (spini-acute, spino-cerebellar, spinoso-dentate, spinuloso-serrate)
-spinthar- *base* spark (spinthariscope)
spiri- *comb* coil; spiral (spiriform)
spiro¹ *comb* respiration; breath (spiograph)
spiro² *comb* spiral; coil (spirochete)
-spiss- *base* thick; dense (inspissation)
-splachn- *base* moss (splachnoid)
splanchno- *comb* viscera (splanchnology)
splenico-, splen(o)- *comb* spleen (splenico-phrenic, splenocele)
spodo- *base* ashes (spodogenous)
spondylo- *comb* vertebra (spondylitis)
spongi-, spongio-, spongo- *comb* sponge-like (spongiculture, spongiocyte, spongolith)
spor- *base* scatter (sporadic)
-spore, spori-, sporo-, -sporous
1. *comb* spore; seed (teliospore, sporiferous, sporocarp); **2.** specific number/kind of spores (monosporous)
-spum- *base* foam; froth (spumescence)
-spurc- *base* dirty; foul (spurcity)
-squal- *base* shark (squaloid)
squamato-, squamo-, squamoso-, squaroso- *comb* squama; scalelike (squamato-granulose, squamocellular, squamoso-dentated, squaroso-lacinate)
stabil- *base* lasting; fixed (stability)
-stact- *base* drop (stactometer)
-stagn- *base* drop (stagnoid)
-stagn- *base* pool (stagnicolous)
-stal- *base* motion; contraction (peristalsis)

-stalac(ti)-, -stalag- *base* dropping; dripping (stalactite, stalagmite)
stamini- *comb* stamen (staminiferous)
-stann- *base* tin (stanniferous)
-stap- *base* stirrup; stapes (stapedectomy)
staphylo- **1.** *comb* uvula; grapelike (staphylorrhaphy); **2.** staphylococcus (staphylo dermatitis)
stasi-, -stasis *comb* standing still; balance; arrest; halt (stasimetry, phlebostasis)
-stat *comb* scientific instrument (thermostat)
stato- *comb* stationary; stabilized (statocyst)
stauro- *comb* cross (staurophobia)
-stead *comb* place (homestead)
stearo-, steato- *comb* fatty substance (stearoglucose, steatopygia)
-stegano- *base* covered (steganopodous)
stegno- *comb* constriction (thecostegnosis)
stego- *comb* covered; closed (stegosaur)
-stell- *base* star (interstellar)
stellio- *base* lizard (stellion)
-stema- *base* filament (stemapod)
sten(o)- *comb* small; thin; narrow; abbreviated (stenographer)
step- *comb* relationship not by blood (stepfather)
-ster **1.** *suf* person who is/does/creates __ (punster); **2.** person associated with __ (gangster)
sterco- *comb* dung; feces (stercora-ceous)
stereo- *comb* three-dimensional; solid (stereoscope)
-sterigm- *base* prop; support (sterigmatic)
stern- *base* tern (sternine)

sterno- *comb* sternum and; breast-bone (sternoclavicular)

-sternut- *base* sneeze (sternutation)

-sterquil- *base* dunghill (sterquilinious)

-stert- *base* snore (stertorous)

stetho- *comb* chest; breast (stethoscope)

-sthenia, sthen(o)- *comb* strength; force; power (hypersthenia, hyposthenuria)

stibio- *comb* [chemistry] black antimony (stibiotrimethyl)

stibo- *comb* footprint (stibogram)

-stichia, sticho-, -stichous *comb* row; line; verse (tristichia, stichometry, tristichous)

-stict- *base* spotted (laparostict)

-stig- *base* a point; to punctuate; to goad; stimulate (instigate)

-stigm- *base* mark; point; dot; puncture; tattoo (stigmatized)

stigno- *comb* writing (stignomancy)

-still- *base* drop (stillatitious)

-stilpno- *base* glittering (stilpnomelane)

-stip-¹ *base* stalk; support (stipitate)

-stip-² *base* press together; pack (constipation)

-stiri- *base* icicle (stiriated)

-stirp- *base* stem; stock (exstirpate)

-stoch- *base* guess (stochastic)

-stoicheio- *base* element (stoicheiometry)

stomato-, -stome, -stomous *comb* [medicine/botany] mouth (stomatalgia, cyclostome, megastomous)

-stomy *comb* surgical opening into — (colostomy)

stone- *comb* very; completely (stone-broke)

-storgy *base* affection (philostorgy)

-stori- *base* tales; legends (storiology)

-strab-, strabism- *base* squinting (strabotomy, strabismometer)

-stragul- *base* covering (stragulum)

-strain *comb* restrict; bind (constrain)

-stramin- *base* straw (stramineous)

-strat- *base* a general; an army (strategic)

strati-, strato- *comb* layer; stratum (stratification, stratosphere)

-stren- *base* difficult (strenuous)

strep-, strepi- *base* noisy (obstreperous, strepitous)

strepho-, strepsi-, strepto- *comb* turned; twisted (strephosymbolia, strepsipterous, streptococcal)

-stress *suf* female (seamstress)

stria-, striato-, strio- *comb* furrow; groove (striaform, striatocrenulate, striomuscular)

-strict *comb* tightly drawn; limited (restriction)

-strid-, stridul- *base* creak; harsh noise (strident, stridulation)

-strig- *base* furrow; channel (strigated)

strigi- *base* owl (strigiform)

-string- *base* constricted (astringent)

-strob- *base* twisting; spinning (strobilation)

strobil- *base* pine cone (strobiliform)

-strom- *base* fibrous structure (stromatiform)

-stromb- *base* spiral; twisted (strombiform)

stromboli- *base* top (stromboliform)

strongyl- *base* round (strongylate)

-stroph- *base* turn; twist (strophiole)

struct- *comb* arrange; put together (constructive)

strum-, strumi- *base* goiter; swollen gland (strumitis, strumiferous)

-struma- *base* tumor (strumectomy)
-struthio- *base* ostrich (struthious)
-stult- *base* foolish (stultiloquy)
-stup- *base* senseless (stupefaction)
stupr- *base* fornicate; rape (stuprate)
-sturim- *base* sturgeon (sturionic)
-sturn- *base* starling; swallow (sturnine)
styg- *base* hellish (Stygian)
styl- *base* pen (styliform)
stylo⁻¹ 1. *comb* pointed; sharp (stylograph); 2. styloid: bony process (stylohyoid)
stylo⁻² *comb* column; pillar (styolite)
-stypt- *base* astringent (stypticity)
-suad-, -suas- *base* urge (dissuade, persuasion)
suav- *base* sweet (suaveolent)
sub- 1. *pre* under; below (submarine); 2. lower in rank; inferior to (subaltern); 3. to a lesser degree; slightly (subtropical); 4. division (sublet); 5. [chemistry] less than the normal amount of __; basic (subchloride); 6. [mathematics] ratio inverse to a given ratio (subduplicate). NOTE: **sub-** can change to: **su-** (suspect); **suc-** (succeed); **suf-** (suffocate); **sug-** (suggest); **sum-** (summon); **sup-** (support); **sur-** (surrogate); **sus-** (suspend)
subagit- *base* sexual intercourse (subagitation)
-suber- *base* cork (suberose)
subero- *comb* suberic acid (suberopyroxylic)
subig- *base* knead (subigate)
subit- *base* sudden; hasty (subitaneous)
subsesqui- *pre* [chemistry] elements combined in the proportion of 2 to 3 (subsesquiacetate)

subter- *pre* below; under; less than; secretly (subterfuge)
-subul- *base* awl (subuliform)
suc- *base* juice (succulent)
-succino- *comb* amber (succino-sulphuric)
sucr- *base* sugar (sucrose)
sud-, sudori- *comb* sweat; perspiration (sudatory, sudorific)
-suet- *base* custom (conseutude)
suffrag- *base* voting (suffragette)
-suge *base* suck (potisuge)
sui- *base* oneself (suicide)
sui-, suid- *base* pig; boar (suilline, suidian)
sulc- *base* groove (sulcus)
sulcato- *comb* furrowed; grooved; cleft (sulcato-areolate)
sulfato- *comb* sulfate (sulfatidates). Also **sulphato-** (sulphato-acetic)
sulfo- *comb* sulfur; sulfonate sulfonic acid (sulfocyanogen). Also **sulpho-** (sulpho-indigotic)
sulfureo *comb* sulfurous (sulfureo-nitrous)
super- 1. *pre* over; above; on top (superstructure); 2. higher in rank/position; superior to (superintendent); 3. greater in quality/amount/degree; surpassing (superabundance); 4. greater or better (supermarket); 5. greater than normal (supersaturate); 6. extra; additional (supertax); 7. to a secondary degree (superparasite); 8. [chemistry] large amount of __ (superphosphate)
supero- *comb* [anatomy] on the upper side (supero-dorsal)
supin- *base* lying down (supine)
supra- *pre* above; over; beyond (supraliminal)
sur- *pre* over; upon; above; beyond (surface)
sura- *base* calf of the leg (sural)

surcul- *base* grafting; twig (surcullose)
-surd- *base* deaf (surdity)
-surg- *base* rise (resurgent)
-susurr- *base* whisper; murmur (insusurration)
-sutil- *base* stitch; sew (inconsutile)
-syc- *base* fig (sycoma)
-sychno- *base* many (sychnocarpous)
symmetr- *base* symmetry (asymmetrical)
symphyo- *comb* growing together (symphyogenesis)
syn- *pre* with; together; at the same time; by means of (synagogue).
 NOTE: **syn-** can change to: **sy-**

(syzygy); **syl-** (syllogism); **sym-** (symbiosis); **sys-** (system)
synchro- *comb* synchronized (synchromesh)
syndesmo- *comb* ligament; binding together (syndesmosplasty)
-synœc- *base* community (synœcology)
syphili-, syphilo- *comb* siphylis (syphilitic, syphilophobia)
-syr- *base* reed; pipe; tube (syringe)
syringo- *comb* tube-shaped cavity (syringocarcinoma)
Syro- *comb* Syrian and (Syro-Arabian)
-syrt- *base* quicksand (syrtic)

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-tab- *base* emaciated; wasted away (tabescent)
taban- *base* horsefly (tabanid)
tabell- *base* tablet; ballot (tabellary)
tacho- *comb* speed (tachometer)
tachy- *comb* rapid; swift; fast (tachycardia)
tacit- *base* quiet (taciturn)
-tact- *base* touch (contact)
-tactic, -tactous *comb* order; arrangement (heterotactous, syntactic)
taeni-, taenio- *comb* ribbon or band; tapeworm (taeniafuge, taeniosomous). Also **teni-** (teniacide)
-tain *comb* hold (maintain). See **-ten-**
tali-, talo- *comb* ankle (taligrade, talocalcaneal)
talpi- *base* mole (talpicide)
-tang- *base* touch (intangible)
tantalo- *base* tease (tantalize)

-taph, tapho-, taphro- *comb* tomb; pit (cenotaph, taphophobia, taphrenchyma)
tapin- *base* contagious (tapinophobia)
-tapino- *base* low (tapinocephalic)
-tard- *base* slow; delay (retardation)
tarso- 1. *comb* instep (tarso-metatarsus); 2. eyelid cartilage (tarsoplasty)
tartr(o)- *comb* tartar; tartaric acid (tartromethylates)
-taseo-, -tasi- *base* tension (taseometer, tasimetric)
tauri-, tauro- 1. *comb* of/like a bull (tauricide, tauromachy); 2. [chemistry] taurine (taurocholate)
taurotrag- *base* eland (taurotragus)
tauto- *comb* the same; identical (tautology)
tax- *base* yew (taxaceous)

taxi-, **-taxia**, **-taxis**, **taxo-**, **-taxy**
comb arrangement; order (taxidermy, heterotaxia, parataxis, taxonomy, homotaxy)

techno-, **-techny** 1. *comb* art; science; skill (technocracy); 2. technical; technological (technochemistry, pyrotechny)

tecno- *comb* child (tecnonymy)

-tect- *base* roof; cover (tectiform)

-teen *suf* ten and numbers: cardinal (sixteen)

teg-, **tegu-** *base* cover (tegmental, tegument)

tegul- *base* tile (tegar)

-teicho- *base* wall (teichopsia)

tek- *base* child (ateknia)

tel- *base* dart (teliferous)

tele- 1. *comb* at a distance; far (telegraph); 2. television (telecast)

teleo-, **telo-** *comb* end; purpose; final stage (teleology, telophase)

tellur- *base* earth (intratelluric)

-telmat- *base* a bog (telamatology)

-temerat- *base* violate (intemperate)

temno- *comb* cut (temnospondylous)

-temp- *base* regulate; mix (temperament)

-tempor- *base* time (contemporary)

temporo- *comb* temple of the head (temporo-maxillary)

-temul- *base* drunkenness (temulency)

-ten- *base* hold (tenacious). *See* **-tain**

tend- *base* stretch (distend)

-tene *comb* [biology] ribbon-shaped (pachytene)

-tenebr- *base* darkness (tenebrosity)

-teni- *base* tapeworm; ribbon-like (teniacide). *Also* **taeni(i)-** (taenii-phobia)

teno-, **tenonto-** *comb* tendon (tenotomy, tenontodynia)

tensio- *comb* stretch; strain (tensiometer)

tentaculi- *comb* tentacle (tentaculiform)

tentig- *base* bore; penetrate (tentiginous)

tenui- *comb* slender; thin; narrow (tenuifolious)

tephro- 1. *comb* ashes (tephromancy); 2. gray (tephroite)

ter- *comb* thrice (tercentennial)

tera- *comb* one trillion (terahertz)

terato- *comb* monster; monstrosity (teratology)

terebinth- *base* turpentine (terebinthinate)

terebr- *base* bore; penetrate (terebriation)

tered- *base* worm (teredines)

tereti-, **tereto-** *comb* rounded (tereticaudate, teretosetaceous)

tergi-, **tergo-** *comb* the back (tergiversation, tergolateral)

-termin- *base* end; limit (termination)

termit- *base* termite (termitophagous)

-tern- *base* three; triple (ternion)

-terr- *base* earth (territorial)

-tert- *base* third (tertiary)

tessera- *comb* four (tesseraglot)

tesseracteca- *comb* fourteen (tesseractecasyllabon)

testac- *base* reddish-brown (testaceous)

testaceo- *comb* shell (testaceology)

testud- *base* turtle (testudinal)

tetano- *comb* tetanus stiff (tetanospasmin)

tetarto- *comb* one fourth (tetartohedral)

tetra- *comb* four (tetragamy)

tetracyclo- *comb* with four circles; with four atomic rings (tetracycline)

tetradeca- *comb* fourteen (tetradecapod). Also tetrakaideca- (tetrakaidecahedron)

tetrakis- *comb* four times (tetrakis-dodecahedron)

tetraon- *base* grouse; ptarmigan (tetraonid)

tetrazo- [chemistry] 1. *comb* compound with 4 atoms of nitrogen (tetrazone); 2. presence of four azo groups (tetrazolyl)

teuth- *base* cuttlefish; squid (teuthologist)

teuto- *comb* German (teutophobia)

tex- *base* weave (textile)

-th 1. *suf* act of (stealth); 2. state of being/having; quality of being/having (wealth)

-th *suf* numbers: ordinal (sixteenth)

thalamo- *comb* thalamus (thalamocortical)

thalasso-, thalatto- *comb* sea; marine (thalassocracy, thalattology)

thalero- *comb* blooming; fresh (thalerophagous)

thall-, thallas- *base* green (thallium, thallasine)

thallo- *comb* thallium (thallophyte)

thamn- *base* shrub (thamnium)

thanato- *comb* death (thanatology)

thaumato- *comb* wonder; miracle (thaumatology)

theatro- *comb* theater (theatromania)

-theca, theci-, theco- *comb* sheath; container; case; cover (sarcotheca, theciform, thecostegnosis)

-thei- *base* tea (theiform)

thelo- *comb* nipple (perithelium)

thely- *comb* female (thelytoky)

theo- *comb* god (theocentric)

-thera- *base* catcher; trap (oeno-thera)

theraphos- *base* tarantula (theraphosid)

-there, therio-, thero- 1. *comb* extinct mammalian form (megathere); 2. beast (theriomorphic, theropod)

-therm, thermo-, -thermy *comb* heat; hot (isotherm, thermodynamics, diathermy)

-thesis, -thetic *comb* set; put; place (hypothesis, antithetic)

-thesmo- *base* law (thesmothete)

thesp- *base* actor (thespian)

thia-, thio- *comb* sulfur (thiabendazole, thioaldehyde)

thigmo- *comb* touch (thigmotropism)

thino- *base* beach; seashore (thino-lite)

thio- *comb* [chemistry] sulfur (thiobacillus)

-thlips- *base* pressure (thlipsencephalus)

thneto- *comb* mortal (thnetopsychism)

thoracico-, thoraco- 1. *comb* thorax and (thoracico-abdominal);

2. thorax; chest (thoracoplasty)

thras- *base* brag; boast (thrasonical)

thremm- *base* breed; propagate (thremmatology)

thren- *base* lamentation (threnody)

thrept- *base* nourish; nurse (threpterophilia)

thripto- *base* mortal (thriptophobia)

-thrix- *base* hair (streptothrix)

-throated *comb* throat: specific kind (ruby-throated)

thrombo- *comb* blood clot (thrombo-phlebitis)

thumo- *comb* soul (thumomancy)

-thur- *base* incense (thurifer)

-thy- *base* offering; sacrifice (idolothyus)

-thylac- *base* pouch (thylacine)

-thymia¹ *comb* mental disorder (dysthymia)
-thymia⁻² *base* perfume; incense (thymiatechny)
thymo- 1. *comb* thymus (thymokinetic); 2. mind; soul; mood; emotions (thymogenic)
-thyrea, thyreo-, thyro- *comb* thyroid (hypothyrea, thyrectomy, thyromegaly)
thyrsi-, thyrso- *comb* stalk; stem; inflorescence (thyrsiflorous, thyrsocephalic)
-thysan- *base* fringe; tassel (thysanopter)
tibio- *comb* tibia and (tibiotarsal)
-tic *See* -ic
ticho- *base* wall (tichorhine)
-tight *comb* impervious to (water-tight)
tigr- *base* tiger (tigrine)
tilia- *comb* lime; linden (tiliaceus)
-till- *base* to pluck (peotillomania)
-tim- *base* fear; dread (timorous)
timbro- *comb* postage stamp (timbophilic)
-timo- *base* honor (timocracy)
timor- *base* fear (timorous)
-tinct-, -ting- *base* stain; color (intinction, tingible)
tinea- *base* moth; bookworm (tineid)
tinn-, tintinn- *base* jingling; ringing; bell (tinnitus, tintinnabular)
-tion, -tious 1. *suf* act of (creation); 2. state of being (elation, ambitious); 3. thing that is (creation)
titano⁻¹ *comb* titan (titanosaur)
titano⁻² *comb* titanium (titanocyanide)
titillo- *base* scratch; tickle (titillation)
-titub- *base* stagger (titubation)
-tmesis *comb* cutting (neurotmesis)

-tocia, toco- *comb* childbirth; labor (dystocia, tocolytic). *Also* **toko-** (tokogony)
-toky *comb* childbearing (thelytoky)
-tolypeut- *base* armadillo (tolypeutine)
-tome *comb* [medicine] cutting instrument (osteotome)
tomo-, -tomous, -tomy *comb* cutting; dividing; surgery (tomography, dichotomous, appendectomy)
-ton *comb* town (Washington)
-tonia 1. *comb* tone; muscle tension (isotonia); 2. personality disorder (catatonia)
-tonic 1. *comb* notes in a musical scale (pentatonic); 2. musical intervals (diatonic); 3. phonetic units of stress (pretonic); 4. muscle contraction (myatonic); 5. pathological spasms (vagatonic); 6. restorative substance (hematonic); 7. solution (isotonic)
-tonitru- *base* thunder (tonitrual)
tono- *comb* tension; pressure (tonometer)
tonsillo- *comb* tonsil (tonsillotomy)
tonsor- *base* shave; barber (tonsorial)
-toothed *comb* specific number/kind of teeth (big-toothed)
topo-, -topy *comb* place; topical (topology, somatotopy)
toreut- *base* embossing metal or ivory (toreutics)
torp- *base* numbness (torporific)
-tors-, -tort- *base* twist (torsion, distorted)
-tory *see* -ory
toti- *comb* whole entire (totalpalmate)
tox-, toxi-, toxico-, toxo-¹ *comb* poison; infection (toxemia, toxituberculide, toxicogenic, toxoplasma)

toxo-² *comb* archery (toxophily)

-trab- *base* beam (trabeation)

trachelo- *comb* neck (trachelodynia)

tracheo- 1. *comb* windpipe (tracheotomy); 2. trachea and (tracheobronchial)

trachy- *comb* rough (trachyspermous)

-tract- *base* draw; pull (detract)

tragelaph- *base* kudu (tragelaphus)

trago- *comb* goat (tragopogon)

trans- 1. *pre* across; over; on the other side; to the other side (transatlantic); 2. change thoroughly (transliterate); 3. transcending; above and beyond (trans-sonic)

transverso- *comb* transverse; crosswise (transversomedial)

trapezi- *base* trapezoid (trapezoid)

traumato- *comb* wound; injury (traumatopnea)

trecent- *comb* three hundred (trecentene)

tredecim- *base* thirteen (tredecimal)

tremo- *base* shaking; tremble (tremogram)

-trepid- *base* scared; agitated (intrepid)

-tresia *comb* perforation (proctotresia)

-tress *suf* feminine ending (actress)

tri- 1. *comb* three; three parts (triplane); 2. three times; into three (trisect); 3. every three; every third (triannual); 4. [chemistry] having three atoms; having three equivalents of; having three groups (tribasic)

triaconta- *comb* thirty (triacontahedral)

triakis- *comb* three (triakisioctahedron)

triangulato- *comb* triangulate (triangulato-subovate)

tribo- *comb* friction (tribology)

-trice *suf* feminine ending (genetrice). NOTE: -trix is now preferred

triceni- *base* thirty (tricenary)

-trich, -tricha *comb* [zoology] creature with hairlike structures (hyoptrich, Gastrotricha)

trichec- *base* manatee (trichechine)

tricho- *comb* hair (trichogenous)

trient- *base* third (triental)

triethyl- *comb* [chemistry] three ethyl groups (triethylamine)

triges- *base* thirty (trigesimal)

trigint- *base* thirty (trigintal)

trigono- *comb* three-cornered; triangular (trigonocephalic)

tring- *base* sandpiper (tringoid)

trinitro- *comb* [chemistry] three atoms of nitrogen (trinitroglycerin)

-trione *comb* [chemistry] three ketone groups (Indantrione)

trioxy- *comb* having 3 atoms of oxygen (trioxynaphthalene)

triplicato- *comb* triplicate (triplicato-pinnate)

-triplo- *base* threefold; triple (triploblastic)

-tripsy *comb* crushing; friction (neurotripsy)

tripud- *base* dance; exult (tripudiate)

triquadr- *base* three-fourths (triquadrantal)

triskaideka- *comb* thirteen (triskaidaphobia)

trist- *base* grief; sadness (tristful)

trit- *base* friction; threshing (triturate)

-tritic- *base* wheat (triticeous)

trito- *comb* third (tritocere)

-trix *suf* female agent (executrix)

troch-, trochi-, trocho- *comb* wheel; pulley rounded (trochlear, trochiferous, trochocardia)

- trocha** *comb* [zoology] having a band (cephalotrocha)
- trochalo-** *comb* rolling; rotary (trochalopod)
- trochil-** *base* hummingbird (trochiline)
- trocto-** *base* trout (troctolite)
- trog-** *base* to gnaw (trogonine)
- troгло-** *base* hole; cave (troglodyte)
- troglodyt-** *base* wren (troglodytine)
- tromo-** *base* earth tremor (tromometry)
- tron** *comb* names of devices used in electronic or subatomic experiments (cyclotron)
- trope, -tropic, -tropism, tropo-, -tropous, -tropy** *comb* responding to a specific stimulus; turning; changing (heliotrope, phototropic, thermotropism, trophilous, phototropous, entropy)
- troph, -trophic, tropho-, -trophы** *comb* nutrition; food; nourishment (heterotroph, autotrophic, trophoplasm, atrophy)
- trucid-** *base* kill; slaughter (trucidation)
- trude, -trus-** *base* push; thrust (protrude, intrusion)
- trutt-** *base* trout (truttaceous)
- trypano-** 1. *comb* parasite; borer (trypanosome); 2. injection (trypanophobia)
- trypet-** *base* fruitfly (Trypetidae)
- tuberculo-** 1. *comb* tuberculous (tubercular); 2. tubercle bacillus (tuberculoïd); 3. tuberculosis (tuberculocidin)
- tubi-, tubo-** *comb* tube (tubiflorous, tubotorsion)
- tubuli-, tubulo-** *comb* tubule; small tube (tubulidentate, tubulocyst)
- tude** *suf* state of being quality of being (solitude)
- tum-** *base* swelling (tumescent)
- tupai-** *base* shrew (tupaiid)
- turb-** *base* confuse; disturb (perturbation)
- turbar-** *base* peat bog (turbarian)
- turbinato-** *comb* top-shaped (turbinato-cylindrical)
- turbo-** *comb* consisting of or driven by a turbine (turbogenerator)
- turd-** *base* thrush; robin; bluebird (turdine)
- ture** *comb* action (caricature)
- turg-** *base* swelling (turgescence)
- Turko-** *comb* Turkey (Turko-Russian). *Also* **Turco-** (Turcophobia)
- turp-** *base* pollute; disgrace (turpitude)
- turri-** *base* tower (turriferous)
- turtura-** *base* turtle (turturing)
- tus-** *base* strike; bruise (contusion)
- tuss-** *base* cough (antitussive)
- twi-** *comb* double (twi-arched)
- ty¹** *suf* quality of; condition of (novelty)
- ty²** *suf* times ten; tens (sixty)
- tych-, tycho-** *comb* chance; occasional accident (tychastics, ty-chopotamic). *Also* **tich-** (dys-tichophobia)
- tyl-, tylo-** *comb* knot; knob; callus; cushion (tylosis, tylopod)
- tympano-** *comb* drum tympanum (tympanoplasty)
- type** 1. *comb* type; representative form; example (prototype); 2. stamp; printing type; print (monotype)
- typhlo-** 1. *comb* cecum; intestinal pouch (typhlostomy); 2. blindness (typhlosis)
- typho-** *comb* typhus; typhoid (typhogenic)
- typo-** *comb* type (typography)
- tyro-** *base* cheese (tyroleucin)
- tyto-** *base* owl (Tytonidae)

U

-ubi- *base* place; position; location (ubiquitous)

udo- *comb* wet; damp (udometer)

Ugro- *comb* Ugrian (Ugro-Slavonic)

-ula *suf* diminutive (fibula)

-ular *suf* having the form or character of (circular)

-ule *suf* diminutive (pustule)

-ulent *suf* full of (virulent)

-ulig- *base* full of moisture (uliginous)

ulm- *base* elm (ulmaceous)

ulno- *comb* ulna and (ulnoradial)

ulo⁻¹ *comb* scar (ulodermatitis)

ulo⁻² *comb* gums (uloglossitis)

ulo⁻³ *comb* curly; crisp (ulotrichous)

-ulose *suf* characterized by; marked by (granulose)

-ulous *suf* characterized by; full of; tending to (populous)

ultim-, ultimo- *base* final; last (ultimatum, ultimogeniture)

ultra- 1. *pre* on the further side of; beyond (ultraviolet); 2. to an extreme degree; excessive (ultra-modern); 3. beyond the range of (ultramicroscopic)

ultro- *comb* voluntary; spontaneous (ultroneous)

ulul⁻¹ *base* wail; howl (ululation)

ulul⁻² *base* owl (ululant)

-ulum *suf* diminutive (speculum)

-ulus *suf* diminutive (homunculus)

umbell-, umbelli- *base* sunshade; parasol (umbellated, umbellifer)

umbilici- *base* navel (umbiliciform)

umbo- *base* knob; nipple (umbonulate)

-umbr- *base* shadow (umbriphilous)

umbraculi- *comb* sunshade (umbraculiferous)

umbrelli- *base* umbrella (umbrelliform)

Umbro- *comb* Umbrian (Umbro-Etruscan)

un- 1. *pre* not; opposite of; lack of (unhappy); 2. back; reversal (unlock)

unci- *comb* hook (unciform)

-unct- *base* ointment; oil (unctuous)

-unda- *base* wave (exundant)

undec- *comb* eleven (undecagon)

under- 1. *pre* lower place; in/on/to; beneath; below (undershirt); 2. inferior rank/position; subordinate (undergraduate); 3. amount below standard; inadequate (underdevelop)

undeviginti- *comb* nineteen (undevigintiangular)

-undul- *base* wave (undulations)

ungu- *base* ointment; grease (unguent)

-ungui-, -ungul- *base* claw; nail (unguiform, exungulate)

uni- *comb* having one only (unicellular)

-uous *suf* of the nature of; consisting of (strenuous)

-ura- *base* tail (gastruran)

uranisco- *comb* hard palate (uraniscoplasty)

urano- 1. *comb* hard palate (uranoschisis); 2. the heavens (uranography)

uranoso- *comb* [chemistry] containing uranium (uranosopotassic)

-urb- *base* city (suburban)

urcei-, urceo- *base* urn; pitcher (urceiform, urceolate)

-ure 1. *suf* act/result of being (exposure); 2. agent of; instrument of; scope of (legislature); 3. state of being (composure)
urea-, **ureo-** *comb* urine; urea (ureapoiesis, ureometer)
uredo- *base* blight; fungus (uredo-spore)
uretero- *comb* urethra and (ureterostomy)
urethro- *comb* ureter and (urethroscopy)
-uretic *comb* urine (diuretic)
-urgy *comb* working of; fabricating (zymurgy)
uri-, **urico-** *base* uric acid (uridrosis, uricometer)
-uria *comb* diseased condition of urine (glycosuria)
-urient *suf* desiring (parturient)

urini-, **urino-** *comb* urinary tract; urine (uriniparous, urinometer)
uro-¹ *comb* tail (uropod)
uro-² *comb* urine (urolith)
-urs- *base* bear (ursine)
-urtic- *base* nettle (urticaceous)
-ury- *base* urination (strangury)
-ust- *base* burn (ustulation)
utero- *comb* uterus and (uterovaginal)
-util- *base* useful (inutile)
utrei-, **utri-**¹ *comb* leather bottle (utreiform, utriform)
utri-², **utric-** *base* sac; baglike part (utriform, utricular)
-uvi-, **-uvu-** *base* grape (uviform, uvula)
uvulo- *comb* uvula (uvulectomy)
uxori- *base* wife (uxoricide)

V

-vac-, **-vacu-** *base* empty; free (vacancy, vacuity)
vacci- *comb* cow (vaccinulgence)
vaccin- *base* blueberry (vaccinium)
vaccino- *comb* vaccine (vaccinophobias)
-vacil- *base* sway (vacillation)
-vad-, **-vas-** *base* rush; go (invade, invasion)
-vag-, **-vagr-** *base* wander (vagary, vagrant)
vagini-, **vagino-** *comb* sheath; vagina and (vaginipennous, vaginotomy)
vago- *comb* vagus nerve (vagotropic)
vagu- *base* uncertain (vagueness)
vale- *base* farewell (valediction)
valetud- *base* ill (valetudinary)

-valent 1. *comb* having a specified valence (monovalent); 2. specified number of valences (univalent); 3. having antibodies (multivalent)
vall- *base* wall (vallation)
valvi- *comb* valve; opening (valviform)
valvulo- *comb* valve, esp. of the heart (valvulotomy)
vapo-, **vapori-** *comb* emanation; vapor (vapography, vaporimeter)
-vapul- *base* beat; flog (vapulatory)
vari- *comb* changed; diverse (invariable)
varic-, **varici-**, **varico-** *base* enlarged vein (varication, variciform, varicocele)
-variol- *base* spotted; speckled (varioid)

vasculo- *comb* blood vessel (vasculitis)

vasi- *comb* vessel; tube (vasifactive)

vaso- 1. *comb* blood vessels (vasoconstrictor); 2. vas deferens (vasectomy); 3. vasomotor (vasoinhibitor)

-vast- *base* destroy (devastation)

vati- *comb* prophet (vaticide)

-vect- *base* carry (provect)

vegeti-, vegeto- *comb* vegetable; plant (vegetivorous, vegeto-alkaline)

vel-, veli- *comb* cover; veil; sail (velated, veliferous)

-velar *comb* soft palate (labiovelar)

velit- *base* skirmish; dispute (velitation)

vell- *base* wish; desire (velleity)

-vellic- *base* pluck; twitch; nip (vellicative)

veloci- *base* speed (velocimeter)

-velut- *base* velvet (velutinous)

-ven- *base* come (convention)

-venat- *base* hunt (venatorial)

vene- *comb* vein (venesection)

-venefic- *base* sorcery; witchcraft (veneficious)

veneno- *comb* poison (veneno-salivary)

-vener-¹ *base* sexual desire; Venus (venereal)

-vener-², -venerat- *base* worship (venerable, veneration)

veni-, veno-, venoso-, -venous *comb* veins (venipuncture, venotomy, venoso-reticulated, intra-venous)

-vent- *base* wind; air (ventilation)

ventri-, ventro- 1. *comb* abdomen; belly (ventricumbent); 2. ventral and (ventrodorsal)

ventricos- *comb* distended abdomen (ventricoso-globose)

ventriculo- *comb* ventricle (ventriculoatrial)

-ver- *base* truth (verification)

-verber- *base* beat (reverberate)

verbi-, verbo- *comb* word; talk (verbification, verbotomy)

-verd- *base* green (verdant)

verecund- *base* shame; modesty (verecund)

-verge *comb* turn; bend (converge).

See -vers-

vergi- *comb* rod-like (vergiform).

See -virgul-

vermi- *comb* worm (vermicide)

vermin- *comb* vermin (verminous)

vermivor- *base* warbler (Vermivora); worm-eating (vermivorous)

-vern- *base* spring (vernal)

verrucci- *comb* wart; growth (verruciform)

vers-, -verse, vert- *comb* turn; direct (reversal, transverse, revert).

See -verge

vertebro- *comb* vertebra (vertebroiliac)

vertig- *base* dizziness (vertiginous)

-verv- *base* sheep (vervecine)

vesica- *comb* blister (vesicatory)

vesico- 1. *comb* bladder (vesicotomy); 2. bladder and (vesicoprostatic)

vesiculi-, vesiculo- *comb* vesicle; bladder-like vessel (vesiculigerous, vesiculo-pustular)

-vesper- *base* evening (vespertilionine)

-vespertil- *base* bat; vampire (vespertilionine)

vespi- *comb* wasp; hornet (vespiform)

vest- *comb* clothing (divest)

vestibulo- *comb* vestibule; small cavity (vestibulocochlear)

-vet- *base* old; experienced (veteran)

vex- *base* bother; irritate (vexatious)
vexill- *comb* flag; banner (vexillology)
vi-, via- *comb* journey; way (multivious, viaduct)
vibro- *comb* vibration; shaking (vibrograph)
vice- *comb* deputy; assistant (vice-chancellor)
-vicesim- *base* twentieth (vicesimal)
vicin- *base* neighborhood; proximity (vicinage)
-vid-, -vis- *base* see (video, invisible)
video- *comb* televised (videoconference)
vidu- *base* widowed; destitute (viduated)
-viges- *base* twenty (vigesimal)
vigil- *base* watchful (vigilant)
viginti- *comb* twenty (vigintiangular)
-vili- *base* worthless; base (viliorate)
vill- *base* shaggy (villose)
villos- *comb* covered with hairlike material (villos-scabrous). *See* piloso-
vimin- *base* wicker (vimineous)
-vinc- *base* conquer; bind (invincible)
vini-, vino- *comb* wine; grapes (viniculture, vinometer). *See* viti-
viol- *base* violet (violaceous)
viper- *base* snake (viperoous)
vir- *base* green (virescence)
virgul- *base* rod; twig (virgulate)
-virid- *base* green (viridescent)
-viridae *comb* virus family (Picornaviridae)
-viril- *base* masculine (virility)
-virinae *comb* virus subfamily (Spumavirinae)
-virus *comb* virus genus (Flavivirus)
-vis-, -vid- *base* look; see (invisible)
-visaged *comb* having a specific kind of face (round-visaged)

visc-, visco- *base* sticky; thick (viscous, viscometer)
viscero- *comb* viscera (visceroptosis)
visuo- *comb* sight (visuo-auditory)
-vit- *base* alive (vitality). *See* vivi-
vitelli-, vitello- *comb* yolk; germinative contents (vitelligerous, vitellogenous)
viti- *comb* vine (viticulture)
vitia- *base* corrupt (vitiated)
vitreo-, vitri-, vitro- *comb* glass; glassy (vitreodentin, vitriform, vitrotype)
vitric- *base* stepfather (vitricophobia)
vitriolico- *comb* vitriol (vitriolico-muriated)
-vitul- *base* calf (vituline)
vituper- *base* blame; revile (vituperative)
viverr- *base* civet; ferret; mongoose (viverrine)
vivi- *comb* living; alive (viviparous)
voc-, voci-, -voke *comb* say; speak (invocation, vociferous, revoke)
vocif- *base* shout (vociferate)
-vol- *base* wish; will (involuntary)
volta- *comb* [electricity] voltaic (volta-electric)
volucr- *base* bird (volucrine)
volupt- *base* pleasure (voluptuary)
-volut-, -volv- *base* turn (revolution, revolve)
vomic- *base* abscess (vomicose)
-vora-, -vore-, -vorous *comb* feeding on; eating (Carnivora, herbivore, omnivorous)
-vorag- *base* chasm; whirlpool (voraginous)
vortici- *comb* whirling motion; vortex (vorticiform)
vulcan- *comb* volcanoes (vulcanology)
-vulg- *base* common; the public (divulge)

-vuln- *base* wound (invulnerable)
vulpi- *base* fox (vulpicide)
vult- *base* likeness; visage (invultuation)

vultur- *base* vulture (vulturine)
vulvi-, vulvo- 1. *comb* vulva (vulvi-form); 2. vulva and (vulvovaginal)

W

-ward *suf* having a specified direction (westward)
-ways *suf* in a specified direction, manner, or position (sideways)
-wheeler *comb* having a specified kind or number of wheels (eighteen-wheeler)
-wide *comb* throughout a given space (worldwide)
-wife *comb* traditional female role (midwife)
-wise 1. *suf* in a specified direction, manner, or position (sidewise);

2. characteristic manner (clockwise); 3. with regard to; in connection with (weatherwise)
with- 1. *comb* away; back (withdraw); 2. against; from (withhold)
-witted *comb* having a specified kind of intelligence (quick-witted)
-woman *comb* female (congress-woman)
-worthy *comb* deserving of; fit for (newsworthy)

X

xantho- *comb* yellow (xanthoderma)
-xen- *base* host (metoxeny)
xenarth- *base* sloth (xenarthral)
xeno- *comb* stranger; foreigner (xenophobia)
xero- *comb* dry (xerophyte)
xest- *base* polish (xesturgy)

xilin- *base* cotton (xilinous)
xiph(i)-, xipho- *comb* swordlike; xiphoid process; swordfish (xiphoid, xyphophyllous)
xylo-, -xylous *comb* wood (xylograph, epixylous)
xyr- *base* sharp-edged; razorlike (xyridaceous)

Y

-y¹ 1. *suf* characterized by; full of (healthy); 2. somewhat; rather (chilly); 3. tending to; inclined (drowsy); 4. suggestive of; somewhat like (wavy)

-y² 1. *suf* condition of; quality (jealousy); 2. action of (inquiry)
-y³ *suf* diminutives; terms of endearment; nicknames (Billy)

-yer *suf* person concerned with (lawyer)
yester- *comb* previous time (yesterday)
-yl *suf* [chemistry] names of radicals (butyl)
-ylene *suf* [chemistry] bivalent hydrocarbon radical; possessing a double bond (piperylene)

ylo- *see* **hylo-**
yocto- *comb* heptillionth (yoctogram)
yotta- *comb* heptillion (yottameter)
-ysis *suf* action; process (electrolysis)
yttr- *comb* yttrium (yttrocerite)

Z

za- *pre* intensifier (zalambdodont)
zebr- *base* zebra (zebrine)
zelo- *base* zeal; emulation (zelotypia)
zemni- *base* mole rat (zemniphobia)
-zephyr- *base* west wind (zephyranth)
zepto- *comb* hexillionth (zeptovolt)
zetta- *comb* hexillion (zettabyte)
-zeug-, -zeux- *base* yoke (zeuglondont, zeuxite)
zibel- *base* sable (zibeline)
zinco- *comb* zinc as an element in specific double compounds (zincolysis)
-zingiber- *base* ginger (zingiberaceous)
zirconio- *comb* zirconium (zirconioflouride)
-zo- *base* animal (zoanthropy)
-zoa, -zoon *comb* [zoology] name of group (protozoa, protozoon)

-zoic 1. *suf* relating to animal life (celozoic); 2. relating to geologic ages (Mesozoic)
zon-, zoni- *comb* girdle; band; encircling structure (zonesthesia, zonifugal)
zono- *comb* zone (zonochlorite)
zoo- 1. *comb* animal; animal body (zoology); 2. zoology and (zoochemical)
-zooid *comb* distinct animal (Antherozoid)
zoster- *base* girdle; band; belt (zosterops)
zyga-, zygo- *comb* yoke; pair; articulation (zygapophysis, zygodactyl)
zygomatiko-, zygomato- *comb* [anatomy] related to the zygoma (zygomatiko-auricular, zygomatotemporal)
zym-, zymo- *comb* fermentation; enzymes; yeast (zymurgy, zymophoric)

PART II
Finder
(Reverse Dictionary)

A

aardvark *base* -edent-

abandon *base* relinq-

abbreviated *comb* brachisto-,

brachy-, brevi-, micro-, mini-,
parvi-, parvo-, steno-; *base* -cort-,
-curt-; *suf* -cle-, -cula-, -cule-,
-culum-, -culus-, -een-, -el-, -ella-,
-en-, -et-, -ette-, -idion-, -idium-, -ie-,
-illa-, -illo-, -isk-, -le-, -let-, -ling-,
-ock-, -ola-, -ole-, -rel-, -ula-, -ule-,
-ulum-, -ulus-, -y

abdomen *comb* abdomino-, celio-,

celo¹-, coelo-, laparo-, ventri-,
ventro-; **distended~**: ventricos-

abdominal sac *comb* peritoneo-

abet *base* auxil-, jut-, juv-

abhorrence *comb* miso-, -phobe-,

-phobia-, -phobic; *base* -invid-,
-ira(sc)-, odi-

ability *base* -apt⁻²-, -habil-, -poten-,

-qual-; *suf* -bility-, -ful-, -ship

able to *comb* -potent; *suf* -able-,

-ible-, -ile; **in an ~way**: -bly

abnormal *comb* anom(o)-, poecilo-,

poikilo-; **~attraction**: *comb*

-lagnia-, -philia-, -philiac; **~condi-**

tion: *pre* para-; *suf* -ism-, -osis-,

-otic; **~discharge**: *comb* -(r)rhage-,

-(r)rhagy-, -(r)rhagia; **~enlarge-**

ment: *comb* megalo-, -megaly;

~smallness: *comb* micro-

abode *comb* -cole-, -colent-, -colous-,

eco-, oiko-; *base* -aed-, -dom-,

-edi-

abolish *base* fin-, perd-, termin-,

vast-; *suf* -ate⁻⁴

about *pre* be-, circum-, peri-; *comb*

amphi-; *base* -zon-, -cing-, -cinct-

above *pre* ano⁻¹-, epi-, hyper-, ob-,

super-, supra-, sur-, ultra-; *comb*

over-, poly-

abscess *base* apostem-, vomit-

abscond *base* drapeto-, phygo-

absence *pre* a-, an-, dis-, ex-, il-,

im-, in-, ir-, un-; *comb* lipo-; *base*

-priv-; *suf* -less; **~of an opening**:

comb -atresia, atreto-; **~of a part**:

comb ectro-

absorb *comb* -sorb; *base* bib-

absurd *base* fatu-, inan-, moro-,

stult-

abundance *base* ampl-, copi-, larg-

abusive *comb* noci-, pesti-; *base*

-nox-, pericul-

abyss *comb* batho-, bathy-; *base*

-byss-

accept *base* -cap-, -cep-, -cip-,

-dyte-

accessory *pre* co-, para⁻²-, syn; *comb*

inter-

accidents *base* -tich-, -tych(o)-

accumulation *comb* cumulo-; *base*

acerv-, -sor-

accurate *comb* ortho-, recti-

acetic *comb* acet-

acetyl *comb* aceto-, acetyl-

acid *comb* ortho-, oxy¹-, -base

-acerb-, -oxal-

acorn *comb* balani-, balano-; *base*

-gland-

acquire *base* -cap-, -cep-, -cip-,

-dyte-

acid *comb* picro-; *base* -acerb-,

-mord-

acrimonious *base* acerb-, mord-

across *pre* dia-, per-, trans-; *comb*

transverso-

act (to) *base* -fac-, -fec-, -fic-; *suf*

-age-, -ate-, -ize

act of *comb* -craft; *suf* -ade-, -age-,

-al-, -ance-, -ancy-, -asis-, -asm-,

-ation-, -cy-, -ence-, -ency-, -ery-,

-esis-, -iasis-, -ice¹-, -ics-, -ing-, -ion-,

-ism-, -ment-, -osis-, -otic-, -sion-,

- sis, -th, -tion, -tious, -ture, -ure, -y², -ysis
- actinic rays** *comb* actino-
- activity** *comb* -ergasia, ergasio-, -ergic, ergo-, -ergy, -orial, -pragia, -praxia, -praxis; *suf* -esce, -escence, -escent, -esis; **quality of~**: *comb* -pragia
- actor** *base* histrion-, thesp-
- actual** *base* ver-
- acute** *comb* oxy-¹; *base* acer-, -grav-, vehem-
- adamant** *base* contum-, obstin-, pervic-, proterv-
- adder** *base* colub-
- addicted to** *comb* -aholic
- addition** *pre* a-, ac-, ad-, af-, ag-, al-, an-, ap-, ar-, as-, at-, extra-, super-. *See more*
- adherent** *suf* -ist, ite
- adjacent** *base* contig-, -tang-, vicin-. *See near*
- adjusted** *base* concinn-
- admirable** *pre* bene-, eu-; *base* agath-, bon-, prob-
- adrenal gland** *comb* adren(o)-
- adroit** *base* agil-, facil-, ingen-
- adulterated** *base* kibdelo-
- advance** *pre* pro-; *base* ced-, cess-
- adversarial** *base* hostile-, inimic-
- affected with** *suf* -otic
- affecting** *comb* -tropic
- affection** *base* -storgy
- affinity** *comb* -trope. *See attracted*
- affluence** *comb* chryso-, pluto-; *base* chrem-, -opul-, pecun-
- afraid** *base* pavid-, tim-, trepid-. *See fear*
- African** *comb* Afro-
- after** *pre* meta-, post-; *comb* hystero-, opistho-, postero-, retro-
- aftereffect** *suf* -age, -asm, -ata, -ation, -ency, -ism, -ma, -ment, -mony, -sion, -ure
- afternoon** *base* pomerid-
- again** *pre* ana-, re-; *base* -pali(n)-
- against** *pre* anti-, cata-, cath-, contra-, contre-, ob-, with-; *comb* antio-, counter-, enantio-
- agate** *base* agati-
- age** *pre* eo-; *comb* chrono-; *base* -temp-; *suf* -arian. *See old*
- agent** *suf* -ant, -ate³, -ator, -ent, -ure
- agitate** *base* agit-, mov-, trepid-, turb-
- agouti** *base* dasyproct-
- agree(ment)** *pre* co-; *base* concinn-, congru-, consil-, unanim-
- aid** *base* -auxil-, -jut-, -juv-
- ailment** *pre* dys-, mal-; *comb* noso-, path-, -pathic, patho-, -pathy; *base* aegr-, cachex-, -morb-, -pecca-, valetud-
- air** *comb* aer-, aeri-, aero-, anemo-, atmo-, physo-, -pnea, pneo-, pneumato-, pneumo-, pneu-mono-; *base* -flat-, -vent-
- albatross** *base* diomed-, -procellar-
- alcohol** *suf* -ol
- aldehydes** *suf* -al, -ole
- alike** *pre* co-; *comb* equi-, homo-, iso-, pari-, tauto-
- alive** *comb* bio-, -biosis, quick-, vivi-, -zoic, zoo-, -zoid; *base* -anim-, vita-
- alkaline** *base* lixiv-
- alkaloid names** *suf* -ia; ~**with nitrogen bases**: -ine
- all** *pre* be-, cata-, cath-, de-, kata-, ob-, per-; *comb* holo-, omni-, pan-¹, panto-, pasi-, toti-
- alligator** *base* -eusuch-
- allow** *base* conced-, concess-
- allure** *base* lenocin-
- almond** *comb* amygdal(o)-
- almost** *comb* pene-
- alone** *pre* mono-; *comb* eremo-, soli-, uni-
- alteration** *pre* meta-, trans-; *comb*

-plasia, -plasis, -tropic; *base* -mut-, -vari-, -vert-. *See change*

altitude *comb* acro-, alti-, alto-, bato-, hypsi-, hypso-; *base* procer-

aluminum *comb* alumino-

alveolus *comb* alveolo-

always *comb* ever-; *base* aei-, etern-, semper-

amber *comb* succino-

ambiguous *base* ambig-, ancip-, dub-, pariso-

amend *pre* be-, em-, en-, meta-, trans-; *comb* aetio-, -blast, -blastic, -blasto-, -craft, ergo-, etio-, -facient, -fic, -fication, -gen, -genesis, -genic, -genous, -geny, -parous, -plasia, -plasis, -plasmo-, -plast, -plastic, -plasto-, -plasty, -poiesis, -poietic, -trope, -tropic, -tropism, -tropo-, -tropous, -tropy, -urgy; *base* camb-, -fabr-, -fec-, -mut-, -vari-, -vert-; *suf* -ate, en, -fy, -ize, -otic

amide *comb* -amic²; *~radical*: amido-

ammonia *comb* ammonio-, ammono-

amnesia *base* amensi-, amnesi-

amniotic sac *comb* amnio-

among *pre* dia-, epi-; *comb* enter-, inter-

amount *comb* quanti-; *suf* -age, -ful, -ling

ample *base* ocho-²

amplify *pre* ad-, extra-, hyper-, super-; *comb* auxano-, auxo-, multi-, myria-, myrio-, out-, over-, -plasia, -pleni-, -pleo-, -pleio-, -pleon-, -plethys-, -plio-, -pluri-, -polaki-, -poly-; *base* ampl-, -aug-, -cresc-, -dilat-, -fold-, -pler-, -plet-

anal *comb* ano-², podic-

ancestors *comb* patroio-

anchor *base* ancry-

anchovy *base* -engraul-

ancient *comb* archaeo-, archeo-, palaeo-, paleo-, proto-; *base* -antiq-, prisc-, -vet-

anesthetic *comb* -caine

anew *pre* ana-, re-; *base* -palin-

angelfish *base* pterophyll-

anger *base* chol-, -invid-, -ira-, -margy

angle *comb* -angle, -gon, -gonal, -gonio-; *base* -angul-

anguish *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-, fleb-, flet-, luct-, trist-

animal *comb* therio-, thero-, zoo-, -zoid; *base* -fer-, zo-; *~classes*: *suf* -acea; *early ~form*: *comb* larvi-; *~group name*: *suf* -id¹, -ida, -idae, -iformes, -zoa, -zoic, -zoon; *wild~*: fer-. *Also see* "Animals" in Part III

animation *comb* bio-, -biosis, vita-, vivi-, zoo-, -zoic, -zoid; *base* -anim-

ankle (bone) *comb* astragalo-, tali-, talo-

annoy *base* vex-

another *comb* allelo-, allo-, alter-, hetero-; *base* -ali-²

answer *base* apocris-. *See say*

ant *comb* myrmec-, myrmeco-, myrmic-; *base* -formic-

anteater *base* myrmecophag-

antelope *base* -alcelaph-, -bubal-

anterior *pre* fore-; *comb* antero-, proso-

antibiotic *comb* -mycin

antibodies, having *comb* -valent

antimony *comb* stibio-

antrum *comb* antro-

any *__ of those possible* *comb* -soever

apart *pre* de-, des-, di-², dia-, dis-, for-, se-; *comb* chori-, choristo-, dialy-

ape *comb* pithec-, -pithecus; *base* -sim-

aperture *base* -pylo-. *See* **hole**

apex *comb* -apical, apico-

apparel *base* habil-, hesto-, -vest-

apparent *comb* lampro, luc-, luci-; *base* -clar-

apparition *base* phantas-, phasm-

appearance *comb* -phane, phanero-, -phanic, -phany, pheno-; *base* -schem-, -spec-, -spic-

appease *base* -plac-

appetite *comb* -orexia, -sitia, sitio-, sito-; *base* esur-

apple *base* mali-, pomi-

approximately *suf* -ish

arched *comb* arc-, cyrto-; *base* -fornic-

archery *comb* toxo-²

ardor *base* ard-, alacr-, -ferv-, zelo-

arduous *pre* dys-; *comb* -bar, bary-, mogi-; *base* ardu-, stren-

argument *comb* -machy; *base* litig-, pugil-, -pugn-, -rix-

arid *comb* carpho-, xero-; *base* arid-, -celo-, -sicc-

arm **limb:** *comb* acromio-, brachio-

armadillo *base* dasypod-, -tolypeut-

armor *comb* hoplo-

armpit *base* -axill-

aroma *comb* brom(o)-, odori-, odor-, olfacto-, -osmia, osmo-, osphresio-, ozo-, ozono-

around *pre* be-, circum-, peri-; *comb* ambi-, ambo-, amphi-; *base* -cing-, -cinct-, -zon-

arouse *comb* agito-; *base* -cit-

arrange(ment) *comb* -tactic, -tactous, -taxis, taxo-, -taxy; *base* -pos-, -struct-; *suf* -ate

arrest **stop:** *comb* stasi-, -stasis, -stat, stato-

arrow *base* belo-, -sagitt-

arsenic *comb* arseno-

art *comb* craft-, -ship, techno-, -techny

artery *comb* arterio-, -venous

articulation *comb* zyga-, zygo-

as if *comb* pseudo-, quasi-

ash tree *base* -frax(in)-, -melia-²; **mountain~:** sorb-²

ashes *comb* ciner-, pulver-, spodo-, tephro-; *base* favill-

ask *base* -pet-, -quir-, -quis-, -rog-

ass *base* as-, ono-

assemblage *suf* -ad-, -age, -ery, -hood, -ship

assemble *base* -fabr-, -fac-, -fec-, -fic-, -struct-

assist *base* -auxil-, -jut-, -juv-

assistance *base* -(ad)jut-, -(ad)juv-, auxil-

assumption *comb* -lemma¹

astragalus *comb* astragalo-, talo-

astringent *base* stypt-

at *pre* ad-, juxta-; **~the same time:** *pre* co-, syn-; *comb* -simul-

atlas **map:** *comb* carto-; **vertebra:** *comb* atlanto-, atlo-

atmosphere *comb* -bar, baro-

atrophy *base* -tabe-

attack **fight:** *base* -pugil-, -pugn-; **seizure:** *comb* -agra-, -lepsia, -lepis, -lepsy, -leptic

attempt *base* conat-, peir-

attend to *comb* -serve

attracted to *comb* -phile, -philia, -philiac, -philic, -philism, philo-, -philous, -trope, -tropic, -tropism, -tropous, -tropy; *base* -uri-

augmented *pre* ad-, extra-, hyper-, super-; *comb* auxano-, auxo-, multi-, myria-, myrio-, out-, over-, -plasia, pleni-, pleo-, pleio-, pleon-, plethys-, plio-, pluri-, pol-laki-, poly-; *base* ampl-, -aug-, -cresc-, dilat-, -fold-, pler-, -plet-

auk *base* alcid-

aunt *base* -amita-, -matertera-
auricle *comb* atrio-
authority *comb* exousia-; *base*
 imper-, magist-
authorized *comb* cyrio-, kyrio-
automobile *comb* amaxo-, -mobile;
base harmat-, -ocho-
avarice *base* avar-, avid-, cup(id)-,
 edac-, gulos-, pleonec-, pleonex-
avocado *base* pers-

avoid *base* avers-, drapeto-, fug-,
 phygo-
away (from) *pre* ab-, abs-, apo-, be-,
 de-, des-, di-², dia-, dif-, dis-, e-,
 ec-, ef-, ex-, for-, off-¹, se, with-;
comb ectro-
awl *base* subul-
ax *base* axin-, dolabri-, securi-,
 pelec-
axis *comb* axi-, axio-¹, axo-

B

bacillus *comb* bacill-, bacilli-, bacillo-
back *pre* ana-, re-, un-, with-; *comb*
 retro-; *the~*: *comb* back-, dorsi-,
 dorso-, nota-, noto-; *base* -terg-
backbone *comb* rachi-, rachio-,
 rhach-, rhachio-
backward *comb* opiso-, retro-
bacteria *comb* bacter-, bacteri-, bac-
 terio-, coccal-, -coccic, cocco-,
 coccoid-, -coccus, mycin; *base* -ella
badger *base* -melin-, -mustel-
bad(ly) *pre* dys-, mis-; *comb* caco-,
 -iniq-, kak-, kako-, mal-, male-,
 perv-, ponero-, -prav-, -turp-,
 vitia-
bag(like) *comb* angio-, asco-, bursi-,
 burso-, ceco-, chlamyd-, chrysali-,
 coleo-, cyst, -cyst, cysti-, cysto-,
 follic-, pericardiaco-, pericardio-,
 peritoneo-, phasco- physa-,
 physali, physo-, -theca, theco-,
 typhlo-, utri-², utric-, vesico-; *base*
 -sacc-, -thylac-
balance *comb* counter-, libra-,
 pariso-, stasi-, -stasis, stat, stato-
bald *base* -calv-, glabr-, -pelad-,
 -phalacr-
ball-shaped *comb* globi-, globo-,
 -sphere, sphero-; *base* -glom-. *See*
 circle

ballot *base* tabell-, suffrag-
ban *pre* anti-; *base* imped-, prohib-
banana *base* musa-
band *comb* desmo-, syndesmo-,
 taeni-, teni-, -trocha, zon-, zoni-;
base -lemnisc-, liga-, zoster-; *suf*
 -let
bang *comb* plessi-, -cuss-; *base*
 -cop-, -crot-, plang-, -puls-, -tus-,
 -vapul-, -verber-
banner *comb* labar-, vexill-
bar *base* clathr-, -ser-
barbed *base* hamat-
barber *base* tonsor-
bare *comb* gymno-, nudi-, psilo-.
See bald
bark *dog*: *base* hylac-, latr-; *tree*:
base cortici-, phloem-
barley *comb* alphito-; *base* crith-,
 horde-, ptis-
barracuda *base* -perces-, sphyaen-
barrel *base* dolio
barrier *comb* herco-, septo-, pari-
 eto-, -phragma, phragmo-; *base*
 cancell-, claustr-, -mur-
base *foundation*: *comb* basi-, basio-,
 baso-, fund-; *base* -radic-; *evil*:
pre dys-, mis-; *comb* caco-, iniq-,
 kak(o)-, mal(e)-, ponero-; *base*
 -prav-, sceler-, turp-

basic *base* prim-, -rud-; [chemistry] *pre* sub-

basin (*shaped*) *comb* cylico-, kylixo-, lecano-, pelvi-

basket *base* calath-, -corb-

bat *base* desmodont-, megacheirop-ter-, microcheirop-ter-, noctilion-, -pterop-, -vespertil-

bath(ing) *comb* balneo-; *base* -ablut-, -lav-

battle *comb* macho-, -machy; *base* -bell-, -pugil-, -pugn-

beach *base* littor-, thino-; *See* sand

beak *comb* coraco-, rhampho-, rhyncho-, rostrato-, rostri-, rostro-, -rrhyncha; *base* -aquil-. *See* nose

beam *base* trab-

bean *base* cyam-, fab-, phaseol-

bear *animal: comb* arcto-; *base* -urs-; *carry: comb* -fer-, -ferous, -gerous, -parous, -pher, -phore, -phorous; *base* -port-, -vect-

beard *comb* pogon(o)-; *base* -barba-

bearing *comb* -fer-, -ferous, -gerous, -parous, -pher, phor-, -phore, -phorous; *base* -port-

beast *comb* -there, therio-, thero-; *base* fer-

beat *comb* -cuss-, plessi-, rhabdo-; *base* -cop-, -crot-, fustig-, plang-, puls-, quass-, vapul-, -verber-

beautiful *comb* calli-, callo-; *base* kal-, pulchr-

beaver *base* -castor-

become *suf* -ate¹, -en, -fy; *~like: -ize*

becoming *suf* -esce-, -escence, -escent

bed *base* clin-

bee *comb* api(o)-, melisso-; *base* -bomb-; *~hive: -alve-*

beech *base* faga-

beer *base* cervis-

beetle *base* coleopter-, scarab-

before *pre* ante-, fore-, ob-, pre-, pro-²; *comb* antero-, protero-, proto-, retro-; *base* prior-

beggar *comb* ptocho-; *base* mendic-

begin(ning) *comb* -phyletic, spermato-; *base* incip-, -init-; *suf* -esce-, -escence, -escent. *See* origin

behavior *comb* etho-; *base* hexi-

behind *pre* meta-, post-; *comb* after-, back-, hind-, opistho, postero, retro-; *base* terg-

being *comb* onto-; *base* -esse-

belch *base* -ruct-

belief *comb* -ousia; *base* -cred-, -fid-¹; *suf* -ism

believer *suf* -ist, -ite

believing in *suf* -an

bell *base* campan-, -tintinn-

belligerence *base* chol-, -invid-, -ira-, -margy

bellow *base* -mug-

belly *comb* abdomino-, celio-, celo-, coelo-, laparo-, ventri-, ventro-; *base* -alv-. *See* stomach

belonging to *suf* -acean-, -aceous, -ad-, al³, -an³, -ar, -arious, -ary, -atic, -ative, -atory, -eae, -ean, -eous, -ery, -etic, -ial, -ian, -ic, -id¹, -il, -ile, -ina, -inae, -ine, -ing, -ious, -istic, -ite, -itic, -itious, -itive, -ive, -oidea, -ory, -otic, -tious, -tive, -ular. *See* characteristic of

below *pre* hypo-, infra-, sub-, subter-; *comb* infero-, under-

bend, bent *comb* ancylo-, ankylo-, -campsis, campto-, campylo-, -clinal, -clinate, -cline, -clinic, clino-, -clinous, -clisis, curvi, cyrto-, -flect, flex-, flexuouso-, lechrio-, loxo-, recurvo-, repando-, scolio-, -tort-, -verge; *base* -clit-, cliv- -sinu-

benefit *base* -auxil-, -jut-, -juv-

benzine *pre* meta-; *comb* benzo-, phen-

bereavement *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-, fleb-, flet-, luct-, trist-

berry *comb* baccato-, bacci-, cocci-; *base* -acin-

beside *pre* a-, ac-, ad-, af-, ag-, al-, an-, ap-, ar-, as-, at-, by-, epi-, para-², peri-; *comb* juxta-, citra-, pene-, proximo-

besides *pre* extra-

best *comb* aristo-; *base* -opt-²

bestow *base* -don-

better *comb* melior-, out-

between *pre* dia-, epi-; *comb* enter-, inter-

beyond *pre* ex-, extra-, meta-, para-², preter-, super-, supra-, sur-, ultra-; *comb* over-

Bible *comb* biblio-

big *base* grand-, magn-. *See* large

bile *comb* bili-, chole-, cholo-, gall-

billion *comb* giga-. *Also see* "Numbers" in Part III

billionth *comb* nanno-, nano-

bind *comb* sphingo-, -strain, -strict, syndesmo-; *base* liga-, -merinth-, nex-, -string-, -vinc-

bipartite *comb* diphy-. *See* two

birch *base* betul-

bird *comb* orneo-, orni-, ornitho-, orno-; *base* -avi-, grall-, musci-cap-, oscin-, passer-, pendulin-, volucr-

birth *comb* -genic, -natal, -para-, -tocia-, -toky; *base* geneth-, -nasc-, -partur-; *~day*: geneth-

birthmark *comb* nevi-, nevo-

bishop *base* episcop-

biting *comb* aceto-, keto-, oxal-, oxy-; *base* -acid-, -mord-

bitter *comb* picro-; *base* -acerb-, asper-, -mord-

bittern *base* botaur-, ixobrych

black *comb* atro-, melano-, piceo;

base -ebon-, fulig-, -nigr-. *Also see* "Colors" in Part III

black widow *base* latroduct-

blackbird *base* -icter-, merul-

bladder *comb* asco-, burs-, bursi-, burso-, ceco-, cyst-, -cyst, cysti-, cysto-, follic-, physa-, physali-, physo-, typhlo-, utri-, utric-, vesico-, vesiculi-, vesiculo-; *base* -sacc-, -thylac-

blame *base* culp-, reprehend-, -vituper-

blanket *base* -lodic-

blend *pre* co-; *comb* conjugato-, -ergasia, gameto-, gamo-, hapto-, junct-; *base* aps-, apt-, -greg-, -soc-; *suf* -ate-, -ize

blight *comb* fungi-, -mycete,

myceto-, -mycin, myco-, uredo-

blind *comb* caeco-, ceco-, typhlo-; *base* -lusc-

blink *base* -conniv-, -nict-

blister *comb* phlyc-, vesica-, vesico-, vesiculo-; *base* pustul-

blood *comb* haema-, haemo-, hema-, hemato-, hemo-, sangui-, sanguineo-, sanguino-; *base* cruent-, cruor-; *~clot*: thrombo-; *~condition or disease*: -aemia, cythemia, -emia; *~fluid*: lympho-; *~vessels*: hemangio-, vasculo-, vaso-

blooming *comb* thalero-; *base* flor-, vig-

blow *wind*: *base* anemo-, flat-, vent-; *punch*: *comb* plessi-; *base* cop-, -crot-, -cuss-, -plang-, puls-, -tus-, vapul-, -verber-

blue *comb* cyano-, glauco-; *base* adular-, aerug-, -azur-, -caes-, -cerul-, -lazul-, -livid-, -pavon-. *Also see* "Colors" in Part III

blueberry *base* vaccin-

bluebird *base* sial-², -turd-

blunder *base* culp-, delinq-, laps-, pecc-, sphal-

blunt *comb* obtusi-; *base* hebet-
boar *base* suid-
boasting *base* kompo-, thras-
boat (-shaped) *comb* navi-, scapho-,
 scapulo-; *base* -cymb-
bobolink *base* -icter-
body *comb* physico-, physi-,
 physio-, somato-, -some!; *base*
 -corp-; **Lead~**: *comb* necro-; *base*
 -cadav-; **~defect**: *base* -hamart-;
~odor: brom-, ozostom-; **~organ**
part: *suf* -ite
bog *base* telmat; **peat~**: *base* turbar-
boil (up) *base* aestu-, -coct-, ferv-
bold *base* audac-, feroc-
bolt *base* gomph-, pessul-, -ser-
bond *comb* desmo-, ligamenti-, lig-
 amento-, syndesmo-; *base* -caten-,
 -vinc-; **double~**: *suf* -ylene
bone *comb* ossi-, osseo-, osteo-;
forearm~: ulno-; **~joining hip-**
bones: sacro-; **~membrane**: pe-
 riosteo-; **frontal~**: fronto-; **bony**
process: *comb* stylo-
book *comb* biblio-; *base* -libr-;
~size: *suf* -mo-; **~worm**: tine-
border *base* fimbr-, -marg-,
 propinq-, prox-, termin-. See
 near
born *comb* -genic-, -natal-, -para-,
 -tocia-, -toky-; *base* geneth-, -nasc-,
 partur-; **~in**: *suf* -an
boron *comb* boro-
both *comb* ambi-, ambo-; **~sides**:
 amphi-, amphi-, bi-
bother *base* vex-
bottle *base* ampull-, lagen-;
leather~: utrei-, utri-
bottom *pre* sub-; *comb* basi-, fund-;
base -radic-
boundary *comb* orismo-; *base* fin-,
 termin-
bowl *comb* crater-, cylico-, kylixo-
box *comb* pyx-; **~tree**: *base* bux-
boy *base* puer-

bragging *base* kompo-, thras-
brain *comb* cephal-, cerebri-, cere-
 bro-, encephalo-
brambles *comb* bato-²
bran *base* furfur-, pityr-
branch *comb* clado-, rami-
brass *comb* chalc-; *base* -aenio-
brave *base* audac-, feroc-
brazen *base* contum-, impud-, pro-
 cac-
bread *base* arto-, pan-²
breakfast *base* -jent-
break(ing) *comb* -clasia-, -clasis,
 -clastic-, -rhegma-, -(r)rhexis; *base*
 agmat-, -fract-, -frag-, -frang-,
 -rupt-
breast *comb* mammi-, mammo-,
 mastia-, -masto-, mazo-², stetho-;
base pect-; **~bone**: sterno-. See
 nipple
breath *comb* -hale-, -pnea, pneo-,
 pneumato-, pneumo-, pneu-
 mono-, pneusio-, pulmo-, spiro-!;
base afflat-; **bad~**: -halit-, ozos-
 tom-
breed *base* thremm-
brick *base* -later-, plinthi-
bridge *base* gephyr-, pont-
brief *comb* brachio-, brachisto-,
 brachy-, brevi-, chamae-, hekisto-,
 micro-, mini-, parvi-, parvo-,
 steno-, tapino-; *base* -cort-, -curt-,
 exig-; *suf* cle-, -cula-, -cule-, -een-,
 -el-, -ella-, -en-, -et-, -ette-, -idion-,
 -idium-, -ie-, -illa-, -illo-, -isk-, -kin-,
 -le-, -let-, -ling-, -ock-, -ola-, -ole-,
 -rel-, -ula-, -ule-, -ulum-, -ulus-, -y
bright *comb* helio-; *base* -clar-,
 -fulg-, -gano-, -luc-, -lumin-,
 nitid-
brine *base* muri-
bring *base* -duc-, -fer-, -port-. See
 carry
bring forth *comb* maieusi-, -parous;
base partur-

brisk *comb* ocy-, tacho-, tachy-;
base alacr-, celer-, festin-, veloc-
bristle *comb* chaeti-, chaeto-, seti-
broad *comb* eury-, lati-, platy-
bromine *comb* bromo-
broom *comb* scop-, scopi-
brothel *base* lupan-
brother *comb* frater-, fratri-; *base*
 -adelph-
brown *comb* fusco-, phaeo-; *base*
 aen-, brun-, castan-, -fulv-,
 -gland-, lur-, mustel-, -spad-,
 -testac-. *Also see* "Colors" in Part
 III
bruise *base* -tus-
brush *base* muscar-
bubble *comb* pego-, physali-; *base*
 bullat-
buckthorn *base* -rhamn-
bud *base* gemm-¹
buffalo *base* bubal-
buffoon *comb* balatro-
bug *comb* cemic-, core-², entomo-,
 insecti-, insecto-
build *base* -fabr-, -fac-, -fec-, -fic-,
 -struct-
bulb(ous) *comb* bulbo-; *base* cep-²
bulge *comb* -cele-, edema, ganglio-,
 phlogo-, phym-, -phyma, physa-,
 physo-, strum(i)-; *base* aug-,
 cresc-, physc-, strum-, -tum-,
 -turg-; *suf* -itis
bull *comb* tauri-, tauro-

bullfinch *base* pyrrhul-
bull-headed *base* contum-, obstin-,
 pervic-, proterv-
bully *base* -procac-
bundle *comb* fasciculato-, fascio-;
base phacell-, -sarcin-
bunting *base* emberiz-, pyrrhul-
burden(ed) *comb* hypegia-, hy-
 pengy-, -ridden; *base* -oner-, par-
 alip-
burdensome *pre* dys-; *comb* -bar,
 bary-, mogi-; *base* ardu-, stren-
burning *comb* causto-, igni- pyro-;
base ard-¹, ars-, cauter-, celo-²,
 combust-, crem-, phlog-, -ust-
bursting *base* -rrhexis-, -rupt-. *See*
breaking
bury *base* -hum-
burying place *comb* kil(1)-. *See*
tomb
business *base* -negot-
butcher *base* lania-
butter *comb* butyro-
butterfly *base* lepidopter-, papil-
buttocks *comb* -pygia, pygo-; *base*
 nati-, podic-
buzzard *comb* buteo-; *base* cathart-
buy *comb* onio-; *base* -empt-,
 -merc-, nundin-
by *pre* ad-, by-, epi-, peri-; *comb*
 juxta-; *base* -prox-; ~*means of*:
pre syn-

C

cabbage *base* brassic-
calcium *comb* calc-, calci-
calf *base* **animal**: vitul-; **leg**: sura-
call *base* appell-, -claim-, -clam-, -
 dict-, -nom-, -voc-; ~**upon**: *base* -
 prec-
calm *base* placid-, sedat-, tranquil-
camel *comb* cameli-

camp *base* castr-
cancel *base* oblit-
cancer *base* carcin(o)-
cap *base* -pile-
capable of being *suf* -able, -ibility, -
 ible, -ibly, -ile
capacious *base* ocho-²
capsule *comb* capsuli-, capsulo-

carbohydrate *suf* -ose¹
carbon *comb* carbo-
carbon dioxide *comb* -capnia,
 capno-
carbuncle *comb* anthraco-
card *comb* carto-, charto-
cardinal *bird*: *base* pyrrhul-
careful *base* attent-, caut-, diligen-
caries *comb* cario-
carp *base* cyprin-
carry(ing) *comb* -fer-, -ferous, -ger-
 ous, -parous, -pher, -phore,
 -phorous; *base* -port-, -vect-
cartilage *comb* chondr-, chondrio-,
 chondro-, xiphi-; *eyelid*~: tarso-
carve *comb* -glyph, glypto-
case *comb* angio-, chlamyd-, coleo-,
 meningo-, -theca, theci-, theco-
cash *comb* -penny; *base* chremat-,
 -numm-, -pecun-, quaest-
cashew *base* anacard-
cassowary *base* casuar-
castor oil *base* ricinol-
cat *comb* aeluro-, ailuro-, gato-;
 base -fel-, gale-³
catch *comb* -tain; *base* -cap(t)-,
 -cathex-, -ger-, -hapt-, -prehend,
 prehens-, rap-, rep-, -ten-
caterpillar *base* bruch-, -camp-²,
 eruc-
catfish *base* silur-
catkin *base* ament-², -juli-
cauliflower *base* brassic-
cause, causing *pre* be-, em-, en-²,
 meta-, trans-; *comb* aetio-, -blast,
 -blastic, blasto-, -craft, ergo-,
 etio-, -facient, -fic, -fication, -gen,
 -genesis, -genic, -genous, -geny,
 -parous, -plasia, -plasis, plasm-,
 -plast, -plastic, plasto-, -plasty,
 -poesis, -poietic, -trope, -tropic,
 -tropism, tropo-, -tropous, -tropy,
 -urgy; *base* -fabr-, -fec-, -mut-,
 -vert-; *suf* -ate, -en, -fy, -ize, -otic
caused by *suf* -atory, -ic, -ing

caustic *comb* cauter-; *acrimonious*
 base acerb-, mord-
cave *comb* speleo-, troglo-; *base*
 spelunc-
cavity *comb* alveolo-, antro-, atrio-,
 -coele, coelo-, parieto-, sino-,
 sinu-, syringo-, ventriculo-,
 vesiculo-, vestibulo-; *base* lacun-.
See hollow
cease *comb* stasi-, -stasis, -stat; *base*
 fin-, termin-
cecum *comb* ceco-, typhlo-
cedar *base* cedr-
celebration *comb* -fest, -mas; *suf* -ia
celestial activity *comb* astro-
cell *comb* alveolo-, celli-, celluli-,
 cellulo-, -cyte, -cythemia, cyto-,
 -gonium, kyto-, -plasm, plasm-
cellulose *comb* cello-
celom *comb* celo-¹
Celt *comb* Celto-
cement *comb* glea-
cemetery *base* coemet, coimet-
center *comb* centr-, centri-, -cen-
 tric, centro-
centipede *base* chilopod-, scolopen-
 dri-
cereal *base* frument-
cervical *comb* cervico-
chaff *base* palea-
chain *base* caten-, vinc-
chair *base* cathedr-, sedil-
chalk *base* cimol-, -cret-, gypso-;
 [geology] *comb* cretaceo-
chamber *comb* alveolo-, atrio-,
 antro-, -coele, coelo-, parieto-,
 sino-, sinu-, sinuso-, syringo-,
 ventriculo-, vesiculo-, vestibulo-.
See hollow
chamois *base* rupicap-
chance *comb* clero-, faust-, tycho-
change *pre* be-, em-, en-, meta-,
 trans-; *comb* aetio-, -blast, -blas-
 tic, blasto-, -craft, ergo-, etio-,
 -facient, -fic, -fication, -gen,

- genesis, -genic, -genous, -geny,
 -parous, -plasia, -plasis, plasm-,
 -plast, -plastic, plasto-, -plasty,
 -poiesis, -poietic, -trope, -tropic,
 -tropism, tropo-, -tropous, -trophy,
 -urgy; *base* camb-, -fabr-, -fec-,
 -mut-, -vari-, -vert-; *suf* -ate, en,
 -fy, -ize, -otic
- channel** *comb* aulo-, follic-, meato-,
 poro-, salpingo-, siphono-,
 soleno-, syringo-, tubi-, tubo-,
 tubulo-, vasi-; *base* strig-
- character** *comb* etho-, -hood, quali-;
suf -ity
- characteristic of** *suf* -an³, -ar, -ary,
 -ate², -ean, -en, -esque, -ian, -ic,
 -ical, -il, -ile, -ine, -ish, -istic,
 -like, -ly, -ous, -ular, -ulent,
 -ulose, -y. *See* **belonging to**
- characterized by** *suf* -acean,
 -aceous, -acious, -aire, -al, -ate,
 -ed², -eous, -ey, -ful, -gerous, -ial,
 -ine, -ious, -itious, -oid, -orious,
 -ory, -ose, -osity, -ous, -some,
 -ular, -ulent, -ulose, -ulous, -
 wise, -y¹
- chariot** *base* harmat-
- chasm** *base* vorag-
- chastisement** *comb* mastigo-,
 rhabdo-; *base* castig-, peno-,
 poine-, -pun-
- chatter** *base* garrul-. *See* **talk**
- cheat** *base* apat-, dolero-, ludif-
- checked** *comb* brady-; *base* -cunct-,
 imped-, -mora-, -tard-. *See* **in-**
hibit
- cheek** *comb* bucco-, -genia, genio-,
 geny-, mel(o)-², -paria, zygo-
 matico-, zygomato-
- cheerful** *comb* chero-; *base* beati-,
 felic-, jubil-, macar-
- cheese** *comb* tyro-; *suf* case-
- chemicals** *comb* chemo-
- cherry** *base* -ceras-
- chest** *comb* sterno-, stetho-,
 thoracico-, thoraco-; *base*
 pector-
- chestnut** *base* aescul-, -castan-
- chew** *base* manduc-, -mastic-, trog-
- chickadee** *base* par-²
- chicken** *base* gallin-, pull-. *See* **cock**
- chicory** *base* cichor-
- chief** *comb* arch-¹, archi-, proto-;
base -prim-, -princip-
- child** *comb* paed-², pedi-, pedo-²,
 proli-, tecno-; *base* -fil-², -puer-,
 tek-
- childbirth** *comb* lochio-, maieusi-,
 -para-, -parous, -tocia, toco-,
 toko-, -toky; *base* -partur-
- chimpanzee** *base* sim-
- chin** *comb* -genia, genio-, geny-,
 mento-
- Chinese** *comb* Chino-, Sino-
- chisel** *comb* scalpri-
- chlorine** *comb* chloro-, perchloro-
- choice** *base* -opt-¹, -vol-
- choke** *base* -pnig-
- chore** *comb* arti-, -craft, -ergasia,
 ergasio-, -ergics, ergo-, -ergy,
 organo-, -urgy; *base* -labor-,
 lucubr-, oper-¹, -opus-, pono-²
- chromatin** *comb* chromato-
- chromium** *comb* -chrome
- chromosomes:** of a specified multi-
 ple of __ *comb* -ploid
- church** *comb* ecclesiastico-, kil(l)-
- chyle** *base* chyl-
- cilia** *comb* cilii-, cilio-
- circle** *comb* ano-, annul-, crico-,
 cyclo-, disco-, globi-, globo-,
 glom-, gyro-, orbito-, -sphere,
 sphero-, stilli-, zon-, zoni-;
base -anu-, -cing-, -cinct-,
 -circin-, -circul-, -coron-,
 -glomer-, -numm-, -orb-, -rot-,
 -troch-
- citizen (of)** *base* -civ-; *suf* -an,
 -ian, -ite
- citric** *base* citro-

- city *comb* -burg(h), -polis, -ton, -ville; *base* -civ-, -urb-
- civet *base* viverr-
- clamor *base* crepit-, frem-, ligyr-, strep(i)-, strid-, stridul-. *See* sound
- clan *base* -phrat-
- clarion *base* -litu-
- class names *suf* -ia
- clatter *base* -strepit-
- clavicle *comb* cleido-, clido-
- claw *comb* -chela, cheli-, helo-, onycho-, -onychial; *base* -ungui-, ungu-
- clay *comb* argillaceo-, argillo-, limo⁻¹, pelo-
- cleanse *comb* balneo-; *base* ablut-, cathar-, -lav-, -mund⁻², -purg-
- clear *comb* lampro-, luc-, luci-; *base* -clar-
- cleaver *base* -dolabr-
- cleft *comb* dicho-, -fid², fissi-, schisto-, schizo-, sulcato-, -tomy; *base* fatisc-, -par-, rim-. *See* groove
- clever *base* ingen-
- cliff *base* scopul-
- climb *base* -ascend-, ascens-, -scal-, -scand-, -scans-
- cloak *base* chlamyd-
- clockwise *comb* dextr(o)-
- clod *base* gleb-
- close by *pre* a-, ac-, ad-, af-, ag-, al-, an-, ap-, ar-, as-, at-, by-, cis-, epi-, para-, peri-; *comb* juxta-, citra-, pene-, proximo-
- closed, closure *comb* -atresia, atreto-, claustro-, cleido-, -cleisis, cleisto-, stego-; *base* -clithr-, -clud-, -clus-
- clot *comb* thrombo-; *base* grum-
- clothing *base* habil-, hesto-, -vest-
- cloud *comb* fracto-, nephelo-, nepho-, nimbo-; *base* homichlo-, -nebul-, -nubi-; **rounded**~: mam-mato-
- club *base* clavi-, rhopal-
- clumps *comb* cespitoso-; *base* -glob-. *See* tufts
- cluster *base* corymbi-, glom-, racem-
- clutch *comb* -tain; *base* -cap(t)-, -cathex-, -ger-, -hapt-, -prehend, prehens-, rap-, rep-, -ten-
- coal *comb* anthraco-; *base* -carb-
- coast **shore**: *base* littor-, maritim-
- cobweb *base* arachn-
- coccus *comb* -coccal
- coccyx *comb* coccy-, coccygo-
- cock *base* alector-, alectry-
- cockroach *base* blatt⁻¹
- coercion *comb* dyna-, dynamo-, mega-, megallo-, -megaly, -sthenia, stheno-; *base* -forc-, -fort-, -poten-, robor-
- coil *comb* cirri-, cochlio-, gyro-, helico-, spiro⁻², strepto-; *base* stromb-. *See* curl
- coin *base* numisma-, -numm-
- coincide *base* concinn-, congru-, unan-
- coition *comb* -lagnia; *base* -coit-
- cold *comb* cheima-, crymo-, cryo-, frigo-, gelo-, kryo-, pago-, psychro-, rhigo-; *base* alg-, glac-
- collar *base* coll⁻¹
- collarbone *base* clavi⁻¹
- collection of *suf* -ad-, -age-, -ery, -hood, -ship
- collodion *comb* collodio-
- colon *comb* coli⁻¹, colo-
- color *comb* chromato-, -chrome, chromo-; *base* -pigm-, -tinct-, -ting-; **colored**: *comb* -chroous; **two-colored**: *comb* dichro-. *Also see* "Colors" in Part III
- colorless *comb* leuco-, leuko-
- column *base* stylo⁻²; **small**~: col-umelli-

comb *base* cteno-; ~**teeth**: pecti-
nato-

combat *comb* macho-, -machy,
pugn-; *base* -bell-, pugil-

combine *pre* co-; *comb* conjugato-,
-ergasia, gameto-, gamo-, hapto-²,
junct-; *base* aps-, apt-, -greg-,
-soc-; *suf* -ate-, -ize

combustible *comb* ard-, ars-

come *base* -ven(t)-

comestibles *comb* bromato-,
-brotic, manduc-, opso-, -phage,
phago-, -phagous, -phagy, -sitia,
sitio-, sito-, -troph, -trophic,
tropho-, -trophy, -vora, -vore,
-vorous; *base* -alim-, -cib-, escul-,
-gust-, -nutr-; **partially digested**~: chymo-

command *base* -imper-, juss-,
-mand-

commence *base* inaug-, incip-, init-

commercial names *suf* -co-, -ine

common *comb* caeno-¹, ceno-²,
coeno-, pan-¹; *base* -commun-,
-vulg-; ~**people**: *comb* demo-;
base -pleb-, -popul-

commotion *base* -agit-, -tumult-,
-turb-

community *base* synœc-

compact **dense**: *comb* dasy-, pycno-,
pykno-; *base* -crass-, -press-,
-spiss-; **small**: *comb* brachio-,
brachisto-, brachy-, brevi-,
chamae-, hekisto-, micro-, mini-,
nano-, parvi-, parvo-, -steno-;
base cort-, curt-; *suf* -cle-, -cula,
-cule, -culum, -culus, -een, -el,
-ella, -en, -et, -ette, -idion,
-idium, -ie, -illa, -illo, -isk, -kin,
-le, -let, -ling, -ock, -ola, -ole,
-rel, -ula, -ule, -ulum, -ulus, -y

comparable *pre* para-, quasi-; *comb*
homeo-, omœo, homio-, ho-
molo-, iso-, -phane, -phanic; *base*
simil-; *suf* -acean, -aceous, -al,

-an, -ar, -ary, -ean, -en, -eous,
-esque, -ful, -ic, -il, -ile, -ine,
-ing, -ish, -itious, -ize, -like, -ode,
-oid, -ose, -osity, -some, -tious,
-ular, -y

compel *See* urge

competence *base* quali-

competitive event *comb* -athlon,
-athon, -off²

complain *base* -quer-, -querul-

complement of *pre* co-

complementary *comb* counter-

complete(ly) *pre* be-, cata-, cath-,
de-, kata-, ob-, per-; *comb* holo-,
omni-, pan-, panto-, stone-, toti-

compound names *comb* tetrazo-;
suf -ide, -ole¹

comprehension *comb* -gnomy,
-gnosia, -gnosis, -gnostic, gnoto-,
ideo-, -noia, -nomy, -phrenic,
phrenico-, phreno-, psycho-,
-sophy; *base* -cogit-, -cogn-, epis-
tem-, ment(a)-, -noe-, -put-,
ratio-, -sci-

computer *comb* cyber-

concave *comb* concavo-

concealed *pre* sub-; *comb* calypto-,
crypto-; *base* occult-

concept *comb* -gnomy, -gnosia,
-gnosis, -gnostic, gnoto-, ideo-,
-noia, -nomy, phreno-, psycho-,
-sophy; *base* -cogit-, -cogn-, epis-
tem-, -noe-, -put-, ratio-, -sci-

concise *comb* brachio-, brachisto-,
brachy-, brevi-, chamae-, hekisto-,
micro-, mini-, parvi-, parvo-,
steno-, tapino-; *base* -cort-, -curt-,
exig-; *suf* -cle, -cula, -cule,
-culum, -culus, -een, -el, -ella,
-en, -et, -ette, -idion, -idium, -ie,
-illa, -illo, -isk, -kin, -le, -let,
-ling, -ock, ola, -ole, -rel, -ula,
-ule, ulum, -ulus, -y

conclude *base* -fin-, termin-

condensed *comb* brachio-,

brachisto-, brachy-, brevi-,
chamae-, hekisto-, micro-, mini-,
parvi-, parvo-, steno-, tapino-;
base -cort-, -curt-, exig-; *suf* -cle,
-cula, -cule-, culum, -culus, -een,
-el, -ella, -en, -et, -ette, -idion,
-idium, -ie, -illa, -illo, -isk, -le,
-let, -ling, -ock, -ola, -ole, -rel,
-ula, -ule, -ulum, -ulus, -y

condition *suf* -able, -acity, -acy,
-age, -ance, -ancy, -ant, -asis,
-asm, -ate, -atile, -ation, -cy,
-dom, -eity, -ence, -ency, -ent,
-ery, -esis, -ful, -hood, -iasis,
-ice¹, -ility, -ion, -ise, -ism, -ity,
-ling³, -ma, -ment, -ness, -or³,
-osis, -otic, -red, -ship, -sion, -sis,
-th, -tion, -tude, -ture, -ty¹, -ure,
-y²

conduct *behavior*: *comb* etho-; *base*
hexi-; **lead**: *comb* -arch, -duce,
duc(t)-, magist-; *base* hegemon-,
-reg-

cone *comb* coni-², conico-, cono-,
conoido-; **pine**~: strobil-

confer *base* -don-

configuration *comb* topo-

confine *comb* sphingo-, -strain,
-strict, syndesmo-; *base* -liga-,
-merinth-, -string-, -vinc-

conflict *comb* macho-, -machy; *base*
-bell-, -pugil-, -pugn-

confusion *comb* atax-, ataxi-,
-ataxia, ataxio-, ataxo-; *base*
misc-, -turb-

connected (with) *base* hirmo-, nex-;
suf -ar², -arious, -ary, -id¹, -wise;
~**twins**: *comb* -pagia, -pagus

conquer *base* vict-, -vinc-

consecrated *comb* hagio-, hiero-;
base -sacr-, -sanct-

consequence *comb* ergo-, -ergic,
-ergy; *suf* -age, -asm, -ata, -ation,
-ency, -ism, -ma, -ment, -mony,
-sion, -ure

consistent *comb* even-

constitution *comb* -ousia, -ousian;
base quid-

constrained *comb* -bound

constriction *comb* lepto-, stegno-,
steno-; *base* -stal-, -strict-. *See*
tightening

construction *comb* -craft, ergo-,
-fic, -urgy; *base* -fabr-, -fac-, -fic-.
See **make**

contagious *base* -tapin-

container *comb* angio-, asco-, bursi-,
burso-, ceco-, chlamyd-, chrysali-,
cisto-, coleo-, -cyst, cysti-, cysto-,
follic-, meningo-, pericardiac-,
pericardio-, peritoneo-, phasco-,
physa-, physali-, physo-, -theca,
theci-, theco-, typhlo-, utri-,
utric, vesico-; *base* -sacc-, -thylac-

containing *comb* -filled, pleni-,
pleo-, pluri-; *base* -pler-, -plet-;
suf -acious, -ate, -ic, -ful, -lent,
-ose², -osity, -ous, -ulent, -y

contempt *base* fastid-

contentment *comb* chero-; *base*
beati-, felic-, jubil-, macar-

contest *comb* -athlon, -athon,
macho-, -machy, -off; *base* agon-

continent *base* -epeiro-

continual *base* assid-, contin-,
incess-, perpet-

contorted *comb* contorto-, gyro-,
helico-, pleco-, plecto-, spiro-,
strepho-, strepsi-, strepto-; *base*
-strob-, -stromb-, -stroph-, -tors-,
-tort-

contraction *comb* -chorea, choreo-,
-clonic, -clonus, -esmus, -ismus,
spasmo-; *base* -stal-, vellic-

contrary *pre* anti-, cata-, contra-,
contre-, cross-, dis-, hetero-, ob-,
un-, with-; *comb* counter-, enan-
tio-, oppositi-

control *base* magist-, maha-; **loss**
of~: *comb* -crasia

controversy *base* eris-

converge *comb* -ergasia, gameto-, gamo-, hapto-, junct-; *base* -aps-, -apt-, -greg-, -soc-; *suf* -ate, -ize

conversation *comb* -claim, logo-, -logue, -lalia, -lexia, lexico-, -lexis, -lexy, -logy, -phone, hono-, -phony, verbi-, verbo-, voc-, voci-, -voke; *base* -clam-, -dict-, -loc(u)-, -loqu-, -orat-, rhet-

convex *comb* convexo-, gibboso-

cook *base* -coct-, mageir-, magir-

coot *base* fulic-

copious *base* ampl-, copi-, largi-

copper *comb* chalco-, cupreo-, cupri-, cupro-, cuproso-; *base* auricalc-. Also see "Colors" in Part III

copy *base* -mim-

coracoid bone *comb* coraco-

coral *comb* coralli-

cord *comb* -chorda, chord-, cordo-, funi-, tendo-; *base* cord-, resti-

core *comb* caryo-, karyo-, nucleo-

cork *comb* phello-; *base* suber-

cormorant *base* phalacrocorac-

corn *base* frument-, grani-; **ear of~:** spici-

cornea *comb* corneo-, kerato-

corpse *comb* necro-; *base* -cadav-

corpulent *base* obes-, pingu-

correct(ion) *comb* ortho-; *base* castig-, emend-

corruption *comb* lysi-, -lysis, lyso-, -lyte, -lytic, -lyze, phthino-, phthio-, -phthisis, phthysio-, -phthysis, putri-, pyo-, pytho-, sapro-, septi-, septo-, septico-; *base* phthor-, vitia-

cortex *comb* cortico-, pallio-

cost of *suf* -age

costly *base* dapa-

cotton *base* xilin-

cough *base* -tuss-

count *base* calcul-, -comput-, -num-
counterclockwise *comb* laevo-, levo-

counterfeit *comb* pseudo-

countless *comb* myrio-; *base* innum-

country *base* -rur-, -rustic-; **of a~:** *suf* -ese, -ian; **~names:** *comb* -land; *suf* -ia

coupled *comb* conjugato-

courtesan *comb* cypriano-, hetaero-, porno-; *base* -meretric-, scort-;

brothel: lupan-

courtesy *base* -comit-

cousin *base* -sobrin-

covenant *base* fed-

cover(ed) with *pre* be-; *comb* calypto-, stegano-, stego-

covering *comb* lamelli-, lepido-, squamo-, tecti-, tegu-, -theca, theco-, theci-, veli-; *base* involver-, loric-, oper-², -scut-, strag-. See skin

covert *pre* sub-; *comb* crypto-; *base* clandest-, furt-

covetousness *base* avar-, cup(id)-, pleonec-, pleonex-

cow *base* bou-, bov-, bu-, -vacc-

cowardly *base* pav-, timid-, trep-

cowl *base* cuculli-

crab *base* cancr-; **hermit~:** pagur-;

sea~: gammar-

crack *comb* dicho-, -fid, fissi-, schisto-, schizo-, sulcato-, -tomy;

base fatisc-, -par-, rim-

craft *base* techn-. See make

crane *comb* alector-, grallator-, grui-

crater *base* crateri-

craving *comb* eroto-, -lagnia, -mania, -orexia; *base* -appet-, conat-, -cup-, -libid-, -opt-, vell-; *suf* -urient

crazy *comb* lyss-, -mania; *base* ament-, dement-

creak *base* -crep-, -crepit-, strid-, stridul-
creased *base* -rug-
create/creation *pre* be-, em-, en-, meta-, trans-; *comb* aetio-, -blast, -blastic, blasto-, -craft, ergo-, etio-, -facient, -fic, -fication, -gen, -genesis, -genic, -genous, -geny, -parous, -plasia, -plasis, plasm-, -plast, plastic, plasto-, -plasty, -poiesis, -poietic, -trope, -tropic, -tropism, tropo-, -tropous, -tropy, -urgy; *base* -fabr-, -fec-, -mut-, -vert-; *suf* -ate, -en, -fy, -ize, -otic
creep *base* -rept-
crescent *base* crescenti-, lunul-, menisc-
crest *comb* lopho-; *base* crist-
cricket *base* gryll-, locust-
crime *pre* dys-, mis-; *comb* caco-, enisso-, enosio-, kak-, kako-, mal-, male-, ponero-; *base* culp-, delict-, facin-, flagit-, hamart-, iniq-, nefar-, pecca-, perdit-, -prav-, sceler-, scelest-, turp-
crisp *comb* ulo-³
critical *comb* enisso-; *base* critico-
crocodile *base* crocodil-, -gavial-
crooked *comb* ancylo-, ankylo-, -campsis, campto-, campylo-, -clinal, -clinate, -cline, -clinic, clino-, -clinous, -clisis, curvi-, cyrto-, -flect, flex-, flexuoso-, lechrío-, loxo-, recurvo-, repando-, scolio-, -tort, -verge; *base* -clit-, -cliv-, sinu-
cross *comb* cruci-, stauro-
crosswise *comb* transverso-
crow *comb* coraci-, coraco-; *base* corvin-
crowd *comb* ochlo-
crown *base* corolli-, -coron-
cruel *base* agrio-
crushing *comb* stip-², tribo-, -tripsy
cry **tears:** *comb* dacryo-, fleb-, flet,

lachrim(o)-, lachrym(o)-, -plor-;
call out: *comb* -claim; *base* -clam-, -plor-
crystal *comb* crystallo-
cube *comb* cubi-, cubo-; *base* tesser-
cuckoo *base* cucul-
cucumber *base* cucumi-
cudgel *base* fustig-
culpability *base* culp-, delinq-, laps-, -pecca-, sphal-
cultivation *comb* -ponic
culture *comb* ethno-
cumulus *comb* cumulo-
cunning *base* daedal-
cup (-shaped) *comb* calath-, calyc-, cotyle-, cotyli-, cotylo-, cupuli-, cyathi-, cyatho-, scyphi-, scypho-; *base* crin-, pocul-
curing *comb* -iiatrics, -iatr(o)-, -iatry, medico-; *base* cur-, san-
curl, curly *comb* cirrhi-, cirrho-, cirri-, cirro-, ulo-³; *base* cincinn-, -crisp-. See coil
current **electrical:** *comb* rheo-; **water:** *comb* fluvio-; *base* -potam-, rheum-, -rip-; **contemporary:** See new
curse *base* anathem-
curved *comb* ancylo-, ankylo-, -campsis, campto-, campylo-, -clinal, -clinate, -cline, -clinic, clino-, -clinous, -clisis, curvi-, cyrto-, -flect, flex-, flexuoso-, lechrío-, loxo-, recurvo-, repando-, scolio-, -tort, -verge; *base* -clit-, -cliv-, sinu-
cushion *base* pulvin-, tylo-
custom *base* mor-¹, nomo-, -suet-
customer *base* empt-
cut *comb* -cide, cis-², -cise, -ectomy, inciso-, -sect, temno-, -tmesis, -tome, tomo-, -tomous, -tomy; *base* sec-
cutting **surgical:** *comb* -ectomy, -tome, -tomy

cuttlefish *base* -teuth-, sepi(a)-
cyanogen *comb* cyano-
cycle *comb* cyclo-; *base* circul-, orb-

cylinder *comb* cylindro-
cypress *base* cupress-
cyst *base* sacc-

D

dagger *base* sica-
damaging *comb* noci-, pesti-; *base* -nox-
damp *comb* hydro-, hygro-, udo-; *base* humect-, ulig-
dance *comb* choreo-; *base* orchest-, -salta-, tripud-
dandruff *base* furfur-, porrig-
danger *base* pericul-
Danish *comb* Dano-
dark(ness) *comb* ambly-, melan(o)-, nycto-, scoto-; *base* -achlu-, amaur-, fusc-, lyg-, obscur-, tenebr-
dart *base* tel-
dative *comb* dativo-
daughter *comb* fili-
daughter-in-law *base* -nur(us)-
dawn *base* -auror-, eos(o)-, luc-
day *base* diurn-, ephem-, hemer-, hodiern-, journ-, quotid-
daylight *base* -pheng-
deaf *base* coph-, -surd-
death *comb* mort(i)-, necro-, sapro-, thanato-; *base* exanim-, nerter-, obit-; **deadly**: phthart-
debility *comb* astheno-, -atrophia, lepto-, -plegia, -plegy; *base* -debil-, dimin-, enerv-, flacc-, labe-
decaying *comb* cario-, lysi-, -lysis, lyso-, -lyte, phthino-, phthisio-, -phthisis, putre-, putri-, pytho-, sapro-, septi-, septico-, septo-; *base* marcesc-, phthor-, tabe-; *suf* -ase
deceptive *base* apat-, dolero-, ludif-
decide *base* crit⁻¹

decks *comb* -decker
decline *comb* -atrophia; *base* dimin-
decomposed *comb* septi-², septo-¹
decomposing enzyme *suf* -ase
decrease *base* decresc-, dimin-
decree *base* -imper-, juss-, -mand-
deep *comb* batho-, bathy-; *base* profund-
deer *base* cervi-, elaph-
defeat *base* vict-, -vinc-
defecation *comb* -chezia, copro-, fim-, fimi-, kopro-, scato-, spatilo-, sterco-; *base* -fec(u)-
defect, bodily *comb* pero-; *base* -hamart-, -mutil-
defending *pre* pro-; *base* patroc-
defense *comb* -phylactic, phylacto-, -phylax, -phylaxis
deficiency *comb* isch-, oligo-, -penia
definition *comb* orismo-; *base* dior-
deformed *comb* pero-; *base* -mutil-
degree *suf* -ency
dehydrogenated *comb* dehydro-
deity *comb* theo-; *base* dei-
delayed *comb* brady-; *base* -cunct-, imped-, -mora-, -tard-. *See* late
delete *base* oblit-
deleterious *comb* noci-, pesti-; *base* -nox-, pericul-
delicate *comb* habro-, lepto-, subtil-, tenu-
delight *comb* chero-; *base* beati-, elat-, felic-, gaud-, jubil-, macar-
dementia *comb* lyss-, -mania; *base* ament-, dement-

demon *comb* daemono-, demono-;
base diabol-, necyo-, satan-

demonstrating *comb* -deictic; *base*
 -monstr-

dense *comb* dasy-, pycno-, pykno-,
 -spiss-; *base* -crass-; ~**tufts**:
 cespitoso-

dentate *comb* dentato-

deny *base* -neg-

deoxygenated *comb* deoxy-

depart *base* relinq-

deposit of soft materials *comb*
 athero-

depraved *pre* dys-, mis-; *comb*
 caco-, enisso-, enosio-, kak-,
 kako-, mal-, male-, ponero-; *base*
 culp-, facin-, flagit-, hamart-,
 iniq-, nefar-, pecca-, perdit-,
 -prav-, sceler-, scelest-, turp-

deprive of *pre* ab-, apo-, be-, de-,
 des-¹, di-, dia-, dif-, dis-, e-, ec-,
 ef-, ex-, for-, off-, se-, with-; *comb*
 ectro-; *base* -spol-

depth *comb* batho-, bathy-; *base*
 -byss-

deputy *comb* vice-

derivative of *pre* meta-, para-

descended from *comb* -gone,
 -gonium, gono-, -gony, proli-;
suf -ing

description *comb* -graphy

desert *comb* eremo-

deserving of *comb* -worthy

desire *comb* eroto-, -lagnia, -mania,
 -orexia; *base* -appet-, conat-,
 -cup-, -libid-, -opt-, vell-; *suf*
 -urient

destination *comb* teleo-, telo-,
 ultim(o)-; *base* -fin-, -termin-

destitute *comb* ptocho-, vidu-;
base- mendic-, -paup-, -pov-

destroying *comb* lysi-, lyso-, -lysis,
 -lytic, -lyze, -phage, phago-,
 -phagous, -phagy; *base* -ate-⁴,
 perd-, phthart-, -vast-

determine *comb* -gnomy, -gnosia,
 -gnosis, -gnostic, gnoto-

detestation *comb* miso-, -phobe,
 -phobia, -phobic; *base* -invid-,
 -ira(sc)-, odi-

detrimental *comb* noci-, pesti-; *base*
 -nox-, pericul-

development *comb* -blast, -blastic,
 blasto-, -geny, -plasia, -plasis,
 -plast, -plastic, plasto-, -plasty,
 -trope, -tropism, tropo-,
 -tropous, -trophy; *base* -mut-,
 -vari-, -vert-; **late**~: serot-

device for measuring *comb* -meter

devil *comb* demono-, necyo-, satan-;
base -diabol-

devoid *comb* ceno-, keno-; *base*
 -erem-, (ex)haur-, inan-, -vac(u)-

devotion to, excessive *comb* -latry;
suf -ism

devour *comb* bromato-, -brotic,
 manduc-, -phage, phago-,
 -phagous, -phagy, -sitia, sitio-,
 sito-, -troph, -trophic, tropho-,
 -trophy, -vora, -vore, -vorous;
base -alim-, -cib-, comest-, -ed-,
 escul-, glutt-, -gust-

dew *comb* droso-, -ror-

diaphragm *comb* -phrenic,
 phrenico-, phreno-

dice *base* alea-, astragal-, clero-,
 cubo-

die *See* death

different *comb* hetero-

difficult *pre* dys-; *comb* -bar, bary-,
 mogi-; *base* ardu-, stren-

dig *comb* orycto-; *base* fod-, -foss-

digest *comb* peps-, pept-, pepto-;

partially~: *comb* chymo-

digestive fluid *comb* chyli-, chylo-,
 chymo-

digitalis *comb* digito-

dignity *base* celsi-

dilation *comb* -ectasia, -ectasis

dill *base* aneth-

dimension *comb* -footer, -sized; ~*of a sheet*: *suf* -mo. Also see "Dimension" in Part III

diminution *suf* -aster²

diminutive ending *suf* -cle, -cula, -cule, -culum, -culus, -een, -el, -ella, -en, -et, -ette, -idion, -idium, -ie, -illa, -illo, -isk, kin, -le, -let, -ling², -ock, -ola, -ole², -rel, -ula, -ule, -ulum, -ulus, -y³

dimness *comb* ambly-, melan(o)-, nycto-, scoto-; *base* -achlu-, amaur-, fusc-, lyg-, obscur-, opac-, tenebr-

dinner *comb* deipno-, prand-

dip *comb* -merge, -merse

directing *comb* -agogic, -agogue; *base* -vers-, -vert-

direction *comb*—ward, -ways, -wise; *suf* -ern, -ling³; ~*east*: euro-, -orient-; ~*north*: -borea-, septen-; ~*south*: -austr-, noto-; ~*west*: hesper-, occid-, -zephyr-. Also see "Direction" in Part III

dirt *comb* blenno-, -chezia, copro-, edaph-, fim(i)-, kopro-, miso-², myso-, -myxia, myxo-, paedo-¹, pedo-³, scato-, spatilo-, spurc-, stegno-, sterco-; *base* -fecu-, gleb-, hum-, macul-, molys-, rhypar-, rhypo-, rypo-, sord-

disastrous *base* funest-

discharge *flow*: *comb* rheo-, rheum-, -(r)rhage, -(r)rhagia, -(r)rhea, -(r)rhoea, -(r)rhoeca; *base* -flu(v)-, -fus-; *release*: *base* -miss-, -mit-, -pomp-

discipline *comb* mastigo-, rhabdo-; *base* castig-, peno-, poine-, -pun-

discontinue *comb* stasi-, -stasis, -stat; *base* fin-, termin-

discourse *comb* -claim, logo-, -logue, -lalia, -lexia, lexico-, -lexis, -lexy, -logy, -phone, hono-,

-phony, verbi-, verbo-, voc-, voci-, -voke; *base* -clam-, -dict-, -loc(u)-, -loqu-, -orat-, rhet-; *defective*~: *comb* -lalia, lalo-, -phasia, -phasic, -phasis, -phasy, -phemia, -phemy; *base* psell-

discover *base* heur-

disease *pre* dys-, mal-; *comb* loemo-, loimo-, noso-, -path, -pathic, patho-, pathy; *base* aegr-, -morb-, -pecca-; ~*names*: *comb* -aemia, -emia; *suf* -asis, -ia, -itis, -oma, -osis; *skin*~: lichen-; ~*treatment*: *comb* -iatrics, iatro-, -iatry.

See disorder

disfigured *comb* pero-; *base* -mutil-

disgorge *comb* -emesis, -emetic, emeto-

disgrace *base* sord-, turp-

disgust *base* fastid-

dish *comb* lecano-; *base* -leco-, scutel-

disk-shaped *comb* disco-; *base* -numm-

disorder *comb* atax-, ataxi-, -ataxia, ataxio-, ataxo-, -thymia, -phrenia, -phrenic; *base* -turb-; *of personality*~: *comb* -tonia

display *comb* -orama, phaeno-, pheno-; *base* -monstr-

dispute *base* velit-

dissimilar *comb* aniso-, anomal-^o-, anomo-, perisso-, poikilo-

dissolve *comb* lyo-, lysi-, -lysis, lyso-, -lyte, -lytic, -lyze; *base* -liqu-, -solu-, -solv-

distant *comb* disto-, tele-

distension *comb* -cele, -edema, ganglio-, phlogo-, phym-, -phyma, physa-, physo-, strum(i)-; *base* aug-, cresc-, physc-, strum-, -tum-, -turg-; *suf* -itis

distinct *separate*: *pre* dia-, dis-, for-, se-; *comb* -crit, dialy-, ideo-, proprio-, self-. See divided; *clear*:

comb lampro-, luc-, luci-; *base*
-clar-

distress *base* aerumn-, vex-

divalent sulfur *comb* sulfo-

divergent *comb* divergenti-, divergi-,
vari-

divided *pre* sub-; *comb* dicho-, -fid,
fissi-, schisto-, schizo-, tomo-,
-tomous, -tomy; ~**crosswise**:
decuss-

dividing wall *comb* sept(o)-²

divination *comb* -mancy, -mantic;
base augur-, hariol-, vatic-. *Also*
see "Divination" in Part III

dizziness *comb* dino-²; *base* vertig-
do *pre* em-, en-; *comb* -craft, ergo-,
-facient, -fic, -fication, -gen,
-genesis, -genic, -genous, -geny,
ideo-, -plast, -plastic, plasto-,
-plasty, poiesis, -poietic, -urgy;
base -fabr-, -fac-, -fec-¹; *suf* -ate,
-en, -fy, -ize

docile *base* moriger-

doctor *comb* iatro-; *base* -med-

doctrine *suf* -ism, -logy

dodo *base* did-

doer *suf* -an, -ant, -ard, -arian, -art,
-ary, -ast, -ator, -ee, eer, -en,
-ent, -er, -ette, -ier, -ist, -le,
-man, -nik, -o, -or, -person,
-people, -ster, -woman

dog *comb* cyno-, kyno; *base* -can-¹

dogma *comb* dogmato-

doleful *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-,
fleb-, flet-, luct-, trist-

doll *comb* paedo-²

dolphin *base* delphin-

domain of *suf* -dom²

donkey *base* as-, ono-

door *comb* osti-, porto-; *base* valv-

dormouse *base* glir-, myox-

dorsum *comb* dorsi-, dorso-,
nota-, noto-, opistho-; *base*
-terg-

dose *comb* poso-

dotted *comb* punctato-; *base*
-stigm-

double *pre* bi-, bin-, bis-, di-², dy-,
twi-; *comb* ambi-, ambo-, amphi-,
ampho-, deuterio-, deuto-, dicho-,
diphy-, diplo-, disso-, double-,
dui-, duo-, duplicato-, duplici-,
dyo-, gemin-, zygo-. *Also see*
"Numbers" in Part III

doubtful *base* ambig-, ancip-, apor-,
dub-, vagu-

dove *base* columb-

down (from) *pre* a-, ab-, abs-, cata-,
cath-, de-, kata-

downcast *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-,
fleb-, flet, luct-, -trist-

dozen *comb* dodeca-, duodec-,
duodecim-, duoden-

dragon *base* draco-, draconi-

dragonfly *base* libell(ul)-

draw **art**: *comb* -gram, graph(o)-,
-pict-; **pull**: *base* -duct, -tract-;
~**forth**: *base* -haur-, -haust-

dread *comb* -phobe, -phobia, -pho-
bic, phobo-; *base* pavid-, tim(or)-,
trem-, trep-. *Also see* "Fear" in
Part III

dream *comb* oneiro-

dregs *base* fec-²

drink *comb* pino-, potio-; *base* -bib-,
pocul-; ~**made from** __ : *suf*
-ade

dripping *base* driri-

drive *base* -pel-, -pul-

driving away, out *comb* -fuge

drooping *comb* -ptosis, -ptosis;
base -flacc-. *See* bent

drop liquid: *comb* gutti-, stilli-; *base*
stact-, stagm-; **fall**: *comb* -ptosis,
-ptosis; *base* -cad-, -cas-, -cid-

dropping *base* stalac-, stalag-

drugs *comb* pharmaco-; *base*
medic-

drum *comb* tympano-

drunk *base* inebr-, methys-, temul-

dry *comb* carpho-, xero-; *base* arid-, celo-², cherso-, -sicc-
dry out *base* marces-, marcid-
duck *base* anat-, fuligul-
dull *base* hebet-, obtus-, -tard-;
~vision: *comb* ambly-
dung *comb* -chezia, copro-, fimi-, kopro-, scato-, spatilo-, sterc(o)-;
base -fec(u)-, -merd-; *~hill:*
sterquil-
during *pre* con-, in-, inter-, per-

dusk *base* -crepus-, lyg-
dusky *comb* fusc-, fusco-, -phaein, phaeo-, pheine-, pheo-
dust *comb* coni-¹, -conia, conio-, konio-; *base* amath-, pulver-;
dusty place: *conist-*
duty *comb* hypogia-, hypengy-; *base* paralip-
dwarf *comb* chamae-, nan(n)o-,
dwelling *comb* ekist-; *base* -aed-, -cali-, -dom-, -edi-; *suf* -age

E

each *comb* katheno-
eager *base* avid-, cupid-
eagle *base* aet-, aquil-
ear *comb* auri-¹, auriculo-, oto-. *See* sound
early *pre* ante-, pre-; *comb* prim-, primi-, primo-, proto-; *~period:*
pre eo-; *comb* paleo-, protero-
earth *comb* agro-, -gaea, geo-, hum-;
base secul-, tellur-, -terr-
earthquake *comb* seismo-, tromo-
earwig *base* forficul-
east *base* euro-, -orient-
easy *base* -facil-
eating *comb* bromato-, -brotic, manduc-, -phage, phago-, -phagous, -phagy, -sitia, sitio-, sito-, -troph, -trophic, tropho-, -trophy, -vora, -vore, -vorous;
base -alim-, -cib-, comest-, -ed-¹, escul-, glutt-, -gust-
eccentric *comb* aetheo-, anom(o)-, anomal-*o-*. *See* irregular
educate *comb* -pedia; *base* -didact-, doc-, -paed-
eel *base* anguill-, -cyclostom-, -mu-raen-
effect *comb* -ergy
efficient *base* efficac-, habil-, quali-

effort *base* conat-, peir-
egg *comb* oo-, ovario-, ovi-¹, ovo-;
~yolk: lecith-, lecitho-, vitell-;
~shaped: ovato-
Egyptian *comb* Egypto-
eight *comb* octa-, octo-, ogdo-;
~hundred: octocent-. *Also see* "Numbers" in Part III
eighteen *comb* duodeviginti-, octakaideca-
eighth *base* octan-
eighty *base* octogen-, octoges-
eland *base* taurotrag-
elation *base* jubil-
elbow *base* -ancon-
elderly *comb* gerasco-, gero-, geronto-, grand-, presby-, presbyter-; *base* -antiqu-, -sen-, -vet-;
~woman: grao-
electric(al) *comb* electro-, galvano-;
~induction: *comb* inducto-
elementary *base* prim-, -rud-;
~particle: *comb* stoichio-; *suf* -on
elephant *base* elephant-, pachyderm-
elevation *comb* acro-, alti-, alto-, bato-, hypsi-, hypso-; *base* procer-
eleven *comb* endeca-, hendeca-, un-

deca-, undecim-. *Also see* "Numbers" in Part III

elk *base* cerv-

elm *base* ulm-

emaciated *base* tab-. *See* wasting away

emanation *comb* atmo-, -capnia, capno-, vapo-, vapor-; *base* nebul-

embarrassment *base* pud-, verecund-

embezzle *base* pecul-

emboss *base* toreut-

embryo(nic) *comb* -blast, -blastic, blasto-, -blasty; *base* embry-

emendation *comb* ortho-; *base* castig-, emend-

emerald *base* smaragd-

eminent *comb* over-

emotions *comb* thymo-; **disordered**~: -thymia

empty *comb* ceno-³, keno-; *base* -erem-, (ex)haur-, inan-, -vac(u)-

emu- *base* rat-

emulation *base* zelo-

enamel *comb* amelo-

encounter *base* congress-, congru-

encourage *base* -hort-

end *comb* teleo-, telo-, ultim-, ultimo-; *base* -fin-, -termin-;

endless: apeiro-

enduring *base* diuturn-, dur(o)-, perenn-, perm-, stabil-

enema *base* clysm-; clyst-

enemy *base* advers-, hostil-, inimic-

energy *comb* dyna(mo)-

engage in *suf* -ize

English *comb* Anglo-

engrave *comb* -glyph, glypto-

enigmatic *comb* enigmatico-

enlarged *pre* ad-, extra-, hyper-,

super-; *comb* auxano-, auxo-, multi-, myria-, myrio-, out-, over-, -plasia, pleni-, pleo-, pleio-, pleon-, plethys-, plio-, pluri-, pol-

laki-, poly-; *base* ampl-, -aug-, -cresc-, dilat-, -fold-, pler-, -plet-
enormous *comb* bronto-, dino-, giganteo-, mega-, megaloo-, -megaly
enter *comb* intro-; *base* ingress-
enthusiasm *base* ard-, alacr-, -ferv-, zelo-

entice *base* lenocin-

entire(ly) *pre* be-, cata-, de-, kata-, ob-, per-; *comb* holo-, omni-, pan-, panto-, stone-, toti-

entrance *comb* porto-

entreaty *base* litan-, -preca-

enveloped *pre* be-; *comb* calypto-, stegano-, stego-

environment *comb* -cole, -colent, -colous, eco-, oeco-, oiko-; *base* -aed-, -dom-, -edi-

envy *base* -invid-

enzymes *comb* zym-, zymo-; *suf* -ase

epidemic *base* luet-, morb-, pestil-

epoch *comb* -cene

equal(ly) *pre* co-; *comb* equi-, homalo-, homo-, homolo-, iso-, pari-, tauto-

equivalent *pre* para-, quasi-; *comb* homeo-, omceo, homoio-, homolo-, iso-, -phane, -phanic; *base* simil-; *suf* -acean, -aceous, -al, -an, -ar, -ary, -ean, -en, -eous, -esque, -ful, -ic, -il, -ile, -ine, -ing, -ish, -itious, -ize, -like, -ode, -oid, -ose, -osity, -some, -tious, -ular, -y

erase *base* oblit-

erect *comb* ithy-, ortho-, recti-; *base* ard-³

ermine *base* mustel-

error *base* culp-, delinq-, laps-, pecc-, sphal-

eruption *comb* -anthema

erythrocyte *comb* erythro-

essence *base* -ousia, -ousian, quid-

eternal *comb* ever-; *base* etern-,
perpet-, semper-
ethers *suf* -ole
ethical *comb* ethico-
ethmoid bone *comb* ethmo-
European *comb* Euro-, Europaeo-,
Europeo-
eustachian tube *comb* salpingo-
even level: *comb* homalo-, homolo-,
plani-, plano-, plate-, platy-;
number: artio-. *See* **equal**
evening *comb* -noct(i)-, nyct(o)-;
base crepus-, -vesper-
event *comb* -athlon-, -athon,
-machy, -off. *See* **festival**
everlasting *base* assid-, contin-,
incess-, perpet-
every *comb* katheno-, omni-, pan-,
pant(o)-
evil *pre* dys-, mis-; *comb* caco-,
iniqu-, kak(o)-, mal(e)-, ponero-;
base -prav-, sceler-, turp-
evolution *comb* -genesis. *See* **cre-**
ation
examination *comb* -opsy-, -scope,
-scopic, scopo-, -scopy; *base*
-(in)quir-, -(in)quis-, -scrut-
example of *comb* -type; *suf* -ism
excessive *pre* hyper-, super-, ultra-;
comb over-, poly-; ~**craving:**
comb -lagnia, -mania; ~**devotion:**
comb -latry; *suf* -ism; ~**drinking**
and eating: *base* crapul-; ~**flow:**
comb -(r)rhagia, -(r)rhage,
-(r)rhagy
exchange *base* -allac-, -allag-, -al-
laxis-, camb-
excision *comb* -(ec)tomy
excite *comb* agito-; *base* -cit-
exclaim *base* clam-, vocif-
exclude *pre* ab-, apo-, be-, de-, des-,
di-, dia-, dif-, dis-, e-, ec-, ef-, ex-,
for-, off-, se-, with-; *comb* ectro-;
base -spol-
excrement *comb* -chezia, copro-,

fimi-, kopro-, scato-, spatilo-,
sterco-; *base* -fec(u)-, -merd-
exertion *comb* -ergasia, ergasio-,
-ergic, ergo-, -ergy, -orial, -pra-
gia, -praxia, -praxis; *suf* -esce,
-escence, -escent, -esis; **quality**
of~: *comb* -pragia
exhaustion *comb* pono-; *base* -fatig-,
-kopo-, -lass-
exhibit *comb* phaeno-, pheno-;
base -monstr-
existence *comb* onto-; *base*
-esse-
exit *base* egress-, relinq-
expansion *comb* -ectasia, -ectasis;
base -dilat-
experienced *base* -vet-
experiment *base* peir-
extended *comb* dolicho-, -footer,
longi-, macro-, maxi-; *base* pro-
cer-; ~**words:** sesquipedal-
extent *comb* quant(i)-; *suf* -age,
-ful, -ling³
external *comb* ect(o)-, exo-,
extra-
extinct mammal form *comb*
-there, therio-, thero-
extol *base* laud-
extra *pre* hyper-, super-. *See* **in-**
creased
extremity *comb* acro-, aorto-,
-mele, -melia¹, melo-³
exultation *comb* chero-; *base* beati-,
felic-, jubil-, macar-
eye *comb* eid(o)-, oculi-, oculo-,
op-, ophthalmo-, -opia, opsi-,
-opsia, -opsis, opso-², -opsy, op-
tico-, opto-, -scope, -scopic,
-scopy; *base* blep-, ommat-,
-spec-, -spic-, -vid-, -vis-; **cornea**
of~: *comb* corneo-, kerato-; **cor-**
ner of~: canth(o)-; ~**covering:**
sclero-; **iris of~:** irido-; ~**lash:**
cili-; ~**lid:** blepharo-, tarso-; **one-**
eyed: lusc-; **pupil of~:** core(o)-,

-coria, coro-, -koria, pupillo-;
 ~**retina**: retino-
 eyebrows *base* ophry-; *space be-*

tween~: glabello-
 eyelet *comb* ocelli-

F

fabricate/fabrication *pre* be-; *comb*
 -craft, ergo-, -facient, fic-,
 -fication, -plastic, -plast, plasto-,
 -plasty, -poiesis, -poietic, -urgy;
base aedi-, edi-, -fabr-, -fac-, -fec-;
suf -ate, -fy, -ize

face *comb* facio-, prosop(o)-, -
 visaged

faceted *comb* -hedral, -hedron

fact of being *suf* -cy, -ency

faded *base* -marc-

fail(ure) *pre* dis-; *base* atychi-, kak-
 orrhaph-

fainting *base* asthen-

faith *comb* -ousia; *base* -cred-,
 -fid-¹, -pist-; *suf* -ism

fake *see* false

falcon *base* accipit-, falconi-,
 raptor-

fall *base* -autumn-

falling *comb* -ptosia, -ptosis; *base*
 -cad-, -cas-, -cid-

fallopian tube *comb* salpingo-

false *comb* mytho-, pseudo; *base*
 fict-, kibdelo-, -mendac-, notho-

fame/famous *base* celebr-, laud-,
 -lustr-

family *base* cogn-, famil-, stirp-

family names [zoology] *suf* -idae

famine *comb* limo-²

fan *base* rhipi-; ~**like**: flabelli-,
 rhipido-

far *comb* disto-, tele-

farewell *base* vale-

farming *base* agricol-, agricult-,
 arat-

fascia *comb* fascio-

fast *comb* ocy-, tacho-, tachy; *base*
 alacr-, -celer-, veloc-

fasten *base* -hapto-², pegm-. *See*
 bind

fasting *comb* limo-²

fat *comb* adip(o)-, lipo-¹, pimel(o)-,
 pio-, stearo-, steato-; *base* -aliph-,
 lipar-, -obes-, -pingu-, sebo-;

~**degeneration**: *comb* -demia

father *comb* pater-, patri-

father-in-law *base* socer-

fatigue *comb* pono-; *base* -fatig-,
 -kopo-, lass-

fault *base* culp-, delinq-, laps-,
 -pecca-, sphal-

fear *comb* -phobe, -phobia, -pho-
 bic, phobo-; *base* pavid-, tim(or)-,
 -trem-, -trep-. *Also see* "Fear" in
 Part III

feast day *suf* -fest, -ia, -mas

feather(like) *comb* penni-, pennati-,
 pinnati-, pinnato-, pinni-,
 plum(i)-, pteno-, pter, ptero-,
 pterono-, -pteros, pterygo-,
 -pteryl, ptilo-. *See* wing

feces *comb* -chezia, copro-, fim(i)-,
 kopro-, scato-, spatilo-, sterco-;
base -fec(u)-, -merd-

feeble *comb* astheno-, -atrophia,
 lepto-, -plegia, -plegy; *base* -debil-,
 dimin-, enerv-, flacc-, labe-

feeding on *comb* bromato-, -brotic,
 manduc-, -phage, phago-,
 -phagous, -phagy, -sitia, sitio-,
 sito-, -troph, -trophic, tropho-,
 -trophy, -vora, -vore, -vorous;
base -alim-, -bosc-, -cib-, -gust-

feel *comb* -aphia, -apsia, hapt(o)-, -path, -pathic, patho-, -pathy, sensi-, senso-, sensori-, thigmo-; *base* -palp-, -sens-, -sent-, -tact-, -tang-

feet long *comb* -foot(er)

feign *comb* pseudo-; *base* -simula-

felicity *comb* chero-; *base* beati-, felic-, jubil-, macar-

female *comb* gyn(e)-, gyneco-, gyneo-, gyno-, -gynous, -gyny, -para, she-, thely-, -wife; *base* femin- muliebr-, mulier-; *suf* -a⁴, -en, enne-, -ess, -ette, -ice², -ine, -stress, -trice, -trix; **elderly**~: grao-

ferment **social:** *base* -agit-, -tumult-, -turb-

fermentation *comb* zym(o)-

fern *comb* pterido-; *base* filic-

ferret *base* mustel-, viverr-

ferric iron *comb* ferri-

fervor *base* ard-, alacr-, -ferv-, zelo-

festival (names) *comb*—athon, -fest, -mas; *base* -heort-; *suf* -ia

fetus *comb* brepho-, cyo-, embryo-, kyo-; ~**membrane:** *comb* allanto-, amnio-

fever *comb* feбри-, pyreto-, -pyrexia

few *comb* oligo-; *base* pauc(i)-

fiber *base* erio-, fibri-, ino-

fibril-shaped *comb* fibrilloso-

fibrin *comb* fibrino-

fibrous matter *comb* fibro-, fibroso-, funi-, strom-; ~**growth:** ino-; ~**tissue:** fascio-

fibula *base* peroneo-

fictitious *comb* pseudo-

fiddle *base* pandur-

field *comb* agri-, agro-; *base* agrest-, camp¹

fifteen *base* pentakaideca-, quindec-. Also see "Numbers" in Part III

fifty *base* pentaconta-, pentacosta-, quinquagen-, quinquages-

fig *base* -fici-, -syc-

fight *comb* macho-, -machy, pugn-; *base* -bell-, pugil-

figure *comb* icono-, -form; *base* schem-; ~**with (x) angles:** -gon; ~**with (x) surfaces:** -hedral, -hedron

filament *comb* fili-, filio-, filamento-, filo-, mito-, nemato-; *base* stema-

filled with *comb* -filled, plen(i)-; *base* -pler-, -plet-; *suf* -acious, -ate, -ic, -id², -ful, -ose, -osity, -ous, -ulent, -y

filter *base* col-²

filth *comb* blenno-, -chezia, copro-, fim(i)-, kopro-, miso-, myso-, -myxia, myxo-, paedo-, pedo-, scato-, spatilo-, spurc-, stegno-, sterco-; *base* -fec-², molys-, rhy-par-, rupo-, rhypo-, rypo-, sord-; **filthy talk:** borbor-

fin *comb* pinni-, pterygo-

final stage *comb* eschato-, teleo-, telo-, ultim(o)-; *base* -fin-, -termin-

finch *base* fringill-

find *base* heur-

fine *comb* habro-, lepto-, subtil-, tenu-

finger *comb* -dactyl, dactylo-, -dactylous, -dactyly, digiti-; ~**like:** *comb* digitato-; ~**ring:** *comb* dactyl-io-

finger nail *comb* -onychia, onycho-

Finnish *comb* Finno-

fir *base* abiet-

fire *comb* igni-, pyr(o)-; *base* ard-, ars-, flagr-, flamm-, incend-, phlog-

firefly *base* lampyr-

firm *comb* duro-, sclero-

first *comb* arch-, fore-, pre-, primi-, primo-, pro-, proso-, protero-, proto-; *base* -princip-

fish(like) *comb* ichthyo-, pisci-; *base* halieut-; **bony**~: scopeli

fishing *base* riv-
fissure *comb* fissuri-, rim-
fist *base* pug-, pygm-
fit **seizure:** *comb* -agra, -lepsia, -leptosis, -lepsy, -leptic; **capable:** *comb* -worthy; *suf* -able, -ibility, -ible, -ile
five *comb* cinque-, penta-, quin-, quinque-, quint(i)-; ~**hundred:** quincen-. Also see "Numbers" in Part III
fixation *comb* -lagnia, -philia; **surgical~:** -pexy
fixed *comb* stasi-, -stasis, -stat, stato-; *base* stabil-
flag *comb* vexillo-
flamingo *base* phoenicopter-
flammable *comb* ard-, ars-
flank *comb* laparo-
flash *comb* sela-; *base* -fulg-, stilpno-
flask *base* lagen-, ampul-
flat *comb* plain-, plani-, plano-¹, plat-¹, platy-; ~**plain:** pedion-
flattery *base* adul-, bland-
flatulence *comb* physa-
flavin *comb* -flavin, flavo-
flaw *base* culp-, delinq-, laps-, pecc-, sphal-
flax *comb* byssi-, linar-
flea *base* psyll-², puli-
flee *base* avers-, drapeto-, fug-, -phygo-
flesh *comb* carni-, carnos-, creo-, kreo-, -sarc, sarco-. See **skin**
flexible *base* agil-, facil-, ingen-
flight *comb* avi; *base* -fug-. See **flying**
fling *comb* -bole, -bolic, bolo-, -boly; *base* ballist-, -jact-, -jacula-, -ject-
flipper *comb* pinni-, pterygo-
flock *base* -greg-
flood *base* -antlo-, diluv-, inund-; ~**tide:** plemyr-

floor (soilbed) *base* edaph-
flora *comb* botano-, herbi-, -phyte, phyto-; *base* veget-; *suf* -aceae, -ad, -ales, -eae, -ia
flour *comb* aleuro-; *base* farin-
flower *comb* antho-, -anthous, flori-, -florous; ~**garland:** *base* corolli-
flow(ing) *comb* rheo-, rheum-, -(r)rhage, -(r)rhagia, -(r)rhea, -(r)rhoea, -(r)rhoeca; *base* -flu(v)-, -fus-
fluid *comb* -plasm, plasm-, *base* -liqu-, -ner-
fluorescence *comb* fluo(ro)-
fluorine *comb* fluo-, fluor(o)-
flute *comb* aulo-
fly **insect:** *base* cyclorrhaph-, musc-¹, myia-
flying *comb* aero-, avia-, avio-, aviono-. See **wing**
foam *base* aphro-, -spum-
focused on *comb* -centered, -centric
foe *base* advers-, hostil-, inimic-
fog *comb* fracto-, nephelo-, nepho-; *base* brum-², calig-, homichlo-, nebul-, -nub-
fold *comb* -plex, plicato-, plici-, -ptych
follow(ing) *pre* epi-, meta-, post-; *comb* after-, hind-, postero-; *base* -secut-, -sequ-; *suf* -an
folly see **foolish**
food *comb* bromato-, -brotic, man-duc-, opso-, -phage, phago-, -phagous, -phagy, -sitia, sitio-, sito-, -troph, -trophic, tropho-, -trophy, -vora, -vore, -vorous; *base* -alim-, -cib-, escul-, -gust-, -nutr-; **partially digested~:** chymo-. Also see "Food" in Part III.
foolish *base* fatu-, inan-, moro-, stult-
foot *comb* ped-¹, pedati-, -pede, pedi-, pedo-¹, -poda, -pode,

-podium, -pod, podo-, -podous,
 -pus *base* -plant-; ~**sole**: -pelm-,
 plant-
footprint *comb* ichno-, stibo-
for *pre* pro-
forbid *base* prohib-
force *comb* dyna-, dynamo-, mega-,
 megallo-, -megaly, -sthenia,
 sthen-; *base* -forc-, -fort-, -
 poten-, robor-
forceps *base* labido-
forearm *comb* ulno-
forehead *comb* metopo-
foreign(er) *comb* perisso-, xeno-;
base -ali-
foremost *comb* arch-, archi-, proto-;
base -prim-, -princip-
forest *comb* dendri-, dendro-,
 -dendron, hylaeo-, saltu-, silvi-,
 xylo-; *base* arbor-, nemo(r),
 -sylv-
forever *comb* ever-; *base* etern-,
 perpet-, semper-
forget *base* leth-
forked *base* -furc-
form, a *comb* eid(o)-, -form,
 -morph-, -morphic-, -morphism,
 morpho-, -morphous; *base* -figur-,
 -schem-
form, to *pre* be-; *comb* aetio-, etio-;
base -fabr-, fac-, fec-, fic-
formation *pre* em-, en-, meta-,
 trans-; *comb* -blast-, -blastic,
 blasto-, -craft, ergo-, etio-,
 -facient-, -fic-, -fication-, -gen-, -
 genesis-, -genic-, -genous-, -geny,
 -parous-, -plasia-, -plasis, -plasmo-,
 -plast-, -plastic, -plasto-, -plasty,
 -poiesis-, -poietic-, -trope-, -tropic,
 -tropism, tropo-, -tropous-, -tropy,
 -urgy; *base* -fec-, -mut-, -vert-;
suf -ate-, -en-, -fy-, -ize-, -otic
fornicate *base* copul-, scort-, stupr-
fortification *base* castella-
fortune **luck**: *comb* tycho-; *base*

faust-; **wealth**: *comb* pluto-; *base*
 opul-
forty *base* quadragen-, quadrages-
forward *pre* fore-, pre-, pro-¹; *comb*
 antero-, proso-
fossil *base* oryct-; *suf* -ite
foul **dirt**: *comb* blenno-, -chezia,
 copro-, edaph-, fim(i)-, kopro-,
 miso-, myso-, -myxia, myxo-,
 paedo-, pedo-, scato-, spatilo-,
 spurc-, stegno-, sterco-; *base*
 -fecu-, gleb-, hum-, macul-,
 molys-, rhypar-, rhy-po-, rypo-,
 sord-; **evil**: *pre* dys-, mis-; *comb*
 caco-, iniq-, kak(o)-, mal(e)-,
 ponero-, -prav-, turp-
foundation *comb* base-, basi-, baso-
fountain *base* cren-², pego-
four(th) *comb* quadr-, quadrato-,
 quadri-, quadru-, quart-, quarter-,
 quarti-, quat-, quater-, tetarto-,
 tetra-, tessera-; ~**cycles**: tetra-,
 cyclo-; ~**hundred**: quadricent-;
 ~**times**: tetrakis-. Also see "Num-
 bers" in Part III
fourteen *base* quattuordec-,
 tessaradeca-, tetradeca-, tetra-
 kaideca-
fowl *base* gallin-
fox *base* alopec-, vulpi-
foxglove *comb* digito-
fraction *base* -par-¹, parti-; ~**of a**
meter: *comb* -meter
fracture *comb* -clasia-, -clasis, -clas-
 tic, rhegma-, -(r)raghia-, -(r)rhexis;
base agmat-, -fract-, frag-, -frang-,
 -rupt-; **bone**~: catagm-
fragile *see* frail
fragment *comb* clasmato-, -fid; *base*
 frust-, -par-
frail *comb* lepto-; *base* -asthen-,
 coupho-, -debil-, koupho-
framework *base* pegm-
fraudulent *base* apat-, dolero-,
 ludif-

freckle *base* lentig-
free *comb* eleuthero-; *base* -liber-,
 vac(u)-
freeing *comb* lyo-, lysi-, -lysis, lyso-,
 -lyte, -lytic, -lyze; *base* -liqu-,
 -solu-, -solv-
freezing *comb* cheima-, crymo-,
 cryo-, frigo-, gelo-, kryo-, pago-,
 psychro-, rhigo-; *base* alg-, glac-
French *comb* Franco-, Gallo-
frenzied *base* frenet-
frequent *comb* pluri-, pollaki-, poly-;
base crebr-; *suf* -le. *See repeatedly*
fresh *comb* thalero-; *base* -nov-
friction *comb* tribo-, -tripsy; *base*
 trit-
friendship *comb* socio-; *base* -am-,
 amic⁻¹, comit-
fright *see* fear
frigid *see* freezing
fringe *comb* crosso-; *base* -fimbr-,
 lacin-, thysan-; **small~**: fimbrilli-;
 ~**with hairs**: fimbriato-
frog *comb* batracho-, bufo-, phryno-,
 rani-; *base* polyped-
from *pre* a⁻², ab-, abs-, apo-, e-, ex-,
 with-
front *pre* ante-, pre-, pro-; *comb*
 antero-, fore-, proso-
frontal bone *comb* fronto-
frost *base* cryo-, gel⁻¹, kryo-,
 pachno-, pago-, pruin-, rhigo-

froth *base* -spum-
fructose *comb* fructi-, fructo-
fruit *comb* -carp, -carpic, carpo⁻¹,
 -carpous, pomi-, pomo-; *base*
 -frug⁻¹; ~**sugar**: fructi-, fructo-
fruitfly *base* drosophyl-, trypet-
fugitive *base* drapeto-
full of *comb* -filled, pleni-, pleo-,
 plero-, pluri-; *base* -pler-, -plet-;
suf -acious, -ate, -ic, -ful, -ilent,
 -ose², -osity, -ous, -ulent, -y
fun *comb* chero-
function *suf* -ate³, -ise
functionally disordered *pre* para-
funeral rites *base* epicid-, thren-
fungus *comb* fungi-, morilli-,
 -mycete, mycet(o)-, -mycin,
 myco-, uredo-; *base* bolet-
funnel *comb* choano-, infundibuli-
fur *base* dora-
furious *base* chol-, -invid-, -ira-,
 -margy
furnish with *pre* be-; *suf* -ate
furrow *comb* holco-, stria-, striato-,
 strio-, sulcato-; *base* -scrobic-,
 strig-
fusion *pre* co-; *comb* conjugato-,
 -ergasia, gameto-, gamo-, hapto-,
 junct-; *base* aps-, apt-, -greg-,
 -soc-; *suf* -ate, -ize
futile *base* futil-, inutil-, mataeo-

G

gable *base* fastig-
gain *base* lucr-, quaest-
gall **bile**: *comb* bili-, chol(e)-, gall-;
tumorous plant tissue: cecid-
galvanic *comb* galvano-
gambling *base* alea-
gamete *comb* gameto-

ganglion *comb* ganglio-
gangrene *base* sphacel-
gap *base* -apert-, -cav-, fenest-,
 foram-, oego-, oigo-, osti-, patul-,
 pylo-, rim, valv-
garb *base* habil-, hesto-, -vest-
garden *comb* horti-

garlic *base* alli-, scoro-
gas *comb* aeri-, aero-, gaso-,
 pneumo-; **stomach**~: physa-,
 physo-
gash *comb* -cide, cis-, -cise,
 -ectomy, inciso-, -sect, temno-,
 -tmesis, -tome, tomo-, -tomous,
 -tomy; *base* sec-
gastric *comb* chyli-, chylo-, chyma-
gate *comb* porto-; *base* osti-, -pyl-
gathered together *comb* cumulo-;
base acerv-, -sor-
gelatin *comb* gelatino-
generate *comb* aetio-, etio-, -gen,
 geno-, -genesis, -genic, -genous,
 -geny, -gone, -gonium, gono-, -
 gony, -phyletic. *See* **cause**
genital(s) *comb* genito-; *base* -aede-;
female~: colpo-; **male**~: phallo-
gentle *base* -len-, mansue-, miti-,
 moll-
geological epoch *comb* -cene
geometric figure *comb* -gon,
 -hedral, -hedron
gerbil *base* cricet-
German *comb* Germano-, Teutano-,
 Teuto-
germinal *comb* -blast, blasto-,
 -blasty, -carp, -carpic, carpo-,
 -carpous, sperma-, -spermal,
 spermatio-, spermato-, spermi-,
 -spermic, spermo-, -spermous,
 sporo-; *base* semin-
germs *comb* bacilli-, bacillo-, -
 bacter, bacteri-, bacterio-
get *base* -cap-, -cep-, -cip-, -dyte-
ghost *base* phantas-, phasm-,
 spectr-
gibbon *base* hylobat-
gift *base* don-, dor-, mun-
gigantic *comb* bronto-, dino-,
 giganto-, mega-, megalo-,
 -megaly, super-. *See* **large**
gills *comb* -branchia, branchio-
ginger *base* zingiber-

giraffe *base* artiodactyl-
girdle *comb* zoni-, zono-; *base*
 -cing-, zoster-. *See* **band**
give *base* -don-; ~**birth**: *base*
 -partur-; ~**way**: *base* -ced-, -cess-
glacier *comb* glacio-
gland *comb* adeni-, adeno-, balani-,
 balano-; **swollen**~: strum(i)-
glass(y) *comb* crystallo-, hyalo-, vit-
 reo-, vitri-, vitro-. *See* **mirror**
gleam *comb* sela-; *base* -fulg-, gano-,
 lustr-, rutil-, stilpno-
glittering *base* stilpno-
globe *comb* ano-, annul-, crico-,
 cyclo-, disco-, globi-, globo-,
 glom-, gyro-, orbito-, -sphere,
 sphero-, stilli-, zon-, zoni-; *base*
 -anu-, -cing-, -cinct-, -circin-,
 -circul-, -coron-, -glomer-,
 -numm-, -orb-, -rot-, -troch-
gloomy *base* fusc-, obscur-, tenebr-
glowworm *base* lampyr-
glue (like) *comb* colieto-, -glea,
 -glia, glio-, glutin-, kollo-; *base*
 coll-²
glum *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-, fleb-,
 flet, luct-, -trist-
glutted *comb* -filled, pleni-, pleo-,
 plero-, pluri-; *base* -pler-, -plet-;
suf -acious, -ate, -ic, -ful, -ilent,
 -ose, -osity, -ous, -ulent, -y
glycerin, glycerol, glycogen *comb*
 glico-, gluco-
gnash *base* brux-, frend-, mol-
gnat *base* culici-
gnaw *base* -trog-. *See* **chew**
gnu *base* connochaet-
go *comb* -grade, -motive, -plania ,
 plano-; *base* -bat-, -ced-, -cess-,
 -cur(s), -grad-, -gress-, -mob-,
 -vad-, -vas-; ~**away**: out-; ~**into**:
 -dyte-; ~**forward**: pro-; ~**toward**:
 -bound, -petal
goal *comb* teleo-, telo-, ultim(o)-;
base -fin-, -termin-

goat *comb* capri-, egagro-, trago-;

base hircin-

goblet *base* pocul-

God *comb* theo-; *base* dei-

goiter *base* strum(i)-

gold(en) *comb* auri-², auro-, chrys(o)-. *Also see* "Colors" in Part III

goldfish *base* cyprin-

gonad *comb* gonado-

good *pre* bene-, eu-; *base* agath-, bon-, prob-

goodbye *base* vale-

goods *base* empor-, -merc-

goose *base* anser-, cheno-

gorgeous *comb* calli-, callo-; *base* kal-, pulchr-

gorilla *base* -pong-

gourd *base* cucurbit-

government *comb* -archy, -cracy, -crat(ic); *base* gubern-

grab *base* rap-, rep-. *See* grasp

graceful *comb* habro-

grafting *base* surcul-

grain *comb* grani-; *base* farr-, farrag-, -frument-

gram *comb* -gram

grandfather *base* av(us)-

grandmother *base* av(ia)-

granite *comb* graniti-; *like, of*~: grano-

granular *comb* coni-, -conia, conio-, granulo-

grape (like) *comb* acini-, botry-, staphylo-, vini-, vino-, viti-; *base* racem-, -rhag-, -uvi-, -uvu-

grasp *comb* -tain; *base* -cap(t)-, -cathex-, -ger-, -hapt-, -prehend, prehens-, -ten-

grass *base* agrost-, gramin-

grasshopper *base* acrid-, gryll-, locust-

grave *comb* -taph, tapho-; *base* sepul-

gravel *base* glare-

gray *comb* glauco-, -phaein, phaeo-, pheo-, polio-; *base* caesi-, -can-², -gris-, -tephr-. *Also see* "Colors" in Part III

grazing *base* pascu-

grease *base* lipar-, sebo-, unct-, ungu-

great size: *comb* macro-, magni-, maxi-, plethys-; *base* -ampl-, -maj-; *suf* -fold. *See* gigantic

greater *pre* super-; *comb* meizo-, out-

greed *base* avar-, avid-, cup(id)-, edac-, gulos-, pleonec-, pleonex-

Greek *comb* Graeco-, Greco-; *base* Hellen-

green *comb* chloro-, glauco-, olivaceo-; *base* -beryl-, caes-, oliv-, porrac-, pras-, smaragd-, thall-, thallas-, verd-, -vir-, virid-. *Also see* "Colors" in Part III

gridiron *base* graticul-

grief *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-, fleb-, flet-, luct-, trist-

grind *base* -brux-, frend-, mol-

grit *comb* ammo-, aren-, arenaceo-, glare-, psammo-, sabul-

groin *comb* bubo-, inguino-

groove *comb* bothr-, -glyph, glypto-, stria-, striato-, strio-, sulcato-; *base* canalic-, sulc-. *See* cleft

grope *base* pselaph-

ground *base* edaph-, geo-, -hum-, -terr-

group (of) *suf* -age, -ery, -hood, -ship

group names [zoology] *suf* -ini

grouse *base* gallinac-, tetrao-

grove *suf* -etum

grow, growth *comb* auxano-, auxeto-, auxo-, -blast, -blastic, -blasto-, -blasty, -colous, -crease, -culture, -nastic, -nasty, onco-, -physis, -plasia, -plasis, -plast, -plastic, plasto-, plethys-, verruci-;

base -aug, -cresc-; *suf* -oma,
-ome; *~in*: -cole, -colent, -colous;
~together: symphyo-
guess *base* -stoch-
guide *base* gubern-
guilt *base* -culp-
gull *base* gavi-, lar-

gullet *comb* esophago-, œsophago-
gulp *base* glutt-
gum-yielding *comb* gutti-
gums *comb* gingivo-, oulo-, ulo-²
gyrating *comb* gyro-
gyroscope *comb* gyro-

H

habit *base* -hexi-
habitat *comb* -cole, -colent,
-colous, eco-, oiko-; *base* -aed-,
-dom-, -edi-
hailstone *base* grandin-, chalax-
hair/hairlike *comb* capilli-,
chaet(o)-, cili-, cilio-, -coma,
comi-, como-, crin(i)-, dasy-,
fimbr-, fimbrilli-, pili-, pilo-,
piloso-, -trich, -tricha, tricho-,
villosa-; *base* hirsut-, hispid-,
lanug-, -thrix-, vill-
half *pre* demi-, hemi-, semi-; *comb*
dicho-, mezzo-; *base* dimid-
halibut *base* hippogloss-
halogen *comb* halo-; *suf* -ine
halt *comb* stasi-, -stasis, -stat, stato-;
base fin-, termin-
hammer *comb* malleo-; *base* mall-,
sphyr-
hampered *comb* brady-; *base* -
cunct-, imped-, -mora-, -tard-
hand *comb* cheiro-, chiro-, hand-,
mani-, manu-
handle *base* ansa-, manubr-
hang *comb* cremo-; *base* -pend-,
-pens-
happening every __ *suf* -ly
happiness *comb* chero-¹; *base* beati-,
felic-, jubil-, macar-
harbor *base* limen-
hard *comb* duro-, sclero-; *~palate*:

comb uranisco-, urano-; *~shell*:
base lorica-. *See* difficult
hare *base* cunic-, lago-, lepor-
harlot *comb* cypriano-, hetaero-,
porno-; *base* meretric-, scort-
harmful *comb* noci-, pesti-; *base*
-nox-, pericul-
harmony *pre* co-; *base* concinn-,
congru-, -eiren-, -iren-, -pac-,
-pax, unanim-
harsh *comb* caco-; *base* acerb-,
asper-
haste *base* alacr-, celer-, festin-,
subit-; *comb* ocy-, tacho-, tachy-
hatchet *base* dolabr-, pelec-, securi-
hate(d) *comb* miso-, -phobe, -
phobia, -phobic; *base* -invid-,
-ira(sc)-, odi-
haul(ing) *comb* -fer, -ferous, -ger-
ous, -parous, -pher, -phore,
-phorous; *base* -port-, -vect-
having *comb* -echia; *suf* -acean,
-aceous, -al, -ate², -ed², -ful, -ger-
ous, -ial, -ine, -ious, -itious, -ory,
-ous, -some, -ulent, -ulous, -wise,
-y; *base* -ten-; *~parts:comb* -fold
hawk *base* accipit-, buteo-, falco-,
hieraco-
hawthorn *base* -crataeg-
hazard *base* pericul-
head *comb* capit-, cephal-,
-cephalic, cephalo-, -cephalous,

-cephaly, cranio-, kephalo-; **having a __ head:** -headed; **type of~:** -pated

headstrong *base* contum-, obstin-, pervic-, proterv-

healing *comb* -iatrics, -iatr(o)-, -iatry, medico-; *base* cur-, san-

health *base* salub-, san-. *See* sickness

heap(ing) *comb* cumulo-; *base* acerv-, -sor-

hearing *comb* acou-, acoust-, audi(o)-, auri-, echo-, -ecoia, oto-, -phone, phono-, -phony, -phthong, soni-, sono-, sonoro-

heart *comb* cardi-, -cardia, cardio-, -cardium, cordato-, cordi-, pericardiac-, pericardio-; **~attack:** *base* angin-; **~cavity:** *comb* atrio-; **~shaped:** *comb* cordato-

heartbreak *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-, fleb-, flet-, luct-, trist-

heat *comb* cal(e)-, calo-, calor(i)-, pyr(o)-, -therm, thermo-, -thermy; *base* aest-, caum-, ferv-

heave *comb* -bole, -bolic, bolo-, -boly; *base* -ballist-, -jact-, -jacula-, -ject-

heavens *comb* ourano-, urano-; *base* cael-, cel-

heavy *comb* -bar, bari-, baro-, grav(i)-; *base* -obes-, -pond-

Hebrew *comb* Hebraico-

hedgehog *base* echin-, erinac-

heel-bone *comb* calcaneo-, ptern-

height *comb* acro-, alti-, alto-, bato-¹, hypsi-, hypso-; *base* procer-

hell *base* acheron-, avern-, infern-, -styg-

helmet *base* cassidi-, -gale-

help *base* -(ad)jut-, -(ad)juv-, -auxil-

helpful *comb* chreo-, chresto-; *base* -util-

hemispheric *comb* hemispherico-

hen *base* gallin-

heptillion *comb* yotta; **~th:** yocto-

herd *base* -greg-

heredity *comb* heredo-

heresy *base* heresio-

hermit *base* eremit-; **~crab:** pagur-

hernia *comb* -cele, celo-¹, hernio-

heron *base* arde-, grallator-

herring *comb* harengi-; *base* clupe-, halec-

hesitate *base* cunct-

hexillion *comb* zetta-; **~th:** zepto-

hiccup *base* singult-

hidden *pre* sub-; *comb* calypto-, crypto-; *base* occult-; **hiding place:** latib-. *See* covered

hide **animal:** *comb* pelli-; **conceal:** *See* hidden

high(er) *pre* meta-, super-; *comb* acro-, alti-, alto-, hypsi-, hypso-

higher valence *pre* per-; *suf* -ic

highest *comb* acro-

highway *comb* hodo-, -ode, odo-; *base* -iter-, -via-

hill *base* coll-³

hinge *base* gingly-

hip *comb* cotyle-, cotyli-, cotylo-, coxo-, ischi(o)-

hiss *base* -sibil-

historical *comb* historico-

hit *comb* plessi-; *base* cop-, -crot-, -cuss-, -plang-, puls-, -tus-, vapul-, -verber-

hoard *comb* cumulo-; *base* acerv-, -sor-

hoax *base* ludif-

hog *base* hyos-

hold *comb* -tain-, *base* -cap(t)-, -cathex-, -ger-¹, -hapt-, -prehend, prehens-, -ten-; **~back:** prohib-

holder *comb* angio-, asco-, bursi-, burso-, ceco-, chlamyd-, chrysali-, cisto-, coleo-, -cyst, cysti-, cysto-, follic-, meningo-, pericardiac-,

pericardio-, peritoneo-, phasco-,
 physa-, physali-, physo-, -theca,
 theci-, theco-, typhlo-, utri-,
 utric, vesico-; *base* -sacc-, -thylac-

hole *base* cav-, foramin-, lacun-,
 troglo-. *See* **opening**

holler *base* clam-, vocif-

hollow *comb* cava-, -cave, cavi-,
 cavo-, -coele, coelo-, cotyle-,
 cotyli-, cotylo-, koilo. *See* **cavity**

holly *base* ilic-

holy *comb* hagio-, hiero-, sanct(i)-;
base -sacr-

home (of) *comb* eco-, ekist-, nosto-,
 oeco-, oiko-; *base* aed-, -dom-,
 edi-; *suf* -age

honest *base* prob-

honey *comb* mell(i)-

honeycomb *comb* favoso-; *base* fav-

honor *base* timo-

honorable *pre* bene-, eu-; *base*
 agath-, bon-, prob-

hood *base* calyptri-, cuculli-

hook *base* hamat-, -unci-

hookworm *base* ancylostom-

hope *base* -sper-

hormone names *comb* -kinin

horn, hornlike *comb* cerat(o)-,
 -corn, corneo-, corni-, cornu-,
 kerat(o)-

hornbill *base* bucerot-, bucorac-

hornblower *comb* keraulo-

hornet *comb* vespi-; *base* -sphec-

horse *comb* equ(i)-, hippo-,
 -hippus; *base* caball-, caval-

horsefly *base* taban-

horseshoe *base* hippocrepi-

horsetail *base* equiset-

hospital *base* nosocom-

host *base* -hosp-, -xen-

hostile *pre* anti-; *base* inimic-

hot *comb* cal(e)-, calo-, calor(i)-,
 pyr(o)-, thermo-, -thermy; *base*
 aestu-, caum-, ferv-

hour *comb* horo-

house *comb* eco-, ekist-, oeco-,
 oiko-; *base* aed-, -dom-¹, edi-; *suf*
 -age

how many *base* quot-

howl *base* ulul-¹

hub *comb* centr-, centri-, -centric,
 centro-

huge *comb* bronto-, dino-, gigante-,
 mega-, megal-, -megaly

hull **ship:** *base* naut-; **husk:** *base*
 follic-, -lemma², putamin-

human *comb* anthrop(o)-, humano-.
See **people**

humid *comb* hydro-, hygro-, udo-;
base humect-, madefac-, -rig-

hummingbird *base* trochil-

humorous *comb* comico-

hump *comb* cypho-, gibboso-,
 hybo-, lordo-, scoli-; *base* -kyph-

hundred *comb* cent(i)-, hecato-,
 hecto-, hekto-; ~**twenty:** hecaton-
 icos-

hunger *base* esur-; ~**for:** *comb*
 eroto-, -lagnia, -mania, -orexia;
base -appet-, conat-, -cup-, -libid-,
 -opt-, vell-; *suf* -urient

hunt *base* venat-

hurl *comb* -bole, -bolic, bolo-,
 -boly; *base* ballist-, -jact-, -jacula-,
 -ject-

hurricane *base* lilaps-

hurry *base* accel-, celer-, festin-

hurt *comb* noci-; *base* -nox-, vuln-.

See **pain**

husband *base* conjug-, marit-

hushed *comb* hesy-; *base* -plac-,
 quiesc-, -tacit-

husk *comb* follic-, -lemma², puta-
 min-

hut *base* -cali-

hydraulic *comb* hydraulico-

hydrides *suf* -ine

hydrocarbon *suf* -ene; ~**radical:** *suf*
 -ylene; ~**paraffin series:** *suf* -ane;
 ~**plus nitrogen:** *comb* diazo-

hydrogen *comb* -hydric
hydroxyl radicals: *comb* -hydric;
 ~**group:** *comb* hydroxy-
hygiene *base* salub-, san-
hyoid bone *comb* hyo-

hypnotism *comb* hypno-; *base*
 mesmer-
hyrax- *comb* chero-², hyraci-,
 hyraco-
hysteria *comb* hyster(o)-

I

ice *comb* glacio-, pago-; *base* gel-¹
icicle *base* stiri-
icon *comb* icono-
idea *comb* -gnomy, -gnosia, -gnosis,
 -gnostic, gnoto-, ideo-, -noia,
 -nomy, phreno-, psycho-, -sophy
base -cogit-, -cogn-, epistem-,
 -noe-, -put-, ratio-, -sci-
identical *pre* co-; *comb* equi-,
 homo-, iso-, pari-, tauto-
idiot *base* fatu-, inan-, moro-, stult-
idle *base* oti-, pigrit-
idol *comb* idolo-
ignorant *base* hebet-, obtus-, -tard-
ileac plus, ileum *comb* ileo-, ilio-
ill(ness) *pre* dys-, mal-; *comb* noso-,
 -path, -pathic, patho-, -pathy;
base aegr-, -morb-, -pecca-, vale-
 tud-; ~**names:** *comb* -aemia,
 -emia; *suf* -asis, -ia, -itis, -oma,
 -osis; ~**treatment:** *comb* -iatrics,
 iatro-, -iatry. *See* **disorder**
illumination *comb* actino-, luci-,
 phengo-, phos-, photo-; *base* clar-,
 -luc-, -lum-
illusory *comb* pseudo-; *base* -phan-
 tas-, phasm-
image *comb* icono-; *base* agalma-
imbibe *comb* pino-, poto-; *base*
 -bib-, pocul-
imitate *base* emul-, -mim-
immature *comb* paedo-², pedo-;
base juven-. *See* **undeveloped**
immense *comb* bronto-, dino-, gi-
 ganto-, mega-, megaloo-, -megaly

immobility *comb* -plegia, -plegy
immorality *pre* dys-, mis-; *comb*
 caco-, enisso-, enosio-, kak-,
 kako-, mal-, male-, ponero-; *base*
 culp-, facin-, flagit-, hamart-,
 iniq-, nefar-, pecca-, perdit-,
 -prav-, sceler-, scelest-, turp-
immortal *comb* ever-; *base* etern-,
 perpet-, semper-
immovable *comb* stasi-, -stasis,
 -stat, stato-; *base* stabil-
immune *comb* immuno-
impaired *base* vitia-
impartial *comb* equi-
impede *comb* isch-, koly-, -penia,
 rhopo-, -strain, -strict; *base*
 angust-, -string-; *suf* -en
imperfection *base* culp-, delinq-,
 laps-, -pecca-, sphal-
imperfectly *pre* demi-, hemi-, semi-;
comb -atelia, atelo-
imperforate *comb* -atresia, atreto-
impervious to *comb* -proof, -tight
impetus *base* horm-
important *base* grav-
imposter *base* phenac-, phenak-
impoverished *comb* ptocho-, vidu-;
base -mendic-, -paup-, penur-,
 -pov-
improved *comb* melior-, out-
impulse *base* ate-⁴
in *pre* eis-, em-, en-¹, il -, im-, in-,
 ir-; *comb* endo-, ento-, entre-,
 eso-, inter(o)-, intra-, intro-; ~**a**
specified way: *suf* -ly, -ways,

-wise; ~**back**: *pre* meta-; *comb* post-, postero-; ~**common**: *comb* caeno-, ceno-; ~**front of**: *pre* ante-, fore-, ob-, prae-, pre-, pro-; ~**some order**: *suf* -ly; ~**the direction of**: *suf* -ad, -ly, -ward, -ways, -wise; ~**the manner of**: *suf* -like, -ways; ~**the style of**: *suf* -ese, -esque

inaccuracy *base* culp-, delict-, laps-, pecc-, sphal-

inadequacy *comb* isch-, oligo-, -penia

inaudible *comb* hesy-; *base* -plac-, quiesc-, -tactic-

inborn *comb* innato-

incapable of being *suf* -less. *See* not

incense *comb* -thymia²; *base* kniss-, liban-, thur-

incessant *base* assid-, contin-, incess-, perpet-

incipient *base* incip-, -init-; *suf* -esce, -escence, -escent.

incised *comb* eros-. *See* groove

inciting *comb* -agogic, -agogue

incline *comb* -clinal, -clinate, -cline, -clinic, clino-, -clinous, -clisis, lechrío-, loxo-, plagio-; *base* -cliv-

incomplete *pre* demi-, hemi-, semi-; *comb* -atelia, atelo-; *suf* -esce, -escence, -escent

incorrect *base* dys-, mis-

increased *pre* ad-, extra-, hyper-, super-; *comb* auxano-, auxo-, multi-, myria-, myrio-, out-, over-, -plasia, pleni-, pleo-, pleio-, pleon-, plethys-, plio-, pluri-, polaki-, poly-; *base* -aug-, -cresc-, -fold-, -pler-, -plet-. *See* grow

indefinite *base* ambig, dub-, ancip-

index *comb* sema-, -seme, semeio-, semio-

India *comb* Indo-²

indicate *comb* phaeno-, pheno-; *base* -monstr-

indigence *comb* -penia, ptocho-, vidu-; *base* -mendic-, -paup-, penur-, -pov-

indigo *comb* indi-, indo-¹

indirect *comb* loxo-, plagio-; *base* ambag-

indisposed *pre* dys-, mal-; *comb* noso-, path, -pathic, patho-, -pathy; *base* aegr-, cachex-, -morb-, -pecca-, valetud-

individual *suf* -aholic, -aire, -an, -ant, -ard, -arian, -art, -ary, -ast, -ate, -ator, -ee, -eer, -en, -ent, -er, -ette, -eur, -fer, -ician, -ier, -ior, -ist, -le, -ling, -man, -nik, -o, -or, -person, -people, -ster, -woman, -yer

indolent *base* pigr-

inebriated *base* inebr-, methys-, temul-

inert gas *suf* -on

ineffectual *base* futil-, inutil-, mataeo-

inexpensive *base* vili-

infection *comb* lysi-, lyso-, -lysis, -lyte, -lytic, -lyze, phthisio-, -phthisis, phthysio-, -phthysis, putre-, putri-, pyo-, pytho-, sapro-, septi-, septico-, septo-, toxi-, toxico-, toxo-; *base* phthor-, vitia-

inferiority *pre* hypo-, sub-, under-; *comb* hystero-²; *base* hesson-; *suf* -aster²

infinity *base* apeiro-. *See* forever

infirm *pre* dys-, mal-; *comb* noso-, path, -pathic, patho-, -pathy; *base* aegr-, cachex-, -morb-, -pecca-, valetud-

inflammation *comb* erysi-,

phlog(o)-; *suf* -itis. *See* swelling

inflorescence *comb* thyrsi-, thyrsio-

infuse *comb* -enchyma²; *suf* -ate

ingest *comb* bromato-, -brotic, manduc-, -phage, phago-, -phagous, -phagy, -sitia, sitio-, sito-, -troph, -trophic, tropho-, -trophy, -vora, -vore, -vorous; *base* -alim-, -cib-, comest-, -ed-, escul-, glutt-, -gust-

inguinal *comb* inguino-

inhabit(ant) *comb* -cole, -colent, -colous; *suf* -an, -ite

inhale *comb* -hale, -pnea, pneo-, pneumato-, pneumo-, pneu-mono-, pneusio-, pulmo-, spiro-; *base* afflat-

inhere *base* -sid-, situ-

inhibit *comb* isch-, koly-, -penia, -strain, -strict; *base* -string-; *suf* -en. *See* checked

iniquity *pre* dys-, mis-; *comb* caco-, iniq-, kak(o)-, mal(e)-, ponero-; *base* -prav-, sceler-, turp-

initial *comb* arch-, fore-, pre-, primi-, primo-, pro-, proso-, protero-, proto-; *base* -princip-

initiate *base* inaug-, incip-, init-

injection *base* trypan-

injudicious *base* fatu-, inan-, moro-, stult-

injurious *comb* noci-, pesti-; *base* -nox-, pericul-

injury *comb* noci-, traumato-; *base* -nox-

ink *base* atrament-

innkeeper *base* caupon-

inquiry *base* erot-, -quir-, -rog-

insanity *comb* lyss-, -mania; *base* ament-¹, dement-

insatiable *base* avid-, edac-, gulos-

inscribe *comb* -gram, -graph, -grapher, -graphic, grapho-, -graphy, grapto-, -logue; *base* -scrib-, -script-, typo-

insect *comb* cimic-, core-², entomo-, insecti-, insecto-. *See* mite

insert *base* calar-, calat-, pon-, pos-

inside *pre* eis-, em-, en-¹, il -, im-, in-¹, ir-; *comb* endo-, ento-, entre-, eso-, inter(o)-, interno-, intra-, intro-; *from*~: entostho-

insolent *base* contum-, impud-, procac-

inspection *comb* -opsy, -scope, -scopic, scopo-, -scopy; *base* -(in)quir-, -(in)quis-, -scrut-

instance of *suf* -ism

instantly *base* subit-

instep *comb* tarso-

instruct *comb* -pedia; *base* -didact-, doc-, -paed-

instrument (of) *suf* -ment¹, -ure; *medical*~: -tome; *scientific*~: -stat

insufficient *pre* demi-, hemi-, semi-; *comb* -atelia, atelo-

insult *base* contum-

intact *pre* be-, cata-, de-, kata-, ob-, per-; *comb* holo-, omni-, pan-, panto-, stone-, toti-; *base* integr-

intellect *comb* -gnomy, -gnosia, -gnosis, -gnostic, -gnoto, ideo-, -noia, -nomy, phren(o)-, psycho-, -sophy, thymo-, -witted; *base* -cogit-, -cogn-, ment(a)-, -noe-, -put-, -ratio-, -sci-

intelligent *base* sapien-

intensifier *pre* em-, en-, in-, za-

intercourse *comb* -lagnia; *base* -coit-, copul-

interfunctioning *comb* -ergasia, ergasio-

intermix *pre* co-; *comb* conjugato-, -ergasia, gameto-, gamo-, hapto-, junct-; *base* aps-, apt-, -greg-, -soc-; *suf* -ate, -ize

interpretation *base* -hermen-

interrogate *base* -pet-, -quir-, -quis-, -rog-

intestinal pouch *comb* caeco-, ceco-, typhlo-

intestines *comb* entero-, ileo-, ilio-,

intestino-, jejuno-; *base* viscer-;
 ~**worm**: ascari-
intimidated *base* -pavid-, -tim-,
 trepid-. *See* **fear**
intoxicated *base* -inebr-, -meth-,
 temul-
intractable *base* contum-, obstin-,
 pervic-, proterv-
invent *base* -heur-
inverse *pre* anti-, contra-, contre-,
 dis-, hetero-, ob-, un-; *comb*
 back-, counter-, enantio-,
 oppositi-
invisible *pre* sub-; *comb* calypto-,
 crypto-; *base* occult-
involuntary movement *comb*
 -chorea-, choreo-, -clonic,
 -clonus, spasmo-; *base* -stal-; *suf*
 -esmus, -ismus
iodine *comb* iodo-
ion *comb* iono-

irate *base* chol-, -invid-, -ira-,
 -margy
iris *comb* irido-
Irish *comb* Hiberno-
iron *comb* ferri-, ferro-, sidero-¹
irregular *comb* allo-, anomal-,
 anomo-, poecilo-, poikilo-;
 ~**shape**: *comb* amorpho-
irridium *comb* iridico-, iridio-
irrigation *comb* -clysis
irritate *base* erethis-
ischium *comb* ischi(o)-
island *base* insul-
isomer *comb* pseudo-
isthmus *base* isthm-
Italy *comb* Italo-
itch *comb* acari-, scabi-; *base* -prur-,
 psor-
ivory *base* ebur-
ivy *base* ciss-, -heder-

J

jackass *base* as-², asin-
jackdaw *base* gracul-
jagged *comb* serrato-; *base* cren-¹,
 lacin-
jail *base* -carcer-
jam *comb* emboli-, embolo-; *base*
 -byon-, -farct-
jaundice *comb* icter(o)-
jaw *comb* genia-, genio-, geny-¹,
 gnatho-, -gnathous, mandibulo,
 maxillo-; ~**bone**: *base* -siagon-
jay *base* garrul-
jealous *base* -emul-
jeer *comb* catagelo-, katagelo-
jeopardy *base* pericul-
jejenum *comb* jejuno-
jellyfish *base* discophor-
jerk *comb* -chorea, choreo-,
 -clonic, -clonus, -esmus, -ismus,

spasmo-, -tonic; *base* -stal-,
 -vellic-
jest *base* joco(s)-, jocu(l)-
jewel *base* -gemm-²
Jewish *comb* Judaico-, Judaeo-,
 Judeo-
jilt *base* relinq-, repud-
jingling *base* tinn-
job *comb* arti-, -craft, -ergasia,
 ergasio-, -ergic, ergo-, -ergy,
 organo-, -urgy; *base* -opus-,
 pono-; *suf* -arian
join *comb* -ergasia, gameto-, gamo-,
 hapto-, junct-; *base* -aps-, -apt-¹,
 -greg-, -soc-; *suf* -ate, -ize; ~**to-**
gether: *pre* co-; *comb* conjugato-
joint **body**~: *comb* arthr(o)-,
 articul-; ~**socket**: gleno-; **jointed**:
base -enarthra-

joke *base* joco(s)-, jocu(l)-
journey *comb* hodo-, -ode, odo-,
 via-; *base* -itin-, peregrin-
joy *comb* chero-; *base* beati-, elat-,
 felic-, gaud-, jubil-, macar-
judging *comb* -gnomy, -gnosia,
 -gnosis, -gnostic; *base* -crit-¹,
 -judic-, krit-, -soph-
jug *base* urcei-
juice *comb* opo-; *base* -suc-

jump *base* -salta-
junction *pre* co-; *comb* conjugato-,
 -ergasia, gameto-, gamo-, hapto-,
 junct-; *base* aps-, apt-, -greg-,
 -soc-; *suf* -ate, -ize
jurisdiction *suf* -dom, -ric
justice *comb* dike-
juvenile *comb* paedo-, pedi-, pedo-,
 proli-, tecno-; *base* -fil-, -puer-,
 tek-

K

kangaroo *base* macropod-
keel *base* -carin-
keen *base* -acer(b)-
keep *comb* -serve, -tain; *base*
 custod-, -ten-; *~away:* *comb*
 alex-, alexi-, alexo-
keg *comb* dolio-
kernel *comb* caryo-, karyo-; *base*
 -nucl-
kestrel *base* falco-
ketone *comb* keto-; *suf* -one
key *comb* clavi-¹, cleido-, clido-
kick *base* -calcitr-
kidney *comb* nephro-, pyelo-, reni-,
 reno-
kidney-bean *base* phaseol-
killing *comb* -cidal, -cide, -cidious,
 -cidism; *base* -dacn-, trucid-
kind *category:* *comb* -type; *suf* -atic;
gentle: *base* -len-, mansue-, miti-,
 moll-
kindle *comb* causto-, igni- pyro-;
base ard-², ars-, cauter-, celo-,
 combust-, crem-, phlog-, -ust-
kinetic *comb* cine-, -drome, dromo-,
 -dromous, excito-, kine-, -ki-
 nesi(a), -kinesis, -kinetic, kineso-,
 kineto-, kino-, -motive, -pragia, -
 praxia, -praxis, tremo-; *base* -stal-

kinfolk *base* cogn-, famil-,
 stirp-
king *base* basil-, reg(n)-
kingfisher *base* halcyon-
kinked *comb* cirri-, cochlio-,
 gyro-, helico-, spiro-, strepto-;
base stromb-. *See* curl
kiss *base* basiat-, oscul-; *tongue~:*
 cataglott-
kitchen *base* culin-
kite *bird:* *base* milv-
knack *base* -apt-, -habil-,
 -poten-, -qual-; *suf* -bility,
 -ful, -ship
knavish *pre* dys-, mis-; *comb* caco-,
 kak-, kako-, mal-, male-, ponero-;
base facin-, flagit-, iniq-, nefar-,
 perdit-, -prav-, sceler-, scelest-,
 turp-
knead *base* subig-
knee *base* gen(u)-
knife *comb* cultell-, cultri-, sica-
knit together *base* -hapto-, pegm-
knob *comb* clavato-; *base* condyl-,
 umbo-
knock *base* -puls-
knot *base* -nod-, -tylo-
knowledge *comb* -gnomy, -gnosia,
 -gnosis, -gnostic, gnoto-, ideo-,

-noia, -nomy, -phrenic, phrenico-,
phreno-, psycho-, scio-², -sophy;
base -cogit-, -cogn-, epistem-,

ment(a)-, -noe-, -put-, ratio-,
-sci-
kudu base tragelaph-

L

labia minora *comb* nympho-
labor ***childbirth***: *comb* lochio-,
-para-, -parous, -tocia, toco-,
toko-, -toky; ***work***: *comb* -craft,
ergic, -ergy, ergo-, -urgy; *base*
ardu-, oper-¹, pono-
laborious *pre* dys-; *comb* -bar,
bary-, mogi-; *base* ard³-, stren-
laceration *comb* sparasso-; *base*
-sparax-
lacking *pre* a-, an-¹, dis-, ex-, il-,
im-, in-, un-; *comb* lipo-²; *base*
penur-, -priv-; *suf* -less; ~***a part***:
comb ectro-; ~***an opening***: *comb*
-atresia, atreto-
lactic *comb* lacto-
ladder *base* scala-; ~***rung***: climac-
lady *comb* gyn(e)-, gyneco-, gyneo-,
gyno-, -gynous, -gyny, -para,
thely-, -wife; *base* -femin-,
muliebr-, mulier-; *suf* -en, -enne,
-ess, -ette, -ice, -ine, -stress,
-trice, -trix
lake *comb* limno-; *base* lacus-
lamb *base* -agn-
lame *base* claud-, debil-
lamentation *base* thren-
lamp *base* lampad-, lucern-, lychn-
lamprey *base* cyclostom-
land *comb* agri-, agro-, choro-, geo-;
base tellur-, -terr-
language *comb* -glossia, gloss(o)-,
-glot, glotto-, lingui-, linguo-; *suf*
-ese. *See word*
larch *base* larix-
large(r) *pre* super-; *comb* -fold,

macro-, magni-, maxi-, plethys-;
base -ampl-, grandi-, -maj-. *See*
gigantic
larva *comb* larvi-
larynx *comb* guttur-, laryngo-
lassitude *comb* pono-; *base* -fatig-,
-kopo-, lass-
last *base* eschato-, -fin-, termin-,
-ultim-
lasting *base* diuturn-, dur(o)-,
perenn-, perm-, stabil-
late *comb* opsi-¹, serot-. *See* ***tardy***
later *pre* meta-, post-; *comb* hys-
tero-²
latest *comb* neo-
latex *comb* latici-
lattice *base* cancell-, clathr-, cratic-
laugh *comb* gel-²; *base* cachinn-,
-ris-
laurel *base* daphn-
law *comb* juris-, nomo-, thesmo-;
base jud-, jur-, leg-², regul-
lawless *comb* anomo-
lawsuit *base* litig-
laxative *base* chalast-
layer(ed) *comb* -decker, lamelli-,
lamini-, lamino-, -plex, strati-,
strato-
lazy *base* oti-, pigrit-
lead ***conduct***: *comb* -arch, -duce,
duc(t)-, magist-; *base* hegemon-,
-reg-; ***metal***: *comb* molybdo-,
plumbo-
leading *comb* -agogic, -agogue
leaf *comb* foli(i)-, -folious, petalo-,
-phyll, phyllo-, -phyllous; *base*

bract-, clad-, frondi-; ~**buds**: base gemm-¹; ~**like**: *comb* foliato-
lean *comb* angusti-, dolicho-, lepto-, mano-, stegno-, steno-, tenu-;
base areo-, gracil-, isthm-, maci-, stal-, strict-
leap *base* salta-
learn *base* disc-, -math, soph-
leather *base* alut-, cori-, pelli-, utri-¹; ~**bottle**: utrei-, utric-
leave *base* relinq-
leech *base* bdell-, discophor-, hirus-, sanguisug-
leek *base* porr-, praso-
left *comb* laeo-, laevo-, levo-, sinistro-; ~**handed**: scaev-
leg *base* -cnem-, -crur-, -scel-; **condition of~**: *comb* -scelia
legend *comb* mytho-, stori-; *base* fabul-, -narr-,
length *base* meco-. *See* long
leniency *base* clem-²
lens *comb* phaco-, phako-, -phakia
leopard *base* pard-
less *pre* demi-, hypo-, mis-, sub-, subter-; *comb* meio-, mini-, mio-, oligo-; *base* dimin-, hesson-, -pauc-
lettuce *base* lactuc-
level *comb* homalo-, homolo-, plain-, plani, plano-¹, platy-; *base* plat-
lever *base* -mochl-
liability *comb* hypegia-, hypengy-; *base* paralip-
lice *comb* pedicul-, phthiro-
lick *base* lamb-, ligur(r)-, ling-⁴
licorice *base* glycyr-
lid *base* oper-²
lie **untruth**: *base* mendac-; **recline**: *base* -cub-, -cumb-
life *comb* bio-, -biosis, vita-, vivi-, zoo-, -zoic, -zooid; *base* -anim-
ligament *comb* desmo-, ligamenti-, ligamento-, syndesmo-

light **not dark**: *comb* actino-, luci-, phengo-, phos-, photo-; *base* clar-, -luc-, -lum-; **not heavy**: *base* levi(t)-
lighthouse *base* fan-, phar-
lightning *comb* astra-; *base* astraph-, fulgur-, fulmin-
like *pre* para-, quasi-; *comb* homeo-, omceo, homoio-, homolo-, iso-, -phane-, -phanic; *base* simil-; *suf* -acean-, -aceous-, -al³, -an-, -ar-, -ary-, -ean-, -en-, -eous-, -esque-, -ful-, -ic-, -il-, -ile-, -ine-, -ing-, -ish-, -itious-, -ize-, -like-, -ode², -oid-, -ose², -osity-, -some², -tious-, -ular-, -y
likeness *comb* icono-, -opsis-, -vult-
liking *comb* -phile-, -philia-, -philiac-, -philic-, -philism, philo-, -philous
lily *base* lili-, -lirio-
limb *comb* -mele-, -melia¹, melo-³
lime **CaO**: *comb* calcareo-; *base* calc-; **fruit**: tilia-
limit *comb* isch-, koly-, -penia-, -strain-, -strict; *base* -fin-, -string-, termin-; *suf* -en; **limited to**: *comb* -specific, specio-
linden *base* tilia- (tiliaceus)
line *comb* lineo-, -stichia, sticho-, -stichous; **wavy~**: *comb* gyroso-
link *pre* co-; *comb* conjugato-, -ergasia, gameto-, gamo-, hapto-, junct-; *base* aps-, apt-, -greg-, -soc-; *suf* -ate-, -ize
lion *base* leo(n)-
lips *comb* cheilo-, chilo-, labio-; *base* labi-
liquid *base* flu-, -ner-. *See* water
little *comb* brachisto-, brachy-, brevi-, chamae-, micro-, mini-, nano-, parvi-, parvo-, pauci-, steno-; *base* -curt-, exig-; *suf* -cle-, -cula-, -cule-, -culum-, -culus-, -een-, -el-, -ella-, -en-, -et-, -ette-, -idion-, -idium-, -ie-, -illa-, -illo-, -isk,

- kin, -le, -let, -ling, -ock, -ola, -ole, -rel, -ula, -ule, -ulum, -ulus, -y
- liver** *comb* hepatico-, hepato-; *base* jecor-
- living** *comb* bio-, vivi-, -zoic, -zooid; *base* -anim-, -vit-; ~**among**: *comb* -colous; ~**in**: *suf* -an
- lizard** *comb* -saur, sauro-, -saurus; *base* lacert-, stellio-
- load** *base* oner-
- loaded** *comb* -filled, pleni-, pleo-, plero-, pluri-; *base* -pler-, -plet-; *suf* -acious, -ate, -ic, -ful, -ilent, -ose, -osity, -ous, -ulent, -y
- lobe** *comb* lobulato-; **ear**: *comb* auriculo-
- lobster** *base* astac-, -gammar-, homar-
- location** *comb* -land, loc(o)-, situ-, -stead, topo-, -topy; *suf* -age, -arium, -ary, -ensis, -ery, -orium, -ory. Also see "Location" in Part III
- lock** *comb* clido-; *base* cleid-
- locust** *base* locust-
- loins** *comb* laparo-, lumbo-, osphy(o)-
- long** *comb* dolicho-, -footer, longi-, macro-, maxi-; *base* procer-; ~**words**: sesquipedal-
- look** *comb* eid(o)-, oculo-, ommat-, -opia, opsi-, -opsia, -opsis, opso-, -opsy, ophthalmo-, optico-, opto-, -scope, -scopic, scopo-, -scopy, visuo-; *base* -blep-, -scrut-, -spec-, -spic-, -vid-
- loosen** *comb* lyo-, lysi-, -lysis, lyso-, -lyte, -lytic, -lyze; *base* -liqu-, -solu-, -solv-
- loss of control** *comb* -crasia, -crazy
- loss of knowledge** *comb* -agnosia
- lot** *comb* clero-
- loudness** *base* crepit-, frem-, ligyr-, strep(i)-, strid-, stridul-. See **sound**
- louse** *base* pedicul-, phthir-, phthyr-
- love** *comb* -phile, -philia, -philic, -philic, -philism, philo-, -philous; *base* -agap-, -am-, charit-
- loveplay** *comb* paizo-, paraphil-
- low(er)** *pre* hypo-, infero-, infra-, sub-, subter-, under-; *comb* chamae-, infero-, tapino-; *base* hystat-
- luck** *base* faust-, tych-
- ludicrous** *base* fatu-, inan-, moro-, stult-
- lumbar** *comb* lumbo-
- lump** *base* gleb-, glom-
- lunch** *base* prand-
- lung(s)** *comb* -pnea, pneo-, pneumato-, pneumo-, pneumono-, pulmo-, pulmoni-, pulmono-, spiro-
- lust** *comb* eroto-, -lagnia, -mania; *base* appet-, -cup-, -libid-, tentig-
- luster** *comb* sela-; *base* -fulg-, gano-, lustr-, pheng-, rutil-, stilpno-
- lye** *base* lixiv-
- lying down** *base* -cub-, -cumb-, supin-
- lymph(atic)** *comb* lymphato-, lympho-; ~**nodes**: *comb* lymphadeno-; ~**vessels**: *comb* lymphangio-
- lynx** *base* lync-
- lyre** *base* lyri-
- lyric** *comb* lyrico-

M

macaw *base* psittac-
machine(s) *comb* mechano-
mackerel *base* scombr-
mad *comb* -margy; *base* frenet-,
 -fur-, -ira-
made of *suf* -en-, -ic
madness *comb* lysso-, -mania; *base*
 ament-, dement-
magic *base* mago-
magnetic force *comb* magneto-
magnify *base* ampl-, aug-. *See* in-
 creased
magpie *base* corv-, garull-
maim(ed) *comb* pero-; *base* -mutil-
main *comb* arch(i)-¹, proto-; *base*
 -prim-, -princip-; ~**land**: *comb*
 epeiro-
make, making *pre* em-, en-; *comb*
 -craft, ergo-, -facient, -fer-, -fic,
 -fication, -gen, -genesis, -genic,
 -genous, -geny, -gerous, ideo-,
 -parous, -phor, -phorous, -plast,
 -plastic, plasto-, -plasty, poiesis,
 -poietic, -urgy; *base* -fabr-, -fac-,
 -fec-¹; *suf* -ate, -atory, -en-, -ic,
 -ing, -fy, -ize, -otic
Malay *comb* Malayo-
male *comb* andr(o)-, -androus,
 -andry, arrhen-, masculino-; *base*
 viril-
malevolent *pre* dys-, mis-; *comb*
 caco-, iniq-, kak(o)-, mal(e)-,
 ponero-; *base* -prav-, sceler-,
 turp-
malformed *comb* pero-; *base*
 -mutil-
malfunction *pre* dys-
malnutrition *comb* -atrophia,
 -atrophic
manage *base* ger-¹
manatee *base* trichec-
mane *base* jubat-

manganese *comb* mangani-,
 mangano-
mangle *comb* sparasso-; *base* lacer-,
 lania-, sparax-. *See* maim
manifest *comb* luci-, phanero-,
 pheno-; *base* -clar-
mankind *comb* anthropo-
manner *comb* -wise
mantle *comb* pallio-
manufactured product *suf* -ite
many *comb* multi-, myria-, myrio-,
 pluri-, poly-, sychno-; ~**colored**:
comb poecilo-; ~**times**: *comb* pol-
 laki-. *See* increased
map *comb* carto-, charto-
maple *base* acer-²
marble *base* -marm-
marine *comb* halo-, mari-, thalasso-,
 thalatto-; *base* naut-, nav-, pelag-
mark *base* stigm-
marlin *base* istiophor-
marmoset *comb* callithri-
marmot *base* sciur-
marriage *comb* gameto-, gamo-,
 -gamous, -gamy; *base* conjug-,
 marit-, -nub-, -nupt-
marrow *comb* -myelia, myelo-
Mars *comb* areo-¹
marsh *comb* helo-², palud-, palus-,
 ulig-
marten *base* mustel-
martin *base* hirund-
masculine *comb* andro, -androus,
 -andry, arrhen-, masculino-; *base*
 viril-
master *comb* magist-, maha-; *base*
 heri-
mastoid *comb* mastoido-
matching *pre* para-, quasi-; *comb*
 homeo-, omœo, homoio-,
 homolo-, iso-, -phane, -phanic;
base simil-; *suf* -acean-, -aceous,

-al, -an, -ar, -ary, -ean, -en,
-eous, -esque, -ful, -ic, -il, -ile,
-ine, -ing, -ish, -itious, -ize, -like,
-ode, -oid, -ose, -osity, -some,
-tious, -ular, -y

material for *suf* -ing

matter *comb* hylo-

maxilla *comb* maxillo-

maxim *base* gnom-

maximum *pre* hyper-

meadow *base* prat-; **~lark:**

icter-

meager *comb* oligo-, -penia,

ptocho-, vidu-; *base* -mendic-,

-paup-, penur-, -pov-

meal *comb* deipno-; *base* cen-,

coen-, prand-. *See* **food**. *Also see*

"Food" in Part III

means *suf* -cle, -ment¹

measure *comb* -meal, -meter,

-metric(s), metro-, -metry

meat *comb* -burger, carni-, carnos-,

creo-, kreo-, -sarc, sarco-; **~mar-**

ket: macell-

mechanical *comb* mechanico-; *base*

banaus-

medical *comb* medico-; *base* -san-;

~treatment: *comb* -iatrics, iatro-,

-iatry

medicine *base* pharma(co)-

mediocre *pre* hypo-, sub-, under-;

comb hystero-; *base* hesson-; *suf*

-aster

meditate *base* melet-

medium *comb* mesati-, metrio-. *See*

middle

meeting *base* congress-, congru-

melt *comb* lyo-, lysi-, -lysis, lyso-,

-lyte, -lytic, -lyze; *base* -liqu-,

-solu-, -solv-

membrane *comb* chorio-, choroid-,

hymeno-, membrano-; **eyeball~:**

sclero-; **fetal~:** allant(o)-, amnio-;

~partition: *comb* mediastino-;

mucous~: *comb* muc-, muco-,

mucoso-; **~sheath:** *comb*

meningo-

memory *comb* -mnesia, -mnesis;

base -mem-, -mnem-

meninges *comb* meningo-

menstrual *comb* emmen-, -menia,

men(o)-

mental *comb* -gnomy, -gnosis,

-gnostic, -gnoto, ideo-, -noia,

-nomy, phren(o)-, psycho-,

-sophy, thymo-; *base* -cogit-,

-cogn-, -noe-, -put-, -ratio-, -sci-;

~disorder: *comb* -mania, -phre-

nia, -phrenic, phrenico-, phreno-,

-thymia¹

merchandise *base* empor-, empt-

mercy *base* clem-², mansue-

mere *comb* psilo-

mesentery *comb* meso-

metacarpus *comb* metacarpo-

metal *comb* metalli-, metallo-;

~plate: *base* -elasmo-

metatarsus *comb* metatarso-

meteor names *suf* -id¹

meteorological front *comb* fronto-

method *comb* -craft; *suf* -ade, -age,

-al, -ance, -ancy, -asis, -asm,

-ation, -cy, -ence, -ency, -ery,

-esis, -iasis, -ice, -ics, -ing, -ion,

-ism, -ment, -osis, -otic, -sion,

-sis, -th, -tion, -tious, -ture, -ure,

-y, -ysis

methyl *comb* metho-

middle *comb* centri-, -centric,

centro-, medi(o)-, mesati-, mesio-,

meso-, mezzo-, mid-

mighty *comb* dino-. *See* **powerful**

mild *base* -len-, mansue-, miti-¹,

moll-

milk(y) *comb* galact(o)-, lacti-,

lacto-

mill *base* molend-

million *comb* mega-

millionth *comb* micro-

millipede *base* arthropod-, diplopod

mind *comb* -gnomy, -gnosis, -gnostic, -gnoto, ideo-, -noia, -nomy, phren(o)-, psycho-, -sophy, thymo-, -witted; *base* -cogit-, -cogn-, ment-², -noe-, -noo-, -put-, -ratio-, -sci-; ~**disorder**: *comb* -mania, -phrenia, -phrenic, -thymia

mine *base* bothro-

mineral *suf* -ite, -lite

mink *base* mustel-

minnow *base* cyprin-

minor **insignificant**: *base* -nuga-.
See **small**. **child**: *comb* paed-, pedi-, pedo-, proli-, tecno-; *base* -fil-, -puer-, tek-

mint *base* menth-

miracle *comb* thaumato-

mirror *comb* catoptro-, eisoptro-, enoptro-, spectro-

misery *base* aerumn-

missile *base* ballist-

missing *pre* a-, an-, des-¹, dis-, ex-, il-, im-, in-, ir-, un-; *comb* lipo-; *base* paralip-, -priv-; *suf* -less; ~**a part**: *comb* ectro-; ~**an opening**: *comb* -atresia, atreto-

mist *comb* fracto-, nepho-, nephelo-; *base* calig-, -nebul-, -nub-

mistake *base* culp-, delict-, laps-, pecc-, sphal-

mistletoe *comb* ixo-

mite *comb* acari-, acarin-, acaro-, miti-². See **termite**

miter *base* mitri-

mixed, mixture *comb* mixo-, -crasia; *base* farrag-, -misc-, -phyr-, -temp-

mob *comb* ochlo-

mobility *comb* cine-, -drome, -dromo-, -dromous, excito-, kine-, -kinesi(a), -kinesis, -kinetic, kineso-, kineto-, kino-, -motive, -pragia, -praxia, -praxis, tremo-; *base* -stal-

mockery *base* deris-

mockingbird *base* -mim-

moderate *base* metrio-. See **medium**

modern *comb* neo-. See **new**

modesty *base* -pud-, verecund-

modification *comb* allo-, anomal-, anomo-, poikilo-; *base* -mut-. See **change**

moisture *comb* hydro-, hygro-; *base* humect-, mad-, ulig-

molded *comb* -plast, -plastic, -plasto-, -plasty

mole **blemish**: *base* nev(o)-; **animal**: *base* talp-

mole rat *base* zemni-

mollusks *comb* malaco-; *base* mollusc-

money *comb* -penny; *base* chremat-, -numm-, -pecun-, quaest-

mongoose *base* viverr-

monkey *base* cebo-, pithec-

monster *comb* terato-; *base* pelor-

month *base* mens-

monthly *base* emmen-

mood *comb* thymo-

moon *comb* luni-, lunu-, seleno-

moose *base* cervi-

moral *pre* bene-, eu-; *base* agath-, bon-, prob-

moray *base* muraen-

morbid condition *comb* -iasis; *suf* -oma

more *pre* ad-, extra-, super-; *comb* auxano-, auxeto-, auxo-, multi-, myria-, myrio-, out-, over-, -plasia, pleni-, pleo-, pleio-, pleon-, plethys-, plio-, pluri-, pollaki-, poly-; *base* -aug-, -cresc-, -fold-, -pler-, -plet-. See **addition**

morning *base* -matut-

mortal *base* thneto-, thripto-

mortgage *base* -pign-

mosquito *comb* anophel-, culici-; *base* aed-

moss *comb* bryo-; *base* musc-²,

sphagn-, splachn-

most *comb* pleisto-

moth *base* arct-, phalaen-, tine-

mother *comb* mater-, matri-, metr-,
-para

mother-in-law *base* socrus-,
penther-

motion *comb* cine-, -drome,
dromo-, -dromous, excito-, kine-,
-kinesi(a), -kinesis, -kinetic,
kineso-, kineto-, kino-, -motive,
-pragia, -praxia, -praxis, tremo-;
base -stal-

motor *comb* moto-

mountain *comb* oreo-, oro-²; *base*
-mont-; ~**ash**: sorb-²

mourning *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-,
-fleb-, -flet-, -luct-, trist-

mouse *base* mur-¹, myo-²

mouth *comb* -mouthed, or-¹, oro-,
stomato-, -stome, -stomous; **roof**
of~: *comb* palato-, uranisco-,
urano-; ~**wash**: collut-

move *comb* -grade, -motive,
-planian, plano-²; *base* -bat-, -ced-,
-cess-, -cur(s), -grad-, -gress-,
-mob-, -mot-, mov-, -vad-, -vas-;
~**away**: *comb* allelo-, out-; ~**for-**
ward: *comb* pro-; ~**toward**: *comb*
-petal

movies *base* cine-

muck *comb* blenno-, -chezia, copro-,
lim-, muc-, muco-, myco-, myso-,
-myxia, myxo-, p(a)edo-, scato-,
stegno-, sterco-; *base* -fecu-, -fim-,
molys-, rhypar-

mucus *comb* blenno-, muc-, muco-,
mucoso-, -myxia, myxo-

mud *comb* pelo-; *base* -lim-, lut-

mulberry *base* -mor-², -mur-³

mulish *base* contum-, obstin-,
pervic-, proterv-

mullet *base* mugil-

multiform *comb* polymorpho-

multitude *comb* ochlo-

mummy *base* mummi-

murder *comb* -cidal, -cide, -cidious,
-cidism; *base* dacn-, trucid-

murky *comb* ambly-, melano-,
nycto-, scoto-; *base* achlu-,
amaur-, fusc-, lyg-, obscur-, opac-,
tenebr-

murmur *base* frem-, mussit-,
susurr-

muscle *comb* musculo-, myo-¹,
-tonic; ~**tension**: -tonia

mushroom *comb* agar-, fungi-,
myco-. *See* fungus

music *comb* melo-¹, musico-, -tonic

musk *base* -mosch-

muskrat *base* cricet-

mussel *base* mytil-

mustard *base* sinap-

musty *base* mucid-

mutable *pre* be-, em-, en-, meta-,
trans-; *comb* aetio-, -blast, -blas-
tic, blasto-, -craft, ergo-, etio-,
-facient, -fic, -fication, -gen,
-genesis, -genic, -genous, -geny,
-parous, -plasia, -plasis, plasmo-,
-plast, -plastic, plasto-, -plasty,
-poiesis, -poietic, -trope, -tropic,
-tropism, tropo-, -tropous, -tropy,
-urgy; *base* camb-, -fabr-, -fec-,
-mut-, -vari-, -vert-; *suf* -ate, en,
-fy, -ize, -otic

mutter *see* murmur

mutual *pre* co-, enter-, inter-, syl-,
sym-, syn-, sys-; *comb* allelo-,
hama-, symphyo-, synchro-; *base*
-allac-, -allag-, -allaxis-, -mutu-

myrtle *base* myrti-

mystical *comb* mystico-

myth *comb* mytho-

N

nail *comb* helo-¹, onych-, onychia, onycho-, scolo-; *base* clav-, ungui-

naked *comb* gymno-, nudi- psilo-

name *comb* nomato-, -nomia, onomato-, -onym; *base* appell-, -nom-, -nym-

names of ~**acids**: *suf* -onic; ~**alco-**

hols: *suf* -itol; ~**animals**: *suf* -id, -ida, -idae, -iformes, -zooic;

~**bacteria**: *suf* -ella; ~**classes**: *suf* -acea, -aceae, -ia, -oidea; ~**com-**

panies: *suf* -co, -ine; ~**com-**

pounds: *suf* -ide, -idine; ~**coun-**

try: *comb* -land; *suf* -ia;

~**directions**: *suf* -ern; ~**diseases**: *comb* -aemia, -emia; *suf* -asis, -ia, -itis, -osis; ~**electronic devices**:

comb -tron; ~**enzymes**: *suf* -ase;

~**families**: *suf* -idae; ~**festivals**:

comb -fest, -mas; *suf* -ia; ~**genera**:

suf -aria, -odus, -soma; ~**groups**:

comb -zoa, -zoon; *suf* -aria, -id,

-ini; ~**hormones**: *suf* -kinin;

~**meteors**: *suf* -id; ~**minerals**: *suf* -lite; ~**neutral substances**: *suf* -in ;

~**numerals, collective**: *suf* -ad;

~**orders**: *suf* -acea; ~**plants**: *suf* -ad, -ales, -ia; ~**radicals**: *suf* -yl;

~**super-families**: *suf* -oidea; **taxo-**

nomic~: *suf* -ota, -ote

narcotics *comb* leth-, mecon-,

narco-

narrow *comb* angusti-, areo-,

dolicho-, isthm-, lepto-, stegno-,

steno-; *base* -phim-, -stal-,

-strict-, -tenu-

nasal *comb* nasi-, naso-, rhino-

nationality *suf* -an, -ean, -ian, -ish,

-ite, -n

nature *comb* -ousia, -ousian; *base*

quid-

natural *comb* innato-, physico-, physi-, physio-

navel *comb* omphalo-, umbilici-

near *pre* a-, ac-, ad-, af-, ag-, al-,

an-, ap-, ar-, as-, at-, by-, cis-¹,

epi-, para-, peri-; *comb* juxta-,

citra-, pene-, plesio-, proximo-;

base propinq-. See **adjacent**

nebulous *base* ambig, dub-, ancip-

neck *comb* atlo-, cervico-, coll-¹,

jug-, trachelo-; *base* -auchen-

necklace *base* monil-

needle *comb* aci-, acicul-; *base*

acer-¹, -aichm-, -belon-

negatives *pre* a-, ab-, an-, anti-,

apo-, cata-, de-, dis-, dys-, ex-, il-,

im-, in-, ir-, mal-, mis-, ne-, non-¹,

ob-, un-; *comb* anti-, -atresia,

atreto-, contra-, counter-, ectro-,

lipo-, mal-, neutro-, nihil-, no-,

nulli-, with-; *base* -priv-; *suf* -less

neglect *base* paralip-

neighbor *base* geiton(o)-

neoplasm *suf* -oma

nephew *base* nepo-

nerve *comb* ganglio-, nervi-, nervo-,

neuro-

nest *base* -cali-, nid(i)-

net/network *comb* dictyo-, -plex,

reti-, reticulato-, reticulo-

nettle *comb* cnido-; *base* -urtic-

neutral(izing) *pre* anti-; *comb*

neutro-

neutral substances *suf* -in

new *comb* caeno-², caino-, cainoto-,

-cene, ceno-¹, cenoto-, kaino-,

kainoto-, neo-, thalero-; *base*

-nov-¹

NH *comb* ~**acid radicals**: -imido;

~**nonacid radicals**: imino-

nicknames *suf* -y³

night *comb* nocti-, nycta-, nycti-,

nycto-; *base* -crepus-, -vesper-;
all~: *comb* -pannychy
nightingale *base* philomel-
nightmare *base* malneiro-
nimbleness *comb* ocy-, tacho-,
 tachy-; *base* alacr-, celer-, festin-,
 veloc-
nine *comb* ennea-, nona-; *base*
 -nov-²; **~hundred**: enneacent-.
Also see "Numbers" in Part III
nineteen *base* enneakaideca-, unde-
 viginti-
ninety *base* enneaconta-, nonagen-,
 nonages-
ninth *base* non-²
nip *base* vellic-
nipple *comb* mamilli-, papilli-,
 papillo-, papilloso-, thelo-, umbo-.
See breast
niter *comb* nitro-
nitrogen *comb* azo-, nitro-, nitroso-;
 ~**plus hydrocarbon**: diazo-
NO radical *comb* nitro(so)-
nod *base* nut(a)-
noise *base* crepit-, frem-, ligyr-,
 strep(i)-, strid-, stridul-. *See*
 sound
noiseless *comb* hesy-; *base* -plac-,
 quiesc-, -tacit-
nonacid radical *comb* -amine,
 amino-
none *comb* nulli-. *See* negatives
nonsense *base* fatu-, inan-, moro-,
 stult-
noon *base* merid-
normal *comb* normo-
Norman *comb* Normano-
north *base* borea-, septen-
northern lights *comb* aurora-
nose *comb* nasi-, naso-, rhino-,
 rhyncho-, -rrhyncha. *See* beak.
 ~**bleed**: epistax-; ~**blowing**:
 emunct-; **snub~**: simo-; **sneer**:
 mycter-
nostrils *base* nari-

not *pre* a-³, ab-, an-¹, apo-, cata-,
 de-, dis-, ex-, il-, im-, in-, ir-,
 mis-, ne-, non-¹, ob-, un-; *comb*
 anti-, contra-, counter-, mal-,
 neutro-, no-, nulli-, with-; *suf*
 -less
not having *pre* a-, an-, des-, dis-,
 ex-, il-, im-, in-, ir-, un-; *comb*
 -atresia, atreto-, ectro-, lipo-; *base*
 -priv-; *suf* -less
notch *comb* crenato-, crenulato-.
See jagged
nothing *base* nihili-
notion *comb* -gnomy, -gnosia,
 -gnosis, -gnostic, gnoto-, ideo-,
 -noia, -nomy, phreno-, psycho-,
 -sophy *base* -cogit-, -cogn-, epis-
 tem-, -noe-, -put-, ratio-, -sci-
nourishment *comb* bromato-,
 -brotic, manduc-, opso-, -phage,
 -phago, -phagous, -phagy, -sitia,
 sitio-, sito-, -trophia, -trophic,
 tropho-, -trophy, -vora-, -vore,
 -vorous; *base* -alim-, -cib-, -gust-,
 -nutr-, thrept-
noxious *comb* noci-, pesti-; *base*
 -nox-, pericul-
nucleus *comb* caryo-, karyo-,
 nucleo-
number *base* -numer-; **even~**: *comb*
 artio-; **uneven~**: *comb* impari-,
 perisso-; **a number of**: *suf* -age,
 -some³. *Also see* "Numbers" in
 Part III
numbness *comb* narco-; *base* torp-
numerals *base* arithm-; **cardinal~**:
suf -teen; **collective~**: *suf* -ad;
ordinal~: *suf* -eth, -th. *Also see*
 "Numbers" in Part III
numerous *comb* multi-, myria-,
 myrio-, pluri-, poly-, sychno-
nurse *comb* threptero-
nut, nut-shaped *comb* caryo-,
 karyo-, nuci-, nucleo-
nuthatch *base* sitt-

nutmeg *base* myrist-
nutrition *comb* bromato-, -brotic,
 manduc-, opso-, -phage, -phago,
 -phagous, -phagy, -sitia, sitio-,

sito-, -trophia, -trophic, tropho-,
 -trophy, -vora, -vore, -vorous;
base -alim-, -cib-, -gust-, -nutr-,
 thrept-

O

oak *base* querc(i)-; **evergreen**~:
 cerr-
oar *comb* -reme, remi-
oats *base* aven(i)-
obedient *base* moriger-
obese *comb* adip(o)-, lipo-,
 pimel(o)-, pio-, stearo-, steato-;
base -aliph-, lipar-, -obes-,
 -pingu-, sebo-
object of an action *suf* -ate
objective *comb* teleo-, telo-,
 ultim(o)-; *base* -fin-, -termin-
oblige *base* -mand-
oblique *comb* loxo-, plagio-; *base*
 ambag-
oblong *comb* oblongo-
obscenity *base* aischro-, borbor-,
 copro-, fescinn-
obscure *comb* enigmato-; *base*
 ambig, dub-, acip-
observe *comb* eid(o)-, oculo-,
 ommat-, -opia, opsi-, -opsia,
 -opsis, opso-, -opsy, ophthalmo-,
 optico-, opto-, -scope, -scopic,
 scopo-, -scopy, visuo-; *base* -blep-,
 -scrut-, -spec-, -spic-, -vid-
obsessed with *comb* -aholic,
 -lagnia, -philia, -ridden
obstinate *base* contum-, obstin-,
 pervic-, proterv-
obstructed *comb* brady-; *base*
 -cunct-, imped-, -mora-, -tard-
obstruction *comb* emboli-, embolo-;
base -byon-, -farct-
obtain *base* -cap-, -cep-, -cip-,
 -dyte-

obtuse *comb* obtusi-
obvious *comb* lampro, luc-, luci-;
base -clar-
ocean *comb* halo-, mari-, thalasso-,
 thalatto-; *base* aequor-, naut-,
 nav-, pelag-
occipital *comb* occipito-
occupation *comb* arti-, -craft, -
 -ergasia, ergasio-, -ergic, ergo-,
 -ergy, organo-, -urgy; *base* -opus-,
 pono-; *suf* -arian
odd-numbered *comb* impari-
odor *comb* brom(o)-, -odic, odori-,
 odoro-, -olent, olfacto-, -osmia,
 osmo-¹, osphresio-, ozo-, ozono-;
base fet-, nidor-. *See also* "The
 Senses" in Part III
of *suf* -acean, -aceous, -ac², -ad², -al,
 -an, -ar, -arious, -ary, -atic,
 -ative, -atory, -eae, -ean, -eous,
 -ery, -etic, -ial, -ian, -ic, -id, -il,
 -ile, -ina, -inae, -ine, -ing, -ious,
 -istic, -ite, -itic, -itious, -itive,
 -ive, -oidea, -ory, -otic, -tious,
 -tive, -ular
off *pre* ab-, apo-, de-, ex-, for-
offering *base* -don-, -thy-
office *suf* -acy, -ate³, -cy, -dom,
 -ship
offspring *comb* proli-
often *comb* pluri-, pollaki-, poly-;
base crebr-; *suf* -le
oil *comb* elaeo-, elaio-, eleo-, olea-,
 -oleic, oleo-
ointment *comb* myro-; *base* -unct-,
 ungu-

old *comb* archaeo-, archeo-, eo-, gerasco-, gero-, geronto-, grand-, paleo-, presbyo-; *base* -antiq-, -sen-, -vet-; ~**age**: ger-²; ~**woman**: grao-

omission *pre* a-, an-, dis-, ex-, il-, im-, in-, ir-, un-; *comb* lipo-; *base* -priv-; *suf* -less; ~**of an opening**: *comb* -atresia, atreto-; ~**of a part**: *comb* ectro-

on *pre* ana-, epi-, ob-, sur-; ~**both sides**: *comb* amph(i)-; ~**the left side**: *comb* laeo-, laevo-, levo-, sinistro-; ~**the other side**: *pre* trans-; ~**the outside**: *pre* epi-; ~**the right side**: *comb* dextro-, dextro-; ~**the side**: *pre* by-; *comb* lateri-, latero-; ~**this side of**: *pre* cis-; *comb* citra-; ~**top**: *pre* super-

one *comb* eka-, haplo-, heno-, mono-, uni-; ~**and one-half**: *comb* sesqui-; ~**billion**: *comb* giga-; ~**billionth**: *comb* nan(n)o-; ~**by one**: katheno-; ~**fifth**: quint-; ~**fourth**: *comb* tetarto-; ~**half**: *comb* demi-, dicho-, dimid-, hemi-, mezzo-, semi-; ~**heptillion**: *comb* yotta-; ~**heptillionth**: *comb* yocto-; ~**hexillion**: *comb* zetta-; ~**hexillionth**: *comb* zepto-; ~**hundred**: *comb* centi-, hecato-, hecto-, hekto-; ~**hundredth**: *comb* centi-; ~**million**: *comb* mega-; ~**millionth**: *comb* micro-; ~**quadrillion**: *comb* femto-; ~**quadrillionth**: *comb* peta-; ~**quintillion**: *comb* atto-; ~**quintillionth**: *comb* exa-; ~**thousand**: *comb* chili-, kilo-; ~**thousandth**: *comb* milli-; ~**trillion**: *comb* pico-; ~**trillionth**: *comb* tera-. See also "Numbers" in Part III

one who __ *suf* -aholic, -aire, -an, -ant, -ar², -ard², -arian, -art, -ary, -ast, -ate, -ator, -ee, -eer, -en,

-ent, -er, -ette, -eur, -fer, -ician, -ier, -ior, -ist, -le, -man, -nik, -o, -or, -person, -people, -ster, -woman, -yer; ~**is well versed in** __: -logist

one-eyed *base* lusc-

one's own *comb* heauto-, idio-, proprio-, self-, sui-

onion *base* cep-², cromny-

ooze *base* ulig-

opaque *comb* glauco-

open space *comb* agora-, ceno-, keno-

opening *base* -apert-, -cav-, fenest-, foram-, ægo-, oigo-, osti-, patul-, pylo-, rim, valv-; **lack of**~: *comb* -atresia, atreto-; **surgical**~: -stomy

operation *comb* -ectomy

opinion *base* gnom-

opium *base* mecon-

opossum *base* didelph-

opposite *pre* anti-, contra-, contre-, dis-, hetero-, ob-, un-; *comb* back-, counter-, enantio-, oppositi-

option *base* -opt-, -vol-

opulence *comb* chryso-, pluto-; *base* chrem-, -opul-, pecun-

oracle *comb* chresmo-

orange fruit: *base* -hesperid-; **color**: *base* auranti-. Also see "Colors" in Part III

orangutan *base* -pong-

orb *comb* ano-, annul-, crico-, cyclo-, disco-, globi-, globo-, glom-, gyro-, orbito-, -sphere, sphero-, stilli-, zon-, zoni-; *base* -anu-, -cing-, -cinct-, -circin-, -circul-, -coron-, -glomer-, -numm-, -orb-, -rot-, -troch-

orbit *comb* orbito-

orchid *comb* orchido-¹

order placement: *comb* -tactous, taxi-, -taxia-, -taxis, taxo-, -taxy; *base* -pon-, -pos-; **command**: *base* imper-, -jus-, -mand-

ordinary people *comb* demo-, *base* -pleb-, -popul-
organ *comb* organo-, *suf* -ite; **having female~**: *comb* -gynous; **having male~**: *comb* -androus
organic *comb* organo-
origin *comb* aetio-, -blast, blasto-, -blasty, -carp, -carpic, carpo-, -carpous, etio-, -gen, -genic, -genesis, -genous, -geny, -gone, -gonium, gono-, -gony, -phyletic, sperma-, spermal, spermatio-, spermato-, spermi-, -spermic, spermo-, -spermous, sporo-, *base* -init-, *suf* -esce, -escence, -escent
original *comb* archaeo-, primi-, primo-, proto-
originate *base* inaug-, incip-, init-
oriole *base* -icter-
osmium *comb* osmio-
osmosis *comb* osmo-²
osprey *base* ossifrag-
ostrich *base* -rat-, struthi-
other *comb* allo-, alter-, hetero-, *base* -ali-²
otter *base* -lutr-
out of *pre* e-, ec-, ef-, ex-. *See* out-side
outcome *comb* ergo-, -ergic, -ergy; *suf* -age, -asm, -ata, -ation, -ency, -ism, -ma, -ment, -mony, -sion, -ure

outgrowth *comb* cele-, -edema, ganglio-, -phym(a); *base* -tum-
outside *pre* epi-, exo-, extra-, extro-, para-, preter-, *comb* ecto-, extero-, foris-, out-. *See* out of
outskirts *base* limin-, marg-
ovary *comb* gyn(o)-, -gynous, -gyny, oario-, oophoro-, ovario-
over above: *pre* ano-, meta-, ob-, preter-, super-, supra-, sur-, sursum-, *comb* over-, **again**: *pre* ana-, re-, *base* -palin-, **excessive**: *pre* hyper-, super-, ultra-, *comb* over-, poly-
overflow *base* antlo-, diluv-, inund-
oversight *base* culp-, delict-, laps-, pecc-, sphal-
overt *comb* lampro-, luc-, luci-, -phane, phanero-, -phanic, -phany, pheno-, *base* -clar-, -schem-, -spec-, -spic-
overthrow *base* vict-, -vinc-
overweight *base* obes-, pingu-
ovum *comb* oo-, ovario-, ovi-¹, ovo-
owl *base* strigi-, tyto-, ulul-²
ox *comb* bou-, bov-, bu-
oxygen *comb* oxa-, oxy-²; **deprived of~**: *comb* deoxy-
oyster *comb* ostrei-, ostreo-, *base* -ostrac-
ozone *comb* ozono-

P

pack together *base* stip-²
pad *comb* tylo-
page size *suf* -mo
pain *comb* alge-, algesi-, -algia, algo-, -algy, -dynia, noci-, -odynia, odyno-, pono-¹; *base* dolor-, -nox-, **sudden~**: *comb* -agra. *See* suffering

paint *base* -pict-, pigm-
pairs *pre* bi- *comb* conjugato-, didymo-, diplo-, zyga-, zygo-
palate *comb* palato-, uranisco-, urano-, velar-
paleontological *comb* paleo-
palliative *base* anet-, -len-, miti-¹
pallium *comb* pallio-

palm *hand:* *comb* palmati-,
 palmato-; *tree:* *base* palmac-
pan *comb* lecano-
pancreas *comb* pancreato-, pancreo-
pander *comb* leno- (lenocinant)
panic *comb* -phobe-, -phobia,
 -phobic, phobo-; *base* pavid-,
 tim(or)-, -trem-, -trep-. *Also see*
 "Fear" in Part III
paper *comb* carto-, charto-, papyro-
papillary *comb* papilli-, papillo-,
 papilloso-
papule *comb* papulo-
papyrus *comb* papyro-
parachute (using) *comb* para-
parade *comb* -cade
paraffin series: hydrocarbon *suf*
 -ane
parakeet *base* psittac-
paralysis *comb* -plegia, -plegy
paramount *comb* arch-, archi-,
 proto-; *base* -prim-, -princip-
parasite *base* colaco-, parasit-,
 pothiri-, trypano-, vermin-
parasol *base* umbell(i)-, umbrell(i)-
parched *comb* carpho-, xero-; *base*
 arid-, celo-, cherso-, -sicc-
parchment *base* pergamen-
parent form *comb* proto-
parietal *comb* parieto-
parrot *base* psittac-
parsley *base* petrosel-
part(s) *comb* -fold-, -meran,
 -mer(e), mer(o)-¹, -merous, par-,
 parti-
participant *suf* -ade; *~in govt:* *comb*
 -crat
particular *comb* -specific
partition *comb* parieto-, -phragma,
 phragmo-, septo-; *base* -mur-
partly *comb* demi-, hemi-, semi-;
~serious: serio-
partridge *base* gallinac-, -perdic-,
 -perdri-
parturient *comb* -para

pass base -bat-
passage *comb* isthm-, meato-, over-,
 poro-, soleno-; *base* -bat-
past *comb* preter-
paste *base* glutin-. *See glue*
pastoral care *base* poimen-
patch *comb* emboli-, embolo-,
 -plakia
path *comb* -ode¹, odo-; *base* -itin-,
 -via-
pathetic *base* fleb-, trist-
pawn *base* pign-
pay *base* -pend-, -pens-
pea *comb* pisi-
peace *base* -eiren-, -iren-, -pac-,
 -pax-
peach *base* persic-
peacock *base* pavon-
peak *comb* coryph-
peanut *base* arach-
pear *comb* apio-, piri¹-, piro-, pyri-
pearl *base* margarit-
peat bog *base* turbar-
pebble *comb* pesso-, psepho-; *base*
 calcul-. *See stone*
peculiar *comb* aetheo-, anom(o)-,
 anomal-. *See irregular*
peculiarity of *suf* -ism
peel *comb* -lemma²
pejorative *suf* -aster, -erel
pelican *base* onocrot-, pelecant-
pelvis *comb* pelvi-, perineo-,
 pyelo-
pen *base* styl-
penguin *base* sphenisc-
peninsula *base* chersones-
penis *comb* peo-, phall(o)-; *base*
 med-, mentul-
pennant *base* vexill-
penniless *comb* -penia, ptocho-,
 vidu-; *base* -mendic-, -paup-,
 penur-, -pov-
people *comb* dem(o)-, ethno-; *base*
 anthrop-, -pleb-, -popul-, -vulg-
pepper *base* piper-

perception *comb* -esthesia, -esthesia, percepto-
perch *fish*: *base* perc- *sit*: *base* -sess-
percussion *comb* pless(i)-; *base*
 -crot-, -cuss-, -puls-, -tus-, vapul-,
 verber-
perforation *comb* -tresia. *See* tear
perfume *comb* myro-, -thymia²
pericardial *comb* pericardiaco-,
 pericardio-
peril *base* pericul-
perineum *comb* perineo-
period *time*: *comb* back-, chrono-,
 eo-, horo-, paleo, protero-, yester-;
menstrual: *comb* emmen-,
 -menia, meno-
periosteum *comb* periosteo-
perishable *base* caduc-, fragil-
peritoneum *comb* meso-, perito-
 neo-
permanent *base* diuturn-, dur(o)-,
 perenn-, perm-, stabil-
pernicious *comb* noci-, pesti-; *base*
 -nox-, pericul-
perpetual *base* assid-, contin-, in-
 cess-, perpet-
person *suf* -aholic, -aire, -an, -ant,
 -ard, -arian, -art, -ary, -ast, -ate,
 -ator, -ee, -eer, -en, -ent, -er,
 -ette, -eur, -fer, -ician, -ier, -ior,
 -ist, -le, -ling¹, -man, -nik, -o,
 -or², -person, -people, -ster,
 -woman, -yer
personal *comb* idio-, proprio-, self-
perspiration *comb* sudori-; *base*
 -hidr-, -suda-
persuade *base* -duc-
pertaining to *suf* -ac², -acean,
 -aceous, -ad, -al, -an, -ar², -ari-
 ous, -ary, -atic, -ative, -atory,
 -eae, -ean, -eous, -ery, -etic, -ial,
 -ian, -ic, -id, -il, -ile, -ina, -inae,
 -ine, -ing, -ious, -istic, -ite, -itic,
 -itious, -itive, -ive, -oidea, -ory,
 -otic, -tious, -tive, -ular

pest *comb* pesti-, vermin-
pestilence *comb* loemo-, loimo-. *See*
 disease
petal *comb* petuli-, -sepalous
petroleum *comb* petro-
petty *base* pusill-, rhopo-
pharynx *comb* pharyngo-
pheasant *base* alector-, gallinac-,
 phasian-
phenanthrene *comb* phenanthro-
phenol *base* carbol-; *suf* -ol
phenyl *comb* pheno-
philosophical *comb* philosophico-
phonetic *comb* phonetico-
phosphorous *comb* phospho-,
 phosphoro-
phrase *comb* phraseo-
phylum *comb* phylo-
physical *comb* physi-, physico-,
 physio-; *~love*: eroto-
piece *comb* clasmato-, -fid; *base*
 frag-, frust-, -par-
pig *base* porcin-, sui-
pig-headed *base* contum-, obstin-,
 pervic-, proterv-
pigeon *base* columb-, palumb-,
 perister-, pullastr-
pile *base* -acerv-, conger-, -cumul-
pillar *comb* column-, stylo-²; *~like*:
 paxill-; *small~*: columelli-
pillow *base* pulvin-
pimp *base* leno-
pimple *comb* pustulo-
pin *base* acu-, belon-
pinch *base* -rrhexo-
pine *base* -peuce-, pin-; *~cone*:
 strobil-
pineapple *base* bromel- (bromelia-
 ceous)
pipe *comb* aulo-, follic-, salpingo-,
 siphoni-, siphono-, solen(o)-, sy-
 ringo-, tubi-, tubo-, tubuli-, vasi-;
base calam-, fistul-, -syr-
pistil *comb* gyn(o)-, -gynous, -gyny
pit *base* -taph(o)-, taphro-

pitcher *comb* urcei-, urceo-
pitted *base* bothr-, fov-, scrobic-
place, a *comb* -land, loco-, situ-,
 -stead, topo-, -topy, ubi-; *suf*
 -ensis; ~**of**: *suf* -age; ~**for**: *suf*
 -arium, -ary, -cle, -ery, -orium,
 ory. *Also see* "Location" in Part
 III
place, to *comb* -thesis, -thetic; *base*
 -pon-, -pos-; *suf* -en
placenta *base* mazo-¹, placenti-
plait *comb* pleco, plecto-
plane **surface**: *comb* explanato-,
 plani-, plano-¹
plant growth: unequal *comb* -nas-
 tic, -nasty
plants *comb* botano-, herbi-,
 -phyte, phyto-, vegeti-, vegeto-;
suf -ad, -aceae, -ales, -eae, -ia
plastic surgery *comb* -plasty
plate *comb* lamelli-, lamini-,
 lamino-, placo-; *base* -tect-;
metal~: *comb* elasm-
platinum *comb* platini-, platino-
platypus *base* monotrem-, pro-
 tother-
play *comb* -lude
please *base* delect-, -plac-, volupt-
pleasure *base* -hedon-, volupt-
pleura *comb* pleuro-
plover *base* charadr-, pluvial-
pluck *base* -tillo-, -vellic-
plug *comb* emboli-, embolo-; *base*
 -byon-, -farct-
plunge *comb* -merge, -merse
plural *suf* -a, -aceae, -aceae, -ae,
 -des², -eae, -en², -es, -i, -ia, -ata,
 -ota, -s; **collective~**: *suf* -ana
pod *base* kelyph-, siliqu-
poems *comb* rhapso-; *base* -metr-,
 muso-; *suf* -ad
pointed *comb* acantho-, aceto-,
 acetyl-, acid-, acro-, acu-, acuti-,
 cusp-, mucro-, oxy-¹, spiculi-,
 spiculo-, stylo-¹; *base* -acerb-, aci-,

-aichm-, -aichur-, -belon-, fastig-,
 muric-, -punct-, -piq-, -pung-,
 stigm-
points, having *comb* punctato-
poison *comb* tox(i), toxico-, -toxin,
 toxo-¹, veneno-
polar *comb* polari-
polecat *base* mustel-
police officer *base* alyt-
polished *base* levig-, xest-
political *comb* politico-
pollen *comb* palyn-, pollini-
pollute *base* -turp-
polymer of *pre* meta-
pomegranate *base* balaust-
pond, pool *comb* limno-; *base*
 lacus-, stagn-
poor **deficient**: *comb* -isch-, oligo-,
 -penia; **penniless**: *comb* ptocho-,
 vidu-; *base* -mendic-, -paup-,
 penur-, -pov-; **quality**: *comb*
 caco-, kako-
poppy *comb* opio-, papaver-; *base*
 -mecon-
porcelain *base* poticho-
porcupine *base* hystric-
pore *comb* pori-, poro-, poroso-
pork *base* porc-
porphyritic rock *comb* -phyre -
porpoise *base* delphin-, phoeaen-
portal *comb* porto-
portion *base* par-¹
position **office**: *suf* -acy, -ate, -cy,
 -dom, -ship
possessing *comb* -echia; *suf* -acéan,
 -aceous, -al, -ate, -ed, -ful, -ger-
 ous, -ial, -ine, -ious, -itious, -ory,
 -ous, -some, -ulent, -ulous, -wise,
 -y; *base* -ten-; ~**parts**: *comb* -fold
possibility *suf* -atile
postage stamp *base* philatel-, tim-
 bro-
posterior *comb* postero-
potassium *comb* kal(i)-
potency *comb* dyna-, dynamo-,

mega-, megalo-, -megaly, -sthenia, stheno-; *base* -forc-, -fort-, -poten-, robor-; ~**to do or be**: *suf* -bility

pouch *comb* angio-, asco-, burs(o)-, -ceco, chlamyd-, chrysalis-, coleo-, -cyst, cysti-, cysto-, follic-, meningo-, pericardiac-, pericardio-, peritoneo-, physa-, physali-, physo-, theca-, theco-, typhlo-, utric-, vesico-; *base* marsup-, -sacc-, scrot-, -thylac-

poultry *base* gallin-

pound *comb* -cuss-, plessi-, rhabdo-; *base* -cop-, -crot-, fustig-, plang-, puls-, quass-, vapul-, -verber-

pour *base* -chys-, -chyt-, -flu-, -fus-

poverty *comb* -penia, ptocho-, vidu-; *base* -mendic-, -paup-, penur-, -pov-

power(ful) *comb* -crat, crato-, dyna-, dynamo-, mega-, megalo-, -megaly, stheno-; *base* -forc-, -fort-, imper-, -poten-; ~**to do or be**: *suf* -bility

practice of *comb* -craft; *suf* -ade, -age, -al, -ance, -ancy, -asis, -asm, -ation, -cy, -ence, -ency, -ery, -esis, -iasis, -ice, -ics, -ing, -ion, -ism, -ment, -osis, -otic, -sion, -sis, -th, -tion, -tious, -ture, -ure, -y, -ysis

practitioner *suf* -ician, -ist

praise *base* encom-, -laud-

pray *base* litan-, orat-, -prec-, -rog-

preaching *base* kery-

precipice *base* -cremno-

predilection for *comb* philo-

pregnancy *comb* -cyesis, toco-; *base* gestat-, -gravid-, -maieusi-

prehistoric *comb* eo-, paleo-, proto-

preparation *pre* pre-

present *base* -don-

preserver *suf* -sote

press together *base* stip-²

pressure *comb* bar(o)-, -piesis, piezo-, -tonia, -tonic, tono-; *base* thlips-

pretend *comb* pseudo-; *base* fict-, -simul-

preventing *pre* anti-; *base* imped-, prohib-

previous *pre* pre-; *comb* back-, yester-

prickly *comb* echinato-, echino-, echinulato-, echinuli-; *base* -urtic-

priest *base* presbyter-, sacerdot-

primary *comb* archi-, proto-; *base* -prim-, -princip-

primate *comb* -pithecus

primitive *comb* archi-, paleo-, prisc-, proto-

principal *comb* arch(i)-¹, prim-, proto-

principle of *suf* -ism

print *comb* -type

prior to *pre* pre-; *comb* back-, yester-

proceed *comb* -grade, -motive, -plania, plano-; *base* -bat-, -ced-, -cess-, -cur(s), -grad-, -gress-, -mob-, -vad-, -vas-; ~**away**: out-; ~**into**: -dyte-; ~**forward**: pro-; ~**toward**: -bound, -petal

process of *comb* -craft; *suf* -ade, -age, -al, -ance, -ancy, -asis, -asm, -ation, -cy, -ence, -ency, -ery, -esis, -iasis, -ice, -ics, -ing, -ion, -ism, -ment¹, -osis, -otic, -sion, -sis, -th, -tion, -tious, -ture, -ure, -y, -ysis

procession *comb* -cade

proclamation *base* kery-

procure *base* -cap-, -cep-, -cip-, -dyte-

produce/producing *comb* -facient, -ferous, -fic, -fication, -gen, -genesis, -genic, -genous, -geny, -gerous, ideo-, -parous, -phor,

-phorous, -plast, -plastic, plasto-,
-plasty, poiesis, -poietic, -urgy; *suf*
-ate, -atory, -ic, -fer, -ing, -otic

product of *comb* -geny², -gony; *suf*
-ade, -ery, -ment¹

proficiency *base* -apt-, -habil-,
-poten-, -qual-; *suf* -bility, -ful,
-ship

profit *base* lucri-, quaest-

profusion *base* ampl-, copi-, larg-

projectile *base* -ballist-

promoting *base* -gog-

propagate *base* thremm-

propel *comb* -bole, -bolic, bolo-,
-boly; *base* ballist-, -jact-, -jacula-,
-ject-

proper *comb* cyrio-, kyrio-, ortho-

properties *suf* -ics

prophetic *comb* fati-, vati-

propitiatory *base* hilasm-, ilast-

proposition *comb* -lemma¹

prosperity *comb* chryso-, pluto-;

base chrem-, -opul-, pecun-

prostate *comb* prostato-

prostitute *comb* cypriano-, hetaero-,
porno-; *base* -meretric-, scort-;

brothel: lupan-

protected against *comb* -proof

protecting from *comb* para-¹

protection *comb* -phylactic, phy-
lacto-, -phylax, -phylaxis

protein *comb* proteo-

protein hydrolysis *suf* -ose

protest *base* -quer-, -querul-

protoplasm *comb* -plasmo-, -plast

protuberance *comb* condyl(o)-,

gibboso-, hybo-, papillo-,

ramoso-, thelo-, umbo-

proverb *base* parem-, paroem-

provide *pre* be-; *base* -don-; *suf* -ate

provided with *comb* -echia; *suf*
-able, -ate, -ed², -ious, -ous,

proving *comb* -deictic

proximity *pre* a-, ac-, ad-, af-, ag-,

al-, an-, ap-, ar-, as-, at-, by-, cis-,

epi-, para-, peri-; *comb* juxta-,

citra-, pene-, proximo-

proxy *comb* allelo-, allo-, alter-,
hetero-; *base* -ali-

psychosis *comb* lyssso-, -mania; *base*
ament-, dement-

ptarmigan *base* tetraon-

pubescent *base* hebe-

pubic *comb* pubio-, pubo-

public *comb* demo-; *base* -pleb-,
-vulg-

puke *comb* -emesis, -emetic, emeto-

pull *base* -tillo-, -tract-, vell-

pulley *comb* trochi-, trocho-

pulmonary *comb* pulmo-

pulse *comb* sphygmo-; *base* -crot-

pumpkin *base* pepo-

puncture *comb* -centesis; *base*
stigm-

punishment *comb* mastigo-,
rhabdo-; *base* castig-, peno-,
poine-, -pun-¹

pupil *eye: comb* core-¹, coreo-,
-coria, coro-, -koria, pupillo-;

student: *base* -discip-

puppet *base* pupa

purchase *comb* onio-; *base* -empt-,
-merc-, nundin-

purify *base* cathar-. *See* cleanse

purple *comb* purpureo-; *base* ama-
ranth-, blatt-², indi-, indo-,
phenic-, porphyr-, -pun-². *Also*
see "Colors" in Part III

purpose *comb* teleo-, telo-

purse *comb* burs(o)-, marsup-,
phasco-

purslain *base* portulac-

pursue *base* secut-, sequ-

pus *comb* purulo-, pyo-. *See* infec-
tion

push *comb* -trude; *base* -pel-, -pul-,
trus-

put *base* -pon-, -pos-; *suf* -en;

~in the form of: *suf* -ate; *~to-*

gether: *comb* -thesis, -thetic; *base*

cond-, -fabr-, -fac-, -fec-, -fic-,
-struct-
putrefying *comb* cario-, lysi-, lyso-,
-lysis, -lyte, -lytic, phthino-,
phthisio-, -phthisis, putre-, putri-,

pytho-, sapro-, septi-, septico-,
septo-; *base* marcesc-, phthor-,
tabe-; *suf* -ase
pylorus *comb* pyloro-
pyrites *comb* pyrito-

Q

quadrillion(th) *comb* femto-, peta-
quaff *comb* pino-, poto-; *base* -bib-,
pocul-
quail *base* coturn-, gallinac-
quake *base* -pav-, -trem-
qualified *comb* -potent; *suf* -able,
-ible, -ile; *in an ~way*: -bly
quality of *suf* -able, -acity, -acy,
-age, -ance, -ancy, -ant, -asis,
-asm, -ate, -atile, -ation, -cy,
-dom, -eity, -ence, -ency, -ent,
-ery, -esis, -ful, -hood, -iasis,
-ice¹, -ility, -ion, -ise, -ism, -ity,
-ling, -ma, -ment, -ness, -or³,
-osis, -otic, -red, -ship, -sion, -th,
-tion, -tude, -ture, -ty¹, -ure, -y²
qualm *comb* -phobe, -phobia,
-phobic, phobo-; *base* pavid-,
tim(or)-, -trem-, -trep-. *Also see*
"Fear" in Part III
quantity *base* -quant-; *suf* -age,
-ful
quarrel *comb* -machy; *base* litig-,
pugil-, -pugn-, -rix-
quarter *base* quadr-
quash *comb* lysi-, lyso-, -lysis,
-lytic, -lyze, -phage, phago-, -
phagous, -phagy; *base* -ate⁴,
perd-, phthart-, -vast-

quaver *comb* tremo-; *base* pav-,
trep-
queen *base* regin-
quell *comb* stasi-, -stasis, -stat,
stato-; *base* fin-, termin-
quest *comb* -petal, -quire, -quiry;
base indag-, -rog-, -scrut-
question *base* erot-, -quir-, -rog-
quickness *comb* ocy-, tacho-,
tachy-; *base* alacr-, celer-, festin-,
veloc-
quicksand *base* syrt-
quiet *comb* hesy-; *base* -plac-,
quiesc-, -tacet-
quinine *base* cinchon-
quintillion(th) *comb* atto-, exa-
quirky *comb* aetho-, anom(o)-,
anomalo-. *See* irregular
quisling *base* prodit-
quit *base* relinq-
quite *pre* be-, cata-, cath-, de-,
kata-, ob-, per-; *comb* holo-,
omni-, pan-, panto-, stone-, toti-
quivering *comb* -chorea, choreo-,
-clonic, -clonus, -esmus, -ismus,
spasmo-; *base* -stal-, -vellic-

R

rabbit *base* cunic-, lago-, lepor-

rabies *base* lyss-

raccoon *base* arctoid-, procyon-

race **group:** *comb* -ethno, geno-, phylo-

race course *comb* -drome, dromo-, dromous

radiant *comb* helio-; *base* fulg-, nitid-; ~**energy:** *comb* bolo-², radio-, spectro-

radicals *suf* -yl, -ylene; **two~:** *comb* bi-

radicle *comb* radiculo-, rostell-

radioactive *comb* radio-

radish *base* raphan-

rag *base* pann-

railroad *base* siderodromo-

rain *comb* hyeto-, pluvio-; *base* imbri-, nimb-, ombr-

rainbow *base* irid-

raise **cultivate:** *base* -ponic; **lift:** levat-

ram *comb* crio-, krio-; *base* -ariet-

rank *comb* -rater; *suf* -cy, -dom², -ship

rap *comb* plessi-; *base* cop-, -crot-, -cuss-, -plang-, puls-, -tus-, vapul-, -verber-

rape *base* rap-, rep-, stupr-

rapid *comb* ocy-, tacho-, tachy-; *base* alacr-, celer-, festin-, veloc-

rare *comb* mano-, spano-; *base* -areo-²

rash *comb* -anthema

rat *base* mur-

ratio, inverse *pre* sub-

rattlesnake *base* crotal-

raven *comb* coraci-, coraco-; *base* corvin-

ravenous *base* avid-, edac-, gulos-

raw *base* omo-²

ray *comb* radio-, radiato-; *base* bolo-², -rad-

razor *base* xyr-

reading *comb* -legia; *base* lect-, -leg-¹

real *base* ver-

realm *suf* -dom, -ric

rear *comb* hind-. *See* behind

reasoning *comb* -gnomy, -gnosia, -gnosis, -gnostic, -gnoto, ideo-, -noia, -nomy, -phrenic, phrenico-, phreno-, psycho-, -sophy, thymo-, -witted; *base* -cogit-, -cogn-, ment(a)-, -noe-, -put-, -ratio-, -sci-

rebuke *base* increp-

receiver *comb* -ceptor; *base* -cap-, -cip-; *suf* -ee

recent *comb* -cene, ceno-¹, neo-, nov-

receptacle *comb* angio-, asco-, bursi-, burso-, ceco-, chlamyd-, chrysalis-, cisto-, coleo-, -cyst, cysti-, cysto-, follic-, meningo-, pericardiac-, pericardio-, peritoneo-, phasco-, physa-, physali-, physo-, -theca, theci-, theco-, typhlo-, utri-, utric, vesico-; *base* -sacc-, -thylac-

reciprocal *pre* co-, inter-, syl-, sym-, syn-, sys; *comb* allelo-, hama-, symphyo, synchro-; *base* -allac-, -allag-, -allaxis-, -mutu-

recline *base* -cub-, -cumb-

recognition *comb* -gnosis, -gnostic

reconstructive surgery *comb* -plasty

rectification *comb* ortho-; *base* castig-, emend-

rectum *comb* procto-, recto-

red *comb* carmino-, erysi-, erythro-, phoeni-, pyhrro-, rhodo-, roseo-,

testaceo-; *base* coccin-, coquel-,
cruent-, -ereuth-, ferrug-, fuc-,
grenat-, -later-, minia-, murex-,
nacar-, -rub-, -rud-, -ruf-, -rut-.

Also see "Colors" in Part III

redundant *comb* perisso-

reed *comb* aulo-, follic-, salpingo-,
siphoni-, siphono-, solen(o)-,
syringo-, tubi-, tubo-, tubuli-,
vasi-; *base* arundi-, calam-, fistul-,
-syr-

refuse to *pre* dis-

region *comb* choro-

regular *comb* cyrio-, kyrio-,
homalo-, homolo-, ortho-

regulate *base* -temp-

regurgitate *comb* -emesis, -emetic,
emeto-

reject *base* relinq-

relate *base* narr-

relating to *suf* -acean, -aceous, -ad²,

-al, -an, -ar, -arious, -ary, -atic,
-ative, -atory, -eae, -ean, -eous,
-ery, -etic, -ial, -ian, -ic, -id, -il,
-ile, -ina, -inae, -ine, -ing, -ious,
-istic, -ite, -itic, -itious, -itive,
-ive, -oidea, -orious, -ory, -otic,
-tious, -tive, -ular

relatives *base* cogn-, famil-, stirp-

release *base* -miss-, -mit-, -pomp-

relieving *comb* lyo-, lysi-, -lysis,
lyso-, -lyte, -lytic, -lyze; *base*
-liqu-, -solu-, -solv-

relics *comb* lipsano-, reliq-

religion *comb* religio-, theo-

remember *comb* -mnesia, -mnesis;
base -mem-, -mnem-

remote *comb* disto-, tele-

remove *pre* ab-, abs-, apo-, be-, de-,
des-, di-, dia-, dif-, dis-, e-, ec-,
ef-, ex-, for-, off-, se, with-; *comb*
ectro-

repair *comb* ortho-; *base* castig-,
emend-

repeatedly *comb* batto-, pollaki-;

base epana-, -iter-, palin-; *suf* -er.

See frequent

replacement *comb* allelo-, allo-,
alter-, hetero-; *base* -ali-

replete *comb* -filled, pleni-, pleo-,
plero-, pluri-; *base* -pler-, -plet-;
suf -acious, -ate, -ic, -ful, -ilent,
-ose, -osity, -ous, -ulent, -y

reply *base* apocris-. *See say*

repress *comb* stasi-, -stasis, -stat,
stato-; *base* fin-, termin-

reproach *comb* enisso-, enosi-

reproduce *comb* aetio-, -blast,
blasto-, -blasty, -carp, -carpic,
carpo-, -carpous, etio-, -gen,
-genic, -genesis, -genous, -geny,
-gone, -gonium, gono-, -gony,
-phyletic, sperma-, -spermal,
spermato-, spermi-, -spermic,
spermo-, sporo-; *base* -init-; *suf*
-esce, -escence, -escent

reptile *comb* echidno-, -glypha,
herpeto-, -ophidia, ophidio-,
ophio-, -saur, sauro-, -saurus;
base angui-, batrach-, colubr-,
reptil-, -serp-, viper-

repulsion *base* fastid-

request *base* -pet-, -quir-, -quis-,
-rog-

require *base* exig-

rescued *comb* eleuthero-; *base*
-liber-, vac(u)-

resembling *pre* para-, quasi-; *comb*
homeo-, homoio-, homolo-, iso-,
-opsis, -phane, -phanic, -phany,
pheno-; *base* simil-; *suf* -acean,
-aceous, -al, -an, -ar, -ary, -ean,
-en, -eous, -esque, -ful, -ic, -il,
-ile-, -ine, -ing, -ish, -istic, -isti-
cal, -itious, -ize, -like, -ode, -oid,
-oidal, -ose, -osity, -some, -tious,
-ular, -y

resentment *base* -invid-

reservoir *base* lacco-

resin *comb* resino-

resistant to *comb* -proof, -tight;
 ~**disease**: *comb* immuno-
resourceful *base* agil-, facil-, ingen-
respiration *comb* -pnea, pneo-,
 pneumato-, pneumo-, pneu-
 mono-, pneusio-, pulmo-, respi-
 rato-, spiro-¹; *base* -hal-
responsibility *comb* hypedia-,
 hypengy-; *base* paralip-
responsive to *comb* -trope, -tropic,
 -tropism, tropo-, -tropical,
 -tropy
rest *base* oti-
restless *comb* agito- *base* -turb-
restrained *comb* brady-; *base*
 -cunct-, imped-, -mora-, -tard-
restriction *comb* isch-, koly-,
 -penia, rhopo-, -strain, -strict;
base angust-, -string-; *suf* -en. See
 tie
result (of) *comb* ergo-, -ergic,
 -ergy; *suf* -age, -asm, -ata, -ation,
 -ency, -ism, -ma, -ment¹, -mony,
 -sion, -ure
retaliation *comb* counter-
retention *comb* -echia, -tain; *base*
 -cathe-, -ten-
reticular *comb* reticulo-
retina *comb* retino-
return *pre* re-; *comb* nosto-
reveal *comb* phaeno-, pheno-; *base*
 -monstr-
reversal *comb* allo-; *base* -vers-,
 -vert-
reverse *pre* anti-, de-
revile *base* vituper-
revulsion *comb* miso-, -phobe,
 -phobia, -phobic; *base* -invid-,
 -ira(sc)-, odi-
rhinoceros *base* ceratorh-
rhombus *comb* rhombo-
rib *comb* costi-, costo-
ribbon *comb* taeni-, taenio-, -tene,
 teni-; *base* lemnisc-
rice *base* oryzi-, rizi-

riches *comb* chryso-, pluto-; *base*
 chrem-, -opul-, pecun-
ridge *comb* crebri-, lopho-; *base*
 -carin-
ridicule *comb* catagelo-, katagelo-
ridiculous *base* fatu-, inan-, moro-,
 stult-
right *comb* recti-; ~**angle**: *comb*
 ortho-; ~**side**: *comb* dextro-, dex-
 tro-; **correct**: *comb* ortho-; *base*
 emend-
righteous *pre* bene-, eu-; *base*
 agath-, bon-, prob-
rigid *comb* ancylo-, ankylo-, tetano-
rind *comb* -lemma²
ring *comb* annul-, ano-², crico-,
 cyclo-, disco-, globo-, gyro-,
 -sphere, sphero-, stilli-; *base*
 -anu-, -cinct-, -cing-, -circin-,
 -circul-, -coron-, -glomer-,
 -numm-, -orb-, -rot-, -troch-,
 -zon-; **finger**~: dactyl-;
 ~**shaped**: ano-²
ringing *base* tinn-, tintinn-
ringlet *comb* cirr(h)i-, cirr(h)o-
ripe *base* -matur-
rise *base* -cresc-, -surg-
risky *base* pericul-
rivaling *pre* anti-
river *comb* fluvio-, potamo-; *base*
 amn-, flum-, -rip-
roach *base* blatt-
road *comb* hodo-, -ode, odo-; *base*
 -iter-, -via-
roadrunner *base* cucul-
roar *base* -frem-
robber *comb* clepto-, klepto-, lesto-;
base -furt-, harpax-, latro-, pred-
robin *base* -turd-
robust *comb* -proof, dur(o)-; *base*
 -forc-, -fort-
rock *comb* -lithic, litho-, pesso-,
 petri-, petro-, sax(i)-; *base* -lapid-,
 -rupes-, rupic-; *suf* -ite
rod (shaped) *comb* bacilli-, bacillo-,

bacul-, fusi-, fuso-, rhabdo-,
vergi-; *base* coryn-, ferul-, -rad-,
virgul-

Roman *comb* Romano-

romantic *comb* romantico-

roof *comb* stego-, tecti-, tegu-; ~*of*
mouth: *comb* palato-, uranisco

rooster *comb* alector-, alectry-

root *comb* radiculo-, rhizo-, -rrhiza;
base -radic-, -stirp-

rope *comb* funi-, resti-, schoeno-

rose *comb* rhodo-, roseo-

rotary *comb* cyclo-, roti-, troch-,
trochalo-, trochi-, trocho-

rotten *comb* lysi-, lyso-, -lysis, -lyte,
phthysio-, -phthysis, putre-,
putri-, pytho-, sapro-, septi-,
septo-; *base* -putr-

rough *comb* asper-, trachy-; *base*
-rud-, salebr-

round *comb* ano-, annul-, convexo-,
crico-, cyclo-, disco-, gibboso-,
globi-, globo-, glom-, gyro-,
orbito-, rotundi-, rotundo-,
-sphere, sphero-, stilli-, tereti-,
tereto-, trochi-, trocho-, zon-,
zoni-; *base* -anu-, -cing-, -cinct-,
-circin-, -circul-, -coron-,
-glomer-, -numm-, -orb-, -rot-,
strongyl-; **partly~:** *comb* orbicu-
lato-

route *comb* -ode, odo-; *base* -itin-,
-via-

routine *comb* -craft; *suf* -ade, -age,

-al, -ance, -ancy, -asis, -asm,
-ation, -cy, -ence, -ency, -ery,
-esis, -iasis, -ice, -ics, -ing, -ion,
-ism, -ment, -osis, -otic, -sion,
-sis, -th, -tion, -tious, -ture, -ure,
-y, -ysis

rows *comb* -stichia, sticho-, -stic-
hous

rubbing *comb* tribo-, -tripsy; *base*
trit-

rude *base* contum-, impud-, pro-
cac-

rue *base* rut-

rug *base* lodic-

ruination *comb* lysi-, lyso-, -lysis,
-lytic, -lyze, -phage, phago-,
-phagous, -phagy; *base* -ate⁴,
perd-, phthart-, -vast-

ruler *comb* -arch², gubern-; *base*
-reg-

ruling *comb* -archy, -ocracy; *base*
-regn-

rump *comb* podic-, pygia, pygo-;
base nati-

run *comb* -drom(e), dromo-, -dro-
mous; *base* curr-, -cur(s)-

rune *comb* runo-

rupture *comb* -clasia, -clasis, clastic,
frag-, -rhegma, -(r)rhexis; *base*
-fract-, -frang-, -rupt-

rush **hurry:** *base* curr-, impet-,
-vad-, -vas-; **plant:** -junc-

Russia(n) *comb* Russo-

rust *base* rubig-

S

sable *base* zibel-

sac *comb* angio-, asco-, bursi-,
burso-, ceco-, chlamyd-, chrysali,
coleo-, -cyst, cysti-, cysto-, follic-,
meningo-, pericardiaco-, pericar-

dio-, peritoneo-, physa-, physali-,
physo-, -theca, theco-, typhlo-,
utri⁻², utric-, vesico-; *base* mar-
sup-, -sacc-, -thylac-

saccharin *comb* saccharo-

sacrifice *base* -thy-
sacred *comb* hagio-, hiero-; *base*
 -sacr-, -sanct-
sacrum *comb* sacro-
saddle *base* ephipp-
sadness *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-,
 fleb-, flet, luct-, -trist-
safe from *comb* -proof, -tight
saffron *base* -croce-
sail *base* navig-
sailfish *base* istiophor-
saint *comb* hagio-
salad *base* acetar-
saliva *comb* ptyal(o)-, sial¹-
salmon *comb* salmoni-
salt *comb* alo-, halo-, sali-, salino-;
base sals-; *suf* -ate, -ite
salvation *base* soter-
same *pre* co-; *comb* equi-, homo-,
 iso-, pari-, tauto-; ~**time**: *comb*
 hama-; *base* -simul-
sand *comb* ammo-, arenacio-,
 psammo-; *base* aren-, sabul-,
 saburr-
sand grouse *base* pterocl-
sandpiper *base* charadr-, -tring-
sandwich *comb* -burger
sarcastic *base* acerb-, mord-
sated *comb* -filled, pleni-, pleo-,
 plero-, pluri-; *base* -pler-, -plet-;
suf -acious, -ate, -ic, -ful, -ilent,
 -ose, -osity, -ous, -ulent, -y
saucer *base* acetabul-
sausage(-shaped) *base* allant(o)-,
 botul-
savage *base* agrio-
save *base* salv-, serrato-
saw tool: *comb* pri-, prion-, runcin-,
 serrato-, serri-
sawdust *base* scobi-
say *comb* -claim, logo-, -logue,
 -lalia, -lexia, lexico-, -lexis, -lexy,
 -logy, -phone, phono-, -phony,
 rhet-, verbi-, verbo-, voc-, voci-,
 -voke; *base* -clam-, -dict-,

-loc(u)-, -loqu-, narr-, -orat-,
 -phat-, -phem-
scabbard *comb* coleo-
scale *base* -libra-
scales *comb* lamelli-, lepido-,
 squamato-, squamo-, squamoso-,
 squaroso-; *base* -pholid-, -scut-
scalloped *comb* cren-, crenato-,
 crenulato-
scandal *comb* -gate
scapula *comb* scapulo-
scar *comb* ulo-¹; *base* -cica-
scarce *comb* mano-, spano-; *base*
 -areo-
scared *base* -pavid-, -tim-, trepid-.
See **fear**
scatter *comb* -sperse; *base* -spor-
scenery *comb* -scape
scent *comb* brom(o)-, odori-,
 odoro-, olfacto-, -osmia, osmo-,
 osphresio-, ozo-, ozono-
school *base* schol-
science *comb* -graphy, -logic, -logi-
 cal, -logy, techno-, -techny; *suf*
 -ics
scimitar *comb* acinaci-
scintillation *comb* sela-; *base* -fulg-,
 stilpno-
scissors *base* forfic-, -psalid-
sclera *comb* sclero-
scold *base* increp-
scope of *suf* -ure
scorn *base* deris-
scorpion *base* pedipalp-
Scottish *comb* Scoto-
scourge *comb* cnido-, mastigo-;
base flagell-, -piq-, -urtic-
scrap *comb* clasmato-, -fid; *base*
 frag-, frust-, -par-
scratch *comb* amycho-, scab-,
 titillo-
scrotum *comb* didym(o)-, orchido-,
 orchio-, oscheo-; *base* -scrot-
scrub *comb* balneo-; *base* ablut-,
 cathar-, -lav-, -mund-, -purg-

sculpt *comb* glyph-, glypt-
scurvy *base* -scorb-
Scythian *comb* Scytho-
sea *comb* enalio-, halo-, mare-,
 mari-, thalasso-, thalatto-; *base*
 aequor-, naut-, nav-, pelag-;
 ~**shore**: paral-, thino-
sea horse *base* hippocamp-
sea urchin *base* echin-
seagull *base* -lar-
seal **animal**: *comb* phoc(o)-; **stamp**:
base -sigil-, sphrag-
search(ing) *comb* -petal, -quire,
 -quiry; *base* indag-, -rog-, -scrut-.
See turn towards
seasons *comb* horo-; **fall**: *base* -au-
 tumn-; **spring**: *base* -vern-; **sum-**
mer: *base* -aestiv-; **winter**: *base*
 -hibern-, -hiem-
seat *base* cathedr-, sedil-
seaweed *comb* phyceae-, -phyceous,
 phyco-; *base* -fuc-
sebum *comb* sebo-
second/secondary *pre* bi-, para-²,
 super-; *comb* deuter(o)-, deuto-.
See two
second-rate *pre* hypo-, sub-, under-;
comb hystero-; *base* hesson-; *suf* -
 aster
secret *pre* subter-; *comb* calypto-,
 crypto-; *base* arcan-, occult-
secretion *comb* crino-, -crine; **wax-**
like~: *comb* cerumini-
sect *suf* -arian
secure *comb* -proof, -tight
see *comb* eid(o)-, oculo-, ommat-,
 -opia, opsi-, -opsia, -opsis, opso-,
 -opsy, ophthalmo-, optico-, opto-,
 -scope, -scopic, scopo-, -scopy,
 visuo-; *base* -blep-, -scrut-, -spec-,
 -spic-, -vid-. *Also see "The Senses"*
in Part III
seeds *comb* -carp-, -carpic, carpo-,
 -carpous, -sperm, -spermal, sper-
 matio-, spermato-, spermi-,

-spermic, spermo-, -spermous,
 -spore, spori-, sporo-, -sporous;
base semin-
seek(ing) *comb* -petal, -quire,
 -quiry; *base* -rog-, -scrut-. *See*
turn towards
seemingly *pre* quasi-
segment *comb* clasmato-, dicho-,
 -fid², fissi-, schisto-, schizo-,
 -tomy; *base* -par-
seize *comb* -tain; *base* -cap(t)-,
 -cathex-, -ger-, -hapt-, plag-,
 -prehend, prehens-, rap-, rep-,
 -ten-
seizure *comb* -agra, -lepsia, -leptis,
 -lepsy, -leptic
selection *base* -opt-, -vol-
self *comb* auto-, ego-, idio-, ipse-,
 proprio-, self-, tauto-; *base* -ille-;
 ~**indulgence**: apolaust-
selfishness *base* avar-, avid-,
 cup(id)-, edac-, gulos-, pleonec-,
 pleonex-
self-moving *comb* auto-
sell *base* empor-, -merc-, vend-
send *base* -miss-, -mit-¹, -pomp-
sensation *comb* -esthesia, esthesio-,
 hapto¹-, sensi-, senso-, sensori-.
Also see "The Senses" in Part III
senseless *base* -stup-
sensory *comb* sensori-
sepals *comb* sepalous
separate *pre* apo-, dia-, dis-, for-,
 se-; *comb* chori-, choristo-, crit-²,
 dicho-, dialy-
sequel **following**: *pre* epi-, meta-,
 post-; *comb* after-, hind-, pos-
 tero-; *base* -secut-, -sequ-; *suf*
 -an; **outcome**: *comb* ergo-, -ergic,
 -ergy; *suf* -age, -asm, -ata, -ation,
 -ency, -ism, -ma, -ment, -mony,
 -sion, -ure
Serbia *comb* Serbo-
serenity *base* -eiren-, -iren-, -pac-,
 -pax-

series *base* -hirmo-
serious *base* grav-
sermon *base* -homil-, kery-
serous fluid *base* ichor-
serrated *comb* serrato-; *base* cren-¹,
 lacin-. *See* **notched**
serum *comb* oro-, orrho-, sero-
serviceable *comb* chreo-, chresto-;
base -util-
set *comb* -thesis, -thetic; *base* -pon-,
 -pos-; *suf* -en; ~**apart**: *base* sacr-
seta *comb* chaet(o)-
settlement *comb* ekist-; *base* -dom-;
suf -age
seven *comb* hebdo-, hepta-, septem-,
 sept(i)-¹; ~**hundred**: septinginti-.
Also see "Numbers" in Part III
seventeen *base* heptakaideca,
 septendecim-
seventh *base* septim-
seventy *base* septuagen-, septuages-,
 septuagint-
sever *comb* -cide, cis-, -cise, -ec-
 tomy, inciso-, -sect, temno-,
 -tmesis, -tome, tomo-, -tomous,
 -tomy; *base* sec-
several *comb* multi-, pluri-, pollaki-,
 poly-
sew *base* -sutil-
sewer *base* cloac-
sex organs *comb* genito-; *base*
 -aede-; **female**~: colpo-; **male**~:
 phallo-
sexual *comb* aphrodisio-, eroto-,
 gameto-, gamo-, -gamous, -gamy,
 geno-, gonado-, -gone, -gonium,
 gono-, -gony, nympho-; *base* -
 coit-, -cyprid-, -vener-¹; ~**inter-**
course: subagit-; ~**uncertainty**:
 gynandro-
shabby *base* sord-, turp-
shadow *comb* scia-, scio-¹, skia-;
base -opac-, -umbr-
shaft *comb* calam-, cauli-, caulo-,
 cormo-, culm-, ferul-, paxill-,

scapi-, thyrsi-, thyrso-; *base*
 festuc-, stip-
shaggy *base* -hispid-, vill-
shaking *base* agit-, -cuss-, lab-, pav-,
 quass-, tremo-, trep-, vibro-
shallow *base* lev-, parv-
shame *base* pud-, verecund-
shape, a *comb* eid(o)-, -form,
 -morph, -morphic, -morphism,
 morpho-, -morphous; *base*
 -figur-, -schem-
shaped like *comb* -form, -oid,
 -oidal. *Also see* "Shapes" in Part
 III
shapeless *comb* amorpho-
shark *base* carcharin-, gale-²,
 selach-, sphyrn-, squal-
sharp *comb* acantho-, aceto-, acetyl-,
 acid-, acro-, acu-, acuti-, cusp-,
 echino-, mord-, oxal-, oxy-¹, spi-
 culi-, spiculo-, stylo-¹; *base* acer-¹,
 -acerb-, -aichm-, -aichur-, asper-,
 -belon-, muric-, -punct-, -piq-,
 pung-, xyr-
shatter *comb* -clasia, -clasis, -clas-
 tic, -rhegma, -(r)rhexis; *base*
 agmat-, -fract-, -frag-, -frang-,
 -rupt-
shave *base* tonsor
shears *base* forfic-, psalid-
sheath *comb* angio-, chlamyd-,
 coleo-, meningo-, -theca, theci-,
 theco-, vagini-, vagino-. *See* **con-**
tainer
shed *comb* lyo-, lysi-, -lysis, lyso-,
 -lyte, -lytic, -lyze; *base* -liqu-,
 -solu-, -solv-
sheep *base* ovi-², verv-. *See* **lamb**
sheet **bed**~: lodic-; **layer**: lamin-;
winding~: sindon-
shell *comb* conchi-, kelyph-, lorica-,
 -ostraca, ostraco-, testaceo-
shield *comb* aspidio-, peltati-,
 peltato-, pelti-, peltó- *base* clype-,
 scut-

shift *base* camb-, -fabr-, -fec-,
-mut-, -vari-, -vert-. *See* **change**
shiny *base* fulg-, gano-, lustr-,
pheng-, rutil-, sela-, stilpno-
ship *base* nau-, naut-, nav-
shoe *base* -calce-, -crep-
shoot *base* **weapon**: -ballist-, -jacul-;
plant: surcul-
shopkeeper *base* capel-
shore *base* littor-
shortage *comb* isch-, oligo-, -penia
shorter *comb* brachisto-, brachy-,
brevi-, chamae-, hekisto-, micro-,
mini-, parvi-, parvo-, steno-,
tapino-; *base* -curt-, exig-; *suf*
-cle, -cula, -cule, -een, -el, -ella,
-en, -et, -ette, -idion, -idium, -ie,
-illa, -illo, -isk, kin, -le, -let,
-ling, -ock, -ola, -ole, -rel, -ula,
-ule, -ulum, -ulus, -y
shoulder *comb* acromio-, humero-,
omo-¹; ~**blade**: *comb* scapuli-,
scapulo-; *base* spatul-
shout *base* clam-, vocif-
show *comb* phaeno-, pheno-; *base*
-monstr-
showers *comb* hyeto-, pluvio-; *base*
imbri-, ombr-
shrew *base* soric-, tupai-
shrimp *base* macrur-
shrine *comb* aedi-
shrink *base* dimin-
shrivel *base* marces-, marcid-
shroud *base* sindon-
shrub *base* thamn- (thamnium);
shrublike: *comb* fruticulos-
shun *base* phygo-
shut *comb* -atresia, atreto-, claus-
tro-, cleido-, -cleisis, cleisto-,
stego-; *base* clithr-, -clud-, -clus-
shyness *base* tim-, verecund-
Sicilian *comb* Siculo-
sickle(-shaped) *comb* drepani-,
falci-
sickness *pre* dys-, mal-; *comb* noso-,

path-, -pathic, patho-, -pathy; *base*
aegr-, cachex-, -morb-, -pecca-,
valetud-
side *pre* by-; **on or near**~: *comb* lat-
eri-, latero-, pleuro-
sieve *comb* coli-², coscino-, cribri-,
ethmo-
sift *base* -cern-
sight *comb* eid(o)-, oculo-, ommat-,
-opia, opsi-², -opsia, -opsis, opso-,
-opsy, ophthalmo-, optico-, opto-,
-scope, -scopic, scopo-, -scopy,
visuo-; *base* -blep-, -scrut-, -spec-,
-spic-, -vid-, vis-
sign(al) *comb* sema-, -seme, se-
meio-, semio-
silent *comb* hesy-; *base* -tacit-
silica/silicon *comb* siliceo-, silici-,
silico-
silk *comb* metax-, seri-, sericeo-,
serico-
silkworm *base* -bombyc-
silly *base* fatu-, inan-, moro-,
stult-
Silurian *comb* Siluro-
silver(y) *comb* argenti-, argento-,
argyro-, glauco-, plat-². *Also see*
"Colors" in Part III
similar *pre* para-, quasi-; *comb*
-esque, homeo-, homoeo-,
homoio-, homolo-, iso-, -phane,
-phanic; *base* simil-; *suf* -acean,
-aceous, -al, -an, -ar, -ary, -ean,
-en, -eous, -esque, -ful, -ic, -il,
-ile-, -ine, -ing, -ish, -itious, -ize,
-like, -ode, -oid, -ose, -osity,
-some, -tious, -ular, -y
simple *base* facil-. *See* **single**
sin *comb* enisso-, enosio-; *base*
-culp-, hamart-, -pecca-
sincere *base* prob-, ver-
sinew *comb* chord-, -chorda, cord-
single *comb* eka-, haplo-, heno-,
mono-, uni-
sink **decline**: *comb* -atrophia; *base*

dimin-; **decrease**: base decresc-,
dimin-

sinuous *comb* -enchyma¹

siphylis *comb* syphilo-

sister *base* -soror-

sit *base* -cathis-, -kathis-, -sed-,
-sess-; **~in**: -sid-

situated *comb* out-

six *comb* hexa-, seni-, sexi-, sexti-,
sise-; **~hundred**: hexacosi-, sex-
cent-; **~times**: hexakis-. *Also see*
"Numbers" in Part III

sixteen *base* hexadeca-, hexa-
kaideca, sedecim-

sixth *base* sext-

sixty *base* hexaconta-, sexagen-,
sexages-

size *comb* -footer, -sized; **~of a**
sheet: *suf* -mo. *Also see* "Dimen-
sion" in Part III

skeleton *comb* skeleto-

skill *comb* -craft, -ship, techno-

skin *comb* chorio-, cut(i)-, -derm,
-derma, dermato-, -dermatous,
-dermis, dermo-, dora-; *base* -
pell-; **~disease**: lichen-; **~eleva-
tion**: *comb* papulo-; **~itch**: *comb*
acar-, scabi(o)-; *base* -prur-,
-psor-. *See* **flesh**

skirmish *base* velit-. *See* **battle**

skull *comb* -cephalic, cephalo-,
-cephalous, -cephaly, cranio-,
occipito-, orbito-

skunk *base* mephit-, mustel-

sky *base* coeli-

skylark *base* alaud-

slab *base* -pinac-, -pinak-

slag *base* scoria-

slander *base* calumn-

slanting *comb* -clinal, -clinate,
-cline, -clinic, clino-, -clisis,
lechrío-, loxo-, plagio-; *base*
-cliv-. *See* **bent**

slaughter *base* trucid-

Slav *comb* Slavo-

slave *comb* dulo-; *base* -serv-

sleep *comb* hypno-, somni-; *base*

carot-, -dorm-, -sopor-

sleeplessness *base* agrypno-

slender *comb* lepto-, steno-, -tenu-;
base -areo-, gracil-

slide *base* laps-

slightly *pre* sub-; *suf* -aster²

slime *comb* blenno-, -chezia, copro-,
lim-, mucí-, muco-, myco-, myso-,
-myxia, myxo-, p(a)edo-, scato-,
stegno-, sterco-; *base* -fecu-, -fim-,
moly-, rhypar-

slippery *base* -lubric-

slope *comb* -clinal, -clinate, -cline,

-clinic, clino-, -clisis, klino-,

lechrío-, loxo-, plagio-; *base* -clit-,
-cliv-

sloth *animal*: *base* xenarthr-; **indo-
lence**: *base* pigr-, segn-

slow *comb* brady-; *base* -cunct-,
lent-, -pigr-, -tard-

slug *base* limac-

sly *base* daedal-

small(er) *comb* brachisto-, brachy-,
hekisto-, micro-, mini-, nano-,
parvi-, parvo-, steno-; *base* -curt-,
exig-; *suf* -cle, -cula, -cule,
-culum, -culus, -een, -el, -ella,
-en, -et, -ette, -idion, -idium, -ie,
-illa, -illo, -isk, kin, -le, -let,
-ling, -ock, -ola, -ole, -rel, -ula,
-ule, -ulum, -ulus, -y

smart *base* sapien-

smell *comb* brom(o)-, -odic, odori-,
odoro-, -olent, olfacto-, -osmia,
osmo-¹, osphresio-, ozo-, ozono-;
base fet-, nidor-. *See also* "The
Senses" in Part III

smelt *base* -ather-

smile *base* ris-

smoke *comb* -capnia, capno-; *base*
-fum-

smooth *comb* even-, leio-, lisso-;
base -glabr-, -levig-, -lubr-, psilo-

smother *base* -pnig(er)-
smut *base* aischro-
snail *base* cochlea-, gastropod-,
 limac-
snake *comb* -glypha, herpeto-,
 echidno-, -ophidia, ophio-; *base*
 angui-, colubr-, reptil-, serpen-,
 viper-; ~**charmer**: psyll-
snapper *base* lutjan-
snatch *base* -rap-, -rep-
sneer *base* mycter-
sneeze *base* ptarm-, sternut-
snipe *base* charadr-, scolopac-
snore *base* rhonch-, stertor-
snout *comb* rhyncho-, -rrhyncha;
base probosc-, rostell-, -rostr-. *See*
 beak
snow *base* -chion-, -chium-, ning-,
 niv-
soak up *comb* -sorb¹; *base* bib-
soap *base* sapon(i)-
sober *base* **abstinent**: nephal-; **seri-**
ous: grav-
social belief *suf* -arian
society *comb* anthropo-, socio-
socket *comb* alveolo-; *base* -gomph-
sodium *comb* -natremia, sodio-
soft *comb* -malacia, malaco-; *base*
 hapal-, -len-, malax-, -moll-;
 ~**deposit**: *comb* athero-; ~**palate**:
 velar-
soil *comb* agro-, paedo⁻¹, pedo⁻³;
base edaph-, -hum-, -terr-
soldier *comb* -milit-
sole of the foot *base* pelm-, -plant-
solid *comb* stereo-
solitary *comb* auto-, eremo-, mono-,
 soli-, uni-. *See* **one**
somewhat *pre* demi-, hemi-, semi-;
comb -atelia, atelo-; *suf* -esce-,
 -escence, -escent, -y¹
son *base* fili-
son-in-law *base* -gener-
song *comb* asmato-, lyrico-, melo⁻¹,
 musico-; ~**birds**: oscin-

soot *base* fulig-
soothing *base* anet-, -len-, miti⁻¹
sorcery *base* -venefic-
sordid *base* sord-, turp-
soreness *comb* alge-, algesi-, -algia,
 algo-, -algy, -dynia, noci-, -ody-
 nia, ody-no-, pono-; *base* dolor-,
 -nox-
sorrow *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-,
 -fleb-, -flet-, -luct⁻¹, trist-
soul *comb* pneumatō-, thumo-,
 -thymia, thymo-; *base* -anim-,
 -spirit-
sound *comb* acou-, acoust-,
 audi(o)-, auri-, echo-, oto-,
 -ecoia, -phone, phono-, -phony,
 -phthong, soni-, sono-, sonoro-.
See **noise**
soundness *base* salub-, san-
sour *base* acer-, acid-, amar-
source *comb* aetio-, -blast, blasto-,
 -blasty-, carp-, -carpic, carpo-,
 -carpous, etio-, -gen-, -genic,
 -genesis, -genous, -geny, -gone,
 -gonium, gono-, -gony, -phyletic,
 sperma-, -spermal, spermato-,
 spermi-, -spermic, spermo-,
 sporo-; *base* -init-; *suf* -esce-,
 -escence, -escent
south *comb* austro-, noto-
sow *base* sativ-, sator-, sparg-
Spanish *comb* Hispano-, Ibero-
sparing *base* frug⁻²
spark *base* -scintill-, spinthar-
sparrow *base* passer-
sparse *comb* oligo-; *base* pauc(i)-
spasm *comb* -chorea, choreo-,
 -clonic, -clonus, -esmus, -ismus,
 spasma-, -tonic; *base* -stal-,
 -vellic-
spatula *comb* spathi-, spatuli-
speak, speech *comb* -claim, logo-,
 -logue, -lalia, -lexia, lexico-,
 -lexis, -lexy, -logy, -phone,
 phono-, -phony, verbi-, verbo-,

voc-, voci-, -voke; *base* -clam-,
 -dict-, garrul-, -loc(u)-, -loqu-,
 -orat-, phat-, -phem-, rhet-; **de-**
fective~: *comb* -lalia, lalo-, -pha-
 sia, -phasic, -phasis, -phasy,
 -phemia, -phemy; *base* psell-
spear *comb* hastato-, hasti-; ~**head**:
 lonch-
specialist *suf* -ician, -ist, -ologist
speckled *base* -psar-. See **spotted**
specter *base* phantas-, phasm-,
 spectr-
spectroscope *comb* spectro-
speed *comb* tacho-, tachy-, veloci-;
base -celer-, festin-
sphenoid bone *comb* sphen-
spherical *comb* ano-², annul-,
 crico-², cyclo-, disco-, globi-,
 globo-, glom-, gyro-, orbito-,
 sphaero-, -sphere, spherico-,
 sphero-, stilli-, zon-, zoni-; *base*
 anu-, -cing-, -cinct-, -circin-,
 -circul-, -coron-, -glomer-,
 -numm-, -orb-, -rot-, -troch-
spider *comb* arachn(o)-, araneo-;
base arene-, phalang-; **black**
widow~: *base* latroduct-
spike *comb* helo-¹, scolo-, spiculi-,
 spiculo-; ~**of corn**: spici-; **succu-**
lent~: *comb* spadici-
spill *base* -chys-, -chyt-, -flu-, -fus-
spin *comb* gyro-¹
spinal cord *comb* -myelia, myelo-
spindle *comb* fusi-, fuso-, fusu-
spine *comb* aculei-, rachi(o)-,
 rhach(i)-, -rrhachia, spini-, spino-,
 spinoso-, spinuloso-, spondylo-,
 vertebro-
spiny *comb* acantho-, aceto-, acetyl-,
 acid-, acro-, acu-, acuti-, cusp-,
 echinato-, echino-, echinulato-,
 echinuli-, oxal-, oxy-, spiculi-,
 spiculo-, stylo-; *base* -acerb-,
 -aichm-, -aichur-, -belon-, muric-,
 -punct-, -piq-, -punct-

spiral *comb* cirri-, cochlio-, gyro-,
 helico-, spiri-, spiro-², strepto-,
 stromb-
spirit *comb* pneumato-; *base*
 -anim-
spirits *base* phantas-, phasm-,
 spectr-
spitting *comb* -ptysis. See **saliva**
spleen *comb* lieno-, splenico-,
 spleno-
splendid *base* lustr-
split *comb* dicho-, -fid-, -fissi-,
 schisto-, schizo-, -tomy; *base*
 -par-, -crev-
spoil *comb* lysi-, lyso-, -lysis, -lytic,
 -lyze-, -phage, phago-, -phagous,
 -phagy; *base* -ate-⁴, perd-,
 phthart-, -vast-, vitia-
spoke **a brace**: *base* -rad-; **talked**:
 See **speak**
sponge-like *comb* spongio-, spongo-
spontaneous *comb* ultro-
spoon *base* cochlea-
spore *comb* -spore, spori-, sporo-,
 -sporous
spot *comb* celido-
spotted *comb* ocelli-; *base* -macul-,
 psar-, -stict-, -variol-
spouse *base* conjug-, marit-, uxor-
spread **expand**: *comb* -ectasia,
 -ectasis; *base* -dilat-; **scatter**: *base*
 sparg-
spring **leap**: salta-; **season**: pri-
 maver-, -vern-; **water**: *base* cren-²,
 pego-, scatur-
sprinkle *base* sparg-, -sperg-,
 -spers-
spurious *comb* kibdelo-, pseudo-;
base -notho-
squama *comb* squamato-, squamo-,
 squamoso-, squaroso-
square *base* quadr-
squid *base* cephalopod-, teutho-
squinting *base* -strab-, -strabism-
squirrel *base* sciur-

stable *base* diuturn-, dur(o)-,

perenn-, perm-, stabil-

stag *base* cerv-, elaph-

stage player *base* -histrion-

stagger *base* titub-

stain *base* -macul-, spil-, -tinct-,
-ting-

stairs *base* -climac-

stalactite *comb* stalacti-

stalk *shaft: comb* calam-, cauli-,

caulo-, cormo-, culm-, ferul-,

paxill-, scapi-, thyrso-, thyrso-;

base festuc-, stip-¹; *hunt: base*

-venat-

stamens *comb* -androus, stamini-

stamp *comb* -type, sigil-; **postage~:**

base philatel-, timbro-

standard *comb* ortho-; *base* -regul-

standing still *comb* stasi-, -stasis,

-stat, stato-

staphylococcus *comb* staphylo-

star *comb* aster-¹, astro-, -sidere,

sidero-², stelli-

starch *comb* amyl(o)-

starfish *base* asteroid-, echinoderm-

starling *base* psar-², sturn-

start *base* inaug-, incip-, init-

starting to be *suf* -esce-, -escence,

-escent

state of *suf* -able, -acity, -acy, -age,

-ance, -ancy, -ant, -asis, -asm,

-ate, -atile, -ation, -cy, -dom,

-ence, -ency, -ent, -ery, -esis, -ful,

-hood, -iasis, -ice¹, -ility, -ion,

-ism, -ity, -ling, -ma, -ment,

-mony, -ness, -or, -osis, -otic,

-red, -ship, -sion, -th, -tion,

-tude, -ture, -ty, -ure, -y

stationary *comb* stasi-, -stasis, -stat,

stato-; *base* stabil-

statue *base* agalma-

status *suf* -ship

stay *remain: base* contin-, dur-,

perpet-; *delay: comb* brady-; *base*

-cunct-, imped-, -mora-, -tard-

steady *base* perm-, stabil-

steal *comb* clepto-, klepto-, lesto-;

base -furt-, harpax-, klope-,

ladron-, latro-, -rept-

steam *comb* atmo-

steel *base* chalyb-

steep *base* ard-³, precip-

steering *comb* -agogic, -agogue;

base -vers-, -vert-

stem *comb* cauli-, caulo-, cormo-,

scapi-; *base* calam-, culmi-, sar-

ment-

stench *comb* brom(o)-, odori-,

odoro-, olfacto-, -osmia, osmo-,

osphresio-, ozo-, ozono-; *base* fet-,

-mephit-, putr-

step *comb* -basia, bato-, -grade; *base*

-ambul-, -gress-

stepdaughter *base* privign-

stepfather *base* vitric-

stepmother *base* noverc-

stepson *base* privign-

sternum *comb* sterno-

stick *comb* scop(i)-; *base* carph-,

ramul-, -sarment-, surcul-, vir-

gul-

sticky *base* agglut-, ixo-, visc(o)-.

See glue

stiff *comb* ancylo-, ankylo-, tetano-

still *base* eremo-, hesy-

stimulating *comb* excito-; *base* stig-

sting *comb* cnido-, mastigo-; *base*

-piq-, -urtic-

stirrup *base* stap-

stitch *base* rhaps-, sutil-

stomach *comb* gastero-, -gastria,

gastro-; *~opening: comb* pyloro-.

See belly

stone *comb* -lith(o), pesso-, petri-,

petro-, psepho-, sax(i)-; *base*

-lapid-, -rup-; *suf* -lite; *~using*

stage: comb -lithic

stooping *comb* kypho-, scolio

stop *comb* stasi-, -stasis, -stat; *base*

fin-, termin-

stopper *comb* emboli-, embolo-
stork *base* ciconi-, grallator-,
 pellarg-
storm *base* orag-, procell-
story *comb* mytho-
straight *comb* ithy-, ortho-, recti-
strain *comb* -piesis, piezo-; *base*
 col-², colar-, colat-, -tens-
strange(r) *comb* perisso-, xeno-;
base -ali-, peregrin-
strap *base* himant-, -ligul-, lora-
stratum *comb* strati-, strato-. *See*
 layer
straw *comb* carpho-, culmi-, festuc-,
 stramin-
strawberry *base* fragar-
stream *comb* fluvio-; *base* -potam-,
 rheum-, -rip-
strength *comb* dyna-, dynamo-,
 mega-, megallo-, -megaly,
 -sthenia, stheno-; *base* -forc-,
 -fort-, -poten-, robor-; ~**to do or**
be: *suf* -bility
strenuous *pre* dys-; *comb* -bar,
 bary-, mogi-; *base* ardu-, stren-
stretch *comb* -tend, teno-, tensio-,
 tono-
stricture *comb* isch-, koly-, -penia,
 rhopo-, -strain, -strict; *base*
 angust-, -string-; *suf* -en
strife *base* eris-
strike *comb* plessi-, -cuss-; *base*
 -cop-, -crot-, plang-, -puls-, -tus-,
 -vapul-, -verber-
string *base* linon-
stripped *comb* gymno-, nudi-,
 psilo-
stroke *comb* -plexia
strong *comb* -proof, dur(o)-; *base*
 -forc-, -fort-. *See* **strength**
struggle *comb* macho-, -machy;
base agon-
stubborn *base* contum-, obstin-,
 pervic-, proterv-
studded *comb* clavato-

study *base* disc-, -math, soph-
stuff up *base* -byon-
stupid *base* hebet-, obtus-, -tard-
stupor *comb* carot-, narco-
surgeon *base* acipenser-, sturi(m)-
stutter *base* balbut-, blesi-, -psell-
styloid *comb* stylo-
suberic acid *comb* subero-
subject to *suf* -ize
submissive *base* moriger-
subordinate *pre* sub-, under-
subsequent to *pre* cis-. *See* follow-
 ing
substance *comb* -ousia, -ousian
substitute *pre* pro-¹; *suf* -ette
succeed *base* -cap-, -cep-, -cip-
succinct *base* brev-. *See* **short**
suck *comb* -suge; *base* -haur-,
 -haust-, -myz-
sudden *base* subit-. *See* **quickness**
suffering *comb* -path, -pathic,
 patho-, -pathy. *See* **pain**
sugar *comb* gluco-, glycer-, glyco-,
 levul-, saccharo-, suc-
suggestive of *pre* para-, quasi-;
comb homeo-, homoio-, homolo-,
 iso-, -phane, -phanic; *base* simil-;
suf -acean, -aceous, -al, -an, -ar,
 -ary, -ean, -en, -eous, -esque, -ful,
 -ic, -il, -ile-, -ine, -ing, -ish,
 -itious, -ize, -like, -ode, -oid, -ose,
 -osity, -some, -tious, -ular, -y¹
suitable for *base* concinn-; *suf* -il,
 -ile, -like, -ly
sulfate *comb* sulfato-
sulfur *comb* sulfo-, sulfureo-,
 sulpho-, thia-, thio-
summit *base* coryph-
summon *base* appell-, -claim,
 -clam-, -dict-, -nom-, -voc-;
 ~**upon:** *base* -prec-
sumptuous *base* datat-
sun *comb* helio-, sol-; ~**bathing:**
 apricat-; ~**shade:** *comb* umbelli-,
 umbello-, umbraculi-

superior *pre* pre-, super-; *comb* over-
superlatives *suf* -est, -most
supplement *pre* a-, ac-, ad-, af-, ag-, al-, an-, ap-, ar-, as-, at-, co-, extra-, para-, super-, syn; *comb* inter-. *See* **more**
supporting *pre* pro-; *comb* -pher; *base* patroc-; ~**part**: *comb* -podium, scapi-; *base* paxill-, sterigm-, -stip¹. *See* **carrying**
suppress *base* fin-, termin-
suppurative *comb* pyo-. *See* **putrefying**
supreme *comb* arch-, archi-, proto-; *base* -prim-, -princip-
surf *comb* cuma-
surfaces *comb* -hedral, -hedron, topo-, -topy
surfeit *base* ampl-, copi-, larg-
surgeon *base* chirur-, medic-
surgical operation *comb* -ectomy, -pexy, -stomy, tomo-, -tomous, -tomy
surly *base* acerb-, moros-
surpassing *pre* ex-, extra-, meta-, over-, para-, pre-, preter-, super-, supra-, sur-, ultra-
surplus *base* ampl-, copi-, larg-
surrounding *pre* be-, circum-, peri-; *comb* amphi-, ampho-; *base* -zon-, -cing-, -cinct-
suture *comb* -(r)rhaphy

swallow **bird**: *base* chelid-, hirund-, -sturn-; **ingest**: *comb* -phage, phago-, -phagous, -phagy; *base* -glut-
swamp *base* palud-, palus-
swan *base* cyn-, cygn-
sway *base* nuta-, -vacil-
sweat *comb* sudori-; *base* -hidr-, -suda-
sweet *comb* mell(i)-; *base* -dulc-, -hedy-, suav-
swelling *comb* -cele, -edema, ganglio-, phlogo-, phym-, -phyma, physa-, physo-, strum(i)-; *base* aug-, cresc-, physc-, strum-, -tum-, -turg-; *suf* -itis
swift **bird**: *base* cypsel-; **fast**: *comb* ocy-, tacho-, tachy-; *base* -celer-, veloc-
swim *comb* necto-; *base* -nata-
swine *base* porc-, sui-
Swiss *base* Helvet-
sword(like) *comb* ensi-, gladi-, machaero-, xiphi-, xipho-
swordfish *base* xiphi-
symbol *comb* sema-, -seme, semeio-, semio-
symmetry *comb* pari-; *base* concinn-, congru-, symmetr-
synchronized *comb* synchro-
syphilis *comb* -luetic
Syrian *comb* Syro-
system *suf* -ics

T

tablet *base* pinac-, tabell-
tacit *comb* hesy-; *base* -tacit-
tail *comb* caudo-, -cerca-, -cercal, cerco-, uro¹
tailor *base* sartor-
take *base* -cap(t)-, -cep¹-, -empt-

take hold of *comb* -tain; *base* -capt-, -cathex-, -ger-, -hapt-, -prehend, prehens-, rap-, rep-, -ten-
taker *comb* -ceptor
tale *base* -fabul-, mytho-, -narr-, stori-

talented *base* ingen-

talk(ing) *comb* -claim, glosso-,
-lalia, lalo-, -lexia, lexico-, -lexis,
-lexy, logo-, -logue, -logy, -phone,
phono-, -phony, verbi-, verbo-,
voc-, voci-, -voke; *base* -clam-,
-dict-, garrul-, -loc(u)-, -loqu-,
-orat-, -phem-, rhet-; **filthy**~:
borbor-. *Also see* **speak/speech**

tallness *comb* acro-, alti-, alto-,
bato-, hypsi-, hypso-, longi-; *base*
procer-

tallow *comb* seb(o)-

talon *base* ungui-, ungul-

tame *base* cicur-, mansue-

tan *base* fulv-. *Also see* "Colors" in

Part III

tapered *base* fastig-

tapeworm *comb* taeni-, teni

tapir *base* pachyderm-

tarantula *base* theraphos-

tardy *comb* brady-; *base* -cunct-,
-tard-. *See* **late**

tarsier *base* lemur-

tartar *comb* tartro-

tasseled *base* crosso-, -thysan-

taste *comb* -geusia; *base* -geum-,
-geumat-, -gust-, -sapor-. *Also see*
"The Senses" in Part III

tattoo *base* stigm-

taurine *comb* tauro-

tavern *base* caupon-

tawny *base* melin-, mustel-

tea *base* -thei-

teach *comb* -pedia; *base* -didact-,
doc-, -paed-

tear **rip:** *comb* sparasso-; *base* lacer-,
-lania-, sparax-; **cry:** *comb*
dacry(o)-, lachrim-, lachrym-,
lacrimo-; *base* fleb-, flet-, -plor-

tease *comb* tantalo-; *base* vex-

technical *comb* techno-

technique *comb* -craft; *suf* -ade,
-age, -al, -ance, -ancy, -asis, -asm,
-ation, -cy, -ence, -ency, -ery,

-esis, -iasis, -ice, -ics, -ing, -ion,
-ism, -ment, -osis, -otic, -sion,
-sis, -th, -tion, -tious, -ture, -ure,
-y, -ysis

teeth *see* **tooth**

television *comb* tele-, video-

tell *comb* -claim, logo-, -logue,
-lalia, -lexia, lexico-, -lexis, -lexy,
-logy, -phone, phono-, -phony,
rhet-, verbi-, verbo-, voc-, voci-,
-voke; *base* -clam-, -dict-,
-loc(u)-, -loqu-, narr-, -orat-,
-phat-, -phem-

temperament *comb* -natured

temple **head:** *comb* temporo-;

church: *comb* aedi-; *base* -nao-

temporal *base* -secul-

ten *comb* dec(a)-, decem-, deka-;

one tenth: *comb* deci-; **ten and** __:
suf -teen; ~**thousand:** myria-;

x times ten: *suf* -ty². *Also see*
"Numbers" in Part III

ten thousand *comb* myria-, myrio-

tending to *pre* pro-; *comb* -phile,
-philia, -philiac, -trope, -tropic;
suf -able, -ative, -ish, -istic, -isti-
cal, -ive, -like, -some², -orial,
-ulous, -y¹

tendon *comb* tendo-, teno-,
tenonto-

tendrill *comb* cirr(h)i-, cirr(h)o-,
pampin-

tennis *base* sphair-

tension *comb* tasi-, taso-, -tonia,
-tonic, tono-

tentacles *comb* actino-, tentaculi-;
base brach-, cornic-, flagell-

tentative *base* ambig-, ancip-, apor-,
dub-, vagu-

terminate *comb* stasi-, -stasis, -stat;
base fin-, termin-

termite *base* isoptero-, termit-

tern *base* stern-

terrified *base* -pavid-, -tim-, trepid-.
See **fear**

terrifying *comb* dino-¹
territory *suf* -land
testicle *comb* didym(o)-, orchido-², orchio-, oscheo-; *base* -scrot-
testing *comb* -opsy-, -scope-, -scopic, -scopo-, -scopy; *base* -(in)quir-, -(in)quis-, -scrut-
testy *base* acerb-, mord-
tetanus *comb* tetano-
thalamus *comb* thalamo-
thallium *comb* thallo-
thankful *base* grat-
the *pre* al-²
theater *comb* teatro-
theory *suf* -ism-, -logy
thermoelectric *comb* thermo-
thick *comb* cespitoso-, dasy-, hadro-, pachy-, pycno-, pykno-, visc(o)-; *base* -crass-, -spiss-
thief *comb* clepto-, klepto-, lesto-; *base* -furt-, harpax-, ladron-, latr(o)
thigh *comb* mero-²
thin *comb* angusti-, dolicho-, lepto-, maci-, mano-, stegno-, steno-, tenu-; *base* -areo-², gracil-, -isthm-, stal-, -strict-
thing that is ___ *suf* -ance-, -ee-, -er-, -tion-, -tious
think *see* thought
third *base* -tert-, trient-, trito-
thirst *comb* dipso-; *base* siti-. *See* dry
thirteen *base* tredecim-, triskai-deka-
thirty *base* triaconta-, triceni-, triges-, trigint-
thong *base* lor-. *See* strap
thorax *comb* thoracico-, thoraco-
thorny *comb* acantho-, echino-, rhamn-, spiculi-, spiculo-, spini-; *base* -muric-, -urtic-
thought *comb* -gnomy-, -gnosia-, -gnosis-, -gnostic, gnoto-, ideo-, -noia-, -nomy, phreno-, psycho-,

-sophy; *base* -cogit-, -cogn-, epis-tem-, -heur-, ment²-, -noe-, -put-, ratio-, -sci-; *insane*~: *comb* lysso-, -mania; *base* ament-, dement-
thousand *comb* chili-, kilo-; ~**th**: milli-
thread(like) *comb* filamento-, fili-, filio-, filo-, mit²-, nemato-; *base* -nema-, stema-
threat *base* min-
three *comb* ter-, tri-, triakis-, triplo-, trito-; *base* -tern-, -tert-; ~**dimensional**: *comb* stereo-; ~**fourths**: triquad-; ~**hundred**: trecent-. *Also see* "Numbers" in Part III
threshing *base* trit-
threshold *base* -limin-, marg-, propinq-, prox-
thrift *base* frug-², pars-
throat *comb* gutturo-, laryngo-, pharyngo-, -throated, tracheo-; *base* fauc-, jug-
through *pre* cata-, cath-, dia-, per-, trans-
throughout *pre* ana-; *comb* -wide
throw *comb* -bole, -bolic, bolo-¹, -boly; *base* -ballist-, -jact-, -jac-ula-, -ject-
thrush *base* -musicap-, -turd-, cichlo-
thrust *base* -pel-, -pul-, -trude-, -trus-
thumb *base* pollic-
thunder *comb* bronte-, bronto-, cerauno-, kerauno-; *base* fulmin-, tonitr-
thymus *comb* thymo-
thyroid *comb* -thyrea, thyreo-; ~**gland**: *comb* thyro-
tibia *comb* tibio-; *base* -cnem-
tick *base* acar-, ixod-
tickle *comb* titillo-
tide *base* aestu-, estu-
tie *comb* sphingo-, -strain-, -strict,

syndesmo-; *base* -liga-, -merinth-, -string-, -vinc-. *See restriction*

tiger *base* tigr-

tightening *comb* isch-, koly-, -penia-, -strain-, -strict; *base* -string-; *suf* -en. *See constriction*

tile *base* imbricato-, tegul-

tillage *comb* -culture

tilting *comb* -clinal-, -clinate-, -cline-, -clinic, clino-, -clisis, lechrio-, loxo-, plagio-; *base* -cliv-

time *comb* back-, chrono-, horo-, yester-; *base* -tempor-; ~**period**: *pre* eo-; *comb* aev-, -cene, paleo-, protero-. *Also see "Time" in Part III*

timid *base* pav-, trep-, verecund-

tin *base* cassiter-, stann-

tiny *comb* brachisto-, brachy-, brevi-, chamae-, micro-, mini-, nano-, parvi-, parvo-, pauci-, steno-; *base* -curt-, exig-; *suf* -cle-, -cule-, -een-, -el-, -ella-, -en-, -et-, -ette-, -idion-, -idium-, -ie-, -illa-, -illo-, -isk-, -kin-, -le-, -let-, -ling-, -ock-, -ola-, -ole-, -rel-, -ula, ule-, -ulum-, -ulus-, -y

tip *comb* -apical, apico-; *base* cacumen-

tired *comb* pono-; *base* -fatig-, kopo-, -lass-

tissue *comb* fascio-, histio-, histo-, -sarc, sarco-; **dead**~: necro-

titan *comb* titano-¹

titanium *comb* titano-²

titmouse *base* par-²

to *pre* a-, ac-¹, ad-¹, af-, ag-, al-¹, an-², ap-, ar-¹, as-¹, at-, il-, im-, in-, ir-, ob-; *comb* -bound; *base* pros-; *suf* -ad-, -ly-, -ward-, -ways-, -wise; ~**the other side**: *pre* trans-

toad *comb* batracho-, bufo-, phryno-

today *base* hodie-

toe *comb* dactyl(o)-, -dactylous, -dactyly, digiti-; *base* halluc-

together *pre* co-¹, inter-, syl-, sym-, syn-, sys-; *comb* allelo-, hama-, symphyo-, synchro-; *base* -mutu-, -simul-

toil *base* aerumn-. *See difficult and work*

tomb *comb* -taph, tapho-; *base* sepulc-

tomorrow *base* crastin-

tone *comb* tonia-, -phone, phono-, -phony; *base* son-

tongue *comb* -glossia, glosso-, -glot, lamino-, lingu(o)-; *base* -ligul-; ~**kissing**: cataglott-

tonsil *comb* tonsillo-

tooth *comb* dentato-, denti-, dento-, dont-, -odont(o)-, -odus, -toothed; **canine**~: laniar-; ~**disease**: *comb* cario-; **lacking**~: *base* edent-, coryph-; **wisdom**~: *base* cranter-

top crest: *comb* cory-, coryph-, stromboli-; *base* cacum-, culm-; ~**shaped**: *comb* turbinato-

topical *comb* topo-, -topy

torch *base* lampad-, lychn-

tornado *base* -lilaps-

tortoise *base* -chelon-, emydo-, testud-. *See turtle*

totally *pre* be-, cata-, cath-, de-, kata-, ob-, per-; *comb* holo-, omni-, pan-, panto-, stone-, toti-

totter *base* -lab-

touch *comb* aphe-, -aphia, -apsia, hapto-¹, sensori-, thigmo-; *base* -palp-, -sent-, -tact-, -tang-. *Also see "The Senses" in Part III*

toughness *comb* dyna-, dynamo-, mega-, megalo-, -megaly, -sthenia, stheno-; *base* -forc-, -fort-, -poten-, robor-

tour *comb* hodo-, -ode, odo-, via-; *base* -itin-, peregrin-

toward *pre* a-, ac⁻¹, ad⁻¹, af-, ag-, al⁻¹, an⁻², ap-, ar⁻¹, as⁻¹, at-, il-, im-, in-, ir-, ob-; *comb* -bound, -petal; *base* pros-; *suf* -ad³, -ly, -ward, -ways, -wise

tower *base* pyrgo-, turri-

town *comb* -burg(h), -ton, -ville; *base* urb-

toxic *comb* tox(i), toxico-, -toxin, toxo-, veneno-

trace *comb* ichno-; *base* indag-, vestig-

trachea *comb* tracheo-

track *comb* ichno-

trade *base* empor-, merc-, nundin-; ~**names:** co⁻²

train *comb* siderodromo-

trait *suf* -able, -acity, -acy, -age, -ance, -ancy, -ant, -asis, -asm, -ate, -atile, -ation, -cy, -dom, -eity, -ence, -ency, -ent, -ery, -esis, -ful, -hood, -iasis, -ice, -ility, -ion, -ise, -ism, -ity, -ling, -ma, -ment, -ness, -or, -osis, -otic, -red, -ship, -sion, -th, -tion, -tude, -ture, -ty, -ure, -y

traitor *base* prodit-

tranquility *base* -eiren-, -iren-, -pac-, -pax-

transcending *pre* trans-

transfer *carry: comb* -fer, -ferous, -gerous, -parous, -pher, -phore, -phorous; *base* -port-, -vect-; **change:** *base* camb-, -fabr-, -fec-, -mut-, -vari-, -vert-; *suf* -ate, en, -fy, -ize, -otic

transgression *comb* enisso-, enosio-; *base* -culp-, hamart-, -pecca-

transitory *base* caduc-

transmission *comb* -cast

transparent *comb* diaphano-, hyalo-, -phane

transplant *base* chim-

transport *comb* -fer, -ferous, -gerous, -parous, -pher,

-phore, -phorous; *base* -port-, -vect-

transverse *comb* cross-

trap *comb* -thera

trapezoid *comb* trapezi-

travel *comb* hodo-, dromo-, odo-; *base* -itiner-, -peregrin-, -via-. See **wander**

tray *base* hypocraater-

treat with *suf* -ate, -ize

treatment *comb* -iatrics, iatro-, -iatry; *base* -com-

tree(like) *comb* dendri-, dendro-, -dendron, silvi-, xylo-; *base* -arbor-. See **woods**

tremble *comb* tremo-; *base* pav-, trep-; **earth~:** tromo-

trepidation *comb* -phobe, -phobia, -phobic, phobo-; *base* pavid-, tim(or)-, -trem-, -trep-. Also see "Fear" in Part III

triangular *comb* delta-, triangulato-, trigono-

tribe *comb* phylo-

trifling *base* -nuga-

trillion *comb* tera-; **-th:** pico-

trilobes *comb* -paria

trip *comb* hodo-, -ode, odo-; *base* -itiner-, -peregrin-, -via-

triple *comb* triplicato-, triplo-; *base* -ter(n)-

trouble *base* aerumn-. See **grief**

trout *base* -trocto-, trutt-

truffle *comb* hydno-

trumpet *base* buccin-

trunk *comb* cormo-. See **stem**

trust *base* -cred-. See **belief**

truth *base* aleth-, -ver-

try *base* conat-, peir-

tube *comb* aulo-, follic-, salpingo-, siphoni-, siphono-, soleno-, tubi-, tubo-, tubuli-, tubulo-, vasi-; *base* fistul-, -syr-; ~**shaped:** *comb* syringo-

tuberculosis *comb* tuberculo-; *base* phthisi-, phthisio-, -phthisis
tufts *comb* cespitoso-; *base* carph-, crin-, crist-, flocc-
tumor *comb* -cele, onco-, phym-, -phyma, struma-; *suf* -oma
tumult *base* -agit-, -tumult-, -turb-
tunnel *base* cunicul-
turbine *comb* turbo-
turbot *base* psett-, scophthalm-
turkey *base* gallinac-, meleagr-
Turkey *comb* Turco-, Turko-
turn *comb* gyro-, helico-, roti-, strepho-, strepsi-, strepto-, stroph(i)-, trepo-, -verge, vortici-; *base* -vers-, -vert-, -volut-, -volv-; *~towards or away*: *comb* -trope, -tropic, -tropism, tropo-, -tropous, -tropy
turnabout *comb* allo-; *base* -vers-, -vert-
turnip *base* napi-
turpentine *base* terebinth-
turtle *comb* chelo(n)-; *base* -anaps-, chelys-, -testud-, -turtura-. See **tortoise**
twelve *comb* dodeca-, duodec-, duodecim-, duoden-
twenty *comb* eico-, icoso-, icosi-, viginti-; *base* vicesim-; *~four*: icositetra-

twice *pre* bi-, di-¹; *~per time period*: *pre* semi-
twigs *comb* scop(i)-; *base* carph-, ramul-, -sarment-, surcul-, virgul-
twilight *base* -crepus-, -lyg-
twin(s) *comb* diplo-, zygo-; *base* -didym-, gemelli-, gemin-; *conjoined~*: *comb* -pagina-, -pagius. See **two**
twisted *comb* contorto-, gyro-, helico-, pleco-, plecto-, spiro-, strepho-, strepsi-, strepto-; *base* -strob-, -stromb-, -stroph-, -tors-, -tort-
twitching *comb* -chorea, choreo-, -clonic, -clonus, -esmus, -ismus, spasmo-; *base* -stal-, -vellic-
two *pre* bi-, bin-, bis-, di-, du-; *comb* ambi-, ambo-, amphi-, ampho-, deuterio-, deuto-, dicho-, diphy-, diplo-, disso-, double-, duo-, duplicato-, duplici-, dyo-, gemelli-, twi-, zygo-; *base* -didym-, gemin-; *~colored*: *comb* dichro-; *~hundred*: *base* ducen-; *~wings*: *comb* diptero-. Also see "Numbers" in Part III
tympanic *comb* myringo-
type *comb* -type, typo-
typhoid *comb* typho-

U

ulcer *comb* helco-
ulna *comb* cubito-, ulno-
umbilicus *comb* omphalo-
umbrella *comb* umbell(i)-, umbraculi-, umbrelli-
unaffected by *suf* -proof
unalterable *base* immut-

unceasing *base* assid-, contin-, incess-, perpet-
uncertain *base* ambig-, ancip-, apor-, dub-, vagu-
uncle *base* -avunc-, patru-
unclean *comb* blenno-, -chezia, copro-, fim(i)-, kopro-, myso-,

- myxia, myxo-, paedo-, pedo-,
scato-, spatilo-, spurc-, stegno-,
sterco-; *base* -fecu-, molys-,
rhypar-, rhy-po-
- unconscious** *base* -stup-
- under** *pre* hypo-, infra-, sub-, sub-
ter-; *comb* infero-, under-; *base*
cunicul-; ~**world**: infern-
- understanding** *comb* -gnomy,
-gnosia, -gnosis, -gnostic; *base*
-crit-, -judic-, -soph-
- undertaking** *pre* entre-
- undeveloped** *comb* -atelia, atelo-.
See immature
- undiscerning** *base* hebet-, obtus-,
-tard-
- undivided** *base* integ-, tot-
- undo** *pre* de-
- undulation** *comb* flexuoso-; *base*
-sinu-. *See* wave
- uneasy** *base* agit-, mov-, trepid-,
turb-
- unequal** *comb* aniso-, inequi-,
impari-, perisso-
- uneven** *comb* anomalo-, anomo-,
perisso-, poikilo-, sinuato-, sinu-
oso-; *base* salebr-
- unfinished** *pre* demi-, hemi-, semi-;
base -atelia, atelo-; *suf* -esce,
-escence, -escent
- unguent** *base* -aliph-, unct-
- unhappy** *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-,
fleb-, flet, luct-, -trist-
- unimportant** *base* -nuga-
- union** *comb* -ergasia, gameto-,
gamo-, -gamous, -gamy; *base*
-greg-, -junct-, -soc-
- unit** *comb* -mer(e), mero-
- unite** *pre* co-; *comb* conjugato-,
-ergasia, gameto-, gamo-, hapto-,
junct-; *base* aps-, apt-, -greg-,
-soc-; *suf* -ate, -ize
- universe** *comb* -cosm, cosmo-
- unlike** *pre* anti-, contra-, contre-,
dis-, hetero-, ob-, un-; *comb*
back-, counter-, enantio-,
oppositi-
- unlit** *comb* ambly-, melan(o)-,
nycto-, scoto-; *base* -achlu-,
amaur-, fusc-, lyg-, obscur-,
tenebr-
- unprofitable** *base* mataeo-
- unquenchable** *base* avid-, edac-,
gulos-
- unreasonable** *base* alogo-
- unsatisfactory** *pre* hypo-, sub-,
under-; *comb* hystero-; *base*
hesson-; *suf* -aster
- unsaturated acid** *comb* -enoic
- unspecified** *base* ambig, dub-,
ancip-
- untrustworthy** *base* apat-, dolero-,
ludif-
- unusual** *comb* aetheo-, anom(o)-,
anomalo-. *See* irregular
- unwell** *pre* dys-, mal-; *comb* noso-,
-path, -pathic, patho-, -pathy;
base aegr-, -morb-, -pecca-,
valetud-
- up** *pre* ana-, ano-; *comb* super-,
supra-; ~**to**: *pre* epi-
- upheaval** *base* -agit-, -tumult-,
-turb-
- upon** *pre* ana-, epi-, ob-, super-,
sur-
- upper side** *comb* supero-
- upright** *comb* ortho-, prob-, recti-
- uproar** *base* crepit-, frem-, ligyr-,
strep(i)-, strid-, stridul-. *See*
sound
- upward** *pre* ano-¹, ex-
- uranium** *comb* uranoso-
- urea** *comb* ure(a)-
- ureter** *comb* uretero-, urethro-
- urge** *base* horm-, -hort-, -suade,
-suas-
- uric acid** *comb* uri-, urico-
- urine/urinary tract** *comb* ouro-,
ure(a)-, ureo-, uretero-, -uretic,
urini-, urino-, uro-², -ury; *base*

-mict-, -ming-; **diseased condition of~**: *comb* -uria
urn *comb* urcei-, urceo-
usage *base* mor-¹
used for doing *comb* -chresis; *suf* -le
useful *comb* chreo-, chresto-; *base* -util-
useless *base* futi-, inutil-, mataeo-
usual *comb* normo-
utensil *base* skeuo-

uterus *comb* hyster(o)-¹, metra-, metro-, utero-
utter *comb* -claim, logo-, -logue, -lalia, -lexia, lexico-, -lexis, -lexy, -logy, -phone, phono-, -phony, rhet-, verbi-, verbo-, voc-, voci-, -voke; *base* -clam-, -dict-, -loc(u)-, -loqu-, narr-, -orat-, -phat-, -phem-
uvula *comb* staphylo-, uvulo-

V

vacant *comb* ceno-, keno-; *base* -erem-, (ex)haur-, inan-, -vac(u)-
vaccine *comb* vaccino-
vagina *comb* colp(o)-, elytr(o)-, kolpo-, vagini-, vagino-. See **vulva**
vague *base* ambig, dub-, ancip-
vagus nerve *comb* vago-
vain *comb* mataeo-
valence *comb* -valent; **lower~**: *suf* -ous
validating *comb* -deictic
values *comb* axio-²
valve *comb* valvi-, valvulo-
vampire *base* vespertil-
vanishing *base* marc-
vanquish *base* vict-, -vinc-
vapor *comb* atmo-, -capnia, capno-, vapo-, vapor-; *base* halit-, -nebul-
variation *comb* allo-, anomal-, anomo-, poikilo-; *base* -mut-. See **change**
vas deferens *comb* vaso-
vase *comb* urcei-
vast *comb* bronto-, dino-, giganto-, mega-, megal-, -megaly
vault *base* fornic-
veal *base* vitul-
vegetable *comb* vegeti-, vegeto-; *base* lachan-, oler-, olit-

vegetation *comb* botano-, herbi-, -phyte, phyto-; *base* veget-; *suf* -aceae, -ad, -ales, -eae, -ia
vehicle *comb* amaxo-, -mobile; *base* -ocho-¹
veiled *pre* sub-; *comb* calypto-, crypto-; *base* occult-
vein *comb* cirso-, phlebo-, vene-, veni-, veno-, venoso-, -venous;
enlarged~: *comb* varici-, varico-
velvet *base* velut-
ventral *comb* abdomino-, celio-, laparo-, ventro-
ventricle *comb* ventriculo-
veracity *base* aleth-, -ver-
verdegris *base* aerug-
verge *base* marg-, propinq-, prox-
vermin *base* pesti-, vermin-
versatile *base* agil-, facil-, ingen-
verse *comb* rhapso-, -stichia, sticho-, -stichous
vertebra *comb* spondylo-, vertebro-;
top~: *comb* atlanto-, atlo-
vertigo *base* illyngo-
verve *base* ard-, alacr-, -ferv-, zelo-
very *pre* per-; *comb* stone-
vesicle *comb* vesiculi-, vesiculo-
vessel *comb* angio-, vasculo-, vasi-, vaso-; **serving~**: *base* skeuo-
vestibule *comb* vestibulo-

viands *comb* bromato-, -brotic, manduc-, opso-, -phage, phago-, -phagous, -phagy, -sitia, sitio-, sito-, -troph, -trophic, tropho-, -trophy, -vora, -vore, -vorous; *base* -alim-, -cib-, escul-, -gust-, -nutr-; **partially digested**:- chymo-

vibration *comb* pallo-, tremo-, vibro-

vice *comb* enisso-, enosio-; *base* -culp-, hamart-, -pecca-

vicious *base* flagit-, iniq-, perdit-, -prav-, turp-

victory *base* nic-

view, a *comb* -scape

view, to *comb* eid(o)-, oculo-, ommat-, -opia, opsi-, -opsia, -opsis, opso-, -opsy, ophthalmo-, optico-, opto-, -scope, -scopic, scopo-, -scopy, visuo-; *base* -blep-, -scrut-, -spec-, -spic-, -vid-

village *comb* -burg(h), -ton, -ville

villainous *pre* dys-, mis-; *comb* caco-, enisso-, enosio-, kak-, kako-, mal-, male-, ponero-; *base* culp-, facin-, flagit-, hamart-, iniq-, nefar-, pecca-, perdit-, -prav-, sceler-, scelest-, turp-

vine *comb* clem-¹, viti-; *base* -ampel-, pampin-

vinegar *comb* acet(o)-, acetyl-, acid-, keto-; *See* sharp

violate *base* temerat-

violet *comb* indo-¹; *base* ianth-, -viol-. *Also see* "Colors" in Part III

viper *comb* echidno-

virgin *comb* partheno-

virtuous *pre* bene-, eu-; *base* agath-, bon-, prob-

virus *comb* **genus**:-virus; **family**:-viridae; **subfamily**:-virinae

viscera *comb* splanchno-, viscer-

visible *comb* lampro-, luc-, luci-, -phane, phanero-, -phanic, -phany, pheno-; *base* -clar-,

-schem-, -spec-, -spic-

vision *comb* eid(o)-, oculo-, ommat-, -opia, opsi-, -opsia, -opsis, opso-, -opsy, ophthalmo-, optico-, opto-, -scope, -scopic, scopo-, -scopy, visuo-; *base* -blep-, -scrut-, -spec-, -spic-, -vid-

vitality *comb* bio-, -biosis, vita-, vivi-, zoo-, -zoic, -zooid; *base* -anim-

vitiated *comb* lysi-, lyso-, -lysis, -lyte, phthysio-, -phthysis, putre-, putri-, pytho-, sapro-, septi-², septico-, septo-¹; *base* -marces-, -putr-, tabe-; *suf* -ase

vitriol *comb* vitriolico-

vocabulary *comb* glosso-, -glot, -lexia, lexico-, -lexis, -lexy, logo-, -logue, -logy, verbo-; *base* -lingu-, -locu-, -loqu-, rhema-

voice *comb* -claim, logo-, -logue, -lalia, -lexia, lexico-, -lexis, -lexy, -logy, -phone, phono-, -phony, -phthong, rhet-, verbi-, verbo-, voc-, voci-, -voke; *base* -clam-, -dict-, -loc(u)-, -loqu-, -orat-, -phat-, -phem-

void *comb* ceno-, keno-; *base* -erem-, (ex)haur-, inan-, -vac(u)-

voltaic *comb* volta-

voluminous *base* ampl-, copi-, magn-

voluntary *comb* ultro-. *See* free

vomit *comb* -emesis, -emetic, emeto-

voracious *base* avid-, edac-, gulos-

vortex *comb* vortici-

vote *base* suffrag-

voyage *base* -curs-, itiner-, -navig-, peregrin-, via-

vulgar **obscene**: *base* aischro-, borbor-, copro-, fescinn-; **ordinary**: *comb* demo-; *base* -pleb-, -popul-

vulture *base* -vultur-

vulva *comb* episio-, vulvi-, vulvo-.
See vagina

W

wading bird *base* grallator-

wagon *base* plaustr- (plaustrary)

wail *base* plang-, -plor-, -ulul-¹

wait *comb* brady-; *base* -cunct-,
imped-, -mora-, -tard-

walk *comb* -basia, bato-, -grade;
base -ambul-, -gress-

wall *comb* parieto-, -phragma,
septo-; *base* herco-, -mur-²,
teicho-, ticho-, vall-

walnut *base* juglan-

walrus *base* oben-

wand *comb* rhabdo-

wander *comb* -plania, plano-²; *base*
err-, -peregrin-, -vag(r)-. *See*
travel

wanting *pre* hypo-, sub-, under-;
comb hystero-; *base* hesson-; *suf*
-aster

wanton *base* meretric-, scort-

war *base* arm-, -bell-, milit-,
polem-

warbler *base* vermivor-

ward off *base* alexi-, alexo-

warmth *comb* cal(e)-, calo-,
calor(i)-, pyro-, -therm, thermo-,
thermy; *base* aest-, caum-, ferv-

warn *base* -mon-

wart *base* verruci-

wash *comb* balneo-; *base* ablut-,
cathar-, -lav-, -mund-², -purg-

wasp *comb* vespi-; *base* sphec-,
sphek-

wasting away *comb* phthino-,
phthisio-, -phthisis; *base* tab-

watchman *base* excub-, custod-,
vigil-

water *comb* aqua-, aque-, aqui-,
hydro-, hyeto-, hygro-; *base* -rip-

waterless *comb* carpho-, xero-; *base*
arid-, celo-, cherso-, -sicc-

wave *comb* cuma-, cyma-, cymato-,

cymo-, -enchyma, flexuoso-, gy-
roso-, kymo-, sinuato-, sinuoso-;
base -fluct-, -unda-, -undul-

wax *comb* cero-, cerumini-

way *comb* hodo-, -ode¹, odo-, via-;
base -itin-

weakness *physical*: *comb* astheno-,
-atrophia, lepto-, -plegia, -plegy;
base -debil-, dimin-, enerv-, flacc-,
labe-; *spiritual*: *base* culp-,
delinq-, laps-, -pecca-, sphal-

wealth *comb* chryso-, pluto-; *base*
chrem-, -opul-, pecun-

weapon *comb* hoplo-

weary *comb* pono-; *base* -fatig-,
kopo-, lass-

weasel *base* arctoid-, gale-¹, -mustel-

weave *base* tex-

web *comb* hypho-

wed *comb* gameto, gamo-, -gamous,
-gamy; *base* conjug-, marit-,
-nub-, -nupt-

wedge-shaped *comb* spheno-; *base*
cuneo-

weed *base* runc-

week *base* -hebdom-

weep *base* dacryo-, fleb-, flet-,
lachrim-, lachrym-, plor-

weevil *base* curculion-

weight *comb* -bar, baro-, bary-,
gravi-; *base* obes-, -pond-

well *condition*: *pre* bene-, eu-; *base*
-san-, -salub-; **water**: *comb*
phreato-, putea-

west *base* hesper-, -occid-, zephyr-.
See **direction**

wet *comb* hydro-, hygro-, udo-;
base humect-, madefac-, -rig-. *See*
water

whale *base* -balaen-, cet(o)-

wheat *base* silig-, tritic-

wheedle *base* leno-

wheel *comb* cyclo-, roti-, trochalo-, trochi-, trocho-, -wheeler. *See* circle

where *base* -ubi-. *See* location

whip(like) *comb* flagello-, mastigo-; *base* lora-

whirl *comb* dino-², vortici-

whirlpool *base* vorag-

whisper *base* psithur-, susurr-

whistle *base* sibil-

white *comb* leuco-, leuko-; *base* -alb-, alut-, -cand-, ceruss-, ebur-, -lac-, -niv-. *Also see* "Colors" in Part III

whole *pre* be-, cata-, de-, kata-, ob-, per-; *comb* holo-, omni-, pan-, panto-, stone-, toti-; *base* integr-

whore *comb* cypriano-, hetaero-, porno-; *base* -meretric-, scort-; **brothel**: lupan-

wicked(ness) *pre* dys-, mis-; *comb* caco-, enisso-, enosio-, kak-, kako-, mal-, male-, ponero-; *base* culp-, facin-, flagit-, hamart-, iniq-, nefar-, pecca-, perdit-, -prav-, sceler-, scelest-, turp-

wicker *base* vimin-

wide *comb* eury-, lati-, platy-; *base* ampl-

widow *base* -vidu-

wife *comb* uxori-; *base* conjug-, marit-

wild *base* agrio-

wild animal *comb* -there, therio-, thero-; *base* -fer-

will *comb* -bulia, ultro-; *base* -vol-

willow *base* itea-, salic-

win *base* vict-, -vinc-

wind *comb* anemo-; *base* -flat-, -vent-; **north~**: *base* -borea-;

south~: *comb* austro-; **west~**:

comb zephyro-; *base* favon-

winding *comb* flexuoso-; *base* -sinu-

window *base* -fenestr-

windpipe *comb* bronch(i)-, bronchio-, broncho-, laryngo-, tracheo-

wine *comb* oeno-, oino-, vini-, vino-, viti-

wing *comb* ala-, ali-¹, pteno-, -pter, pterido-, pterigo-, ptero-, -pterous, pterygo-, pteryl-, ptib-, ptilo-; **having two~**: *comb* diptero-;

~case: elytri-

wink *base* conniv-, nict-

winter *base* brum-¹, cheima-, hibern-, hiema-

wipe out *comb* lysi-, lyso-, -lysis, -lytic, -lyze, -phage, phago-, -phagous, -phagy; *base* -ate-⁴, perd-, phthart-, -vast-

wisdom *base* -jud-, sapient-, -soph-

wish *base* desid-, opt-¹, -vell-, -vol-

witchcraft *base* -venefic-

with *pre* co-, inter-, para-, syl-, sym-, syn-, sys-; *comb* allelo-, hama-, symphyo-, synchro-; *base* -mutu-

withdraw *leave*: *base* relinq-;

remove: *pre* ab-, abs-, apo-, be-, de-, des-, di-, dia-, dif-, dis-, e-, ec-, ef-, ex-, for-, off-, se, with-; *comb* ectro-

wither *base* marces-, marcid-

within *pre* eis-, em-, en-¹, il-, im-, in-¹, ir-; *comb* endo-, ento-, eso-, intero-, intra-, intro-; **from~**: *comb* entostho-

without **missing**: *pre* a-, an-, dis-, ex-, in-; *comb* lipo-; *base* priv-; *suf* -less; **outside**: *pre* epi, exo-, extra-, para-, preter; *comb* ecto-, extero-, out-

woe *comb* lype-; *base* dolor-, fleb-, flet-, luct-, trist-

wolf *comb* lyco-; *base* -lup-

wolverine *base* -mustel-

woman *comb* gyn(e)-, gynec-, gyno-, gyno-, -gynous, -gyny,

-para³, thely-, -wife; *base* -femin-, muliebr-; *suf* -en-, -enne-, -ess-, -ette-, -ice-, -ine-, -stress-, -trice-, -trix; **old~**: grao-

womb *comb* hyster(o)-¹, metra-, metro-, utero-

wombat *base* phascolum-

wonder *comb* thaumato-; *base* -mir-

wood *comb* erio-, hyle-, hylo-, ligni-, ligno-, xylo-, -xylous, ylo-

woodcock *base* -charadr-, gallinag-, scolopac-

woodlouse *base* -onisc-

woodpecker *base* -pici-

woods *base* nemo(r)-, saltu-, silv-.

See forest

wool *comb* lani-; *base* -flocc-, -lana-, mallo-, -ulo-³; **wooly**: *comb* dasy-

words *comb* -glossia, glosso-, -glot-, -lexia-, -lexis, lexico-, -lexy, lingu(o)-, logo-, -logue, -logy, phraseo-, -phrastic, verbi-, verbo-; *base* -lex-, -locu-, -loqu-, rhema-, vocab-; *suf* -ese; **long~**: *base* sesquipedal-; **~unit**: *suf* -eme

work *comb* arti-, -craft, -ergasia, ergasio-, -ergics, ergo-, -ergy, organo-, -urgy; *base* -labor-, lucubr-, oper-¹, -opus-, pono-²

workable *comb* chreo-, chresto-;

base -util-

world *comb* -cosm, cosmo-, -gaea; *base* mund-¹, secul-, -tellur-, -terr-

worm *comb* ascari-, filari-, helminth(o)-, nemato-, scoleci-, scoleco-, taeni-, vermi-; *base* lumbric-, oxyur-, tered-, tine-

worry *base* vex-

worse *pre* sub-; *base* degen-, pejor-

worship *comb* -latry; *base* cult-, vener-², -venerat-; **one who~**: *comb* -later

worthlessness *base* futil-, inutil-, mataeo-, -nuga-, -vili-; *suf* -aster²

worthy of being *suf* -able, axio-; *base* -dign-

wound *comb* helco-, traumato-; *base* sauciat-, -vuln-

wrapping *base* involver-

wren *base* troglodyt-

wrestling *base* luct-²

wrinkle *comb* corrugato-, rhyti-; *base* -crisp-, -rug-

wrist *comb* carpo-²

write *comb* -gram, -graph, -grapher, -graphic, grapho-, -graphy, grapto-, -logue; *base* -scrib-, -script-, typo-

wrong *pre* dys-, mis-. *See wicked*

X

X-rays *comb* radio-, roentgeno-

X-shaped *base* decuss-

xiphoid process *comb* xiphi-, xipho-

Y

yam *base* dioscorea-

yarn *base* fabul-, mytho-, narr-, stori-

yawl *base* nav-, scaph-

yawn *base* oscit-

year *base* -ann-, -enn-; **period of two~**: bienn-; **period of three~**: trienn-; **period of four~**: quadrenn-; **period of five~**: quinquenn-; **period of six~**: sexenn-; **period of seven~**: septenn-; **period of eight~**: octenn-; **period of nine~**: novenn-; **period of ten~**: decenn-. See "Numbers" in Part III

yearly *base* annivers-

yearn for *comb* eroto-, -lagnia, -mania, -orexia; *base* -appet-, -conat-, -cup-, -libid-, -opt-, vell-; *suf* -urient

yeast *base* ferment-, prozym-, zym(o)-

yell *base* -clam-, vocif-

yellow *comb* chrys(o)-, flavido-, flavo-, -icter-, lurido-, luteo-, ochreo-, ochro-, xantho-; *base* aen-, croce-, -fulv-, gambog-, gilv-, -helv-, jaun-, lur-, lut-, -melin-, safran-, vitell-. Also see "Colors" in Part III

yesterday *base* hestern-, prid-

yew *base* tax-

yield *base* ced-, -cess

yoke *comb* jug-, zyga-, zygo-; *base* zeug-, zeux-

yolk *comb* lecith(o)-, vitelli-, vitello-

young *base* jun-, -juven-, nov-. See **child**

yttrium *comb* yttro-

Z

zany *base* fatu-, inan-, moro-, stult-

zeal *base* ard-, alacr-, -ferv-, zelo-

zebra *base* -zebr-

zenith *comb* -apical, apico-

zero *comb* nihil-, nulli-. See also "Negatives" in Part III

zest *comb* agito-; *base* alacr-, ard-,

avid-, cupid-, ferv-, hedon-, volupt-, zelo-

zinc *comb* zinco-

zirconium *comb* zirconio-

zygora *comb* zygomatiko-, zygomato-

PART III

Categories

ANIMALS

- aardvark** edent- (edentate)
adder colub- (colubrine)
agouti dasyproct- (dasyproctidae)
albatross diomed- (diomedidae);
 procellar- (procellariid)
alligator eusuch- (eusuchian)
anchovy engraul- (engraulid)
angel fish pterophyll- (pterophyllous)
ant formic- (formicine); myrmec- (myrmecine); myrmeco- (myrmecology); myrmic- (mymicine)
anteater myrmecophag- (myrmecophagine)
antelope alcelaph- (alcelaphine); bubal- (bubaline)
ape pithec- (pithecoïd); -pithecus (Australopithecus); sim- (simian)
armadillo dasypod- (dasypodid); tolypeut- (tolypeutine)
ass as- (assinine); ono (onolatry)
auk alcid- (alcidine)
badger melin- (meline); mustel- (mustelid)
barracuda percesoc- (percesocine); sphyraen- (sphyraenoid)
bat desmodont- (desmodontid); megacheiropter- (megacheiropteran); microcheiropter- (microcheiropteran); noctilion- (noctilionid); pterop- (pteropine); vespertil- (vespertilian)
bear arcto- (cynarctomachy); urs- (ursine)
beaver castor- (castoreum)
bee api- (apiarian); bomb- (bombid); melisso- (melissean)
beetle coleopter- (coleopteral); scarab- (scaraboid)
bird avi- (avian); orneo- (orneoscopic); orni- (ornithology); ornitho- (ornithological); volucr- (volucrine); *flycatching*~: muscicap- (muscicapine); *hanging nest building*~: pendulin- (penduline); *perching*~: passer- (passerine); *singing*~: oscin- (oscine); *wad-ing*~: grall- (gralline)
bittern botaur- (botaurus); ixobrych- (ixobrychus)
black widow spider latrodect- (latrodectus)
blackbird icter- (icterine); merul- (meruline)
bluebird sial- (Sialia); turd- (turdine)
boar suid- (suidian)
bobolink icter- (icterine)
buffalo bubal- (bubaline)
bug cimic- (cimicoid); entomo- (entomology); insecti- (insecticide); insecto- (insectology)
bull taur- (tauriform)
bullfinch pyrrhul- (pyrrhuline)
bunting emberiz- (emberizine); pyrrhul- (pyrrhuloxine)
butterfly lepidopter- (lepidopterous); papil- (papilionaceous)
buzzard buteo- (buteonine); cathart- (cathartine)
calf vitul- (vituline)
camel camel- (caneline)
cardinal pyrrhul- (pyrrhuloxine)
carp cyprin- (cyprinoid)
casowary casuar- (casuarina)
cat aeluro- (aelurophile); ailuro- (ailurophobe); feli- (feline); gale- (galeanthropy); gato- (gatophobia)
caterpillar bruch- (bruchus); -camp- (campodean); eruc- (eruciform)
catfish silur- (silurid)
centipede chilopod- (chilopodal); scolopendr- (scolopendriiform)

- chamois** rupicap- (rupicaprine)
chickadee par- (parine)
chicken gallin- (gallinaceous); pull- (pullet)
chimpanzee sim- (simid)
civet viverr- (viverrine)
cock alector- (alectoromancy); alectry- (alectryomachy)
cockroach blatt- (blatta)
coot fulic- (Fulicinae)
cormorant phalacrocorac- (phalacrocoracine)
cow bou- (boustrophedon); bov- (bovine); bu- (bulimia); vacc- (vaccine)
crab cancri- (cancrine); gammar- (gammarolite)
crane alector- (alectorine); grallator- (grallatorial); grui- (grui-form)
cricket gryll- (gryllid); locust- (locustarian)
crocodile crocodil- (crocodilian); gaval- (gavialoid)
crow coraci- (coraciform); coraco- (coracoid); corvin- (corvine)
cuckoo cucul- (cuculine)
cuttlefish sepi- (sepiacean); -teuth- (teuthologist)
deer cervi- (cervine); elaph- (elaphine)
dodo did- (didine)
dog cani- (canine); cyn- (cynanthropy); kyn- (kynanthropy)
dolphin delphin- (delphine)
donkey ono- (onocentaur)
dormouse glir- (gliriform); myox- (myoxine)
dove columb- (columbine)
dragonfly libellul- (libellulid)
duck anat- (anatine); fuligul- (fuliguline)
eagle aet- (aetites); aquil- (aquiline)
earwig forficul- (forficulid)
eel anguill- (anguilliform); cy-
 clostom- (cyclostome); muraen- (muraenoid)
eland taurotrag- (Taurotragus oryx)
elephant elephant- (elephantine); pachyderm- (pachydermic)
elk cerv- (cervine)
emu rat- (ratite)
ermine mustel- (musteline)
falcon accipit- (accipitrine); falcon- (falconry); raptor- (raptorial)
ferret mustel (musteline); viverr- (viverrine)
finch fringill- (fringilline)
firefly lampyr- (lampyrid)
fish ichthyo- (ichthyoid); pisci- (piscine); **bony~**: scopeli- (scopeli-form)
flamingo phoenicopter- (phoenicopteroid)
flea puli- (pulicine)
fly cyclorrhaph- (cyclorrhaphous); musc- (muscid); myia- (myiasis)
fox alopec- (alopecoid); vulp- (vulpine)
frog batracho- (batrachoid); bufo- (bufotenine); phryno- (phryno-derma); polyped- (polypedatid); rani- (ranine)
fruitfly drosophil- (Drosophilidae); trypet- (Trypetidae)
gerbil cricet- (cricetine)
gibbon hylobat- (hylobatine)
giraffe artiodactyl- (artiodactylous)
gnat culici- (culiciform)
gnu connochaet- (Connochaetes)
goat caprin- (caprine); egagro- (egagropile); hircin- (hircine); trago- (tragopan)
goldfish cyprin- (cyprinid)
goose anser- (anserine); cheno- (Chenopod)
gorilla pong- (pongid)
grasshopper acrid- (acridid); gryll- (gryllotalpa); locust- (locustid)

grouse gallinac- (gallinaceous);
 tetrao- (tetraonid)
gull gavi- (Gaviae); lar- (larine)
halibut hippogloss- (hippoglossoid)
hare cunic- (cuniculous); lago-
 (lagotic); lepor- (leporine)
hawk accipit- (accipitrine); buteo-
 (buteonine); falco- (falconine);
 hieraco- (hieracosophic)
hedgehog echin- (echinate); erinac-
 (erinaceous)
heron arde- (ardeid); grallator-
 (grallatorial)
herring clupeo- (clupeoid); halec-
 (halecomorphous); harengi-
 (harengiform)
hog hyos- (hyoscyamine)
hookworm ancylostom- (Ancy-
 lostoma)
hornbill bucerot- (Bucerotinae);
 bucorac- (Bucoracinae)
hornet -sphec- (sphecoid); vespi-
 (vespine)
horse caball- (caballine); caval-
 (cavalry); equ- (equine); hippo-
 (hippology); -hippus (eohippus)
horsefly taban- (tabanid)
hummingbird trochil- (trochiline)
hyrax chero- (cherogril)
jackass asin- (asinine)
jackdaw gracul- (graculine)
jay garrul- (garruline)
jellyfish discophor- (discophoran)
kangaroo macropod- (macropo-
 dine)
kestrel falco- (falconine)
kingfisher halcyon- (halcyonine)
kite milv- (milvine)
kudu tragelaph- (Tragelaphus)
lamb agn- (agnification)
leech bdell- (bdellatomy); dis-
 cophor- (discophorous); hirud-
 (hirudine); sanguisug- (san-
 guisugous)
leopard pard- (pardine)

lion leo- (leonine)
lizard lacert- (lacertilian); saur-
 (saurian); sauro- (sauropod); -
 saurus (ichthyosaurus); stellio-
 (stellion)
lobster astac- (astacian); gammar-
 (gammarolite); homar- (homa-
 rine)
locust locust- (locustarian)
louse pedicul- (pediculous); phthir-
 (phthiriasis); phthyr- (phthyria-
 sis)
lynx lync- (lyncean)
macaw psittac- (psittacine)
mackerel scombr- (scombroid)
magpie corv- (corvoid); garrul-
 (garruline)
manatee trichec- (Trichechus)
marlin istiophor- (istiophorid)
marmoset callithric- (callithricid)
marmot sciur- (sciurid)
marten mustel- (musteline)
martin hirund- (hirundine)
meadowlark icter- (icterine)
millipede arthropod- (arthropo-
 dal); diplopod- (diplopodal)
mink mustel- (musteline)
minnow cyprin- (cyprinid)
mite acar- (acaroid); miti- (miti-
 cide)
mockingbird mim- (mimine)
mole talp- (talpine)
mole-rat zemn- (zemnine)
mollusk malaco- (malacological);
 mollusc- (molluscous)
mongoose viverr- (viverrine)
monkey cebo- (cebocephalic);
 pithec- (pithecoid)
moose cerv- (cervine)
mosquito aed- (aedine); anophel-
 (anopheline); culici- (culicid)
moth arct- (arctian); phalaen-
 (phalaenoid); tine- (tineid)
mouse mur- (murine); myo- (my-
 omancy)

mullet mugil- (mugiloid)
muskrat cricet- (cricetid)
mussel mytil- (mytiloid)
nightingale philomel-
 (philomelian)
nuthatch sitt- (Sitta)
opossum didelph- (didelphine)
orangutan pong- (pongoid)
oriole icter- (icterine)
osprey ossifrag- (ossifrage)
ostrich rat- (ratite); struthi-
 (struthious)
otter lutr- (lutrine)
owl strigi- (strigine); tyto- (Ty-
 tonidae); ulul- (ululant)
ox bou- (boustrophedon); bov-
 (bovine); bu- (bulimia)
oyster ostrac- (ostracine); ostrei-
 (ostreiform); ostreo- (os-
 treophage)
parakeet psittac- (psittacine)
parrot psittac- (psittacine)
partridge gallinac- (gallinaceous);
 -perdic- (perdicine); perdri- (per-
 dricide)
peacock pavon- (pavonine)
pelican onocrot- (onocrotal); pele-
 can- (pelecanid)
penguin sphenisc- (spheniscan)
perch perc- (perciform)
pheasant alector- (alektorine); gal-
 linac- (gallinaceous); phasian-
 (phasianine)
pig porcin- (porcine); sui- (suilline)
pigeon columb- (columbaceous);
 palumb- (palumbine); perister-
 (peristeronic); pullastr- (pullas-
 trine)
platypus monotrem-
 (monotremal); protother- (Pro-
 totheria)
plover charadr- (charadrine); plu-
 vial- (pluvialine)
polecat mustel- (musteline)
porcupine hystric- (hystricine)

porpoise delphin- (delphine);
 phoeaen- (Phoeaenoides)
poultry gallin- (gallinaceous)
ptarmigan tetraon- (tetraonid)
quail coturn- (coturnine); gallinac-
 (gallinaceous)
rabbit cunic- (cuniculous); lagoon-
 (lagotic); lepor- (leporine)
raccoon arctoid- (arctoidean); pro-
 cyon- (procyonine)
ram ariet- (arietine); crio- (crio-
 cephalous); krio- (krioboly)
rat mur- (murine)
rattlesnake crotal- (crotaline)
raven coraci- (coraciiform); coraco-
 (coracomorphic); corvin-
 (corvine)
reptile batrach- (batrachian); her-
 peto- (herpetology); -ophidia
 (Thanatophidia); ophio- (ophio-
 latry); reptil- (reptilian); saur-
 (saurian); -saurus (ichthyosaurus);
 serp- (serpentine)
rhinoceros ceratorh- (ceratorhine)
roach blatt- (blattid)
roadrunner cucul- (cuculid)
robin turd- (turdine)
sable zibel- (zibeline)
sailfish istiophor- (istiophorid)
salmon salmoni- (salmoniform)
sandgrouse pterocl- (pteroclid)
sandpiper charadr- (charadrine);
 tring- (tringoid)
scorpion pedipalp- (pedipalpous)
sea horse hippocamp- (hippocam-
 pine)
sea urchin echin- (echinoid)
seagull lar- (laroid)
seal phoc- (phocine)
shark carchar- (carcharinid); gale-
 (galeod); selach- (selachoid) **ham-**
merhead~: sphyrn- (Sphyrna);
 squal- (squaloid)
sheep ovi- (ovine); verv- (verve-
 cine)

shrew soric- (soricine); tupai- (tupaïd)
shrimp macrur- (macruran)
silkworm bombyc- (bombycine)
skunk mephit- (mephitine); mustel- (mustelid)
skylark alaud- (alaudine)
sloth xenarth- (xenarthral)
slug limac- (limacine)
smelt ather- (atherine)
snail cochlea- (cochleiform); gastropod- (gastropodal); limac- (limacine)
snake angui- (anguiform); colubr- (colubrine); echidno- (echidno-toxin); -glypha (episthoglypha); herpeto- (herpetology); ophid- (ophidian); ophio- (ophiolatry); reptil- (reptilian); serpen- (serpentine); viper- (viperine)
snapper lutjan- (lutjanid)
snipe charadr- (charadrine); scolopac- (scolopaceous)
sparrow passer- (passerine)
spider arachn- (arachnoid); arene- (areneiform); phalang- (phalangium)
squid cephalopod- (cephalopodal); teutho- (teuthologist)
squirrel sciur- (sciurine)
stag cerv- (cervine); elaph (elaphine)
starfish asteroid- (asteroidean); echinoderm- (echinodermatous)
starling psar- (psarolite); sturn- (sturnoid)
stoat mustel- (musteline)
stork cicon- (ciconine); grallator- (grallatorial); pelarg- (pelargic)
surgeon acipenser- (acipenserine); sturion- (sturionic)
swallow chelid- (chelidonian); -hirund- (hirundine); sturn- (sturnoid)
swan cygn- (cycnean); cygn- (cycnine)

swift cypsel- (cypseline)
swine porc- (porcine); su- (suoid)
swordfish xiphi- (xiphioid)
tapeworm taeni- (taenioid); teni- (teniaceid)
tapir pachyderm- (pachydermoid)
tarantula theraphos- (theraphosid)
tarsier lemur- (lemuroid)
termite isoptero- (isopterous); termit- (termitarium)
tern stern- (sternine)
thrush cathar- (Catharus); cichlo- (cichlomorphous); muscicap- (muscicapine); turd- (turdiform)
tick acar- (acarine); ixod- (ixodid)
tiger tigr- (tigrine)
titmouse par- (parine)
toad batrach- (batrachian); bufo- (bufonite); phryno- (phryno-derma)
tortoise chelon- (chelonian); emydo- (emydosaurian); testud- (testudineous)
trout trocto- (troctolite); trutt- (truttaceous)
turbot psett- (psettaceous); scophthalm- (Scophthalmus)
turkey gallinac- (gallinaceous); meagr- (meleagrine)
turtle anaps- (anapsid); chelon- (chelonian); -chelys (Lepidochelys); testud- (testudinal); turtura- (turturring)
vulture vultur- (vulturine)
walrus oben- (obenid)
warbler vermivor- (Vermivora)
wasp sphec- (sphecid); vesp- (vespine)
weasel arctoid- (arctoidean); gale- (phascogale); mustel- (musteline)
weevil curculion- (curculionid)
whale balaen- (balaenoid); cet- (cetaceous)
wolf lup- (lupine); lyc- (lycanthropy)

wolverine mustel- (musteline)
wombat phascolum- (phascolomian)
woodcock charadr- (charadrine); gallinag- (gallinaginous); scolopac- (scolopacine)
woodlouse isopod- (isopodous); onisc- (onisciform)
woodpecker pic- (picine)
worm ascari- (ascariasis); filari-

(filariform); helminth- (helminthoid); lumbric (lumbriciform); oxyur- (oxyurifuge); scolec- (scolecoid); scoleci- (scoleciform); scoleco (scolecobrotic); taeni- (taeniophobia); tered- (teredines); tine- (tineid); vermi- (vermiform)
wren troglodyt- (troglodytine)
zebra zebr- (zebrine)

THE BODY

abdomen abdomino- (abdominocentesis); alv- (alvine); celio- (celiomyositis); celo- (celoscope); laparo- (laparotomy); ventri- (ventricumbent); ventro- (ventrodorsal); **abdominal sac**: peritoneo- (peritoneoclysis); **distended~**: ventricos- (ventricosoglobose)
adrenal gland adreno- (adrenotoxin)
amniotic sac amnio- (amniocentesis)
ankle bone astragalo- (astragalonavicular); tali- (taligrade); talo- (talocalcaneal)
antibodies -valent (multivalent)
anus ano- (anorectal)
arm acromio- (acromioclavicular); brachio- (brachiocephalic)
armpit axill- (periaxillary)
artery arterio- (arteriosclerosis); -venous (intravenous)
atlas **vertebra**: atlanto- (atlantoaxial); atlo- (atloid)
atrophy tabe- (tabescent)
auricle atrio- (atrioventricular)
backbone rachi- (rachicentesis); rachio- (rachimeter); rhach- (rhachitis); -rrhachia (glycorrachia)
bile bili- (biligenic); chole- (chole-

cyst); cholo- (chololith); gall- (gallbladder)
birthmark nevi- (nevoid); nevo- (nevosity)
blister phlyc- (phlyctenous); pustul- (pustule); vesica- (vesicatory); vesico- (vesicoprostic); vesiculo- (vesiculo-pustular)
blood cruent- (incruent); cruor- (cruorin); haema- (haemachrome); haemo- (haemogastric); hema- (hemachrome); hemato- (hematogenic); hemo- (hemophilia); sangui- (sanguicolous); sanguineo- (sanguineous); sanguino- (sanguino-purulent); **~clot**: thrombo- (thrombophlebitis); **~condition or disease**: -aemia (hyperaemia); -cythemia (leucocythemia); -emia (leukemia); **~fluid**: lympho- (lymphocyte); **~vessels**: hemangio- (hemangiosarcoma); vasculo- (vasculitis); vaso- (vasoconstrictor)
body corp- (corporeal); physico- (physicochemical); physi- (physiatrics); physio- (physiotherapy); somato- (somatology); -some (chromosome); **dead~**: cadav- (cadaver); necro- (necrosis);

- ~**defect**: hamart- (hamartoma);
 ~**odor**: brom- (bromidrosis);
 ~**organ part**: -ite (somite)
- bone** ossi- (ossification); osseo- (osseomucin); osteo- (osteoplasty); **forearm**~: ulno- (ulnorradiar); **frontal**~: fronto- (frontoparietal); ~**joining hipbones**: sacro- (sacroiliac); ~**membrane**: periosteal- (periosteophyte); **bony process**: stylo- (stylohyoid)
- brain** cephal- (cephalitis); cerebri- (cerebritis); cerebro- (cerebrospinal); encephalo- (encephalocele)
- breast** mammi- (mammary); mammo- (mammogram); -mastia (macromastia); masto- (mastodynia); mazo- (mazoplasia); stetho- (stethoscope); ~**bone**: pect- (pectoral); sterno- (sternoclavicular)
- breath** afflat- (afflatus); -hale (exhale); halit- (halitosis); ozostom- (ozostomia); -pnea (apnea); pneo- (pneograph); pneumato- (pneumatometer); pneumo- (pneumobacillus); pneumono- (pneumonophorous); pneusio (pneusiobiognosis); pulmo- (pulmonary); spiro- (spiograph)
- buttocks** nati- (natiiform); -pygia (steatopygia); pygo- (pygopod)
- cartilage** chondr- (chondrify); chondrio- (chondriosome); chondro- (chondroblast); xiphi- (xiphioid); **eyelid**~: tarso- (tarsoplasty)
- cecum** ceco- (cecostomy); typhlo- (typhlostomy)
- cell** alveolo- (alveolopalatal); celli- (celliferous); celluli- (celluliferous); cellulo- (cellulo-fibrous); -cyte (lymphocyte); -cythemia (leukocythemia); cyto- (cytology); -gonium (sporogonium);
- kyto- (kymetry); -plasm (neoplasm); plasm- (plasmolysis)
- cellulose** cello- (cellophane)
- celom** celo- (celomate)
- cervical** cervico- (cervicodorsal)
- cheek** bucco- (buccolabial); -genia (microgenia); genio- (genioplasty); geny- (genyplasty); melo- (meloplasty); zygomatico- (zygomatico-auricular); zygomatico- (zygomatico-temporal)
- chest** pector- (pectoral); sterno- (sternocostal); stetho- (stethometric); thoracico- (thoracico-abdominal); thoraco- (thoracotomy)
- chin** -genia (microgenia); genio- (genioplasty); geny- (genyplasty); mento- (mentoplasty)
- chromosomes** -ploid (diploid)
- chyle** chyl- (chylaqueous)
- clavicle** cleido- (cleidomastoid); clido- (clidomastoid)
- clot** grum- (grumous); thrombo- (thrombo-phlebitis)
- coccyx** coccy- (coccygia); coccygo- (coccygodynia)
- collarbone** clavi- (clavicle)
- colon** coli- (coliform); colo- (coloenteritis)
- cornea** corneo- (corneitis); kerato- (keratotomy)
- corpse** cadav- (cadaverous); necro- (necrophilia)
- cyst** -sacc- (sacculation)
- dandruff** porrige- (porriginous)
- defecation** -chezia (hematochezia); copro- (coprolagnia); fecu- (feculent); fim- (fimetis); fimi- (fimicolous); kopro- (koprophilia); merd- (immerd); scato- (scatology); spatilo- (spatilomancy); sterco- (stercoraceous)
- diaphragm** -phrenic (gastrophrenic); phrenico- (phrenicotomy); phreno- (phrenogastric)

ear auri- (auricular); auriculo- (auriculo-temporal); ot- (otitis); oto- (otopyosis)

elbow ancon- (anconitis)

embryo- -blast (mesoblast); -blastic (osteoblastic); blasto- (blastoderm); -blasty; embry- (embryonic)

ethmoid bone ethmo- (ethmoturbinal)

eustachian tube salpingo- (salpingitis)

eye eido- (eidoptometry); oculi- (oculiform); oculo- (oculomotor); op- (opalgia); ophthalmo- (ophthalmoscope); -opia (diplopia); opsi- (opsiometer); -opsis (coreopsis); ommat- (ommatophore); opsi- (opsiometer); opso- (opso-clonus); -opsy (achromatopsy); optico- (optico-papillary); opto- (optometry); -scope (telescope); -scopic (microscopic); -scopy (bioscopy); spec- (inspect); spic- (conspicuous); vid- (video); vis- (visual); ~**brow**: ophry- (ophryosis); **cornea**: corneo- (corneitis); kerato- (keratotomy); **corner of**~: cantho- (canthoplasty); ~**covering**: sclero- (sclerotomy); **iris of**~: irido- (iridomotor); ~**lash**: cili- (ciliary); ~**lid**: blephar- (blepharotomy); **retina**: retino- (retinoschisis). See **pupil**

face facio- (facioplegia); prosopo- (prosopagnosia); -visaged (round-visaged)

fallopian tube salpingo- (salpingotomy)

fibula peroneo- (peroneo-calcaneal)

finger -dactyl (dactyliology); dactylo- (dactylogy); -dactylous (tridactylous); -dactyly (brachydactyly); digiti- (digitigrade)

finger nail -onychia (leukonychia); onycho- (onychophagy)

foot ped- (pedal); pedi- (pedicure); pedo- (pedopathy); pod- (podalgia); ~**sole**: pelm- (antiopelmus); plant- (plantigrade)

forearm ulno- (ulnoradial)

forehead metopo- (metoposcopy)

freckle lentig- (lentigo)

frontal bone fronto- (fronto-parietal)

gall bili- (biligenic); chole- (cholecyst); gall- (gallbladder)

gastric chyli- (chyliferous); chylo- (chylocyst); chymo- (chymopoiesis)

genitals aede- (aedeagus); genito- (genitourinary); **female**~: colpo- (colpospasm); **male**~: phallo- (phallocampsis)

gland adeni- (adeniform); adeno- (adenomere); balani- (balanitis); balano- (balanorrhagia)

goiter strumi- (strumiferous)

gonad gonado- (gonadopathy)

groin bubo- (bubonocoele); inguino- (inguinoscrotal)

gullet esophago- (esophagus); oesophago- (oesophagalgalgia)

gums gingivo- (gingivoglossitis); oulo- (oulorrhagy); ulo- (uloglossitis)

hair capilli- (capilliform); crini- (criniferous); pili- (piliform); pilo- (piloerection); piloso- (piloso-fimbriate); hirsut- (hirsute); lanug- (lanugo); thrix- (strep-tothrix)

hand cheiro- (macrocheiria); chiro- (chiromancy); mani- (manipulate); manu- (manual)

head capit- (decapitate); cephal- (cephalitis); -cephalic (dolichocephalic); cephalo- (cephalocentesis); -cephalous (brachycephala-

- loius); -cephaly (dolichocephaly);
 cranio- (craniotomy); kephalo-
 (kephalotomy)
- heart** cardi- (cardiagra); -cardia
 (tachycardia); cardio- (cardiol-
 ogy); -cardium (myocardium);
 cordato- (cordato-ovate); cordi-
 (cordiform); pericardiac- (peri-
 cardiac-phrenic); pericardio-
 (pericardiostomy)
- heel bone** calcaneo- (calcaneo-
 fibular)
- hernia** -cele (perineocele); celo-
 (celotomy); hernio- (herniotomy)
- hip** cotyle- (cotyledonary); cotyli-
 (cotyliform); cotylo- (coty-
 losacral); coxo- (coxodynia); is-
 chio- (ischiocapsular)
- hyoid bone** hyo- (hyoidal)
- intestinal pouch** caeci- (caeciform);
 ceco- (cecostomy); typhlo- (ty-
 phlostomy)
- intestines** entero- (enteropathy);
 ileo- (ileostomy); ilio- (iliosacral);
 intestino- (intestino-vesical); je-
 jun- (jejunocolostomy); viscer-
 (visceroptosis)
- iris** irido- (iridomotor)
- jaw** -genia (microgenia); genio-
 (genioplasty); geny- (genyplasty);
 gnatho- (gnathodynamics);
 -gnathous (prognathous); mandi-
 bulo- (mandibulo-maxillary);
 maxillo- (maxillo-palatine)
- jejunum** jejuno- (jejunoplasty)
- joint** arthro- (arthrodynia); articul-
 (multiarticular); ~**socket**: gleno-
 (gleno-humeral)
- kidney** nephro-; pyelo-; reni-;
 reno-
- knee** genu- (genuflect)
- labia minora** nympho- (nymphon-
 cus)
- larynx** guttur- (gutturo-labial);
 laryngo- (laryngoscopy)
- leg** cnem- (gastrocnemius); crur-
 (crural); scel- (isosceles)
- limb** -mele (phocomele); -melia
 (macromelia); melo- (melorheo-
 stosis)
- lips** cheilo- (cheiloplasty); chilo-
 (chiloplasty); labio- (labiodental)
- liver** hepatico- (hepaticostomy); he-
 pato- (hepatogastric); jecor- (jec-
 orary)
- loins** laparo- (laparotomy); lumbo-
 (lumbodorsal); osphyo- (osphy-
 ocele)
- lumbar** lumbo- (lumbosacral)
- lungs** -pnea (apnea); pneo- (pneo-
 graph); pneumato- pneumatome-
 ter); pneumo- pneumobacillus);
 pneumono- (pneumonophorous);
 pneusio (pneusiobiognosis);
 pulmo- (pulmonary); pulmoni-
 (pulmonigrade); pulmono- (pul-
 monobranchous); spiro- (spirom-
 eter)
- lymph** lymphato- (lymphatolysis);
 lympho- (lymphocyte)
- marrow** -myelia (micromyeloid);
 myelo- (myelogenic)
- mastoid** mastoido- (mastoido-
 humeral)
- membrane** chorio- (choriocele);
 choroid- (choroideremia); hy-
 meno- (hymenogeny); mem-
 brano- (membranocartilaginous);
eyeball~: sclero- (sclerotomy);
fetal~: allanto- (allanto-chorion);
 amnio (amniocentesis)-; **mu-**
cous~: muc- (muciparous);
 muc- (mucoprotein); mucoso-
 (mucoso-granular); ~**sheath**:
 meningo- (meningocele)
- mole** nevo- (nevoid)
- mouth** -mouthed (open-mouthed);
 oro- (orolingual); stomato-
 (stomatoglossa); -stome (cyclo-
 stome); -stomous (megastomous);

- roof of~:** palato- (palatonasal); uranisco- (uraniscoplasty); urano- (uranoschisis)
- mucus** blenno- (blennostasis); muc- (muciparous); muco- (mucoprotein); mucoso- (mucoso-granular); -myxia (hypomyxia); myxo- (myxomycete)
- muscle** musculo- (musculophrenic); myo- (myocardium); -tonic (myatonic); -tonia (isotonia)
- navel** omphalo- (omphalitis); umbilici- (umbiliciform)
- neck** atlo- (atloid); auchen- (maerauchenia); cervico- (cervicodorsal); coll- (decollate); jug- (jugulate); trachelo- (trachelodynia)
- nipple** mamilli- (mamilliform); papilli- (papilliform); papillo- (papillomatosis); papilloso- (papilloso-asperate); thelo- (perithelium); umbo- (umbonulate)
- nose** nasi- (nasion); naso- (nasolabial); rhino- (rhinology)
- nostrils** nari- (narial)
- occipital** occipito- (occipito-axial)
- ovary** oario- (oariopathy); oophoro- (oophoritis); ovario- (ovariocentesis)
- ovum** oo- (oogamous); ovario- (ovariocele); ovi- (oviduct); ovo- (ovolecithin)
- palate** palato- (palatonasal); uranisco- (uraniscoplasty); urano- (uranoschisis); velar- (labiovelar)
- palm** palmati- (palmatid); palmato- (pelmatopeltate)
- pancreas** pancreato- (pancreatotomy); pancreo- (pancreopathy)
- pelvis** pelvi- (pelvimeter); perineo- (perineocele); pyelo- (pyelocystitis)
- penis** med- (medorthophobia); mentul- (mentulate); peo- (peotomy); phall- (phallic)
- pericardial** pericardio- (pericardio-phrenic); pericardio- (pericardiostomy)
- perineum** perineo- (perineocele)
- periosteum** perioste- (periosteophyte)
- peritoneum** meso- (mesogastrium); peritoneo- (peritoneoclysis)
- perspiration** hidr- (anhidrosis); suda- (sudatory); sudori- (sudorific)
- pharynx** pharyngo- (pharyngology)
- pimple** pustulo- (pustulocrustaceous)
- placenta** mazo- (mazolysis); placenti- (placentiform)
- pleura** pleuro- (pleurotomy)
- prostate** prostato- (prostatectomy)
- pubic area** pubio- (pubiotomy); pubo- (pubofemoral)
- pulse** crot- (catacrotic); sphygmo- (sphygmograph)
- pupil** core- (corelysis); coreo- (coreoplasty); -coria (isocoria); coro- (coroplastic); -koria (leukocoria); pupillo- (pupillometer)
- pus** purulo- (purulo-gangrenous); pyo- (pyogenic)
- pylorus** pyloro- (pylorodiosis)
- rash** -anthema (enanthema)
- rectum** procto- (proctology); recto- (rectoscope)
- retina** retino- (retinoschisis)
- rib** costi- (costiform); costo- (costotome)
- saliva** ptyal- (ptyalogogue); sialo- (sialorrhea)
- scapula** scapulo- (scapuloclavicular)
- scar** cica- (cicatrix); ulo- (ulodermatitis)
- scrotum** didymo- (didymalgia); orchido- (orchidotomy); orchio- (orchiocele); oscheo- (oscheitis); scrot- (scotocele)

shoulder acromio- (acromioclavicular); humero- (humero-cubital); omo- (omodynia); scapuli- (scapulimancy); scapulo- (scapuloclavicular); spatul- (spatulamancy)

sinew chord- (chorditis); chorda- (chordamesoderm); cord- (corotomy)

skeleton skeleto- (skeleto-trophic)

skin chorio- (choriocele); cuti- (cutisector); derm- (dermabrasion); -derm (endoderm); -derma (scleroderma); dermat- (dermatology); -dermatous (xerodermatous); -dermis (epidermis); dermo- (dermoneural); dora- (doramania); pell- (pellagra)

skull -cephalic (dolichcephalic); cephalo- (cephalometry); -cephalous (brachycephalous); -cephaly (dolichocephaly); cranio- (craniofacial); occipito- (occipito-axial); orbito- (orbitonasal)

socket alveolo- (alveolopalatal); gomph- (gomphosis)

sphenoid bone sphen- (sphenocapital)

spinal cord -myelia (micromyelia); myelo- (myelogenic)

spine rachi- (rachicentesis); rhachi- (rhachitis); -rrhachia (glycorrhachia); spini- (spini-acute); spino- (spinobulbar); spinoso- (spinoso-dentate); spinuloso- (spinuloso-serrate); spondylo- (spondylitis); vertebro- (vertebroiliac)

spleen lieno- (lieno-gastric); splenico- (splenico-phrenic); spleno- (splenocele)

sternum sterno- (sternoclavicular)

stomach -gastria (microgastria); gastro- (gastroenteritis)

sweat hidr- (anhidrosis); suda-

(sudaminal); sudori- (sudoriparous)

temple temporo- (temporomandibular)

tendon tendo- (tendolysis); teno- (tenotomy); tenonto- (tenontodynia)

testicle didymo- (didymalgia); orchido- (orchidotomy); orchio- (orchiocele); oscheo- (oscheitis); scrot- (scotocele)

thalamus thalamo- (thalamocortical)

thigh mero- (meroceles)

thorax thoracico- (thoracicoabdominal); thoraco- (thoracoplasty)

throat fauc- (faucal); gutturo- (gutturolabial); jugo- (jugo-maxillary); laryngo- (laryngoscope); pharyngo- (pharyngology); tracheo- (tracheotomy)

thumb pollic- (pollicate)

thymus thymo- (thymokinetic)

thyroid -thyrea (hypothyrea); thyreo- (thyreotomy); thyro- (thyromegaly)

tibia cnem- (cnemis); tibio- (tibiotarsal)

toe -dactyl (dactyliology); dactylo- (dactylogy); -dactylous (tridactylous); -dactyly (brachydactyly); digiti- (digitigrade); hal-luc- (hallucar)

tongue -glossia (macroglossia); glosso- (glossoplegia); -glot (polyglot); lamino- (lamino-alveolar); ligul- (liguliform); linguo- (linguopalatal)

tonsil tonsillo- (tonsillotomy)

tooth cranter- (syncranterian); dentato- (dentato-serrate); denti- (dentifrice); dento- (dentosurgical); dont- (periodontal); laniar- (laniariform); odont- (macrodont); -toothed (gap-toothed)

trachea tracheo- (tracheobronchitis)
tumor -cele (cystocele); -oma (sarcoma); onco- (oncologist); phym- (phymatosis); -phyma (osteophyma); struma- (strumectomy)
ulcer helco- (helcoplasty)
ulna cubito- (cubito-carpal); ulno- (ulnoradial)
umbilicus omphalo- (omphalitis)
ureter uretero- (ureterostomy); urethro- (urethroscopy)
urine mict- (micturient); ming- (bradymingent); ouro- (ouromancy); urea- (ureapoiesis); ureo- (ureometer); uretero- (ureteros-tomy); -uretic (diuretic); urini- (uriniparous); urino- (urinometer); uro- (urolith); -ury (strangury)
uterus hystero- (hysterodynia); metra- (metratonia); metro- (metrorrhagia); utero- (uterovaginal)
uvula staphylo- (staphylorrhaphy); uvulo- (uvulectomy)
vagina colpo- (colpocele); elytro- (elytrophasty); kolpo- (kolposcope); vagini- (vaginismus); vagino- (vaginomycosis)
vagus nerve vago- (vagotropic)
vein cirso- (cirsotomy); phlebo- (phlebotomy); varici- (variciform); varico- (varicocele); vene- (venesection); veni- (venipuncture); veno- (venostomy); venoso-

(venoso-reticulated); -venous (intravenous)
ventral abdomino- (abdominoscrotal); celio- (celiopathy); laparo- (laparoscope); ventro- (ventrotomy)
ventricle ventriculo- (ventriculoatrial)
vertebra atlanto- (atlantoaxial); atlo- (atloaxoid); spondylo- (spondylopyosis); vertebro- (vertebrocostal)
vesicle vesiculi- (vesiculigerous); vesiculo- (vesiculo-pustular)
vomit -emesis (hematemesis); -emetic (antiemetic); emeto- (emetophobia)
vulva episio- (episiotomy); vulvi- (vulviform); vulvo- (vulvovaginal)
wart verruci- (verruciform)
windpipe bronchi- (bronchiectasis); bronchio- (bronchiogenic); broncho- (bronchoscope); laryngo- (laryngostenosis); tracheo- (tracheomalacia)
womb hystero- (hysteropexy); metra- (metralgia); metro- (metro-phlebitis); utero- (uterolith)
wrist carpo- (carpoptosis)
xiphoid process xiphi- (xiphisternum); xipho- (xiphoiditis)
yawn oscit- (oscitation)
zygoma zygomatico- (zygomaticoauricular); zygomato- (zygomatotemporal)

COLORS

Black

blue-black nigr- (nigrosine)
deep-black melan(o)- (melanous)
ebony-black ebon- (ebonize)
inky-black atro- (atroceruleous)

reddish-black piceo- (piceo-ferruginous)
sooty-black fulig- (fuliginated)

Blue

black-blue livid- (lividity)
dark-blue cyan(o)- (cyanean)
gray-blue caes- (caesious)
green-blue aerug- (aeruginous);
 glauco- (glaucous)
milky-blue adular- (adularescent)
peacock blue pavon- (pavonine)
sea-blue cumat- (cumatic)
sky-blue azur- (azureous); -cerul-
 (cerulean); lazul- (lazuline)

Brown

acorn-brown gland- (glandaceous)
chestnut-brown castan- (castaneous); -spad- (spadiceous)
dark-brown brun- (brunneous);
 fusco- (fuscous)
dusky-brown phaeo- (phaeophyll)
reddish-brown testac- (testaceous)
yellow-brown fulv- (fulvous);
 gland- (glandaceous); lur- (lurid);
 mustel- (musteline)

Copper

brassy-yellow copper chalco-
 (chalcography)
gold-copper auricalc- (auricalceous)
red-brown copper cupr- (cupreous); cupreo- (cupreo-violaceous); cuproso- (cuproso-ferric)

Gold

copper-gold auricalc- (auricalceous)
yellow-gold aur- (aurulent);
 chryso- (chrysography)

Gray

ash-gray teph- (tephroite)
blue-gray caesi- (caesious)
dusky-gray phaeo- (phaeophyll);

-phaein (haemophaein); phео-
 (pheochrome)

pale-gray polio- (poliomyelitis)
pearl-gray gris- (griseous)
silvery-gray glauco- (glaucodot)
white-gray can- (canescent)

Green

blue-green caes- (caesious); glauco-
 (glaucous)
dusky-green oliv- (olivaceous); olivaceo- (olivaceo-cinereous)
emerald-green smaragd- (smaragdine)
fresh-green thall- (thallium); -virid- (viridescence)
grass-green verd- (verdurous)
leek-green porrac- (porraceous);
 pras- (prasine)
light-green/blue beryl- (berylline)
sea-green thalass- (thalassine)
slightly-green vir- (virescence)
yellow-green chloro- (chlorophyllose)

Orange

fruit-orange auranti- (aurantiaceous)

Purple

bright-purple blatt- (blatteen)
dark-purple porphyr- (porphyrin)
metallic purple indi- (indirubin);
 indo- (indophane)
red-purple amaranth- (amaranthine); phenic- (phenicine); -pun- (puniceous)
standard-purple purpureo- (purpureous)

Red

blood-red cruent- (cruentous)
brick-red later- (lateritious);
 testaceo- (testaceo-fuscous)

bright-red -rub- (rubicund)
brownish-red -ruf- (rufescent)
cinnabar-red minia- (miniaceous)
copper-red pyrrho- (pyrrhotite)
crimson-red carmino- (carmino-philous)
dark-red -rut- (rutilant)
deep-red grenat- (grenatite)
healthy-red -rud- (ruddy)
inflamed-red erysi- (erysipelatus)
orange-red nacar- (nacarine);
 pyrrho- (pyrrho-arsenite)
poppy-red coquel- (coquelicot)
purple-red erythro- (erythrean);
 murex- (murexide); phoeni-
 (phoeniceous)
rose-red rhodo- (rhodophyllose);
 roseo (roseo-cobaltic)
rouge-red fuc- (fucate)
rusty-red ferrug- (ferruginous)
scarlet-red coccin- (coccineous)
vermillion-red minia- (minia-
 ceous)

Silver

blue-silver glauco- (glaucous)
white-silver argyro- (argyranthemous)
white-silver argent(i)- (argenteous)

Tan

light-brown fulv- (fulvous)

Violet

metallic-violet indi- (indirubin);
 indo- (indophane)
purple-blue ianth- (ianthine); io-
 (iopterous); -viol- (violaceous)

White

intense-white cand- (candescent)
ivory-white ebur- (eburnine)
lead-white ceruss- (cerussal)
leathery-white alut- (alutaceous)
milk-white lac- (lacteous)
pale-white leuco- (leucous)
snow-white niv- (niveous)
standard-white alb- (albican)
yellowish-white ochroleuc-
 (ochroleucous)

Yellow

bright-yellow gambog- (gambogian)
brown-yellow fulv- (fulvous); lur-
 (lurid); ochreo- (ochreous)
canary-yellow melin- (meline)
gold-yellow chryso- (chrysocrous)
greenish-yellow icter- (icterus);
 jaun- (jaundice)
honey-yellow helv- (helvine)
lemon-yellow citr- (citreous)
light-yellow xantho- (xanthous)
metallic-yellow aen- (aeneous)
orange-yellow safran- (safranin)
pale-yellow flav- (flavescent);
 flavido- (flavido-cinerascent);
 gilv- (gilvous); helv- (helvenac);
 lurido- (lurido-cinerascent);
 ochro- (ochrocarpous)
red-yellow luteo- (luteous)
saffron-yellow croce- (croceous)
yolk-yellow lut- (lutein); vitell-
 (vitelline)

DIMENSIONS

deep batho- (bathometer); bathy (bathysphere)

gigantic bronto- (brontosaurus); dino- (Dinotherium); giganto- (gigantology); mega- (megalith); megalo- (megalopolis); -megaly (hepatomegaly); super- (super-nova)

high acro- (acrophobia); alti- (altimetry); alto- (altostratus); hypsi- (hypsicephalic); hypso- (hypsodont); super- (superstructure)

large ampl- (amplification); -fold (hundredfold); grand- (grandiflora); macro- (macrocosm); magni- (magnifying); maj- (majority); maxi- (maximum); plethys- (plethysmometry); super- (supertanker)

long dolicho- (dolichocephalic); -footer (ten-footer); longi- (longicaudate); macro- (macropterous); maxi- (maxicoat); procer- (procercoid)

low chamae- (chamaerops); hypo- (hypocaust); infero- (inferolateral); infra- (infrapatellar); sub- (subway); subter- (subteraqueous); under- (underground)

narrow/thin angusti- (angustifoliolate); areo- (areolation); dolicho- (dolichocephalic); gracil- (gracile); isthm- (isthmian); lepto- (leptorrhine); phim- (phimosis); -stal- (staltic); stegno- (stegnotic); steno- (stenosis);

-strict- (stricture); tenu- (tenuity)

short brachisto- (brachistocephaly); brachy- (brachypterous); brevi- (abbreviation); chamae- (chamaerops); curt- (curtate); exig-² (exiguous); mini- (minidrama)

small -cle (particle); -cule (molecule); -culum (curriculum); -culuc (fasciculus); -een (colleen); -el (satchel); -ella (umbrella); -en (kitten); -et (rivulet); -ette (kitchenette); hekisto- (hekistotherm); -idion (enchiridion); -idium (peridium); -ie (laddie); -illa (cedilla); -illo (cigarillo); -isk (asterisk); -kin (lambkin); -le (icicle); -let (ringlet); -ling (duckling); micro- (microcassette); mini- (minibus); nano- (nanosecond); -ock (hillock); -ola (variola); -ole (variole); parvi- (parvipotent); parvo- (parvoline); -rel (wastrel); -ula (fibula); -ule (ampule); -ulum (speculum); -ulus (homunculus); -y (Billy)

thick cespitoso- (cespitoso-arborescent); -crass- (crassitude); dasy- (dasymeter); hadro- (hadrosaur); pachy- (pachyderm); pycno- (pycnometer); pykn(o)- (pyknic); spiss- (spissatus); visco- (viscosity)

wide ampl- (amplitude); eury- (eurygnathous); lati- (latisternal); platy- (platypellic)

DIRECTIONS

away from, apart a-² (avert); ab-² (abduct); abs-² (abstruse); apo- (apogeotropism); be- (bereave); de- (deplane); des- (descant); di-² (divest); dia- (diagnose); dif- (differ); dis-¹ (dismiss); e- (emigrate); ec- (ecdemic); ectro- (ectrotic); ef- (efferent); ex- (expatriate); for- (forgo); off-¹ (offload); se- (separate); with- (withdraw)

backward retro- (retroversion); opiso- (opisometer)

down a-² (abate); ab-² (abdicate); abs-² (abscond); cata- (catacomb); cath- (cathepsin); de- (decumbent); kata- (katabatic)

east euro- (euroboreal); orient- (orienteering)

forward antero- (antero-frontal); fore- (foredeck); pre- (preaxial); pro-¹ (projection); proso- (proso-gaster)

into eis- (eisegesis); em-¹ (emigrate); en-¹ (entomb); il- (illuminate); im- (immerse); in- (instill); ir- (irradiate)

left laeo- (laeotropic); laevo- (laevogyrate); levo- (levorotatory); sinistro- (sinistrotocular)

north borea- (boreal); septen- (septentrion)

out of e- (eject); ec- (eccentric); ef- (effluence); ex- (expulsion)

right dextro- (dextrotropic); dextro- (dextrorotatory)

south austr- (Austronesia); noto- (notothere)

toward a-¹ (ascribe); ac- (acclaim); ad- (advance); -ad (dorsad); af- (affirm); ag- (aggrade); al- (allege); an- (announce); ap- (approve); ar- (arrive); as- (assent); at- (attrition); -bound (east-bound); il- (illuminate); im- (impel); in- (inboard); ir- (irrigate); -ly (northerly); ob- (object); -ward (outward)

up ana- (anabatic); ano- (anoopsia); ex- (extol); super- (superscript); sur- (surmount);

west hesper- (hesperian); occid- (occident); zephyr- (zephyrean)

DIVINATION

To extract the root which shows the method being used, simply drop the -mancy, which signifies telling the future.

air blowing or moving: aeromancy;
visions in the sky: chaomancy
angels angelomancy
animals behavior: zoomancy;
movement: theriomancy
appearance or form of a person
 schematomancy

arrows with incised marks or words
 belomancy
ashes cineromancy, spodomancy;
~of a sacrifice: tephromancy
ass head, boiled cephalomancy
ax (balanced on a bar) axinomancy
barley meal alphetomancy

- basin of water** lecanomancy
Bible verses (randomly selected)
 bibliomancy
birds ornithomancy; ornomancy
blood hematomancy; ~*dripping in patterns*: dririmancy
bones osteomancy, osteomanty;
 ~*marked as dice*: astragalomancy
bowl of water cylicomancy, kylixomancy
brass vessels (sound of) chalcomancy
breastbone sternomancy
bubbles rising in a fountain pegomancy
cake dough (sprinkled on sacrificial victim) crithomancy
candles (blowing them out) pneumancy
cards cartomancy, chartomancy
cat (jumping and landing) ailuromancy, felidomancy
cheese (patterns of coagulation) tyromancy
cloud formations chaomancy
coals (burning) anthracomancy
contour of the land topomancy
counting mathemancy
crystal gazing crystallomancy; spheromancy
cup scyphomancy
dead people (communication with)
 egromancy, necromancy, necyomancy, psychomancy, sciamancy, sciomancy, thanatomancy
devil or demons demonomancy, necyomancy
dice (or beans with points or marks on them) astragalomancy, cleromancy, cubomancy
digging things up oryctomancy
dirt (thrown on ground to produce patterns) geomancy
dots or points (drawn at random, originally on the ground) geomancy
dreams oneiromancy, sompnary
dust amathomancy
eggs oomancy, ovomancy
embryonic sac amniomancy
entrails of a human anthropomancy, splanchnomancy
evil spirits demonomancy, necyomancy
false divination pseudomancy
feces (examination of) scatomancy, spatilomancy, stercomancy
feet (soles of) paedomancy, pedomancy
figs or fig leaves botanomancy, sycomancy
fingernails onychomancy
fire empyromancy, pyromancy
fish (examining heads or entrails) ichthyomancy
flour aleuromancy
flowers anthomancy
foolish divination moromantie
footsteps ichnomancy
forehead wrinkles metopomancy
fountain pegomancy
glass vessels (figures appearing in) gastromancy
gods (speaking through oracles) theomancy
handwriting chartomancy, graphomancy
hatchet axinomancy
head cephalomancy
heavens ouranomancy, uranomancy
horses (neighing) hippomancy
human features and form colliomancy, frontimancy, metopomancy, physiognomancy, schematomancy
icons iconomancy
idols idolomancy
incense burning knissomancy, libanomancy

key kleidomancy, clidomancy
kidneys nephromancy
lamp or torch flame lampadomancy, lychnomancy
largest object nearby macro-mancy
laughter gelomancy
laurel tree or leaves daphnomancy
lead, molten (motions and figures in) molybdomancy
leaves phyllomancy; **tea~**: foliomancy, theimancy
letters (of a person's name) nomancy, onomancy, onomatomancy, onomomancy
lines on the forehead: frontimancy, metopomancy; **on the ground**: geomancy; **on the neck**: colli-mancy; **on the palms**: cheiromancy, chiromancy; **on the soles**: paedomancy, pedomancy
lip reading labiomancy
logarithms logarithmomancy
lots cleromancy
Lucifer necyomancy
magic magastromancy
meteors meteoromancy
mice movements myomancy
mirrors catoptromancy, enoptromancy
molten lead (dropped on water) molybdomancy
moon selenomancy
names (including number of letters in) nomancy, onomancy, onomatomancy
neck wrinkles collimancy
numbers arithmancy, arithmomancy
nursing baby (choice of breast) mazomancy
objects offered in sacrifice hieromancy
onions cromniomancy, cromnyomancy

oracle's rapturous statements chresmomancy, theomancy
palm reading cheiromancy, chiromancy
paper (written on) chartomancy
pearls margaritomancy
pebbles pessomancy, psephomancy
plants botanomancy, floromancy
playing cards cartomancy
pointed objects aichmomancy
posture ichnomancy
random lines or passages of books stichomancy
rings dactyliomancy, dactylomancy
rod rabdomancy, rhabdomancy
rooster (choosing grains of corn) alectoromancy, alectryomancy
sacred objects, sacrificial offerings hieromancy
sage botanomancy
salt alomancy, halomancy
secret means cryptomancy
serpents ophiomancy
sheep (shoulder blade) spatulomancy
shells conchomancy
shield aspidomancy
shoulder blades (charred or cracked) armomancy, omoplatoscopy, scapulimancy; **~of sheep**: spatulamancy
sieve (suspended on shears) coscinomancy
sleep meonomancy
smallest object nearby micromancy
smoke (ascent and motion) capnomancy
snakes ophiomancy
soles of feet (lines on) paedomancy, pedomancy
soul (emotional and ethical dispositions) psychomancy, thumomancy
spinning (in a marked circle until dropping) gyromancy

spots maculomancy
spring of water pegomancy
stars astromancy, sideromancy, uranomancy
sticks or wands rhabdomancy, xylo-
 mancy
stomach rumblings gastromancy
stones (or stone charms) litho-
 mancy
stranger (studying the first one to
 appear) xenomancy
straws (burning) sideromancy
sword machaeromancy
teeth odontomancy
things seen over one's shoulder
 retromancy
thunder brontomancy, cerauno-
 mancy
tide (motion and appearance) hy-
 dromancy
time chronomancy
tongue hyomancy
torch flame lampadomancy, lychno-
 mancy
tree bark (writing on) stigono-
 mancy
twitching limbs spasmatomancy,
 spasmodomancy

umbilical cord (number of knots in)
 omphalomancy
urine ouromancy, urimancy, urino-
 mancy, uromancy
verses or poems rhapsodomancy
walking ambulomancy
wand rhabdomancy
water hydromancy, ydromancy; *~in
 a basin or shallow bowl:* cylico-
 mancy, kylixomancy,
 lecanomancy; *~fountain or
 spring:* pegomancy
wax (melted and dropped in water)
 ceromancy
weather aeromancy, meteoromancy
weights zygomancy
wheel tracks trochomancy
wild animals theriomancy
wind (observation of) aeromancy,
 austromancy
wine (its color, sound, etc. when
 poured) oenomancy, oinomancy
wood (pieces of) xylomancy
words logomancy
writing on bark of a tree: stigono-
 mancy; **on paper:** chartomancy

THE ENVIRONMENT

NOTE: For mammals, birds, insects, and fish, see "Animals" in this section.

air aer- (aerate); aeri- (aeriferous);
 aero- (aerobic); anemo-
 (anemometer); atmo- (atmos-
 phere); flat- (flatulent); physo-
 (physometra)
ash tree fraxin- (fraxinella); melia-
 (meliaceous)
atmosphere -bar (isobar); baro-
 (barometric)

beach littor- (littoral); thino-
 (thinolite)
beech faga- (fagaceous)
birch betul- (betulaceous)
blooming flor- (floriferous);
 thalero- (thalerophagous); vig-
 (vigorous)
bog telmat- (telmatology); turbar-
 (turbarian)

box-tree bux- (buxiferous)
branch clado- (cladophyll); rami- (ramify)
buckthorn rhamn- (rhamneous)
bud gemm-¹ (gemmate)
bug cimic- (cimicoid); entomo- (entomology); insecti- (insecticide); insecto- (insectology). *Also see "Animals" in Part III*
carbon dioxide -capnia (acapnia); capno- (capnomancy)
cedar cedr- (cedrine)
celestial activity astro- (astronomy)
chasm vorag- (voraginous)
clay argillaceo- (arenaceo-argillaceous); argillo- (argillo-calcareous); limo- (limo-cretaceous); pelo- (pelophilous)
cloud fracto- (fracto-stratus); homichlo- (homichlophobia); mammato- (mammato-cumulus); nebul- (nebulous); nephelo- (nephelometer); nepho- (nephology); nubi- (nubiferous)
coal anthraco- (anthracomancy); carb- (carbonize)
coast littor- (littoral); maritim- (maritime)
cold alg- (algid); cheima- (cheimaphilic); crymo- (crymophilic); cryo- (cryogenics); frigo- (frigoric); gel- (regelation); kryo- (kryometer); pago- (pagophagia); psychro (psychrometer); rhigo- (rhigosis)
continent epeiro- (epeirogenic)
cone, pine strobil- (strobiliform)
copper auricalc- (auricalceous); chalco- (chalcocite); cupreo- (cupreo-violaceous); cupri- (cupriferous); cupro- (cupromagnetite); cuproso- (cuproso-ferric)
coral coralli- (corallidomous)
country *rural*: rur- (ruralize); rustic- (rusticity); *nation*: -ese

(Japanese); -ia (India); -ian (Syrian); -land (Ireland)
crater crateri- (crateriform)
cypress cupress- (cupressineous)
darkness achlu- (achluophobia); amaur- (amaurosis); ambly- (amblyopia); crepus- (crepuscular); fusc- (fuscous); lyg- (lygaeid); melan- (melatonin); nyct- (nyctitropic); obscur- (obscurity); tenebr- (tenebrous)
dawn auror- (auroral); eo- (eosophobia)
day diurn- (diurnal); ephemer- (ephemeris); hemer- (monohemerous); hodiern- (hodiernal); journ- (journal); quotid- (quotidian)
decomposing enzyme -ase (amylase)
desert eremo- (eremophyte)
dry arid- (aridity); carpho- (carphology); celo- (celosia); sicc- (desiccate); xero- (xerophyte)
dust amath- (amathophobia); conio- (coniosis); -conia (fibroconia); conio- (coniofibrosis); conist- (conistery); konio- (koniosis); pulver- (pulverize)
earth agro- (agronomy); -gaea (Paleogaea); geo- (geocentric); hum- (inhumation); secul- (secular); tellur- (intratelluric); terr- (terrestrial); ~*quake*: seismo- (seismograph); tromo- (tromometry)
elm ulm- (ulmaceous)
environment eco- (ecology); oeco- (oecology); oiko- (oikofugic)
evening crepus- (crepuscule); nocti- (noctiluculent); nycto- (nyctophobia); vesper- (vespertine)
fall autumn- (autumnal)
fern filic- (filiciform); pterido- (pteridology)
fir abiet- (abietic)

- flax** byssi- (byssinosis)
- flood** antlo- (antlophobia); diluv- (diluvial); inund- (inundation)
- flora** -phyte (microphyte); phyto- (phytogenesis)
- flower** antho- (anthomania); -anthous (monanthous); flori- (floriferous); -florous (multi-florous)
- fog** calig- (caliginous); homichlo- (homichlophobia); nebul- (nebulous); nephelo- (nephelological); nepho- (nephology); nubi- (nubi-form)
- forest** arbor- (arboreal); dendri- (dendritic); dendro- (dendrophilous); -dendron (rhododendron); hylaeo- (hylaeosaurus); nemor- (nemoricole); saltu- (saltuary); silvi- (silviculture); sylv- (sylvan); xylo- (xylophage)
- fountain** cren- (crenic); pego- (pegomancy)
- foxglove** digito- (digitalis)
- frost** cryo- (cryophyte); gel- (gelid); kryo- (kryometer); pachno- (pacnolite); pago- (pagophagia); pruin- (pruinose); rhigo- (rhigolene)
- fungus** fungi- (fungicide); -mycete (schizomycete); myceto- (mycetoma); -mycin (streptomycin); myco- (mycology); uredo- (uredospore)
- garden** horti- (horticultural)
- glacier** glacio- (glaciologist)
- granite** graniti- (granitiform)
- grass** gramin- (graminivorous)
- hawthorn** crataeg- (crataegin)
- holly** ilic- (ilicic)
- hot** aestu- (exaestuating); cale- (caleficient); calo- (caloreceptor); caum-; (caumesthesia) calori- (calorimetry); ferv- (effervesce); pyro- (pyromania); thermo- (thermonuclear); -thermy (diathermy)
- hurricane** lilaps- (lilapsophobia)
- ice** gel- (gelation); glacio- (glaciological); pago- (pagophagia); **icle**: stiri- (stiriated)
- island** insul- (insular)
- isthmus** isthm- (isthmian)
- ivy** heder- (hederated)
- lake** lacus- (lacustrine); limno- (limnologist)
- land** agri- (agricultural); agro- (agrology); choro- (chorography); geo- (geothermal); tellur- (telluric); terr- (subterranean)
- larch** larix- (larixinic)
- laurel** daphn- (daphnomancy)
- leaf** bract- (bracteate); clad- (cladanthous); foliato- (foliation); -folious (multifolious); frondi- (frondescence); petalo- (petalody); -phyll (sporophyll); phyllo- (phylomania); -phyllous (diphyllous)
- lettuce** lactuc- (lactucarium)
- lightning** astra- (astraphobia); fulgur- (fulgurant); fulmin- (fulmination)
- lily** lili- (liliform); lirio- (liriodendron)
- linden** tilia- (tiliaceus)
- maple** acer- (aceric)
- marble** marm- (marmoreal)
- marsh** helo- (helobius); palud- (paludicolous); palus- (palustrine); ulig- (uliginous)
- meadow** prat- (pratral)
- meteorological front** fronto- (frontogenesis)
- mineral** -ite (anthracite); -lite (chrysolite)
- mist** calig- (caliginous); homichlo- (homichlophobia); nebul- (nebulous); nephelo- (nephelological); nepho- (nephology); nubi- (nubi-form)

- mistletoe** ixo- (ixolite)
- moisture** humect- (humectant); hydro- (hydrobiology); hygro- (hygrophyte); ulig- (uliginose)
- moon** luni- (lunisolar); lunu- (lunulate); seleno- (selenodesy)
- moss** bryo- (bryophytic), musc- (emuscation); sphagn- (sphagnous); splachn- (splachnoid)
- mountain** mont- (ultramontane); oro- (orogeny); ~**ash**: sorb- (sorbose)
- mud** lim- (limivorous); pelo- (peloid)
- mulberry** mor- (moriform); mur- (muriform)
- mushroom** myco- (mycotoxin)
- myrtle** myrti- (myrtiform)
- nettle** cnido- (cnidophore); urtic- (urticaceous)
- night** -crepus- (crepuscule); nocti- (noctiluca); nycta- (nyctalopia); nycti- (nyctitropism); nycto- (nyctophobia); vesper- (vespertilionine); **all~**: -pannychy (psych-pannychy)
- oak** querc- (quercitron)
- ocean** enalio- (enaliosaur); halo- (halosaurian); mari- (mariculture); naut- (nautical); nav- (navigation); pelag- (archipelago); thalasso- (thalassocracy); thalatto- (thalattology)
- orchid** orchido- (orchidology)
- oxygen** oxa- (oxazine); oxy- (oxyacid)
- ozone** ozono- (ozonosphere)
- peat bog** turbar- (turbary)
- pebble** calcul- (calculous); pesso- (pessomancy); psepho- (psephology)
- peninsula** cherson- (chersonese)
- petal** petuli- (petuliform); -sepalous (trisepalous)
- pine** -peuce (peucedaneous); pin- (pinaceous); ~**cone**: strobil- (strobiliform)
- plants** -aceae (Rosaceae); -ad (cycad); -ales (Liliales); botano- (botanomancy); -eae (Gramineae); herbi- (herbicide); -ia (zinnia); -phyte (macrophyte); phyto- (phytography); vegeti- (vegetivorous); vegeto- (vegetoalkaline)
- pollen** pollini- (pollinosis)
- pond** lacus (lacuscular); limno- (limnophilous); stagn- (stagnal)
- poppy** mecon- (meconidine); opio- (opiomania); papaver- (papaverous)
- precipice** cremno- (cremnophobia)
- purslain** portulac- (portulaceous)
- pyrites** pyrito- (pyritohedron)
- quicksand** syrt- (syrtic)
- radiant emissions** aurora- (aurora australis)
- rain** hyeto- (hyetograph); imbri- (imbriferous); ombro- (ombrometer); pluvio- (pluviograph)
- reservoir** lacco- (laccolite)
- river** amn- (amnicolist); flum- (fluminal); fluvio- (fluvio-terrestrial); potamo- (potamologist); rip- (riparian)
- rock** -ite (anthracite); lapid- (lapidary); -lithic (neolithic); litho- (lithotomy); pesso- (pessomancy); petri- (petrification); petro- (petroglyph); rupes- (rupestrine); rupic- (rupicolous); saxi- (saxifrage)
- rose** rhodo- (rhodochrosite); roseo- (roseola)
- rue** rut- (rutaceous)
- sand** ammo- (ammocete); aren- (arenicolous); arenacio- (arenacio-argillaceous); psammo- (psammophilous); sabul- (sabulosity); saburr- (saburration)

- sea** enalio- (enaliosaur); halo- (halosaurian); mari- (mariculture); naut- (nautical); nav- (navigation); pelag- (archipelago); thalasso- (thalassocracy); thalatto- (thalattology); ~**shore**: thino- (thinolite)
- seasons** horo- (horology); **fall**: autumn- (autumnal); **spring**: vern- (vernal); **summer**: aestiv- (aestival); **winter**: hibern- (hibernal); hiem- (hiemal)
- seaweed** fuc- (fucivorous); phyceae- (Rhodophyceae); -phyceous (Rhodophyceous); phyco- (phycology)
- shell** conchi- (conchiferous); lorica- (illoricated); -ostraca (Lep-tostraca); ostraco- (ostracoderm); testaceo- (testaceology)
- shore** littor- (littoral)
- shrub** fruticuloso- (fruticuloso-ramose)
- sky** coeli- (coelicolist)
- snow** chion- (chionodoxa); -chium (hedychium); ning- (ninguid); niv- (niveous)
- soil** agro- (agronomy); edaph- (edaphic); hum- (exhumation); paedo- (paedogenic); pedo- (pedology); terr- (terrarium)
- spring of water** cren-² (crenic); pego- (pegomancy)
- star** aster- (asteraceous); astro- (astonomy); -sidere (hagiosidere); sidero- (siderostat); stelli- (stelliferous)
- stone** -ite (anthracite); lapid- (lapidary); -lithic (neolithic); litho- (lithotomy); pesso- (pessomancy); petri- (petrification); petro- (petroglyph); rupes- (rupestrine); rupic- (rupicolous); saxi- (saxifrage)
- straw** carpho- (carphology); culmi- (culmicolous); festuc- (festucine); stramin- (stamineous)
- stream** fluvio- (fluviomarine); potam- (potamoplankton); rip- (riparian)
- sun** helio- (heliotropic); sol- (solarium)
- swamp** palud- (paludism); palus- (palustrine)
- tendrill** cirri- (cirrigerous); cirro- (cirro-pinnate); pampin- (pampiniform)
- thunder** bronte- (bronteon); bronto- (brontology); cerauno- (ceraunoscope); fulmin- (fulminic); kerauno- (keraunograph); tonitr- (tonitruel)
- tornado** lilaps- (lilapsophobia)
- tree** arbor- (arboreal); dendri- (dendritic); dendro- (dendrophilous); -dendron (rhododendron); silvi- (silviculture); xylo- (xylophage)
- twigs** ramul- (ramulose); sarment- (sarmentaceous); scopi- (scopiform); surcul- (surculose); virgul- (virgulation)
- twilight** crepus- (crepuscular); lyg- (lygaeid)
- universe** -cosm (macrocosm); cosmo- (cosmology)
- vegetation** -aceae (Rosaceae); -ad (cycad); -ales (Liliales); botano- (botanomancy); -eae (Gramineae); herbi- (herbicide); -ia (zinnia); -phyte (macrophyte); phyto- (phytography); vegeti- (vegetivorous); vegeto- (vegeto-alkaline)
- vine** ampel- (ampelopsis); pampin- (pampiniform); viti- (viticulture)
- water** aqua- (aquatic); aque- (aque-duct); aqui- (aquiclude); hydro- (hydrophilous); hyeto- (hyetology); hygro- (hygrometry); rip- (riparian)

weed runc- (runcation)
well phreato- (phreatic); putea- (puteal)
whirlpool vorag- (voraginous)
willow itea- (iteatic); salic- (saliceous)
wind anemo- (anemometer); vent- (ventilation); **north~**: -borea (boreal); **south~**: austro- (austromancy); **west~**: zephyro- (zephyranth); favon- (favonian)
wood erio- (eriometer); hyle- (hylephobia); hylo- (hylopho-

gous); ligni- (lignivorous); ligno- (lignoceric); xylo- (xylophage); -xylous (epixylous); ylo- (ylo-mancy)
woods nemor- (nemoricole); saltu- (saltuary); silv- (silvics); sylv- (sylvan)
world -cosm (macrocosm); cosmo- (cosmography); -gaea (Paleogaea); mund- (mundane); secul- (secular); tellur- (telluric); terr- (terrain)
yew tax- (taxaceous)

FEAR OR DISLIKE OF...

To extract the word part, simply drop "phobia" from each word.

abuse, sexual contreltophobia
accidents dystichiphobia
acid soils acidophobia
acorns balanophobia
aging gerascophobia
air aerophobia, anemophobia, pneumatophobia
airplanes aeronautophobia, aerophobia, aviatophobia, avionophobia, aviophobia
airsickness aernausiphobia
alkaline soils basiphobia, basophobia
alligators eusuchophobia
amnesia amensiophobia, amnesiophobia
ancestors patroiophobia
anger cholero-phobia
angina anginophobia
animals zoophobia; **wild~**: agrizophobia, theriophobia
ants myrmecophobia
arts and crafts technophobia

ashes of cremation spodophobia
asymmetry asymmetriphobia
atomic explosions atomosophobia
bacteria bacteriophobia, microbiophobia
baldness peladophobia, phalacro-phobia
banners/bumper stickers vexillo-phobia
base or low pursuits tapinophobia
bats desmodontophobia, pteropophobia
beaches thinophobia
beards pogonophobia
bears arctophobia
beds clinophobia
bees apiophobia, apiphobia, melissophobia
beggars/street people ptochophobia
being afraid phobophobia
being alone autophobia, monophobia, eremophobia

being beaten rhabdophobia, vapu-
 lophobia
 being beautiful callophobia
 being bound merinthophobia
 being buried alive taphephobia,
 taphophobia
 being burned caustophobia
 being clean balneophobia
 being contagious tapinophobia
 being dirty automysophobia
 being pinched rrhexophobia
 being ridiculed catagelophobia
 being scolded enissophobia
 being scratched amychophobia
 being shot ballistophobia
 being stared at ophthalmophobia,
 scopophobia, scoptophobia
 bicycles cyclophobia
 birds ornithophobia
 Blacks negrophobia
 blindness scotomaphobia, typhlo-
 phobia
 blood haemaphobia, hemaphobia,
 hematophobia, hemophobia
 blushing ereuthophobia, erythro-
 phobia, erytophobia
 boasting kompophobia
 boats scaphophobia
 body odor autodysosmophobia,
 bromidrosiphobia
 bogs telmatophobia
 books bibliophobia
 boozing dipsophobia
 breasts, developing mastophobia
 bridges gephyrophobia
 brothers adelphophobia
 buffoons balatrophobia
 bulls taurophobia
 buttocks pygophobia
 buzzards buteophobia
 cancer carcinophobia, carcino-
 matophobia
 cars ochophobia; *riding in~*:
 amaxophobia
 cattle boustrophobia

cats aelurophobia, ailurophobia,
 elurophobia, felinophobia, galeo-
 phobia, gatophobia
 caves speleophobia
 Celts Celtophobia
 cemeteries coimetrophobia
 changes tropophobia, metathesio-
 phobia
 chatter, meaningless garrulophobia
 chemicals chemophobia
 chickens alektorophobia
 childbirth lochiophobia, maieusio-
 phobia, parturiphobia, tocopho-
 bia
 children pediophobia, pedophobia
 China/the Chinese Sinophobia
 chins geniophobia
 choking pnigerophobia, pnigopho-
 bia
 cholera cholerophobia
 churches ecclesiaphobia
 clergy hierophobia
 clocks/watches chronometrophobia
 closed spaces claustrophobia,
 cleisiophobia, cleithrophobia,
 clithrophobia
 clothes vestiphobia, vestiophobia
 clouds nephophobia
 cockroaches blattophobia
 coitus coitophobia
 cold cheimaphobia, cheimatopho-
 bia, frigophobia, psychrophobia,
 psychropophobia
 colors chromatophobia, chromo-
 phobia; **black**: melanophobia;
blue: caerulophobia; **brown**: fus-
 cophobia; **copper**: chalcophobia;
gold: aureophobia; **gray**: phaeo-
 phobia; **green**: verdophobia;
orange: aurantiphobia; **purple**:
 porphyrophobia; **red**: erythro-
 phobia; **silver**: argentophobia;
tan: fulvophobia; **violet**: indo-
 phobia; **white**: leukophobia; **yel-**
low: xanthophobia

comets cometophobia
 commitment zygophobia
 computers cyberphobia, computer-phobia
 constipation coprostatophobia
 cooking mageiricophobia
 corpse necrophobia
 crevices chasmophobia
 criticism enissophobia
 critics criticophobia
 cross or crucifix staurophobia
 crossing a bridge gephyrophobia
 crossing busy streets agylophobia, agyrophobia, dromophobia
 crowds demophobia, enochlophobia, ochlophobia
 crystals crystallophobia
 cyclones anemophobia
 dampness hygrophobia
 dancing choreophobia, chorophobia, orchestrophobia
 darkness achluophobia, lygophobia, nyctophobia, scotophobia
 dawn eosophobia
 daylight phengophobia
 death necrophobia, thanatophobia
 decaying matter pythophobia, septophobia
 defecation, painful defecalgiesophobia
 deformity dysmorphophobia
 demons and devils daemonophobia, demonophobia, necyophobia
 dental work dentophobia, odontophobia
 dependence soteriophobia
 depth bathophobia
 design or ultimate ends teleophobia
 diabetes diabetophobia
 dinner parties deipnophobia
 dirt misophobia, molysmophobia, mysophobia, rhyphophobia
 disease loimophobia, nosophobia,

pathophobia; *specific~*: monopathophobia
 disorder ataxiophobia, ataxophobia
 dizziness dinophobia, vertigophobia
 doctors iatrophobia
 dogs cynophobia, kynophobia
 dolls paedophobia, pediophobia, pedophobia,
 double vision diplopiaphobia, diplophobia
 drafts aerophobia, anemophobia
 dreams oneirophobia
 drink alcoholophobia, dipso-manophobia, methyphobia, potophobia
 drugs pharmacophobia
 dryness xerophobia
 duration chronophobia
 dust amathophobia, koniophobia; *dusty surfaces*: conistrophobia
 dwarfs nanophobia
 earthquakes seismophobia
 eating phagophobia
 eels anguillophobia
 electricity electrophobia
 emotions thymophobia
 empty rooms cenophobia, kenophobia
 England/the English Anglophobia
 erection *maintaining*: ithyphallophobia; *loss of*: medomalacophobia
 everything panophobia, panphobia, pantaphobia, pantophobia
 excrement coprophobia, koprophobia, scatophobia
 exhaustion kopophobia
 experimenting peirophobia
 eyes ommatophobia, ommetaphobia; *~opening*: optophobia
 fabrics textophobia
 faces prosopophobia
 failure atychiphobia, kakorrhaphia-

phobia, kakorrhaphiophobia,
kakorrhaphiophobia
fainting asthenophobia
falling basophobia
falling downstairs climacophobia
falling in love philophobia
fat lipophobia, obesiophobia
father-in-law soceraphobia
Fathers of the early church patero-
phobia
fatigue kopophobia, ponophobia
fear phobophobia
feathers pteronophobia
feces coprophobia, koprophobia,
scatophobia
fever febriphobia, pyrexeophobia,
pyrexiophobia
fighting machophobia
filth rhyphobia, rypophobia,
rupophobia
fire arsonophobia, pyrophobia
fish ichthyophobia
flashes selaphobia
flatulence physaphobia
flood antlophobia
flowers anthophobia
flute aulophobia
flying aeronautophobia, aeropho-
bia, aviatoophobia, avionophobia,
aviophobia
fog homichlophobia, nebulaphobia,
nephophobia
food cibophobia, sitiophobia, sito-
phobia,
foreigners xenophobia
foreplay malaxophobia, paizopho-
bia, sarmassophobia
forests hylephobia, hylophobia,
xylophobia, ylophobia
fountains pegophobia
France/the French Francophobia,
Gallophobia
freedom eleutherophobia
French kissing cataglottophobia
friendship sociophobia

frogs batrachophobia
frost cryophobia, pagophobia,
rhigophobia
fun cherophobia
funeral rites epicidiophobia, thre-
natophobia
fur doraphobia
gambling aleaphobia
garlic alliumphobia, scorophobia
gay people homophobia
genitals: genitophobia; **female~:**
colpophobia, eurotophobia,
kolpophobia; **male~:** phallopho-
bia
Germany/the Germans Germano-
phobia, Teutophobia, Teutono-
phobia
germs bacillophobia, bacteriopho-
bia, spermophobia
ghosts phantasmophobia, phasmo-
phobia, spectrophobia
glass crystallophobia, hyalophobia,
hyelophobia, vitreophobia
God deiphobia, theophobia
going to bed clinophobia
gold aurophobia
good news euphobia
graves taphophobia
gravity barophobia
Greece/the Greeks Grecophobia,
Hellenophobia
growing old gerascophobia, geron-
tophobia
hair chaetophobia, trichophobia;
curly~: ulophobia; **~disease:**
trichopathophobia; **excessive~:**
hypertrichophobia
Halloween Samhainophobia
happiness cherophobia
heart attack or disease anginopho-
bia, cardiophobia
heat thermophobia
heaven ouranophobia, uranophobia
heights: **looking down:** acrophobia,
altophobia, batophobia, hypsi-

phobia, hypsophobia; **looking up:**
 anablephobia, anablepophobia
 hell Avernophobia, Hadeophobia,
 stygiophobia
 heredity patroiphobia
 heresy heresiophobia
 holy things hagiophobia, hiero-
 phobia
 home and environment domato-
 phobia, ecophobia, oecophobia,
 oikophobia; **returning~:** nosto-
 phobia
 homosexuals homophobia
 hornets vespiophobia
 horses equinophobia, hippophobia
 hospitals nosocomophobia
 human beings anthropophobia
 hurricanes lilapsophobia
 hydrophobia hydrophobophobia
 hypnotism hypnophobia, mes-
 merophobia
 ice cryophobia, gelophobia
 ideas gnotophobia, ideophobia
 illness nosophobia, pathophobia;
specific~: monopathophobia;
wasting~: tabophobia
 immobility of a joint ankylophobia
 imperfection atelophobia
 inability to stand basiphobia, baso-
 phobia
 infection molysmophobia, myso-
 phobia, septophobia
 infinity apeirophobia
 injections trypanophobia
 injury traumatophobia
 insanity dementophobia, lysso-
 phobia, maniaphobia
 insects acarophobia, entomo-
 phobia, insectophobia, isoptero-
 phobia; **stinging~:** cnidophobia
 Ireland/the Irish Celtophobia,
 Hibernophobia
 irrational destruction atepophobia
 isolation eremophobia
 Italy/Italians Italophobia

itching acarophobia, scabiophobia
 Japan/the Japanese Japanophobia
 jealousy zelophobia
 Jews Judaeophobia, Judeophobia,
 Judophobia
 jumping catapedaphobia
 justice dikephobia
 kidney disease albuminurophobia
 killing dacnophobia
 kissing philemaphobia, philemato-
 phobia; **tongue~:** cataglottopho-
 bia
 kleptomania kleptophobia
 knees genuphobia
 knowledge epistemophobia,
 gnosiophobia
 lacerations sparassophobia
 ladders scalaphobia
 lakes limnophobia
 large objects megalophobia
 laughter gelophobia
 lawsuits litigaphobia
 learning sophophobia
 left side levophobia, sinistrophobia
 leprosy lepraphobia, leprophobia
 lice pediculophobia, phthiriophobia
 light phengophobia, photophobia;
glaring~: photoaugiaphobia, pho-
 toaugiophobia
 lightning astraphobia, astrapopho-
 bia
 liquids aquaphobia, hygrophobia
 lizards stelliophobia
 lobsters homariphobia
 lockjaw tetanophobia
 loneliness eremiphobia, eremopho-
 bia
 long waits macrophobia
 loud noise ligyrophobia
 love philophobia
 lying mythophobia
 machines mechanophobia
 many things polyphobia
 marriage gametophobia, gamopho-
 bia, nuptophobia

materialism hylephobia
meat carnophobia, kreophobia
medicine pharmacophobia
meeting people anthropophobia
memories mnemophobia, nostophobia
men androphobia, arrhenophobia
meningitis meningitophobia
menstruation menophobia
metals metallophobia
meteors meteorophobia
mice muriphobia, murophobia, myosophobia
microbes bacilliphobia, microbiophobia, microphobia
milk galactophobia
mind psychophobia
mirrors catoptrophobia, eisoptrophobia, spectrophobia
missiles ballistophobia
mistletoe ixophobia
mites acarophobia
moisture hygrophobia
money chrematophobia
monotony homophobia
monstrosities teratophobia
moon selenophobia
mornings matutinophobia
mortality thriptophobia
mother-in-law pentheraphobia
moths phalaenophobia
motion kinesophobia, kinetophobia
motor vehicles motorphobia
mountains orophobia
mummies mummiphobia
mushrooms mycophobia
music melophobia, musicophobia
myths mythophobia
names nomatophobia, onomatophobia
narcotics lethophobia, meconophobia
narrowness anginaphobia, stenophobia
navels omphalophobia

needles aichmophobia, belonophobia
neglect of duty paralipophobia
new things cainophobia, cainotophobia, cenotophobia, kainophobia, kainotophobia, neophobia
night noctiphobia, nyctophobia
nipples, being seen through clothing thelophobia
nocturnal emissions oneirogophobia
noise acousticophobia, ligyrophobia, phonophobia
Northern lights auroraphobia
nosebleeds epistaxiophobia
nuclear weapons nucleomitophobia
nudity gymnophobia, nudiphobia, nudophobia
numbers arithmophobia, numerophobia; **uneven~**: perissophobia
nurses threpterophobia
nutritional food threptophobia
oceans thalassophobia
odors olfactophobia, ophresiophobia, osmophobia, osphresiophobia; **foul~**: bromidrophobia, bromidrosiphobia
old people gerontophobia
one thing monophobia
oneself autophobia
open spaces agoraphobia, cenophobia, kenophobia; **high~**: aeroacrophobia
opinions of others allodoxaphobia
opposite sex heterophobia
otters lutraphobia
owls strigiphobia
pain algiaphobia, algophobia, odynephobia, odynophobia, ponophobia; **from light sensitivity**: photaugiaphobia, photaugiophobia
pairs didymophobia
paper papyrophobia
parasites parasitophobia, pothirio-

phobia, trypanophobia, verminophobia
 parents-in-law soceraphobia
 peace eirenophobia
 peanut butter arachibutyrophobia
 pellagra pellagrophobia
 penis: peophobia; *erect~*: ithyphalophobia, medorthophobia; *visible contour of~*: medectophobia
 people anthropophobia, demophobia
 perfume myrophobia
 philosophy philosophobia
 physical love erotophobia
 places topophobia
 planning for the future teleophobia
 plants botanophobia
 pleasure hedonophobia
 poetry metrophobia, musophobia
 pointed objects aichmophobia, aichurophobia
 poison iophobia, toxicophobia, toxiphobia, toxophobia
 politicians politicophobia
 pollen palynophobia
 popes papaphobia
 poverty peniaphobia
 precipices cremnophobia
 pregnancy maieusiophobia, toco-phobia
 prickly objects echinophobia
 progress prosophobia
 propriety orthophobia
 prostitutes cyprianophobia, cypri-dophobia, cypriphobia, cyprinophobia, scortophobia
 public places agoraphobia
 public speaking glossophobia
 pumpkins, especially jack-o'-lanterns pepophobia
 punishment mastigophobia, poine-phobia, rhabdophobia
 puppets pupaphobia
 purposive effort hormephobia
 pus pyophobia

quarrels rixophobia
 quicksand syrtophobia
 rabies hydrophobophobia, lysso-phobia
 railways siderodromophobia
 rain hyetophobia, ombrophobia, pluviophobia
 rape stupraphobia, virgivitiphobia
 rattlesnakes crotalophobia
 razors xyrophobia
 rectal disease proctophobia, recto-phobia
 referring to oneself autophoby
 relatives syngenesophobia
 religion theophobia
 religious ceremonies teletophobia
 reproach enissophobia, enisiophob-
 bia
 responsibility hypegiaphobia, hy-pengyophobia, paralipophobia
 reptiles batrachophobia, herpeto-phobia
 ridicule catagelophobia, katagelo-phobia
 riding in a car amaxophobia
 right side dextrophobia
 rivers potamophobia
 robbers harpaxophobia
 room full of people koinoniphobia
 ruin atephobia
 Russia/the Russians Russophobia
 rust iophobia, rubigophobia
 sacred things hagiophobia, hiero-phobia
 sadness lypephobia
 saints hagiophobia
 salt halophobia
 sand psammophobia
 Satan Satanophobia
 sausage allantophobia
 scabies scabiophobia
 scarring ulophobia
 school didaskaleinophobia, scho-lionophobia
 scissors forficophobia

scotomas scotomaphobia
scratches amychophobia
sea pelagophobia, thalassophobia
secretions crinophobia
secrets calyptophobia
semen spermatophobia, spermophobia
sermons homilophobia, keryophobia
sexual intercourse coitophobia, cypridophobia, erotophobia, genophobia
sexual perversion paraphobia
shadows sciaphobia, sciophobia
sharks carcharinophobia, selachophobia
sharp objects aichmophobia, belonophobia
shellfish ostraconophobia
shock hormephobia
sinning enissophobia, enosiophobia, hamartophobia, peccatophobia, peccatophobia
sisters sororophobia
sitting cathisophobia, kathisophobia, thaasophobia
skin dermatophobia
skin diseases dermatopathophobia, dermatosiophobia
skin of animals doraphobia
skunks mephitophobia
sleep hypnophobia, somniphobia
slime blennophobia, myxophobia
small objects microphobia, tapinophobia
smells olfactophobia, osmophobia, osphresiophobia
smoke capnophobia
smothering pnigerophobia, pnigophobia
snakes herpetophobia, ophicophobia, ophidiophobia, ophiophobia
snoring rhonchophobia
snow chionophobia

society anthropophobia, sociophobia
solitude autophobia, eremiophobia, eremophobia, ermitophobia, isolophobia, monophobia
sorcery veneficophobia
sound acousticophobia ~*of certain words*: onomatophobia
sourness acerbophobia, acerophobia
spasms choreophobia
speaking aloud phonophobia
speech defect laliophobia, lalophobia
speed tachophobia
spiders arachnophobia, arachnophobia
spiny creatures echinophobia
spirits demonophobia, phantasmaphobia, pneumatiphobia, spectrophobia
stage fright prosceniophobia, topophobia
stairs climacophobia
standing or walking basiphobia, basophobia, basistasiphobia, basostasophobia, stasibasiphobia, stasiphobia, stasobasiphobia, stasophobia
stars astrophobia, siderophobia
statues agalmaphobia
staying single anuptaphobia
stealing cleptophobia, kleptophobia
stepfather vitricophobia
stepmother novercaphobia
stillness eremophobia, hesyphobia
stings cnidophobia
stooping kyphophobia, scolophobia
strangers xenophobia
streets agyiophobia, agryophobia; *crossing~*: dromophobia
string linonophobia
stuttering psellismophobia
sun heliophobia, phengophobia

surgical operations ergasiophobia,
tomophobia

swallowing phagophobia

swamps paludophobia

sweating sudoriophobia

symbolism semiophobia, symbolo-
phobia

symmetry [in Egyptian temples,
Japanese art, etc.] symmetro-
phobia

syphilis luetiphobia, syphilidopho-
bia, syphiliphobia, syphilophobia

talking glossophobia, laliophobia,
lalophobia, phonophobia

tapeworms taeniophobia, taenio-
phobia, teniophobia

taste geumaphobia, geumatopho-
bia, geumophobia; *sour*~: acerbo-
phobia; *sweet*~: hedisophobia

technology technophobia

teeth odontophobia

teleology teleophobia

telephones telephonophobia

termites isopterophobia

theaters theatrophobia

theology theologicophobia

thieves cleptophobia, kleptophobia,
harpaxophobia

thinking phronemophobia

thirst dipsophobia

thirteen tredecaphobia, trideca-
phobia, triakaidekaphobia, triska-
dekaphobia, triskaidekaphobia

thunder brontophobia, cerauno-
phobia, keraunophobia, tonitro-
phobia

tickling with feathers pterono-
phobia

ticks acarophobia

time chronophobia

toads batrachophobia, bufono-
phobia

tombs taphophobia; ~*stones*: placo-
phobia

tooth decay cariophobia

tornadoes lilapsophobia

touching or being touched aphe-
phobia, chiroptophobia, haphe-
phobia, hapnophobia, hapte-
phobia, haptophobia, thixo-
phobia

train travel siderodromophobia

traitors proditophobia

travel dromophobia, hodophobia

trees dendrophobia

trembling tremophobia

trichinosis trichinophobia

tuberculosis phthisiophobia,
phthisophobia, tuberculophobia

Turks Turcophobia

tyrants tyrannophobia

ugliness cacophobia

ulcers helcophobia

undressing deshabillophobia

urinating urophobia

vaccinations vaccinophobia

vampires vespertiliophobia

vegetables lachanophobia

vehicles amaxophobia, ochophobia

venereal disease cyprianophobia,
cypridophobia, cyprinophobia,
cypriphobia, venereophobia

vermin verminophobia

vertigo illyngophobia

virginity, losing esodophobia,
primeisophobia

virgins parthenophobia

vomiting emetophobia

walking ambulophobia, basiphobia,
basophobia, bathmophobia

warfare polemophobia

warts verruciophobia

washing oneself ablutophobia, bal-
neophobia

wasps spheksophobia

wasting sickness tabophobia

water aquaphobia, hydrophobia

waves cymophobia, kymophobia

wax cerophobia

weakness asthenophobia

wealth chrematophobia, chryso-
phobia, plutophobia
weapons hoplophobia
weasels galeophobia
weight, gaining obesiophobia, pro-
crescophobia
werewolves lycophobia
whirlpools dinophobia
whispering psithurophobia
white leukophobia
wickedness sclerophobia
wild animals agrizoophobia, pro-
theriophobia
wind aneraophobia, anemiophobia, anemophobia
windows fenestrophobia
wine enophobia, oenophobia, oino-
phobia
winter cheimaphobia

women feminophobia, gynephobia, gynophobia; *beautiful*~: calligynophobia, venustaphobia
wood hylephobia, hylophobia, xylophobia, ylophobia
words logophobia, verbophobia; *long*~: sesquipedalophobia
work ergasiophobia, ergophobia, ponophobia
worms helminthophobia, scoleciphobia, vermiphobia
wounds traumatophobia
wrinkles rhytiphobia
writing graphophobia, scriptophobia
x-rays radiophobia
yawning oscitophobia
young girls parthenophobia
zombies basinecrophobia

FOOD

Nonvegetarians should also see "Animals."

acorn balan- (balaniferous); gland- (glandiferous)
almond amygdalo- (amygdalaceous)
apple mali- (maliform); pom- (pomaceous)
avocado pers- (persea)
banana musa- (musaceous)
barley alphoto- (alphantomancy); crith- (crithology); horde- (hordeaceous); ptis- (ptisan)
bean cyam- (cyamoid); fab- (fabaceous); phaseol- (phaseolous)
beer cervis- (cervisial)
belch ruct- (eructation)
berry acin- (acinaceous); baccat- baccate; bacci- (bacciferous); cocci- (coccigerous)

blueberry vaccin- (vaccinium)
bran furfur- (furfuraceous); pityr- (pityroid)
bread arto- (artophagous); pan- (panivorous)
breakfast jent- (jentacular)
butter butyro- (butyraceous)
cabbage brassic- (brassicaceous)
carbohydrate -ose (fructose)
cashew anacard- (anacardic)
cereal frument- (frumentaceous)
cheese case- (casefy); tyro- (tyromancy)
cherry ceras- (cerasin)
chestnut aescul- (aesculin); castan- (castaneous)
chew manduc- (manducation); mastic- (mastication)

- citric** citro- (citron)
- cook** -coct- (decoction); mageir- (mageiricophobia); magir- (magiric)
- corn** frument- (frumentation); spici- (spiciferous)
- cucumber** cucumi- (cucumiform)
- cultivation** -ponic (hydroponics)
- digest** chyli- (chyliferous); chymo- (chymotrypsin)-; peps- (pepsinogen); pept- (peptic); pepto- (peptogenic)
- dill** aneth- (anethated)
- dinner** deipno- (deipnophobia); prand- (postprandial)
- drink** -ade (lemonade); bib- (bibulous); pino- (pinocytosis); pocul- (poculent); pot- (potomania)
- eating** alim- (alimentation); bromato- (bromatology); -brotic (scolecobrotic); cib- (cibarious); comest- (comestible); ed- (edible); escul- (esculent); gust- (gustatory); manduc- (manducation); mastic- (mastication); -phagous (creophagous); -phagy (anthropophagy); -sitia (asitia); sitio- (sitiophobia); -troph (heterotroph); -trophic (heterotrophic); -trophy (hypertrophy); -vora (Carnivora); -vore (herbivore); -vorous (omnivorous)
- fig** fici- (ficiform); syc- (sycoma)
- fruit** -carp (endocarp); -carpic (endocarpic); carpo- (carpophore); -carpous (monocarpous); frug- (frugivorous); pomi- (pomiform); pomo- (pomology)
- garlic** scor- (scorodite)
- grain** farr- (confarreate); farrag- (farraginous); frument- (frumentaceous); grani- (granivorous)
- grape** acini- (aciniform); botry- (botryose); racem- (racemiform); rhag- (rhagite); staphylo- (staphyline); uvi- (uviform); uvu- (uvula); vini- (viniculture); vino- (vinosity); viti- (viticulture)
- hickory** cichor- (cichoraceous)
- honey** melli- (melliferous)
- kidney bean** phaseol- (phaseolous)
- leek** porr- (porraceous); praso- (prasophagous)
- lime** tilia- (tiliaceae)
- lunch** prand- (prandial)
- meal** cen- (cenatory); coen- (coenaculous); deipno- (deipnophobia); prand- (antepandial)
- meat** -burger (hamburger); carni- (carnivore); carnos- (carnosity)
- mint** menth- (menthaceous)
- mustard** sinap- (sinapistic)
- nutmeg** myrist- (myristic)
- oats** aveni- (avenaceous)
- onion** cep- (cepus); cromny- (cromnyomancy)
- orange** hesperid- (hesperidine)
- parsley** petrosel- (petroseline)
- pea** pisi- (pisiform)
- peach** persic- (persicaria)
- peanut** arach- (arachidic)
- pear** apio- (apiocrinite); piri- (piriform); pyri- (pyriform)
- pepper** piper- (piperic)
- pineapple** bromel- (bromeliaceous)
- pomegranate** balaust- (balaustine)
- pumpkin** pepo- (pepon)
- radish** raphan- (raphania)
- rice** oryzi- (oryzivorous); rizi- (riziform)
- salad** acetar- (acetarous)
- salt** halo- (halophile); sali- (desalination); salino- (salinometric); sals- (salsamentarous)
- sandwich** -burger (cheeseburger)
- sausage** allanto- (allantoid); botul- (botuliform)
- strawberry** fragar- (fragarol)
- sugar** gluco- (glucose); glycer- (glycerol); glyco- (glycosuria);

levul- (levulose); saccharo- (saccharometer); suc- (sucrose)
tea thei- (theiform)
truffle hydno- (hydnocarpous)
turnip napi- (napiform)
vegetable lachan- (lachanopolist); oler- (oleraceous); olit- (olitory);

vegeti- (vegetivorous); vegeto- (vegetarian)
walnut juglan- (juglandaceous)
wheat silig- (siliginous); tritic- (triticeous)
yam dioscorea- (dioscoreaceous)

LOCATION

above ano- (anocarpous); epi- (epidermis); ob- (obliterate); over- (overhang); super- (superscript); supra- (supraliminal); sur- (surbase)
across dia- (diameter); per- (perigrinaion); trans- (transmit); transverso- (transverso-cubital)
apex -apical (periapical); apico- (apicotomy)
behind after- (afterburner); back- (backdrop); meta- (metasternum); opistho- (opisthotic); post- (postscenium); postero- (posterolateral); retro- (retrocopulant)
between/among dia- (diagnosis); enter- (entergrave); entre- (entr'acte); epi- (epidemic); inter- (interval)
distant tele- (television)
front ante- (antependium); antero- (anteroparietal); fore- (forefront); pre- (preaortic); pro- (proscenium); proso- (prosogaster)
high(er) acro- (acrocephaly); alti- (altitude); alto- (alto-relievo); hypsi- (hypsistenocephalic); hypso- (hypsometry); super- (superstructure)
inside eis- (eisegesis); em- (embedded); en- (enclose); endo- (endoskeleton); ento- (entoparasite);

eso- (esoenteritis); il- (illuminate); im- (implosion); in- (incarcerate); intero- (interoceptor); ir- (irradiate); intra- (intramural); intro- (introspection)
left laeo- (laeotropic) laevo- (laevorotatory) levo- (levogyrate) sinistro- (sinistrorse)
middle centri- (centripetal); centro- (centrolineal); -centric (heliocentric); medi- (medieval); medio- (mediodorsal); mes- (mesallantoid); mesati- (mesati-cephalic); mesio- (mesio-sinistral); meso- (mesothorax); mezzo- (mezzotint); mid- (midsection)
near ad- (adjoining); by- (bystander); cis- (cismontane); epi- (epicenter); juxta- (juxtapose); para- (parametric); peri- (perigee); prox- (approximal) proximo- (proximocephalic)
outside ecto- (ectoparasite); epi- (epidermis); exo- (exoskeleton); extero- (exteroceptor); extra- (extraterritorial); extro- (extrovert); out- (outhouse); para- (paradox); preter- (preternatural)
right dextio- (dextiotropic); dextro- (dextrorse)
surrounding ambi- (ambiance); amphi- (amphithecium); be-

(beset); circum- (circumference);
peri- (periotic)

through dia- (diaphanous); per-
(percolate); trans- (transparent);
-wide (worldwide)

under hypo- (hypodermic); infero-
(inferoposterior); infra- (infra-
structure); sub- (subscript); sub-
ter- (subterfluent); under- (un-
derpinning)

upon ana- (anacclisis); epi- (epi-

logue); ob- (obtrude); super- (su-
perstructure); sur- (surcharge)

with co- (coterminous); col- (col-
league); com- (commingle); con-
(convulse); cor- (correlate);
hama- (hamadryad); inter- (inter-
mixed); para- (parataxis); syl-
(syllable); sym- (symbiosis); sym-
phyo- (symphyogenesis); sym-
physio- (symphysiorrhaphy); syn-
(synagogue); sys- (system)

NEGATIVES

a- *pre* not; without (atypical)

ab- *pre* away from (absorbent)

an- *pre* not; without (anorexia)

anti- *pre* opposite of; against (anti-
dote)

apo- *pre* detached; apart (apogamy)
-atresia *comb* absence of an opening
(proctatresia)

atreto- *comb* absence of an opening
(atretocyst)

cata- *pre* against (catachresis)

contra- *pre* opposite; against (con-
travene)

counter- *comb* opposite; against
(counter-clockwise)

de- *pre* deprived of; apart (devalua-
tion)

dis- *pre* apart; opposite (disengage)

dys- *pre* badly; not correct (dys-
functional)

ectro- *comb* missing; absent (ectro-
melia)

ex- *pre* former; deprived of (ex-
member)

il- *pre* not; opposite of (illicit)

im- *pre* not; opposite of (impartial)

in- *pre* not; opposite of (inarticu-
late)

ir- *pre* not; opposite of (irreverent)
-less *suf* without; unable to (rest-
less)

lipo- *comb* lacking; leaving (lipog-
raphy)

mal- *pre* poorly; not (malnutrition)

mis- *pre* wrongly; not (misalign-
ment)

miso- *comb* antipathy; hatred (mis-
ocainea)

ne- *pre* not; opposite of (nescient)

nihil- *base* nothingness (annihilate)

no- *pre* not any (no-load)

non- *pre* not; absence of (nonaller-
genic)

nulli- *pre* none (nulliparous)

ob- *pre* against; inverse (obliterate)

-priv- *base* lacking; taken away (de-
privation)

un- *pre* not; reversal (unimagin-
able)

with- *pre* apart; opposed (with-
stand)

NUMBERS

- 0** nulli- (nullipara)
 $\frac{1}{10}$ decim- (decimate)
 $\frac{1}{9}$ non- (nonan)
 $\frac{1}{8}$ octan- (octant)
 $\frac{1}{7}$ septim- (septimal)
 $\frac{1}{6}$ sext- (sextant)
 $\frac{1}{5}$ quint- (quintant)
 $\frac{1}{4}$ tetarto- (tetartohedral)
 $\frac{1}{3}$ trient- (triental)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ demi- (demitint); dicho- (dichotomize); dimid- (dimidiation); hemi- (hemisphere); mezzo- (mezzo-relievo); semi- (semi-columnar)
 $\frac{3}{4}$ triquadr- (triquadrantal)
- 1** eka- (ekaselenium); haplo- (haplopetalous); heno- (henotheism); mono- (monorail); uni- (unilateral)
- 1 & $\frac{1}{2}$** sesqui- (sesquihoral)
- 2** ambi- (ambiversion); ambo- (amboceptor); amphi- (amphicarpous); amphi- (amphora); bi- (bicentennial); bin- (binaural); bis- (bissextile); deuter- (deuterogamy); deuto- (deutoplasm); di- (diplegia); dicho- (dichotomous); didym- (didymalgia); diphy- (diphyceral); diplo- (diplopia); disso- (dissogony); double- (doubleheader); du- (duplicate); duplicato- (duplicatodentate); duplici- (duplicipennate); duo- (duograph); dyo- (Dyophysite); gemelli- (gemelliparous); gemin- (geminiflorous); twi- (twinight); zygo- (zygodont)
- 3** ter- (tercet); -tern- (ternary); -tert- (tertiary); tri- (trifocal); triakis- (triakisoctahedron); triangulato- (triangulato-subovate); trigono- (trigonocephalic); triplo- (triploblastic); triplicato- (triplicato-pinnate); trito- (tritoen-cephalon)
- 4** quadra- (quadrasonic); quadrato- (quadrato-cubic); quadri- (quadrilateral); quadru- (quadruped); quart- (quarterly); quarti- (quartisection); quat- (quaternate); quater- (quatercentenary); quatre- (quatrefoil); tessara- (tesseraphthong); tetarto- (tetartohedral); tetra- (Tetragrammaton); tetrakis- (tetrakis-dodecahedron)
- 5** cinque- (cinquefoil); penta- (pentacle); quin- (quinary); quinque- (quinquennium); quint- (quintuplets); quinti- (quintiped)
- 6** hexa- (hexahedron); hexakis- (hexakisoctahedron); seni- (senary); sex- (sexagenarian); sexi- (sexipolar); sexti- (sextisection); sise- (siseangle)
- 7** hebdo- (hebdomadral); hepta- (Heptateuch); septem- (September); septi- (septifolious)
- 8** octa- (octagon); octo- (octonary); ogdo- (ogdoastich)
- 9** ennea- (enneahedron); nona- (nonagon); -nov- (novena)
- 10** dec(a)- (decade); decem- (decempennate); deci- (decimeter); deka- (dekagram); -teen (sixteen); -ty (seventy)
- 11** endeca- (endecagon); hendeca- (hendecasyllabic); undec- (undecagon); undecim- (undecimal)
- 12** dodeca- (dodecastyle); duodec- (duodecennial); duodecim- (duodecimfid); duoden- (duodenary)

- 13 **tredecim-** (tredecimal);
triskaideka- (triskaidekaphobia)
- 14 **quattuordec-** (quattuordecillion);
tessaradeca- (tessaradecasyllabon);
tetradeca- (tetradecapod); **tetra-**
kaideka- (tetraikaidecahedron)
- 15 **pentakaideka-** (pentakaidecahe-
dron); **quindec-** (quindecennial)
- 16 **hexadeca-** (hexadecachoron);
hexakaideka- (hexakaidecahe-
dron); **sedecim-** (sedecimal)
- 17 **heptakaideka-** (heptakaidecahe-
dron); **septendecim-** (septendeci-
mal)
- 18 **duodeviginti-** (duodevigintian-
gular); **octakaideka-** octakaideca-
hedron)
- 19 **enneakaideka-** (enneakaidecahe-
dron); **undeviginti-** (undevigin-
tiangular)
- 20 **eico-** (eicosapentaenoic: 25);
icosa- (icosandria); **icosi-** (icosite-
trahedron: 24); **vicesim-** (vicesi-
mal); **vigent-** (vigentennial); **vig-**
inti- (vigintiangular)
- 30 **triaconta-** (triacontahedral);
tricen- (tricenary); **triges-** (tri-
gesimal); **trigint-** (trigintal)
- 40 **quadragen-** (quadragenarian);
quadrages- (quadragesimal)
- 50 **pentacosta-** (pentacostaglossal);
penteconta- (pentecontaglossal);
quinguagen- (quinguagenarian);
quinguages- (quinguagesimal)
- 60 **hexaconta-** (hexacontahedron);
sexagen- (sexagenarian); **sexages-**
(sexagesimal)
- 70 **septuagen-** (septuagenarian);
septuages- (septuagesimal); **septu-**
agint- (Septuagint)
- 80 **octogen-** (octogenarian); **octo-**
ges- (octogesimal)
- 90 **enneaconta-** (enneacontahedral);
nonagen- (nonagenarian);
nonages- (nonagesimal)
- 100 **cent(i)-** (centigrade); **hecato-**
(hecato-phyllous); **hecatinicos-**
(hecatinicosachoron: 120); **hecto-**
(hectoliter); **hekto** (hektogram)
- 200 **ducen-** (ducenarianous)
- 300 **trecent-** (trecentene)
- 400 **quadracent-** (quadracentennial)
- 500 **quincen-** (quincennial)
- 600 **hexacosi-** (hexacosichoron);
sexcent- (sexcentenary)
- 700 **septingenti-** (septingentenary)
- 800 **octocent-** (octocentenary)
- 900 **enneacent-** (enneacentenary)
- 1,000 **-chili-** (chiliarch); **kilo-** (kilo-
gram); **~th:** **milli-** (millibar)
- 10,000 **myria-** (myriameter); **myrio-**
(myriophyllous)
- 1,000,000 **one million** **mega-** (mega-
volt); **~th:** **micro-** (microgram)
- 1,000,000,000 **one billion** **giga-**
(gigabyte); **~th:** **nano-** (nano-
second); **nanno-** (nannoplankton)
- 1,000,000,000,000 **one trillion** **tera-**
(terahertz); **~th:** **pico-** (picofarad)
- 1,000,000,000,000,000 **one qua-**
drillion **peta-** (petameter); **~th:**
femto- (femtometer);
- 1,000,000,000,000,000,000 **one**
quintillion **exa-** (exameter); **~th:**
atto- (attogram)
- 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 **one**
hexillion **zetta-** (zettabyte); **~th:**
zepto- (zeptovolt)
- 1,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
one heptillion **yotta-** (yottame-
ter); **~th:** **yocto-** (yoctogram)

THE SENSES

Hearing

deafness -surd- (surdity)

ear auri- (auricle); auriculo- (auriculo-temporal); ot- (otom- orrhagia); oto- (otology)

hear acou- (acouasm); acoust- (acoustical); audi- (auditory); audio- (audiology); auri- (auricle); ecoia (dysecoia)

sound echo- (echogenic); -phone (telephone); phono- (phonograph); -phony (euphony); -phthong (diphthong); son- (sonic); soni- (soniferous); sono- (sonometer); sonoro- (sonorous)

RELATED PERCEPTIONS

noisy crepit- (crepitation); frem- (fremitus); ligyr- (ligyrophobia); strid- (strident); stridul- (stridulous); strepi- (strepitus);

silent hesy- (hesychastic); tacit- (taciturnity)

Seeing

blindness caec- (caecilian); cec- (cecility); lusc- (eluscate); typhlo- (typhlosis)

eye blepharo- (blepharotomy); cantho- (canthoplasty); cili- (ciliary); corneo- (corneoiritis); irido- (iridomotor); kerato- (keratotomy); oculi- (oculiform); oculo- (oculomotor); ommat- (ommatophore); op- (opalgia); ophthalm- (ophthalmoscope); -opia (diplopia); ophry- (ophryosis); opsi- (opsiometer); opso- (opso-clonus); optico- (optico-papillary); opto- (optometry); retino- (retinoschisis); sclero- (sclerotomy); tarso- (tarsoplasty)

pupil core- (corelysis); coreo- (coreoplasty); -coria (isocoria); coro- (coroplastic); -koria (leukokoria); pupillo- (pupillometer)

see -blep- (ablepsia); eid- (eidetic); -opsia (hemianopsia); -opsis (synopsis); -opsy (biopsy); -scope (telescope); -scop- (microscop-); -scop- (scopophilia); -scopy (bioscopy); -scrut- (inscrutable); spec- (spectator); -spic- (conspicuous); -vid- (video); -vis- (vision); visuo- (visuosensory)

RELATED PERCEPTIONS

bright fulg- (fulgorant); helio- (helioscope); luc- (luciferous); lumin- (luminosity)

dark amaur- (amaurosus); ambly- (amblyopia); nyct- (nyctalopia); scoto- (scotophobia); tenebr- (tenebrous)

Smelling

nose nasi- (nasiform); naso- (nasology); rhino- (rhinology)

smell bromo- (bromidrosis); fet- (fetid); nidor- (nidorous); -odic (euodic); odori- (odoriferous); odor- (odoroscope); -olent (redolent); -olfact- (olfactory); -osmia (anosmia); osmo- (osmodysphoria); osphresio (osphresiphobia); ozo- (ozostomia)

RELATED PERCEPTIONS

pleasant bene- (beneficial); eu- (euodic)

unpleasant cac- (cacosmia); mal- (malodorous)

Tasting

mouth -mouthed (dry-mouthed); oro- (orolingual); stomato- (stomatalgia); -stome (cytostome); -stomous (monostomous)

palate palato- (palatonasal); uranisco- (uranisconitis); urano- (uranoplasty); velar- (velarize)

saliva ptyal- (ptyalagogue); sialo- (sialorrhea)

taste geum- (geumaphobia); geumat- (geumatophobia); -geusia (parageusia); -gust- (gustatory); sapor- (saporific)

tongue -glossia (macroglossia); glosso- (glossodynia); hyo- (hyoglossal); lamino- (lamino-alveolar); ligur- (ligurition); ling- (lingible); lingui- (linguiform)

RELATED PERCEPTIONS

bitter alk- (alkaloid); picro- (picrotoxin)

salty alo- (alomancy); halo- (halophile); sal- (saline); sals- (salsamentarious)

sour acerb- (acerbity); acid- (acidulous); amar- (amarine)

sweet hedy- (hedyphane); melli- (mellifluous); dulc- (dulcify)

Touching

sensation -esthesia (myesthesia); esthesio- (esthesiometer)

skin cut(i)- (subcutaneous); derm- (dermabrasion); -derm (melanoderm); derma- (dermatherm); -derma (scleroderma); dermat- (dermatitis); dermat- (dermatol-

ogy); -dermatous (xerodermatous); -dermis (epidermis); dermo- (dermoneural)

touch aphe- (aphophobia); -aphia (dysaphia); -apsia (parapsia); haph- (haphalgnesia); hapto- (haptometer); -palp- (palpable); sens(i)- (sensiferous); sensori- (sensorineural); sent- (sentient); -tact- (contact); -tang- (tangible); thigmo- (thigmotaxis)

RELATED PERCEPTIONS

cold alg- (algid); cheima- (cheimaphilic); crymo- (crymophilic); cryo- (cryopathy); frigo- (frigorific); gelo- (gelosis); kryo- (kryometer); psychro- (psychroalgia); rhigo- (rhigolene)

dry -sicc- (desiccate); xero- (xerophyte)

hard dur- (duricrust); scler- (scleronychia)

rough salebr- (salebrous); trachy- (trachycarpous)

smooth glabr- (glabrous); leio- (leiotrichous); levig- (levigated); lisso- (lissotrichous); lubr- (lubricity); psilo- (psilodermatous)

soft malac- (malacissant); malax- (malaxation); -moll- (emollient)

warm calo- (caloreceptor); calori- (calorific); caum- (caumesthesia); pyr- (pyrogenic); therm- (thermal); thermo- (thermosensitive); -thermy (diathermy)

wet humect- (humectant); hydro- (hydrorrhea); hygro- (hygroscopic); madefac- (madefaction)

SHAPES

acorn-shaped glandi- (glandiform)

agate-shaped agat- (agatiform)

almond-shaped amygdal- (amygdaliform)

anchor-shaped ancry- (ancryoid)

angle -angle (quadrangle); angul- (rectangular); -gon (polygon); -gonal (polygonal); gonio- (goniometer)

antennae-shaped antenn- (antenniform)

anther-shaped anther- (antheriform)

apple-shaped pomi- (pomiform)

arch-shaped arc- (arciform)

ax-shaped securi- (securiform)

barrel-shaped dolio- (dolioform)

basket-shaped calathi- (calathiform)

beak-shaped aquil- (aquiline); corac- (coracoid); rhamph- (rhamphoid); rhyncho- (rhy-nchoporous); rostrato- (rostrato-nariform); rostri- (rostriform)

bean-shaped fabi- (fabiform)

bear-shaped urs- (ursiform)

beehive-shaped alve- (alveated)

beetle-shaped scarab- (scaraboid)

bell-shaped campan- (campaniform)

bent ancylo- (ancylostomiasis); ankylo- (ankylosis); -campsis (phallocampsis); campto- (camptocormia); campylo- (campylo-dactyly); -clinal (anticlinal); -clinate (proclinate); -cline (incline); -clinic (matroclinic); clino- (clinometer); -clinous (patroclinous); -clisis (pathoclisis); clit- (heteroclit); cliv- (declivity); curvi- (curvilinear); cyrto- (cyrto-meter); -flect- (genuflection); flex- (flex-

ural); lechrio- (lechriodont);

loxo- (loxotomy); repando-

(repando-dentate); scolio- (scolio-kypshosis); sinu- (sinuosity); -verge (diverge)

berry-shaped bacc- (bacciform)

boat-shaped cymb- (cymbiform); navi- (naviform); scapho- (scaphocephaly); scapulo- (scapulo-humeral)

bottle-shaped ampull- (ampulla-ceous) **leather bottle-shaped:** utrei- (utreiform); utric- (utricular)

bowl-shaped crater- (crateriform)

branch-shaped rami- (ramiform)

breast-shaped mammi- (mammi-form)

brick-shaped plinthe- (plintheiform)

bristle-shaped seti- (setiform)

broom-shaped scopi- (scopiform)

brush-shaped muscar- (muscariform)

bud-shaped gemm- (gemmiform)

bull-shaped taur- (tauriform)

canine tooth-shaped lanar- (lanariform)

cap-shaped pile- (pileiform)

caterpillar-shaped eruci- (eruciform)

catkin-shaped amenti-² (amentiform); juli- (juliform)

chisel-shaped scalpri- (scalpriform)

clarion-shaped litui- (lituiform)

claw-shaped ungui- (unguiform)

cleaver-shaped dolabr- (dolabrim-form)

cloud-shaped nubi- (nubiform)

club-shaped clav- (claviform)

cobweb-shaped arachn- (arachnoid)

coin-shaped nummi- (nummiform)

- collar-shaped** colli- (colliform)
column-shaped columelli- (columelliform)
comb-shaped pectin- (pectiniform)
cone-shaped coni- (coniform)
coral-shaped coralli- (coralliform)
corn-shaped grani- (graniform)
cowl-shaped cuculli- (cuculliform)
crab-shaped cancri- (cancriform)
crater-shaped crateri- (crateriform)
crescent-shaped crescenti- (crescentiform) lunul- (lunular)
cross-shaped cruc- (cruciform)
crown-shaped coron- (coroniform)
crystal-shaped crystalli- (crystalliform)
cube-shaped cubi- (cubiform)
cuckoo-shaped cuculi- (cuculiform)
cucumber-shaped cucumi- (cucumiform)
cup-shaped calath- (calathiform); cotyl- (cotyliform); crin- (crinoid); cupuli- (cupuliform); cyath- (cyathiform); pocul- (poculiform); scyphi- (scyphiform)
cylinder-shaped cylindri- (cylindriciform)
dish-shaped scutel- (scutelliform)
drop-shaped gutti- (guttiform); stilli- (stilliform)
ear-shaped aur-¹ (auriform)
eel-shaped anguill- (anguilliform)
egg-shaped ov- (oviform); oval- (ovaliform)
embryo-shaped embryo- (embryoniform)
eye-shaped ocul- (oculiform)
faced/faceted -hedral (hexahedral); -hedron (polyhedron)
fan-shaped flabelli- (flabelliform)
feather-shaped pinni- (pinniform); plumil- (plumiliform)
fern-shaped filici- (filiciform)
- fiber-shaped** fibri- (fibriform)
fibril-shaped fibrilli- (fibrilliform)
fiddle-shaped pandur- (panduriform)
fig-shaped fici- (ficiform)
finger-shaped digiti- (digitiform)
fish-shaped pisci- (pisciform)
fissure-shaped fissuri- (fissuriform)
flask-shaped ampulli- (ampulliform); lagen- (lageniform)
flat plani- (planimeter); plano- (planoconcave); platy- (platypus)
flower-shaped flor- (floriform)
foot-shaped ped-¹ (pediform)
forked -furc- (bifurcation)
fowl-shaped galli- (galliform)
frog-shaped rani- (raniform)
fruit-shaped fructi- (fructiform)
fungus-shaped fungill- (fungilliform)
funnel-shaped infundibuli- (infundibuliform)
gland-shaped aden- (adeniform)
gnat-shaped culici- (culiciform)
goat-shaped capri- (capriform)
goblet-shaped pocul- (poculiform)
grape-shaped staphylo- (staphyloma); uvi- (uviform); uvu- (uvula); ~**cluster**: acini- (acini-form)
hair-shaped capilli- (capilliform)
hammer-shaped malle- (malleiform)
hand-shaped mani- (maniform)
hatchet-shaped dolabri- (dolabrimform)
heart-shaped cord- (cordoform); cordato- (cordato-ovate)
helmet-shaped cassid- (cassidiform); gale- (galeate)
herring-shaped harengi- (harengiform)
hinge-shaped gingly- (ginglyform)
hood-shaped calyptri- (calyptriform)

hook-shaped hami- (hamiform);
 unci- (unciform)
horn-shaped corni- (corniculate,
 corniform)
horseshoe-shaped hippocrepi-
 (hippocrepiiform)
horsetail-shaped equiset- (equiseti-
 form)
hull-shaped naut- (nautiform)
hydra-shaped hydr- (hydraform)
irregular poikilo- (poikilocyte)
isopod-shaped isopodi- (isopodi-
 form)
ivy-shaped hederi- (hederiform)
kidney-shaped reni- (reniform)
knee-shaped genu- (genuform)
knife-shaped cultell- (cultellated);
 cultri- (cultriform)
ladder-shaped scalari- (scalarm-
 form)
lance-shaped lanci- (lanciform)
larva-shaped larvi- (larviform)
layered -decker (double-decker);
 lamelli- (lamelliform); lamin-
 (lamination); -plex (cerviplex);
 strat- (stratified)
leaf-shaped clad- (cladode); foli-
 (foliiform); phyll- (phylliform)
leather bottle-shaped utrei-
 (utreiform); utric- (utricular)
lid-shaped operculi- (operculiform)
lily-shaped lili- (liliform)
lizard-shaped lacerti- (lacerti-
 form)
lyre-shaped lyri- (lyriform)
malformed -mutil- (Mutilla); pero-
 (peropodous)
miter-shaped mitri- (mitriform)
moon-shaped luni- (luniform)
mummy-shaped mummi- (mum-
 miform)
mushroom-shaped fungi- (fungi-
 form); agar- (agariciform)
myrtle leaf-shaped myrti- (myrti-
 form)

necklace-shaped monili- (monili-
 form)
needle-shaped aci- (aciform); aci-
 cul- (acicular)
nose-shaped nari- (nariform); nasi-
 (nasiform)
nut-shaped caryo- (caryopsis);
 karyo- (karyokinesis); nuci- (nu-
 ciform); nucleo (nucleolus)
oar-shaped remi- (remiform)
oat-shaped aveni- (aveniform)
ox-shaped bov- (boviform)
oyster-shaped ostrea- (ostreiform)
pea-shaped pisi- (pisiform)
pear-shaped piri- (piriform); pyri-
 (pyriform)
pen-shaped styl- (styliform)
penis-shaped pen- (peniform)
petal-shaped petuli- (petuliform)
pillar-shaped columelli- (columel-
 liform); columni- (columniform)
pinecone-shaped strobil- (strobili-
 form)
pipe-shaped fistuli- (fistuliform)
placenta-shaped placenti- (placen-
 tiform)
pod-shaped siliqu- (siliquiform)
pointed aci- (acicular); acro- (acro-
 cephal); acu- (aculeate); acuti-
 (acutifoliate); -belon- (belono-
 phobia); cusp- (cuspid); muric-
 (muricate); oxy- (oxyrhine);
 -punct- (punctured); stylo- (sty-
 lograph)
pouch-shaped scroti- (scrotiform)
purse-shaped bursi- (bursiform)
rattlesnake-shaped crotali- (crotal-
 iform)
reed-shaped calam- (calamiform)
rice grain-shaped rizi- (riziform)
ring-shaped annul- (annular);
 circin- (circinate)
rod-shaped -bacill- (bacilliform);
 bacul- (baculiform); coryn-
 (coryneform); -rad- (radial);

- rhabdo-** (rhabdomyoma); virgul- (virgulate)
roof-shaped tecti- (tectiform)
root-shaped radic- (radiciform)
rope-shaped funil- (funiliform); resti- (restiform)
round -annul- (annulate); -anu- (anulus); -cing- (cingulum); cinct- (cincture); circin- (circinately); -circul- (recirculate); -coron- (coronation); crico- (cricoid); cyclo (cyclostomous); disco- (discoïd); globo- (globosity); glomer- (glomerate); numm- (nummular); -orb- (sub-orbital); -rot- (rotund); -sphere (hemisphere); sphero- (spheroid); stilli- (stilliform); tereti- (tereticaudate); troch- (trochal); zon- (zonesthesia)
rush-shaped junci- (junciform)
sac-shaped bursi- (bursiform); sacc- (sacciform)
salmon-shaped salmoni- (salmoniform)
saucer-shaped acetabul- (acetabuliform)
sausage-shaped allanto- (allantoid); botul- (botuliform)
saw-shaped serrati- (serratifform)
scale-shaped lamelli- (lamelliform); squami- (squamiform)
scimitar-shaped acinaci- (acinaciform)
shell-shaped conchi- (conchiform)
shield-shaped clype- (clypeiform); pelti- (peltiform); scut- (scutiform)
sickle-shaped drepani- (drepaniform); faldi- (falciform)
sieve-shaped coli- (coliform); cribri- (cribriiform)
slanting loxo- (loxodromic); plagio- (plagiodont)
slug-shaped limaci- (limaciform)
- snake-shaped** angui- (anguiform); colubri- (colubriform); serpenti- (serpentiniform)
spatula-shaped spatuli- (spatuliform)
spear-shaped hasti- (hastiform)
sphere-shaped spheri- (spheriform)
spider-shaped arene- (areneiform)
spike-shaped spic- (spiciform)
spindle-shaped fusu- (fusiform)
spine-shaped aculei- (aculeiform); spini- (spiniiform)
spiral-shaped cirri- (cirriform); cochl- (cochleate); gyro- (gyroidal); helici- (heliceiform); spiri- (spiriform)
spoon-shaped cochleari- (cochleariform)
square -quadr- (quadrangle)
stalactite-shaped stalacti- (stalactiform)
stalk-shaped stipiti- (stipitiform)
star-shaped aster- (asterisk); stelli- (stelliform)
straight ithy- (ithyphallic); ortho- (orthogonal)
strap-shaped liguli- (liguliform); lora- (lorate)
sword-shaped ensi- (ensiform); xiphi- (Xiphias); xipho- (xiphoid)
tea leaf-shaped thei- (theiform)
tear-shaped lachrymi- (lachrymiform)
tendril-shaped cirri- (cirriform); pampin- (pampiniform)
tentacle-shaped tentaculi- (tentaculiform)
thread-shaped fili- (filiform); nemato- (nematogen)
tongue-shaped lingui- (linguiform)
tooth-shaped denti- (dentiform)
top-shaped strombuli- (strombuliform); turbi- (turbinated)
tower-shaped pyrgo- (pyrgoidal)

trapezoid-shaped trapezi- (trapeziform)
tray-shaped hypocra- (hypocra-teriform)
tree-shaped arbor- (arboriform); dendri- (dendriform)
triangular delt- (deltoidal); triangulato- (triangulato-subovate); trigon- (trigonal)
tube-shaped fistuli- (fistuliform); syringo- (syringotomy); tubi- (tubiform); tubuli- (tubuliform); vasi- (vasiform)
turnip-shaped napi- (napiform)
umbrella-shaped umbraculi- (umbraculiform)

vase-shaped urcei- (urceiform)
wart-shaped verruci- (verruciform)
wedge-shaped cune- (cuneiform); spheno- (sphenography)
wheel-shaped roti- (rotiform); troch- (trochal)
whiplash-shaped flagelli- (flagelliform)
wing-shaped ala- (aliform)
wingcase-shaped elytri- (elytriform)
worm-shaped lumbric- (lumbriciform); scoleci- (scoleciform); vermi- (vermiform)
x-shaped decuss- (decussate)
yoke-shaped zygo- (zygomorphic)

TIME

afternoon pomerid- (pomeridian)
ancient -antiq- (antiquity); arch(a)eo- (archaeology); pal(a)eo- (Paleozoic); proto- (protohuman)
day -diurn- (diurnal); ephemer- (ephemeris); hemer- (hemerine); -journ- (journal); quotid- (quotidian)
earlier ante- (antedate); fore- (forecast); pre- (predawn); pro- (provision); protero- (proterotype); proto- (protomartyr); retro- (retroactive); yester- (yesteryear)
early period eo- (eolithic); paleo- (paleolithic)
evening crepus- (crepuscular); noct- (nocturnal); nocti- (noctiluculent); nycto- (nyctophobia); vesper- (vespertine)
hour horo- (horology)
incomplete -esce (incandesce); -escence (convalescence); -escent (incandescent)

lasting diuturn- (diuturnal); dur- (durable); perenn- (perennial); perm- (permanent); stabil- (stability)
later hystero- (hystero-genic); meta- (metabiosis); post (postmeridian); retro- (retrofit)
month -mens(i)- (mensal)
monthly: emmen- (emmenio-pathy)
morning matut- (matutinal)
new caeno- (Caenozoic); caino- (Cainozoic); ceno- (cenogenesis); neo- (neoplast); nov- (novelty); thalero- (thalerophagous)
night crepus- (crepuscular); noct- (nocturnal); nocti- (noctiluculent); nycto- (nyctophobia); vesper- (vespertine)
old gerasco- (gerascophobia); gero- (gerodontics); geronto- (gerontology); grand- (grandfather); presbyo- (presbyacismus); -sen- (seniority); -vet- (veteran)

recent -cene (Miocene); ceno-
(Cenozoic)

same time co- (coexist); hama-
(hamarchy); simul- (simultane-
ous); synchron- (synchronicity)

time chrono- (chronology) ; -temp-
(temporary)

today hodie- (hodiernal)

tomorrow crastin- (procrastinate)

twilight crepus- (crepusculine); lyg-
(lygophilia)

week -hebdom- (hebdomadal); sep-
timan- (septimanal)

year -ann- (annual); -enn- (bien-
nial)

yesterday hestern- (hesternal);
prid- (pridian)

young juven- (juvenile)

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THIRD EDITION

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To the User

All languages have phrases or sentences that cannot be understood literally. Even if you know the meaning of all the words in a phrase and understand all the grammar of the phrase completely, the meaning of the phrase may still be confusing. Many proverbs, informal phrases, and common sayings offer this kind of problem. A phrase or sentence of this type is said to be idiomatic. This dictionary is a collection of the idiomatic phrases and sentences that occur frequently in American English. The third edition contains more than one thousand idiomatic expressions not listed in the second edition and a number of new features that provide additional convenience and simplicity.

Using the Dictionary

1. Start by looking up the complete phrase that you are seeking in the dictionary. Each expression is alphabetized under the first word of the phrase, except the words *a*, *an*, and *the*. After the first word, entry heads are alphabetized letter by letter. For example, **in so many words** will be found in the section dealing with the letter *i*. Entry phrases are never inverted or reordered like **so many words, in; words, in so many; or many words, in so**. Initial articles—*a*, *an*, and *the*—are not alphabetized and appear in a different typeface in the entry. In the entry heads, the words *someone* or *one* stand for persons, and *something* stands for things. These and other generic expressions appear in a different typeface.
2. If you do not find the phrase you want, or if you cannot decide exactly what the phrase is, look up any major word in the phrase in the Phrase-Finder Index, which begins on page 447. There you will find all the phrases that contain the key word you have looked up. Pick out the phrase you want and look it up in the dictionary.
3. An entry head may have one or more alternate forms. The entry head and its alternates are printed in **boldface type**, and the alternate forms are preceded by “AND.” Two or more alternate forms are separated by a semicolon (;).
4. Many of the entry phrases have more than one major sense. These senses are numbered with boldface numerals.

5. Individual numbered senses may have additional forms that appear in **boldface type**, in which case the AND and the additional form(s) follow the numeral.
6. The boldface entry head (together with any alternate forms) is usually followed by a definition or explanation. Explanations are enclosed in angle brackets (< and >), and explain or describe the entry head rather than define it. Definitions take the form of words, phrases, or sentences that are semantic equivalents of the entry head. Alternate definitions and restatements of the definitions are separated by a semicolon (;). These additional definitions are usually given to show slight differences in meaning or interpretation. Sometimes an alternate definition is given when the vocabulary of the first definition is difficult.
7. Some entries include instructions to look up some other phrase. For example:
scarcer than hen's teeth Go to (as) **scarce as hen's teeth**.
8. A definition or explanation may be followed by comments in parentheses. These comments tell about some of the variations of the phrase, explain what it refers to, give other useful information, or indicate cross-referencing.
9. Some definitions are preceded by additional information in square brackets. This information makes the definition clearer by supplying information about the typical grammatical context in which the phrase is found.
10. Sometimes the numbered senses refer only to people or things, but not both, even though the entry head indicates both *someone or something*. In such cases, the numeral is followed by “[with *someone*]” or “[with *something*].”
11. Examples are introduced by a □ or a ⊞ and are in *italic type*. The ⊞ introduces an example containing two elements that have been transposed, such as a particle and the object of a verb. This is typically found with phrasal verbs.
12. Some entry heads stand for two or more idiomatic expressions. Parentheses are used to show which parts of the phrase may or may not be present. For example: **(all) set to do something** stands for **all set to do something** and **set to do something**.

Terms and Symbols

[...] enclose a partial entry that is followed by an instruction about where to find the whole entry or a comment. For instance, [heart stands still] Go to one's **heart stands still**.

<....> enclose a description of or explanation about an entry head rather than a definition. For instance, Finders keepers(, losers weepers). <a phrase said when something is found.>

□ (a box) marks the beginning of an example.

▣ (a box containing a “T”) marks the beginning of an example in which two elements of the phrase, usually a particle and an object, are transposed.

AND indicates that an entry head has variant forms that are the same or similar in meaning as the entry head. One or more variant forms are preceded by AND.

entry block is the body of an entry starting with a boldface word or phrase type and running to the next boldface word or phrase.

entry head is the first phrase or word, in boldface type, of an entry block; the phrase or word that the definition explains.

go to means to turn to the entry head indicated.

see also means to consult the entry head indicated for additional information or to find expressions similar in form or meaning to the entry head containing the **see also** instruction.

Type Styles

Entry heads are printed in **boldface type**, e.g., **Join the club!**

Variable parts of an entry are printed in condensed type, e.g., **just the same (to someone)**.

Entry heads being referred to as cross-references are printed in **sans serif type**, e.g., **get the short end of the stick**.

Variable parts of cross-references are printed in light condensed type, e.g., **ease off (on someone or something)**.

Words or phrases that are mentioned but are not entries are printed in *italic type*, e.g., (Preceded by *be* or *seem*).

Examples are printed in *italic type*, e.g., □ *The cashier was not allowed to leave the bank until the manager balanced the books.*

Definitions, descriptions, and comments are printed in roman type, e.g., a very active and energetic person who always succeeds.

Words or phrases being emphasized in examples are printed in roman type, e.g., □ *And stop hiding your head in the sand. All of us will die somehow, whether we smoke or not.*

The articles *a*, *an*, and *the* appear in roman type at the beginning of an entry head, and these words are ignored in the process of alphabetizing, e.g., a **babe in the woods**, which is found under *B*, not under *T*.

About This Dictionary

NTC's American Idioms Dictionary is designed for easy use by lifelong speakers of English, as well as the new-to-English speaker or learner. The dictionary uses 14,000 examples to illustrate the meanings of approximately 8,500 idiomatic forms in 7,500 entry blocks. An appendix includes 500 irreversible binomial and trinomial phrases. The dictionary contains a unique Phrase-Finder Index that allows the user to identify and look up any expression in the dictionary from a single key word.

This is a dictionary of form and meaning. It focuses on the user's need to know the meaning, usage, and appropriate contexts for each idiomatic phrase. Specialized knowledge of English lexical and sentential semantics and English grammar is not used in indexing, defining, or explaining the idiomatic expressions.

English is a highly variable language. American English has differences that correlate with geographical location, the level and register of use, and other differences that relate to characteristics of the speaker. To include examples that would represent all kinds of American English as spoken by all kinds of speakers is not possible. The kind of American English used in the dictionary is generally what one would expect to hear used by educated, polite individuals representative of the traditional American home, family, and community. It is widely used in the United States and understood by English speakers throughout the country.

Idioms or idiomatic expressions are often defined as “set phrases” or “fixed phrases.” The number of idiomatic expressions that are totally invariant is really quite small, however, even when the English proverbs are included in this category. Most such phrases can vary the choice of noun or pronoun and most select from a wide variety of verb tense and aspect patterns. Adjectives and some adverbs can be added at will to idiomatic phrases. Furthermore, the new-to-English user is faced with the difficulty of isolating an idiomatic expression from the rest of the sentence and determining where to find it in a dictionary of idioms. If the user fails to extract the essential idiomatic expression, the likelihood of finding it in *any* dictionary is reduced considerably.

In dictionaries that list each idiomatic expression under a “key word,” there may be some difficulty in deciding what the “key word” is. In phrases such as **on the button** or **in the cards**, the key word, the only noun in the phrase, is easy to determine if one has correctly isolated the phrase from the sentence in which it was found. In phrases that have more than one noun, such as **all hours of the day and night** or **A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush**, deciding on a “key word” may be more difficult. It is even more difficult when the only noun in the phrase is one of the variable words, such as with **go around with her old friends**, **go around with Jim**, and **go around with no one at all**, which are examples of **go around with someone**.

This dictionary uses the Phrase-Finder Index to get around the problems users face with trying to isolate the complete idiom and trying to predict its location in the dictionary. Simply look up *any* major word—noun, verb, adjective, or adverb—in the Phrase-Finder index, and you will find the form of the entry head that contains the definition you seek.

Another important feature for the learner is the use of object placeholders indicating human and nonhuman. Typical dictionary entries for idiomatic phrases—especially for phrasal verbs, prepositional verbs, and phrasal prepositional verbs—omit direct objects, as in **put on hold**, **bail out**, or **see through**. This dictionary uses the stand-in forms such as *someone*, *something*, *some amount*, or *somewhere* for variable objects and other variable forms. These stand-in forms are in condensed type.

All of that information is vital to learners of English, although it seems to come perfectly naturally to lifelong English speakers. For example, there is a big difference between **put someone on hold** and **put something on hold**, or between **bail someone out** and **bail something out**. There is also a great difference between **see something through** and **see through something**. These differences may never be revealed if the entry heads are just **put on hold**, **bail out**, and **see through**, with no object indicated.

Many idioms have optional parts. In fact, a phrase may seem opaque simply because it is really just an ellipsis of a longer, less opaque phrase. This dictionary shows as full a form of an idiom as possible with the frequently omitted parts in parentheses. For example: **back down**

(from someone or something), **be all eyes (and ears)**, and **(every) once in a while**.

The dictionary includes numerous irreversible binomials and trinomials—sequences of two or three words that are in a fixed order, such as *fast and furious*, but not *furious and fast*. These sequences are listed in the Appendix, beginning on page 621, and those that require explanation are cross-referenced to entries in the dictionary.

The compiler has included idiomatic phrases drawn from or suggested by Anne Bertram in *NTC's Dictionary of Proverbs and Clichés*, *NTC's Dictionary of Euphemisms*, and *NTC's Dictionary of Folksy, Regional, and Rural Sayings* and Elizabeth Kirkpatrick in *NTC's English Idioms Dictionary*.

A

[a] <Entries beginning with *a*, *an*, or *the* are alphabetized under the second word in the entry. That means that **a bed of roses** will appear in the *Bs*.>

an **A for effort** recognition for having tried to do something even if it was not successful. □ *The plan didn't work, but I'll give you an A for effort for trying so hard.* □ *Bobby played his violin in the concert and got an A for effort. It sounded terrible.*

(a little) new to (all) this an apologetic way of saying that one is experiencing something new or participating in something new and is therefore ineffective or inept. □ *I'm sorry I'm slow. I'm a little new to all this.* □ *She's new to this. She needs practice.*

abide by something to follow the rules of something; to obey someone's orders. □ *John felt that he had to abide by his father's wishes.* □ *All drivers are expected to abide by the rules of the road.*

able to breathe (easily) again AND **able to breathe (freely) again** able to relax and recover from a busy or stressful time; able to catch one's breath. (Also literal. *Able to* can be replaced with *can*.) □ *Now that the lion has been caught, we'll be able to breathe freely again.* □ *Now that the annual sale is over, the sales staff will be able to breathe again.* □ *Final exams are over, so I can breathe easily again.*

able to breathe (freely) again Go to able to breathe (easily) again.

able to do something blindfolded AND **able to do something standing on one's head** able to do something easily and quickly, possibly without even looking. (Informal. *Able to* can be replaced with *can*.) □ *Bill boasted that he could pass his driver's*

test blindfolded. □ *Mary is very good with computers. She can program blindfolded.* □ *Dr. Jones is a great surgeon. He can take out an appendix standing on his head.*

able to do something standing on one's head Go to able to do something blindfolded.

able to do something with one's eyes closed able to do something very easily, even without having to think about it or look at it. (Also literal. Also with *can*. Always affirmative.) □ *It's easy. I can do it with my eyes closed.* □ *I can clean the house with my eyes closed! It's easy!*

able to fog a mirror alive, even if just barely. (Usually jocular. Refers to the use of a small mirror placed under one's nose to tell if one is breathing or not.) □ *Look, I don't need an athlete to do this job. Anybody able to fog a mirror will do fine!* □ *I'm so tired this morning, I feel like I'm hardly able to fog a mirror.*

able to make something able to attend an event. (Also literal. Informal. *Able to* can be replaced with *can*.) □ *I don't think I'll be able to make your party, but thanks for asking me.* □ *We are having another one next month. We hope you can make it then.*

able to take a joke to be able to accept ridicule good-naturedly; to be the object or butt of a joke willingly. (*Able to* can be replaced with *can*.) □ *Let's play a trick on Bill and see if he's able to take a joke.* □ *Better not tease Ann. She can't take a joke.*

able to take just so much able to endure only a limited amount of discomfort. (*Able to* can be replaced with *can*.) □ *Please stop hurting my feelings. I'm able to*

take just so much before I get angry. □ I can take just so much.

able to take something able to endure something; able to endure abuse. (Often in the negative. *Able to* can be replaced with *can*. See also the previous entry.) □ *Stop yelling like that. I'm not able to take it anymore.* □ *Go ahead, hit me again. I can take it.*

above and beyond (something) more than is required. □ *Her efforts were above and beyond. We appreciate her time.* □ *All this extra time is above and beyond her regular hours.*

(above and) beyond the call of duty in addition to what is required; more than is required in one's job. □ *We didn't expect the police officer to drive us home. That was above and beyond the call of duty.* □ *The English teacher helped students after school every day, even though it was beyond the call of duty.*

above average higher or better than the average. □ *Max's grades are always above average.* □ *His intelligence is clearly above average.*

above par better than average or normal. □ *His work is above par, so he should get paid better.* □ *Your chances of winning the game are a little above par.*

above reproach not deserving of blame or criticism. □ *Some politicians behave as though they are above reproach.* □ *You must accept your punishment. You are not above reproach.*

above suspicion honest enough that no one would suspect you; to be in a position where you could not be suspected. □ *The general is a fine old man, completely above suspicion.* □ *Mary was at work at the time of the accident, so she's above suspicion.*

aboveboard AND **honest and aboveboard; open and aboveboard** in the open; visible to the public; honest. (Especially with *keep*, as in the examples below.) □ *Don't keep it a secret. Let's make sure that everything is aboveboard.* □ *You can do whatever you wish, as long as you keep it honest and aboveboard.* □ *The in-*

spector had to make sure that everything was open and aboveboard.

absent without leave AND **AWOL** absent from a military unit without permission; absent from anything without permission. (AWOL is an abbreviation. This is a serious offense in the military.) □ *The soldier was taken away by the military police because he was absent without leave.* □ *John was AWOL from school and got into a lot of trouble with his parents.*

according to all accounts AND **by all accounts** from all the reports; everyone is saying. □ *According to all accounts, the police were on the scene immediately.* □ *According to all accounts, the meeting broke up over a very minor matter.* □ *By all accounts, it was a very poor performance.*

according to Hoyle according to the rules; in keeping with the way it is normally done. (Refers to the rules for playing games. Edmond Hoyle wrote a book about games. This expression is usually used for something other than games.) □ *That's wrong. According to Hoyle, this is the way to do it.* □ *The carpenter said, "This is the way to drive a nail, according to Hoyle."*

according to one's own lights according to the way one believes; according to the way one's conscience or inclinations lead one. (Rarely used informally.) □ *People must act on this matter according to their own lights.* □ *John may have been wrong, but he did what he did according to his own lights.*

according to someone or something as said or indicated by someone or something. □ *According to the weather forecast, this should be a beautiful day.* □ *According to my father, this is a very good car to buy.* □ *It's too cold to go for a walk, according to the thermometer.*

according to something in proportion to something. □ *You will get paid according to the number of hours that you work.* □ *The doctor charges patients according to their ability to pay.*

accustomed to someone or something used to or comfortable with someone or something; accepting of someone or something as common and usual. ☐ *We were accustomed to wearing shoes.* ☐ *They aren't accustomed to paying a visit without bringing a gift.* ☐ *I'll never become accustomed to you.*

[ace in the hole] Go to someone's ace in the hole.

an **aching heart** the feeling of distress because of love that is lost or has faded away, described as being in the heart, where love is said to reside. ☐ *I try to tell my aching heart that I don't love him.* ☐ *There is no medicine for an aching heart.*

acid test a test whose findings are beyond doubt or dispute. (Refers to a chemical test that shows whether a metal is gold.) ☐ *Her new husband seems generous, but the acid test will be if he lets her mother stay with them.* ☐ *The senator isn't very popular just now, but the acid test will be if he gets reelected.*

acknowledge receipt (of something) to inform the sender that what was sent was received. (Commonly used in business correspondence.) ☐ *In a letter to a shoe company, Mary wrote, "I'm happy to acknowledge receipt of four dozen pairs of shoes."* ☐ *John acknowledged receipt of the bill.* ☐ *The package hasn't arrived, so I'm unable to acknowledge receipt.*

acknowledge someone to be right to admit or state that someone is correct about something. ☐ *Mary acknowledged Bill to be right about the name of the store.* ☐ *Bill said that the car was useless, and the mechanic acknowledged him to be right.*

acquire a taste for something to develop a liking for food, drink, or something else; to learn to like something. ☐ *One acquires a taste for fine wines.* ☐ *Many people are never able to acquire a taste for foreign food.* ☐ *Mary acquired a taste for art when she was very young.*

across the board equally for everyone or everything. ☐ *The school board raised the pay of all the teachers across the board.* ☐ *Congress cut the budget by reducing the*

money for each department 10 percent across the board.

act as someone to perform in the capacity of someone, temporarily or permanently. ☐ *I'll act as your supervisor until Mrs. Brown returns from vacation.* ☐ *This is Mr. Smith. He'll act as manager from now on.*

act high-and-mighty to act proud and powerful. (Informal.) ☐ *Why does the doctor always have to act so high-and-mighty?* ☐ *If Sally wouldn't act so high-and-mighty, she'd have more friends.*

an **act of faith** an act or deed demonstrating religious faith; an act or deed showing trust in someone or something. ☐ *He lit candles in church as an act of faith.* ☐ *For him to trust you with his safety was a real act of faith.*

an **act of God** an occurrence (usually an accident) for which no human is responsible; a dramatic act of nature such as a storm, an earthquake, or a windstorm. ☐ *My insurance company wouldn't pay for the damage because it was an act of God.* ☐ *The thief tried to convince the judge that the diamonds were in his pocket due to an act of God.*

an **act of war** an international act of violence for which war is considered a suitable response; any hostile act between two people. ☐ *To bomb a ship is an act of war.* ☐ *Can spying be considered an act of war?* ☐ *"You just broke my stereo," yelled John. "That's an act of war!"*

act one's age to behave more maturely; to act as grown-up as one really is. (This is frequently said to a child.) ☐ *Come on, John, act your age. Stop throwing rocks.* ☐ *Mary! Stop picking on your little brother. Act your age!*

act something out to perform an imaginary event as if one were in a play. ☐ *Bill always acted his anger out by shouting and pounding his fists.* ☐ *The psychiatrist asked Bill to act out the way he felt about getting fired.*

act up to misbehave; to run or act badly. ☐ *John, why do you always have to act up when your father and I take you out to eat?* ☐ *My arthritis is acting up. It really hurts.*

□ *My car is acting up. I could hardly get it started this morning.*

Actions speak louder than words. It is better to do something about a problem than just talk about it. (Proverb.) □ *Mary kept promising to get a job. John finally looked her in the eye and said, “Actions speak louder than words!”* □ *After listening to the senator promising to cut federal spending, Ann wrote a simple note saying, “Actions speak louder than words.”*

add fuel to the fire AND **add fuel to the flame** to make a problem worse; to say or do something that makes a bad situation worse; to make an angry person even more angry. (Also literal.) □ *To spank a crying child just adds fuel to the fire.* □ *Bill was shouting angrily, and Bob tried to get him to stop by laughing at him. Of course, that was just adding fuel to the flame.*

add fuel to the flame Go to add fuel to the fire.

add insult to injury to make a bad situation worse; to hurt the feelings of a person who has already been hurt. □ *First, the basement flooded, and then, to add insult to injury, a pipe burst in the kitchen.* □ *My car barely started this morning, and to add insult to injury, I got a flat tire in the driveway.*

add up (to something) 1. to total up to a particular amount. □ *The bill added up to \$200.* □ *These groceries will add up to almost sixty dollars.* □ *These numbers just won’t add up.* **2.** to mean something; to signify or represent something; to result in something. □ *All this adds up to trouble!* □ *I don’t understand. What does all this add up to?* □ *If you think about it carefully, these facts add up perfectly.*

address someone **as** something **1.** to talk to or write to a person, using a particular title. □ *They addressed Abraham Lincoln as “Mr. President.”* □ *A physician is usually addressed as “Doctor.”* **2.** to treat a person you are talking with in a particular manner. □ *You should address him as your equal.* □ *Do not address me as your superior.*

advanced in years Go to up in years.

advise against something to suggest that something not be done. □ *I advised against quitting work early.* □ *Lisa always advises against hasty actions.*

advise someone **against** doing something to supply someone with a suggestion of not doing something. □ *I advised Bill against quitting his job.* □ *Lisa advised Tom against doing it.*

an **affinity for** someone or something a strong preference for something; a strong liking for something. □ *Cats have an affinity for seafood.* □ *Mary’s affinity for classical music accounts for her large collection of recordings.*

afraid of one’s **own shadow** easily frightened; always frightened, timid, or suspicious. □ *After Tom was robbed, he was even afraid of his own shadow.* □ *Jane has always been a shy child. She has been afraid of her own shadow since she was three.*

after a fashion in a manner that is just barely adequate; poorly. □ *He thanked me—after a fashion—for my help.* □ *Oh, yes, I can swim, after a fashion.*

after all 1. anyway; in spite of what had been decided. (Often refers to a change in plans or a reversal of plans.) □ *Mary had planned to go to the bank first, but she came here after all.* □ *It looks like Tom will go to law school after all.* **2.** remember; consider the fact that. □ *Don’t punish Tommy! After all, he’s only three years old!* □ *After all, we really didn’t hurt anyone!*

after all is said and done when everything is settled or concluded; finally. (See also **when all is said and done**.) □ *After all was said and done, it was a lovely party.* □ *After all is said and done, it will turn out just as I said.*

after hours after the regular closing time; after any normal or regular time, such as one’s bedtime. □ *John was arrested in a bar after hours.* □ *The soldier was caught sneaking into the barracks after hours.* □ *John got a job sweeping floors in the bank after hours.*

after the fact after something has happened; after something, especially a

crime, has taken place. (Primarily a legal phrase.) □ *John is always making excuses after the fact.* □ *Remember to lock your car whenever you leave it. If it's stolen, there is nothing you can do after the fact.*

after the fashion of someone or something in the manner or style of someone or something. (See also **after a fashion**.) □ *She walks down the street after the fashion of a grand lady.* □ *The church was built after the fashion of an English cathedral.*

again and again repeatedly; again and even more. □ *I like going to the beach, and I will go back again and again.* □ *He knocked on the door again and again until I finally answered.*

against someone's will without a person's consent or agreement. □ *You cannot force me to come with you against my will!* □ *Against their will, the men were made to stand up against the wall and be searched.*

against the clock in a race with time; in a great hurry to get something done before a particular time. (See also **race against time**.) □ *Bill set a new track record, running against the clock. He lost the actual race, however.* □ *In a race against the clock, they rushed the special medicine to the hospital.*

ahead of one's time having ideas or attitudes that are too advanced to be acceptable to or appreciated by the society in which one is living. □ *People buy that artist's work now, but his paintings were laughed at when he was alive. He was ahead of his time.* □ *Mary's grandmother was ahead of her time in wanting to study medicine.*

ahead of schedule having done something before the time listed on the schedule. □ *I want to be able to finish the job ahead of schedule.* □ *We don't have to rush because we are ahead of schedule.*

ahead of the game being early; having an advantage over a situation; having done more than necessary. (Informal or slang.) □ *Whenever we go to a movie, we show up ahead of the game and have to wait.* □ *Bill has to study math very hard to keep ahead*

of the game. □ *Bob does extra work so he's always ahead of the game.*

ahead of time beforehand; before the announced time. □ *If you show up ahead of time, you will have to wait.* □ *Be there ahead of time if you want to get a good seat.*

aid and abet someone to help someone; to incite someone to do something that is wrong. □ *He was scolded for aiding and abetting the boys who were fighting.* □ *It's illegal to aid and abet a thief.*

aim to do something to mean to do something; to intend to do something in the future. (Folksy.) □ *I aim to paint the house as soon as I can find a brush.* □ *He aims to take a few days off and go fishing.*

Ain't it the truth? Isn't that just the way it is?; I agree with you completely. (Informal.) □ *A: Things aren't the way they used to be in the good old days. B: Ain't it the truth?* □ *A: You just can't buy good shoes anymore. B: Ain't it the truth?*

air one's dirty linen in public **AND wash one's dirty linen in public** to discuss private or embarrassing matters in public, especially when quarreling. (This **linen** refers to sheets and tablecloths or other soiled cloth.) □ *John's mother had asked him repeatedly not to air the family's dirty linen in public.* □ *Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are arguing again. Why must they always air their dirty linen in public?* □ *Jean will talk to anyone about her financial problems. Why does she wash her dirty linen in public?*

air one's grievances to complain; to make a public complaint. □ *I know how you feel, John, but it isn't necessary to air your grievances over and over.* □ *I know you're busy, sir, but I must air my grievances. This matter is very serious.*

air something out to freshen up something by placing it in the open air; to freshen a room by letting air move through it. □ *It's so stale in here. Mary, please open a window and air this place out.* □ *Please take this pillow outside and air it out.* □ *I'll have to air out the car. Someone has been smoking in it.*

alive and kicking AND **alive and well** well and healthy. (Informal.) □ *JANE: How is Bill? MARY: Oh, he's alive and kicking. □ The last time I saw Tom, he was alive and well.*

alive and well Go to alive and kicking.

alive with someone or something covered with, filled with, or active with people or things. □ *Look! Ants everywhere. The floor is alive with ants! □ When we got to the ballroom, the place was alive with dancing. □ The campground was alive with campers from all over the country.*

all and sundry everyone; one and all. (Folksy.) □ *Cold drinks were served to all and sundry. □ All and sundry came to the village fair.*

all around Robin Hood's barn going somewhere not by a direct route; going way out of the way [to get somewhere]; by a long and circuitous route. □ *We had to go all around Robin Hood's barn to get to the little town. □ She walked all around Robin Hood's barn looking for a shop that sold Finnish glassware.*

all at once 1. suddenly. □ *All at once the chair broke, and Bob fell to the floor. □ All at once she tripped on a stone. 2.* all at the same time. □ *The entire group spoke all at once. □ They were trying to cook dinner, clean house, and paint the closet all at once.*

(all) at sea (about something) confused; lost and bewildered. □ *Mary is all at sea about getting married. □ When it comes to higher math, John is totally at sea.*

(all) balled up troubled; confused; in a mess. (Slang.) □ *Look at you! You're really all balled up! □ John is all balled up because his car was stolen. □ Of course this typewriter won't work. It's all balled up.*

(all) beer and skittles all fun and pleasure; easy and pleasant. (Skittles is the game of ninepins, a game similar to bowling.) □ *Life isn't all beer and skittles, you know! □ For Sam, college was beer and skittles. He wasted a lot of time and money.*

all better now improved; cured. (Folksy or juvenile.) □ *My leg was sore, but it's all better now. □ I fell off my tricycle and bumped my knee. Mommy kissed it, and it's all better now.*

all day long throughout the day; during the entire day. □ *We waited for you at the station all day long. □ I can't keep smiling all day long.*

all dressed up dressed in one's best clothes; dressed formally. □ *We're all dressed up to go out to dinner. □ I really hate to get all dressed up just to go somewhere to eat.*

all for something very much in favor of something. (For is usually emphasized.) □ *Bill is all for stopping off to get ice cream. □ Mary suggested that they sell their house. They weren't all for it, but they did it anyway.*

(all) for the best good in spite of the way it seems now; better than you think. (Often said when someone dies after a serious illness.) □ *I'm very sorry to hear of the death of your aunt. Perhaps it's for the best. □ I didn't get into the college I wanted, but I couldn't afford it anyway. It's probably all for the best.*

all gone used up; finished; over with. □ *Oh, the strawberry jelly is all gone. □ We used to have wonderful parties, but those days are all gone.*

all in tired; exhausted; all tuckered out. □ *I just walked all the way from town. I'm all in. □ "What a day!" said Sally. "I'm all in."*

all in a day's work part of what is expected; typical or normal. (Also literal.) □ *I don't particularly like to cook, but it's all in a day's work. □ Putting up with rude customers isn't pleasant, but it's all in a day's work. □ Cleaning up after other people is all in a day's work for a chambermaid.*

all in all considering everything that has happened; in summary and in spite of any unpleasantness. □ *All in all, it was a very good party. □ All in all, I'm glad that I visited New York City.*

all in good time at some future time; in good time; soon. (This phrase is used to encourage people to be patient and wait quietly.) □ *When will the baby be born? All in good time.* □ MARY: I'm starved! When will Bill get here with the pizza? TOM: All in good time, Mary, all in good time.

(all) in one breath spoken rapidly, usually while one is very excited. (Also literal.) □ *Ann said all in one breath, "Hurry, quick! The parade is coming!"* □ *Jane was in a play, and she was so excited that she said her whole speech in one breath.* □ *Tom can say the alphabet all in one breath.*

all in one piece safely; without damage. (Informal.) □ *Her son come home from school all in one piece, even though he had been in a fight.* □ *The package was handled carelessly, but the vase inside arrived all in one piece.*

(all) in the family restricted to one's own family, as with private or embarrassing information. (Especially with keep.) □ *Don't tell anyone else. Please keep it all in the family.* □ *He only told his brother because he wanted it to remain in the family.*

(all) joking aside AND **(all) kidding aside** being serious for a moment; in all seriousness. □ *I know I laugh at him but, joking aside, he's a very clever scientist.* □ *I know I threatened to leave and go round the world, but, joking aside, I need a vacation.*

(all) kidding aside Go to (all) joking aside.

all kinds of someone or something a great number of people or things; a great amount of something, especially money. (Informal. Also literal, meaning "all types.") □ *There were all kinds of people there, probably thousands.* □ *The Smith family has all kinds of money.*

all manner of someone or something all types of people or things. □ *We saw all manner of people there. They came from every country in the world.* □ *They were selling all manner of things in the country store.*

all night long throughout the whole night. □ *I couldn't sleep all night long.* □ *John was sick all night long.*

all of a sudden suddenly. □ *All of a sudden, lightning struck the tree we were sitting under.* □ *I felt a sharp pain in my side all of a sudden.*

all or nothing 1. everything or nothing at all. □ *Sally would not accept only part of the money. She wanted all or nothing.* □ *I can't bargain over trifles. I will have to have all or nothing.* **2.** time to choose to do something or not to do it. □ *It was all or nothing. Tim had to jump off the truck or risk drowning when the truck went into the water.* □ *Jane stood at the door of the airplane and checked her parachute. It was all or nothing now. She had to jump or be looked upon as a coward.*

an **all-out effort** a very good and thorough effort. (See also **make an all-out effort**.) □ *We need an all-out effort to get this job done on time.* □ *The government began an all-out effort to reduce the federal budget.*

all-out war total war, as opposed to small, warlike acts or threats of war. □ *We are now concerned about all-out war in the Middle East.* □ *Threats of all-out war caused many tourists to leave the country immediately.*

all over 1. finished; dead. (Compare this with (all) over with.) □ *Dinner is all over. I'm sorry you didn't get any.* □ *It's all over. He's dead now.* **2.** everywhere. (See also **all over the earth**.) □ *Oh, I just itch all over.* □ *She's spreading the rumor all over.*

(all) over again starting over completely again; going through something completely yet another time. □ *Do I have to go through this all over again?* □ *Please start over again for those who came in late.*

all over but the shouting essentially decided and concluded. (An elaboration of **all over**, which means "finished.") □ *The last goal was made just as the final whistle sounded. Tom said, "Well, it's all over but the shouting."* □ *Tom worked hard in college and graduated last month. When he got his diploma, he said, "It's all over but the shouting."*

all over the earth AND **all over the world** everywhere. □ *Grass grows all over the earth.* □ *It's the same way all over the world.*

all over the place everywhere; in all parts of a particular location. □ *Tom, stop leaving your dirty clothes all over the place.* □ *We keep finding this kind of problem all over the place.*

all over the world Go to all over the earth.

all over town 1. everywhere in town. □ *Our dog got loose and ran all over town.* □ *Jane looked all over town for a dress to wear to the party.* **2.** known to everyone. □ *Now keep this a secret. I don't want it all over town.* □ *In a short time the secret was known all over town.*

(all) over with finished. (See also **all over**.) □ *His problems are all over with now.* □ *After dinner is all over with, we can play cards.*

all right 1. well, good, or okay, but not excellent. (Informal. This phrase has all the uses that *okay* has.) □ *I was a little sick, but now I'm all right.* □ *His work is all right, but nothing to brag about.* □ *All right, it's time to go.* **2.** beyond a doubt; as the evidence shows. □ *The dog's dead all right. It hasn't moved at all.* □ *The train's late all right. It hasn't been late in months.* **3.** hooray. (An exclamation of joy or encouragement.) □ *The Bears won! All right!* □ *All right! That's the way to do it!*

All right for you! That's it for you!; That's the last chance for you! (Juvenile and informal. Usually said by a child who is angry with a playmate.) □ *All right for you, John. See if I ever play with you again.* □ *All right for you! I'm telling your mother what you did.*

all right with someone agreeable to someone. □ *If you want to ruin your life and marry Tom, it's all right with me.* □ *I'll see if it's all right with my father.*

all set ready to begin; okay. (See also **(all) set to** do something.) □ *TOM: Is everything all right?* *JANE: Yes, we are all set.* □ *We are ready to leave now. Are you all set?*

(all) set to do something prepared or ready to do something. (See also **all set**.) □ *Are you set to cook the steaks?* □ *Yes, the fire is ready, and I'm all set to start.*

(all) shot to hell totally ruined. (Informal. Use caution with *hell*.) □ *My car is all shot to hell and can't be depended on.* □ *This knife is shot to hell. I need a sharper one.*

(all) skin and bones Go to nothing but skin and bones.

all sweetness and light very sweet, innocent, and helpful. (Perhaps insincerely so.) □ *She was mad at first, but after a while, she was all sweetness and light.* □ *At the reception, the whole family was all sweetness and light, but they argued and fought after the guests left.*

all systems (are) go everything is ready. (Informal. Originally said when preparing to launch a rocket.) □ *The rocket is ready to blast off—all systems are go.* □ *TOM: Are you guys ready to start playing?* *BILL: Sure, Tom, all systems go.*

all talk (and no action) talking about doing something, but never actually doing it. □ *The car needs washing, but Bill is all talk and no action on this matter.* □ *Bill keeps saying he'll get a job soon, but he's all talk and no action.* □ *Bill won't do it. He's just all talk.*

All that glitters is not gold. Many attractive and alluring things have no value. (Proverb.) □ *The used car looked fine but didn't run well at all. "Ah, yes," thought Bill, "all that glitters is not gold."* □ *When Mary was disappointed about losing Tom, Jane reminded her, "All that glitters is not gold."*

all the livelong day throughout the whole day. (Folksy.) □ *They kept at their work all the livelong day.* □ *Bob just sat by the creek fishing, all the livelong day.*

all the rage in current fashion. □ *A new dance called the "floppy disc" is all the rage.* □ *Wearing a rope instead of a belt is all the rage these days.*

all the same AND **just the same** nevertheless; anyhow. □ *They were told not to*

bring presents, but they brought them all the same. □ His parents said no, but John went out just the same.

all the same (to someone) AND just the same (to someone) of no consequence to someone; immaterial to someone. □ *It's all the same to me whether we win or lose.* □ *If it's just the same to you, I'd rather walk than ride.* □ *If it's all the same, I'd rather you didn't smoke.*

all the time **1.** throughout a specific period of time. □ *Bill was stealing money for the last two years, and Tom knew it all the time.* □ *Throughout December and January, Jane had two jobs all the time.* **2.** at all times; continuously. □ *Your blood keeps flowing all the time.* □ *That electric motor runs all the time.* **3.** repeatedly; habitually. □ *She keeps a handkerchief in her hand all the time.* □ *She hums softly all the time.*

all the way from the beginning to the end; the entire distance, from start to finish. (See also **go all the way (with someone).**) □ *The ladder reaches all the way to the top of the house.* □ *I walked all the way home.*

all thumbs awkward and clumsy, especially with one's hands. □ *Poor Bob can't play the piano at all. He's all thumbs.* □ *Mary is all thumbs when it comes to gardening.*

all told totaled up; including all parts. □ *All told, he earned about \$700 last week.* □ *All told, he has many fine characteristics.*

all to the good for the best; for one's benefit. □ *He missed the train, but it was all to the good because the train had a wreck.* □ *It was all to the good that he died without suffering.*

(all) tuckered out tired out; worn out. (Folksy.) □ *Poor John worked so hard that he's all tuckered out.* □ *Look at that little baby sleeping. She's really tuckered out.*

all walks of life all social, economic, and ethnic groups. □ *We saw people there from all walks of life.* □ *The people who came to the art exhibit represented all walks of life.*

(all) well and good good; desirable. □ *It's well and good that you're here on time. I*

was afraid you'd be late again. □ *It's all well and good that you're passing English, but what about math and science?*

all wet mistaken; wrongheaded; on the wrong track. (Also literal.) □ *It's not that way, John. You're all wet.* □ *If you think that prices will come down, you're all wet.*

all wool and a yard wide genuine; genuinely warmhearted and friendly. (Informal and folksy. Refers to cloth that is 100 percent wool and exactly one yard wide.) □ *Old Bob is a true gentleman—all wool and a yard wide.* □ *The banker, hardly all wool and a yard wide, wouldn't give us a loan.*

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. One should have recreation as well as work. (Proverb. Jack does not refer to anyone in particular. The phrase can be used for persons of either sex.) □ *Stop reading that book and go out and play! All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.* □ *The doctor told Mr. Jones to stop working on weekends and start playing golf, because all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.*

(all) worked up (about something) Go to (all) worked up (over something).

(all) worked up (over something) AND (all) worked up (about something) excited and agitated about something. (See also **get worked up (over something).**) □ *Tom is all worked up over the threat of a new war.* □ *Don't get all worked up about something that you can't do anything about.* □ *Bill is all worked up again. It's bad for his health.*

(all) year round throughout all the seasons of the year; during the entire year. □ *The public swimming pool is enclosed so that it can be used all year round.* □ *In the South they can grow flowers all year round.*

allow for someone or something **1.** to plan on having enough of something (such as food, space, etc.) for someone. □ *Mary is bringing Bill on the picnic, so be sure to allow for him when buying the food.* □ *Allow for an extra person when setting the table tonight.* **2.** to plan on the possibil-

ity of something. □ *Allow for a few rainy days on your vacation.* □ *Be sure to allow for future growth when you plant the rosebushes.*

All's well that ends well. An event that has a good ending is considered good, even if some things went wrong along the way. (Proverb. This is the name of a play by Shakespeare.) □ *I'm glad you finally got here, even though your car had a flat tire on the way. Oh, well. All's well that ends well.* □ *The groom was late for the wedding, but everything worked out all right. All's well that ends well.*

the **almighty dollar** the U.S. dollar, worshiped as a god; money, viewed as more important and powerful than anything else. □ *Bill was a slave to the almighty dollar.* □ *It's the almighty dollar that drives the whole country.*

almost lost it having been so angry or distraught as to nearly lose one's temper, composure, or control. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *I was so mad, I almost lost it.* □ *When he saw the dent in his fender, he almost lost it.*

along in years Go to up in years.

along with someone or something in addition to someone or something; together with someone or something. □ *Jane went to the mall along with David.* □ *I ate some chocolates along with some fruit.*

alongside (of) someone or something as compared to a person or a thing. (Also literal. Informal. The things being compared need not be beside one another.) □ *Our car looks quite small alongside of theirs.* □ *My power of concentration is quite limited alongside of yours.*

alpha and omega both the beginning and the end; the essentials, from the beginning to the end; everything, from the beginning to the end. (Refers to the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.) □ *He was forced to learn the alpha and omega of corporate law in order to even talk to the lawyers.* □ *He loved her deeply; she was his alpha and omega.*

amount to something [for someone or something] to be or to become valuable or

successful. □ *Most parents hope that their children will amount to something.* □ *I put \$200 in the bank, and I hope it will amount to something in twenty years.*

amount to the same thing **AND** **come to the same thing** to be the same as something; to have the same effect as something. □ *Borrowing can be the same as stealing. If the owner does not know what you have borrowed, it amounts to the same thing.* □ *Beer, wine. They come to the same thing if you drink and drive.*

[an] <Entries beginning with *a*, *an*, or *the* are alphabetized under the **second** word in the entry. That means that **a bed of roses** will appear in the **Bs**.>

and change [some number of dollars] plus between 1 and 99 cents more. □ *The book cost \$12.49. That's twelve dollars and change.* □ *Subway fare is now one dollar and change.*

and so forth continuing talking in the same way; and so on. □ *She told me everything about her kids and so on and so forth.* □ *I heard about problems at work and so forth.*

and something to spare **AND** **with something to spare** with extra left over; with more than is needed. (With *something*, *time*, *room*, *money*, *plenty*, etc.) □ *I had as much flour as I needed with something to spare.* □ *Fred said he should have enough cash to last the week—with money to spare.*

and so on continuing on in the same way [without saying all the details]; continuing to talk, saying more and more. □ *He told me about all his health problems, including his arthritis and so on.* □ *I need some help getting ready for dinner, setting the table, and so on.*

and the like and similar things or people. □ *I eat hamburgers, hot dogs, and the like.* □ *I bought shirts, pants, socks, and the like.*

and then some and even more; more than has been mentioned. (Folksy.) □ *John is going to have to run like a deer and then some to win this race.* □ *The cook put the*

amount of salt called for into the soup and then some.

and what have you and so on; and other similar things. □ *Their garage is full of bikes, sleds, old boots, and what have you.* □ *The merchant sells writing paper, pens, string, and what have you.*

angry enough to chew nails Go to mad enough to chew nails.

another country heard from <a catch phrase said when someone makes a comment or interrupts.> □ *Jane and Bill were discussing business when Bob interrupted to offer an opinion. "Another country heard from," said Jane.* □ *In the middle of the discussion, the baby started crying. "Another country heard from," said Tom.*

(another) nail in someone's or something's coffin something that will harm or destroy someone or something. □ *Every word of criticism that Bob said about the boss was a nail in his coffin.* □ *Losing the export order was the final nail in the company's coffin.*

answer for someone or something [with something] to assume responsibility for something. (Also literal.) □ *John had to answer for the theft of the bicycle since it was found at his house.* □ *Someday we'll all have to answer for our wrongdoings.*

answer someone's purpose **AND** **serve** someone's **purpose** to fit or suit someone's purpose. □ *This piece of wood will answer my purpose quite nicely.* □ *The new car serves our purpose perfectly.*

answer the door [after hearing the doorbell or a knock] to go to the door to see who is there. □ *Would you please answer the door? I am busy.* □ *I wish someone would answer the door. I can't wait all day.*

answer to someone to explain to someone; to justify one's actions to someone. (Usually with *have to*.) □ *If John cannot behave properly, he'll have to answer to me.* □ *The car thief will have to answer to the judge.*

any number of someone or something a large number; a sufficiently large number. (Used when the exact number is not im-

portant.) □ *Any number of people can vouch for my honesty.* □ *I can give you any number of reasons why I should join the army.* □ *I ate there any number of times and never became ill.*

Any port in a storm. When one is in difficulties one must accept any way out, whether one likes the solution or not. (Proverb.) □ *I don't want to live with my parents, but it's a case of any port in a storm. I can't find an apartment.* □ *He hates his job, but he can't get another. Any port in a storm, you know.*

appear as something to act a certain part in a play, opera, etc. □ *Madame Smith-Franklin appeared as Carmen at the City Opera last season.* □ *The actor refused to appear as a villain in the play.*

appear out of nowhere to appear suddenly, without warning. (Almost the same as **come out of nowhere**.) □ *A huge bear appeared out of nowhere and roared and threatened us.* □ *A butler appeared out of nowhere and took our coats.*

the apple of someone's eye someone's favorite person or thing; a boyfriend or a girlfriend. □ *Tom is the apple of Mary's eye. She thinks he's great.* □ *John's new stereo is the apple of his eye.*

apples and oranges a pair of people or things representing two entities that are not similar. □ *You can't talk about Fred and Ted in the same breath! They're apples and oranges.* □ *Talking about her current book and her previous best-seller is like comparing apples and oranges.*

arguing for the sake of arguing **AND** **arguing for the sake of argument** simply arguing to be difficult or contrary. □ *You are just arguing for the sake of arguing. You don't even know what the issue is.* □ *He is annoying, because he is always arguing for the sake of argument.*

arguing for the sake of argument Go to arguing for the sake of arguing.

arm in arm linked or hooked together by the arms. □ *The two lovers walked arm in arm down the street.* □ *Arm in arm, the line of dancers kicked high, and the audience roared its approval.*

armed and dangerous said of an armed person who is suspected of a crime and has not been captured and who is likely to resist arrest. (This is a warning to police officers.) □ *Max is at large, presumed to be armed and dangerous.* □ *The suspect has killed once and is armed and dangerous.*

armed to the teeth heavily armed with deadly weapons. □ *The bank robber was armed to the teeth when he was caught.* □ *There are too many guns around. The entire country is armed to the teeth.*

(a)round the clock continuously for twenty-four hours at a time; all day and all night. □ *The priceless jewels were guarded around the clock.* □ *Grandfather was so sick that he had to have nurses round the clock.*

(a)round-the-clock constant; day and night. (Adjective.) □ *Grandfather required around-the-clock care.* □ *I tuned into the around-the-clock news station.*

arrange something with someone **1. AND arrange to** do something **with** someone to plan an event so as to include another person or persons. □ *Jane arranged a meeting with Ann.* □ *Bill arranged to go to the station with Tom and Mary.* **2.** to get someone's consent for something. □ *Mary arranged the entire affair with her employer.* □ *The new mother arranged the christening with the pastor.*

arrange to do something **with** someone Go to arrange something **with** someone.

arrive in a body Go to come in a body.

arrive on the scene Go to come on the scene.

as a duck takes to water easily and naturally. (Informal.) □ *She took to singing just as a duck takes to water.* □ *The baby adapted to bottle-feeding as a duck takes to water.*

as a (general) rule usually; almost always. □ *He can be found in his office as a general rule.* □ *As a general rule, Jane plays golf on Wednesdays.* □ *As a rule, things tend to get less busy after supper time.*

as a last resort as the last choice; if everything else fails. □ *Call the doctor at home only as a last resort.* □ *As a last resort, she will perform surgery.*

as alike as (two) peas in a pod very similar. (Compare this with **like (two) peas in a pod.**) □ *The twins are as alike as two peas in a pod.* □ *These two books are as alike as peas in a pod.*

as a matter of course normally; as a normal procedure. □ *The nurse takes your temperature as a matter of course.* □ *You are expected to make your own bed as a matter of course.*

as a matter of fact actually; in addition to what has been said; in reference to what has been said. (See also **matter-of-fact.**) □ *As a matter of fact, John came into the room while you were talking about him.* □ *I'm not a poor worker. As a matter of fact, I'm very efficient.*

as an aside as a comment; as a comment that is not supposed to be heard by everyone. □ *At the wedding, Tom said as an aside, "The bride doesn't look well."* □ *At the ballet, Billy said as an aside to his mother, "I hope the dancers fall off the stage!"*

as a result of something because of something that has happened. □ *As a result of the accident, Tom couldn't walk for six months.* □ *We couldn't afford to borrow money for a house as a result of the rise in interest rates.*

as a token (of something) symbolic of something, especially of gratitude; as a memento of something. □ *He gave me a rose as a token of the time we spent together.* □ *Here, take this \$100 as a token of my appreciation.* □ *I can't thank you enough. Please accept this money as a token.*

(as) awkward as a cow on a crutch AND (as) awkward as a cow on roller skates very awkward. □ *When Lulu was pregnant, she was awkward as a cow on a crutch.* □ *Tom will never be a gymnast. He's as awkward as a cow on roller skates!*

(as) awkward as a cow on roller skates Go to **(as) awkward as a cow on a crutch.**

(as) bad as all that as bad as reported; as bad as it seems. (Usually expressed in the negative.) □ *Come on! Nothing could be as bad as all that.* □ *Stop crying. It can't be as bad as all that.*

(as) bald as a baby's backside Go to (as) bald as a coot.

(as) bald as a coot AND **(as) bald as a baby's backside** completely bald. □ *If Tom's hair keeps receding like that, he'll be bald as a coot by the time he's thirty.* □ *FRED: Now, I'll admit my hair is thinning a little on the top, but— JANE: Thinning? You're not thinning, you're as bald as a baby's backside!*

(as) baleful as death promising evil; very threatening. □ *The wind's moan was as baleful as death.* □ *His voice sounded baleful as death.*

(as) big as all outdoors very big, usually referring to a space of some kind. (Folksy.) □ *You should see Bob's living room. It's as big as all outdoors.* □ *The new movie theater is as big as all outdoors.*

(as) big as life AND **(as) big as life and twice as ugly** an exaggerated way of saying that a person or a thing appeared in a particular place. (Folksy. The second phrase is slang.) □ *The little child just stood there as big as life and laughed very hard.* □ *I opened the door, and there was Tom as big as life.* □ *I came home and found this cat in my chair, as big as life and twice as ugly.*

(as) big as life and twice as ugly Go to (as) big as life.

(as) black as a skillet black. □ *I don't want to go down to the cellar. It's as black as a skillet down there.* □ *The bruise turned black as a skillet.*

(as) black as a stack of black cats very black. □ *I'm scared to go into that closet. It's as black as a stack of black cats in there.* □ *Her hair was black as a stack of black cats.*

(as) black as a sweep extremely dirty. (The sweep is a chimney sweep.) □ *After playing in the mud all morning, the children were as black as sweeps.* □ *When Jane*

came in from working on her car, Alan told her, "Wash before you come to the dinner table. You're black as a sweep!"

(as) black as coal completely black. □ *Mark's eyes were as black as coal.* □ *The stranger's clothes were all black as coal.*

(as) black as night very dark and black. □ *The ink in this pen is black as night.* □ *During the eclipse, my room was as black as night.*

(as) black as one is painted as evil as described. (Usually negative.) □ *The landlord is not as black as he is painted. He seems quite generous.* □ *Young people are rarely black as they are painted in the media.*

(as) black as pitch very black; very dark. □ *The night was as black as pitch.* □ *The rocks seemed black as pitch against the silver sand.*

(as) black as the ace of spades very black. (Refers to playing cards.) □ *The car was long and shiny and black as the ace of spades.* □ *Jill's shoes are black as the ace of spades.*

(as) blind as a bat with imperfect sight; blind. □ *My grandmother is as blind as a bat.* □ *I'm getting blind as a bat. I can hardly read this page.*

(as) bold as brass very bold; bold to the point of rudeness. □ *Lisa marched into the manager's office, bold as brass, and demanded her money back.* □ *The tiny kitten, as bold as brass, began eating the dog's food right in front of the dog's nose.*

(as) bright as a button intelligent; quick-minded. (Usually used to describe children.) □ *Why, Mrs. Green, your little girl is as bright as a button.* □ *You can't fool Mandy. She may be only six years old, but she's bright as a button.*

(as) bright as a new pin bright and clean; shiny. □ *After Nora cleaned the house, it was as bright as a new pin.* □ *My kitchen floor is bright as a new pin since I started using this new floor wax.*

(as) broad as a barn door very broad. □ *Jim's backside is as broad as a barn door.*

□ *The weight-lifter's chest was broad as a barn door.*

(as) busy as a beaver AND **(as) busy as a bee** very busy. □ *I don't have time to talk to you. I'm as busy as a beaver.* □ *You don't look busy as a beaver to me.* □ *Whenever there is a holiday, we are all as busy as bees getting things ready.*

(as) busy as a bee Go to (as) busy as a beaver.

(as) busy as a cat on a hot tin roof full of lively activity; very busy. □ *I'm afraid I can't go to lunch with you on Saturday; I'll be busy as a cat on a hot tin roof, between working overtime and the two parties I have to go to.* □ *Jerry's three part-time jobs kept him as busy as a cat on a hot tin roof.*

(as) busy as a hibernating bear not busy at all. □ *TOM: I can't go with you. I'm busy.* *JANE: Yeah. You're as busy as a hibernating bear.* □ *He lounged on the sofa all day, busy as a hibernating bear.*

(as) busy as a one-armed paperhanger very busy. □ *My boss keeps me as busy as a one-armed paperhanger.* □ *I've got plenty of work. I'm busy as a one-armed paperhanger.*

(as) busy as Grand Central Station very busy; crowded with customers or other people. (Refers to Grand Central Station in New York City.) □ *This house is as busy as Grand Central Station.* □ *When the tourist season starts, this store is busy as Grand Central Station.*

(as) busy as popcorn on a skillet very active. □ *She rushed around, as busy as popcorn on a skillet.* □ *Prying into other folks' business kept him busy as popcorn on a skillet.*

(as) calm as a toad in the sun very calm and content. □ *She smiled, as calm as a toad in the sun.* □ *Nothing ruffles him. He's calm as a toad in the sun.*

(as) clean as a hound's tooth very clean. (Clean can mean "innocent," as in the first example.) □ *John had faith that he would not be convicted for the robbery, since he had been clean as a hound's tooth*

since getting out of prison. □ *After his mother scrubbed him thoroughly, James was as clean as a hound's tooth.*

(as) clean as a whistle very clean. □ *The wound isn't infected. It's clean as a whistle.* □ *I thought the car would be filthy, but it was as clean as a whistle.*

(as) clear as a bell very clear and easy to hear. □ *I fixed the radio, so now all the stations come in clear as a bell.* □ *Through the wall, I could hear the neighbors talking, just as clear as a bell.*

(as) clear as crystal 1. very clear; transparent. □ *The stream was as clear as crystal.* □ *She cleaned the windowpane until it was clear as crystal.* 2. very clear; easy to understand. □ *The explanation was as clear as crystal.* □ *Her lecture was not clear as crystal, but at least it was not dull.*

(as) clear as mud not understandable. (Informal.) □ *Your explanation is as clear as mud.* □ *This doesn't make sense. It's clear as mud.*

(as) clear as vodka 1. very clear. □ *The weather is as clear as vodka.* □ *The river wasn't exactly as clear as vodka because it had just rained.* 2. very understandable. □ *Everything he said is as clear as vodka.* □ *I understand what John said, but everything you say is clear as vodka.*

(as) close as two coats of paint close and intimate. □ *When Tom and Mary were kids, they were as close as two coats of paint.* □ *All their lives, the cousins were close as two coats of paint.*

(as) cocky as the king of spades boastful; overly proud. (Refers to playing cards.) □ *He'd challenge anyone to a fight. He's as cocky as the king of spades.* □ *She strutted in, cocky as the king of spades.*

(as) cold as a witch's caress AND **(as) cold as a witch's tit** very cold; chilling. (Use caution with *tit*.) □ *The wind was as cold as a witch's caress.* □ *She gave me a look as cold as a witch's caress.*

(as) cold as a witch's tit Go to (as) cold as a witch's caress.

(as) cold as marble Very cold indeed. (Used to describe a person who is either

physically or emotionally cold.) □ *Raymond took Joanna's hand. It was cold as marble.* □ *No one ever got a smile out of Caroline, who was as cold as marble.*

(as) comfortable as an old shoe very comfortable; very comforting and familiar. □ *This old house is fine. It's as comfortable as an old shoe.* □ *That's a great tradition—comfortable as an old shoe.*

(as) common as an old shoe low class; uncouth. □ *That trashy girl is just as common as an old shoe.* □ *Jim may have money, but he's common as an old shoe.*

(as) common as dirt vulgar; ill-mannered. □ *FRED: Did you notice Mr. Jones blowing his nose into the linen napkin at dinner?* *ELLEN: I'm not surprised. Everyone knows that the Joneses are as common as dirt.* □ *Despite Jane's efforts to imitate the manners of the upper class, the town's leading families still considered her common as dirt.*

(as) conceited as a barber's cat very conceited; vain. □ *Ever since he won that award, he's been as conceited as a barber's cat.* □ *She's stuck up all right—conceited as a barber's cat.*

(as) cool as a cucumber calm and not agitated; with one's wits about one. (Informal.) □ *The captain remained as cool as a cucumber as the passengers boarded the lifeboats.* □ *During the fire the homeowner was cool as a cucumber.*

(as) crazy as a betsy bug loony. □ *TOM: Susan says she's really the Queen of England.* *BILL: She's crazy as a betsy bug.* □ *Ever since his wife left him, Joe's been acting as crazy as a betsy bug.*

(as) crazy as a loon very silly; completely insane. (Folksy.) □ *If you think you can get away with that, you're as crazy as a loon.* □ *Poor old John is crazy as a loon.*

(as) crazy as a peach-orchard boar loony. □ *What's wrong with Jim? He's acting as crazy as a peach-orchard boar.* □ *Mary's been standing out on the street corner telling everybody the world's about to end. Poor thing—she's crazy as a peach-orchard boar.*

(as) crooked as a barrel of fishhooks AND **(as) crooked as a fishhook** dishonest. □ *Don't play cards with him. He's as crooked as a barrel of fishhooks.* □ *After Jane cheated a few folks, word got around that she was crooked as a fishhook.*

(as) crooked as a dog's hind leg dishonest. □ *Don't trust John. He's as crooked as a dog's hind leg.* □ *Mary says all politicians are crooked as a dog's hind leg.*

(as) crooked as a fishhook Go to (as) crooked as a barrel of fishhooks.

(as) dead as a dodo dead; no longer in existence. (Informal.) □ *Yes, Adolf Hitler is really dead—as dead as a dodo.* □ *That silly old idea is dead as a dodo.*

(as) dead as a doornail dead. (Informal.) □ *This fish is as dead as a doornail.* □ *John kept twisting the chicken's neck even though it was dead as a doornail.*

(as) deaf as a post very deaf; profoundly deaf. □ *He can't hear a thing you say. He's as deaf as a post.* □ *Our old dog is deaf as a post and he can't see much either.*

(as) different as night and day completely different. □ *Although Bobby and Billy are twins, they are as different as night and day.* □ *Birds and bats appear to be similar, but they are different as night and day.*

(as) drunk as a lord AND **(as) drunk as a skunk** very drunk. □ *He came home drunk as a lord again.* □ *She was as drunk as a lord by the time they left here.*

(as) drunk as a skunk Go to (as) drunk as a lord.

(as) dry as a bone completely dry. □ *During the drought, the soil was as dry as a bone.* □ *The dog's water dish was dry as a bone.*

(as) dry as dust 1. very dry. □ *The bread is as dry as dust.* □ *When the leaves are dry as dust, they break into powder easily.* 2. very dull; very boring. □ *This book is as dry as dust. I am going to stop reading it.* □ *Her lecture was dry as dust—just like her subject.*

(as) dull as dishwater AND **(as) dull as ditchwater** very uninteresting. □ *I'm not surprised that he can't find a partner. He's as dull as dishwater.* □ *Mr. Black's speech was as dull as dishwater.*

(as) dull as ditchwater Go to (as) dull as dishwater.

(as) easy as ABC very easy. □ *Making apple pie is as easy as ABC.* □ *Calculus is easy as ABC.*

(as) easy as (apple) pie very easy. (Informal.) □ *Mountain climbing is as easy as pie.* □ *Making a simple dress out of cotton cloth is easy as pie.*

(as) easy as duck soup very easy; requiring no effort. (Informal. When a duck is cooked, it releases a lot of fat and juices, making a "soup" without effort.) □ *Finding your way to the shopping center is easy as duck soup.* □ *Getting Bob to eat fried chicken is as easy as duck soup.*

(as) easy as falling off a log AND **(as) easy as rolling off a log** very easy. (Folksy.) □ *Passing that exam was as easy as falling off a log.* □ *Getting out of jail was easy as rolling off a log.*

(as) easy as rolling off a log Go to (as) easy as falling off a log.

(as) exciting as watching (the) paint dry very, very dull. □ *This book is about as exciting as watching paint dry.* □ *Listening to you is exciting as watching the paint dry.*

(as) far as anyone knows AND **so far as anyone knows** to the limits of anyone's knowledge. (Informal. The *anyone* can be replaced with a more specific noun or pronoun.) □ *As far as anyone knows, this is the last of the great herds of buffalo.* □ *Far as I know, this is the best one.* □ *These are the only keys to the house so far as anyone knows.*

as far as it goes as much as something does, covers, or accomplishes. (Usually said of something that is inadequate.) □ *Your plan is fine as far as it goes. It doesn't seem to take care of everything, though.* □ *As far as it goes, this law is a good one. It should require stiffer penalties, however.*

as far as possible AND **so far as possible** as much as possible; to whatever degree is possible. □ *We must try, as far as possible, to get people to stop smoking in buses.* □ *As far as possible, the police will issue tickets to all speeding drivers.* □ *I'll follow your instructions so far as possible.*

(as) far as someone or something is concerned AND **so far as someone or something is concerned** 1. [with someone] for all that someone cares; if someone is to make the decision. □ *You can take your old dog and leave as far as I'm concerned.* □ *Far as I'm concerned, you can get out and never come back.* □ *So far as I'm concerned, you're okay.* 2. [with something] having to do with something; pertaining to something; as for something. □ *This bill? As far as that's concerned, the committee will have to take care of it.* □ *As far as the roof's concerned, it will just have to last another year.*

(as) fat as a pig exceptionally fat; grotesquely fat. □ *If I don't stop eating this cake, I'll be fat as a pig!* □ *You really ought to go on a diet; you're as fat as a pig.*

(as) fit as a fiddle healthy and physically fit. □ *Mary is as fit as a fiddle.* □ *Tom used to be fit as a fiddle. Look at him now!*

(as) flat as a board very flat. (Also used to describe someone's chest or abdomen, referring to well-developed abdominal muscles or to small or absent breasts or pectoral development—in either sex.) □ *Jane was flat as a board until she was sixteen, when she suddenly blossomed.* □ *The terrain in that part of the country is as flat as a board.*

(as) flat as a pancake very flat. (Informal.) □ *The punctured tire was as flat as a pancake.* □ *Bobby squashed the ant flat as a pancake.*

as for someone or something 1. AND **as to** someone or something regarding someone or something. □ *As for the mayor, he can pay for his own dinner.* □ *As for you, Bobby, there will be no dessert tonight.* □ *As for this chair, there is nothing to do but throw it away.* □ *As to your idea about building a new house, forget it.* 2. [with someone]

quoting someone; speaking for someone.
 □ *As for me, I prefer vegetables to meat.* □
As for Tom, he refuses to attend the concert.

(as) free as a bird carefree; completely free. □ *Jane is always happy and free as a bird.* □ *The convict escaped from jail and was as free as a bird for two days.* □ *In the summer I feel free as a bird.*

(as) free as (the) air completely free; without obligations or responsibilities. □ *The day I got out of the army, I felt as free as air.* □ *No, I'm not married. I don't even have a girlfriend. I'm free as the air.*

(as) fresh as a daisy very fresh; fresh and alert. □ *The morning dew was as fresh as a daisy.* □ *Sally was fresh as a daisy and cheerful as could be.*

(as) full as a tick AND **(as) tight as a tick** very full of food or drink. (Informal. Refers to a tick that has filled itself full of blood.) □ *Little Billy ate and ate until he was as tight as a tick.* □ *Our cat drank the cream until he became full as a tick.*

(as) funny as a barrel of monkeys AND **more fun than a barrel of monkeys** very funny. (Almost the same as **as much fun as a barrel of monkeys**.) □ *Todd was as funny as a barrel of monkeys.* □ *The entire evening was funny as a barrel of monkeys.* □ *The party was more fun than a barrel of monkeys.*

(as) funny as a crutch not funny at all. □ *Your trick is about as funny as a crutch. Nobody thought it was funny.* □ *The well-dressed lady slipped and fell in the gutter, which was funny as a crutch.*

(as) gaudy as a butterfly gaudy; colorful. □ *Marie looked as gaudy as a butterfly in her new dress.* □ *Michael's scarf is gaudy as a butterfly.*

(as) gentle as a lamb very gentle. (Used to describe people.) □ *Don't be afraid of Mr. Smith. He may look fierce, but he's as gentle as a lamb.* □ *Lisa was gentle as a lamb when dealing with children.*

(as) good as done the same as being done; almost done. (Other past participles can replace *done* in this phrase: *cooked, dead,*

finished, painted, typed, etc.) □ *This job is as good as done. It'll just take another second.* □ *Yes, sir, if you hire me to paint your house, it's as good as painted.* □ *When I hand my secretary a letter to be typed, I know that it's as good as typed right then and there.*

(as) good as gold genuine; authentic. □ *Mary's promise is as good as gold.* □ *Yes, this diamond is genuine—good as gold.*

as good as one's word obedient to one's promise; dependable in keeping one's promises. □ *He was as good as his word. He lent me the books as promised.* □ *She said she would baby-sit and she was as good as her word.*

(as) graceful as a swan very graceful. □ *The boat glided out onto the lake as graceful as a swan.* □ *Jane is graceful as a swan.*

(as) gruff as a bear gruff; curt and unsociable. □ *I hate to ask Erica questions; she's always gruff as a bear.* □ *I'm always as gruff as a bear before I've had my first cup of coffee.*

(as) happy as a clam happy and content. (Note the variation in the examples. Sometimes with additional phrases, such as *in butter sauce* or *at high tide*.) □ *Tom sat there smiling, as happy as a clam.* □ *There they all sat, eating corn on the cob and looking happy as clams.*

(as) happy as a lark visibly happy and cheerful. (Note the variation in the examples.) □ *Sally walked along whistling, as happy as a lark.* □ *The children danced and sang, happy as larks.*

(as) happy as can be very happy. □ *We are both as happy as can be.* □ *Bob was happy as can be when he won the lottery.*

(as) hard as a rock AND **(as) hard as stone** very hard. □ *This cake is as hard as a rock!* □ *I can't drive a nail into this wood. It's hard as stone.*

(as) hard as nails very hard; cold and cruel. (Refers to the nails that are used with a hammer.) □ *The old loaf of bread was dried out and became as hard as nails.* □ *Ann was unpleasant and hard as nails.*

(as) hard as stone Go to (as) hard as a rock.

(as) high as a kite AND **(as) high as the sky** 1. very high. □ *The tree grew as high as a kite.* □ *Our pet bird got outside and flew up high as the sky.* 2. drunk or drugged. □ *Bill drank beer until he got as high as a kite.* □ *The thieves were high as the sky on drugs.*

(as) high as the sky Go to (as) high as a kite.

(as) hoarse as a crow hoarse. □ *After shouting at the team all afternoon, the coach was as hoarse as a crow.* □ **JILL:** Has Bob got a cold? **JANE:** No, he's always hoarse as a crow.

(as) hot as fire very hot; burning hot. □ *I'm afraid Betsy has a high fever. Her forehead is hot as fire.* □ *In the summertime, the concrete sidewalks feel as hot as fire.*

(as) hot as hell very hot. (Informal. Use caution with *hell*.) □ *It's as hot as hell outside. It must be near 100 degrees.* □ *I hate to get into a car that has been parked in the sun. It's hot as hell.*

(as) hungry as a bear very hungry. (Informal.) □ *I'm as hungry as a bear. I could eat anything!* □ *Whenever I jog, I get hungry as a bear.*

(as) hungry as a hunter very hungry. □ *Is there anything to eat? I've been out hoeing my garden all morning, and I'm as hungry as a hunter!* □ *We'd better have a big meal ready by the time Tommy gets home; he's always hungry as a hunter after soccer practice.*

as I expected Go to (just) as I expected.

(as) innocent as a lamb guiltless; naive. □ *"Hey! You can't throw me in jail," cried the robber. "I'm innocent as a lamb."* □ *Look at the baby, as innocent as a lamb.*

as it were as one might say. (Sometimes used to qualify an assertion that may not sound reasonable.) □ *He carefully constructed, as it were, a huge sandwich.* □ *The Franklins live in a small, as it were, exquisite house.*

(as) large as life in person; actually, and sometimes surprisingly, present at a place. □ *I thought Jack was away, but there he was as large as life.* □ *Jean was not expected to appear, but she turned up large as life.*

(as) light as a feather of little weight. □ *Sally dieted until she was as light as a feather.* □ *Of course I can lift the box. It's light as a feather.*

(as) likely as not probably; with an even chance either way. □ *He will as likely as not arrive without warning.* □ *Likely as not, the game will be canceled.*

as long as 1. AND **so long as** since; because. □ *As long as you're going to the bakery, please buy some fresh bread.* □ *So long as you're here, please stay for dinner.* 2. AND **so long as** if; only if. □ *You may have dessert so long as you eat all your vegetables.* □ *You can go out this evening as long as you promise to be home by midnight.* 3. for a specified length of time. □ *You may stay out as long as you like.* □ *I didn't go to school as long as Bill did.* 4. [in comparisons] of equal length. □ *Is this one as long as that one?* □ *This snake is as long as a car!*

as luck would have it by good or bad luck; as it turned out; by chance. □ *As luck would have it, we had a flat tire.* □ *As luck would have it, the check came in the mail today.*

(as) mad as a hatter 1. crazy. (From the crazy character called the Hatter in Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.) □ *Poor old John is as mad as a hatter.* □ *All these screaming children are driving me mad as a hatter.* 2. angry. (This is a misunderstanding of *mad* in the first sense. Folksy. The first as can be omitted.) □ *You make me so angry! I'm as mad as a hatter.* □ *John can't control his temper. He's always mad as a hatter.*

(as) mad as a hornet angry. □ *You make me so angry. I'm as mad as a hornet.* □ *Jane can get mad as a hornet when somebody criticizes her.*

(as) mad as a March hare crazy. (From the name of a character in Lewis Carroll's

- Alice's Adventures in Wonderland.) □ Sally is getting as mad as a March hare. □ My Uncle Bill is mad as a March hare.
- (as) mad as a wet hen** angry. (Folksy.) □ Bob was screaming and shouting—as mad as a wet hen. □ What you said made Mary mad as a wet hen.
- (as) mad as hell** very angry. (Informal. Use caution with hell.) □ He made his wife as mad as hell. □ Those terrorists make me mad as hell.
- (as) meek as a lamb** meek; quiet and docile. □ Only an hour after their argument, Joe went to Elizabeth and, meek as a lamb, asked her to forgive him. □ Betsy terrorizes the other children, but she's as meek as a lamb around her elders.
- (as) merry as a cricket** cheerful. (Old-fashioned.) □ Mary is as merry as a cricket whenever she has company come to call. □ George is such a pleasant companion; he's usually merry as a cricket.
- (as) merry as the day is long** very happy and carefree. □ The little children are as merry as the day is long. □ Only on vacation are we merry as the day is long.
- as much fun as a barrel of monkeys** a great deal of fun. (Almost the same as **(as) funny as a barrel of monkeys**.) □ Roger is as much fun as a barrel of monkeys. □ The circus was as much fun as a barrel of monkeys.
- (as) naked as a jaybird** naked. □ “Billy,” called Mrs. Franklin, “get back in the house and get some clothes on. You're as naked as a jaybird.” □ Tom had to get naked as a jaybird for the doctor to examine him.
- (as) neat as a pin** neat and orderly. □ Brad is such a good housekeeper; his apartment is always as neat as a pin. □ Joanne certainly is well-organized. Her desk is neat as a pin.
- (as) nutty as a fruitcake** silly; crazy. (Slang. A fruitcake usually has lots of nuts in it.) □ Whenever John goes to a party, he gets as nutty as a fruitcake. □ Sally has been acting as nutty as a fruitcake lately.
- (as) old as the hills** very old. □ The children think their mother's as old as the hills, but she's only forty. □ That song's not new. It's old as the hills.
- as one** as if a group were one person. (Especially with *act*, *move*, or *speak*.) □ All the dancers moved as one. □ The chorus spoke as one.
- (as) pale as a ghost** Go to **(as) white as a ghost**.
- (as) pale as death** extremely pale. (The reference to death gives this phrase ominous connotations.) □ Rita was as pale as death when she came out of the doctor's office. □ What's the matter? You're pale as death!
- (as) patient as Job** very patient. (Refers to a character in the Bible.) □ If you want to teach young children, you must be as patient as Job. □ The director who is working with that temperamental actor must have the patience of Job.
- (as) phony as a three-dollar bill** phony; bogus. □ This guy's as phony as a three-dollar bill. □ The whole deal stinks. It's as phony as a three-dollar bill.
- (as) plain as a pikestaff** obvious; very clear. □ JILL: Why does the Senator always vote for measures that would help the tobacco industry? JANE: It's as plain as a pikestaff—because there are a lot of tobacco growers in his district, and he wants them to vote for him. □ FRED: I have a suspicion that Marcia is upset with me. ALAN: A suspicion? Come on, Fred, that's been plain as a pikestaff for quite some time!
- (as) plain as day** **1.** very plain and simple. □ Although his face was as plain as day, his smile made him look interesting and friendly. □ Our house is plain as day, but it's comfortable. **2.** clear and understandable. □ The lecture was as plain as day. No one had to ask questions. □ His statement was plain as day.
- (as) plain as the nose on one's face** obvious; clearly evident. (Informal.) □ What do you mean you don't understand? It's as plain as the nose on your face. □ Your guilt is plain as the nose on your face.

(as) pleased as punch very pleased; very pleased with oneself. (Refers to the character Punch in [English] Punch and Judy puppet shows. *Punch* is sometimes capitalized.) □ *Wally was as pleased as punch when he won the prize.* □ *She seems pleased as punch, but she knows she doesn't deserve the award.*

(as) poor as a church mouse very poor. □ *My aunt is as poor as a church mouse.* □ *The Browns are poor as church mice.*

(as) pretty as a picture very pretty. □ *Sweet little Mary is as pretty as a picture.* □ *Their new house is pretty as a picture.*

(as) proud as a peacock very proud; haughty. □ *John is so arrogant. He's as proud as a peacock.* □ *The new father was proud as a peacock.*

(as) pure as the driven snow pure and virginal. (Often used ironically.) □ *JILL: Sue must have gone to bed with every man in town. JANE: And I always thought she was as pure as the driven snow.* □ *Robert was notoriously promiscuous, but tried to convince all his girlfriends that he was pure as the driven snow.*

(as) queer as a three-dollar bill very strange. □ *Today I saw a woman pushing a lawn mower down the street and singing to it as she went. I thought she was queer as a three-dollar bill.* □ *JILL: In all the years I've known him, Mike has never had a suit and he goes barefoot. FRED: That's because he's as queer as a three-dollar bill.*

(as) quick as a flash Go to (as) quick as a wink.

(as) quick as a wink AND **(as) quick as a flash** very quickly. □ *As quick as a wink, the thief took the lady's purse.* □ *I'll finish this work quick as a wink.* □ *The dog grabbed the meat as quick as a flash.* □ *The summer days went by quick as a flash.*

(as) quick as greased lightning very quickly; very fast. (Folksy. See also like greased lightning.) □ *Jane can really run. She's as quick as greased lightning.* □ *Quick as greased lightning, the thief stole my wallet.*

(as) quiet as a mouse very quiet; shy and silent. (Informal. Often used with children.) □ *Don't yell; whisper. Be as quiet as a mouse.* □ *Mary hardly ever says anything. She's quiet as a mouse.*

(as) quiet as the grave very quiet; silent. □ *The house is as quiet as the grave when the children are at school.* □ *This town is quiet as the grave now that the offices have closed.*

(as) red as a cherry bright red. (Somewhat old-fashioned.) □ *When the children came in from ice-skating, Clara's nose was as red as a cherry.* □ *When Lester proposed marriage, Nancy blushed as red as a cherry.*

(as) red as a poppy bright red. (Usually used to describe someone blushing.) □ *You must be embarrassed—you're as red as a poppy!* □ *When her boss praised her in front of the whole office, Emily turned red as a poppy.*

(as) red as a rose intensely red. □ *Bill blushed as red as a rose when we teased him.*

(as) red as a ruby deep red. (Often used to describe a person's lips.) □ *Linda has a beautiful face, with big blue eyes and lips as red as rubies.*

(as) red as blood completely red; deep red. (The reference to blood gives this expression sinister connotations.) □ *The magician's cape was lined with satin as red as blood.* □ *I want to have my car painted red as blood.*

(as) regular as clockwork dependably regular. (Informal.) □ *She comes into this store every day, as regular as clockwork.* □ *Our tulips come up every year, regular as clockwork.*

(as) right as rain correct; genuine. (Folksy.) □ *Your answer is as right as rain.* □ *John is very dependable. He's right as rain.*

(as) scarce as hens' teeth AND **scarcer than hens' teeth** very scarce or nonexistent. (An exaggeration. Chickens don't have teeth.) □ *I've never seen one of those. They're as scarce as hens' teeth.* □ *I was*

told that the part needed for my car is scarcer than hens' teeth, and it would take a long time to find one.

(as) sharp as a razor 1. very sharp. □ *The penknife is sharp as a razor.* □ *The carving knife will have to be as sharp as a razor to cut through this meat.* 2. very sharp-witted or intelligent. □ *The old man's senile, but his wife is as sharp as a razor.* □ *Don't say too much in front of the child. She's as sharp as a razor.*

(as) sharp as a tack intellectually bright. □ *Melissa doesn't say very much, but she's sharp as a tack.* □ *Sue can figure things out from even the slightest hint. She's as sharp as a tack.*

(as) sick as a dog very sick; sick and vomiting. □ *We've never been so ill. The whole family was sick as dogs.* □ *Sally was as sick as a dog and couldn't go to the party.*

(as) silent as the dead AND **(as) silent as the grave** completely silent. (Has ominous connotations because of the reference to death. Usually used to promise someone that you will be silent and therefore not betray a secret.) □ *I knew something was wrong as soon as I entered the classroom; everyone was silent as the dead.* □ *Jessica is as silent as the grave on the subject of her first marriage.* □ *If you tell me what Katy said about me, I promise to be as silent as the grave.*

(as) silent as the grave Go to (as) silent as the dead.

(as) silly as a goose very foolish. □ *Edith is as silly as a goose. She thinks that reading aloud to her houseplants will help them grow.* □ *JILL: The ad in the newspaper said this lotion would make my hair grow faster, but I've been using it for a whole month and my hair is still the same length.* *JANE: You're as silly as a goose! Do you believe everything you read in newspaper ads?*

(as) slick as a whistle quickly and cleanly; quickly and skillfully. □ *Tom took a broom and a mop and cleaned the place up as slick as a whistle.* □ *Slick as a whistle, Sally pulled off the bandage.*

(as) slippery as an eel devious; unpendable. □ *Tom can't be trusted. He's as slippery as an eel.* □ *It's hard to catch Joe in his office because he's slippery as an eel.*

(as) slow as molasses in January AND **slower than molasses in January** slow. □ *Can't you get dressed any faster? I declare, you're as slow as molasses in January.* □ *The traffic on the way to the concert was slower than molasses in January.*

(as) sly as a fox smart and clever. □ *My nephew is as sly as a fox.* □ *You have to be sly as a fox to outwit me.*

(as) smooth as glass smooth and shiny. (Often used to describe calm bodies of water.) □ *The bay is as smooth as glass, so we should have a pleasant boat trip.* □ *Eugene polished the floor until it was smooth as glass.*

(as) smooth as silk very smooth. □ *This pudding is smooth as silk.* □ *Your skin is as smooth as silk.*

(as) snug as a bug in a rug cozy and snug. (Informal. The kind of thing said when putting a child to bed.) □ *Let's pull up the covers. There you are, Bobby, as snug as a bug in a rug.* □ *What a lovely little house! I know I'll be snug as a bug in a rug.*

(as) sober as a judge 1. very formal, somber, or stuffy. □ *You certainly look gloomy, Bill. You're sober as a judge.* □ *Tom's as sober as a judge. I think he's angry.* 2. not drunk; alert and completely sober. □ *John's drunk? No, he's as sober as a judge.* □ *You should be sober as a judge when you drive a car.*

(as) soft as a baby's bottom very soft and smooth to the touch. □ *This cloth is as soft as a baby's bottom.* □ *No, Bob doesn't shave yet. His cheeks are soft as a baby's bottom.*

(as) soft as down soft to the touch. (Refers to the softness of goose or duck down.) □ *The kitten's fur was as soft as down.* □ *The baby's skin was soft as down.*

(as) soft as silk very soft. □ *This fabric is as soft as silk.* □ *Your touch is soft as silk.*

(as) soft as velvet very soft to the touch. □ *The horse's nose felt as soft as velvet.* □

This lotion will make your skin soft as velvet.

(as) solid as a rock very solid; dependable.

□ *Jean has been lifting weights every day, and her arm muscles are solid as a rock.*

□ *This company builds typewriters that are as solid as a rock.*

as soon as at the moment that; at the time that; when. □ *I fell asleep as soon as I lay down.* □ *John ate dinner as soon as he came home.*

(as) soon as possible at the earliest time.

□ *I'm leaving now. I'll be there as soon as possible.* □ *Please pay me as soon as possible.*

(as) sound as a dollar 1. very secure and dependable. □ *This investment is as sound as a dollar.* □ *I wouldn't put my money in a bank that isn't sound as a dollar.* **2.** sturdy and well-constructed. □ *This house is as sound as a dollar.* □ *The garage is still sound as a dollar. Why tear it down?*

(as) sour as vinegar sour and disagreeable. □ *The old man greeted us ill-naturedly, his face as sour as vinegar.* □ *JILL: Is Mary in a bad mood today? JANE: Yes, sour as vinegar.*

(as) steady as a rock very steady and unmovable; very stable. □ *His hand was steady as a rock as he pulled the trigger of the revolver.* □ *You must remain as steady as a rock when you are arguing with your supervisor.*

(as) stiff as a poker rigid and inflexible; stiff and awkward. (Usually used to describe people.) □ *This guy's dead. He's cold and as stiff as a poker.* □ *John is not a very good dancer; he's stiff as a poker.*

(as) still as death immobile; completely still. (The reference to death gives this expression ominous connotations.) □ *George sat as still as death all afternoon.* □ *When the storm was over, everything was suddenly still as death.*

(as) straight as an arrow 1. [of something] very straight. □ *The road to my house is as straight as an arrow, so it should be very easy to follow.* **2.** [of someone] honest or forthright. (Straight here

means "honest.") □ *Tom is straight as an arrow. I'd trust him with anything.*

(as) strong as a horse [of someone] very strong. □ *JILL: My car broke down; it's sitting out on the street. JANE: Get Linda to help you push it; she's as strong as a horse.* □ *The athlete was strong as a horse. He could lift his own weight with just one hand.*

(as) strong as a lion very strong. □ *See if you can get Melissa to help us move our furniture. She's as strong as a lion.* □ *The football player was strong as a lion.*

(as) strong as an ox very strong. □ *Tom lifts weights and is as strong as an ox.* □ *Now that Ann has recovered from her illness, she's strong as an ox.*

(as) stubborn as a mule very stubborn. □ *My husband is as stubborn as a mule.* □ *Our cat is stubborn as a mule.*

as such the way something is; as someone or something is. □ *I cannot accept your manuscript as such. It needs revisions.* □ *You are new here, and as such, I will have to train you.*

(as) sure as death sure; very certain. □ *As political tension increased, it became more and more apparent that war was coming, as sure as death.* □ *JILL: Is the company definitely going to lay people off? JANE: Sure as death.*

(as) sweet as honey AND **(as) sweet as sugar 1.** very sweet. □ *These little cakes are as sweet as honey.* □ *This fruit juice is as sweet as honey.* **2.** charming; very nice and friendly. □ *She is as sweet as honey whenever she talks to me.* □ *He seems sweet as honey, but he is really mean.*

(as) sweet as sugar Go to (as) sweet as honey.

(as) swift as an arrow very fast. □ *The new intercity train is swift as an arrow.* □ *My week of vacation sped by as swift as an arrow.*

(as) swift as the wind very fast. □ *This new car is as swift as the wind.* □ *Joe ran swift as the wind, trying to get home in time.*

(as) swift as thought extremely fast. □ *Thanks to modern communication devices, news can now travel almost as swift as thought.* □ *You won't have to wait for me long; I'll be there, swift as thought.*

as the crow flies straight across the land, as opposed to distances measured on a road, river, etc. (Folksy.) □ *It's twenty miles to town on the highway, but only ten miles as the crow flies.* □ *Our house is only a few miles from the lake as the crow flies.*

(as) thick as pea soup [of a liquid or fog] very thick. (Informal.) □ *This fog is as thick as pea soup.* □ *Wow, this coffee is strong! It's thick as pea soup.*

(as) thick as thieves very close-knit; friendly; allied. □ *Mary, Tom, and Sally are as thick as thieves. They go everywhere together.* □ *Those two families are thick as thieves.*

(as) tight as a drum **1.** stretched tight. □ *Julia stretched the upholstery fabric over the seat of the chair until it was as tight as a drum.* **2.** sealed tight. □ *Now that I've caulked all the windows, the house should be tight as a drum.* **3.** very stingy. □ *He won't contribute a cent. He's as tight as a drum.*

(as) tight as a tick Go to (as) full as a tick.

(as) tight as Dick's hatband very tight. □ *I've got to lose some weight. My belt is as tight as Dick's hatband.* □ *This window is stuck tight as Dick's hatband.*

as to someone or something Go to **as for** someone or something.

(as) tough as an old boot **1.** very tough. □ *This meat is tough as an old boot.* □ *Bob couldn't eat the steak. It was as tough as an old boot.* **2.** very strong; not easily moved by feelings such as pity. □ *Margaret is never off work. She's as tough as an old boot.* □ *Don't expect sympathy from the boss. She's tough as an old boot.*

(as) true as steel very loyal and dependable. □ *Through all my troubles, my husband has been as true as steel.* □ *Pedro was a staunch friend, true as steel.*

(as) ugly as a toad very ugly. □ *Maria may be a beautiful woman, but when she*

was a child she was as ugly as a toad. □ *The shopkeeper was ugly as a toad, but he was kind and generous, and everyone loved him.*

(as) ugly as sin very ugly. □ *The new building is as ugly as sin.* □ *The old woman is ugly as sin, but she dresses beautifully.*

as usual as is the normal or typical situation. □ *John ordered eggs for breakfast as usual.* □ *He stood quietly as usual, waiting for the bus to come.*

(as) warm as toast very warm and cozy. □ *The baby will be warm as toast in that blanket.* □ *We were as warm as toast by the side of the fire.*

(as) weak as a baby [of someone] physically very weak. □ *Six weeks of illness left the athlete as weak as a baby.* □ *Hot, humid weather like this always makes me feel weak as a baby.*

(as) weak as a kitten weak; weak and sickly. □ *John is as weak as a kitten because he doesn't eat well.* □ *Oh! Suddenly I feel weak as a kitten.*

as well also; in addition. □ *Could I have some more potatoes as well?* □ *I'm feeling tired, and dizzy as well.*

as well as **1.** in addition to someone or something. □ *Mary and Jane are coming to the party, as well as Tom.* □ *I'm studying biology and chemistry, as well as history.* **2.** to the same high degree as someone or something; as much as. □ *Mary's parents treated me as well as they treated her.* □ *I did as well as you on the test.*

(as) white as a ghost AND **(as) pale as a ghost** [of a person] very pale. □ *His face is as white as a ghost.* □ *He turned pale as a ghost when he saw his injured leg.*

(as) white as a sheet very pale. □ *Jane was white as a sheet for weeks after her illness.* □ *Mary went as white as a sheet when she heard the news.*

(as) white as the driven snow very white. □ *I like my bed sheets to be as white as the driven snow.* □ *We have a new kitten whose fur is white as the driven snow.*

(as) wise as an owl very wise. ☐ *Grandfather is as wise as an owl.* ☐ *My goal is to be wise as an owl.*

(as) wise as Solomon very wise. (Refers to a character in the Bible.) ☐ *If you are in trouble, get Chris to advise you. He's as wise as Solomon.* ☐ *This is a difficult problem. You'd need to be as wise as Solomon to be able to solve it.*

aside from someone or something not including someone or something. ☐ *Aside from a small bank account, I have no money at all.* ☐ *Aside from Mary, I have no friends.*

ask for something to do something that will cause trouble. (Also literal.) ☐ *Don't talk to me that way! You're really asking for it.* ☐ *Anyone who acts like that is just asking for a good talking to.*

ask for the moon to ask for too much; to make great demands. ☐ *When you're trying to get a job, it's unwise to ask for the moon.* ☐ *Please lend me the money. I'm not asking for the moon!*

ask for trouble AND **look for trouble** to seem to be trying to get into trouble; to do something that would cause trouble; to do or say something that will cause trouble. ☐ *Stop talking to me that way, John. You're just asking for trouble.* ☐ *The guard asked me to leave unless I was looking for trouble.* ☐ *Anybody who threatens a police officer is just asking for trouble.* ☐ *You're looking for trouble if you ask the boss for a raise.*

ask someone out to ask a person for a date. ☐ *Mary hopes that John will ask her out.* ☒ *John doesn't want to ask out his best friend's girl.*

asleep at the switch not attending to one's job; failing to do one's duty at the proper time. (Also literal.) ☐ *The guard was asleep at the switch when the robber broke in.* ☐ *If I hadn't been asleep at the switch, I'd have seen the stolen car.*

assault and battery a violent attack [upon someone] followed by a beating. (A criminal charge.) ☐ *Max was charged with two counts of assault and battery.* ☐ *Dave does not go out at night because he does not want to be a victim of assault and battery.*

assault the ears [for sound or speech] to be very loud or persistent. ☐ *That loud music assaults the ears!* ☐ *I can't hear with all that talk assaulting my ears.*

assemble a case (against someone) Go to build a case (against someone).

assume liability to accept the responsibility for paying a cost. ☐ *Mr. Smith assumed liability for his son's student loans.* ☐ *The store assumed liability for the injured customer's hospital bill.*

at all without distinguishing; without qualification. (See the examples for word order variations.) ☐ *It really wasn't very cold at all.* ☐ *It really wasn't at all cold.* ☐ *Tom will eat anything at all.* ☐ *Jane isn't at all hungry.* ☐ *Grandma was always ready to go anywhere at all.*

at all costs AND **at any cost** regardless of the difficulty or cost; no matter what. ☐ *I intend to have that car at all costs.* ☐ *I'll get there by six o'clock at all costs.* ☐ *Mary was going to get that job at any cost.*

at all times constantly; continuously. ☐ *You must keep your passport handy at all times when you are traveling in a foreign country.* ☐ *When you're in a crowd, you must watch your child at all times.*

at a loss (for words) unable to speak; speechless; befuddled. ☐ *I was so surprised that I was at a loss for words.* ☐ *Tom was terribly confused—really at a loss.*

at an early date soon; some day soon. ☐ *The note said, "Please call me at an early date."* ☐ *You're expected to return the form to the office at an early date.*

at any cost Go to at all costs.

at any rate anyway. (Informal. Frequently used as an introduction to a conclusion or a final statement.) ☐ *At any rate, we had a nice time at your party. We are grateful that you asked us.* ☐ *It's not much, at any rate, but it's the best we can do.*

at a premium at a high price; priced high because of something special. ☐ *Sally bought the shoes at a premium because they were of very high quality.* ☐ *This model of car is selling at a premium because so many people want to buy it.*

at a set time at a particular time; at an assigned time. □ *Each person has to show up at a set time.* □ *Do I have to be there at a set time, or can I come whenever I want?*

at a sitting at one time; during one period. (Refers to an activity that takes place while a person is seated.) □ *The restaurant could feed only sixty people at a sitting.* □ *I can read about 300 pages at a sitting.*

at a snail's pace very slowly. □ *When you watch a clock, time seems to move at a snail's pace.* □ *You always eat at a snail's pace. I'm tired of waiting for you.*

at a stretch continuously; without stopping. □ *We all had to do eight hours of duty at a stretch.* □ *The baby doesn't sleep for more than three hours at a stretch.*

at bay at a distance. □ *I have to keep the bill collectors at bay until I get my check.* □ *The wolves will not remain at bay for very long.*

at best AND **at most** in the best view; in the most positive judgment; as the best one can say. □ *I believe her to be totally negligent. Her actions were careless at best.* □ *At best we found their visit pleasantly short.* □ *The dinner was not at all pleasant. At best the food was not burned.* □ *At most she was careless, but not criminal.* □ *We found their visit pleasingly short at most.*

at close range very near; in close proximity. (Usually used in regard to shooting.) □ *The hunter fired at the deer at close range.* □ *The powder burns tell us that the gun was fired at close range.*

at cross-purposes with opposing purposes; with goals that interfere with each other. □ *We are arguing at cross-purposes. We aren't even discussing the same thing.* □ *Bill and Tom are working at cross-purposes. They'll never get the job done right.*

at death's door near death. (Euphemistic.) □ *I was so ill that I was at death's door.* □ *The family dog was at death's door for three days, and then it finally died.*

at ease relaxed and comfortable. □ *I don't feel at ease driving when there is a lot of traffic.* □ *Mary is most at ease when she's near the sea.*

at every turn everywhere; everywhere one looks. □ *There is a new problem at every turn.* □ *Life holds new adventures at every turn.*

at face value from outward appearance; from what something first appears to be. (From the value printed on the "face" of a coin or bank note.) □ *Don't just accept her offer at face value. Think of the implications.* □ *Joan tends to take people at face value and so she is always getting hurt.*

at first initially; at the beginning. □ *He was shy at first. Then he became more friendly.* □ *At first we chose the red one. Later we switched to the blue one.*

at first blush Go to at first glance.

at first glance AND **at first blush** when first examined; at an early stage. □ *At first glance, the problem appeared quite simple. Later we learned just how complex it really was.* □ *He appeared quite healthy at first glance.* □ *At first blush, she appeared to be quite old.*

(at) full blast using full power; as loudly as possible. □ *The neighbors had their televisions on at full blast.* □ *The car radio was on full blast. We couldn't hear what the driver was saying.*

at full speed AND **at full tilt** as fast as possible. □ *The motor was running at full speed.* □ *John finished his running at full speed.* □ *Things are now operating at full tilt.*

at full tilt Go to at full speed.

at half-mast halfway up or down. (Primarily referring to flags. Can be used for things other than flags as a joke.) □ *The flag was flying at half-mast because the general had died.* □ *Americans fly flags at half-mast on Memorial Day.* □ *The little boy ran out of the house with his pants at half-mast.*

at hand close by. (Used with both time and distance. See also **close at hand**; **near at hand**.) □ *I don't happen to have your ap-*

plication at hand at the moment. □ *With the holiday season at hand, everyone is very excited.*

at hazard risked; in danger; at risk. □ *He is not willing to have much of his money at hazard in the stock market.* □ *Your entire life is at hazard unless you wear a helmet when you ride your bicycle.*

at home at or in one's dwelling. □ *Is Mary at home, or is she still at work?* □ *What time will she be at home?*

at home with someone or something comfortable with someone or something; comfortable doing something. (Also literal. See also *feel at home*.) □ *Tom is very much at home with my parents.* □ *Sally seems to be very much at home with her car.* □ *Mary seems to be at home with her job.*

at it again doing something again. (Informal.) □ *I asked Tom to stop playing his trumpet, but he's at it again.* □ *They are at it again. Why are they always fighting?*

at large 1. free; uncaptured. (Usually said of criminals running loose.) □ *At noon the day after the robbery, the thieves were still at large.* □ *There is a murderer at large in the city.* **2.** in general; according to a general sample. □ *Truck drivers at large don't like the new law.* □ *Students at large felt that the rule was too strict.* **3.** representing the whole group rather than its subsections. (Always refers to a special kind of elective office.) □ *He ran for representative at large.* □ *She represented shareholders at large on the governing board.*

at last Go to at (long) last.

at least 1. no less than; no fewer than. □ *There were at least four people there that I knew.* □ *I want to spend at least three weeks in Mexico.* **2.** anyway; in spite of difficulties. □ *At least we had a good evening, even though the afternoon was rainy.* □ *At least we came away with some of our money left.*

at leisure 1. resting; not working. □ *What do you usually do when you are at leisure?* □ *During the summer when you are at leisure, you ought to play golf.* **2.** AND **at**

one's leisure at one's convenience. □ *Choose one or the other at your leisure.* □ *Please drop by at your leisure.*

at length 1. after some time; finally. □ *At length, the roses bloomed and the tomatoes ripened.* □ *And at length, the wizard spoke.* **2.** AND **at some length** for quite a long time. □ *He spoke on and on at some length.* □ *He described the history of his village at length.*

at liberty free; unrestrained. □ *The criminal was set at liberty by the judge.* □ *You're at liberty to go anywhere you wish.* □ *I'm not at liberty to discuss the matter.*

at loggerheads (with someone) in opposition; at an impasse; in a quarrel. □ *Mr. and Mrs. Franklin have been at loggerheads for years.* □ *The two political parties were at loggerheads during the entire legislative session.* □ *She was at loggerheads with him for years.*

at (long) last after a long wait; finally. □ *At last the hostages were released.* □ *Sally earned her diploma at long last.*

at loose ends restless and unsettled; unemployed. □ *Just before school starts, all the children are at loose ends.* □ *When Tom is home on the weekends, he's always at loose ends.* □ *Jane has been at loose ends ever since she lost her job.*

at most Go to at best.

at night during the night. □ *Most people sleep at night.* □ *Mary studies at night.*

at odds (with someone) in opposition to someone; at loggerheads (with someone). □ *Mary is always at odds with her father about how late she can stay out.* □ *John and his father are always at odds too.*

at once immediately; at this very moment. □ *John, come here at once!* □ *Bring me my coffee at once!* □ *Shall I do it at once or wait until morning?*

at one fell swoop AND **in one fell swoop** in a single incident; as a single event. (This phrase preserves the old word *fell*, meaning "terrible" or "deadly.") □ *The party guests ate up all the snacks at one fell swoop.* □ *When the stock market crashed,*

many large fortunes were wiped out in one fell swoop.

at one's best in the best of health; displaying the most civilized behavior. (Often in the negative.) ☐ *I'm not at my best when I'm angry.* ☐ *He's at his best after a good nap.*

at one's leisure Go to at leisure.

at one's wit's end at the limits of one's mental resources. ☐ *I'm at my wit's end with this problem. I cannot figure it out.* ☐ *Tom could do no more. He was at his wit's end.*

at peace **1.** peaceful; relaxed; happy. ☐ *I am always at peace when I sit in my rocking chair.* ☐ *When the warm breeze is blowing, I am at peace.* **2.** dead. ☐ *It was a long illness, but she is at peace now.* ☐ *At last, Uncle Tom is at peace.*

at play [at this moment] involved in playing. ☐ *The children are at play, and I am doing household chores.* ☐ *Whether I am at work or at play, I try to be pleasant to people.*

at present now; at this point in time. ☐ *We are not able to do any more at present.* ☐ *We may be able to lend you money next week, but not at present.*

at random without sequence or order. ☐ *Sally picked four names at random from the telephone book.* ☐ *The gunman walked into the crowded restaurant and fired at random.* ☐ *Jane will read almost anything. She selects four novels at random at the library each week and reads them all.*

at regular intervals at points that are equal in distance apart. ☐ *You will find service stations at regular intervals along the highway.* ☐ *There are streetlights at regular intervals on the main street of town.*

at rest not moving; not active. ☐ *After the hectic day, the office was finally at rest by midnight.* ☐ *Do not remove your seat belt until the plane is at rest.*

at risk in a situation where there is risk or hazard; in danger. ☐ *I refuse to put my family's welfare at risk by quitting my job.* ☐ *Your whole future is at risk if you don't stop smoking.*

at sea on the sea; away on a voyage on the ocean. (See also (all) **at sea** (about something).) ☐ *The ship is at sea now, and you can't disembark.* ☐ *I spent many happy days at sea on my cruise.*

at sea (about something) Go to (all) **at sea** (about something).

at sea level located at the bottom of the sea. ☐ *It is easier to breathe at sea level than in the mountains.* ☐ *Boats on the ocean are at sea level, but those on rivers are not.*

at sixes and sevens disorderly; lost and bewildered; at loose ends. ☐ *Mrs. Smith is at sixes and sevens since the death of her husband.* ☐ *Bill is always at sixes and sevens when he's home by himself.*

at some length Go to at length.

at someone's beck and call ready to obey someone. ☐ *What makes you think I wait around here at your beck and call? I live here too, you know!* ☐ *It was a fine hotel. There were dozens of maids and waiters at our beck and call.*

at someone's doorstep AND **on** someone's **doorstep** in someone's care; as someone's responsibility. ☐ *Why do you always have to lay your problems at my doorstep?* ☐ *I shall put this issue on someone else's doorstep.* ☐ *I don't want it on my doorstep.*

at someone's earliest convenience as soon as it is easy or convenient for someone. (This is also a polite way of saying immediately.) ☐ *Please stop by my office at your earliest convenience.* ☐ *Bill, please have the oil changed at your earliest convenience.*

at someone's mercy Go to at the mercy of someone.

at someone's request due to someone's request; on being asked by someone. ☐ *At his mother's request, Tom stopped playing the saxophone.* ☐ *At the request of the police officer, Bill pulled his car over to the side of the road.*

at someone's service ready to help someone in any way. ☐ *The count greeted me warmly and said, "Welcome to my home. Just let me know what you need. I'm at*

your service.” □ The desk clerk said, “Good morning, madam. We are always at your service.”

at some time sharp exactly at a named time. □ *You must be here at noon sharp. □ The plane is expected to arrive at seven forty-five sharp.*

at stake to be won or lost; at risk; hanging in the balance. □ *That’s a very risky investment. How much money is at stake? □ I have everything at stake on this wager.*

at that rate in that manner; at that speed. (See also **at this rate**.) □ *If things keep progressing at that rate, we’ll be rich by next year. □ At that rate we’ll never get the money that is owed us.*

at the appointed time at the announced or assigned time. □ *The cab pulled up in the driveway at the appointed time. □ We all met at the hotel at the appointed time.*

at the bottom of the hour on the half hour; the opposite of **at the top of the hour**. (Typically heard on television or the radio. Refers to the minute hand on a clock.) □ *Hear the news on WNAG at the bottom of the hour. □ We will have an interview with Harry Smith at the bottom of the hour.*

at the bottom of the ladder at the lowest level of pay and status. □ *Most people start work at the bottom of the ladder. □ When Ann got fired, she had to start all over again at the bottom of the ladder.*

at the break of dawn Go to at the crack of dawn.

at the crack of dawn AND **at the break of dawn** at the time of the earliest light of the day. □ *Jane was always up at the crack of dawn. □ The birds start singing at the break of dawn.*

at the drop of a hat immediately and without urging. □ *John was always ready to go fishing at the drop of a hat. □ If you need help, just call on me. I can come at the drop of a hat.*

at the eleventh hour at the last possible moment. (See also **eleventh-hour decision**.) □ *She always turned her term pa-*

pers in at the eleventh hour. □ We don’t worry about death until the eleventh hour.

at the end of nowhere at a remote place; at some distance from civilization. □ *They live way out in the country at the end of nowhere. □ The police will never find us here at the end of nowhere.*

at the end of one’s rope AND **at the end of one’s tether** at the limits of one’s endurance. □ *I’m at the end of my rope! I just can’t go on this way! □ These kids are driving me out of my mind. I’m at the end of my tether.*

at the end of one’s tether Go to at the end of one’s rope.

at the end of the day when everything else has been taken into consideration. (Also literal.) □ *At the end of the day you will have to decide where you want to live. □ The committee interviewed many applicants for the post, but at the end of the day made no appointment.*

at the expense of someone or something to the detriment of someone or something; to the harm of someone or something. □ *He had a good laugh at the expense of his brother. □ He took a job in a better place at the expense of a larger income.*

at the forefront (of something) AND **in the forefront (of something)** the most important place; the place of greatest activity. □ *I interviewed Max Brown, the director who is in the forefront of the movie industry. □ The university I go to is at the forefront of computer technology.*

at the height of something at the most intense or forceful aspect of something. □ *At the height of his career, Tom was known around the world. □ At the height of the party, there were 50 people present.*

at the helm (of something) in the position of being in control of something. (Also literal for ships and boats.) □ *The president is at the helm of the company. □ Things will go well with Anne at the helm.*

at the last gasp at the very last; at the last chance; at the last minute. (Refers to someone’s last breath before death.) □ *She finally showed up at the last gasp,*

bringing the papers that were needed. □ *We got there at the last gasp, just before our names were called.*

at the last minute at the last possible chance. (Compare this with **at the eleventh hour**.) □ *Please don't make reservations at the last minute.* □ *Why do you ask all your questions at the last minute?*

at the latest no later than. □ *Please pay this bill in ten days at the latest.* □ *I'll be home by midnight at the latest.*

at the mercy of someone **AND** **at** someone's **mercy** under the control of someone; without defense against someone. □ *We were left at the mercy of the arresting officer.* □ *Mrs. Franklin wanted Mr. Franklin at her mercy.*

at the outset at the beginning. (See also **from the outset**.) □ *It seemed like a very simple problem at the outset.* □ *At the outset, they were very happy. Then they had money problems.*

at the point of doing something Go to on the point of doing something.

at the present time **AND** **at this point (in time)** now; at present. (Used often as a wordy replacement for now.) □ *We don't know the location of the stolen car at the present time.* □ *The tomatoes are doing nicely at the present time.* □ *At this point in time, we feel very sad about his death.* □ *Yes, it's sad, but there is nothing we can do at this point.*

at the rear of something located at the back part of something. □ *I keep my tools at the rear of my garage.* □ *There's a creek at the rear of my property.*

at the same time nevertheless; however. (Also literal.) □ *Bill was able to make the car payment. At the same time, he was very angry about the bill.* □ *We agree to your demands. At the same time, we object strongly to your methods.*

at the top of one's **lungs** Go to at the top of one's voice.

at the top of one's **voice** **AND** **at the top of** one's **lungs** with a very loud voice. □ *Bill called to Mary at the top of his voice.*

□ *How can I work when you're all talking at the top of your lungs?*

at the top of the hour at the exact beginning of the hour. (Typically heard on television or the radio. See also **at the bottom of the hour**. Refers to the minute hand on a clock.) □ *Every class in my school starts at the top of the hour.* □ *Our next newscast will be at the top of the hour.*

at the (very) outside at the very most. □ *The car repairs will cost \$300 at the outside.* □ *I'll be there in three weeks at the outside.*

at (the) worst in the worst view; in the most negative judgment; as the worst one can say about something. □ *At worst, Tom can be seen as greedy.* □ *Ann will receive a ticket for careless driving, at the worst.*

at the zenith of something at the highest point of something; at the pinnacle of something. □ *At the zenith of his career, the teacher died suddenly.* □ *The scientist was at the zenith of her career when she made her discovery.*

at this juncture at this point in time; at this pause. □ *There is little more that I can say at this juncture.* □ *We can, if you wish, at this juncture, request a change in venue.*

at this point (in time) Go to at the present time.

at this rate at this speed. (Compare this with **at any rate** and **at that rate**.) □ *Hurry up! We'll never get there at this rate.* □ *At this rate, all the food will be gone before we get there.*

at this stage Go to at this stage of the game.

at this stage of the game **AND** **at this stage** at the current point in some event; currently. (The first phrase is informal.) □ *We'll have to wait and see. There isn't much we can do at this stage of the game.* □ *At this stage, we are better off not calling the doctor.*

at times sometimes; occasionally. □ *I feel quite sad at times.* □ *At times, I wish I had never come here.*

at will whenever one wants; freely. (Compare this with **at liberty**.) ☐ *You're free to come and go at will.* ☐ *The soldiers were told to fire their guns at will.* ☐ *You can eat anything you want at will.*

at work **1.** working (at something); busy (with something). ☐ *Tom is at work on his project. He'll be finished in a minute.* ☐ *Don't disturb me when I'm busy at work.* **2.** at one's place of work. ☐ *I'm sorry to call you at work, but this is important.* ☐ *She's at work now. She'll be home at supper time.*

at worst Go to at (the) worst.

attached to someone or something fond of something or something. ☐ *John is really attached to his old-fashioned ideas.* ☐ *I'm really attached to this old house.*

attract someone's **attention** to cause someone to take notice; to get someone's attention. ☐ *I called and waved to attract Ann's attention.* ☐ *A small yellow flower attracted my attention.*

augur well for someone or something to indicate or predict good things for someone or something. (Usually in the negative.) ☐ *This latest message does not augur well for the hostages.* ☐ *I am afraid that this does not augur well for the outcome of the election.*

avail oneself of something to help oneself by making use of something that is avail-

able. ☐ *We availed ourselves of Tom's goodwill and let him repair the fence.* ☐ *The campers availed themselves of the first chance in a week to take a shower.*

avenue of escape the pathway or route along which someone or something escapes. ☐ *The open window was the bird's only avenue of escape from the house.* ☐ *Bill saw that his one avenue of escape was through the back door.*

avoid someone or something **like the plague** to avoid someone or something totally. (Informal.) ☐ *What's wrong with Bob? Everyone avoids him like the plague.* ☐ *I don't like opera. I avoid it like the plague.*

away from one's desk not available for a telephone conversation; not available to be seen. (Sometimes said by the person who answers a telephone in an office. It means that the person whom the caller wants is not immediately available due to personal or business reasons.) ☐ *I'm sorry, but Ann is away from her desk just now. Can you come back later?* ☐ *Tom is away from his desk, but if you leave your number, he will call you right back.*

awkward as a cow on a crutch Go to (as) awkward as a cow on a crutch.

awkward as a cow on roller skates Go to (as) awkward as a cow on roller skates.

AWOL Go to absent without leave.

B

a **babe in the woods** a naive or innocent person; an inexperienced person. □ *Bill is a babe in the woods when it comes to dealing with plumbers.* □ *As a painter, Mary is fine, but she's a babe in the woods as a musician.*

back and fill to act indecisively; to change one's direction repeatedly; to reverse one's course. (Originally nautical, referring to alternately filling the sails with wind and releasing the wind.) □ *The president spent most of his speech backing and filling on the question of taxation.* □ *The other candidate was backing and filling on every issue, depending on whom she was addressing.*

back and forth backwards and forwards; first one way and then another way. (Compare this with **to and fro**.) □ *The young man was pacing back and forth in the hospital waiting room.* □ *The pendulum on the clock swung back and forth.*

back down (from someone or something) AND **back off (from someone or something)** to yield to a person or a thing; to fail to carry through on a threat. □ *Jane backed down from her position on the budget.* □ *It's probably better to back down from someone than to have an argument.* □ *John agreed that it was probably better to back down than to risk getting shot.* □ *Bill doesn't like to back off from a fight.* □ *Sometimes it's better to back off than to get hurt.*

back East to or from the eastern United States, often the northeastern or New England states. (See also **down South**, **out West**, and **up North**. This is used even by people who have never been in the East.) □ *Sally felt that she had to get back East for a few days.* □ *Tom went to school back*

East, but his brother attended college in the Midwest.

back in circulation 1. [for a thing to be] available to the public again. (Said especially of things that are said to circulate, such as money, library books, and magazines.) □ *I've heard that gold coins are back in circulation in Europe.* □ *I would like to read War and Peace. Is it back in circulation, or is it still checked out?* **2.** [for a person to be] socially active again; dating again after a divorce or breakup with one's lover. (Informal.) □ *Now that Bill is a free man, he's back in circulation.* □ *Tom was in the hospital for a month, but now he's back in circulation.*

back off (from someone or something) Go to **back down (from someone or something)**.

back of the beyond the most remote place; somewhere very remote. (Informal.) □ *John hardly ever comes to the city. He lives at the back of the beyond.* □ *Mary likes lively entertainment, but her husband likes to vacation in the back of the beyond.*

back order something [for a merchant] to order something that is not in stock and then make delivery to the customer when the goods become available. (The merchant may hold your money until the order is filled.) □ *The store didn't have the replacement part for my vacuum cleaner, so the manager back ordered it for me.* □ *The shop had to back order some of the items on my list.*

back out (of something) to withdraw from something you have agreed to do; to break an agreement. (Also literal.) □ *The buyer tried to back out of the sale, but the seller wouldn't permit it.* □ *Please don't*

back out of our date. □ *Mary backed out at the last minute.*

back someone or something **up** to support someone or something; to concur with someone. (Also literal.) □ *Please back me up in this argument.* □ *I would like you to back up John in this discussion.*

back the wrong horse to support someone or something that cannot win or succeed. (Also literal, as in horse racing.) □ *I don't want to back the wrong horse, but it seems to me that Jed is the better candidate.* □ *Fred backed the wrong horse in the budget hearings.*

back-to-back **1.** adjacent and touching backs. □ *They started the duel by standing back-to-back.* □ *Two people who stand back-to-back can manage to see in all directions.* **2.** following immediately. (Said of things or events.) □ *The doctor had appointments set up back-to-back all day long.* □ *I have three lecture courses back-to-back every day of the week.*

back to square one back to the beginning. (Also literal with a board game. See also the following entry.) □ *Negotiations have broken down, and it's back to square one.* □ *We lost the appeal of the court case, so it's back to square one.*

back to the drawing board time to start over again; it is time to plan something over again. (Also literal. Note the variation in the examples.) □ *It didn't work. Back to the drawing board.* □ *I flunked English this semester. Well, back to the old drawing board.*

back to the salt mines time to return to work, school, or something else that might be unpleasant. (As if the speaker were a slave who works in the salt mines.) □ *It's eight o'clock. Time to go to work! Back to the salt mines.* □ *School starts in the fall, and then it's back to the salt mines again.*

bad as all that Go to (as) bad as all that.

bad blood (between people) unpleasant feelings or animosity between people. □ *There is bad blood between Fred and Jim. They cannot be civil to one another.* □

There is no bad blood between us. I don't know why we should quarrel.

bad-mouth someone or something to say bad things about someone or something. (Slang.) □ *Mr. Smith was always bad-mouthing Mrs. Smith. They didn't get along.* □ *John bad-mouths his car constantly because it doesn't run.*

bag and baggage AND **part and parcel** with one's luggage; with all one's possessions. (Informal. See also **part and parcel** (of something).) □ *Sally showed up at our door bag and baggage one Sunday morning.* □ *All right, if you won't pay the rent, out with you, bag and baggage!* □ *Get all your stuff—part and parcel—out of here!*

bag of tricks a collection of special techniques or methods. □ *What have you got in your bag of tricks that could help me with this problem?* □ *Here comes Mother with her bag of tricks. I'm sure she can help us.*

bail out (of something) **1.** to jump out of an airplane (with a parachute). □ *John still remembers the first time he bailed out of a plane.* □ *When we get to 8,000 feet, we'll all bail out and drift down together. We'll open our parachutes at 2,000 feet.* **2.** to abandon a situation; to get out of something. (Informal.) □ *John got tired of school, so he just bailed out.* □ *Please stay, Bill. You've been with us too long to bail out now.*

bail someone or something **out** **1.** [with someone] to deposit a sum of money that allows someone to get out of jail while waiting for a trial. □ *John was in jail. I had to go down to the police station to bail him out.* □ *You kids are always getting into trouble. Do you really expect me to bail out the whole gang of you every time you have a problem?* **2.** [with something] to remove water from the bottom of a boat by dipping or scooping. □ *Tom has to bail the boat out before we get in.* □ *You should always bail out a boat before using it.* **3.** to rescue someone or something from trouble or difficulty. □ *The proposed law was in trouble, but Todd bailed it out at the last minute.* □ *I was going to be late with my*

report, but my roommate lent a hand and bailed me out at the last minute.

bait and switch a deceptive merchandising practice where one product is advertised to get people's attention [the bait], but pressure is applied to get the customer to purchase a more expensive item. □ *Walter described the appliance store as bait and switch, since they never seemed to have in stock the bargains that they advertised.* □ *Max accused the merchant of bait and switch and stalked out of the store.*

balance the accounts 1. AND **balance the books** to determine through accounting that accounts are in balance, that all money is accounted for. □ *Jane was up all night balancing the accounts.* □ *The cashier was not allowed to leave the bank until the manager balanced the books.* **2.** to get even [with someone]. □ *Tom hit Bob. Bob balanced the accounts by breaking Tom's toy car.* □ *Once we have balanced the accounts, we can shake hands and be friends again.*

balance the books Go to balance the accounts.

bald as a baby's backside Go to (as) bald as a baby's backside.

bald as a coot Go to (as) bald as a coot.

baleful as death Go to (as) baleful as death.

ball and chain a person's special burden; a job. (Usually considered slang. Prisoners are sometimes fettered with a chain attached to a leg on one end and a heavy metal ball on the other.) □ *Tom wanted to quit his job. He said he was tired of that old ball and chain.* □ *Mr. Franklin always referred to his wife as his ball and chain.*

ball of fire a very active and energetic person who always succeeds. (Usually considered slang.) □ *Sally is a real ball of fire—she works late every night.* □ *Ann is no ball of fire, but she does get the job done.*

balled up Go to (all) balled up.

the **balls of one's feet** the bottom part of the feet just under the toes. □ *Mary got*

blisters on the balls of her feet from playing tennis. □ *The dancer balanced on the balls of his feet.*

bang one's head against a brick wall Go to beat one's head against the wall.

bank on something to count on something; to rely on something. □ *The weather service said it wouldn't rain, but I wouldn't bank on it.* □ *My word is to be trusted. You can bank on it.*

baptism of fire a first experience of something, usually something difficult or unpleasant. □ *My son's just had his first visit to the dentist. He stood up to the baptism of fire very well.* □ *Mary's had her baptism of fire as a teacher. She was assigned to the worst class in the school.*

the **bare** something the smallest amount of something possible. □ *Bob did the bare minimum of work to pass the class.* □ *Food, clothing, and shelter are the bare necessities of life.*

bargain for something AND **bargain on** something to plan for something; to expect something. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *We knew it would be difficult, but we didn't bargain for this kind of trouble.* □ *I bargained on an easier time of it than this.*

bargain on something Go to bargain for something.

barge in (on someone or something) to break in on someone or something; to interrupt someone or something. □ *Oh! I'm sorry. I didn't mean to barge in on you.* □ *They barged in on the church service and caused a commotion.* □ *You can't just barge in like that!*

[bark is worse than one's bite] Go to One's bark is worse than one's bite.

bark up the wrong tree to make the wrong choice; to ask the wrong person; to follow the wrong course. (Refers to a hunting dog's error.) □ *If you think I'm the guilty person, you're barking up the wrong tree.* □ *The baseball players blamed their bad record on the pitcher, but they were barking up the wrong tree.*

base one's opinion on something to make a judgment or form an opinion from

something. □ *You must not base your opinion on one bad experience.* □ *I base my opinion on many years of studying the problem.*

batten down the hatches to prepare for difficult times. (A nautical expression, meaning, literally, to seal the hatches against the arrival of a storm.) □ *Here comes that contentious Mrs. Jones. Batten down the hatches!* □ *Batten down the hatches, Congress is in session again.*

battle something out to argue something to a conclusion; to fight something to a conclusion. □ *The Senate and the House disagree on the bill, so they will have to battle a compromise out.* □ *The two young toughs went into the alley to battle out their disagreement.*

bawl someone out to scold someone in a loud voice. □ *The teacher bawled the student out for arriving late.* □ *Teachers don't usually bawl out students.*

[be] <For phrases that can begin with *be*, *become*, or *seem like*, consult some other word in the phrase in the Phrase-Finder Index.>

be about something to be busy doing something, especially doing one's business. □ *It's eight o'clock, and it's time I was about my homework.* □ *Good-bye, Jane. I must be about my business.*

be a heartbeat away from something [for someone] to be the next ruler upon the final heartbeat of the current ruler. (Especially in reference to U.S. presidential succession.) □ *The vice president is just a heartbeat away from being president.* □ *The prince was only a heartbeat away from being king.*

be-all and (the) end-all Go to the **be-all** and **(the) end-all**.

the **be-all and (the) end-all** something that is the very best or most important; something so good that it will end the search for something better. □ *Finishing the building of his boat became the be-all and end-all of Roger's existence.* □ *Sally is the be-all and the end-all of Don's life.*

be all ears listening eagerly and carefully. (See also the following entry.) □ *Well, hurry up and tell me. I'm all ears.* □ *Be careful what you say. The children are all ears.*

be all eyes (and ears) to be alert for something to happen; to wait eagerly for something to happen or for someone or something to appear. (See also the previous entry.) □ *There they were, sitting at the table, all eyes. The birthday cake was soon to be served.* □ *Nothing can escape my notice. I'm all eyes and ears.*

be all things to all men AND **be all things to all people** [for someone or something] to be liked or used by all people; [for someone or something] to be everything that is wanted by all people. □ *You simply can't be all things to all people.* □ *The candidate set out to be all things to all men and came off looking very wishy-washy.*

be all things to all people Go to be all things to all men.

be a million miles away to be distracted and daydreaming; not to be paying attention. (Also literal.) □ *You were a million miles away while I was talking to you.* □ *Most of the class was a million miles away in the hot spring afternoon.*

be a new one on someone to be something one has not heard before and that one is not ready to believe. (Informal. The *someone* is often *me*.) □ *Jack's poverty is a new one on me. He always seems to have plenty of money.* □ *The city's difficulties are a new one on me.*

be curtains for someone or something to be the death, end, or ruin of someone or something. (Informal. From the lowering or closing of the curtains at the end of a stage performance.) □ *If the car hadn't swerved, it would have been curtains for the pedestrians.* □ *If they can't get into the export market, it's curtains for the whole company.*

be death on something to be very harmful to something. (Informal or slang.) □ *The salt they put on the roads in the winter is*

death on cars. □ *That teacher is death on slow learners.*

(be) easier said than done said of a task that is easier to talk about than to do. □ *Yes, we must find a cure for cancer, but it's easier said than done.* □ *Finding a good job is easier said than done.*

be flying high 1. to be very successful in one's ambitions; to obtain an important or powerful position. (Also literal. Often with the implication that this will not last very long.) □ *The government is flying high just now, but wait until the budget is announced.* □ *He's flying high these days, but he comes from a very poor family.* **2.** to be in a state of euphoria. (From good news, success, or drugs.) □ *Wow! Todd is really flying high. Did he discover a gold mine?* □ *Sally is flying high. What's she on?*

be friends with someone to be a friend of someone. □ *Sally is friends with Bill.* □ *Mary and Bill are friends with one another.*

be from Missouri to require proof; to have to be shown [something]. (Also literal. From the nickname for the state of Missouri, the "Show Me" State.) □ *You'll have to prove it to me. I'm from Missouri.* □ *She's from Missouri and has to be shown.*

be game to be ready for action; to be agreeable to participating in something. □ *"I'm game," David replied when I suggested we go bowling.* □ *We're going to the park to play football. Are you game?*

be into something to be interested in something; to be involved in something. (Slang.) □ *Did you hear? Tom is into sky-diving!* □ *Too many people are into drugs.*

be off 1. to be spoiled; to be running incorrectly, as with a mechanical device. □ *Oh! I'm afraid that this meat is off. Don't eat it.* □ *I don't have the exact time. My watch is off.* **2.** to leave; to depart. □ *Well, I must be off. Good-bye.* □ *The train leaves in an hour, so I must be off.*

be off on the wrong foot AND **be off to a bad start** to have started something with negative factors. (Literal in reference

to marching. See also **get off on the wrong foot**; **get off to a bad start**; **start off on the wrong foot.**) □ *I'm sorry we are off to a bad start. I tried to be friendly.* □ *I hope that we won't be off to a bad start after our little argument.*

be off to a bad start Go to be off on the wrong foot.

be of service (to someone) to help someone; to serve someone. (A phrase often used by salesclerks. See also **be at someone's service.**) □ *Good morning, madam. May I be of service to you?* □ *Welcome to the Warwick Hotel. Can I be of service?*

be of the persuasion that something is so to hold a belief that something is true or is in existence. □ *Anne is of the persuasion that supports that candidate for mayor.* □ *The paranoid was of the persuasion that aliens lived among us.*

be reluctant to do something to be unwilling to do something. □ *David was reluctant to admit his mistakes.* □ *The witness was reluctant to testify and was ordered to do so by the judge.*

be sick to vomit. (Euphemistic. Also with *get*, as in the examples. Also literal, meaning "to suffer from an illness.") □ *Mommy, Billy just got sick on the floor.* □ *Oh, excuse me! I think I'm going to be sick.* □ *Bob was sick all over the carpet.*

be so Go to be too.

be swimming in something to be engulfed by an excess of something, as if it were a flood. (Also literal.) □ *The war-torn city was swimming in blood.* □ *I am just swimming in paperwork.*

be that as it may even if what you say is true. □ *I am sorry to hear that, but, be that as it may, you still must carry out your responsibilities.* □ *Be that as it may, I still cannot help you.*

be the case to be true; to be an actual situation. □ *I think Bill is a vegetarian, and if that is the case, we should not serve him meat.* □ *Susie believes trees can talk, but that is not the case.*

be the death of me (yet) [these kinds of problems will] be my ruin, death, or

downfall. □ *This cold will be the death of me.* □ *All these problems will be the death of me yet.*

be the last straw AND **be the straw that broke the camel's back** to be the final thing; to be the last little burden or problem that causes everything to collapse. (From the image of a camel being loaded down with much weight, one straw at a time. Finally, at some point, when one is adding straw after straw, one straw will finally be too much and the camel's back will break.) □ *When Sally came down sick, that was the straw that broke the camel's back.* □ *When she showed up late, that was the straw that broke the camel's back.*

be the spit and image of someone AND **be the spitting image of** someone to look very much like someone; to resemble someone very closely. (Folksy. The second version is a frequent error.) □ *John is the spit and image of his father.* □ *I'm not the spit and image of anyone.* □ *At first, I thought you were saying spitting image.*

be the spitting image of someone Go to be the spit and image of someone.

be the straw that broke the camel's back Go to be the last straw.

be to do something to be obliged to do something; to be expected or directed to do something. □ *Am I to clean up the entire kitchen by myself?* □ *John is to take the money to the bank.*

be too AND **be so** to be something (despite anything to the contrary). (An emphatic form of *is*, *am*, *are*, *was*, *were*. See also **do too**, **have too**.) □ *MOTHER: Billy, you aren't old enough to be up this late. BILLY: I am too!* □ *I was so! I was there exactly when I said I would be!*

be used to doing something Go to be used to something.

be used to something AND **be used to** doing something accustomed to something; comfortable with something because it is familiar. □ *We are used to cooking our own food.* □ *I lived in Alaska so long that I am used to the cold.*

be with someone to be on someone's side; to be allied with someone. (Also literal.) □ *Keep on trying, John. We are all with you.* □ *I'm with you in your efforts to win reelection.*

bear a grudge (against someone) AND **have a grudge (against someone); hold a grudge (against someone)** to have an old resentment for someone; to be continually angry at someone. (See also **nurse a grudge (against someone)**.) □ *She bears a grudge against the judge who sentenced her.* □ *I have a grudge against my landlord for overcharging me.* □ *How long can a person hold a grudge? Let's be friends.*

bear fruit to yield results; to give results. (Also literal for fruit-bearing plants and trees.) □ *I hope your new plan bears fruit.* □ *We've had many good ideas, but none of them has borne fruit.*

bear in mind that something is so to remember that something is so; to consider that something is so. (See also **keep** someone or something **in mind**.) □ *Bear in mind that the trip will be expensive.* □ *I asked the teacher to bear in mind that I am just a beginner.*

bear one's cross AND **carry one's cross** to carry or bear one's burden; to endure one's difficulties. (This is a Christian biblical theme. It is always used figuratively except in the biblical context.) □ *It's a very bad disease, but I'll bear my cross.* □ *I can't help you with it. You'll just have to carry your cross.*

bear someone or something **in mind** Go to **keep** someone or something **in mind**.

bear something out to demonstrate or prove that something is right. □ *I hope that the facts will bear your story out.* □ *I'm sure that the facts will bear out my story.*

bear the brunt (of something) to withstand the worst part or the strongest part of something, such as an attack. □ *I had to bear the brunt of her screaming and yelling.* □ *Why don't you talk with her the next time? I'm tired of bearing the brunt.*

bear watching to need watching; to deserve observation or monitoring. □ *This problem will bear watching.* □ *This is a*

very serious disease, and it will bear watching for further developments.

bear with someone or something to be patient with someone or something; to endure someone or something. □ *Please bear with me while I fill out this form.* □ *Please bear with my old car. It'll get us there sooner or later.*

beard the lion in his den to face an adversary on the adversary's home ground. □ *I went to the tax collector's office to beard the lion in his den.* □ *He said he hadn't wanted to come to my home, but it was better to beard the lion in his den.*

beat about the bush Go to beat around the bush.

beat a dead horse to continue fighting a battle that has been won; to continue to argue a point that is settled. (A dead horse will not run no matter how hard it is beaten.) □ *Stop arguing! You have won your point. You are just beating a dead horse.* □ *Oh, be quiet. Stop beating a dead horse.*

beat a (hasty) retreat to retreat or withdraw very quickly. □ *We went out into the cold weather, but beat a retreat to the warmth of our fire.* □ *The dog beat a hasty retreat to its own yard.*

beat a path to someone's door [for people] to come to someone in great numbers. (So many people will wish to come and see you that they will wear down a pathway to your door.) □ *I have a product so good that everyone is beating a path to my door.* □ *If you really become famous, people will beat a path to your door.*

beat around the bush AND **beat about the bush** to avoid answering a question; to stall; to waste time. □ *Stop beating around the bush and answer my question.* □ *Let's stop beating about the bush and discuss this matter.*

beat one's brains out (to do something) to work very hard (to do something). (Informal or slang.) □ *I beat my brains out to solve the problem.* □ *That's the last time I'll beat my brains out trying to cook a nice dinner for you.*

beat one's head against the wall AND **bang one's head against a brick wall** to waste one's time trying to accomplish something that is completely hopeless. □ *You're wasting your time trying to fix up this house. You're just beating your head against the wall.* □ *You're banging your head against a brick wall trying to get that dog to behave properly.*

beat someone down (to size) AND **knock someone down (to size)** to make a person more humble, possibly by beating. (See also **cut someone down (to size)**.) □ *If you keep acting so arrogant, someone is going to beat you down to size.* □ *It's time someone knocked you down to size.* □ *I'll try to be more thoughtful. I don't want anyone to beat me down.*

beat someone to the draw Go to beat someone to the punch.

beat someone to the punch AND **beat someone to the draw** to do something before someone else does it. □ *I wanted to have the first new car, but Sally beat me to the punch.* □ *I planned to write a book about computers, but someone else beat me to the draw.*

beat someone up to harm or subdue a person by beating and striking. □ *The robber beat me up and took my money.* □ *I really want to beat up that robber.*

beat something into someone's head to force someone to learn something, possibly through violence. (This can be a threat of violence and should not be used casually.) □ *I studied for hours. I have never beat so much stuff into my head in such a short time.* □ *You're going to learn this math if I have to beat it into your head.*

[beat the band] Go to to beat the band.

beat the clock to do something before a deadline; to finish before the time is up. □ *Sam beat the clock, arriving a few minutes before the doors were locked.* □ *They were afraid they would be late and hurried in order to beat the clock.*

beat the gun to manage to do something before the ending signal. (Originally from sports, referring to making a goal in the last seconds of a game. See also

jump the gun.) □ *The ball beat the gun and dropped through the hoop just in time.*
□ *Tom tried to beat the gun, but he was one second too slow.*

beat the living daylight out of someone

AND **beat the stuffing out of** someone;
beat the tar out of someone; **whale the tar out of** someone to beat or spank someone, probably a child. (Folksy. These are all threats to do violence and should not be used casually.) □ *If you do that again, I'll beat the living daylight out of you.* □ *The last time Bobby put the cat in the refrigerator, his mother beat the living daylight out of him.* □ *If you continue to act that way, I'll beat the tar out of you.* □ *He wouldn't stop, so I beat the stuffing out of him.* □ *He threatened to whale the tar out of each of them.*

beat the pants off someone **1.** to beat

someone severely. (Informal. Refers to physical violence, not the removal of someone's pants.) □ *The thugs beat the pants off their victim.* □ *If you do that again, I'll beat the pants off you.* **2.** to win out over someone. (Informal. This has nothing to do with violence or removing pants.) □ *In the footrace, Sally beat the pants off Jane.* □ *Tom beats the pants off Bob when it comes to writing poetry.*

beat the rap to escape conviction and punishment (for a crime). (Slang, especially criminal slang.) □ *He was charged with drunk driving, but he beat the rap.* □ *The police hauled Tom in and charged him with a crime. His lawyer helped him beat the rap.*

beat the stuffing out of someone Go to beat the living daylight out of someone.

beat the tar out of someone Go to beat the living daylight out of someone.

beat the tar out of someone Go to beat the living daylight out of someone.

Beauty is only skin-deep. Looks are only superficial. (Proverb.) □ *BOB: Isn't Jane lovely? TOM: Yes, but beauty is only skin-deep.* □ *I know that she looks like a million dollars, but beauty is only skin-deep.*

becoming on someone complimentary to someone; enhancing one's good looks. (Refers to clothing and other personal ornaments.) □ *The dress you wore last night*

is not becoming on you. □ *That color is becoming on you.*

becoming to someone complimentary to someone; enhancing one's good looks. (Refers to hairstyle and things that add to one's good looks. See also **becoming on** someone.) □ *Your new fur coat is becoming to you.* □ *That hairstyle is very becoming to you.*

a bed of roses a situation or way of life that is always happy and comfortable. □ *Living with Pat can't be a bed of roses, but her husband is always smiling.* □ *Being the boss isn't exactly a bed of roses. There are so many problems to take care of.*

beef something up to make something stronger; to supplement something. (Informal or slang.) □ *The government decided to beef the army up by buying hundreds of new tanks.* □ *Okay, let's beef up the opening song. Please, everyone, sing louder!*

[been had] Go to have been had.

beer and skittles Go to (all) beer and skittles.

before long soon. □ *Billy will be grown-up before long.* □ *Before long, we'll be without any money if we keep spending so much.*

before you can say Jack Robinson almost immediately. (Often found in children's stories.) □ *And before you could say Jack Robinson, the bird flew away.* □ *I'll catch a plane and be there before you can say Jack Robinson.*

before you know it almost immediately. □ *I'll be there before you know it.* □ *If you keep spending money like that, you'll be broke before you know it.*

beg off (on something) to ask to be released from something; to refuse an invitation. □ *I'm sorry. I'll have to beg off on your invitation.* □ *I have an important meeting, so I'll have to beg off.*

beg the question 1. to carry on a false argument where one assumes as proved the very point that is being argued, or more generally, to evade a principled discussion of the issue at hand. (Essentially a

criticism of someone's line of argument.)

□ *Stop talking in circles. You're begging the question.* □ *A: Why do two lines that are equidistant from one another never meet? B: Because they are parallel. A: You are begging the question.* **2.** to invite the (following) question. (This erroneous reinterpretation of **beg the question** is becoming increasingly popular and widespread.) □ *His complaints beg the question: Didn't he cause all of his problems himself?*

beg to differ (with someone) to disagree with someone; to state one's disagreement with someone in a polite way. (Usually used in a statement made to the person being disagreed with.) □ *I beg to differ with you, but you have stated everything exactly backwards.* □ *If I may beg to differ, you have not expressed things as well as you seem to think.*

beggar description to defy description; to be unable to be described. □ *The house was a mess. The place begged description.* □ *Our reaction to the proposal beggars description. We were deeply disturbed for days.*

Beggars can't be choosers. One should not criticize something one gets for free. (Proverb.) □ *I don't like the old hat that you gave me, but beggars can't be choosers.* □ *It doesn't matter whether people like the free food or not. Beggars can't be choosers.*

begin to see daylight to begin to foresee the end of a long task. (Also literal. See also **see the light (at the end of the tunnel)**.) □ *I've been working on my thesis for two years, and at last I'm beginning to see daylight.* □ *I've been so busy. Only in the last week have I begun to see daylight.*

begin to see the light to begin to understand (something). (Also literal.) □ *My algebra class is hard for me, but I'm beginning to see the light.* □ *I was totally confused, but I began to see the light after your explanation.*

beginning of the end the start of the final phase of something or of someone's death. □ *When he stopped coughing and remained still, I knew it was the beginning*

of the end. □ *The enormous federal deficit marked the beginning of the end as far as our standard of living is concerned.*

behind closed doors in secret; away from observers, reporters, or intruders. (Refers to being in a private room with the doors closed.) □ *They held the meeting behind closed doors, as the law allowed.* □ *Every important issue was decided behind closed doors.*

behind in something **AND** **behind on** something late with something; late in doing something. □ *I'm behind in my car payments.* □ *She's behind on her work.*

behind on something Go to **behind in** something.

behind schedule having failed to do something by the time listed on the schedule. □ *We have to hurry and finish soon because we are behind schedule.* □ *The project is behind schedule. Very late, in fact.*

behind someone's back in secret; without someone's knowledge. □ *Please don't talk about me behind my back.* □ *She sold the car behind his back.*

behind the eight ball in a difficult or awkward position. (Informal. Refers to billiards, a game played with numbered balls.) □ *Bob broke his wife's crystal vase and is really behind the eight ball.* □ *I ran over the neighbor's lawn with my car, so I'm really behind the eight ball.*

behind the scenes privately; out of public view. □ *The people who worked behind the scenes are the real heroes of this project.* □ *I worked behind the scenes in the play.* □ *We don't usually thank the people who are behind the scenes.*

behind the times old-fashioned. □ *Sarah is a bit behind the times. Her clothes are quite old-fashioned.* □ *Our legislature is a bit behind the times.*

Behind you! Watch out behind you!; There is danger behind you! □ *Behind you! That car almost hit you.* □ *There are snakes everywhere! Behind you! Look out!*

belabor the point to spend too much time on a point of discussion. □ *I don't want*

to belabor the point, but the sooner we get these things settled, the better. □ *If the speaker would agree not to belabor the point further, I will place it on the agenda for the next meeting.*

believe it or not to choose to believe something or not. (Indicating that an assertion may be hard to believe.) □ *Believe it or not, I just got home from work.* □ *I'm over fifty years old, believe it or not.*

bell, book, and candle symbols of witchcraft. □ *Look, I can't work miracles! Do you expect me to show up at your house with bell, book, and candle, and make everything right? You have to take charge of your own destiny!* □ *On the top shelf of the tiny used-book store, Jim saw a bell, book, and candle sitting in a row, and he knew he was going to find some very interesting reading material.*

below average lower or worse than average. □ *Tom's strength is below average for a child his size.* □ *Dad asked why my grades are below average.*

below par not as good as average or normal. □ *I feel a little below par today. I think I am getting a cold.* □ *His work is below par, and he is paid too much money.*

belt something out to sing or play a song loudly and with spirit. □ *When she's playing the piano, she really belts the music out.* □ *She really knows how to belt out a song.*

bend over backwards (to do something) Go to fall over backwards (to do something).

bend someone's ear to talk to someone, perhaps annoyingly. □ *Tom is over there, bending Jane's ear about something.* □ *I'm sorry. I didn't mean to bend your ear for an hour.*

bent on doing something determined to do something. □ *Jane was bent on having her own apartment.* □ *Her mother was bent on keeping her at home.*

beside oneself (with something) in an extreme state of some emotion. (Preceded by *be* or *seem*.) □ *I was beside myself with joy.* □ *Sarah could not speak. She was beside herself with anger.* □ *I laughed so hard I was beside myself.*

beside the point AND **beside the question** irrelevant; of no importance. □ *That's very interesting, but beside the point.* □ *That's beside the point. You're evading the issue.* □ *Your observation is beside the question.*

beside the question Go to beside the point.

best bib and tucker one's best clothing. (Folksy.) □ *I always wear my best bib and tucker on Sundays.* □ *Put on your best bib and tucker, and let's go to the city.*

the **best-laid plans of mice and men** AND the **best-laid schemes of mice and men** the best thought-out plans of anyone. □ *If a little rain can ruin the best-laid plans of mice and men, think what an earthquake might do!* □ *The best-laid schemes of mice and men are often disturbed by any small matter.*

the **best-laid schemes of mice and men** Go to the best-laid plans of mice and men.

the **best part of** something almost all of something; a large part of something; the major part of something. □ *The discussion took the best part of an hour.* □ *The best part of the meeting was taken up by budgetary matters.*

bet one's bottom dollar AND **bet one's life** to be quite certain (about something). (Both are informal and folksy. A *bottom dollar* is the last dollar.) □ *I'll be there. You bet your bottom dollar.* □ *I bet my bottom dollar you can't swim across the pool.* □ *You bet your life I can't swim that far.* □ *I bet my life on it.*

bet one's life Go to bet one's bottom dollar.

[better half] Go to one's better half.

better late than never better to do something late than not at all. □ *I wish you had come here sooner, but better late than never.* □ *She bought a house when she was quite old. Better late than never.*

better off (doing something) AND **better off (if something were done)** in a better position if something were done. □ *She'd be better off selling her house.* □ *They are better off flying to Detroit.* □ *They would*

be better off if they flew to Detroit. □ *I'm better off now.*

better off (if one were somewhere else) Go to better off (somewhere).

better off (if something were done) Go to better off (doing something).

better off (somewhere) AND better off (if one were somewhere else) in a better position somewhere else. □ *They would be better off in Florida.* □ *We'd all be better off if we were in Florida.* □ *I know I'd be better off.*

between a rock and a hard place AND between the devil and the deep blue sea in a very difficult position; facing a hard decision. (Informal.) □ *I couldn't make up my mind. I was caught between a rock and a hard place.* □ *He had a dilemma on his hands. He was clearly between the devil and the deep blue sea.*

between life and death in a position where living or dying is an even possibility. (Especially with *caught* or *hovering*.) □ *And there I was on the operating table, hovering between life and death.* □ *The mountain climber hung by his rope, caught between life and death.*

between the devil and the deep blue sea Go to between a rock and a hard place.

between you, me, and the lamppost confidentially, just between you and me. □ *Just between you, me, and the lamppost, Fred is leaving school.* □ *Now don't tell anyone else. This is just between you, me, and the lamppost.*

betwixt and between 1. between (people or things). □ *I liked the soup and the dessert and all that came betwixt and between.* □ *I sat betwixt and between all the actors who weren't on stage.* **2.** undecided. □ *I wish she would choose. She has been betwixt and between for three weeks.* □ *Tom is so betwixt and between about getting married. I don't think he's ready.*

beyond a reasonable doubt almost without any doubt. (A legal phrase.) □ *The jury decided beyond a reasonable doubt that she had committed the crime.* □ *She*

was also found guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

beyond measure more than can be measured; in a very large amount. □ *They brought in hams, turkeys, and roasts, and then they brought vegetables and salads beyond measure.* □ *They thanked all of us beyond measure.*

beyond one's depth 1. in water that is too deep. (See also in *over one's head*.) □ *Sally swam out beyond her depth.* □ *Jane swam out to get her even though it was beyond her depth, too.* **2.** beyond one's understanding or capabilities. □ *I'm working beyond my depth in algebra class.* □ *Poor John was involved in a problem that seemed really beyond his depth.*

beyond one's means more than one can afford. (See also *live beyond one's means*.) □ *I'm sorry, but this house is beyond our means. Please show us a cheaper one.* □ *They felt that a Caribbean cruise is beyond their means.*

beyond the call of duty Go to (above and) beyond the call of duty.

beyond the pale unacceptable; outlawed; over the top. □ *Your behavior is simply beyond the pale.* □ *Because of Tom's rudeness, he's considered beyond the pale and is never asked to parties anymore.*

beyond the shadow of a doubt completely without doubt. (Said of a fact, not a person. See also **beyond a reasonable doubt**.) □ *We accepted her story as true beyond the shadow of a doubt.* □ *Please assure us that you are certain of the facts beyond the shadow of a doubt.*

beyond words more than one can say. (Especially with *grateful*, *shocked*, and *thankful*.) □ *Sally was thankful beyond words.* □ *I don't know how to thank you. I'm grateful beyond words.*

bid adieu to someone or something AND bid someone or something adieu to say good-bye to someone or something. (This *adieu* is French for *good-bye* and should not be confused with *ado*.) □ *Now it's time to bid adieu to all of you gathered here.* □ *He silently bid adieu to his favorite hat as the wind carried it down the street.*

bid someone or something **adieu** Go to bid adieu to someone or something.

bide one's **time** to wait patiently. □ *I've been biding my time for years, just waiting for a chance like this.* □ *He's not the type just to sit there and bide his time. He wants some action.*

big and bold [of things] large and capable of getting attention. □ *The lettering on the book's cover was big and bold, and it got lots of attention, but the price was too high.* □ *She wore a brightly colored dress. The pattern was big and bold and the skirt was very full.*

big as all outdoors Go to (as) big as all outdoors.

big as life Go to (as) big as life.

big as life and twice as ugly Go to (as) big as life.

a **big frog in a small pond** an important person in the midst of a less important setting. (Preceded by *be, become, seem like, or act like.*) □ *I'd rather be a big frog in a small pond than the opposite.* □ *The trouble with Tom is that he's a big frog in a small pond. He needs more competition.*

the **big moment** AND the **moment everyone has been waiting for** the special time that everyone has been waiting for. □ *The big moment has come. I will now announce the winner.* □ *This is the big moment that you all have been waiting for!*

big of someone generous of someone; kind or forgiving of someone. (Sometimes sarcastic.) □ *He gave me some of his apple. That was very big of him.* □ *It was big of Sally to come over and apologize like that.*

binge and purge to overeat and then vomit, over and over. (A symptom of the condition called bulimia.) □ *She had binged and purged a number of times before she finally sought help from a doctor.* □ *Terry had been bingeing and purging for a number of years and was very, very thin.*

A **bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.** Something you already have is better than something you might get. □ *Bill has offered to buy my car for \$4,000. Someone else might pay more, but a bird*

in the hand is worth two in the bush. □ *I might be able to find a better price, but a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.*

the **birds and the bees** human reproduction. (A euphemistic way of referring to human sex and reproduction.) □ *My father tried to teach me about the birds and the bees.* □ *He's twenty years old and doesn't understand about the birds and the bees.*

a **bird's-eye view** **1.** a view seen from high above. (Refers to the height of a flying bird.) □ *We got a bird's-eye view of Cleveland as the plane began its descent.* □ *From the top of the tower you get a splendid bird's-eye view of the village.* **2.** a brief survey of something; a hasty look at something. (Refers to the smallness of a bird's eye.) □ *The course provides a bird's-eye view of the works of Mozart, but it doesn't deal with them in enough detail for your purpose.* □ *All you need is a bird's-eye view of the events of World War II to pass the test.*

Birds of a feather flock together. People of the same type seem to gather together. (Proverb.) □ *Bob and Tom are just alike. They like each other's company because birds of a feather flock together.* □ *When Mary joined a club for redheaded people, she said, "Birds of a feather flock together."*

bite off more than one can chew to take (on) more than one can deal with; to be overconfident. (This is used literally for food and figuratively for other things, especially difficult projects.) □ *Billy, stop biting off more than you can chew. You're going to choke on your food someday.* □ *Ann is exhausted again. She's always biting off more than she can chew.*

bite one's nails to be nervous or anxious; to bite one's nails from nervousness or anxiety. (Used both literally and figuratively.) □ *I spent all afternoon biting my nails, worrying about you.* □ *We've all been biting our nails from worry.*

bite one's tongue to struggle not to say something that you really want to say. (Used literally only to refer to an acci-

dental biting of one's tongue.) □ *I had to bite my tongue to keep from telling her what I really thought.* □ *I sat through that whole conversation biting my tongue.*

bite someone's head off to speak sharply and angrily to someone. □ *There was no need to bite Mary's head off just because she was five minutes late.* □ *The boss has been biting everybody's head off since his accident.*

bite the bullet to put up with or endure (something). (Informal or slang.) □ *I didn't want to go to the doctor, but I bit the bullet and went.* □ *John, you just have to bite the bullet and do what you're told.*

bite the dust to fall to defeat; to die. (Typically heard in movies about the old western frontier.) □ *A bullet hit the sheriff in the chest, and he bit the dust.* □ *Poor old Bill bit the dust while mowing the lawn. They buried him yesterday.*

bite the hand that feeds one to harm someone who does good things for you. (Literal in reference to a dog, cat, or other animal.) □ *I'm your mother! How can you bite the hand that feeds you?* □ *She can hardly expect much when she bites the hand that feeds her.*

a **bitter pill to swallow** an unpleasant fact that has to be accepted. □ *It was a bitter pill for her brother to swallow when she married his enemy.* □ *We found his deception a bitter pill to swallow.*

black-and-blue bruised; showing signs of having been physically harmed. (Also literal.) □ *The child was black-and-blue after having been struck.* □ *She was black-and-blue all over after falling out of the tree.*

black as a skillet Go to (as) black as a skillet.

black as a stack of black cats Go to (as) black as a stack of black cats.

black as a sweep Go to (as) black as a sweep.

black as coal Go to (as) black as coal.

black as night Go to (as) black as night.

black as one is painted Go to (as) black as one is painted.

black as pitch Go to (as) black as pitch.

black as the ace of spades Go to (as) black as the ace of spades.

black out to faint or pass out. □ *Sally blacked out just before the crash.* □ *I was so frightened that I blacked out for a minute.*

the **black sheep of the family** the worst member of the family. □ *Mary is the black sheep of the family. She's always in trouble with the police.* □ *He keeps making a nuisance of himself. What do you expect from the black sheep of the family?*

blast off [for a rocket] to shoot into the sky. □ *What time does the rocket blast off?* □ *It won't blast off today. It has been canceled.*

blaze a trail (in something) to create and develop a new area of study or development. (Literal in reference to creating and marking a trail.) □ *In the area of conservation, Wright and Walters blazed a trail in the use of technology to preserve topsoil.* □ *Professor Williams blazed a trail in the study of physics.*

bleep something out to replace a word or phrase in a radio or television broadcast with some sort of musical tone. (This is sometimes done to prevent a bad word or other information from being broadcast.) □ *He tried to say the word on television, but they bleeped it out.* □ *They tried to bleep out the whole sentence.*

a **blessing in disguise** something that turns out to be fortunate and advantageous after seeming to be the opposite at first. □ *Our missing the train was a blessing in disguise. It was involved in a crash.* □ *It was a blessing in disguise that I didn't get the job. I was offered a better one the next day.*

blind as a bat Go to (as) blind as a bat.

the **blind leading the blind** having to do with a situation where people who don't know how to do something try to explain it to other people. □ *Tom doesn't know anything about cars, but he's trying to*

teach Sally how to change the oil. It's a case of the blind leading the blind. □ *When I tried to show Mary how to use a computer, it was the blind leading the blind.*

Blood is thicker than water. Go to **Blood runs thicker than water.**

Blood runs thicker than water. AND **Blood is thicker than water.** People who are related have stronger obligations to each other than to people outside the family and are expected to endure family problems. (Proverb.) □ *My friends invited me to go camping on Saturday, but I have to go to my cousin's wedding instead. Blood is thicker than water, after all.* □ *If you ever need help, don't ask your friends. Come home and ask us, your family. Blood is thicker than water.*

blood, sweat, and tears the signs of great personal effort. □ *There will be much blood, sweat, and tears before we have completed this project.* □ *After years of blood, sweat, and tears, Timmy finally earned a college degree.*

bloody but unbowed [one's head] showing signs of a struggle, but not bowed in defeat. □ *Liz emerged from the struggle, her head bloody but unbowed.* □ *We are bloody but unbowed and will fight to the last.*

blow a fuse 1. to burn out a fuse. □ *The microwave oven blew a fuse, so we had no power.* □ *You'll blow a fuse if you use too many appliances at once.* **2.** Go to **blow a gasket.**

blow a gasket AND **blow a fuse; blow one's cork; blow one's top; blow one's stack** to become very angry; to lose one's temper. (Slang.) □ *I was so mad I almost blew a gasket.* □ *I've never heard such a thing. I'm going to blow a fuse.* □ *I blew my cork when he hit me.* □ *I was so mad I could have blown my top.* □ *I makes me so mad I could blow my stack.*

blow-by-blow account AND **blow-by-blow description** a detailed description (of an event) given as the event takes place. (This referred originally to boxing or other combat.) □ *I want to listen to a blow-by-blow account of the prizefight.* □

The lawyer got the witness to give a blow-by-blow description of the argument.

blow-by-blow description Go to **blow-by-blow account.**

blow hot and cold to be changeable or uncertain (about something). □ *He keeps blowing hot and cold on the question of moving to the country.* □ *He blows hot and cold about this. I wish he'd make up his mind.*

blow off steam Go to **let off steam.**

blow one's cookies Go to **blow one's lunch.**

blow one's cool Go to **lose one's cool.**

blow one's cork Go to **blow a gasket.**

blow one's lines Go to **fluff one's lines.**

blow one's lunch AND **blow one's cookies** to vomit. (Slang.) □ *The accident was so horrible I almost blew my lunch.* □ *Don't run so hard, or you'll blow your cookies.*

blow one's nose to drive mucus and other material from the nose using air pressure from the lungs. □ *Excuse me, I have to blow my nose.* □ *Bill blew his nose into his handkerchief.*

blow one's own horn Go to **toot one's own horn.**

blow one's stack Go to **blow a gasket.**

blow one's top Go to **blow a gasket.**

blow over to go away without causing harm. □ *If we are lucky, the storm will blow over.* □ *Given time, all this controversy will blow over.*

blow someone or something away 1. to kill or destroy someone or something. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *He drew his gun and blew the thief away.* □ *His bad attitude blew away the whole deal.* **2.** [with someone] to overcome someone emotionally. □ *The bad news really blew me away.* □ *Your news just blew me away! How exciting!*

blow someone or something off 1. [with something] to neglect or bumble something. (Slang.) □ *He would do better in school if he didn't blow his math class off.* □ *He blew off his homework.* **2.** [with someone] to deceive or cheat someone. (Slang.) □ *She really blew me off on the question of*

grades. *She was really failing all the time.*
 ☐ *She blew off the teacher by cheating on the test.*

blow someone or something **to smithereens** to explode someone or something into tiny pieces. ☐ *The bomb blew the ancient church to smithereens.* ☐ *The mortar blew the entire squad to smithereens.*

blow someone's **cover** to reveal someone's true identity or purpose. ☐ *The spy was very careful not to blow her cover.* ☐ *I tried to disguise myself, but my dog recognized me and blew my cover.*

blow someone's **mind** **1.** to destroy the function of one's brain. (Slang.) ☐ *It was a terrible experience. It nearly blew my mind.* ☐ *She blew her mind on drugs.* **2.** to overwhelm someone; to excite someone. (Slang.) ☐ *It was so beautiful, it nearly blew my mind.* ☐ *The music was so wild. It blew my mind.*

blow something to ruin or waste something. ☐ *I had a chance to do it, but I blew it.* ☐ *He blew the whole five dollars on candy.*

blow something **out of all proportion** to cause something to be unrealistically proportioned relative to something else. (The all can be left out.) ☐ *The press has blown this issue out of all proportion.* ☐ *Let's be reasonable. Don't blow this thing out of proportion.*

blow the lid off (something) to reveal something, especially wrongdoing; to make wrongdoing public. ☐ *The police blew the lid off the smuggling ring.* ☐ *The government is glad that they blew the lid off.*

blow the whistle (on someone) to report someone's wrongdoing to someone (such as the police) who can stop the wrongdoing. ☐ *The citizens' group blew the whistle on the street gangs by calling the police.* ☐ *The gangs were getting very bad. It was definitely time to blow the whistle.*

blow up to fall apart or get ruined. ☐ *The whole project blew up. It will have to be canceled.* ☐ *All my planning was blown up this afternoon.*

blow up (at someone) to get angry at someone; to lose one's temper and yell at

someone. ☐ *I'm sorry. I didn't mean to blow up.* ☐ *You'd blow up, too, if you'd had a day like mine.*

blow up in someone's face **1.** to blow up or explode suddenly. (Also literal.) ☐ *The bomb blew up in the terrorist's face.* ☐ *The firecracker blew up in his face and injured him.* **2.** [for something] to get ruined while someone is working on it. (Also literal.) ☐ *All my plans blew up in my face.* ☐ *It is terrible for your life to get ruined and blow up in your face.*

blue around the gills Go to pale around the gills.

blue blood the blood [heredity] of a noble family; aristocratic ancestry. ☐ *The earl refuses to allow anyone who is not of blue blood to marry his son.* ☐ *Although Mary's family is poor, she has blue blood in her veins.*

bog down to slow down; to become stuck. ☐ *The project bogged down because of so much red tape.* ☐ *We bog down every year at this time because many of our workers go on vacation.*

boggle someone's **mind** to confuse someone; to overwhelm someone; to **blow** someone's mind. ☐ *The size of the house boggles my mind.* ☐ *She said that his arrogance boggled her mind.*

boil down to something to reduce to something; to come down to something; to be essentially something. (Also literal.) ☐ *It all boils down to whether you wish to buy a car.* ☐ *It boils down to a question of good health.*

boil something down to summarize something; to make information more concise. (Also literal in reference to liquids.) ☐ *I don't have time to listen to the whole story. Please boil it down for me.* ☐ *Please boil down the report so I can read it on the plane.*

bold as brass Go to (as) bold as brass.

bone of contention the subject or point of an argument; an unsettled point of disagreement. ☐ *We've fought for so long that we've forgotten what the bone of contention is.* ☐ *The question of a fence*

between the houses has become quite a bone of contention.

bone up (on something) to study something thoroughly; to review the facts about something. ☐ *I have to bone up on the state driving laws because I have to take my driving test tomorrow.* ☐ *I take mine next month, so I'll have to bone up, too.*

boot someone out Go to kick someone out.

bore someone stiff AND **bore someone to death** to bore someone very much. (Stiff is an old slang word meaning “dead.”) ☐ *The play bored me stiff.* ☐ *The lecture bored everyone to death.*

bore someone to death Go to bore someone stiff.

bored silly AND **bored stiff; bored to distraction; bored to tears** very bored; completely bored. (Usually an exaggeration.) ☐ *I was bored silly at the lecture.* ☐ *The dull speaker left me bored to distraction.* ☐ *I am bored to tears. Let's go home.*

bored stiff Go to bored silly.

bored to death very bored. ☐ *The children were bored to death.* ☐ *I've never been so bored to death in my life.*

bored to distraction Go to bored silly.

bored to tears Go to bored silly.

born and bred Go to born and raised.

born and raised AND **born and bred** born and nurtured through childhood, usually in a specific place. ☐ *She was born and raised in a small town in western Montana.* ☐ *Freddy was born and bred on a farm and had no love for city life.*

born out of wedlock born to an unmarried mother. ☐ *The child was born out of wedlock.* ☐ *In the city many children are born out of wedlock.*

born with a silver spoon in one's mouth born with many advantages; born to a wealthy family. ☐ *Sally was born with a silver spoon in her mouth.* ☐ *I'm glad I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth.*

borrow trouble to worry needlessly; to make trouble for oneself. ☐ *Worrying too*

much about death is just borrowing trouble. ☐ *Do not get involved with politics. That's borrowing trouble.*

boss someone around to give orders to someone; to keep telling someone what to do. ☐ *Stop bossing me around. I'm not your employee.* ☐ *Captain Smith bosses around the whole crew. That's his job.*

bottle something up 1. to constrict something as if it were put in a bottle. ☐ *The patrol boats bottled the other boats up at the locks on the river.* ☐ *The police bottled up the traffic while they searched the cars for the thieves.* 2. to hold one's feelings within; to keep from saying something that one feels strongly about. ☐ *Let's talk about it, John. You shouldn't bottle it up.* ☐ *Don't bottle up your problems. It's better to talk them out.*

the **bottom line** 1. the last figure on a financial balance sheet representing net profit or loss. ☐ *What's the bottom line? How much do I owe you?* ☐ *Don't tell me all those figures! Just tell me the bottom line.* 2. the result; the final outcome. ☐ *I know about all the problems, but what is the bottom line? What will happen?* ☐ *The bottom line is that you have to go to the meeting because no one else can.*

bottom out to reach the lowest point. ☐ *The price of wheat bottomed out last week. Now it's rising again.* ☐ *My interest in school bottomed out in my junior year, so I quit and got a job.*

Bottoms up! Everyone should drink now! (Said at the end of a drinking toast.) ☐ *Here's to the bride and groom. Bottoms up!* ☐ *Bottoms up! Drink hearty!*

bound and determined determined. ☐ *We were bound and determined to get there on time.* ☐ *I'm bound and determined that this won't happen again.*

bound for somewhere on the way to somewhere; planning to go to somewhere. ☐ *I'm bound for Mexico. In fact, I'm leaving this afternoon.* ☐ *I'm bound for the bank. Do you want to go, too?*

bound hand and foot with hands and feet tied up. ☐ *The robbers left us bound hand*

and foot. □ *We remained bound hand and foot until the maid found us and untied us.*

bound to (do something) to be certain to do something. □ *They are bound to come home soon. They always come home early.* □ *Oh, yes. They are bound to.*

bow and scrape to be very humble and subservient. □ *Please don't bow and scrape. We are all equal here.* □ *The salesclerk came in, bowing and scraping, and asked if he could help us.*

bow out to quit and depart; to resign; to retire. □ *I've done all that I can do. Now is the time to bow out.* □ *Most workers bow out at the normal retirement age.*

bow someone **over** to surprise or overwhelm someone. (Also literal.) □ *The news bowled me over.* □ *The details of the proposed project bowled everyone over.*

Boys will be boys. That's the kind of thing that boys seem to do.; That's the kind of silly behavior that boys and men exhibit. (Proverb.) □ *They really messed up the living room, but boys will be boys.* □ *Boys will be boys, but they can be trained.*

brain someone to strike a person on the skull as if to knock out the person's brains. □ *I thought he was going to brain me, but he only hit me on the shoulder.* □ *If you don't do it, I'll brain you.*

[bread and butter] Go to someone's bread and butter.

bread-and-butter letter a letter or note written to follow up on a visit; a thank-you note. □ *When I got back from the sales meeting, I took two days to write bread-and-butter letters to the people I met.* □ *I got sort of a bread-and-butter letter from my nephew, who wants to visit me next summer.*

bread and water the most minimal meal possible; a prison meal. (Also literal. Refers to the stereotypical prison meal.) □ *Max knew that if he got in trouble again it would be at least a year on bread and water.* □ *This dinner is terrible again. I would rather have bread and water! Why don't we ever have pizza?*

break a code to figure out a code; to decipher a code. □ *The intelligence agents finally broke the enemy's code.* □ *When they broke the code, they were able to decipher messages.*

break a habit AND **break the habit; break one's habit** to end a habit. □ *I was not able to break the habit of snoring.* □ *It's hard to break a habit that you have had for a long time.*

break a law AND **break the law** to fail to obey a law; to act contrary to a law. □ *Lisa broke the law when she drove the wrong way on a one-way street.* □ *If you never break the law, you will never get arrested.*

Break a leg! Good luck! (Also literal. Theatrical slang. This is said to actors before a performance instead of *Good luck.*) □ *Before the play, John said to Mary, "Break a leg!"* □ *Saying "Break a leg!" before a performance is an old theatrical tradition.*

break a record to surpass a previously set high record of achievement by setting a new one. □ *The athlete broke all the school records in swimming.* □ *The record was broken after thirty years.*

break camp to close down a campsite; to pack up and move on. □ *Early this morning we broke camp and moved on northward.* □ *Okay, everyone. It's time to break camp. Take those tents down and fold them neatly.*

break down 1. [for something] to fall apart; [for something] to stop operating. (See also **break** someone or something **down**.) □ *The air-conditioning broke down, and we got very warm.* □ *The car broke down in the parking lot.* **2.** [for one] to lose control of one's emotions; [for one] to have a nervous collapse. □ *He couldn't keep going. He finally broke down and wept.* □ *I was afraid I'd break down.*

break even for income to equal expenses. (This implies that money was not earned or lost.) □ *Unfortunately my business just managed to break even last year.* □ *I made a bad investment, but I broke even.*

break ground (for something) to start digging the foundation for a building. □ *The*

president of the company came to break ground for the new building. □ This was the third building this year for which this company has broken ground. □ When will they break ground?

Break it up! Stop fighting!; Stop it! (Said to two or more people causing a disturbance.) □ All right! Break it up, you guys! □ Stop your talking! Break it up and get back to work.

break loose (from someone or something) to get away from a person or a thing that is holding one. (Compare this with **cut loose (from someone or something)**.) □ The criminal broke loose from the police officer. □ It's hard to break loose from home. □ I was twenty years old before I could break loose.

break new ground to begin to do something that no one else has done; to pioneer (in an enterprise). (See also **break ground (for something)**.) □ Dr. Anderson was breaking new ground in cancer research. □ They were breaking new ground in consumer electronics.

break off (with someone) to end a friendship with someone, especially a boyfriend or a girlfriend. □ Tom has finally broken off with Mary. □ I knew it couldn't last. He was bound to break off.

break one's back (to do something) Go to break one's neck (to do something).

break one's habit Go to break a habit.

break one's neck (to do something) AND **break one's back (to do something)** to work very hard to do something. □ I broke my neck to get here on time. □ That's the last time I'll break my neck to help you. □ There is no point in breaking your back. Take your time.

break one's word not to do what one said one would do; not to keep one's promise. (The opposite of **keep one's word**.) □ Don't say you'll visit your grandmother if you can't go. She hates people who break their word. □ If you break your word, she won't trust you again.

break out 1. to burst forth suddenly, as with a fire, a riot, giggling, shouting, etc.

□ A fire broke out in the belfry. □ A round of giggling broke out when the teacher tripped. □ A riot almost broke out when the police came. **2.** [for one's face] to erupt in pimples. □ Bob's face has started breaking out badly. □ My face breaks out when I eat a lot of chocolate.

break out in a cold sweat to perspire from fever, fear, or anxiety; to begin to sweat profusely or suddenly. □ I was so frightened I broke out in a cold sweat. □ The patient broke out in a cold sweat.

break out (in something) to erupt with something such as a rash, a cold sweat, or pimples. □ After being in the woods, I broke out in a rash. I think it's poison ivy. □ I hate to break out like that. □ When I eat chocolate, I break out in pimples. □ I was so frightened I broke out in a cold sweat. □ The patient broke out in a cold sweat.

break (out) in(to) tears to start crying suddenly. □ I was so sad that I broke out into tears. □ I always break into tears at a funeral. □ It's hard not to break out in tears under those circumstances.

break out (of something) to escape from something, often by destructive means. (Especially from prison, but also in figurative senses.) □ The convicts plotted to break out of prison. □ You don't have the guts to break out of jail! □ Don finally broke out of the depression that had held him captive for so long. □ The lion broke out of its cage.

break someone or something down 1. [with someone] to force someone to give up and tell secrets or agree to do something. □ After threats of torture, they broke the spy down. □ They broke down the agent by threatening violence. **2.** [with something] to tear something down; to destroy something. □ They used an ax to break the door down. □ We broke down the wall with big hammers.

break someone or something in 1. [with someone] to train someone to do a job; to supervise a new person learning a new job. □ It takes time to break a new worker in. □ Are they hard to break in? □ I have to

break in a new worker. **2.** [with something] to make something fit by wearing or using it. □ *I'll be glad when I've finished breaking in these shoes.* □ *Yes, it takes time to break them in.* □ *They are easy to break in, though.* □ *The car will run better after I break it in.*

break someone or something up **1.** [with someone] to cause a person to laugh, perhaps at an inappropriate time. (Informal.) □ *John told a joke that really broke Mary up.* □ *The comedian's job was to break up the audience by telling jokes.* **2.** [with something] to destroy something. □ *The storm broke the docks up on the lake.* □ *The police broke up the gambling ring.* **3.** [with something] to put an end to something. □ *The police broke the fight up.* □ *Walter's parents broke up the party at three in the morning.*

break someone's fall to cushion a falling person; to lessen the impact of a falling person. □ *When the little boy fell out of the window, the bushes broke his fall.* □ *The old lady slipped on the ice, but a snowbank broke her fall.*

break someone's heart to cause someone emotional pain. □ *It just broke my heart when Tom ran away from home.* □ *Sally broke John's heart when she refused to marry him.*

break something down (for someone) to explain something to someone in simple terms or in an orderly fashion. □ *She doesn't understand. You will have to break it down for her.* □ *I can help. This is a confusing question. Let me break it down for you.*

break something down (into something) to divide something into smaller parts; to divide something into its component parts. □ *Please break this paragraph down into sentences.* □ *The chemist broke down the compound into a number of elements.* □ *Walter broke the project down into five tasks and assigned them to various people.*

break something to pieces to shatter something. (Informal.) □ *I broke my crystal vase to pieces.* □ *I dropped a glass and broke it to pieces.*

break something to someone to tell bad news to someone. □ *I hated to break the news to Dad about his car.* □ *Bill broke it to his employees gently.*

break the back of something to end the domination of something; to reduce the power of something. □ *The government has worked for years to break the back of organized crime.* □ *This new medicine should break the back of the epidemic.*

break the bank to use up all one's money. (As in casino gambling where a gambler wins more money than the house has on hand.) □ *It will hardly break the bank if we go out to dinner just once.* □ *Buying a new dress at that price won't break the bank.*

break the habit Go to break a habit.

break the ice to initiate social interchanges and conversation; to get something started. (Also literal.) □ *Tom is so outgoing. He's always the first one to break the ice at parties.* □ *It's hard to break the ice at formal events.* □ *Sally broke the ice by bidding \$20,000 for the painting.*

break the law Go to break a law.

break the news (to someone) to tell someone some important news, usually bad news. □ *The doctor had to break the news to Jane about her husband's cancer.* □ *I hope that the doctor broke the news gently.*

break through (something) to overcome something nonphysical, such as a barrier caused by law, regulation, prejudice, attitude, etc. (Also literal.) □ *Tom was able to break through racial barriers.* □ *The scientists broke through the mystery surrounding the disease and found the cause.*

break up (with someone) to end a love affair or a romance. □ *Tom finally broke up with Mary.* □ *I thought they would break up. He has been so moody lately.*

breaking and entering the crime of forcing one's way into a place. (A criminal charge.) □ *Max was charged with four counts of breaking and entering.* □ *It was not an act of breaking and entering. The thief just opened the door and walked right in.*

a **breath of fresh air** **1.** air that is not stale or smelly. (This is the literal sense.) □ *I feel faint. I think I need a breath of fresh air.* □ *You look ill, John. What you need is a breath of fresh air.* **2.** air that is not (figuratively) contaminated with unpleasant people or situations. (This is a sarcastic version of sense 1.) □ *You people are disgusting. I have to get out of here and get a breath of fresh air.* □ *I believe I'll go get a breath of fresh air. The intellectual atmosphere in here is stifling.* **3.** a new, fresh, and imaginative approach (to something). (Usually with *like*.) □ *Sally, with all her wonderful ideas, is a breath of fresh air.* □ *New furniture in this room is like a breath of fresh air.*

breathe down someone's neck **1.** to keep close watch on someone; to watch someone's activities. (Also literal. Refers to standing very close behind a person.) □ *I can't work with you breathing down my neck all the time. Go away.* □ *I will get through my life without your help. Stop breathing down my neck.* **2.** to try to hurry someone along; to make someone get something done on time. (The subject does not have to be a person. See the second example.) □ *I have to finish my taxes today. The tax collector is breathing down my neck.* □ *I have a deadline breathing down my neck.*

breathe easy to assume a relaxed state after a stressful period. (Also literal.) □ *After all this is over, I'll be able to breathe easy again.* □ *He won't be able to breathe easy until he pays off his debts.*

breathe one's last to die; to breathe one's last breath in the process of dying. □ *Mrs. Smith breathed her last this morning.* □ *I'll keep running every day until I breathe my last.*

brew a plot to plot something; to make a plot. □ *The children brewed an evil plot to get revenge on their teacher.* □ *We brewed a plot so that we would not have to help with dinner.*

bricks and mortar buildings. (The buildings referred to can be constructed out of anything.) □ *The new president of the college preferred to invest in new faculty*

members rather than bricks and mortar. □ *Sometimes people are happy to donate millions of dollars for bricks and mortar, but they never think of the additional cost of annual maintenance.*

bright and early very early. □ *Yes, I'll be there bright and early.* □ *I want to see you here on time tomorrow, bright and early, or you're fired!*

bright as a button Go to (as) bright as a button.

bright as a new pin Go to (as) bright as a new pin.

bright-eyed and bushy-tailed very cheerful and eager. (Refers to the twinkling eyes and quick, energetic movements of a squirrel.) □ *She appeared at the top of the stairs, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, ready to start the day.* □ *I am awake, but I am hardly bright-eyed and bushy-tailed.*

brimming with something **1.** full of some kind of happy behavior. □ *The volunteer worker was brimming with goodwill.* □ *The giggling children were brimming with joy.* **2.** full to the point of overflowing. □ *Tom's glass was brimming with milk.* □ *The pool was brimming with water.*

bring down the curtain (on something) Go to ring down the curtain (on something).

bring down the house to excite a theatrical audience to laughter or applause or both. □ *Her performance didn't bring down the house—it emptied it.* □ *This is a great joke. The last time I told it, it brought the house down.*

bring home the bacon to earn a salary. (Folksy.) □ *I've got to get to work if I'm going to bring home the bacon.* □ *Go out and get a job so you can bring home the bacon.*

bring people or other creatures out in droves to lure or draw out someone or some creature in great number. □ *The availability of free drinks brought people out in droves.* □ *The fresh grass sprouts brought the deer out in droves.*

bring someone around **1.** to bring someone for a visit; to bring someone for someone (else) to meet. □ *Please bring your wife*

around sometime. I'd love to meet her. □ You've just got to bring the doctor around for dinner. **2.** to bring someone to consciousness. □ The doctor brought Tom around with smelling salts. □ The boxer was knocked out, but the doctor brought him around. **3.** to persuade someone (to accept something); to manage to get someone to agree (to something). □ The last debate brought a lot of voters around to our candidate. □ I knew I could bring her around if I just had enough time to talk to her.

bring someone or something **up 1.** to mention a person or a thing. □ I'm sorry. I won't bring him up again. □ Please don't bring up that matter again. □ Please don't bring up John Jones's name again. **2.** to raise a child or an animal. □ Her uncle brought her up. □ It's difficult to bring up a pet monkey.

bring someone or something **up-to-date** to make someone or something more modern. (See also **bring** someone **up-to-date** (on someone or something).) □ Let's buy some new furniture and bring this room up-to-date. □ John tried to bring himself up-to-date by changing his hairstyle, but he still looked like the same old John.

bring someone **to** to bring someone to consciousness; to wake someone up. (See also **bring** someone **around**; **come to**.) □ The nurse brought the patient to. □ She's hurt! Come on, help me bring her to.

bring someone **up-to-date** (**on** someone or something) to tell someone the news about something. □ Please bring me up-to-date on the Middle East situation. □ Please bring me up-to-date on John. I want to hear all the news. □ And bring me up-to-date, too.

bring something **about** to make something happen. □ Is she clever enough to bring it about? □ Oh, yes, she can bring about anything she wants.

bring something **crashing down** (**around one**) to destroy something that one has built; to destroy something that one has a special interest in. □ She brought her whole life crashing down around her. □

Bob's low grade in English brought everything crashing down when his parents grounded him.

bring something **home** to someone to cause someone to realize the truth of something. □ Seeing the starving refugees on television really brings home the tragedy of their situation. □ It wasn't until she failed her test that the importance of studying was brought home to her.

bring something **into question** to question something; to raise a question about something. □ It was necessary to bring your part in this matter into question. □ The city council brought the building project into question.

bring something **off** to make something happen; to produce a great event. □ She managed to bring the party off with no difficulty. □ She brought off a similar party last season.

bring something **to a head** to cause something to come to the point when a decision has to be made or an action taken. □ The latest disagreement between management and the union has brought matters to a head. There will be an all-out strike now. □ It's a relief that things have been brought to a head. The disputes have been going on for months.

bring something **to light** to make something known; to discover something. □ The scientists brought their findings to light. □ We must bring this new evidence to light.

bring something **to someone's attention** to make someone aware of something; to mention or show something to someone. □ I would like to bring this problem to your attention. □ If there is something I should know about, please bring it to my attention.

bring up the rear to move along behind everyone else; to be at the end of the line. (Originally referred to marching soldiers.) □ Here comes John, bringing up the rear. □ Hurry up, Tom! Why are you always bringing up the rear?

broad as a barn door Go to (as) broad as a barn door.

broad in the beam with wide hips or large buttocks. (From a nautical expression for a wide ship.) □ *I am getting a little broad in the beam. It's time to go on a diet.* □ *John is just naturally broad in the beam.*

[brother's keeper] Go to one's brother's keeper.

brush up (on something) to review something, especially a school subject. □ *I think I should brush up on my Spanish before I go to Mexico.* □ *I've heard you speak Spanish. You need to do more than brush up.*

buck for something to aim, try, or strike for a goal. (Originally referred to trying to get a higher military rank.) □ *Bill acts that way because he's bucking for corporal.* □ *Tom is bucking for a larger office.*

buck up cheer up. □ *Buck up, old friend! Things can't be all that bad.* □ *I know I have to buck up. Life must go on.*

buckle down (to something) to settle down to something; to begin to work seriously at something. □ *If you don't buckle down to your job, you'll be fired.* □ *You had better buckle down and get busy.*

bug out to leave; to pack up and get out. (Slang.) □ *It's time to bug out. Let's get out of here.* □ *I just got a call from headquarters. They say to bug out immediately.*

bug someone to irritate someone; to bother someone. (Slang.) □ *Go away! Stop bugging me!* □ *Leave me alone. Go bug someone else.*

build a case (against someone) AND **assemble a case (against someone); gather a case (against someone)** to put together the evidence needed to make a legal or disciplinary case against someone. □ *The police easily built a case against the drunken driver.* □ *As soon as we gather the case against her, we will arrest her.*

build a fire under someone to do something to make someone else start doing something. (Informal.) □ *The teacher built a fire under the students, and they really started working.* □ *Somebody built a fire*

under Bill, so he finally went out and got a job.

build castles in Spain Go to build castles in the air.

build castles in the air AND **build castles in Spain** to daydream; to make plans that can never come true. □ *Ann spends most of her time building castles in Spain.* □ *I really like to sit on the porch in the evening, just building castles in the air.*

build (someone or something) up 1. to make someone or something stronger or bigger. □ *Tom is eating lots of fresh fruits and vegetables to build himself up for basketball.* □ *Tom needs to build up.* □ *Tom needs to build himself up.* □ *The farmer built up his stone fences where they had weakened.* 2. to advertise, praise, or promote someone or something. □ *Theatrical agents work very hard to build up their clients.* □ *An advertising agency can build up a product so much that everyone will want it.*

build something to order to build something especially for the customer who ordered it. (See also **make something to order**.) □ *Our new car was built to order just for us.* □ *My company builds computers to order. No two are alike.*

build up to something to lead up to something; to work up to something. □ *You could tell by the way she was talking that she was building up to something.* □ *The sky was building up to a storm.*

a **bull in a china shop** a very clumsy or wild person around breakable things; a thoughtless or tactless person. (*China* is fine crockery.) □ *Look at Bill, as awkward as a bull in a china shop.* □ *Get that big dog out of my garden. It's like a bull in a china shop.* □ *Bob is so rude, a regular bull in a china shop.*

bump into someone AND **run into** someone to chance on someone; to meet someone by chance. (Also literal.) □ *Guess who I bumped into downtown today?* □ *I ran into Bob Jones yesterday.*

bump someone off AND **knock someone off** to kill someone. (Slang, especially criminal slang.) □ *They tried to bump her off,*

but she was too clever and got away. ☐ The crooks bumped off the witness to the crime. ☐ They tried to knock them all off.

a **bundle of nerves** someone who is very nervous and anxious. ☐ Mary was a bundle of nerves until she heard that she passed the test. ☐ You always seem to be such a bundle of nerves.

burn one's bridges (behind one) **1.** to make decisions that cannot be changed in the future. ☐ If you drop out of school now, you'll be burning your bridges behind you. ☐ You're too young to burn your bridges that way. **2.** to be unpleasant in a situation that you are leaving, ensuring that you'll never be welcome to return. ☐ If you get mad and quit your job, you'll be burning your bridges behind you. ☐ No sense burning your bridges. Be polite and leave quietly. **3.** to cut off the way back to where you came from, making it impossible to retreat. ☐ The army, which had burned its bridges behind it, couldn't go back. ☐ By blowing up the road, the spies had burned their bridges behind them.

burn one's bridges in front of one to create future problems for oneself. (A play on **burn one's bridges (behind one)**.) ☐ I made a mistake again. I always seem to burn my bridges in front of me. ☐ I accidentally insulted a math teacher whom I will have to take a course from next semester. I am burning my bridges in front of me.

burn (oneself) out to do something so long and so intensely that one gets sick and tired of doing it and can no longer do it well. ☐ I burned myself out as an opera singer. I just cannot do it anymore. ☐ Tom burned himself out playing golf. He can't stand it anymore. ☐ Tom burned out too young.

burn out [for electrical or mechanical devices] to break down and become useless. ☐ I hope the light bulb in the ceiling doesn't burn out. I can't reach it. ☐ The motor burned out.

burn someone at the stake **1.** to set fire to a person tied to a post (as a form of execution). ☐ They used to burn witches at

the stake. ☐ Look, officer, I only ran a stop sign. What are you going to do, burn me at the stake? **2.** to chastise or denounce someone severely, but without violence. ☐ Stop yelling. I made a simple mistake, and you're burning me at the stake for it. ☐ Sally only spilled her milk. There is no need to shout. Don't burn her at the stake for it.

burn someone in effigy to burn a dummy or other figure that represents a hated person. (See also **hang someone in effigy**.) ☐ For the third day in a row, they burned the king in effigy. ☐ Until they have burned you in effigy, you can't really be considered a famous leader.

burn someone or something to a crisp to burn someone or something totally or very badly. ☐ The flames burned him to a crisp. ☐ The cook burned the meat to a crisp.

burn someone up to make someone very angry. (Informal.) ☐ People like that just burn me up! ☐ It burns me up to hear you talk that way. ☐ His answers really burned up the committee members.

burn the candle at both ends to work very hard and stay up very late at night. ☐ No wonder Mary is ill. She has been burning the candle at both ends for a long time. ☐ You can't keep on burning the candle at both ends.

burn the midnight oil to stay up working, especially studying, late at night. (Refers to working by the light of an oil lamp.) ☐ I have to go home and burn the midnight oil tonight. ☐ If you burn the midnight oil night after night, you'll probably become ill.

burn with a low blue flame to be very angry. (Refers to the imaginary heat caused by extreme anger. A blue flame is a hot flame.) ☐ By the time she showed up three hours late, I was burning with a low blue flame. ☐ Whenever Ann gets mad, she just presses her lips together and burns with a low blue flame.

burned to a cinder burned very badly. (Not necessarily literal.) ☐ I stayed out in the sun too long, and I am burned to a cinder. ☐ This toast is burnt to a cinder.

burned up very angry. □ *I've never been so burned up in my life.* □ *I'm really burned up at Bob.*

burst at the seams [for someone] to “explode” (figuratively) with pride or laughter. (Also literal with things.) □ *Tom nearly burst at the seams with pride.* □ *We laughed so hard we just about burst at the seams.*

burst in on someone or something [for someone] to enter a room, interrupting someone or some activity. (Often without knocking or seeking permission to enter.) □ *Tom burst in on his sister and her boyfriend while they were kissing.* □ *I must ask you not to burst in on a board meeting again. Whatever it is can wait.*

burst into flames to catch fire suddenly; to ignite all at once. □ *Suddenly, the car burst into flames.* □ *It was so hot in the forest fire that a few trees literally burst into flames.*

burst into tears AND **burst out crying** to begin to cry suddenly. (See also **break (out) in (to) tears**.) □ *After the last notes of her song, the audience burst into tears, such was its beauty and tenderness.* □ *The brother and sister burst into tears on hearing of the death of their dog.* □ *Some people find themselves bursting out crying for no reason at all.*

burst onto the scene to appear suddenly in a location. □ *When Charles burst onto the scene, no one was prepared for the news he brought.* □ *The police suddenly burst onto the scene and arrested everyone present.*

burst out crying Go to **burst into tears**.

burst out laughing to begin to laugh suddenly. □ *The entire audience burst out laughing at exactly the wrong time, and so did the actors.* □ *Every time I think of you sitting there with a lap full of noodle soup, I burst out laughing.*

burst someone's **bubble** to destroy someone's illusion or delusion; to destroy someone's fantasy. □ *I hate to burst your bubble, but Columbus did not discover Canada.* □ *Even if I am completely wrong, please don't burst my bubble.*

burst with joy to be full to the bursting point with happiness. (See also **burst at the seams**.) □ *When I got my grades, I could have burst with joy.* □ *Joe was not exactly bursting with joy when he got the news.*

burst with pride to be full to the bursting point with pride. (See also **burst at the seams**.) □ *My parents were bursting with pride when I graduated from college.* □ *I almost burst with pride when I was chosen to go up in the space shuttle.*

bury one's head in the sand AND **hide one's head in the sand** to ignore or hide from obvious signs of danger. (Refers to an ostrich, which we picture with its head stuck into the sand or the ground.) □ *Stop burying your head in the sand. Look at the statistics on smoking and cancer.* □ *And stop hiding your head in the sand. All of us will die somehow, whether we smoke or not.*

bury the hatchet to stop fighting or arguing; to end old resentments. □ *All right, you two. Calm down and bury the hatchet.* □ *I wish Mr. and Mrs. Franklin would bury the hatchet. They argue all the time.*

business as usual having things go along as usual. □ *Right after the flood, it was business as usual in all the stores.* □ *Please, everyone, business as usual. Let's get back to work.*

the **business end of** something the part or end of something that actually does the work or carries out the procedure. □ *Keep away from the business end of the electric drill to avoid getting hurt.* □ *Don't point the business end of that gun at anyone. It might go off.*

a **busman's holiday** leisure time spent doing something similar to what one does at work. □ *Tutoring students in the evening is too much of a busman's holiday for our English teacher.* □ *It's a bit of a busman's holiday to ask her to be wardrobe mistress for our amateur production in the summer. She's a professional dressmaker.*

bust a gut (to do something) to work very hard; to strain oneself to do something. (Slang. Gut is considered impolite in

some circumstances. *Bust* is an informal form of *burst*.) □ *I don't intend to bust a gut to get there on time.* □ *I busted a gut to get there the last time, and I was the first one there.*

busy as a beaver Go to (as) busy as a beaver.

busy as a beaver (building a new dam) Go to (as) busy as a beaver (building a new dam).

busy as a bee Go to (as) busy as a beaver.

busy as a cat on a hot tin roof Go to (as) busy as a cat on a hot tin roof.

busy as a hibernating bear Go to (as) busy as a hibernating bear.

busy as a one-armed paperhanger Go to (as) busy as a one-armed paperhanger.

busy as Grand Central Station Go to (as) busy as Grand Central Station.

busy as popcorn on a skillet Go to (as) busy as popcorn on a skillet.

but for someone or something if it were not for someone or something. □ *But for the railing, I'd have fallen down the stairs.* □ *But for the children, Mrs. Smith would have left her husband years ago.*

butt in (on someone or something) to interrupt someone or something. □ *Pardon me for butting in on your conversation, but this is important.* □ *John butted in on Tom and Jane to tell them that the mail had come.* □ *That's a strange reason to butt in. What was in the mail?*

butter someone **up** to praise and flatter someone, usually with the intention of requesting a favor. □ *I believe my landlady prefers for me to butter her up rather than getting the rent on time.* □ *If I butter up the teacher, will he give me a good grade?*

button one's lip to get quiet and stay quiet. (Often used with children.) □ *All right now, let's button our lips and listen to the story.* □ *Button your lip, Tom! I'll tell you when you can talk.*

buy a pig in a poke to purchase or accept something without having seen or examined it. (*Poke* means "bag." Compare

this with **buy** something **sight unseen**.) □ *Buying a car without test-driving it is like buying a pig in a poke.* □ *He bought a pig in a poke when he ordered a diamond ring by mail.*

buy someone off to bribe someone; to win someone over by gifts or favors. □ *It's not hard to buy politicians off.* □ *They bought off the whole city council with campaign contributions.*

buy something to believe someone; to accept something to be a fact. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *It may be true, but I don't buy it.* □ *I just don't buy the idea that you can swim that far.*

buy something for a song to buy something cheaply. □ *No one else wanted it, so I bought it for a song.* □ *I could buy this house for a song, because it's so ugly.*

buy something on credit to purchase something now and pay for it later (plus interest). (See also **sell** something **on credit**.) □ *Almost everyone who buys a house buys it on credit.* □ *I didn't have any cash with me, so I used my credit card and bought a new coat on credit.*

buy something sight unseen to buy something without seeing it first. (Compare this with **buy a pig in a poke**.) □ *I bought this land sight unseen. I didn't know it was so rocky.* □ *It isn't usually safe to buy something sight unseen.*

buy something to go **AND** **get something to go; have something to go; order something to go** to purchase food to take out; to make a purchase of cooked food to be taken elsewhere to be eaten. □ *Let's stop here and buy six hamburgers to go.* □ *I didn't thaw anything for dinner. Let's stop off on the way home and get something to go.* □ *No, I don't want to sit at a table. I'll just have a cup of coffee to go.*

by a hair('s breadth) **AND** **by a whisker** just barely; by a very small distance. (The *whisker* phrase is folksy.) □ *I just missed getting on the plane by a hair's breadth.* □ *I made it by a hair!* □ *The arrow missed the deer by a whisker.*

by all accounts Go to according to all accounts.

by all appearances apparently; according to what one sees. □ *She is, by all appearances, ready to resume work.* □ *By all appearances, we ought to be approaching the airport.*

by all means certainly; yes; absolutely. (Compare this with **by any means**.) □ *I will attempt to get there by all means.* □ BOB: *Can you come to dinner tomorrow?* JANE: *By all means. I'd love to.*

by all means of something using every possible manner of something to do something. □ *People will be arriving by all means of transportation.* □ *The surgeon performed the operation by all means of instruments.*

by a mile by a great distance. (Also literal. An exaggeration in this case.) □ *You missed the target by a mile.* □ *Your estimate of the budget deficit was off by a mile.*

by and by after a period of time has passed. (Most often seen in children's stories.) □ *By and by the bears returned home, and can you guess what they found?* □ *And by and by the little boy became a tall and handsome prince.*

by and large generally; usually. (Originally a nautical expression.) □ *I find that, by and large, people tend to do what they are told to do.* □ *By and large, rosebushes need lots of care.*

by any means by any way possible. □ *I need to get there soon by any means.* □ *I must win this contest by any means, fair or unfair.* □ *It cannot be done by any means.*

by a show of hands a vote expressed by people raising their hands. □ *We were asked to vote for the candidates for captain by a show of hands.* □ *Bob wanted us to vote on paper, not by a show of hands, so that we could have a secret ballot.*

by a whisker Go to by a hair('s breadth).

by chance accidentally; randomly; without planning. □ *I found this book by chance at a book sale.* □ *We met by chance in a class in college.*

by check by using a check. □ *He paid for the book by check.* □ *You will be paid by check.*

by choice due to conscious choice; on purpose. □ *I do this kind of thing by choice.* *No one makes me do it.* □ *I didn't go to this college by choice. It was the closest one to home.*

by coincidence by an accidental and strange similarity; by an unplanned pair of similar events or occurrences. □ *We just happened to be in the same place at the same time by coincidence.* □ *By coincidence, the circus was in town when I was there. I'm glad because I love circuses.*

by day AND **by night** during the day; during the night. □ *By day, Mary worked in an office; by night, she took classes.* □ *Dave slept by day and worked by night.*

by dint of something because of something; due to the efforts of something. (*Dint* is an old word meaning "force," and it is never used except in this phrase.) □ *They got the building finished on time by dint of hard work and good organization.* □ *By dint of much studying, John got through college.*

by fits and starts irregularly; unevenly; with much stopping and starting. □ *Somehow, they got the job done by fits and starts.* □ *By fits and starts, the old car finally got us to town.*

by guess and by golly by luck; with the help of God. (Folksy. *Golly* is a disguise of God.) □ *They managed to get the shed built by guess and by golly.* □ *I lost my ruler and had to install the new floor tile by guess and by golly.*

by herself 1. with no one else present; alone. □ *She hates to go to strange places by herself.* □ *She sat by herself at a table big enough for six people.* 2. with the help of no one else. □ *She can do it by herself.* □ *Susan is unable to get there by herself.*

by himself 1. alone; with no one else present. □ *He is home by himself tonight.* □ *He hates to eat by himself. It makes him feel lonely.* 2. with the help of no one else. □ *Can he do it by himself?* □ *The two-year-old boy can get dressed by himself.*

by hook or (by) crook by any means, legal or illegal. (Folksy.) ☐ *I'll get the job done by hook or by crook.* ☐ *I must have that house. I intend to get it by hook or crook.*

by itself with the help of nothing else; without the addition of anything else. ☐ *Will this be enough by itself?* ☐ *Can the dog get out of the house by itself?*

by leaps and bounds rapidly; by large movements forward. ☐ *Our garden is growing by leaps and bounds.* ☐ *The profits of my company are increasing by leaps and bounds.*

by means of something using something; with the use of something. ☐ *I opened the bottle by means of a bottle opener.* ☐ *I was able to afford a car by means of a loan.*

by mistake in error; accidentally. ☐ *I'm sorry. I came into the wrong room by mistake.* ☐ *I chose the wrong road by mistake. Now we are lost.*

by myself **1.** with no one else present; alone. ☐ *I sat at the table by myself.* ☐ *I will not be at the party. I will be at home by myself tonight.* **2.** without the help of anyone else. ☐ *I did it all by myself.* ☐ *Do you think I can eat this whole pie by myself?*

by night Go to by day.

by no means absolutely not; certainly not. ☐ *I'm by no means angry with you.* ☐ *BOB: Did you put this box here? TOM: By no means. I didn't do it, I'm sure.*

by oneself **1.** with no one else present; alone. ☐ *Must one sit by oneself or may one join another group?* ☐ *One just hates eating by oneself, doesn't one?* **2.** with the help of no one else. ☐ *One is expected to do it by oneself.* ☐ *Can one do this by oneself?*

by ourselves **1.** with no one else present; alone. ☐ *Do we have to sit here by ourselves? Can't we sit with Mary and Max?* ☐ *We like to eat by ourselves, so we can talk about private matters.* **2.** with the help of no one else. ☐ *We can do it by ourselves.* ☐ *Can we lift this by ourselves, or do we need some help?*

by return mail by a subsequent mailing (back to the sender). (A phrase indicating that an answer is expected soon, by mail.) ☐ *Since this bill is overdue, would you kindly send us your check by return mail?* ☐ *I answered your request by return mail over a year ago. Please check your records.*

by shank's mare by foot. (Shank refers to the shank of the leg. Folksy. See also **go** (somewhere) **by shank's mare**.) ☐ *My car isn't working, so I'll have to travel by shank's mare.* ☐ *I'm sore because I've been getting around by shank's mare.*

by the each; per. (Used to show a unit of measure, but not the rate of a measure.) ☐ *Lettuce is sold by the head.* ☐ *Gas is sold by the gallon.*

by the book Go to by the numbers.

by the day one day at a time. ☐ *I don't know when I'll have to leave town, so I rent this room by the day.* ☐ *Sally is in such distress. She manages to live only by the day.*

by the dozen twelve at a time; in a group of twelve. (Almost the same as the following entry.) ☐ *I purchase socks by the dozen.* ☐ *Eggs are usually sold by the dozen.* ☐ *Around here we have problems by the dozen.*

by the dozens many; by some large, indefinite number. (Similar to but less than *hundreds*. Almost the same as the previous entry.) ☐ *Just then people began showing up by the dozens.* ☐ *I baked cakes and pies by the dozens.*

by the handful in measurements equal to a handful; lots. ☐ *Billy is eating candy by the handful.* ☐ *People began leaving by the handful at midnight.*

by the hour at each hour; after each hour. ☐ *It kept growing darker by the hour.* ☐ *I have to take this medicine by the hour.* ☐ *The illness is getting worse by the hour.*

by the month one month at a time. ☐ *Not many apartments are rented by the month.* ☐ *I needed a car for a short while, so I rented one by the month.*

by themselves **1.** with help from no one else. ☐ *Do you think they can do it by*

themselves? □ *Mike and Max cannot lift the piano by themselves.* **2.** with no one else present; alone. □ *They are sitting there by themselves. Let's sit with them.* □ *They enjoy spending the evening at home by themselves.*

by the nape of the neck by the back of the neck. (Mostly found in real or mock threats.) □ *He grabbed me by the nape of the neck and told me not to turn around if I valued my life. I stood very still.* □ *If you do that again, I'll pick you up by the nape of the neck and throw you out the door.*

by the numbers AND **by the book** according to the rules. (Informal.) □ *He always plays the game by the numbers. He never cheats.* □ *I want all my people to go by the numbers. This place is totally honest.* □ *We always go by the book in matters like this.*

by the same token in the same way; reciprocally. □ *Tom must be good when he comes here, and, by the same token, I expect you to behave properly when you go to his house.* □ *The mayor votes for his friend's causes. By the same token, the friend votes for the mayor's causes.*

by the seat of one's pants by sheer luck and very little skill. (Informal. Especially with *to fly*.) □ *I got through school by the seat of my pants.* □ *The jungle pilot spent most of his days flying by the seat of his pants.*

by the skin of one's teeth just barely; by an amount equal to the thickness of the (imaginary) skin on one's teeth. (Informal or slang.) □ *I got through that class by the skin of my teeth.* □ *I got to the airport late and missed the plane by the skin of my teeth.*

by the sweat of one's brow by one's efforts; by one's hard work. □ *Tom raised these*

vegetables by the sweat of his brow. □ *Sally polished the car by the sweat of her brow.*

by the way incidentally; in addition; while I think of it. □ *By the way, I'm not going to the bank today.* □ *Oh, by the way, your shoes need polishing.*

by the week one week at a time. □ *I plan my schedules by the week.* □ *Where can I rent a room by the week?*

by the year one year at a time. □ *Most apartments are available by the year.* □ *We budget by the year.*

by virtue of something because of something; due to something. □ *She's permitted to vote by virtue of her age.* □ *They are members of the club by virtue of their great wealth.*

by way of something **1.** passing through something; via something. □ *He came home by way of Toledo.* □ *She went to the bank by way of the drugstore.* **2.** in illustration; as an example. □ *By way of illustration, the professor drew a picture on the board.* □ *He read them a passage from Shakespeare by way of example.*

by word of mouth by speaking rather than writing. □ *I learned about it by word of mouth.* □ *I need it in writing. I don't trust things I hear about by word of mouth.*

by yourself **1.** with no one else present; alone. □ *Do you want to sit here by yourself, or can I sit here too?* □ *Don't sit at home by yourself. Come to the movie with me.* **2.** with the help of no one else. □ *Can you really do this by yourself?* □ *Bill, can you lift this by yourself?*

by yourselves **1.** with no one else present; alone. □ *Are you two going to sit here by yourselves all evening?* □ *Don't sit home by yourselves. Come to the party.* **2.** with the help of no one else. □ *Can you do this by yourselves?* □ *Can all of you get to the meeting by yourselves?*

C

call a meeting to ask that people assemble for a meeting; to request that a meeting be held. ☐ *The mayor called a meeting to discuss the problem.* ☐ *I'll be calling a meeting of the town council to discuss the new building project.*

call a spade a spade to call something by its right name; to speak frankly about something, even if it is unpleasant. ☐ *Well, I believe it's time to call a spade a spade. We are just avoiding the issue.* ☐ *Let's call a spade a spade. The man is a liar.*

call for someone or something **1.** to arrive to collect or pick up a person or a thing. (Used especially when you are to pick someone up and are acting as an escort.) ☐ *I will call for you about eight this evening.* ☐ *The messenger will call for your reply in the morning.* **2.** to need, require, or demand something or the services of someone. ☐ *The recipe calls for two cups of flour.* ☐ *This job calls for someone with good eyesight.*

call it a day to quit work and go home; to say that a day's work has been completed. ☐ *I'm tired. Let's call it a day.* ☐ *The boss was mad because Tom called it a day at noon and went home.*

call it a night to end what one is doing at night and go [home] to bed. ☐ *At midnight, I called it a night and went to bed.* ☐ *Guest after guest called it a night, and at last we were alone.*

call it quits to quit; to resign from something; to announce that one is quitting. (Informal.) ☐ *Okay! I've had enough! I'm calling it quits.* ☐ *Time to go home, John. Let's call it quits.*

call of nature the need to go to the lavatory. (Humorous.) ☐ *Stop the car here! I have to answer the call of nature.* ☐ *There was no break in the agenda to take account of the call of nature.*

call on someone to visit someone. ☐ *I have to call on my aunt this Sunday.* ☐ *Bill called on his brother in the hospital.*

call out (to someone) to shout to someone. ☐ *Mike called out to Tom that there was a telephone call for him.* ☐ *I heard someone call out, but I could see no one.*

call someone down to reprimand a person; to **bawl** someone out. ☐ *The teacher had to call Sally down in front of everybody.* ☐ *"I wish you wouldn't call me down in public," cried Sally.*

call someone names to call a person unpleasant or insulting names. (Usually viewed as a juvenile act.) ☐ *Mommy! John is calling me names again!* ☐ *We'll never get anywhere by calling one another names.*

call someone on the carpet to reprimand a person. (The phrase presents images of a person called into the boss's carpeted office for a reprimand.) ☐ *One more error like that and the boss will call you on the carpet.* ☐ *I'm sorry it went wrong. I really hope he doesn't call me on the carpet again.*

call someone or something in to call on the special talents, abilities, or power of someone or something. ☐ *They had to call a new doctor in.* ☒ *Yes, they had to call in a specialist.* ☒ *They had to call in a huge tractor to move the boulder.*

call someone or something into question to cause someone or something to be evaluated; to examine or reexamine the

qualifications or value of someone or something. ☐ *Because of her poor record, we were forced to call Dr. Jones into question.* ☐ *We called Dr. Jones's qualifications into question.* ☐ *They called the whole project into question.* ☒ *I cannot call into question the entire medical profession.*

call someone or something off 1. to call a halt to an attack by someone or something. ☐ *Please call your dog off. It's trying to bite me!* ☒ *Okay, you can call off the police. I surrender.* ☒ *It's time to call off the man-hunt. The criminal has given himself up.*
2. [with something] to cancel an event. ☐ *It's too late to call the party off. The first guests have already arrived.* ☒ *Because of rain, they called off the baseball game.*

call someone or something up 1. to call a person, business, or office on the telephone. ☐ *Mary called the company up and ordered a new supply of medicine.* ☒ *Tom called up Mary.* **2.** [with something] to summon information from a computer. ☒ *John used a computer to call up the information.* ☒ *With a few strokes on the computer keyboard, Sally called up the figures she was looking for.*

call someone's bluff to demonstrate that a person is or is not being deceptive, usually by demanding that the person prove a claim or carry out a threat. ☐ *All right, I'll call your bluff. Show me you can do it!* ☐ *Tom said, "I've got a gun here in my pocket, and I'll shoot if you come any closer!" "Go ahead," said Bill, calling his bluff.*

call the dogs off to stop threatening, chasing, or hounding (a person). (Also literal. Informal. Note the variation in the examples.) ☐ *All right, I surrender. You can call your dogs off.* ☒ *Tell the sheriff to call off the dogs. We caught the robber.* ☒ *Please call off your dogs!*

call the meeting to order to start a meeting officially; to announce that the meeting has started. ☐ *The president called the meeting to order shortly after noon.* ☐ *We cannot do anything until someone calls the meeting to order.*

call (the) roll AND take (the) roll to call the names of people on the rolls, expecting them to reply if they are present. ☐ *After I call the roll, please open your books to page 12.* ☐ *I will take roll, and then we will do arithmetic.*

call the shots AND call the tune to make the decisions; to decide what is to be done. (Informal.) ☐ *Sally always wants to call the shots, and Mary doesn't like to be bossed around. They don't get along well.* ☐ *Sally always wants to call the tune.* ☐ *Look here, friend, I'm calling the shots. You just be quiet.*

call the tune Go to call the shots.

calm as a toad in the sun Go to (as) calm as a toad in the sun.

the **calm before the storm** Go to the lull before the storm.

can take it to the bank able to depend on the truthfulness of my statement: it is not counterfeit or bogus; to be able to bank on something. ☐ *Believe me. What I am telling you is the truth. You can take it to the bank.* ☐ *This information is as good as gold. You can take it to the bank.*

Can you imagine? Can you believe that?; Imagine that! ☐ *She wore jeans to the dance. Can you imagine?* ☐ *Billy was eating the houseplant! Can you imagine?*

cancel something out to destroy the effect of something; to balance something. ☒ *This last payment cancels out my debt.* ☐ *Yes, your last payment cancels it out.* ☒ *Bob's two good grades canceled out his two failing grades.*

cannot help doing something not able to refrain from doing something; not able not to do something. ☐ *Anne is such a good cook, I can't help eating everything she makes.* ☐ *Since John loves to shop, he can't help spending money.*

cannot stomach someone or something Go to not able to stomach someone or something.

[can't] Go to the expressions listed at not able, as well as those listed below.

can't carry a tune [to be] unable to sing a simple melody; lacking musical ability.

(Almost always negative. Also with *cannot*.) □ *I wish that Tom wouldn't try to sing. He can't carry a tune.* □ *Listen to poor old John. He really cannot carry a tune.*

can't do anything with someone or something not [to be] able to manage or control someone or something. (Also with *cannot*.) □ *Bill is such a problem. I can't do anything with him.* □ *My hair is such a mess. I just can't do anything with it.*

can't help but do something [to be] unable to choose any but one course of action. (Also with *cannot*.) □ *Her parents live nearby, so she can't help but go there on holidays.* □ *Bob is a tennis fan and can't help but travel to Wimbledon each year.*

can't hold a candle to someone not [to be] equal to someone; unable to measure up to someone. (Also with *cannot*.) □ *Mary can't hold a candle to Ann when it comes to auto racing.* □ *As for singing, John can't hold a candle to Jane.*

can't make heads or tails (out) of someone or something [to be] unable to understand someone or something. (Also with *cannot*.) □ *John is so strange. I can't make heads or tails of him.* □ *Do this report again. I can't make heads or tails out of it.*

can't see beyond the end of one's nose [to be] unaware of the things that might happen in the future; not farsighted; self-centered. (Also with *cannot*.) □ *John is a very poor planner. He can't see beyond the end of his nose.* □ *Ann can't see beyond the end of her nose. She is very self-centered.*

can't see one's hand in front of one's face [to be] unable to see very far, usually due to darkness or fog. (Also with *cannot*.) □ *It was so dark that I couldn't see my hand in front of my face.* □ *Bob said that the fog was so thick he couldn't see his hand in front of his face.*

can't stand (the sight of) someone or something AND **can't stomach** someone or something [to be] unable to tolerate someone or something; disliking someone or something extremely. (Also with *cannot*.) □ *I can't stand the sight of cooked carrots.*

□ *Mr. Jones can't stand the sight of blood.* □ *None of us can stand this place.* □ *Nobody can stand Tom when he smokes a cigar.* □ *I can't stomach your foul language.* □ *I just can't stomach Mr. Smith.*

can't stomach someone or something Go to **can't stand (the sight of)** someone or something.

can't wait (for something to happen) [to be very eager and] to be unable to endure the wait for something to happen. □ *I am so anxious for my birthday to come. I just can't wait.* □ *Tom can't wait for Mary to arrive.*

can't wait (to do something) [to be very eager and] unable to endure the wait until it is possible to do something. □ *I'm glad it's almost summertime—I just can't wait to go swimming!* □ *Jimmy can't wait to go to school tomorrow.*

cap and gown the academic cap or mortarboard and the robe worn in academic ceremonies. □ *We all had to rent cap and gown for graduation.* □ *I appeared wearing my cap and gown, but I had shorts on underneath because it gets so hot at that time of year.*

capable of doing something having the ability to do something. □ *Do you think Tom is capable of lifting 200 pounds?* □ *No one I know is capable of such a crime!*

a **card** an entertaining and clever person who says or does funny things. (Preceded by *be, become, seem like, or act like*.) □ *He is such a card. Always making jokes.* □ *Mary is a card, and someone is going to have to deal with her!*

the **cards are stacked against** one luck is against one. (Informal. Refers to playing cards. See also **have the cards stacked against one**; **stack the cards (against someone or something)**.) □ *I have the worst luck. The cards are stacked against me all the time.* □ *How can I accomplish anything when the cards are stacked against me?*

carried away excited or moved to (extreme) action (by someone or something). □ *The crowd got carried away and did a lot of damage to the park.* □ *I know*

that planning a party is fun, but don't get carried away.

carry (a lot of) weight (with someone or something) to be very influential with someone or some group of people. □ *Your argument does not carry a lot of weight with me.* □ *The senator's testimony carried a lot of weight with the council.* □ *Her opinion carries weight with most of the members.*

carry a secret to one's grave Go to carry a secret to the grave.

carry a secret to the grave AND **carry a secret to one's grave** to avoid telling a secret, even to the day of one's death. □ *John carried our secret to his grave.* □ *Trust me, I will carry your secret to the grave!*

carry a torch (for someone) to be in love with someone who is not in love with you; to brood over a hopeless love affair. (Also with *the*.) □ *John is carrying a torch for Jane.* □ *Is John still carrying a torch?* □ *Yes, he'll carry the torch for months.*

carry coals to Newcastle to do something unnecessary; to do something that is redundant or duplicative. (Newcastle is an English town from which coal was shipped to other parts of England.) □ *Taking food to a farmer is like carrying coals to Newcastle.* □ *Mr. Smith is so rich he doesn't need any more money. To give him money is like carrying coals to Newcastle.*

carry on (about someone or something) to make a great fuss over someone or something; to cry and become out of control about someone or something. (Note the variation in the examples below.) □ *Billy, stop carrying on about your tummy ache like that.* □ *Billy, you must stop carrying on so.* □ *The child carried on endlessly about his mother.*

carry one's cross Go to bear one's cross.

carry one's (own) weight AND **pull one's (own) weight** to do one's share; to earn one's keep. □ *Tom, you must be more helpful around the house. We all have to carry our own weight.* □ *Bill, I'm afraid that you can't work here anymore. You just*

haven't been carrying your weight. □ *If you would just pull your weight, we would finish this by noon.*

carry on somehow to manage to continue somehow, in spite of problems. □ *Even though we did not have a lot of money, we managed to carry on somehow.* □ *Don't worry about us. We will carry on somehow.*

carry on without someone or something to manage to continue without someone or something. □ *I don't know how we will be able to carry on without you.* □ *We can't carry on without a leader!*

carry on (with someone or something) 1. [with something] to continue with something. □ *Can I please carry on with my work now?* □ *Yes, please carry on.* **2.** [with someone] to behave improperly with someone; to be affectionate in public. □ *Look at Jane carrying on with Tom. They ought to be ashamed.* □ *Jane, stop carrying on like that!*

carry over to extend into another time period or location. □ *I don't like for bills to carry over into the next month.* □ *Please do not let the paragraph carry over.*

carry something off to make a planned event—especially a joke or deception—work out successfully. (Also literal, meaning to take something away. See also **pull something off**.) □ *It was a huge party, but the hostess carried it off beautifully.* □ *The magician carried off the trick with great skill.*

carry something out to perform a task; to perform an assignment. (Also literal meaning to remove something.) □ *"This is a very important job," said Jane. "Do you think you can carry it out?"* □ *The students didn't carry out their assignments.*

carry something over to let something like a bill extend into another period of time; to extend to another location. □ *We'll carry the amount of money due over into the next month.* □ *Yes, please carry over the balance.* □ *We'll have to carry this paragraph over to the next page.*

carry the ball 1. to be the player holding the ball, especially in football when a goal is made. (Sports.) □ *It was the fullback*

carrying the ball. ☐ Yes, Tom always carries the ball. **2.** to be in charge; to make sure that a job gets done. (See also **drop the ball**.) ☐ We need someone who knows how to get the job done. Hey, Sally! Why don't you carry the ball for us? ☐ John can't carry the ball. He isn't organized enough.

carry the day AND **win the day** to be successful; to win a competition, argument, etc. (Originally meaning to win a battle.) ☐ Our team didn't play well at first, but we won the day in the end. ☐ Hard work won the day and James passed his exams.

carry the torch **1.** to uphold a set of goals; to lead or participate in a (figurative) crusade. ☐ The battle was over, but John continued to carry the torch. ☐ If Jane hadn't carried the torch, no one would have followed, and the whole thing would have failed. **2.** Go to **carry a torch** (for someone).

carry the weight of the world on one's shoulders to appear to be burdened by all the problems in the whole world. ☐ Look at Tom. He appears to be carrying the weight of the world on his shoulders. ☐ Cheer up, Tom! You don't need to carry the weight of the world on your shoulders.

carry through (on something) Go to **follow through (on something)**.

a **case in point** an example of what one is talking about. ☐ Now, as a case in point, let's look at nineteenth-century England. ☐ Fireworks can be dangerous. For a case in point, look what happened to Bob Smith last week.

a **case of mistaken identity** the incorrect identification of someone. ☐ It is simply a case of mistaken identity. ☐ I am not the criminal you want to arrest. This is a case of mistaken identity.

cash-and-carry a method of buying and selling goods at the retail level where the buyer pays cash for the goods and carries the goods away. (As opposed to paying on credit or having something delivered.) ☐ Sorry, we don't accept credit cards. This is strictly cash-and-carry. ☐ I bought the

chair cash-and-carry before I realized that there was no way to get it home.

cash in one's chips to die. (Also literal. Slang. From an expression used in gambling, chiefly poker.) ☐ Bob cashed in his chips yesterday. ☐ I'm too young to cash in my chips.

cash in (on something) to earn a lot of money at something; to make a profit at something. (See also **cash something in**.) ☐ This is a good year for farming, and you can cash in on it if you're smart. ☐ It's too late to cash in on that particular clothing fad.

cash on the barrelhead money paid for something when it is purchased; money paid at the time of sale. (Folksy. See also **cash-and-carry**.) ☐ I don't extend credit. It's cash on the barrelhead only. ☐ I paid \$12,000 for this car—cash on the barrelhead.

cash or credit [a purchase made] either by paying cash or by putting the charges on a credit account. ☐ When Fred had all his purchases assembled on the counter, the clerk asked, "Cash or credit?" ☐ That store does not give you a choice of cash or credit. They want cash only.

cash something in to exchange something with cash value for the amount of money it is worth. ☐ I should have cashed my bonds in years ago. ☐ It's time to cash in your U.S. savings bonds. ☐ I need to cash in an insurance policy.

cast about for someone or something Go to **cast around for** someone or something.

cast around for someone or something AND **cast about for** someone or something to seek someone or something; to seek a thought or an idea. (Refers to a type of person rather than a specific person.) ☐ John is casting around for a new cook. The old one quit. ☐ Bob is casting about for a new car. ☐ Mary cast about for a way to win the contest.

cast aspersions on someone to make a rude and insulting remark. ☐ I resent your casting aspersions on my brother and his ability! ☐ It is rude to cast aspersions on people in general.

cast doubt(s) (on someone or something) to cause someone or something to be doubted. □ *The police cast doubt on my story.* □ *How can they cast doubt? They haven't looked into it yet.* □ *The city council cast doubt on John and his plan.* □ *They are always casting doubts.*

cast in the same mold very similar. □ *The two sisters are cast in the same mold—equally mean.* □ *All the members of the family are cast in the same mold and they all end up in prison.*

cast one's lot in with someone to join in with someone and accept whatever happens. □ *Mary cast her lot with the group going to Spain. They had a wonderful time.* □ *I decided to cast in my lot with the home team this year.*

cast (one's) pearls before swine to waste something good on someone who doesn't care about it. (From a biblical quotation.) □ *To sing for them is to cast pearls before swine.* □ *To serve them French cuisine is like casting one's pearls before swine.*

cast one's vote to vote; to place one's ballot in the ballot box. □ *The citizens cast their votes for president.* □ *The wait in line to cast one's vote was almost an hour.*

cast the first stone to make the first criticism; to be the first to attack. (From a biblical quotation.) □ *Well, I don't want to be the one to cast the first stone, but she sang horribly.* □ *John always casts the first stone. Does he think he's perfect?*

Cat got your tongue? Why do you not speak?; Speak up and answer my question! (Folksy.) □ *Answer me! What's the matter, cat got your tongue?* □ *Why don't you speak up? Cat got your tongue?*

catch-as-catch-can the best one can do with whatever is available. □ *We went hitchhiking for a week and lived catch-as-catch-can.* □ *There were ten children in our family, and every meal was catch-as-catch-can.*

catch a whiff of something Go to get a whiff of something.

catch cold AND **take cold** to contract a cold (the disease). □ *Please close the win-*

dow, or we'll all catch cold. □ *I take cold every year at this time.*

catch fire to begin to burn; to ignite. □ *If the wood were not so wet, it would catch fire more easily.* □ *The curtains blew against the flame of the candle and caught fire.*

catch forty winks AND **catch some Zs; take forty winks** to take a nap; to get some sleep. (Informal. See also **forty winks**.) □ *I'll just catch forty winks before getting ready for the party.* □ *Tom always tries to catch some Zs before going out for a late evening.* □ *I think I'll go to bed and take forty winks. See you in the morning.* □ *Why don't you go take forty winks and call me in about an hour?*

catch hell Go to get the devil.

catch it to get into trouble and receive punishment. (Informal. See also **get the devil**.) □ *I know I'm going to catch it when I get home.* □ *Bob hit Billy in the face. He really caught it from the teacher.*

catch one off one's guard Go to catch someone off guard.

catch one's breath to resume one's normal breathing after exertion; to return to normal after being busy or very active. □ *I don't have time to catch my breath.* □ *I ran so fast that it took ten minutes to catch my breath.*

catch one's death (of cold) AND **take one's death of cold** to contract a cold; to catch a serious cold. (See also **catch cold**.) □ *If I go out in this weather, I'll catch my death of cold.* □ *Dress up warm or you'll take your death of cold.* □ *Put on your raincoat or you'll catch your death.*

catch one with one's pants down to catch someone doing something, especially something that ought to be done in secret or in private. (Informal. Use with caution. This refers to having one's pants down in the bathroom.) □ *John couldn't convince them he was innocent. They caught him with his pants down.* □ *Did you hear that John took the camera? The store owner caught him with his pants down.*

catch (on) fire to ignite and burn with flames. □ *Keep your coat away from the flames, or it will catch fire.* □ *Lightning struck the prairie, and the grass caught on fire.*

catch on (to someone or something) to figure someone or something out; to solve a puzzle; to see through an act of deception. □ *Mary caught on to Bob and his tricks.* □ *Ann caught on to the woman's dishonest plan.* □ *The woman thought that Ann wouldn't catch on.*

catch sight of someone or something to see someone or something briefly; to get a glimpse of someone or something. □ *I caught sight of the rocket just before it flew out of sight.* □ *Ann caught sight of the robber as he ran out of the bank.*

catch someone in the act (of doing something) to catch a person doing something illegal or private. (See also **in the act (of doing something)**.) □ *They know who set the fire.* *They caught someone in the act.* □ *I caught Tom in the act of stealing a car.*

catch someone napping to find someone unprepared. (Informal. Literally, to discover someone "asleep.") □ *The enemy soldiers caught our army napping.* □ *The thieves caught the security guard napping.*

catch someone off balance to catch a person who is not prepared; to surprise someone. □ *Sorry I acted so flustered. You caught me off balance.* □ *The robbers caught Ann off balance and stole her purse.*

catch someone off guard AND **catch one off one's guard** to catch a person at a time of carelessness. (Compare this with **catch someone off-balance**.) □ *Tom caught Ann off guard and frightened her.* □ *She caught me off my guard, and I told the location of the jewels.*

catch someone red-handed to catch a person in the act of doing something wrong. (See also **caught red-handed**.) □ *Tom was stealing the car when the police drove by and caught him red-handed.* □ *Mary tried to cash a forged check at the bank, and the teller caught her red-handed.*

catch someone's eye AND **get someone's eye**
1. to establish eye contact with someone.

(Also with *have*, as in the example.) □ *Tom got Mary's eye and waved to her.* □ *When Tom had her eye, he smiled at her.*
2. to appear and attract someone's interest. □ *A small red car passing by caught my eye.* □ *One of the books on the top shelf caught my eye, and I took it down to look at it.*

catch some Zs Go to catch forty winks.

catch the devil Go to get the devil.

catch up (to someone or something) AND **catch up (with someone or something)** to move faster in order to reach someone or something ahead, moving in the same direction. □ *The red car caught up with the blue one.* □ *Bill caught up with Ann, and they walked to the bank together.* □ *He had to run to catch up to her.*

catch up (with someone or something) Go to **catch up (to someone or something)**.

caught in the act seen doing something illegal or private. □ *Tom was caught in the act.* □ *She's guilty. She was caught in the act.*

caught in the cross fire Go to **caught in the middle**.

caught in the middle AND **caught in the cross fire** caught between two arguing people or groups, making it difficult to remain neutral. (Both are also literal.) □ *The cook and the dishwasher were having an argument, and Tom got caught in the middle. All he wanted was his dinner.* □ *Mr. and Mrs. Smith tried to draw me into their argument. I don't like being caught in the middle.* □ *Bill and Ann were arguing, and poor Bobby, their son, was caught in the cross fire.*

caught red-handed caught in the act of doing something wrong. □ *Tom was caught red-handed.* □ *Many car thieves are caught red-handed.*

caught short to be without something you need, especially money. □ *I needed eggs for my cake, but I was caught short.* □ *Bob had to borrow money from John to pay for the meal. Bob is caught short quite often.*

caught unaware(s) surprised and unprepared. □ *Sorry. You startled me when you*

came up behind me. I was caught unaware. □ *The clerk was caught unawares, and the robber emptied out the cash register before the clerk could sound the alarm.*

cause a commotion Go to cause a stir.

cause a stir AND **cause a commotion** to cause people to become agitated; to cause trouble in a group of people; to shock or alarm people. (Notice the example with *quite*.) □ *When Bob appeared without his evening jacket, it caused a stir in the dining room.* □ *The dog ran through the church and caused quite a commotion.*

cause (some) eyebrows to raise to shock people; to surprise and dismay people. (See also **raise some eyebrows**.) □ *John caused eyebrows to raise when he married a poor girl from Toledo.* □ *If you want to cause some eyebrows to raise, just start singing as you walk down the street.*

cause (some) tongues to wag to cause people to gossip; to give people something to gossip about. □ *The way John was looking at Mary will surely cause some tongues to wag.* □ *The way Mary was dressed will also cause tongues to wag.*

cave in (to someone or something) [for someone] to yield and give in to someone else or to something. (Also literal in reference to the collapse of caves, tunnels, ceilings, etc.) □ *Mr. Franklin always caves in to Mrs. Franklin.* □ *It's easier to cave in than to go on fighting.* □ *Tom caved in to the pressure of work.*

cease and desist to stop doing something and stay stopped. (A legal phrase.) □ *The judge ordered the merchant to cease and desist the deceptive practices.* □ *When they were ordered to cease and desist, they finally stopped.*

chalk something up to something to recognize something as the cause of something else. □ *We chalked her bad behavior up to her recent illness.* □ *I had to chalk up the loss to experience.* □ *I chalked up my defeat to my impatience.*

champ at the bit AND **chomp at the bit** to be ready and anxious to do something. (Originally said about horses.) □ *The*

kids were champing at the bit to get into the swimming pool. □ *The dogs were champing at the bit to begin the hunt.*

chance something to risk doing something; to try doing something. □ *I don't usually ride horses, but this time I will chance it.* □ *Bob didn't have reservations, but he went to the airport anyway, chancing a cancellation.*

chance (up)on someone or something to find someone or something by chance. □ *I just happened to chance upon this excellent restaurant down by the river. The food is superb.* □ *We were exploring a small Kentucky town when we chanced on an old man who turned out to be my great-uncle.*

change hands [for something] to be sold or passed from owner to owner. □ *How many times has this house changed hands in the last ten years?* □ *We built this house in 1920, and it has never changed hands.*

change horses in the middle of the stream to make major changes in an activity that has already begun; to choose someone or something else after it is too late. □ *I'm already baking a cherry pie. I can't bake an apple pie. It's too late to change horses in the middle of the stream.* □ *The house is half-built. It's too late to hire a different architect. You can't change horses in the middle of the stream.*

a **change of pace** an addition of some variety in one's life. □ *Going to the beach on the weekend will be a change of pace.* □ *The doctor says I need a change of pace.*

a **change of scenery** a move to a different place, where the scenery is different or where things in general are different. □ *I thought I would go to the country for a change of scenery.* □ *A change of scenery would help me relax and organize my life.*

change someone's mind to cause a person to think differently (about someone or something). □ *Tom thought Mary was unkind, but an evening out with her changed his mind.* □ *I can change my mind if I want to. I don't have to stick with an idea.*

change someone's tune to change the manner of a person, usually from bad to

good, or from rude to pleasant. □ *The teller was most unpleasant until she learned that I'm a bank director. Then she changed her tune.* □ *"I will help change your tune by fining you \$150," said the judge to the rude defendant.*

change the subject to begin talking about something different. □ *They changed the subject suddenly when the person whom they had been discussing entered the room.* □ *We'll change the subject if we are embarrassing you.*

chapter and verse detailed, in reference to sources of information. (A reference to the method of referring to biblical text.) □ *He gave chapter and verse for his reasons for disputing that Shakespeare had written the play.* □ *The suspect gave chapter and verse of his associate's activities.*

charge someone or something **up** **1.** [with someone] to get someone excited and enthusiastic. □ *The speaker charged up the crowd to go out and raise money.* □ *Mrs. Smith tried to charge her husband up about getting a job.* **2.** [with something] to restore a charge to an electrical storage battery. (Also without up.) □ *They charged up the battery overnight.* □ *My car charges the battery whenever the engine runs.*

charged up **1.** [of someone] excited; enthusiastic □ *The crowd was really charged up.* □ *Tom is so tired that he cannot get charged up about anything.* **2.** [of something] full of electrical power. (Also without up.) □ *The battery is completely charged up.* □ *If the battery isn't charged, the car won't start.*

charm the pants off (of) someone to use charming behavior to persuade someone to do something. (Use with caution.) □ *She is so nice. She just charms the pants off of you.* □ *He will try to charm the pants off you, but you can still refuse to take the job if you don't want to do it.*

cheat on someone to commit adultery; to be unfaithful to one's lover. □ *"Have you been cheating on me?" cried Mrs. Franklin.* □ *"No, I haven't been cheating on you," said Mr. Franklin.*

check in (on someone or something) **Go to look in (on** someone or something).

check into something **Go to look into** something.

check out to be verified or authenticated. □ *I spent all afternoon working with my checkbook, trying to get the figures to check out.* □ *The police wouldn't believe that I am who I say I am until they made a few telephone calls to see if my story checked out.*

checks and balances a system where power is kept in control and balance among the various branches of government. □ *The newspaper editor claimed that the system of checks and balances built into our Constitution has been subverted by party politics.* □ *We depend on checks and balances in government to keep despots from seizing control of the government.*

cheek by jowl side by side; close together. □ *The pedestrians had to walk cheek by jowl along the narrow streets.* □ *The two families lived cheek by jowl in one house.*

cheer someone **on** to give words or shouts of encouragement to someone who is trying to do something. □ *John was leading in the race, and the whole crowd was cheering him on.* □ *Sally was doing so well in her performance that I wanted to cheer her on.*

cheer someone **up** to make a sad person happy. □ *When Bill was sick, Ann tried to cheer him up by reading to him.* □ *Interest rates went up, and that cheered up all the bankers.*

cheer up to become more happy. □ *Things are bad for you now, but you'll cheer up when they get better.* □ *Cheer up, Tom! Things can't be that bad.*

cheesed off bored; depressed; annoyed. □ *He was cheesed off with his job.* □ *She was cheesed off when she missed the bus.*

chew someone **out** **AND** **eat** someone **out** to scold someone; to bawl someone out thoroughly. (Informal. Used much in the military.) □ *The sergeant chewed the corporal out; then the corporal chewed the*

private out. ☐ *The boss is always chewing out somebody.* ☐ *The coach ate out the entire football team because of their poor playing.*

chew the fat AND **chew the rag** to have a chat with someone; to talk very informally with one's close friends. (Informal.) ☐ *Hi, old buddy! Come in and let's chew the fat.* ☐ *They usually just sat around and chewed the rag. They never did get much done.*

chew the rag Go to chew the fat.

chicken out (of something) to withdraw from something due to fear or cowardice. (Informal.) ☐ *Jane was going to go parachuting with us, but she chickened out at the last minute.* ☐ *I'd never chicken out of parachute jumping, because I'd never agree to do it in the first place!*

The **chickens have come home to roost.**

All the problems have returned to the person who caused them and that person must now solve them or take the blame. (Literal for chickens whose home is a chicken house. See also **come home (to roost)**.) ☐ *You took on too much credit card debt and now you are broke. The chickens have finally come home to roost.* ☐ *Your car broke down because you never changed the oil. The chickens have come home to roost.*

child's play something very easy to do. ☐ *The test was child's play to her.* ☐ *Finding the right street was child's play with a map.*

chilled to the bone very cold. ☐ *I was chilled to the bone in that snowstorm.* ☐ *The children were chilled to the bone in the unheated room.*

chime in (with something) to add one's voice to something; to add something to the discussion, usually by interrupting. ☐ *Billy chimed in by reminding us to come to dinner.* ☐ *Everyone chimed in on the final chorus of the song.*

chink in one's armor a special weakness that provides a means for attacking or impressing someone otherwise invulnerable. ☐ *His love for his child is the chink*

in his armor. ☐ *Jane's insecurity is a chink in her armor.*

chip in (on something) AND **chip in something on something; chip something in (on something)** to contribute a small amount of money to a fund that will be used to buy something. ☐ *Would you care to chip in on a gift for the teacher?* ☐ *Yes, I'd be happy to chip in.* ☐ *Could you chip in a dollar on the gift, please?*

chip in something on something Go to chip in (on something).

a **chip off the old block** a person (usually a male) who behaves in the same way as his father or resembles his father. (Usually informal.) ☐ *John looks like his father—a real chip off the old block.* ☐ *Bill Jones, Jr., is a chip off the old block. He's a banker just like his father.*

chip something in (on something) Go to chip in (on something).

chips and dip potato chips, or some other kind of crisply fried substance, and a sauce or dressing to dip them into before eating them. ☐ *There were tons of chips and dip and all kinds of cold pop available for everyone.*

chisel someone out of something to cheat someone to get money or belongings. ☐ *The company tried to chisel the government out of taxes it owed.* ☐ *Bill chiseled his little sister out of her allowance.*

choke someone up to make a person become overemotional and speechless; to make a person begin to cry. (Informal.) ☐ *The sight of all those smiling people choked Bob up, and he couldn't go on speaking.* ☐ *The funeral procession choked up the whole family.*

choke something off to stifle something; to force something to an end. ☐ *The car ran over the hose and choked the water off.* ☐ *The president choked off the debate.*

chomp at the bit Go to champ at the bit.

choose up sides to form into two opposing teams by having a leader or captain take turns choosing players. ☐ *Let's choose up sides and play baseball.* ☐ *When*

I choose up sides, all the best players don't end up on the same team.

claim a life [for something] to take the life of someone. □ *The killer tornado claimed the lives of six people at the trailer park.* □ *The athlete's life was claimed in a skiing accident.*

clam up to shut up; to refuse to talk; to close one's mouth (as tightly as a clam closes its shell). (Slang.) □ *You talk too much, John. Clam up!* □ *When they tried to question her, she clammed up.*

clamp down (on someone or something) to become strict with someone; to become strict about something. (Also literal.) □ *Because Bob's grades were getting worse, his parents clamped down on him.* □ *The police have clamped down on speeders in this town.* □ *Things have already gone too far. It's too late to clamp down.*

clap eyes on someone or something to see someone or something, perhaps for the first time; to **set eyes on someone or something**. (Informal.) □ *I wish she had never clapped eyes on her fiancé.* □ *I haven't clapped eyes on a red squirrel for years.*

clean as a hound's tooth Go to (as) clean as a hound's tooth.

clean as a whistle Go to (as) clean as a whistle.

clean out (of something) Go to fresh out (of something).

clean up to make a great profit. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *John won at the races and really cleaned up.* □ *Ann cleaned up by taking a job selling encyclopedias.*

clean up one's act to reform one's conduct; to improve one's performance. (Informal. Originally referred to polishing one's stage performance.) □ *Since Sally cleaned her act up, she has become very productive.* □ *If you don't clean up your act, you'll be sent home.*

clear as a bell Go to (as) clear as a bell.

clear as crystal Go to (as) clear as crystal.

clear as mud Go to (as) clear as mud.

clear as vodka Go to (as) clear as vodka.

clear of something without touching something; away from something. □ *Please stand clear of the doors while the train is moving.* □ *Make sure the dog moves clear of the driveway before backing the car up.*

clear out to get out (of a place); to leave. □ *All right, you people, clear out of here now.* □ *I knew right then that it was time to clear out.*

clear sailing progress made without any difficulty; an easy situation. □ *Once you've passed that exam, it will be clear sailing.* □ *Working there was not all clear sailing. The boss had a very bad temper.*

clear someone's name to prove that someone is not guilty of a crime or misdeed. □ *I was accused of theft, but I cleared my name.* □ *The student was accused of cheating, but her name was cleared.*

clear something up **1.** to explain something; to solve a mystery. □ *I think that we can clear this matter up without calling in the police.* □ *First we have to clear up the problem of the missing jewels.* **2.** to cure a disease or a medical condition. (Especially facial pimples.) □ *There is no medicine that will clear pimples up.* □ *The doctor will give you something to clear up your cold.*

clear the air to get rid of doubts or hard feelings. (Also literal. Sometimes this is said about an argument or other unpleasantness.) □ *All right, let's discuss this frankly. It'll be better if we clear the air.* □ *Mr. and Mrs. Brown always seem to have to clear the air with a big argument before they can be sociable.*

clear the decks get out of the way; get out of this area. (From a naval expression, "Clear the decks for action!" urging seaman to prepare for battle or other action.) □ *Clear the decks! Here comes the teacher.* □ *Clear the decks and take your seats.*

clear the table to remove the dishes and other eating utensils from the table after a meal. (The opposite of **set the table**.) □ *Will you please help clear the table?* □ *After you clear the table, we'll play cards.*

clear up 1. [for a problem] to become solved. □ *This matter won't clear up by itself.* □ *The confusion cleared up very quickly when I explained.* **2.** [for a disease] to cure itself or run its course. □ *I told you your pimples would clear up without special medicine.* □ *My rash cleared up in a week.*

climb on the bandwagon to join others in supporting someone or something. (See also **get on the bandwagon**, **jump on the bandwagon**.) □ *Come join us! Climb on the bandwagon and support Senator Smith!* □ *Look at all those people climbing on the bandwagon! They don't know what they are getting into!*

climb the wall(s) to do something desperate when one is extremely anxious, bored, or excited. (Informal or slang.) □ *I'm so upset I could climb the wall.* □ *The meeting was so long and the speaker so boring that most of the audience wanted to climb the wall.*

clip someone's wings to restrain someone; to reduce or put an end to a teenager's privileges. (Informal.) □ *You had better learn to get home on time, or I will clip your wings.* □ *My mother clipped my wings. I can't go out tonight.*

cloak-and-dagger involving secrecy and plotting. □ *A great deal of cloak-and-dagger stuff goes on in political circles.* □ *A lot of cloak-and-dagger activity was involved in the appointment of the director.*

close as two coats of paint Go to (as) close as two coats of paint.

close at hand within reach; handy. (See also **at hand**.) □ *I'm sorry, but your letter isn't close at hand. Please remind me what you said in it.* □ *When you're cooking, you should keep all the ingredients close at hand.*

close enough for government work fairly close or accurate. (Jocular.) □ *I can do math pretty well. Close enough for government work anyway.* □ *This isn't quite right, but it's close enough for government work.*

close in (on someone or something) to overwhelm or surround someone or some-

thing. □ *My problems are closing in on me.* □ *The wolves closed in on the elk.* □ *They howled as they closed in.*

close one's eyes to something to ignore something; to pretend that something is not really happening. □ *You can't close your eyes to hunger in the world.* □ *I just closed my eyes to the problem and pretended that it wasn't there.*

close ranks to move closer together in a military formation. (See also **close ranks (behind someone or something)**; **close ranks (with someone).**) □ *The soldiers closed ranks and marched on the enemy.* □ *All right! Stop that talking and close ranks.*

close ranks (behind someone or something) to support someone or something; to back someone or something. □ *We will close ranks behind the candidate.* □ *She needs our help. Let's close ranks behind her and give her the support she needs.*

close ranks (with someone) to join with someone. □ *We can fight this menace only if we close ranks.* □ *Let's all close ranks with Ann and adopt her suggestions.*

close something down AND shut something down to make something stop operating; to put something out of business. □ *The police closed the factory down.* □ *The manager shut down the factory for the holidays.* □ *The city council closed down the amusement park.*

close the books (on someone or something) to put an end to a matter that concerns someone or something. (*The books* here refers to financial accounting records.) □ *It's time to close the books on the Franklin case.* □ *Yes, let's close the books on Mr. Franklin.* □ *You closed the books too soon. Here is some new information.*

close the door on someone or something Go to shut the door on someone or something.

close to home AND where one lives affecting one personally and intimately. (Informal.) □ *Her remarks were a bit too close to home. I was afraid she was discussing me!* □ *She's got me figured out all right. She knows where I live.* □ *Every criticism she made of the performance hit a little too close to home for my comfort. I*

didn't know I was so bad! □ *When you go through an experience like that and see the horror of a hurricane face to face, that sort of gets you where you live!*

close to someone fond of someone; very good friends with someone. □ *Tom is very close to Mary. They may get married.* □ *Mr. Smith isn't exactly close to Mrs. Smith.*

close up shop to quit working, for the day or forever. (Informal.) □ *It's five o'clock. Time to close up shop.* □ *I can't make any money in this town. The time has come to close up shop and move to another town.*

closefisted (with money) Go to tightfisted (with money).

cloud up 1. [for the sky] to get cloudy, as if it were going to rain. □ *All of a sudden it clouded up and began to rain.* □ *It usually clouds up at sunset.* **2.** [for someone] to grow very sad, as if to cry. (See also **turn on the waterworks.**) □ *The baby clouded up and let out a howl.* □ *Whenever Mary got homesick, she'd cloud up. She really wanted to go home.*

clue someone in (on something) to inform someone of something. (Informal.) □ *Please clue me in on what's going on.* □ *Yes, clue her in.*

clutch at straws to continue to seek solutions, ideas, or hopes that are insubstantial. □ *When you talk of inheriting money, you are just clutching at straws.* □ *That is not a real solution to the problem. You are just clutching at straws.*

The **coast is clear.** There is no visible danger. □ *I'm going to stay hidden here until the coast is clear.* □ *You can come out of your hiding place now. The coast is clear.*

coast-to-coast from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans (in the continental U.S.A.); all the land between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. □ *My voice was once heard on a coast-to-coast radio broadcast.* □ *Our car made the coast-to-coast trip in eighty hours.*

coat and tie [for men] a jacket or sports coat and necktie. (A standard of dress between casual and a suit.) □ *My brother*

was not wearing a coat and tie, and they would not admit him into the restaurant. □ *I always carry a coat and tie in my car just in case I have to dress up a little for something.*

cock-and-bull story a silly, made-up story; a story that is a lie. □ *Don't give me that cock-and-bull story.* □ *I asked for an explanation, and all I got was your ridiculous cock-and-bull story!*

cock of the walk someone who acts more important than others in a group. □ *The deputy manager was cock of the walk until the new manager arrived.* □ *He loved acting cock of the walk and ordering everyone about.*

cocky as the king of spades Go to (as) cocky as the king of spades.

coffee and Danish a cup of coffee and a Danish sweet roll. □ *A few of us like to have coffee and Danish before we start work.* □ *Coffee and Danish is not my idea of a good breakfast!*

coffee-table book a book that is more suitable for display than for reading, typically, an illustrated book left on the coffee table for visitors to examine. □ *This book is more of a coffee-table book than an art book. I prefer something more scholarly.* □ *We purchased a coffee-table book for Jan's birthday.*

coffee, tea, or milk a choice of beverage. (Originally used by airline personnel when offering something to drink to the passengers.) □ *She asked me if I wanted coffee, tea, or milk, and I chose just plain water.* □ *Would you prefer coffee, tea, or milk to go with your meal?*

cold as a witch's caress Go to (as) cold as a witch's caress.

cold as a witch's tit Go to (as) cold as a witch's tit.

cold as marble Go to (as) cold as marble.

cold comfort no comfort or consolation at all. □ *She knows there are others worse off than she is, but that's cold comfort.* □ *It was cold comfort to the student that others had failed as badly as he did.*

a **cold fish** a person who is distant and unfeeling. (Informal or slang. Preceded by *be, become, seem like, or act like.*) □ *Bob is so dull—a real cold fish.* □ *She hardly ever speaks to anyone. She's a cold fish.*

cold, hard cash cash, not checks or promises. (Informal.) □ *I want to be paid in cold, hard cash, and I want to be paid now!* □ *Pay me now! Cash on the barrel-head—cold, hard cash.*

come about 1. to happen. □ *How did this come about?* □ *This came about due to the severe weather.* **2.** [for a sailboat] to turn. □ *Look how easily this boat comes about.* □ *Now, practice making the boat come about.*

come a cropper to have a misfortune; to fail. (From an expression meaning to fall off one's horse.) □ *Bob invested all his money in the stock market just before it fell. Boy, did he come a cropper.* □ *Jane was out all night before she took her tests. She really came a cropper.*

come across someone or something **AND run across** someone or something to find someone or something; to discover someone or something. □ *John came across a book he had been looking for.* □ *Where did you run across that lovely skirt?*

Come again. 1. Come back.; Return some other time. □ *I'm so glad you enjoyed our party. Please come again sometime.* □ *The store clerk gave me my change and my purchase and said, "Thank you. Come again."* **2.** Say it again. I did not hear you. (Folksy. Usually **Come again?**) □ *TOM: Hello, Grandfather. GRANDFATHER: Come again? You'll have to talk louder.* □ *The farmer looked at me and said, "Come again?"*

Come and get it! Dinner is ready. Come and eat it! (Folksy.) □ *A shout was heard from the kitchen, "Come and get it!"* □ *No one says "Come and get it!" at a formal dinner.*

come and gone already arrived and already departed. □ *No, Joy is not here. She's come and gone.* □ *Sorry, you are too late for your appointment. The doctor has come and gone.*

come apart at the seams suddenly to lose one's emotional self-control. (Informal. From the literal sense referring to something falling apart. See also **burst at the seams; fall apart at the seams.**) □ *Bill was so upset that he almost came apart at the seams.* □ *I couldn't take anymore. I just came apart at the seams.*

come (a)round 1. finally to agree or consent (to something). □ *I thought he'd never agree, but in the end he came around.* □ *She came round only after we argued for an hour.* **2.** to return to consciousness; to wake up. □ *He came around after we threw cold water in his face.* □ *The boxer was knocked out, but came round in a few seconds.*

come as no surprise not to be surprising [for someone] to learn [something]. □ *It will come as no surprise for you to learn that the company is losing money this year.* □ *It came as no surprise that the president had been lying.*

come away empty-handed to return without anything. (See also **go away empty-handed.**) □ *All right, go gambling. Don't come away empty-handed, though.* □ *Go to the bank and ask for the loan again. This time don't come away empty-handed.*

come by something 1. to travel by a specific carrier, such as a plane, a boat, or a car. □ *We came by train. It's more relaxing.* □ *Next time, we'll come by plane. It's faster.* **2.** to find or get something. □ *How did you come by that haircut?* □ *Where did you come by that new shirt?*

come by something honestly 1. to get something honestly. □ *Don't worry. I came by this watch honestly.* □ *I have a feeling she didn't come by it honestly.* **2.** to inherit something—a character trait—from one's parents. □ *I know I'm mean. I came by it honestly, though.* □ *She came by her kindness honestly.*

come clean (with someone) to be completely honest with someone; to confess (everything) to someone. □ *The lawyer said, "I can help you only if you come clean*

with me.” □ *All right, I’ll come clean. Here is the whole story.*

come down [for something] to descend (to someone) through inheritance. □ *All my silverware came down to me from my great-grandmother.* □ *The antique furniture came down through my mother’s family.*

come down hard on someone or something to attack vigorously; to scold someone severely. □ *Tom’s parents really came down hard on him for coming home late.* □ *Yes, they came down on him hard.*

come down in the world to lose one’s social position or financial standing. □ *Mr. Jones has really come down in the world since he lost his job.* □ *If I were unemployed, I’m sure I’d come down in the world, too.*

come down to earth to become realistic; to become alert to what is going on around one. (Informal.) □ *You have very good ideas, John, but you must come down to earth. We can’t possibly afford any of your suggestions.* □ *Pay attention to what is going on. Come down to earth and join the discussion.*

come down to something to be reduced to something; to amount to no more than something. (Informal. Similar to **boil down** to something.) □ *It comes down to whether you want to go to the movies or stay at home and watch television.* □ *It came down to either getting a job or going back to college.*

come down with something to become ill with some disease. □ *I’m afraid I’m coming down with a cold.* □ *I’ll probably come down with pneumonia.*

come from far and wide to come from many different places. □ *Everyone was there. They came from far and wide.* □ *We have foods that come from far and wide.*

come from nowhere to come as a surprise with no warning. □ *The dogs came from nowhere and attacked my cat.* □ *The whole set of problems came from nowhere. There was no way we could have foreseen them.*

come full circle to return to the original position or state of affairs. □ *The family sold the house generations ago, but things have come full circle and one of their descendants lives there now.* □ *The employer’s power was reduced by the unions at one point, but matters have come full circle again.*

come hell or high water no matter what happens. (Informal. Use caution with *hell*.) □ *I’ll be there tomorrow, come hell or high water.* □ *Come hell or high water, I intend to have my own home.*

come home (to roost) [for a problem] to return to cause trouble [for someone]. (See also **The chickens have come home to roost**.) □ *As I feared, all my problems came home to roost.* □ *Yes, problems all come home eventually.*

come home to someone to become apparent to someone; to be realized by someone. □ *The truth of the matter suddenly came home to me.* □ *It all came home to me while I was taking a bath. Suddenly I understood everything.*

come in a body AND **arrive in a body** to arrive as a group. □ *All the guests came in a body.* □ *Things become very busy when everyone arrives in a body.*

come in for something AND **fall in for** something to receive something; to acquire something. □ *Billy came in for a good bawling-out when he arrived home.* □ *Mary came in for a tremendous amount of money when her aunt died.* □ *Sally fell in for a lot of trouble when she bought a used car.*

come in handy to be useful or convenient. (Informal.) □ *A small television set in the bedroom would come in handy.* □ *A good hammer always comes in handy.* □ *A nice cool drink would come in handy about now.*

come in out of the rain to become alert and sensible; to come down to earth. (Also literal. See also **not know enough to come in out of the rain**.) □ *Pay attention, Sally! Come in out of the rain!* □ *Bill will fail if he doesn’t come in out of the rain and study.*

come into its own Go to come into one's own.

come into one's own AND **come into its own** **1.** [for one] to achieve one's proper recognition. □ *Sally finally came into her own.* □ *After years of trying, she finally came into her own.* **2.** [for something] to achieve its proper recognition. □ *The idea of an electric car finally came into its own.* □ *Film as an art medium finally came into its own.*

come into something to inherit something. (Also literal. See also **come in for** something, which is very close in meaning.) □ *Jane came into a small fortune when her aunt died.* □ *Mary came into a house and a new car when her rich uncle died.*

come of age to reach an age when one is old enough to own property, get married, and sign legal contracts. □ *When Jane comes of age, she will buy her own car.* □ *Sally, who came of age last month, entered into an agreement to purchase a house.*

come off to happen; to take place. (Also literal referring to something that becomes disconnected. Informal.) □ *What time does this party come off?* □ *How did your speech come off?* □ *It came off very well.*

Come off it! Tell the truth!; Be serious! (Slang.) □ *Come off it, Bill! I don't believe you!* □ *Come on, Jane. Come off it! That can't be true.*

come off second-best to win second place or worse; to lose out to someone else. □ *John came off second-best in the race.* □ *Why do I always come off second-best in an argument with you?*

come on to hurry up; to follow (someone). □ *Come on! I'm in a hurry.* □ *If you don't come on, we'll miss the train.*

come on like gangbusters to approach people in a wild and exciting manner; to seem very active and pushy when approaching people. □ *Why is she so unpolished? She comes on like gangbusters and frightens people away.* □ *The people in this town come on like gangbusters and they seem very rude at first.*

come on somehow to appear as having certain characteristics to other people. (Informal. Especially with *strong*, which means "intensely." See also the previous entry.) □ *Jane comes on like a very unpleasant person.* □ *She really comes on strong.* □ *John doesn't care how he comes on.*

come on the scene AND **arrive on the scene** to appear in a certain area or place. (Used in particular in police reports or dramatizations of police reports.) □ *What time did the picnickers come on the scene?* □ *The witness arrived on the scene at about 7:13 in the evening.*

come out **1.** to become; to turn out. (Also literal.) □ *We'll just have to wait and see how things come out.* □ *I'm baking a cake. I hope it comes out okay.* **2.** to be presented to the public; to be released to the public. □ *My new book came out last month.* □ *Mary Ann Smith came out last fall at a lovely party.* **3.** Go to come out (of the closet).

come out ahead to end up with a profit; to improve one's situation. (Compare this with **break even**.) □ *I hope you come out ahead with your investments.* □ *It took a lot of money to buy the house, but I think I'll come out ahead.*

come out for someone or something to announce one's support for someone or something. □ *I'm coming out for Senator Brown's reelection.* □ *All the employees came out for a longer workweek.*

come out in the wash to work out all right. (Informal. This means that problems or difficulties will go away as dirt goes away in the process of washing.) □ *Don't worry about that problem. It'll all come out in the wash.* □ *This trouble will go away. It'll come out in the wash.*

come out of left field [for a problem or dilemma] to come from an unexpected place. □ *This new problem came out of left field. We were really surprised.* □ *Your remarks came out of left field. I can't understand your complaint.*

come out of nowhere to appear suddenly. (Almost the same as **appear out of**

nowhere.) ☐ Suddenly, a truck came out of nowhere. ☐ Without warning, the storm came out of nowhere.

come out of one's shell to become more friendly; to be more sociable. (Refers to a turtle that sticks its head and legs out of its shell when it feels safe.) ☐ Ann, you should come out of your shell and spend more time with your friends. ☐ Come out of your shell, Tom. Go out and make some friends.

come out of the blue to appear suddenly as if falling from the sky. (The blue refers to the blue sky.) ☐ This idea came out of the blue, and I think it is a good one. ☐ Sally showed up at the party even though no one told her where it was. She just came out of the blue.

come out (of the closet) 1. to reveal one's secret interests. ☐ Tom Brown came out of the closet and admitted that he likes to knit. ☐ It's time that all of you lovers of chamber music came out of the closet and attended our concerts. **2.** to reveal that one is a homosexual. (See also **come out**.) ☐ Tom surprised his parents when he came out of the closet. ☐ It was difficult for him to come out of the closet.

come out with something to say something; to announce something. ☐ Sometimes Jane comes out with the most interesting comments. ☐ Jane came out with a long string of curse words.

come over 1. to join this party or side; to change sides or affiliation. ☐ Tom was formerly an enemy spy, but last year he came over. ☐ I thought that Bill was a Republican. When did he come over? **2.** to come for a visit. ☐ See if Ann wants to come over. ☐ I can't come over. I'm busy.

come someone's way to come to someone. ☐ I wish a large sum of money would come my way. ☐ I hope that no bad luck comes my way.

come through 1. to do what one is expected to do, especially under difficult conditions. ☐ You can depend on Jane. She'll always come through. ☐ We thought that there would be no food, but Tom came through at the last minute with everything

we needed. **2.** [for something] to be approved; [for something] to gain approval. ☐ Our mortgage loan application finally came through! ☐ Your papers came through, and you can be sure that the matter has been taken care of.

come through something with flying colors to survive something quite well. (See also **with flying colors**.) ☐ Todd came through the test with flying colors. ☐ Mr. Franklin came through the operation with flying colors.

come to to become conscious; to wake up. ☐ We threw a little cold water in his face, and he came to immediately. ☐ Come to, John! You act as if you were in a daze.

come to a bad end to have a disaster, perhaps one that is deserved or expected; to die an unfortunate death. ☐ My old car came to a bad end. Its engine burned up. ☐ The evil merchant came to a bad end.

come to a dead end to come to an absolute stopping point. ☐ The building project came to a dead end. ☐ The street came to a dead end. ☐ We were driving along and came to a dead end.

come to a head to come to a crucial point; to come to a point when a problem must be solved. ☐ Remember my problem with my neighbors? Well, last night the whole thing came to a head. ☐ The battle between the two factions of the city council came to a head yesterday.

come to an end to stop; to finish. ☐ The party came to an end at midnight. ☐ Her life came to an end late yesterday.

come to an untimely end to come to an early death. ☐ Poor Mr. Jones came to an untimely end in a car accident. ☐ Cancer caused Mrs. Smith to come to an untimely end.

come to a pretty pass to develop into a bad, unfortunate, or difficult situation. ☐ Things have come to a pretty pass when people have to beg in the streets. ☐ When parents are afraid of their children, things have come to a pretty pass.

come to a standstill to stop, temporarily or permanently. ☐ The building project

came to a standstill because the workers went on strike. □ *The party came to a standstill until the lights were turned on again.*

come to a stop [for someone or something] to stop moving or happening. □ *The bus finally came to a stop so I could get off.* □ *The loud noise finally came to a stop.*

come to blows (over something) [for people] to become increasingly angry and begin to fight about something, usually by striking blows, or verbally. □ *They got excited about the accident, but they never actually came to blows over it.* □ *Yes, they aren't the kind of people who come to blows.*

come to grief to fail; to have trouble or grief. □ *The artist wept when her canvas came to grief.* □ *The wedding party came to grief when the bride passed out.*

come to grips with something to face something; to comprehend something. □ *He found it difficult to come to grips with his grandmother's death.* □ *Many students have a hard time coming to grips with algebra.*

come to life to become alive or lively. (Usually used in a figurative sense.) □ *The party came to life about midnight.* □ *As the anesthetic wore off, the patient came to life.*

come to light to become known. □ *Some interesting facts about your past have just come to light.* □ *If too many bad things come to light, you may lose your job.*

come to mind [for a thought or idea] to enter into one's consciousness. (Compare this with **cross** someone's **mind**.) □ *Do I know a good barber? No one comes to mind right now.* □ *Another idea comes to mind. Why not cut your own hair?*

come to naught Go to come to nothing.

come to nothing AND **come to naught** to amount to nothing; to be worthless. □ *So all my hard work comes to nothing.* □ *Yes, the whole project comes to naught.*

come to one's senses to wake up; to become conscious; to start thinking clearly.

□ *John, come to your senses. You're being quite stupid.* □ *In the morning I don't come to my senses until I have had two cups of coffee.*

come to pass to happen. (Formal.) □ *When did all of this come to pass?* □ *When will this event come to pass?*

come to rest to stop moving. □ *When the car comes to rest, you can get in.* □ *The leaf fell and came to rest at my feet.*

come to terms with someone or something **1.** to come to an agreement with someone. □ *I finally came to terms with my lawyer about his fee.* □ *Bob, you have to come to terms with your father's wishes.* **2.** to learn to accept someone or something. (See also **come to grips with** something.) □ *She had to come to terms with the loss of her sight.* □ *It's time you came to terms with your boss and her unreasonable demands.*

come to the fore to become prominent; to become important. □ *The question of salary has now come to the fore.* □ *Since his great showing in court, my lawyer has really come to the fore in city politics.*

come to the point AND **get to the point** to get to the important part (of something). □ *He has been talking a long time. I wish he would come to the point.* □ *Quit wasting time! Get to the point!* □ *We are talking about money, Bob! Come on, get to the point.*

come to the same thing Go to amount to the same thing.

come to think of it I just remembered [something]. □ *Come to think of it, I know someone who can help.* □ *I have a screwdriver in the trunk of my car, come to think of it.*

come true [for a dream or a wish] actually to happen. □ *When I got married, all my dreams came true.* □ *Coming to the big city was like having my wish come true.*

come unglued to lose emotional control; to have a mental breakdown; to break out into tears or laughter. (Slang.) □ *When Sally heard the joke, she almost came unglued.* □ *When the bank took away my car, I came unglued and cried and cried.*

come up to happen unexpectedly. (Also literal.) □ *I'm sorry, I cannot come to your party. Something has come up.* □ *The storm came up so quickly that I almost got blown away.*

come up in the world to improve one's status or situation in life. □ *Since Mary got her new job, she has really come up in the world.* □ *A good education helped my brother come up in the world.*

come up smelling like roses to end up looking good or respectable after being involved in some difficult or notorious affair. □ *It was a nasty political campaign, but both candidates came up smelling like roses.* □ *I was not surprised that my congressional representative came up smelling like roses after his colleagues investigated him.*

come up with someone or something to find or supply someone or something. □ *I came up with a date at the last minute.* □ *My mom is always able to come up with a snack for me in the afternoon.* □ *I don't have the tool you need, but I'll see if I can come up with something.*

come what may no matter what might happen. □ *I'll be home for the holidays, come what may.* □ *Come what may, the mail will get delivered.*

come within an ace of doing something Go to come within an inch of doing something.

come within an inch of doing something **AND** **come within an ace of** doing something almost to do something; to come very close to doing something. □ *I came within an inch of going into the army.* □ *I came within an inch of falling off the roof.* □ *She came within an ace of buying the house.*

come with the territory to be expected under circumstances like this. (Refers to the details and difficulties attendant to something like the assignment of a specific sales territory to a salesperson. When one accepts the assignment, one accepts the problems.) □ *There is a lot of paperwork in this job. Oh, well, I guess it comes with the territory.* □ *There are problems, but that comes with the territory.*

comfortable as an old shoe Go to (as) comfortable as an old shoe.

commit something to memory to memorize something. □ *We all committed the Gettysburg Address to memory.* □ *I committed to memory the whole list of names and numbers.*

common as an old shoe Go to (as) common as an old shoe.

common as dirt Go to (as) common as dirt.

con someone **out of** something to trick someone out of money or something of value. (Slang.) □ *Anne conned her little sister out of her allowance.* □ *Dave conned me out of my autographed baseball.*

conceited as a barber's cat Go to (as) conceited as a barber's cat.

confide in someone to tell secrets or personal matters to someone. □ *Sally always confided in her sister Ann.* □ *She didn't feel that she could confide in her mother.*

conk out 1. [for someone] to collapse as from exhaustion. (Slang.) □ *I was so tired I just went home and conked out.* □ *I was afraid I would conk out while I was driving.* **2.** [for something] to break down; to quit running. (Slang.) □ *My car conked out finally.* □ *I hope my computer doesn't conk out.*

conspicuous by one's absence to have one's absence (from an event) noticed. □ *We missed you last night. You were conspicuous by your absence.* □ *How could the bride's father miss the wedding? He was certainly conspicuous by his absence.*

contradiction in terms a statement containing a seeming contradiction. □ *A wealthy pauper is a contradiction in terms.* □ *A straight-talking politician may seem a contradiction in terms.*

contrary to something in spite of something; regardless of something. □ *Contrary to what you might think, I am neat and tidy.* □ *Contrary to public opinion, my uncle is well and healthy.*

control the purse strings to be in charge of the money in a business or a house-

hold. □ *I control the purse strings at our house.* □ *Mr. Williams is the treasurer. He controls the purse strings.*

cook someone's goose to damage or ruin someone. □ *I cooked my own goose by not showing up on time.* □ *Sally cooked Bob's goose for treating her the way he did.*

cook something to perfection to cook something perfectly. □ *John cooked my steak to perfection.* □ *The entire dinner was cooked to perfection!*

cook something up to plot something; to improvise something. (Also literal.) □ *Mary cooked an interesting party up at the last minute.* ▢ *Let me see if I can cook up a way to get you some money.*

cook the accounts to cheat in bookkeeping; to make the accounts appear to balance when they do not. □ *Jane was sent to jail for cooking the accounts of her mother's store.* □ *It's hard to tell whether she really cooked the accounts or just didn't know how to add.*

cooking with gas doing things the right way. (Also literal. Informal. From an advertising slogan.) □ *That's great. Now you're cooking with gas.* □ *Things are moving along nicely with the project. The entire staff is really cooking with gas.*

cool as a cucumber Go to (as) cool as a cucumber.

cool down Go to cool off.

Cool it! Calm down!; Take it easy! (Slang.) □ *Don't get mad, Bob. Cool it!* □ *Cool it, you guys! No fighting around here.*

cool off AND **cool down** **1.** to lose or reduce heat. □ *I wish my soup would cool off. I'm hungry.* □ *It'll cool down this evening, after dusk.* **2.** to let one's anger die away. □ *I'm sorry I got angry. I'll cool off in a minute.* □ *Cool off, Tom. There is no sense getting so excited.* **3.** to let one's passion or love die away. □ *TED: Is Bob still in love with Jane? BILL: No, he's cooled off a lot.* □ *TED: I thought that they were both cooling down.*

cool one's heels to wait (for someone). (Informal.) □ *I spent all afternoon cooling my heels in the waiting room while the*

doctor talked on the telephone. □ *All right. If you can't behave properly, just sit down here and cool your heels until I call you.*

cool someone down AND **cool someone off**

1. to reduce someone's anger. (Also literal.) □ *I just stared at him while he was yelling. I knew that would cool him down.* □ *The coach talked to them for a long time. That cooled them off.* **2.** to reduce someone's passion or love. □ *When she slapped him, that really cooled him down.* □ *Dating Mary was too intense, so Bill cooled himself off by dating Sally for a while.*

cool someone off Go to cool someone down.

cop a plea to plead guilty to a crime in hopes of receiving a lighter punishment. (Slang, especially criminal slang.) □ *The robber copped a plea and got only two years in jail.* □ *When you cop a plea, it saves the court system a lot of money.*

cop out to get out of a difficult situation; to sneak out of a difficult situation. (Slang.) □ *At the last minute she copped out on us.* □ *Things were going badly for Senator Phillips, so he copped out by resigning.*

a **copycat** a person who copies or mimics what someone else does. (Usually juvenile. Can be preceded by *be, become, seem like, or act like.*) □ *Sally wore a pink dress just like Mary's. Mary called Sally a copycat.* □ *Bill is such a copycat. He bought a coat just like mine.*

cost an arm and a leg to cost too much. □ *It cost an arm and a leg, so I didn't buy it.* □ *Why should a little plastic part cost an arm and a leg?*

cost a pretty penny to cost a lot of money. □ *I'll bet that diamond cost a pretty penny.* □ *You can be sure that house cost a pretty penny. It has seven bathrooms.*

cough something up to produce something unwillingly (that someone has requested). (Also literal. Informal.) □ *All right, Bill. Cough the stolen diamonds up or else.* □ *Okay, okay. I'll cough them up.* ▢ *Bill had to cough up forty dollars to pay for the broken window.*

Could be better. satisfactory, but capable of improvement. □ *The pie's okay, but could be better.* □ *Q: How do you feel? A: Could be better.*

Could be worse. satisfactory, but not as bad as it could be. □ *Q: How are things? A: Could be worse.* □ *Things could be worse, and in a little while, they probably will be.*

could do with someone or something to want or need someone or something; to benefit from someone or something. (Compare this with **go for** someone or something.) □ *I could do with a nice cool drink right now.* □ *I could do with some help on this project.* □ *This house could do with some cleaning up.* □ *They said they could do with John to help them finish faster.* □ *My car could do with a bigger engine.*

couldn't be better completely satisfactory. □ *I feeling great and couldn't be better.* □ *We had a wonderful time and our vacation couldn't have been better.*

couldn't be happier totally happy. □ *We are delighted. Couldn't be happier.* □ *They both couldn't be happier since they got married.*

could(n't) care less unable to care at all. (Informal. **Could care less** is almost slang.) □ *John couldn't care less whether he goes to the party or not.* □ *So she won first place. I couldn't care less.* □ *I could care less if I live or die.*

count noses to count people. □ *I'll tell you how many people are here after I count noses.* □ *Everyone is here. Let's count noses so we can order hamburgers.*

count one's chickens before they hatch to plan how to utilize good results before they have occurred. (Frequently used in the negative.) □ *You're way ahead of yourself. Don't count your chickens before they hatch.* □ *You may be disappointed if you count your chickens before they hatch.*

count on someone or something to rely on someone or something. □ *Can I count on you to be there at noon?* □ *I want to buy a car I can count on in winter weather.*

count someone in (on something) to include someone in something. (Compare this with **count someone out (for something).**) □ *If you're looking for a group to go mountain climbing, count me in on it.* □ *I would like to count in your entire family, but there isn't enough room.* □ *Please count me in.*

count someone out (for something) to exclude someone from something. (Compare this with **count someone in (on something).**) □ *Please count me out for the party next Saturday. I have other plans.* □ *You should count the whole family out. We are going to the beach for the weekend.*

a couple of two; two or three; a few; some; not many. □ *Bill grabbed a couple of beers from the refrigerator.* □ *I hung a couple of pictures on the wall.*

course of action the procedures or sequence of actions that someone will follow to accomplish a goal. □ *I plan to take a course of action that will produce the best results.* □ *The committee planned a course of action that would reduce costs and eliminate employees.*

cover a lot of ground AND **cover a lot of territory** **1.** to travel over a great distance; to investigate a wide expanse of land. □ *The prospectors covered a lot of ground, looking for gold.* □ *My car can cover a lot of ground in one day.* **2.** to deal with much information and many facts. □ *The history lecture covered a lot of ground today.* □ *Mr. and Mrs. Franklin always cover a lot of ground when they argue.*

cover a lot of territory Go to cover a lot of ground.

cover for someone **1.** to make excuses for someone; to conceal someone's errors. □ *If I miss class, please cover for me.* □ *If you're late, I'll cover for you.* **2.** to handle someone else's work. □ *Dr. Johnson's partner agreed to cover for him during his vacation.* □ *I'm on duty this afternoon. Will you please cover for me? I have a doctor's appointment.*

cover someone's tracks (up) to conceal one's trail; to conceal one's past activities. □

She was able to cover her tracks up so that they couldn't find her. [] *It's easy to cover up your tracks if you aren't well known.* [] *The robber failed to cover his tracks.*

cover something up to conceal something. (Also literal.) [] *They covered up the truth about the crime.* [] *We'll cover this little matter up and make up a story for the press.*

cover the territory Go to cover the waterfront.

cover the waterfront AND **cover the territory** to deal with many things, much space, or much information from many points of view. (Informal.) [] *That lecture really covered the waterfront. I could hardly follow it.* [] *Why can't she stick to the point? She has to cover the territory every time she talks.*

cozy up (to someone) to be extra friendly with someone, perhaps in hope of special favors in return. (Informal or slang.) [] *Look at that lawyer cozying up to the judge!* [] *Lawyers who cozy up like that usually get into big trouble.*

crack a book to open a book to study. (Slang. Almost always in the negative.) [] *I passed that test with an A, and I didn't even crack a book.* [] *If you think you can get through college without cracking a book, you're wrong.*

crack a joke to tell a joke. (Informal.) [] *She's never serious. She's always cracking jokes.* [] *As long as she's cracking jokes, she's okay.*

crack a smile to smile a little, perhaps reluctantly. (Informal.) [] *She cracked a smile, so I knew she was kidding.* [] *The soldier cracked a smile at the wrong time and had to march for an hour as punishment.*

crack down (on someone or something) to be hard on someone or something; to enforce a rule or law more strenuously. [] *They are cracking down on speeding around here.* [] *It's about time they cracked down.*

crack open a bottle to open a bottle; to remove the cork or seal from a bottle,

usually a bottle of an alcoholic drink. [] *They cracked open a bottle to celebrate her arrival.* [] *Let's crack open a bottle of champagne and celebrate.*

crack someone or something up 1. [with something] to crash something; to destroy something (in an accident). [] *The driver cracked the car up in an accident.* [] *The pilot cracked up the plane.* **2.** [with someone] to make someone laugh. [] *She told a joke that really cracked us up.* [] *I cracked up my history class with a silly remark.*

crack something wide open to expose and reveal some great wrongdoing. (Also literal.) [] *The police cracked the drug ring wide open.* [] *The newspaper story cracked the trouble at city hall wide open.*

crack up 1. [for a plane, boat, car, etc.] to crash. [] *The plane cracked up in the storm.* [] *The boat cracked up on the rocks.* **2.** [for someone] to break out in laughter. [] *The audience really cracked up during the second act.* [] *The class cracked up when I told my joke, but the teacher didn't like it.* **3.** to go crazy. (Slang.) [] *The mayor cracked up after only a year in office.* [] *I was afraid the mayor would crack up because of too much work.*

cramp someone's style to limit someone in some way. [] *I hope this doesn't cramp your style, but could you please not hum while you work?* [] *To ask him to keep regular hours would really be cramping his style.*

crank something out to produce something; to make something in a casual and mechanical way. (Slang.) [] *John can crank a lot of work out in a single day.* [] *That factory keeps cranking out cars even though no one buys them.*

crash and burn to fail spectacularly. (Also literal, as with a car or a plane.) [] *Poor Chuck really crashed and burned when he made his presentation at the sales meeting.* [] *Mary just knew that the whole project would crash and burn if she didn't keep a close watch on it.*

crazy about someone or something AND **crazy for someone or something; mad about some-**

one or something; **mad for** someone or something; **nuts about** someone or something very fond of someone or something. (Slang.)
☐ *Ann is crazy about John.* ☐ *He's crazy about her, too.* ☐ *I'm mad about their new song.* ☐ *Our whole family is nuts about homemade ice cream.*

crazy as a betsy bug Go to (as) crazy as a betsy bug.

crazy as a loon Go to (as) crazy as a loon.

crazy as a peach-orchard boar Go to (as) crazy as a peach-orchard boar.

crazy for someone or something Go to crazy about someone or something.

the **cream of the crop** the best of all. ☐ *This particular car is the cream of the crop.*
☐ *The kids are very bright. They are the cream of the crop.*

create an uproar AND **make an uproar** to cause an outburst or sensation. (Especially with *such*.) ☐ *The dog got into church and made an uproar.* ☐ *Her poodle created an uproar in the restaurant.* ☐ *Why did you make such an uproar?*

create a scene Go to make a scene.

create a stink (about something) AND **make a stink (about something); raise a stink (about something)** to make a major issue out of something; to make much over something; to make a lot of complaints and criticisms about something. (Slang. Compare this with **make a federal case out of** something.) ☐ *Tom created a stink about Bob's remarks.* ☐ *Why did he make a stink about that?* ☐ *Tom is always trying to raise a stink.*

creature comforts things that make people comfortable. ☐ *The hotel room was sparse, but all the creature comforts were there.* ☐ *The entire country of Adonia seemed to lack the expected creature comforts.*

a **credit to** someone or something someone or something that is of value or benefit. (Preceded by *be*, *become*, or *seem like*.) ☐ *I always want to be a credit to my school.*
☐ *John is not what you would call a credit to his family.*

a **crick in** one's **back** a twisted or cramped place in the back that causes pain. ☐ *I can't move! I've got a crick in my back!* ☐ *I had a crick in my back all night and I couldn't sleep.*

a **crick in** one's **neck** a twisted place or a cramp in the neck that causes pain. ☐ *I got a crick in my neck from sleeping in a draft.* ☐ *When I read on the plane, I get a crick in my neck.*

crooked as a barrel of fishhooks Go to (as) crooked as a barrel of fishhooks.

crooked as a dog's hind leg Go to (as) crooked as a dog's hind leg.

crooked as a fishhook Go to (as) crooked as a fishhook.

cross a bridge before one **comes to it** to worry excessively about something before it happens. (Note the variation in the examples.) ☐ *There is no sense in crossing that bridge before you come to it.* ☐ *She's always crossing bridges before coming to them. She needs to learn to relax.*

cross a bridge when one **comes to it** to deal with a problem only when one is faced with the problem. (Note the variation in the examples.) ☐ *Please wait and cross that bridge when you come to it.* ☐ *He shouldn't worry about it now. He can cross that bridge when he comes to it.*

cross-examine someone to ask someone questions in great detail; to question a suspect or a witness at great length. ☐ *The police cross-examined the suspect for three hours.* ☐ *The lawyer plans to cross-examine the witness tomorrow morning.*

cross one's fingers Go to keep one's fingers crossed (for someone or something).

cross one's heart (and hope to die) to pledge or vow that the truth is being told.
☐ *It's true, cross my heart and hope to die.*
☐ *It's really true—cross my heart.*

cross someone's mind Go to pass through someone's mind.

cross someone's palm with silver to give money to someone in payment for a service. (A fortune-teller might ask for a potential customer to cross her palm with

silver. Used in that sense or jocularly for something like tipping a porter.) □ *I crossed his palm with silver, but he still stood there.* □ *You will find that things happen much faster in hotels if you cross the staff's palms with silver fairly often.*

cross someone up to give someone trouble; to defy or betray someone. (Also without up.) □ *You really crossed me up when you told Tom what I said.* □ *Please don't cross me up again.*

cross swords (with someone) (on something) to enter into an argument with someone. □ *I don't want to cross swords with Tom on this matter.* □ *The last time we crossed swords, we had a terrible time.*

cross the Rubicon to do something that inevitably commits one to following a certain course of action. (The crossing of the River Rubicon by Julius Caesar inevitably involved him in a war with the senate in 49 B.C.) □ *Jane crossed the Rubicon by signing the contract.* □ *Find another job before you cross the Rubicon and resign from this one.*

crushed by something demoralized; with hurt feelings. (Also literal.) □ *The whole family was completely crushed by the news.* □ *I was just crushed by your attitude. I thought we were friends.*

the **crux of the matter** the central issue of the matter. (*Crux* is an old word meaning "cross.") □ *All right, this is the crux of the matter.* □ *It's about time that we looked at the crux of the matter.*

cry before one is hurt to cry or complain before one is injured. □ *Bill always cries before he's hurt.* □ *There is no point in crying before one is hurt.*

cry bloody murder to scream as if something very serious has happened. (See also **scream bloody murder**.) □ *Now that Bill is really hurt, he's crying bloody murder.* □ *There is no point in crying bloody murder about the bill if you aren't going to pay it.*

cry crocodile tears Go to shed crocodile tears.

cry one's eyes out to cry very hard. □ *When we heard the news, we cried our eyes out with joy.* □ *She cried her eyes out after his death.*

cry over spilled milk to be unhappy about something that cannot be undone. (Also literal.) □ *I'm sorry that you broke your bicycle, Tom. But there is nothing that can be done now. Don't cry over spilled milk.* □ *Ann is always crying over spilled milk.*

cry wolf to cry or complain about something when nothing is really wrong. □ *Pay no attention. She's just crying wolf again.* □ *Don't cry wolf too often. No one will come.*

crying need for someone or something a definite or desperate need for someone or something. □ *There is a crying need for someone to come in and straighten things out.* □ *All the people in that area have a crying need for better housing.*

a **crying shame** a very unfortunate situation; a real shame. □ *It's a crying shame that people cannot afford adequate housing.* □ *That everyone could not attend the concert was a crying shame.*

cue someone in 1. to give someone a cue; to indicate to someone that the time has come. □ *Now, cue the orchestra director in.* □ *All right, cue in the announcer.* **2.** to tell someone what is going on. (Informal. Almost the same as **clue** someone in (on something).) □ *I want to know what's going on. Cue me in.* □ *Cue in the general about the troop movement.*

curdle someone's blood to frighten or disgust someone severely. □ *The story was scary enough to curdle your blood.* □ *The terrible scream was enough to curdle my blood.*

Curiosity killed the cat. It is dangerous to be curious. (Proverb.) □ *Don't ask so many questions, Billy. Curiosity killed the cat.* □ *Curiosity killed the cat. Mind your own business.*

curl someone's hair AND **make someone's hair curl** to frighten or alarm someone; to shock someone with sight, sound, or taste. (Also literal.) □ *Don't ever sneak up on me like that again. You really curled my*

hair. □ *The horror film made my hair curl.*

curl up and die to retreat and die. □ *When I heard you say that, I could have curled up and died.* □ *No, it wasn't an illness. She just curled up and died.*

curry favor (with someone) to try to win favor from someone. □ *The lawyer tried to curry favor with the judge.* □ *It's silly to curry favor. Just be yourself.*

cut a big swath Go to cut a wide swath.

a **cut above** someone or something a measure or degree better than someone or something else. (Especially with *average*, as in the examples.) □ *Your shirt is beautiful, but mine is a cut above yours.* □ *John isn't the best mechanic in town, but he's a cut above average.*

cut across something to reach beyond something; to embrace a wide variety; to slice across a figurative boundary or barrier. (Also literal.) □ *His teaching cut across all human cultures and races.* □ *This rule cuts across all social barriers.*

cut a fine figure to look good; to look elegant. (Formal. Usually said of a male.) □ *Tom really cuts a fine figure on the dance floor.* □ *Bill cuts a fine figure since he bought some new clothes.*

cut-and-dried fixed; determined beforehand; usual and uninteresting. □ *I find your writing quite boring. It's too cut-and-dried.* □ *The lecture was, as usual, cut-and-dried. It was the same thing we've heard for years.*

cut and paste 1. to cut something out of paper with scissors and paste it onto something else. □ *The teacher told the little children that it was time to cut and paste, and they all ran to the worktables.* □ *Mary made a tiny house by cutting and pasting little strips of paper.* 2. something trivial, simple, or childish. □ *I hate this job. It's nothing but cut and paste.* □ *I don't mind doing things that have to be done, but I hate to waste my time on cut and paste.*

cut and run to get free and run away. (Slang. As in cutting loose the rope on a

ship's or boat's anchor and sailing away in a hurry.) □ *Max decided to cut and run when he heard the police sirens.* □ *As soon as I finish what I am doing here, I'm going to cut and run. I've got to get home by six o'clock.*

cut a wide swath AND **cut a big swath** to seem important; to attract a lot of attention. □ *In social matters, Mrs. Smith cuts a wide swath.* □ *Bob cuts a big swath whenever he appears in his military uniform.*

cut back (on something) to reduce one's use of something; to use less of something. □ *The government has to cut back on its spending.* □ *It's very difficult for the government to cut back.*

cut both ways to affect both sides of an issue equally. □ *Remember that your suggestion that costs should be shared cuts both ways. You will have to pay as well.* □ *If our side cannot take along supporters to the game, then yours cannot either. The rule has to cut both ways.*

cut class to skip going to class. (Informal.) □ *If Mary keeps cutting classes, she'll fail the course.* □ *I can't cut that class. I've missed too many already.*

cut corners to reduce efforts or expenditures; to do things poorly or incompletely. □ *You cannot cut corners when you are dealing with public safety.* □ *Don't cut corners, Sally. Let's do the job right.*

cut from the same cloth AND **made from the same mold** sharing a lot of similarities; seeming to have been created, reared, or fashioned in the same way. □ *She and her brother are cut from the same cloth. They both tell lies all the time.* □ *They are made from the same mold and even sound alike on the telephone.*

Cut it out! Stop doing that! □ *That's enough! Cut it out!* □ *Stop doing that. It hurts! Cut it out!*

cut loose (from someone or something) to break away from someone or something; to break ties with someone or something; to act in a free manner. (Also literal. Compare this with **break loose (from someone or something)**.) □ *Jane is finding it*

hard to cut loose from her family. □ *Cutting loose is part of growing up.* □ *When those farm boys get to town, they really cut loose from convention.* □ *They sure are wild when they cut loose.*

cut loose (with something) Go to let go (with something).

cut no ice (with someone) to fail to change the mind of someone; to have no influence on someone. (Informal.) □ *What you just said will cut no ice with the manager.* □ *All that may be true, but it cuts no ice with me.* □ *That idea cuts no ice.* □ *It won't help at all.* □ *It cuts no ice that your mother is the mayor.*

cut off to stop by itself or oneself. (Informal.) □ *The machine got hot and cut off.* □ *Bob cut off in midsentence.*

cut off one's nose to spite one's face to harm oneself while trying to harm another person. (Note the variation in the examples.) □ *Billy loves the zoo, but he refused to go with his mother because he was mad at her. He cut off his nose to spite his face.* □ *Find a better way to be angry. It is silly to cut your nose off to spite your face.*

cut one's eyeteeth on something to have done something since one was very young; to have much experience at something. (Folksy.) □ *Do I know about cars? I cut my eyeteeth on cars.* □ *I cut my eyeteeth on Bach. I can whistle everything he wrote.*

cut one's losses to reduce someone's losses of money, goods, or other things of value. □ *I sold the stock as it went down, thus cutting my losses.* □ *He cut his losses by putting better locks on the doors. There were fewer robberies.* □ *The mayor's reputation suffered because of the scandal. He finally resigned to cut his losses.*

cut one's (own) throat [for someone] to experience certain failure; to do damage to oneself. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *If I were to run for office, I'd just be cutting my throat.* □ *Judges who take bribes are cutting their own throats.*

cut out for something well-suited for something; with a talent for something. (Com-

pare this with **cut out to be** something.) □ *Tom was not cut out for banking.* □ *Sally was cut out for the medical profession.*

cut out the deadwood to remove unproductive persons from employment. (Also literal as in pruning away dead branches or deadwood.) □ *This company would be more profitable if management would cut out the deadwood.* □ *When we cut out the deadwood, all our departments will run more smoothly.*

cut out to be something well-suited for a particular role or a particular occupation. (Compare this with **cut out for** something.) □ *Tom was not cut out to be a banker.* □ *Sally was cut out to be a doctor.*

cut (someone) a check to write a check; to have a computer print a check. □ *We will cut a check for the balance due you later this afternoon.* □ *We will cut you a check as soon as possible.*

cut someone dead to ignore someone totally. □ *Joan was just about to speak to James when he cut her dead.* □ *Jean cut her former husband dead.*

cut someone down (to size) AND **take someone down (to size)** to make a person humble; to put one in one's place. (See also **beat someone down (to size)**.) □ *John's remarks really cut me down to size.* □ *Jane is too conceited. I think her new boss will take her down to size.* □ *The boss's angry stare will really cut her down.*

cut someone in to give someone a share of something. (Informal or slang.) □ *Shall we cut Bill in on this deal?* □ *I don't think we should cut anybody in.* □ *Pretty soon we'll have to cut in the whole town.*

cut someone off without a penny to end someone's allowance; to fail to leave someone money in one's will. □ *Mr. and Mrs. Franklin cut their son off without a penny after he quit school.* □ *They cut off both of their sons without a penny.* □ *We learned, when Uncle Sam's will was read, that he cut off his own flesh and blood without a penny.*

cut someone or something to the bone 1. to slice flesh or meat deep to the bone. □ *The knife cut John to the bone. He had to*

be sewed up. □ *Cut each slice of ham to the bone. Then each slice will be as big as possible.* **2.** [with something] to cut down severely (on something). □ *We cut our expenses to the bone and are still losing money.* □ *Congress had to cut the budget to the bone in order to balance it.*

cut someone or something **up** to criticize someone or something severely. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *Jane is such a gossip. She was really cutting Mrs. Jones up.* □ *The professor really cut up my essay.*

cut someone **to the quick** to hurt someone's feelings very badly. □ *Your criticism cut me to the quick.* □ *Tom's sharp words to Mary cut her to the quick.*

cut teeth [for a baby or young person] to grow teeth. □ *Billy is cranky because he's*

cutting teeth. □ *Ann cut her first tooth this week.*

cut the ground out from under someone to destroy the foundation of someone's plans or someone's argument. □ *The politician cut the ground out from under his opponent.* □ *Congress cut out the ground from under the president.*

cut to the chase to get to the important matters. □ *Let's stop all this chatter and cut to the chase.* □ *I like the way you cut to the chase and don't waste my time.*

cut up to act wildly; to show off and be troublesome; to act like a clown. (Slang. See also **cut** someone or something **up**.) □ *Tom, Billy! Stop cutting up, or I'll send you to the principal's office.* □ *If you spent more time studying than cutting up, you'd get better grades.*

D

[daily dozen] Go to one's **daily dozen**.

the **daily grind** [someone's] everyday work routine. (Informal.) □ *I'm getting very tired of the daily grind.* □ *When my vacation was over, I had to go back to the daily grind.*

damn someone or something **with faint praise** to criticize someone or something indirectly by not praising enthusiastically. □ *The critic did not say that he disliked the play, but he damned it with faint praise.* □ *Mrs. Brown is very proud of her son's achievements, but damns her daughter's with faint praise.*

dance to another tune to shift to a different kind of behavior; to change one's behavior or attitude. (See also **change someone's tune**; **sing a different tune**.) □ *After being yelled at, Ann danced to another tune.* □ *A stern talking-to will make her dance to another tune.*

dance with death to attempt to do something that is very risky. □ *The crossing of the border into Adonia was like dancing with death.* □ *You are dancing with death in your effort to cross that narrow ledge.*

dare someone **(to do something)** to challenge someone to do something. □ *Sally dared Jane to race her to the corner.* □ *You wouldn't do that, would you? I dare you.*

dark horse someone or something whose abilities, plans, or feelings are little known to others. (From horse racing.) □ *It's difficult to predict who will win the prize—there are two or three dark horses in the tournament.* □ *Everyone was surprised at the results of the election. The dark horse won.*

darken someone's **door** [for an unwelcome person] to come to someone's door seeking entry. (As if the unwelcome visitor were casting a shadow on the door. Formal or jocular.) □ *Who is this who has come to darken my door?* □ *Is that you, John, darkening my door again? I thought you were out of town.* □ *The heroine of the drama told the villain never to darken her door again.* □ *She touched the back of her hand to her forehead and said, "Go, and never darken my door again!"*

dart in and out [for something moving] to dart quickly between two things, or into a number of things, and move away again. □ *On the highway, a small car was darting in and out of the two right lanes of traffic.* □ *A small bird darted in and out of the bush, probably going into a nest inside.*

dash cold water on something Go to **pour cold water on** something.

dash something **off** to send something off, usually quickly. □ *I'll dash a quick note off to Aunt Mary.* □ *Ann just dashed off a message to her parents.*

date back (to sometime) to extend back to a particular time; to have been alive at a particular time in the past. □ *My late grandmother dated back to the Civil War.* □ *This record dates back to the sixties.* □ *How far do you date back?*

Davy Jones's locker the bottom of the sea, especially when it is a grave. (From the seamen's name for the evil spirit of the sea. See also **go to Davy Jones's locker**.) □ *They were going to sail around the world, but ended up in Davy Jones's locker.* □ *Most of the gold from that trading ship is in Davy Jones's locker.*

dawn on someone to occur to someone; to cross someone's mind. ☐ *It just dawned on me that I forgot my books.* ☐ *When will it dawn on him that his audience is bored?*

day after day every day; daily; all the time. ☐ *He wears the same clothes day after day.* ☐ *She visits her husband in the hospital day after day.*

day and night AND **night and day** all the time; around the clock. ☐ *The nurse was with her day and night.* ☐ *The house is guarded night and day.*

day in and day out AND **day in, day out** on every day; for each day. ☐ *She smokes day in and day out.* ☐ *They eat nothing but vegetables, day in, day out.*

day in, day out Go to day in and day out.

day-to-day daily; everyday; common. ☐ *They update their accounts on a day-to-day basis.* ☐ *Just wear your regular day-to-day clothing.*

daylight robbery the practice of blatantly or grossly overcharging. ☐ *It's daylight robbery to charge that amount of money for a hotel room!* ☐ *The cost of renting a car at that place is daylight robbery.*

[days are numbered] Go to one's days are numbered.

days running AND **weeks running;** **months running;** **years running** days in a series; months in a series; etc. (Follows a number.) ☐ *I had a bad cold for 5 days running.* ☐ *For two years running, I brought work home from the office every night.*

dead ahead straight ahead; directly ahead. ☐ *Look out! There is a cow in the road dead ahead.* ☐ *The farmer said that the town we wanted was dead ahead.*

dead and buried gone forever. (Refers literally to persons and figuratively to ideas and other things.) ☐ *Now that memories of Uncle Bill are dead and buried, we can throw away his old boots.* ☐ *That kind of thinking is dead and buried.*

dead and gone dead and buried, and probably forgotten. ☐ *John is dead and gone. There is no reason to fear him any-*

more. ☐ *Her husband is dead and gone, but she is getting along fine.*

dead as a dodo Go to (as) dead as a dodo.

dead as a doornail Go to (as) dead as a doornail.

a **dead duck** someone or something that is failed, finished, or nearly dead. ☐ *He missed the exam. He's a dead duck.* ☐ *Yes, John's a dead duck. He drove his car into a tree.*

dead in someone's or something's **tracks** stopped exactly where someone or something is at the moment. (This does not usually have anything to do with death. The phrase is often used with *stop*.) ☐ *Her unkind words stopped me dead in my tracks.* ☐ *When I heard the rattlesnake, I stopped dead in my tracks.* ☐ *The project came to a halt dead in its tracks.*

dead letter 1. a piece of mail that is returned to the post office as both undeliverable and unreturnable. ☐ *At the end of the year, the post office usually has bushels of dead letters.* ☐ *Some of the dead letters are opened to see if there is an address inside.* 2. an issue, law, or matter that is no longer important or that no longer has force or power. (Usually a **dead letter**. Could also be used for a person.) ☐ *His point about the need for education reform is a dead letter. It is being done now.* ☐ *This point of law is a dead letter since the last Supreme Court ruling on this matter.*

a **dead loss** a total loss. ☐ *My investment was a dead loss.* ☐ *This car is a dead loss. It was a waste of money.*

dead on its feet AND **dead on** one's **feet** exhausted; worn out; no longer useful. ☐ *Ann is so tired. She's really dead on her feet.* ☐ *He can't teach well anymore. He's dead on his feet.* ☐ *This inefficient company is dead on its feet.*

dead on one's feet Go to dead on its feet.

dead set against someone or something totally opposed to someone or something. (See also one's **heart is (dead) set against** something.) ☐ *I'm dead set against the new tax*

proposal. □ *Everyone is dead set against the mayor.*

dead to the world tired; exhausted; sleeping soundly. (Compare this with **dead on one's feet**.) □ *I've had such a hard day. I'm really dead to the world.* □ *Look at her sleep. She's dead to the world.*

deaf and dumb unable to hear or speak. (Used without any intended malice, but no longer considered polite. Sometimes euphemized as "hearing and speech impaired.") □ *Fred objected to being called deaf and dumb.* □ *Aunt Clara—she was deaf and dumb, you know—lived to be over 100.*

deaf as a post Go to (as) deaf as a post.

deal in something to buy and sell something. □ *My uncle is a stockbroker. He deals in stocks and bonds.* □ *My aunt deals in antiques.*

death and taxes death, which is inevitable, and the payment of taxes, which is unavoidable. (A saying that emphasizes the rigor with which taxes are collected.) □ *There is nothing as certain on this old planet as death and taxes.* □ *Max said he could get out of anything except death and taxes.*

death on someone or something **1.** very effective in acting against someone or something. □ *This road is terribly bumpy. It's death on tires.* □ *The sergeant is death on lazy soldiers.* **2.** [with something] accurate or deadly at doing something requiring skill or great effort. □ *John is death on curve balls. He's our best pitcher.* □ *The boxing champ is really death on those fast punches.*

decide in favor of someone or something to determine that someone or something is the winner. □ *The judge decided in favor of the defendant.* □ *I decided in favor of the red one.*

deem it (to be) necessary AND **deem that it is necessary** to believe that something is necessary. □ *Mary deemed that it was necessary to leave town that night.* □ *Lisa deemed it necessary to go home.*

deem that it is necessary Go to deem it (to be) necessary.

deep-six someone or something to get rid of someone or something; to dispose of someone or something. (Slang. To bury someone or something six feet deep, the standard depth for a grave.) □ *Take this horrible food out and deep-six it.* □ *That guy is a pain. Deep-six him so the cops will never find him.*

[deepest sympathy] Go to one's deepest sympathy.

a **den of iniquity** a place filled with wickedness. □ *The town was a den of iniquity and vice was everywhere.* □ *Police raided the gambling house, calling it a den of iniquity.*

desert a sinking ship AND **leave a sinking ship** to leave a place, a person, or a situation when things become difficult or unpleasant. (Rats are said to be the first to leave a ship that is sinking.) □ *I hate to be the one to desert a sinking ship, but I can't stand it around here anymore.* □ *There goes Tom. Wouldn't you know he'd leave a sinking ship rather than stay around and try to help?*

devil-may-care attitude AND **devil-may-care manner** a very casual attitude; a worry-free or carefree attitude. □ *You must get rid of your devil-may-care attitude if you want to succeed.* □ *She acts so thoughtlessly with her devil-may-care manner.*

devil-may-care manner Go to devil-may-care attitude.

a **devil of a job** AND the **devil's own job** the most difficult task. (Informal.) □ *We had a devil of a job fixing the car.* □ *It was the devil's own job finding a hotel with vacancies.*

the **devil's own job** Go to devil of a job.

a **diamond in the rough** a valuable or potentially excellent person or thing hidden by an unpolished or rough exterior. □ *Ann looks like a stupid woman, but she's a fine person—a real diamond in the rough.* □ *That piece of property is a dia-*

mond in the rough. Someday it will be valuable.

die a natural death 1. [for someone] to die by disease or old age rather than by violence or foul play. □ *I hope to live to 100 and die a natural death.* □ *The police say she didn't die a natural death, and they are investigating.* **2.** [for something] to fade away or die down. □ *I expect that all this excitement about computers will die a natural death.* □ *Most fads die a natural death.*

die in one's boots AND **die with one's boots on** to go down fighting; to die in some fashion other than in bed; to die fighting. (A cliché popularized by western movies. The villains of these movies said they preferred death by gunshot or hanging to dying in bed. See also **go down fighting**.) □ *I won't let him get me. I'll die in my boots.* □ *He may give me a hard time, but I won't be overcome. I'll fight him and die with my boots on.*

The **die is cast**. some process is past the point of no return. (This **die** is one of a pair of dice. This **cast** means "thrown.") □ *After that speech favoring reform of the education system, the die is cast. This is now a campaign issue.* □ *The die is cast. There is no turning back on this point.*

die laughing 1. to meet one's death laughing—in good spirits, revenge, or irony. □ *Sally is such an optimist that she'll probably die laughing.* □ *Bob tried to poison his rich aunt, who then died laughing because she had taken Bob out of her will.* **2.** to laugh very long and hard. (Informal.) □ *The joke was so funny that I almost died laughing.* □ *The play was meant to be funny, but the audience didn't exactly die laughing.*

die of a broken heart 1. to die of emotional distress. □ *I was not surprised to hear of her death. They say she died of a broken heart.* □ *In the movie, the heroine appeared to die of a broken heart, but the audience knew she was poisoned.* **2.** to suffer from emotional distress, especially from a failed romance. □ *Tom and Mary broke off their romance and both died of*

broken hearts. □ *Please don't leave me. I know I'll die of a broken heart.*

die of boredom to suffer from boredom; to be very bored. □ *No one has ever really died of boredom.* □ *We sat there and listened politely, even though we almost died of boredom.*

die on someone 1. [for someone] to die while in someone's care. □ *The ambulance driver didn't want his patient to die on him.* □ *"Come on, don't die on me!" cried the emergency room doctor.* **2.** [for something, such as a car engine] to stop running while one is using it. □ *My car just died on me.* □ *His computer keeps dying on him.*

die on the vine Go to wither on the vine.

die with one's boots on Go to die in one's boots.

different as night and day Go to (as) different as night and day.

dig in 1. to eat a meal; to begin eating a meal. (Informal. See also **Come and get it!**) □ *Dinner's ready, Tom. Sit down and dig in.* □ *The cowboy helped himself to some beans and dug in.* **2.** to apply oneself to a task; to tackle (something) vigorously. □ *Sally looked at the big job ahead of her. Then she rolled up her sleeves and dug in.* □ *"Tom," hollered Mrs. Smith, "you get to that pile of homework and dig in this very minute."*

dig one's heels in to refuse to alter one's course of action or opinions; to be obstinate or determined. □ *The student dug her heels in and refused to obey the instructions.* □ *I'm digging in my heels. I'm not going back.*

dig one's own grave to be responsible for one's own downfall or ruin. □ *The manager tried to get rid of his assistant, but he dug his own grave. He got fired himself for trying.* □ *The committee has dug its own grave with the new tax bill.*

dig some dirt up on someone to find out something bad about someone. (Informal.) □ *If you don't stop trying to dig some dirt up on me, I'll get a lawyer and sue you.* □ *The citizens' group dug up*

some dirt on the mayor and used it against her at election time.

dig someone or something to understand something; to relate to a person or a thing. (Slang.) □ *I really dig Tom. He's a special guy.* □ *I really dig rock music.*

dig someone or something **up** to go to great effort to find someone or something. (There is an implication that the thing or person dug up is not the most desirable, but is all that could be found.) □ *Mary dug a date up for the dance next Friday.* □ *I dug up a recipe for roast pork with pineapple.* □ *I dug up a carpenter who doesn't charge very much.*

dig something **out** to work hard to locate something and bring it forth. (Also literal.) □ *They dug the contract out of the file cabinet.* □ *I dug this old suit out of a box in the attic.* □ *I dug out an old dress and wore it to the fifties party.*

a **dime a dozen** abundant; cheap and common. (Also literal.) □ *People who can write good books are not a dime a dozen.* □ *Romantic movies are a dime a dozen.*

dine out Go to eat (a meal) out.

dip in(to something) to take or borrow from a supply of something, especially a supply of money. (Also literal.) □ *I had to dip into my savings account to pay for the car.* □ *I hate to dip in like that.* □ *She put out her hand and dipped into the chocolate box.*

dirt cheap extremely cheap. (Informal.) □ *Buy some more of those plums. They're dirt cheap.* □ *In Italy, the peaches are dirt cheap.*

dirty old man an older man who is excessively interested in sex. □ *Tell your daughter to stay away from him. He's a dirty old man and might attack her.* □ *There were several dirty old men looking at pornographic magazines in the park.*

dirty one's hands Go to get one's hands dirty.

dirty work 1. unpleasant or uninteresting work. □ *My boss does all the traveling. I get all the dirty work to do.* □ *She's tired of doing all the dirty work at the office.* 2.

dishonest or underhanded actions; treachery. □ *She knew there was some dirty work going on when she saw her opponents whispering together.* □ *The company seems respectable enough, but there's a lot of dirty work that goes on.*

divide and conquer to cause the enemy to split into two or more warring factions, and then move in to conquer all of them. □ *Mary thought she could divide and conquer the board of directors, but they had survived such tactics many times, and her efforts failed.* □ *Sam led his men to divide and conquer the enemy platoon, and his strategy succeeded.*

divide something **fifty-fifty** AND **split** something **fifty-fifty** to divide something into two equal parts. (Informal. Each **fifty** means 50 percent.) □ *Tommy and Billy divided the candy fifty-fifty.* □ *The robbers split the money fifty-fifty.*

do a double take to react with surprise; to have to look twice to make sure that one really saw correctly. (Informal.) □ *When the boy led a goat into the park, everyone did a double take.* □ *When the nurse saw that the man had six toes, she did a double take.*

do a flip-flop (on something) AND **do an about-face** to make a sudden reversal of opinion. (Informal or slang.) □ *Without warning, the government did a flip-flop on taxation.* □ *It had done an about-face on the question of deductions last year.*

do a job on someone or something 1. to damage someone or something; to mess up someone or something. (Informal or slang.) □ *The robbers really did a job on the bank guard. They beat him when they robbed the bank.* □ *The puppy did a job on my shoes. They are all chewed to pieces.* 2. [with something] to defecate on something. (Informal and euphemistic. Note the variation in the second example.) □ *The puppy did a job on the living-room carpet.* □ *It's supposed to do its job on the newspapers in the basement.*

do a land-office business to do a large amount of business in a short period of time. □ *The ice cream shop always does a*

land-office business on a hot day. □ *The tax collector's office did a land-office business on the day that taxes were due.*

do an about-face Go to do a flip-flop (on something).

do an errand Go to run an errand.

do a number on someone or something to damage or harm someone or something. (Slang.) □ *The teacher did a number on the whole class. That test was terrible.* □ *Tom did a number on Mary when he went out with Ann.*

do a snow job on someone to deceive or confuse someone. (Informal or slang.) □ *Tom did a snow job on the teacher when he said that he was sick yesterday.* □ *I hate it when someone does a snow job on me. I find it harder and harder to trust people.*

do away with someone or something **1.** [with someone] to kill someone; to dispose of someone or something. □ *The crooks did away with the witness.* □ *I was there, too. I hope they don't try to do away with me.* **2.** [with something] to get rid of something; to dispose of something. □ *This chemical will do away with the stain in your sink.* □ *The time has come to do away with that old building.*

do credit to someone **AND** **do** someone **credit** to add to the reputation of someone. □ *Your new job really does credit to you.* □ *Yes, it really does you credit.*

Do I need to paint you a picture? It is so very simple, so why do you require more explanation to understand it? □ *What is so difficult? Do I need to paint you a picture?* □ *I've explained it every way I can. Do I need to paint you a picture?*

do justice to something **1.** to do something well; to represent or portray something accurately. □ *Sally did justice to the contract negotiations.* □ *This photograph doesn't do justice to the beauty of the mountains.* **2.** to eat or drink a great deal. □ *Bill always does justice to the turkey on Thanksgiving.* □ *The party didn't do justice to the roast pig. There were nearly ten pounds left over.*

do not have a care in the world being free and casual; being unworried and carefree. (*Do not have* can be replaced with *be without*.) □ *I really feel good today—as if I didn't have a care in the world.* □ *Ann always acts as if she doesn't have a care in the world.*

do not have a leg to stand on [for an argument or a case] to have no support. (Informal. *Do not have* can be replaced with *be without*.) □ *You may think you're in the right, but you don't have a leg to stand on.* □ *My lawyer said I didn't have a leg to stand on, so I shouldn't sue the company.*

do not have all one's marbles do not have all one's mental capacities. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *John acts as if he doesn't have all his marbles.* □ *I'm afraid that I don't have all my marbles all the time.*

do one's bit Go to **do one's part**.

do one's duty to do one's job; to do what is expected of one. □ *Please don't thank me. I'm just doing my duty.* □ *Soldiers who fight in wars are doing their duty.*

do oneself proud [for one] to make oneself proud. (Folksy. See also **do credit to** someone.) □ *Well, Bill really did himself proud in the horse race.* □ *You did yourself proud by raising that fine-looking, prizewinning hog.*

do one's (level) best to do (something) as well as one can. □ *Just do your level best. That's all we can ask of you.* □ *Tom isn't doing his best. We may have to replace him.*

do one's (own) thing to do what one likes or what one pleases. (Informal or slang.) □ *Tom doesn't like being told what to do. He prefers to do his own thing.* □ *When you do your thing, you have no one but yourself to blame if things don't work out.*

do one's part **AND** **do one's bit** to do one's share of the work; to do whatever one can do to help. □ *All people everywhere must do their part to help get things under control.* □ *I always try to do my bit. How can I help this time?*

do or die to do something or die trying. (Refers to an attitude adopted when one must do something whether one wants to or not. Occurs as a noun or an adjective.)

□ *It was do or die. There was no turning back now.* □ *He simply had to get to the airport on time. It was a case of do or die.*

do so Go to do too.

do somehow by someone to treat someone in a particular manner. (Informal. Do not confuse this with a passive construction. The *someone* is not the actor but the object.) □ *Tom did all right by Ann when he brought her red roses.* □ *I did badly by Tom. I fired him.*

do someone a good turn to do something that is helpful to someone. □ *My neighbor did me a good turn by lending me his car.* □ *The teacher did me a good turn when he told me to work harder.*

do someone a kindness to do a kind deed for a person. □ *My neighbor did me a kindness when he cut my grass.* □ *I am always happy to have the opportunity of doing someone a kindness.*

do someone credit Go to do credit to someone.

do someone damage to harm someone. (Informal.) □ *I hope she doesn't plan to do me damage.* □ *They did us damage by telling the whole story to the newspapers.*

do someone good to benefit someone. (Informal.) □ *A nice hot bath really does me good.* □ *A few years in the army would do you good.*

do someone one better Go to go someone one better.

do someone or something in **1.** [with *someone*] to make someone tired. □ *That tennis game really did me in.* □ *Yes, hard activity will do you in.* **2.** [with *someone*] to cheat someone; to take someone in. □ *The crooks did the widow in.* ☐ *They did in the widow by talking her into giving them all the money in her bank account.* **3.** [with *someone*] to kill someone. ☐ *The crooks did in the bank guard.* ☐ *They'll probably do in the witnesses soon.* **4.** [with *something*] to destroy something. ☐ *The*

huge waves totally did in the seaside community. □ *The fire did the wooden building in.*

do someone or something over **AND** **make someone or something over** **1.** [with *someone*] to buy a new wardrobe for someone; to redo someone's hair. (See also **make a fuss** (over someone or something).) □ *Sally's mother did Sally over for the play tryouts.*

□ *It's very expensive to do a person over completely.* □ *The designer did Sally over completely.* **2.** [with *something*] to rebuild, redesign, or redecorate something. □ *We did our living room over for the holidays.* ☐ *We made over the family room because it was looking shabby.*

do someone out of something to cheat someone out of something. (Informal or slang.) □ *They did the widow out of her life savings.* □ *I won't let anyone do me out of anything. I'm a very cautious and suspicious person.*

do someone's bidding to do what is requested by someone. □ *The servant grumbled but did his employer's bidding.* □ *Am I expected to do your bidding whenever you ask?*

do someone's heart good to make someone feel good emotionally. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *It does my heart good to hear you talk that way.* □ *When she sent me a get-well card, it really did my heart good.*

do something by hand to do something with one's hands rather than with a machine. □ *The computer was broken so I had to do the calculations by hand.* □ *All this tiny stitching was done by hand. Machines cannot do this kind of work.*

do something fair and square to do something fairly. (Folksy. See also **fair and square**.) □ *He always plays the game fair and square.* □ *I try to treat all people fair and square.*

do something for a living to do some kind of work to earn enough money to live. □ *John paints houses for a living.* □ *What do you do for a living?*

do something hands down to do something easily and without opposition. □ *The mayor won the election hands down.* □

She was the choice of the people hands down.

do something in a heartbeat to do something almost immediately. ☐ *If I had the money, I would go back to college in a heartbeat.* ☐ *Just tell me that you need me and I'll come there in a heartbeat.*

do something in person to appear somewhere and do something oneself rather than sending someone else or doing it over the telephone, or by mail. ☐ *I know the money should be in his account. I saw him put it there in person.* ☐ *The famous actor came to the hospital and greeted each patient in person.*

do something in public to do something where anyone looking could see it. ☐ *You should dress neatly when you appear in public.* ☐ *I wish that you wouldn't talk to me so rudely in public.* ☐ *Bob, you must behave properly in public.*

do something in secret to do something privately or secretly. ☐ *Why do you always do things like that in secret?* ☐ *There is no need to count your money in secret.*

do something in vain to do something with no result; to do something that fails. ☐ *They rushed her to the hospital, but they did it in vain.* ☐ *We tried in vain to get her there on time.*

do something on the fly to do something while one is moving; to do something (to something that is in motion). (Slang. This has nothing to do with actual flight.) ☐ *We can't stop the machine to oil it now. You'll have to do it on the fly.* ☐ *We will have to find the break in the film on the fly—while we are showing it.*

do something on the run to do something while one is moving hurriedly; to do something while one is going rapidly from one place to another. (Informal.) ☐ *I was very busy today and had to eat on the run.* ☐ *I didn't have time to meet with Bill, but I was able to talk to him on the run.*

do something on the sly to do something slyly or sneakily. (Informal.) ☐ *He was seeing Mrs. Smith on the sly.* ☐ *She was*

supposed to be losing weight, but she was snacking on the sly.

do something over (again) to redo something; to repeat the doing of something. ☐ *This isn't right. You'll have to do it over again.* ☐ *The teacher made me do my paper over.*

do something the hard way **1.** to accomplish something in the most difficult manner, rather than by an easier way. ☐ *I made it to this job the hard way. I came up through the ranks.* ☐ *She did it the hard way. She had no help from her parents.* **2.** to do something the wrong way. ☐ *No, you can't pound in nails like that. You're doing it the hard way.* ☐ *I'm sorry. I learn things the hard way.*

do something to excess to do too much of something; to consume too much of something. ☐ *Anne often drinks to excess at parties.* ☐ *John smokes to excess when he works.*

do something up to repair or redecorate something. ☐ *If we're going to sell the house, we'll have to do it up.* ☒ *I'm going to do up the kitchen.*

do something up brown to do something just right. (Folksy. Refers to cooking something until it has just the right amount of brownish color.) ☐ *Of course I can do it right. I'll really do it up brown.* ☐ *Come on, Bob. Let's do it right this time. I know you can do it up brown.*

do something with a vengeance to do something with vigor; to do something energetically as if one were angry with it. (Folksy.) ☐ *Bob is building that fence with a vengeance.* ☐ *Mary is really weeding her garden with a vengeance.*

do the dishes to wash and dry dishes, glasses, cups, knives, forks, etc., after a meal. ☐ *Bill, you cannot go out and play until you've done the dishes.* ☐ *Why am I always the one who has to do the dishes?*

do the honors to act as host or hostess and serve one's guests by pouring drinks, slicing meat, making (drinking) toasts, etc. ☐ *All the guests were seated, and a huge, juicy turkey sat on the table. Jane Thomas turned to her husband and said, "Bob, will*

you do the honors?" Mr. Jones smiled and began slicing thick slices of meat from the turkey. □ The mayor stood up and addressed the people who were still eating their salads. "I'm delighted to do the honors this evening and propose a toast to your friend and mine, Bill Jones. Bill, good luck and best wishes in your new job in Washington." And everyone sipped a bit of wine.

do the trick to do exactly what needs to be done. (Folksy.) □ *Push it just a little more to the left. There, that does the trick.* □ *If you lend me five dollars, I'll have enough to do the trick.*

do too AND **do so** to do something (despite anything to the contrary). (An emphatic way of saying *do*. See also **be too**, **have too**.) □ *BOB: You don't have your money with you. BILL: I do too!* □ *He does so! I saw him put it in his pocket.* □ *She did too. I saw her do it.*

do without (someone or something) to manage to get through life without someone or something that you want or need. □ *I guess I'll just have to do without a car.* □ *I don't know how I can do without.* □ *The boss can't do without a secretary.*

Do you read me? Do you understand what I am telling you? (Typically asked of someone receiving a radio communication, such as from an airplane or an airport control tower. Also used as an emphatic way of asking if one is understood.) □ *This is Delta heavy 54. Do you read me?* □ *I have said no twenty times already! The answer is still no! Do you read me?*

dog and pony show a display, demonstration, or exhibition of something—such as something one is selling. (Refers to a circus act where trained dogs leap onto and off of trained ponies, in exactly the same sequence each time the show is performed.) □ *Gary was there with his dog and pony show, trying to sell his ideas to whomever would listen to him.* □ *Don't you get tired of running through the same old dog and pony show, week after week?*

dog-eat-dog a situation in which one has to act ruthlessly in order to survive or

succeed; ruthless competition. □ *It is dog-eat-dog in the world of business these days.* □ *Universities are not quiet peaceful places. It's dog-eat-dog to get a promotion.*

dog in the manger one who prevents other people from doing or having what one does not wish them to do or have. (From one of Aesop's fables in which a dog—which cannot eat hay—lay in the hayrack [manger] and prevented the other animals from eating the hay.) □ *Jane is a real dog in the manger. She cannot drive, but she will not lend anyone her car.* □ *If Martin were not such a dog in the manger, he would let his brother have that dinner jacket he never wears.*

dollar for dollar considering the amount of money involved; considering the cost. (Informal. Often seen in advertising.) □ *Dollar for dollar, you cannot buy a better car.* □ *Dollar for dollar, this laundry detergent washes cleaner and brighter than any other product on the market.*

done in tired; exhausted; terminated; killed. □ *I am really done in after all that exercise.* □ *The project was done in by a vote of the board.* □ *The witness was afraid he would be done in by the mobsters.*

done to a T AND **done to a turn** cooked just right. (Folksy. See also **fit someone to a T**; **suit someone to a T**.) □ *Yummy! This meat is done to a T.* □ *I like it done to a turn, not too done and not too raw.*

done to a turn Go to **done to a T**.

Don't hold your breath. Do not stop breathing (while waiting a long time for something to happen). (Informal.) □ *You think he'll get a job? Ha! Don't hold your breath. I'll finish building the fence as soon as I have time, but don't hold your breath.*

Don't let it go any further. AND **Don't let it out of this room.** Don't tell this secret to anyone else. (Also literal.) □ *This is a strict secret. Don't let it go any further.* □ *I'll tell you what you what to know, but don't let it go any further.*

Don't let it out of this room Go to **Don't let it go any further**.

Don't let someone or something **get you down**. Do not allow yourself to be overcome by someone or something. □ *Don't let their constant teasing get you down.* □ *Don't let Tom get you down. He's not always unpleasant.*

Don't quit your day job. You are not very good at what you are doing, so don't quit your regular job in hopes that you can support yourself doing this. □ *I saw your comedy act at the nightclub. Don't quit your day job!* □ *So, you laid the bricks in this wall. Well, don't quit your day job.*

doomed to failure certain to fail, usually because of some obvious flaw. □ *This project was doomed to failure from the very beginning.* □ *The play is doomed to failure because there is not a good story line.*

door-to-door 1. having to do with movement from one door to another or from one house to another. (See also **from door to door**.) □ *John is a door-to-door salesman.* □ *We spent two weeks making a door-to-door survey.* **2.** by moving from one door to another or one house to another. □ *Anne is selling books door-to-door.* □ *We went door-to-door, collecting money.*

a dose of one's own medicine the same kind of treatment that one gives to other people. (Often with *get* or *have*.) □ *Sally never is very friendly. Someone is going to give her a dose of her own medicine someday.* □ *He didn't like getting a dose of his own medicine.*

double back (on someone or something) [for a person or animal] to reverse motion, moving toward someone or something rather than away from someone or something. □ *The deer doubled back on the hunter.* □ *The robber doubled back on the police, and they lost track of him.* □ *He doubled back on his trail.*

double-cross someone to betray someone by doing the opposite of what was promised; to betray a person by not doing what was promised. (Slang. Originally criminal slang.) □ *If you double-cross me again, I'll kill you.* □ *Tom is mad*

at Jane because she double-crossed him on the sale of his car.

double in brass to serve two purposes; to be useful for two different things. (Refers to a musician who can play a trumpet or trombone, etc., in addition to some other instrument.) □ *The English teacher also doubles in brass as the football coach.* □ *The drummer doubles in brass as a violinist.*

double up (with someone) to share something with someone. □ *We don't have enough books. Tom, will you double up with Jane?* □ *When we get more books, we won't have to double up anymore.* □ *We'll share hotel rooms to save money. Tom and Bill will double up.*

doubting Thomas someone who will not easily believe something without strong proof or evidence. (From the Bible.) □ *Mary won't believe that I have a dog until she sees him. She's such a doubting Thomas.* □ *This school is full of doubting Thomases. They want to see Jimmy's new bike with their own eyes.*

down-and-dirty sneaky, unfair, low-down, and nasty. (Slang.) □ *The boys played a real down-and-dirty trick on the teacher.* □ *A political campaign provides a lot of down-and-dirty speeches that only confuse the voters.*

down-and-out having no money or means of support. □ *There are many young people down-and-out in Los Angeles just now.* □ *John gambled away all his fortune and is now completely down-and-out.*

down-at-the-heels shabby; poorly dressed. (Refers to shoes that are worn down at the heels.) □ *The hobo was really down-at-the-heels.* □ *Tom's house needs paint. It looks down-at-the-heels.*

down by some amount having a score that is lower, by the specified amount, than someone else's score or the other team's score. □ *At halftime, the home team was down by 14 points.* □ *Down by one run, the team scored two runs in the ninth inning and won the game.*

down for the count finished for the time being. (From boxing, where a fallen

fighter remains down [resting] until the last count, or even beyond.) □ *After the professor rebuked me in class, I knew I was down for the count.* □ *I am down for the count, but I'll try again tomorrow.*

down in the dumps sad or depressed. (Informal.) □ *I've been down in the dumps for the past few days.* □ *Try to cheer Jane up. She's down in the dumps for some reason.*

down in the mouth sad-faced; depressed and unsmiling. □ *Since her dog died, Barbara has been down in the mouth.* □ *Bob has been down in the mouth since the car wreck.*

down on one's luck without any money; unlucky. (Euphemistic for *broke*.) □ *Can you lend me twenty dollars? I've been down on my luck lately.* □ *The gambler had to get a job because he had been down on his luck and didn't earn enough money to live on.*

down on someone or something against someone or something; negative about someone or something. □ *I've been down on red meat lately. It's better to eat chicken or fish.* □ *The teacher was down on Tom because he's always talking in class.*

down South to or in the southeastern United States. (See also **back East**; **out West**; **up North**.) □ *I used to live down South.* □ *We are going down South for the winter.*

down the drain lost forever; wasted. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *I just hate to see all that money go down the drain.* □ *Well, there goes the whole project, right down the drain.*

down the hatch [to] swallow (something). (Informal or slang. Sometimes said when someone takes a drink of alcohol.) □ *Come on, Billy. Eat your dinner. Down the hatch!* □ *John raised his glass of beer and said, "Down the hatch."*

down the street a short distance away on this same street. □ *Sally lives just down the street.* □ *There is a drugstore down the street. It's very convenient.*

down the tubes ruined; wasted. (Slang.) □ *His political career went down the tubes after the scandal. He's lost his job.* □ *The business went down the tubes.*

down-to-earth 1. direct, frank, and honest. □ *You can depend on Ann. She's very down-to-earth.* □ *It's good that she's down-to-earth and will give us a frank response.* **2.** practical; not theoretical; not fanciful. □ *Her ideas for the boutique are always very down-to-earth.* □ *The committee's plans for the village are anything but down-to-earth.*

down to the last detail considering all of the details. □ *Jean planned the party very carefully, down to the last detail.* □ *Mary wanted to be in charge of everything right down to the last detail.*

down to the wire at the very last minute; up to the very last instant. (Refers to a wire that marks the end of a horse race.) □ *I have to turn this in tomorrow, and I'll be working down to the wire.* □ *When we get down to the wire, we'll know better what to do.*

down with some disease ill; sick at home. (Can be said about many diseases.) □ *Tom isn't here. He's down with a cold.* □ *Sally is down with the flu.* □ *The whole office has come down with something.*

downhill all the way easy all the way. (Informal.) □ *Don't worry about your algebra course. It's downhill all the way.* □ *The mayor said that the job of mayor is easy—in fact, downhill all the way.*

downhill from here on easy from this point on. (Informal.) □ *The worst part is over. It's downhill from here on.* □ *The painful part of this procedure is over. It's downhill from here on.*

drag one's feet to act very slowly, often deliberately. □ *The government is dragging its feet on this bill because it costs too much.* □ *If the planning department had not dragged their feet, the building would have been built by now.*

a **drag (on someone)** a burden to someone; a bore. (Slang. Preceded by *be*, *become*, *seem like*, or *act like*.) □ *Mr. Franklin*

seems like a drag on Mrs. Franklin. □ *Yes, I'd expect him to be a drag.*

draw a bead on someone or something to aim at someone or something; to pick out someone or something for special treatment. (Informal.) □ *Ann wants a new car, and she has drawn a bead on a red convertible.* □ *Jane wants to get married, and she has drawn a bead on Tom.*

draw a blank 1. to get no response; to find nothing. □ *I asked him about Tom's financial problems, and I just drew a blank.* □ *We looked in the files for an hour, but we drew a blank.* **2.** to fail to remember (something). □ *I tried to remember her telephone number, but I could only draw a blank.* □ *It was a very hard test with just one question to answer, and I drew a blank.*

draw a line between something and something **else** AND **draw the line between** something and something **else** to separate two things; to distinguish or differentiate between two things. (See also **draw the line (at something)**.) □ *It's necessary to draw a line between bumping into people and striking them.* □ *It's very hard to draw the line between slamming a door and just closing it loudly.*

draw blood 1. to make a wound that bleeds. □ *The dog chased me and bit me hard, but it didn't draw blood.* □ *The boxer landed just one punch and drew blood immediately.* **2.** to anger or insult a person. □ *Sally screamed out a terrible insult at Tom. Judging by the look on his face, she really drew blood.* □ *Tom started yelling and cursing, trying to insult Sally. He wouldn't be satisfied until he had drawn blood, too.*

draw interest 1. to appear interesting and get (someone's) attention. (Note the variation in the examples below.) □ *This kind of event isn't likely to draw a lot of interest.* □ *What kind of thing will draw interest?* **2.** [for money] to earn interest while on deposit. □ *Put your money in the bank so it will draw interest.* □ *The cash value of some insurance policies also draws interest.*

draw lots AND **draw straws** to choose from a group of things to determine who will do something. (Typically, to choose a straw from a bundle of straws. The person with the shortest straw is selected.) □ *We drew lots to decide who would wash the dishes.* □ *The players drew straws to determine who would go first.*

draw someone or something out 1. [with someone] to coax someone to speak or answer; to bring someone into a conversation or other social interaction. □ *Jane is usually very shy with older men, but Tom really drew her out last evening.* □ *John drew out Mr. Smith on the question of tax increases.* **2.** [with something] to make something longer in length or time. □ *Jane drew out the conversation for more than twenty minutes.* □ *Bill drew the taffy candy out into a long string.*

draw (someone's) fire (away from someone or something) to make oneself a target in order to protect someone or something. (Refers to gunfire.) □ *The mother bird drew fire away from her chicks.* □ *The hen drew the hunter's fire away from her nest.* □ *Birds draw fire by flapping their wings to get attention.* □ *The president drew fire away from Congress by proposing a compromise.*

draw something to a close to make something end. □ *It is now time to draw this evening to a close.* □ *What a lovely vacation. It's a shame that we must draw it to a close.*

draw something up to put something into writing; to prepare a written document; to put plans on paper. (Used especially with legal documents prepared by a lawyer.) □ *You should draw a will up as soon as you can.* □ *I went to see my lawyer this morning about drawing up a will.* □ *The architect is drawing up plans for the new city hall.*

draw straws Go to draw lots.

draw the line (at something) to set a limit at something; to decide when a limit has been reached. (See also **hold the line (at someone or something)**.) □ *You can make as much noise as you want, but I draw the*

line at fighting. □ *It's hard to keep young people under control, but you have to draw the line somewhere.*

draw the line between something and something else Go to draw a line between something and something else.

draw to a close to end; to come to an end. □ *This evening is drawing to a close.* □ *It's a shame that our vacation is drawing to a close.*

drawn and quartered dealt with very severely. (Refers to a practice of torturing someone guilty of treason, usually a male, by disemboweling and dividing the body into four parts.) □ *Todd was practically drawn and quartered for losing the Wilson contract.* □ *You were much too harsh with Jean. No matter what she did, she didn't need to be drawn and quartered for it!*

a **dream come true** a wish or a dream that has become real. □ *Going to Hawaii is like a dream come true.* □ *Having you for a friend is a dream come true.*

Dream on. What you are expecting or wanting to happen is nothing but fantasy, so enjoy yourself and create as many fantasies as you want. □ *You want to get promoted to general manager? Dream on.* □ *You, an opera singer? Dream on.*

redge something up Go to rake something up.

dress someone down to bawl someone out; to give someone a good scolding. (Primarily military.) □ *The sergeant dressed the soldier down severely.* □ *I know they'll dress me down when I get home.*

dressed to kill dressed in fancy or stylish clothes. (Slang.) □ *Wow, look at Sally! She's really dressed to kill.* □ *A person doesn't go to church dressed to kill.*

dressed to the nines dressed very well. (What *nines* means is not known.) □ *Tom showed up at the dance dressed to the nines.* □ *Sally is even dressed to the nines at the office.*

dribs and drabs in small irregular quantities. (Especially with *in* and *by*.) □ *The checks for the charity are coming in in dribs and drabs.* □ *The members of the or-*

chestra arrived by dribs and drabs. □ *All her fortune was spent in dribs and drabs on silly things—like clothes and fine wines.*

drink to excess to drink too much alcohol; to drink alcohol continually. □ *Mr. Franklin drinks to excess.* □ *Some people drink to excess only at parties.*

drive a hard bargain to work hard to negotiate prices or agreements in one's own favor. (Informal.) □ *I saved \$200 by driving a hard bargain when I bought my new car.* □ *All right, sir, you drive a hard bargain. I'll sell you this car for \$12,450.* □ *You drive a hard bargain, Jane, but I'll sign the contract.*

drive at something to be making a point; to be approaching the making of a point. □ *I do not understand what you are telling me. What are you driving at?* □ *She was driving at how important it is to get an education.*

drive someone crazy AND **drive someone mad** 1. to make someone insane. □ *He's so strange that he actually drove his wife crazy.* □ *Doctor, there are little green people following me around trying to drive me mad.* 2. to annoy or irritate someone. □ *This itch is driving me crazy.* □ *All these telephone calls are driving me mad.*

drive someone mad Go to drive someone crazy.

drive someone out (of office) Go to force someone out (of office).

drive someone to the wall Go to force someone to the wall.

drive someone up the wall 1. to make someone insane. (Slang.) □ *Mr. Franklin drove his wife up the wall.* □ *All my problems will drive me up the wall someday.* 2. to annoy or irritate someone. (Slang.) □ *Stop whistling that tune. You're driving me up the wall.* □ *All his talk about moving to California nearly drove me up the wall.*

drive something home to make something clearly understood. (Also literal.) □ *Why do I always have to shout at you to drive something home?* □ *Sometimes you have to be forceful to drive home a point.*

drive something **into the ground** Go to run something **into the ground**.

driving force (behind someone or something) a person or a thing that motivates or directs someone or something. ☐ *Money is the driving force behind most businesses.* ☐ *Ambition is the driving force behind Tom.* ☐ *Love can also be a driving force.*

drop a bomb(shell) AND **explode a bombshell; drop a brick** to announce shocking or startling news. (Also literal for *bomb* and *brick*. Informal or slang.) ☐ *They really dropped a bombshell when they announced that the mayor had cancer.* ☐ *Friday is a good day to drop a bomb like that. It gives the business world the weekend to recover.* ☐ *They must speak very carefully when they explode a bombshell like that.* ☐ *They really dropped a brick when they told the cause of her illness.*

drop a brick Go to drop a bomb(shell).

drop around (sometime) AND **drop by (sometime)** to come and visit at some future time. (Similar to **drop in (on someone)**.) ☐ *Nice to see you, Mary. You and Bob must drop around sometime.* ☐ *Please do drop around when you're out driving.* ☐ *We'd love to have you drop by.*

drop by (sometime) Go to drop around (sometime).

drop by the wayside Go to fall by the wayside.

drop dead 1. to die suddenly. ☐ *I understand that Tom Anderson dropped dead at his desk yesterday.* ☐ *No one knows why Uncle Bob suddenly dropped dead.* **2.** Go away and stop bothering me. (Rude slang.) ☐ *If you think I'm going to put up with your rudeness all afternoon, you can just drop dead!* ☐ *Drop dead! I'm not your slave!*

drop everything to stop doing whatever one is doing. ☐ *Drop everything and go outside. The house is on fire.* ☐ *Do you expect me to drop everything and come and pick you up at school?*

drop in one's tracks to stop or collapse from exhaustion; to die suddenly. ☐ *If I*

keep working this way, I'll drop in my tracks. ☐ *Uncle Bob was working in the garden and dropped in his tracks. We are all sorry that he's dead.*

drop in (on someone) AND **drop in (to say hello)** to pay someone a casual visit, perhaps a surprise visit. ☐ *I hate to drop in on people when they aren't expecting me.* ☐ *You're welcome to drop in at any time.* ☐ *We won't stay a minute. We just dropped in to say hello.*

a drop in the bucket Go to a drop in the ocean.

a drop in the ocean AND **a drop in the bucket** just a little bit; not enough of something to make a difference. ☐ *But one dollar isn't enough! That's just a drop in the ocean.* ☐ *At this point your help is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. I need far more help than twenty people could give.* ☐ *I won't accept your offer. It's just a drop in the bucket.*

drop in (to say hello) Go to drop in (on someone).

drop names to mention the names of important or famous people as if they were personal friends. ☐ *Mary always tries to impress people by dropping the names of well-known film stars.* ☐ *Bill's such a snob. Leave it to him to drop the names of all the local gentry.*

drop off (to sleep) to go to sleep without difficulty; to fall asleep. ☐ *I sat in the warm room for five minutes, and then I dropped off to sleep.* ☐ *After I've eaten dinner, I can drop off with no trouble at all.*

drop out (of something) to stop being a member of something; to stop attending or participating in something. (Also literal.) ☐ *I'm working part time so that I won't have to drop out of college.* ☐ *I don't want to drop out at this time.*

drop someone to stop being friends with someone, especially with one's boyfriend or girlfriend. ☐ *Bob finally dropped Jane. I don't know what he saw in her.* ☐ *I'm surprised that she didn't drop him first.*

drop someone a few lines Go to **drop** someone a line.

drop someone a line AND **drop someone a few lines** to write a letter or a note to someone. (*Line* refers to lines of writing.)
□ *I dropped Aunt Jane a line last Thanksgiving.* □ *She usually drops me a few lines around the first of the year.*

drop someone's name to mention the name of an important or famous person as if the person were a personal friend. □ *Mary always tries to impress people by dropping a well-known movie star's name.* □ *Joan is such a snob. Leave it to her to drop some social leader's name.*

drop the ball to make a blunder; to fail in some way. (Refers to dropping the ball in a ball game.) □ *Everything was going fine in the election until my campaign manager dropped the ball.* □ *You can't trust John to do the job right. He's always dropping the ball.*

drop the other shoe to do the deed that completes something; to do the expected remaining part of something. (Refers to the removal of shoes at bedtime. One shoe is dropped, and then the process is completed when the second shoe drops.)
□ *Mr. Franklin has left his wife. Soon he'll drop the other shoe and divorce her.* □ *Tommy has just failed three classes in school. We expect him to drop the other shoe and quit altogether any day now.*

drop the subject to stop talking about whatever is being talked about. □ *This is a disgusting conversation. Let's drop the subject.* □ *He had heard enough about my operation, so I just dropped the subject.*

drown one's sorrows Go to **drown** one's troubles.

drown one's troubles AND **drown one's sorrows** to try to forget one's problems by drinking a lot of alcohol. (Informal.)
□ *Bill is in the bar, drowning his troubles.* □ *Jane is at home, drowning her sorrows.*

drown someone or something **out** to make so much noise that someone or something cannot be heard. □ *I can't hear what you said. The radio drowned you out.* □ *We*

couldn't hear all the concert because the airplanes drowned out the quiet parts.

drug on the market on the market in great abundance; a glut on the market. □ *Right now, small computers are a drug on the market.* □ *Ten years ago, small transistor radios were a drug on the market.*

drum some business up to stimulate people to buy what you are selling. □ *I need to do something to drum some business up.* □ *A little bit of advertising would drum up some business.*

drum someone out of something to expel or send someone away from something, especially in a formal or public fashion. (From the military use of drums on such occasions.) □ *The officer was drummed out of the regiment for misconduct.* □ *I heard that he was drummed out of the country club for cheating on his golf score.*

drum something into someone's head to make someone learn something through persistent repetition. □ *Yes, I know that. They drummed it into me as a child.* □ *Now I'm drumming it into my own children.* □ *I will drum it into their heads day and night.*

drunk and disorderly a criminal charge for public drunkenness accompanied by bad or offensive behavior. □ *The judge fined Max for being drunk and disorderly.* □ *In addition to being convicted for driving while intoxicated, Max was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly.*

drunk as a lord Go to (as) drunk as a lord.

drunk as a skunk Go to (as) drunk as a lord.

dry as a bone Go to (as) dry as a bone.

dry as dust Go to (as) dry as dust.

dry run an attempt; a rehearsal. □ *We had better have a dry run for the official ceremony tomorrow.* □ *The children will need a dry run before their procession in the pageant.*

dry someone **out** to help a drunk person get sober. □ *We had to call the doctor to help dry Mr. Franklin out.* □ *It takes time to*

dry out someone who has been drinking for a week.

dry up to become silent; to stop talking. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *The young lecturer was so nervous that he forgot what he was going to say and dried up.* □ *Actors have a fear of drying up on stage.* □ *Oh, dry up! I'm sick of listening to you.*

duck and cover 1. to dodge something, such as an issue or a difficult question, and attempt to shield oneself against similar issues or questions. (Refers to ducking down and taking cover to protect oneself.) □ *The candidate's first reaction to the question was to duck and cover.* □ *The debaters were ducking and covering throughout the evening.* **2.** dodging something, such as an issue or a difficult question, and attempting to shield oneself against similar issues or questions. (Typically **duck-and-cover**.) □ *These politicians are experts at duck-and-cover.* □ *When in doubt, turn to duck-and-cover.*

dull as dishwater Go to (as) dull as dishwater.

dull as ditchwater Go to (as) dull as dishwater.

Dutch auction an auction or sale that starts off with a high asking price that is then reduced until a buyer is found. □ *Dutch auctions are rare—most auctioneers start with a lower price than they hope to obtain.* □ *My real estate agent advised me to ask a reasonable price for my house rather than get involved with a Dutch auction.*

Dutch courage unusual or artificial courage arising from the influence of alcohol. □ *It was Dutch courage that made the football fan attack the policeman.* □ *It will take a bit of Dutch courage to make an after-dinner speech.*

Dutch treat a social occasion where one pays for oneself. (See also **go Dutch**.) □ *"It's nice of you to ask me out to dinner," she said, "but could we make it a Dutch treat?"* □ *The office outing is always a Dutch treat.*

Dutch uncle a man who gives frank and direct advice to someone in the manner of a parent or relative. □ *I would not have to lecture you like a Dutch uncle if you were not so extravagant.* □ *He acts more like a Dutch uncle than a husband. He's forever telling her what to do in public.*

duty bound (to do something) forced by a sense of duty and honor to do something. □ *Good evening, madam. I'm duty bound to inform you that we have arrested your husband.* □ *No one made me say that. I was duty bound.*

dyed-in-the-wool permanent; indelible; stubborn. (Usually said of a person.) □ *My uncle was a dyed-in-the-wool farmer. He wouldn't change for anything.* □ *Sally is a dyed-in-the-wool socialist.*

dying to do something very anxious to do something. □ *I'm just dying to go sailing in your new boat.* □ *After a long hot day like this one, I'm just dying for a cool drink of water.*

E

an **eager beaver** someone who is very enthusiastic; someone who works very hard. □ *New volunteers are always eager beavers.* □ *The young assistant gets to work very early. She's a real eager beaver.*

an **eagle eye** careful attention; an intently watchful eye. (From the sharp eyesight of the eagle.) □ *The students wrote their essays under the eagle eye of the headmaster.* □ *The umpire kept his eagle eye on the tennis match.*

early bird someone who gets up or arrives early or starts something very promptly, especially someone who gains an advantage of some kind by so doing. (See also **The early bird gets the worm.**) □ *The members of the Smith family are all early birds. They caught the first bus to town.* □ *I was an early bird and got the best selection of flowers.*

The **early bird gets the worm.** The early person will get the reward or benefit. □ *Don't be late again! Don't you know that the early bird gets the worm?* □ *I'll be there before the sun is up. After all, the early bird gets the worm.*

early on early; at an early stage. □ *We recognized the problem early on, but we waited too long to do something about it.* □ *This doesn't surprise me. I knew about it early on.*

Early to bed, early to rise(, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise). Going to bed early and getting up early is good for you. (Proverb. Sometimes said to explain why a person is going to bed early. The last part of the saying is sometimes left out.) □ *Tom left the party at ten o'clock, saying, "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."* □ *I al-*

ways get up at dawn. After all, early to bed, early to rise.

earn one's keep to help out with chores in return for food and a place to live; to earn one's pay by doing what is expected. □ *I earn my keep at college by shoveling snow in the winter.* □ *Tom hardly earns his keep around here. He should be fired.*

[ears are red] Go to one's ears are red.

[ears are ringing] Go to one's ears are ringing.

ease off (on someone or something) AND ease up (on someone or something) to reduce the urgency with which one deals with someone or something; to put less pressure on someone or something. □ *Ease off on John. He has been yelled at enough today.* □ *Yes, please ease off. I can't stand any more.* □ *Tell them to ease up on the horses. They are getting tired.* □ *Tell them to ease up now! They are making the horses work too hard.*

ease up (on someone or something) Go to ease off (on someone or something).

easier said than done Go to (be) easier said than done.

easy as ABC Go to (as) easy as ABC.

easy as (apple) pie Go to (as) easy as (apple) pie.

easy as duck soup Go to (as) easy as duck soup.

easy as falling off a log Go to (as) easy as falling off a log.

easy as rolling off a log Go to (as) easy as falling off a log.

easy come, easy go <a phrase used when accepting the loss of something that re-

quired only a small amount of effort to get in the first place.> □ *Ann found twenty dollars in the morning and spent it foolishly at noon. "Easy come, easy go," she said. □ John spends his money as fast as he can earn it. With John it's easy come, easy go.*

Easy does it. Act with care. (Informal.) □ *Be careful with that glass vase. Easy does it! □ Now, now, Tom. Don't get angry. Easy does it.*

easy to come by easily found; easily purchased; readily available. □ *Please be careful with that phonograph record. It was not easy to come by. □ A good dictionary is very easy to come by.*

eat (a meal) out AND dine out to eat a meal at a restaurant. □ *I like to eat a meal out every now and then. □ Yes, it's good to eat out and try different kinds of food. □ It costs a lot of money to dine out often.*

eat and run to eat a meal or a snack and then leave. □ *Well, I hate to eat and run but I have to take care of some errands. □ I don't invite John to dinner anymore because he always has some excuse to eat and run.*

eat away at someone or something **1.** to remove parts, bit by bit. □ *John's disease was eating away at him. □ The acid in the rain slowly ate away at the stone wall. 2.* [with someone] to bother or worry someone. □ *Her failure to pass the exam was eating away at her. □ Fear of appearing in court was eating away at Tom.*

eat high on the hog to eat good or expensive food. (Folksy. Compare this with **live high on the hog**. Note the *so* in the second example. See also **live high off the hog**.) □ *The Smith family has been eating pretty high on the hog since they had a good corn harvest. □ John would have more money to spend on clothing if he didn't eat so high on the hog.*

eat humble pie 1. to act very humbly when one is shown to be wrong. □ *I think I'm right, but if I'm wrong, I'll eat humble pie. □ You think you're so smart. I hope you have to eat humble pie. 2.* to accept insults and humiliation. □ *John, stand up*

for your rights. You don't have to eat humble pie all the time. □ Beth seems quite happy to eat humble pie. She should stand up for her rights.

eat like a bird to eat only small amounts of food; to peck at one's food. □ *Jane is very slim because she eats like a bird. □ Bill is trying to lose weight by eating like a bird.*

eat like a horse to eat large amounts of food. (Informal.) □ *No wonder he's so fat. He eats like a horse. □ John works like a horse and eats like a horse, so he never gets fat.*

eat one's cake and have it too Go to have one's cake and eat it too.

eat one's hat <a phrase telling the kind of thing that one would do if a very unlikely event really happens.> (Informal. Always used with an *if*-clause.) □ *If we get there on time, I'll eat my hat. □ I'll eat my hat if you get a raise. □ He said he'd eat his hat if she got elected.*

eat one's heart out 1. to be very sad (about someone or something). □ *Bill spent a lot of time eating his heart out after his divorce. □ Sally ate her heart out when she had to sell her house. 2. to be envious (of someone or something). (Informal.) □ *Do you like my new watch? Well, eat your heart out. It was the last one in the store. □ Don't eat your heart out about my new car. Go get one of your own.**

eat one's words to have to take back one's statements; to confess that one's predictions were wrong. □ *You shouldn't say that to me. I'll make you eat your words. □ John was wrong about the election and had to eat his words.*

eat out of someone's hands to do what someone else wants; to obey someone eagerly. (Often with *have*.) □ *Just wait! I'll have everyone eating out of my hands. They'll do whatever I ask. □ The president has Congress eating out of his hands. □ A lot of people are eating out of his hands.*

eat someone out Go to **chew someone out**.

eat someone out of house and home to eat a lot of food (in someone's home); to eat

all the food in the house. □ *Billy has a huge appetite. He almost eats us out of house and home.* □ *When the kids come home from college, they always eat us out of house and home.*

eat something up to enjoy, absorb, or appreciate. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *The audience loved the comedian. They ate his act up and demanded more.* □ *The children ate up Grandfather's stories. They listened to him for hours.*

ebb and flow to decrease and then increase, as with tides; a decrease followed by an increase, as with tides. □ *The fortunes of the major political parties tend to ebb and flow over time.* □ *The ebb and flow of democracy through history is a fascinating subject.*

edge someone out to remove a person from a job, office, or position, usually by beating the person in competition. □ *The vice president edged the president out during the last election.* □ *Tom edged out Bob as the new cook at the restaurant.*

egg someone on to encourage, urge, or dare someone to continue doing something, usually something unwise. □ *John wouldn't have done the dangerous experiment if his brother hadn't egged him on.* □ *The two boys kept throwing stones because the other children were egging them on.*

either feast or famine either too much (of something) or not enough (of something). (Also without *either*.) □ *This month is very dry, and last month it rained almost every day. Our weather is either feast or famine.* □ *Sometimes we are busy, and sometimes we have nothing to do. It's feast or famine.*

elbow someone out (of something) to force or pressure someone out of something, such as an office, post, or status. (Also literal when attempting to use one's elbows to move the person beside oneself away.) □ *The old head of the company was elbowed out of office by a young vice president.* □ *They tried to elbow me out, but I held on to what was mine.*

eleventh-hour decision a decision made at the last possible minute. (See also at

the eleventh hour.) □ *Eleventh-hour decisions are seldom satisfactory.* □ *The president's eleventh-hour decision was made in a great hurry, but it turned out to be correct.*

an **end in itself** for its own sake; toward its own ends; toward no purpose but its own. □ *For Bob, art is an end in itself. He doesn't hope to make any money from it.* □ *Learning is an end in itself. Knowledge does not have to have a practical application.*

the **end of the line** Go to the end of the road.

the **end of the road** AND the **end of the line** the end; the end of the whole process; death. (*Line* originally referred to railroad tracks.) □ *Our house is at the end of the road.* □ *We rode the train to the end of the line.* □ *When we reach the end of the road on this project, we'll get paid.* □ *You've come to the end of the line. I'll not lend you another penny.* □ *When I reach the end of the road, I wish to be buried in a quiet place, near some trees.*

end something up to bring something to an end. (Informal. Also without *up*.) □ *I want you to end your game up and come in for dinner.* □ *We can't end up the game until someone scores.*

end up by doing something to conclude something by doing something. (Compare this with **end up** doing something.) □ *We ended up by going back to my house.* □ *They danced until midnight and ended up by having pizza in the front room.*

end up doing something AND **wind up** doing something to have to do something that one had not planned to do. (Compare this with **end up by** doing something.) □ *We ended up going back to my house after all.* □ *Todd wound up inviting everyone to his house, even though he planned to spend the evening at home alone.*

end up (somehow) to end something at a particular place, in a particular state, or by having to do something. (Compare this with **end up by** doing something.) □ *I ended up having to pay for everyone's dinner.* □ *After paying for dinner, I ended up*

broke. □ *We all ended up at my house.* □ *After playing in the rain, we all ended up with colds.*

end up somewhere **AND** **wind up** somewhere to finish at a certain place. □ *If you don't get straightened out, you'll end up in jail.* □ *I fell and hurt myself, and I wound up in the hospital.*

end up with the short end of the stick
Go to get the short end of the stick.

engage in small talk to talk only about minor matters rather than important or personal matters. □ *All the people at the party were engaging in small talk.* □ *They chatted about the weather and otherwise engaged in small talk.*

Enjoy your meal. <a polite phrase said by a waiter or waitress when delivering food to the table.> □ *There you go. Enjoy your meal.* □ *Do you have the medium steak? Enjoy your meal.*

Enough is enough. That is enough, and there should be no more. □ *Stop asking for money! Enough is enough!* □ *I've heard all the complaining from you that I can take. Stop! Enough is enough!*

enough to go (a)round a supply adequate to serve everyone. (Informal.) □ *Don't take too much. There's not enough to go around.* □ *I cooked some extra potatoes, so there should be enough to go around.*

enter one's mind to come to one's mind; [for an idea or memory] to come into one's consciousness. □ *Leave you behind? The thought never even entered my mind.* □ *A very interesting idea just entered my mind. What if I ran for Congress?*

enter the fray Go to join the fray.

equal to someone or something able to handle or deal with someone or something. (Also literal.) □ *I'm afraid that I'm not equal to Mrs. Smith's problem right now. Please ask her to come back later.* □ *That's a very difficult task, but I'm sure Bill is equal to it.*

escape someone's notice to go unnoticed; to be overlooked. (Usually a way to point out that someone has failed to see or respond to something.) □ *I suppose my ear-*

lier request escaped your notice, so I'm writing again. □ *I'm sorry. Your letter escaped my notice.*

even in the best of times even when things are good; even when things are going well. □ *It is hard to get high-quality leather even in the best of times.* □ *John had difficulty getting a loan even in the best of times because of his poor credit record.*

even steven even (with someone or something). (Informal or slang. Preceded by *be* or *seem*.) □ *Bill hit Tom; then Tom hit Bill. Now they are even steven.* □ *Mary paid Ann the \$100 she owed her. Ann said, "Good, we are even steven."*

ever and anon now and then; occasionally. (Literary and archaic.) □ *Ever and anon the princess would pay a visit to the sorcerer in the small walled garden directly behind the castle.* □ *We eat swan ever and anon, but not when we can get wild boar.*

Every cloud has a silver lining. There is something good in every bad thing. (Proverb.) □ *Jane was upset when she saw that all her flowers had died from the frost. But when she saw that the weeds had died too, she said, "Every cloud has a silver lining."* □ *Sally had a sore throat and had to stay home from school. When she learned she missed a math test, she said, "Every cloud has a silver lining."*

Every dog has his day Go to Every dog has its day.

Every dog has its day. **AND** **Every dog has his day.** Everyone will get a chance. (Proverb.) □ *Don't worry, you'll get chosen for the team. Every dog has its day.* □ *You may become famous someday. Every dog has his day.*

every inch a something **AND** **every inch the** something completely; in every way. □ *Mary is every inch the schoolteacher.* □ *Her father is every inch a gentleman.*

every inch the something Go to every inch a something.

every last one every one; every single one. (Informal.) □ *You must eat all your peas!*

Every last one! □ *Each of you—every last one—has to take some medicine.*

every living soul every person. (Informal.)
□ *I expect every living soul to be there and be there on time.* □ *This is the kind of problem that affects every living soul.*

every minute counts AND **every moment counts** time is very important. □ *Doctor, please try to get here quickly. Every minute counts.* □ *When you take a test, you must work rapidly because every minute counts.* □ *When you're trying to meet a deadline, every moment counts.*

every moment counts Go to every minute counts.

every nook and cranny every small, out-of-the-way place where something can be hidden. □ *We looked for the tickets in every nook and cranny. They were lost. There was no doubt.* □ *The decorator had placed flowers in every nook and cranny.*

(every) now and again Go to (every) now and then.

(every) now and then AND **(every) now and again; (every) once in a while** occasionally; infrequently. □ *We eat lamb every now and then.* □ *We eat pork now and then.* □ *I read a novel every now and again.* □ *We don't go to the movies except maybe every now and then.* □ *I drink coffee every once in a while.* □ *I drink tea once in a while.*

(every) once in a while Go to (every) now and then.

every other person or thing every second person or thing; alternating. □ *The magician turned every other card over.* □ *Every other table had an ashtray on it.*

every time one turns around frequently; at every turn; with annoying frequency. (Informal.) □ *Somebody asks me for money every time I turn around.* □ *Something goes wrong with Bill's car every time he turns around.*

(every) Tom, Dick, and Harry everyone, without discrimination; ordinary people. (Not necessarily males.) □ *The golf club is very exclusive. They don't let any Tom, Dick, and Harry join.* □ *Mary's sending*

out very few invitations. She doesn't want every Tom, Dick, and Harry turning up.

every which way in all directions. (Folksy.) □ *The children were all running every which way.* □ *The wind scattered the leaves every which way.*

everything but the kitchen sink almost everything one can think of. □ *When Sally went off to college, she took everything but the kitchen sink.* □ *John orders everything but the kitchen sink when he goes out to dinner, especially if someone else is paying for it.*

everything from A to Z Go to everything from soup to nuts.

everything from soup to nuts AND **everything from A to Z** almost everything one can think of. □ *For dinner we had everything from soup to nuts.* □ *In college I studied everything from soup to nuts.* □ *She mentioned everything from A to Z.*

everything humanly possible everything that is in the range of human powers. □ *The rescuers did everything humanly possible to find the lost campers.* □ *The doctor tried everything humanly possible to save the patient.*

Everything's coming up roses. Everything is really just excellent. □ *Life is wonderful. Everything is coming up roses.* □ *Q: How are things going? A: Everything's coming up roses.*

the **exception that proves the rule** <a saying identifying an exception to a rule or guideline as emphasizing the existence of the rule.> □ *Sixth-graders do not have to wear school uniforms, but they're the exception that proves the rule.* □ *The youngest dog is allowed in the house. He's the exception that proves the rule.*

exchange more than some number of words with someone to say hardly anything to someone. (Always negated.) □ *I know Tom was there, but I am sure that I didn't exchange more than three words with him before he left.* □ *We hardly exchanged more than two words the whole evening.* □

Sally and Liz didn't have enough time to exchange more than five words.

exciting as watching (the) paint dry Go to (as) exciting as watching (the) paint dry.

excuse oneself to make polite apologies or explanations before leaving a place. ☐ *Please excuse me. I must leave.* ☐ *I will have to excuse myself from this meeting since I have a vested interest in the outcome.*

excuse someone **1.** to forgive someone. (Usually with *me*. Said when interrupting or when some other minor offense has been committed. There are many mannerly uses of this expression.) ☐ *John came in late and said, "Excuse me, please."* ☐ *John said "excuse me" when he interrupted our conversation.* ☐ *When John made a strange noise at the table, he said quietly, "Excuse me."* ☐ *John suddenly left the room saying, "Excuse me. I'll be right back."* **2.** to permit someone to leave; to permit someone to remain away from an event. ☐ *The coach excused John from practice yesterday.* ☐ *The teacher excused John, and he ran quickly from the room.*

expecting (a child) pregnant. (Euphemism.) ☐ *Tommy's mother is expecting a child.* ☐ *Oh, I didn't know she was expecting.*

expense is no object Go to money is no object.

explain oneself **1.** to explain what one has said or done or what one thinks or feels. (Formal and polite.) ☐ *Please take a moment to explain yourself. I'm sure we are interested in your ideas.* ☐ *Yes, if you give me a moment to explain myself, I think you'll agree with my idea.* **2.** to give an explanation or excuse for something wrong that one may have done. (Usually said in anger.) ☐ *Young man! Come in here and explain yourself this instant.* ☐ *Why did you do that, Tom Smith? You had better explain yourself, and it had better be good.*

explain something **away** to give a good explanation for something; to explain something so that it seems less important; to make excuses for something. ☐

This is a very serious matter, and you cannot just explain it away. ☐ *John couldn't explain away his low grades.*

explode a bombshell Go to drop a bomb(shell).

express one's **anger** to allow a release or expression of anger, such as through angry words. ☐ *Don't keep your emotions inside of you. You have to learn to express your anger.* ☐ *Bob expresses his anger by yelling at people.*

extend credit (to someone) **AND** **extend** someone **credit** to allow someone to purchase something on credit. ☐ *I'm sorry, Mr. Smith, but because of your poor record of payment, we are no longer able to extend credit to you.* ☐ *Look at this letter, Jane. The store won't extend credit anymore.* ☐ *We are unable to extend that company credit any longer.*

extend one's **sympathy (to someone)** to express sympathy to someone. (A very polite and formal way to tell someone that you are sorry about a misfortune.) ☐ *Please permit me to extend my sympathy to you and your children. I'm very sorry to hear of the death of your husband.* ☐ *Let's extend our sympathy to Bill Jones, who is in the hospital with a broken leg. We should send him some flowers.*

extend someone **credit** Go to extend credit (to someone).

extenuating circumstances special circumstances that account for an irregular or improper way of doing something. ☐ *Mary was permitted to arrive late because of extenuating circumstances.* ☐ *Due to extenuating circumstances, the class will not meet today.*

the **eye of the storm** the center of a problem; the center of a commotion or a disturbance. ☐ *Tom, finding himself at the eye of the storm, tried to blame someone else for the problem.* ☐ *The manager's office was known as the eye of the storm since all the major problems ended up there.*

eyeball-to-eyeball person to person; face to face. ☐ *The discussions will have to be*

eyeball-to-eyeball to be effective. □ Telephone conversations are a waste of time. We need to talk eyeball-to-eyeball.

[eyes are bigger than one's stomach] Go to One's eyes are bigger than one's stomach.

F

face someone down to overcome someone by being bold; to disconcert someone by displaying great confidence. □ *The teacher faced the angry student down without saying anything.* □ *The mayor couldn't face down the entire city council.*

face the music to receive punishment; to accept the unpleasant results of one's actions. □ *Mary broke a dining-room window and had to face the music when her father got home.* □ *After failing a math test, Tom had to go home and face the music.*

face-to-face 1. in person; in the same location. (Said only of people. An adverb.) □ *Let's talk about this face-to-face. I don't like talking over the telephone.* □ *Many people prefer to talk face-to-face.* **2.** facing one another; in the same location. □ *I prefer to have a face-to-face meeting.* □ *They work better on a face-to-face basis.*

the **facts of life 1.** the facts of sex and reproduction, especially human reproduction. (See also **birds and the bees**.) □ *My parents told me the facts of life when I was nine years old.* □ *Bill learned the facts of life from his classmates.* **2.** the truth about the unpleasant ways that the world works. □ *Mary really learned the facts of life when she got her first job.* □ *Tom couldn't accept the facts of life in business, so he quit.*

fair and impartial fair and unbiased. (Usually referring to some aspect of the legal system, such as a jury, a hearing, or a judge.) □ *Gary felt that he had not received a fair and impartial hearing.* □ *We demand that all of our judges be fair and impartial in every instance.*

fair and square completely fair(ly). □ *She won the game fair and square.* □ *The division of the money should be fair and square.*

fair game someone or something that it is quite permissible to attack. □ *I don't like seeing articles exposing people's private lives, but politicians are fair game.* □ *Journalists always regard movie stars as fair game.*

fair-haired boy a favored person. (Not necessarily young or male.) □ *The teacher's fair-haired boy always does well on tests.* □ *The supervisor's son was the fair-haired boy on the construction site.*

[fair share] Go to one's fair share.

fair to middling only fair or okay; a little better than acceptable. (Folksy.) □ *I don't feel sick, just fair to middling.* □ *The play wasn't really good. It was just fair to middling.*

fair-weather friend someone who is your friend only when things are going well for you. (This person will desert you when things go badly for you. Compare this with **A friend in need is a friend indeed.**) □ *Bill wouldn't help me with my homework. He's just a fair-weather friend.* □ *A fair-weather friend isn't much help in an emergency.*

fall afoul of someone or something **AND run afoul of** someone or something to get into a situation where one is opposed to someone or something; to get into trouble with someone or something. □ *Dan fell afoul of the law at an early age.* □ *I hope that you will avoid falling afoul of the district manager. She can be a formidable enemy.* □ *I hope I don't run afoul of your sister. She doesn't like me.*

fall (all) over oneself to behave awkwardly and eagerly when doing something. (See also **fall over backwards** (to do something).) □ *Tom fell all over himself trying to make Jane feel at home.* □ *I fall over myself when I'm doing something that makes me nervous.*

fall all over someone to give a lot of attention, affection, or praise to someone. (Informal.) □ *My aunt falls all over me whenever she comes to visit.* □ *I hate for someone to fall all over me. It embarrasses me.*

fall apart at the seams [for something] to break into pieces; to fall apart; [for material that is sewn together] to separate at the seams. (Literal for cloth, otherwise figurative. See also **come apart at the seams**.) □ *My new jacket fell apart at the seams.* □ *This old car is about ready to fall apart at the seams.*

fall asleep to go to sleep. □ *The baby cried and cried and finally fell asleep.* □ *Tom fell asleep in class yesterday.*

fall back on someone or something to turn to someone or something for help. (Also literal.) □ *Bill fell back on his brother for help.* □ *John ran out of ink and had to fall back on his pencil.*

fall between two stools to come somewhere between two possibilities and so fail to meet the requirements of either. □ *The material is not suitable for an academic book or for a popular one. It falls between two stools.* □ *He tries to be both teacher and friend, but falls between two stools.*

fall by the wayside AND **drop by the wayside** to give up and quit before the end (of something). (Refers to being too exhausted to finish a footrace.) □ *John fell by the wayside and didn't finish college.* □ *Many people start out to train for a career in medicine, but some of them drop by the wayside.* □ *All of her projects fall by the wayside when she tires of them.*

fall down on the job to fail to do something properly; to fail to do one's job adequately. (Also literal referring to an accident while one is working.) □ *The team*

kept losing because the coach was falling down on the job. □ *Tom was fired because he fell down on the job.*

fall flat (on its face) Go to fall flat (on one's face).

fall flat (on one's face) AND **fall flat (on its face)** to be completely unsuccessful. (Informal.) □ *I fell flat on my face when I tried to give my speech.* □ *The play fell flat on its face.* □ *My jokes fall flat most of the time.*

fall for someone or something **1.** [with someone] to fall in love with someone. □ *Tom fell for Ann after only two dates. He wants to marry her.* □ *Some men always fall for women with blond hair.* **2.** [with something] to be deceived by something. □ *I can't believe you fell for that old trick.* □ *Jane didn't fall for Ann's story.*

fall from grace to cease to be held in favor, especially because of some wrong or foolish action. □ *He was the teacher's pet until he fell from grace by failing the history test.* □ *Mary was the favorite grandchild until she fell from grace by running away from home.*

fall head over heels to fall down, perhaps turning over or rolling. (Also literal.) □ *Fred tripped on the rug and fell head over heels into the center of the room.* □ *Slow down or you will fall down—head over heels.*

fall head over heels in love (with someone) to fall deeply in love with someone, perhaps suddenly. □ *Roger fell head over heels in love with Maggie, and they were married within the month.* □ *Very few people actually fall head over heels in love with each other.* □ *She fell head over heels in love and thought she was dreaming.*

fall ill to become ill. □ *Tom fell ill just before he was to perform.* □ *We both fell ill after eating the baked fish.*

fall in to line up in a row, standing shoulder to shoulder. (Also literal, meaning "to collapse." Usually refers to people in scouting or the military. Compare this with **fall in(to) line** and **fall out**.) □ *The Boy Scouts were told to fall in behind the scoutmaster.* □ *The soldiers fell in quickly.*

fall in for something Go to come in for something.

fall in love (with someone) to develop the emotion of love for someone. □ *Tom fell in love with Mary, but she only wanted to be friends.* □ *John is too young to really fall in love.*

fall into a trap AND **fall into the trap; fall into someone's trap** to become caught in someone's scheme; to be deceived into doing or thinking something. (Also literal.) □ *We fell into a trap by asking for an explanation.* □ *I fell into his trap when I agreed to drive him home.* □ *We fell into the trap of thinking he was honest.*

fall in(to) line **1.** to line up with each person (except the first person) standing behind someone. (Compare this with **fall in**.) □ *The teacher told the students to fall in line for lunch.* □ *Hungry students fall into line very quickly.* **2.** to conform; to **fall in(to) place.** □ *All the parts of the problem finally fell into line.* □ *Bill's behavior began to fall in line.*

fall in(to) place to fit together; to become organized. □ *After we heard the whole story, things began to fall in place.* □ *When you get older, the different parts of your life begin to fall into place.*

fall into someone's trap Go to fall into a trap.

fall into the trap Go to fall into a trap.

fall in with someone or something **1.** [with someone] to meet someone by accident; to join with someone. □ *John has fallen in with a strange group of people.* □ *We fell in with some people from our hometown when we went on vacation.* **2.** to agree with someone or something. □ *Bill was not able to fall in with our ideas about painting the house red.* □ *Bob fell in with Mary's plans to move to Texas.*

fall off to decline or diminish. □ *Business falls off during the summer months.* □ *My interest in school fell off when I became twenty.*

fall on deaf ears [for talk or ideas] to be ignored by the persons they were intended for. □ *Her pleas for mercy fell on deaf ears.* □ *All of Sally's good advice fell*

on deaf ears. Walter had made up his own mind.

fall out **1.** to happen; to result. □ *As things fell out, we had a wonderful trip.* □ *What fell out of our discussion was a decision to continue.* **2.** to leave one's place in a formation when dismissed. (Usually in scouting or the military. The opposite of **fall in**.) □ *The scouts fell out and ran to the campfire.* □ *All the soldiers fell out and talked among themselves.*

fall out (with someone about something) Go to fall out (with someone over something).

fall out (with someone over something) AND **fall out (with someone about something)** to quarrel or disagree about something. □ *Bill fell out with Sally over the question of buying a new car.* □ *Bill fell out with John about who would sleep on the bottom bunk.* □ *They are always arguing. They fall out about once a week.*

fall over backwards (to do something) AND **bend over backwards (to do something); lean over backwards (to do something)** to do everything possible to please someone. (Informal. See also **fall (all) over oneself**.) □ *The taxi driver fell over backwards to be helpful.* □ *The teacher bent over backwards to help the students understand.* □ *The principal said that it was not necessary to bend over backwards.* □ *You don't have to lean over backwards to get me to help. Just ask.*

fall short (of something) **1.** to lack something; to lack enough of something. □ *We fell short of money at the end of the month.* □ *When baking a cake, the cook fell short of eggs and had to go to the store for more.* **2.** to fail to achieve a goal. □ *We fell short of our goal of collecting a thousand dollars.* □ *Ann ran a fast race, but fell short of the record.*

fall through not to happen; to come to nothing. (Informal.) □ *Our plans fell through, and we won't be going to Texas after all.* □ *The party fell through at the last minute.*

fall to to begin (to do something). (Compare this with **turn to**.) □ *The hungry children took their knives and forks and fell*

to. □ *The carpenter unpacked his saw and hammer and fell to.* □ *The boys wanted to fight, so the coach put boxing gloves on them and told them to fall to.* □ *John fell to and cleaned up his room after he got yelled at.*

fall to someone to do something to become the responsibility of someone. □ *It always falls to me to apologize first.* □ *Why does it fall to me to answer the telephone every time it rings?*

fall (up)on someone or something 1. to attack someone or something. (Also literal.) □ *The cat fell upon the mouse and killed it.* □ *The children fell on the birthday cake and ate it all.* **2.** [with someone] [for a task] to become the duty of someone. □ *The task of telling Mother about the broken vase fell upon Jane.* □ *The job of cleaning up the spill fell upon Tom.*

familiar with someone or something having a good knowledge of someone or something. □ *Are you familiar with changing a flat tire?* □ *I'm can't speak German fluently, but I'm somewhat familiar with the language.*

Familiarity breeds contempt. Knowing a person closely for a long time leads to bad feelings. (Proverb.) □ *Bill and his brothers are always fighting. As they say: "Familiarity breeds contempt."* □ *Mary and John were good friends for many years. Finally they got into a big argument and became enemies. That just shows that familiarity breeds contempt.*

a **fan of someone** a follower of someone; someone who idolized someone. (Preceded by *be, become, seem like, or act like*.) □ *My mother is still a fan of the Beatles.* □ *I'm a great fan of the mayor of the town.*

fan the flames (of something) to make something more intense; to make a situation worse. □ *The riot fanned the flames of racial hatred even more.* □ *The hostility in the school is bad enough without anyone fanning the flames.*

far and away the best unquestionably the best. □ *This soap is far and away the best.*

□ *Sally is good, but Ann is far and away the best.*

far as anyone knows Go to (as) far as anyone knows.

far as something is concerned Go to (as) far as something is concerned.

a **faraway look** AND a **far-off look** an appearance on one's face of having one's mind in another place. □ *Dave had a far-away look in his eyes, so I touched him to get his attention.* □ *Katherine's face had a far-off look indicating that she was daydreaming.*

far be it from me to do something it is not really my place to do something. (Always with *but*, as in the examples below.) □ *Far be it from me to tell you what to do, but I think you should buy the book.* □ *Far be it from me to attempt to advise you, but you're making a big mistake.*

a **far cry from something** a thing that is very different from something else. (Informal.) □ *What you did was a far cry from what you said you were going to do.* □ *The song they played was a far cry from what I call music.*

far from it not it at all; not at all. □ *Do I think you need a new car? Far from it. The old one is fine.* □ *BILL: Does this hat look strange? TOM: Far from it. It looks good.*

far into the night late into the night; late. □ *She sat up and read far into the night.* □ *The party went on far into the night.*

a **far-off look** Go to a far-away look.

far out 1. far from the center of things; far from town. □ *The Smiths live sort of far out.* □ *The restaurant is nice, but too far out.* **2.** strange. (Slang.) □ *Ann acts pretty far out sometimes.* □ *The whole group of people seemed pretty far out.*

farm someone or something out 1. [with someone] to send someone (somewhere) for care or development. □ *When my mother died, they farmed me out to my aunt and uncle.* ⑤ *The team manager farmed out the baseball player to the minor leagues until he improved.* **2.** [with something] to send something (elsewhere) to be dealt with. □ *Bill farmed his chores out to his*

brothers and sisters and went to a movie.

☐ *I farmed out various parts of the work to different people.*

fast and furious very rapidly and with unrestrained energy. ☐ *Her work in the kitchen was fast and furious, and it looked lovely when she finished.* ☐ *Everything was going so fast and furious at the store during the Christmas rush that we never had time to eat lunch.*

faster and faster at an increasing rate of speed; fast and then even faster. ☐ *The car went faster and faster and I was afraid we would crash.* ☐ *The cost of education goes up faster and faster every year.*

fat and happy well-fed and content. ☐ *Since all the employees were fat and happy, there was little incentive to improve productivity.* ☐ *You look fat and happy. Has life been treating you well?*

fat as a pig Go to (as) fat as a pig.

fat chance very little likelihood. (Informal.) ☐ *Fat chance he has of getting a promotion.* ☐ *You think she'll lend you the money? Fat chance!*

favor someone or something **with** something to provide someone or something with something beneficial or special. ☐ *Mary favored us with a song.* ☐ *Nature favored Bill with curly hair.*

feast one's eyes (on someone or something) to look at someone or something with pleasure, envy, or admiration. ☐ *Just feast your eyes on that beautiful, juicy steak!* ☐ *Yes, feast your eyes. You won't see one like that again for a long time.*

a feather in one's cap an honor; a reward for something. ☐ *Getting a new client was really a feather in my cap.* ☐ *John earned a feather in his cap by getting an A in physics.*

feather one's (own) nest **1.** to decorate and furnish one's home in style and comfort. (Birds line their nests with feathers to make them warm and comfortable.) ☐ *Mr. and Mrs. Simpson have feathered their nest quite comfortably.* ☐ *It costs a great deal of money to feather one's nest these days.* **2.** to use power and prestige to pro-

vide for oneself selfishly. (Said especially of politicians who use their offices to make money for themselves.) ☐ *The mayor seemed to be helping people, but she was really feathering her own nest.* ☐ *The building contractor used a lot of public money to feather his nest.*

fed up (to somewhere) (with someone or something) bored with or disgusted with someone or something. (Informal. The *some-where* can be *here*, *the teeth*, *the gills*, or other places.) ☐ *I'm fed up with Tom and his silly tricks.* ☐ *I'm fed up to here with high taxes.* ☐ *They are fed up to the teeth with screaming children.* ☐ *I'm really fed up!*

feed one's face to eat; to eat a regular meal. (Slang.) ☐ *Come on, everyone. It's time to feed your faces.* ☐ *Bill, if you keep feeding your face all the time, you'll get fat.*

feed someone a line Go to give someone a line.

feed the kitty to contribute money to a special, voluntary collection. (See also **pass the hat**.) ☐ *Please feed the kitty. Make a contribution to help sick children.* ☐ *Come on, Bill. Feed the kitty. You can afford a dollar for a good cause.*

feel a glow of something a feeling of contentment, happiness, satisfaction, peace, etc. ☐ *Anne felt a glow of happiness as she held her new baby.* ☐ *Sitting by the lake, the lovers felt a warm glow of contentment.*

feel at home to feel as if one belongs; to feel as if one were in one's home; to feel accepted. (See also **at home with** someone or something.) ☐ *I liked my dormitory room. I really felt at home there.* ☐ *We will do whatever we can to make you feel at home.*

feel dragged out to feel exhausted. (Informal.) ☐ *What a day! I really feel dragged out.* ☐ *If he runs too much, he ends up feeling dragged out.*

feel fit to feel well and healthy. ☐ *If you want to feel fit, you must eat the proper food and get enough rest.* ☐ *I hope I still feel fit when I get old.*

feel free (to do something) to feel like one is permitted to do something or take some-

thing. ☐ Please feel free to stay for dinner.
☐ If you see something you want in the refrigerator, please feel free.

feel it beneath one (to do something) to feel that one would be lowering oneself to do something. ☐ Ann feels it beneath her to carry her own luggage. ☐ I would do it, but I feel it beneath me.

feel like a million (dollars) to feel well and healthy, both physically and mentally. ☐ A quick swim in the morning makes me feel like a million dollars. ☐ What a beautiful day! It makes you feel like a million.

feel like a new person to feel refreshed and renewed, especially after getting well or getting dressed up. ☐ I bought a new suit, and now I feel like a new person. ☐ Bob felt like a new person when he got out of the hospital.

feel like doing something 1. to want to do something; to be in the mood to do something. ☐ Do you feel like stopping work to eat something? ☐ I feel like going on a vacation. 2. to feel well enough to do something. ☐ I believe I'm getting well. I feel like getting out of bed. ☐ I don't feel like going to the party. I have a headache.

feel like (having) something to want to have something or do something. ☐ I feel like having a nice cool drink. ☐ I feel like a nice swim.

feel one's gorge rise to sense that one is getting very angry. ☐ I felt my gorge rise and I knew I was going to lose my temper. ☐ Bob could feel his gorge rise as he read his tax bill.

feel on top of the world to feel very good, as if one were ruling the world. ☐ I feel on top of the world this morning. ☐ I do not actually feel on top of the world, but I have felt worse.

feel out of place to feel that one does not belong in a place. ☐ I feel out of place at formal dances. ☐ Bob and Ann felt out of place at the picnic, so they went home.

feel put-upon to feel taken advantage of or exploited. ☐ Bill refused to help because he felt put-upon. ☐ Sally's mother felt put-

upon, but she took each of the children home after the birthday party.

feel someone out to try to find out how someone feels (about something). (Informal. This does not involve touching anyone.) ☐ Sally tried to feel Tom out on whether he'd make a contribution. ☐ The students felt out their parents to find out what they thought about the proposed party.

feel something in one's bones AND **know something in one's bones** to sense something; to have an intuition about something. ☐ The train will be late. I feel it in my bones. ☐ I failed the test. I know it in my bones.

feel the pinch to experience hardship because of having too little money. ☐ The Smiths used to go abroad every year, but now that he's retired, they're really feeling the pinch. ☐ You're bound to feel the pinch a bit when you're a student.

feel up to something to feel well enough or prepared enough to do something. (Often in the negative.) ☐ I don't feel up to jogging today. ☐ Aunt Mary didn't feel up to making the visit. ☐ Do you feel up to going out today?

feeling no pain drunk. ☐ Bob's on his eighth beer and feeling no pain. ☐ At midnight when we were all feeling no pain, the landlord comes up and tells us to be quiet.

fence someone in to restrict someone in some way. (Also literal. See also **hem** someone or something in.) ☐ I don't want to fence you in, but you have to get home earlier at night. ☐ Don't try to fence me in. I need a lot of freedom.

fend for oneself Go to shift for oneself.

ferret something out of someone or something to remove or retrieve something from someone or something, usually with cunning and persistence. (In the case of someone, the thing being ferreted out would be information.) ☐ I tried very hard, but I couldn't ferret the information out of the clerk. ☐ I had to ferret out the answer from a book in the library.

few and far between very few; few and widely scattered. (Informal.) □ *Get some gasoline now. Service stations on this highway are few and far between.* □ *Some people think that good movies are few and far between.*

a **few cards short of a deck** Go to a few cards shy of a full deck.

a **few cards shy of a full deck** AND a **few cards short of a deck; two bricks shy of a load** [of someone] not very smart or clever. □ *Bob's nice, but he's a few cards shy of a full deck.* □ *You twit! You're two bricks shy of a load!*

fiddle about (with someone or something) Go to fiddle around (with someone or something).

fiddle around (with someone or something) AND **fiddle about (with someone or something)** 1. [with someone] to tease, annoy, or play with someone; to waste someone's time. (See also **mess around (with someone or something)**.) □ *All right, stop fiddling around with me and tell me how much you will give me for my car.* □ *Now it's time for all of you to quit fiddling around and get to work.* □ *Tom, you have to stop spending your time fiddling about with your friends. It's time to get serious with your studies.* 2. [with something] to play with something; to tinker with something ineptly. □ *My brother is outside fiddling around with his car engine.* □ *He should stop fiddling around and go out and get a job.* □ *Stop fiddling about with that stick. You're going to hurt someone.*

fiddle while Rome burns to do nothing or something trivial while knowing that something disastrous is happening. (From a legend that the emperor Nero played the lyre while Rome was burning.) □ *The lobbyists don't seem to be doing anything to stop this tax bill. They're fiddling while Rome burns.* □ *The doctor should have sent for an ambulance right away instead of examining the woman. In fact, he was just fiddling while Rome burned.*

field questions to answer a series of questions, especially from reporters. □ *After*

her speech, Jane fielded questions from reporters. □ *The president's press agents fielded questions from the newspaper.*

fight against time to hurry to meet a deadline or to do something quickly. □ *The ambulance sped through the city to reach the accident, fighting against time.* □ *All the students fought against time to complete the test.*

fight someone or something hammer and tongs AND **fight someone or something tooth and nail; go at it hammer and tongs; go at it tooth and nail** to fight against someone or something energetically and with great determination. □ *They fought against the robber tooth and nail.* □ *The dogs were fighting each other hammer and tongs.* □ *The mayor fought the new law hammer and tongs.* □ *We'll fight this zoning ordinance tooth and nail.*

fight someone or something tooth and nail Go to **fight someone or something hammer and tongs**.

a **fighting chance** a good possibility of success, especially if every effort is made. (See also **sporting chance**.) □ *They have at least a fighting chance of winning the race.* □ *The patient could die, but he has a fighting chance since the operation.*

figure in something [for a person] to play a role in something. □ *Tom figures in our plans for a new building.* □ *I don't wish to figure in your future.*

figure on something to plan on something; to make arrangements for something. (Informal.) □ *We figured on twenty guests at our party.* □ *I didn't figure on so much trouble.*

figure someone or something out to understand someone or something; to find an explanation for someone or something. □ *It's hard to figure John out. I don't know what he means.* □ *I can't figure out this recipe.*

fill someone in (on someone or something) to inform someone about someone or something. □ *Please fill me in on what is happening in Washington.* □ *Please fill me in on Ann. How is she doing?* □ *Sit down,*

and I'll fill you in. ☐ Later, I'll fill in everyone else.

fill someone's **shoes** to take the place of some other person and do that person's work satisfactorily. (Refers to the notion of taking on someone else's problems by wearing the other person's shoes.) ☐ *I don't know how we'll be able to do without you. No one can fill your shoes.* ☐ *It'll be difficult to fill Jane's shoes. She did her job very well.*

fill the bill AND **fit the bill** to be exactly the thing that is needed. ☐ *Ah, this steak is great. It really fills the bill.* ☐ *I think that this book will fit the bill just right.*

filled to the brim filled all the way full; filled up to the top edge. ☐ *I like my coffee cup filled to the brim.* ☐ *If the glass is filled to the brim, I can't drink without spilling the contents.*

a **final fling** the last act or period of enjoyment before a change in one's circumstances or life-style. ☐ *You might as well have a final fling before the baby's born.* ☐ *Mary's going out with her girlfriends for a final fling. She's getting married next week.*

find a happy medium Go to strike a happy medium.

find fault (with someone or something) to find things wrong with someone or something. ☐ *We were unable to find fault with the meal.* ☐ *Sally's father was always finding fault with her.* ☐ *Some people are always finding fault.*

find it in one's heart (to do something) to have the courage or compassion to do something. ☐ *She couldn't find it in her heart to refuse to come home to him.* ☐ *I can't do it! I can't find it in my heart.*

find its way somewhere [for something] to end up in a place. (This expression avoids accusing someone of moving the thing to the place.) ☐ *The money found its way into the mayor's pocket.* ☐ *The secret plans found their way into the enemy's hands.*

find oneself to discover what one's talents and preferences are. ☐ *Bill did better in school after he found himself.* ☐ *John tried*

a number of different jobs. He finally found himself when he became a cook.

find one's **feet** to become used to a new situation or experience. ☐ *She was lonely when she first left home, but she is finding her feet now.* ☐ *It takes time to learn the office routine, but you will gradually find your feet.*

find one's **own level** to find the position or rank to which one is best suited. (As water "seeks its own level.") ☐ *You cannot force clerks to be ambitious. They will all find their own level.* ☐ *The new student is happier in the beginning class. It was just a question of letting her find her own level.*

find one's **tongue** to be able to talk. (Informal.) ☐ *Tom was speechless for a moment. Then he found his tongue.* ☐ *Ann was unable to find her tongue. She sat there in silence.*

find one's **way (around)** to be able to move about an area satisfactorily. ☐ *I can go downtown by myself. I can find my way around.* ☐ *I know the area well enough to find my way.* ☐ *He can find his way around when it comes to car engines.*

find one's **way** somewhere to discover the route to a place. ☐ *Mr. Smith found his way to the museum.* ☐ *Can you find your way home?*

find someone **guilty** AND **find** someone **innocent** to decide guilt or innocence and deliver a verdict in a court of law. ☐ *The judge found the defendant not guilty by reason of insanity.* ☐ *The jury found the defendant innocent.*

find someone **innocent** Go to find someone guilty.

find someone or something **out 1.** [with something] to discover facts about someone or something; to learn a fact. ☐ *I found something out that you might be interested in.* ☐ *We found out that the Smiths are going to sell their house.* **2.** [with someone] to discover something bad about someone. ☐ *John thought he could get away with smoking, but his mother found him out.* ☐ *Jane was taking a two-hour lunch period until the manager found her out.*

find (something) out the hard way Go to learn (something) the hard way.

Finders keepers, losers weepers. <a phrase said when something is found.> (The person who finds something gets to keep it. The person who loses it can only be sorry.) □ *John lost a quarter in the dining room yesterday. Ann found the quarter there today. Ann claimed that since she found it, it was hers. She said, "Finders keepers, losers weepers."* □ *John said, "I'll say finders keepers when I find something of yours!"*

fine and dandy all right; okay; really fine. □ *Everything is fine and dandy at work. No special problems at the present time.* □ *I feel fine and dandy. The new medicine seems to be working.*

a **fine how-de-do** Go to a fine how-do-you-do.

a **fine how-do-you-do** AND a **fine how-de-do** a predicament. □ *What a mess! This is a fine how-do-you-do!* □ *Here's a fine how-de-do!*

a **fine kettle of fish** a real mess; an unsatisfactory situation. □ *The dog has eaten the steak we were going to have for dinner. This is a fine kettle of fish!* □ *This is a fine kettle of fish. It's below freezing outside, and the furnace won't work.*

the **fine print** Go to the small print.

a **fine state of affairs** Go to a pretty state of affairs.

fire a gun to shoot a gun; to discharge a gun. □ *The police caught the robber who had fired the gun.* □ *Jane fired the gun and hit the target.*

fire away at someone or something **1.** to shoot at someone or something. □ *The hunters fired away at the ducks.* □ *On television, somebody is always firing away at somebody else.* **2.** [with someone] to ask many questions of someone; to criticize someone severely. □ *When it came time for questions, the reporters began firing away at the mayor.* □ *Members of the opposite party are always firing away at the president.*

firing on all cylinders AND **hitting on all cylinders** working at full strength; making every possible effort. (Refers to an internal combustion engine.) □ *The team is firing on all cylinders under the new coach.* □ *The factory is hitting on all cylinders to finish the orders on time.*

first and foremost first and most important. □ *First and foremost, I think you should work harder on your biology.* □ *Have this in mind first and foremost: Keep smiling!*

first and ten [in football] the first down [of four] with ten yards needed to earn another first down. □ *It is first and ten on the forty-yard line, and Army has the ball.* □ *There will be no first and ten on the last play because there was a flag on the play.*

First come, first served. The first people to arrive will be served first. □ *They ran out of tickets before we got there. It was first come, first served, but we didn't know that.* □ *Please line up and take your turn. It's first come, first served.*

first of all the very first thing; before anything else. □ *First of all, put your name on this piece of paper.* □ *First of all, we'll try to find a place to live.*

first off first; the first thing. (Almost the same as **first of all**.) □ *He ordered soup first off.* □ *First off, we'll find a place to live.*

first thing (in the morning) before anything else in the morning. □ *Please call me first thing in the morning. I can't help you now.* □ *I'll do that first thing.*

first things first the most important things must be taken care of first. □ *It's more important to get a job than to buy new clothes. First things first!* □ *Do your homework now. Go out and play later. First things first.*

fish for a compliment to try to get someone to pay you a compliment. (Informal.) □ *When she showed me her new dress, I could tell that she was fishing for a compliment.* □ *Tom was certainly fishing for a compliment when he modeled his fancy haircut for his friends.*

fish for something to try to get information (from someone). (Also literal.) □ *The lawyer was fishing for evidence.* □ *The teacher spent a lot of time fishing for the right answer from the students.*

fish in troubled waters to involve oneself in a difficult, confused, or dangerous situation, especially in order to gain an advantage. □ *Frank is fishing in troubled waters by buying more shares of that company. They are supposed to be in financial difficulties.* □ *The company could make more money by selling armaments abroad, but they would be fishing in troubled waters.*

fish or cut bait either do the task you are supposed to be doing or quit and let someone else do it. □ *Mary is doing much better on the job since her manager told her to fish or cut bait.* □ *The boss told Tom, "Quit wasting time! Fish or cut bait!"*

fit and trim slim and in good physical shape. □ *Jean tried to keep herself fit and trim at all times.* □ *For some people, keeping fit and trim requires time, effort, and self-discipline.*

fit as a fiddle Go to (as) fit as a fiddle.

fit for a king totally suitable. □ *What a delicious meal. It was fit for a king.* □ *Our room at the hotel was fit for a king.*

fit in someone Go to fit someone in(to something).

fit in (with someone or something) to be comfortable with someone or something; to be in accord or harmony with someone or something. □ *I really feel as if I fit in with that group of people.* □ *It's good that you fit in.* □ *This chair doesn't fit in with the style of furniture in my house.* □ *I won't buy it if it doesn't fit in.*

fit like a glove to fit very well; to fit tightly or snugly. □ *My new shoes fit like a glove.* □ *My new coat is quite snug. It fits like a glove.*

fit someone in(to something) AND **fit in** someone to manage to put someone into a schedule. □ *The doctor is busy, but I can fit you into the schedule.* □ *Yes, here's an opening in the schedule. I can fit you in.*

fit someone or something out (with something) to provide or furnish someone or something with something. □ *They fitted the camper out with everything they needed.* □ *They fitted them out for only \$140.* □ *He fitted his car out with lots of chrome.*

fit someone to a T 1. Go to suit someone to a T. 2. [for something] to fit a person very well. □ *His new jacket fits him to a T.* □ *My new shoes fit me to a T.*

fit the bill Go to fill the bill.

fit to be tied very angry and excited. (Folksy. To be so angry that one has to be restrained with ropes.) □ *If I'm not home on time, my parents will be fit to be tied.* □ *When Ann saw the bill, she was fit to be tied.*

fit to kill dressed up to look very fancy or sexy. (Folksy.) □ *Mary put on her best clothes and looked fit to kill.* □ *John looked fit to kill in his tuxedo.*

fix someone's wagon to punish someone; to get even with someone; to plot against someone. (Informal.) □ *If you ever do that again, I'll fix your wagon!* □ *Tommy! You clean up your room this instant, or I'll fix your wagon!* □ *He reported me to the boss, but I fixed his wagon. I knocked his lunch on the floor.*

fix someone up (with someone or something) 1. [with something] to supply a person with something. (Informal.) □ *The usher fixed us up with seats at the front of the theater.* □ *We fixed up the visitors with a cold drink.* 2. [with someone] AND **line someone up** with someone to supply a person with a date or a companion. (Informal.) □ *They lined John up with my cousin, Jane.* □ *John didn't want us to fix him up.* □ *We fixed up Bob with a date.*

fizzle out to die out; to come to a stop shortly after starting; to fail. □ *It started to rain, and the fire fizzled out.* □ *The car started in the cold weather, but it fizzled out before we got very far.* □ *My attempt to run for mayor fizzled out.* □ *She started off her job very well, but fizzled out after about a month.*

flare up [for emotions or a chronic disease] to grow intense suddenly. (Refers to a

fire, suddenly burning brighter or with more vigor.) □ *Just when we thought we had put the fire out, it flared up again.* □ *Mr. Jones always flares up whenever anyone mentions taxes.* □ *My hay fever usually flares up in August.*

a flash in the pan someone or something that draws a lot of attention for a very brief time. (Refers to a small grease fire in a frying pan. Informal.) □ *I'm afraid that my success as a painter was just a flash in the pan.* □ *Tom had hoped to be a singer, but his career was only a flash in the pan.*

flat as a board Go to (as) flat as a board.

flat as a pancake Go to (as) flat as a pancake.

flat broke completely broke; with no money at all. (Informal.) □ *I spent my last dollar, and I'm flat broke.* □ *The bank closed its doors to the public. It was flat broke!*

flat out 1. clearly and definitely; holding nothing back. (Informal.) □ *I told her flat out that I didn't like her.* □ *They reported flat out that the operation was a failure.* **2.** at top speed, with the accelerator pedal flat on the floor. (Slang.) □ *How fast will this car go flat out?* □ *This car will hit about 110 miles per hour flat out.*

Flattery will get you nowhere. You can praise me, but I'm not going to give you what you want. □ *I am glad to hear that I am beautiful and talented, but flattery will get you nowhere.* □ *Flattery will get you nowhere, but that doesn't mean you should stop flattering me!*

flesh and blood 1. a living human body, especially with reference to its natural limitations; a human being. □ *This cold weather is more than flesh and blood can stand.* □ *Carrying 300 pounds is beyond mere flesh and blood.* **2.** the quality of being alive. □ *The paintings of this artist are lifeless. They lack flesh and blood.* □ *This play needs flesh and blood, not the mumbling of intensely dull actors.* **3.** one's own relatives; one's own kin. □ *That's no way to treat one's own flesh and blood.* □ *I want to leave my money to my own flesh*

and blood. □ *Grandmother was happier living with her flesh and blood.*

flesh something out to make something more detailed, bigger, or fuller. (As if one were adding flesh to a skeleton.) □ *This is basically a good outline. Now you'll have to flesh it out.* □ *The play was good, except that the author needed to flesh out the third act. It was too short.*

flight of fancy an idea or suggestion that is out of touch with reality or possibility. □ *What is the point in indulging in flights of fancy about foreign vacations when you cannot even afford the rent?* □ *We are tired of her flights of fancy about marrying a millionaire.*

fling oneself at someone Go to throw oneself at someone.

flip one's lid Go to flip one's wig.

flip one's wig AND **flip one's lid** to suddenly become angry, crazy, or enthusiastic. (Slang.) □ *Whenever anyone mentions taxes, Mr. Jones absolutely flips his wig.* □ *Stop whistling. You're going to make me flip my lid.* □ *When I saw that brand-new car and learned it was mine, I just flipped my wig.*

flirt with the idea of doing something to think about doing something; to toy with an idea; to consider something, but not too seriously. □ *I flirted with the idea of going to Europe for two weeks.* □ *Jane flirted with the idea of quitting her job.*

float a loan to get a loan; to arrange for a loan. □ *I couldn't afford to pay cash for the car, so I floated a loan.* □ *They needed money, so they had to float a loan.*

flora and fauna plants and animals. (Latin.) □ *The magazine story described the flora and fauna of Panama.* □ *We went for a hike in the Finnish wilderness hoping to learn all about the local flora and fauna.*

flotsam and jetsam worthless matter; worthless encumbrances. (Refers to the floating wreckage of a ship and its cargo or to floating cargo deliberately cast overboard to stabilize a ship in a rough sea.) □ *His mind is burdened with the flotsam*

and jetsam of many years of poor instruction and lax study habits. □ *Your report would be better if you could get rid of a lot of the flotsam and jetsam and clean up the grammar a bit.*

fluff one's lines AND **blow one's lines; muffle one's lines** to speak one's speech badly or forget one's lines when one is in a play. (Informal.) □ *The actress fluffed her lines badly in the last act.* □ *I was in a play once, and I muffed my lines over and over.* □ *It's okay to blow your lines in rehearsal.*

flunk out to fail a course; to fail out of school. □ *Tom didn't study, and he finally flunked out.* □ *Bill is about to flunk out of geometry.*

flunk someone out to cause someone to leave school by giving a failing grade. □ *The teacher flunked Tom out.* □ *The professor wanted to flunk out the whole class.*

flush with something **1.** even with something; sharing a surface with something. □ *The edge of the sink is flush with the counter.* □ *The wood flooring is flush with the carpet so people won't trip.* **2.** having lots of something. □ *Our garden is flush with fresh vegetables.* □ *The committee was flush with helpful ideas.*

fly-by-night irresponsible; untrustworthy. (Refers to a person who sneaks away secretly in the night.) □ *The carpenter we hired was a fly-by-night worker who did a very bad job.* □ *You shouldn't deal with a fly-by-night merchant.*

fly in the face of someone or something AND **fly in the teeth of** someone or something to disregard, defy, or show disrespect for someone or something. □ *John loves to fly in the face of tradition.* □ *Ann made it a practice to fly in the face of standard procedures.* □ *John finds great pleasure in flying in the teeth of his father.*

a **fly in the ointment** a small, unpleasant matter that spoils something; a drawback. □ *We enjoyed the play, but the fly in the ointment was not being able to find our car afterward.* □ *It sounds like a good idea, but there must be a fly in the ointment somewhere.*

fly in the teeth of someone or something Go to **fly in the face of** someone or something.

fly into the face of danger to take great risks; to threaten or challenge danger, as if danger were a person. (This may refer to flying, as in an airplane, but not necessarily.) □ *John plans to go bungee-jumping this weekend. He really likes flying into the face of danger.* □ *Willard was not exactly the type to fly into the face of danger, but tonight was an exception, and he ordered enchiladas.*

fly off the handle to lose one's temper. (Informal.) □ *Every time anyone mentions taxes, Mrs. Brown flies off the handle.* □ *If she keeps flying off the handle like that, she'll have a heart attack.*

fly the coop to escape; to get out or get away. (Informal. Refers to a chicken escaping from a chicken coop.) □ *I couldn't stand the party, so I flew the coop.* □ *The prisoner flew the coop at the first opportunity.*

foam at the mouth to be very angry. (Informal. Related to a "mad dog"—a dog with rabies—which foams at the mouth.) □ *Bob was raving—foaming at the mouth.* *I've never seen anyone so angry.* □ *Bill foamed at the mouth in anger.*

fob something off (on someone) to trick someone into accepting something that is worthless. (Informal.) □ *The car dealer fobbed a car off on Tom.* □ *He also fobbed off a bad car on Jane.* □ *Some car dealers are always trying to fob something off.*

foist something (off) on someone to force someone to take something that they don't want. □ *Bill tried to foist the task of washing dishes off on his sister.* □ *The city council foisted the new garbage dump on the poorest neighborhood in the city.*

fold one's hands to bring one's hands together, palm to palm, with the fingers interlocking; to grasp one's hands together, palm to palm, perpendicular to one another. □ *Please fold your hands and put them on the table while the teacher reads you a story.* □ *Sue folded her hands to pray.*

fold something up to put an end to something; to close something such as a business or some other enterprise. (Refers to folding something closed.) □ *Mr. Jones was going broke, so he folded his business up.* □ *The producer decided to fold up the play early. It was losing money.*

fold, spindle, or mutilate to harm or disfigure a machine-readable document, such as a computer punch card. (Such a document, if folded, placed on a bill spike, or otherwise punctured, would no longer be machine-readable. Now rarely seen on a bill but the expression is sometimes used in a figurative sense.) □ *At the bottom of the bill, it said "do not fold, spindle, or mutilate," and Jane, in her anger, did all three.* □ *Look here, chum, if you don't want to get folded, spindled, or mutilated, you had better do what you are told!*

fold up to close up; to end. (Alluding to something that folds closed or collapses along its folds.) □ *The play folded up after two days.* □ *It's time to fold up and go home.*

follow in someone's footsteps Go to follow in someone's tracks.

follow in someone's tracks AND **follow in someone's footsteps** to follow someone's example; to assume someone else's role or occupation. □ *The vice president was following in the president's footsteps when he called for budget cuts.* □ *She followed in her father's footsteps and went into medicine.*

follow one's heart to act according to one's feelings; to obey one's sympathetic or compassionate inclinations. □ *I couldn't decide what to do, so I just followed my heart.* □ *I trust that you will follow your heart in this matter.*

follow one's nose **1.** to go straight ahead, the direction that one's nose is pointing. (Folksy.) □ *The town that you want is straight ahead on this highway. Just follow your nose.* □ *The chief's office is right around the corner. Turn left and follow your nose.* **2.** to follow an odor to its source. (Informal.) □ *The kitchen is at the*

back of the building. Just follow your nose. □ *There was a bad smell in the basement—probably a dead mouse. I followed my nose until I found it.*

follow orders to do as one has been instructed. □ *You have to learn to follow orders if you want to be a marine.* □ *I didn't do anything wrong. I was only following orders.*

follow someone or something up **1.** [with something] to add more information or detail to something; to follow something through. □ *Bill had to follow my suggestion up.* □ *The police followed up my story.* **2.** [with someone] to review someone's work and check it over. □ *The person who follows you up will make sure you're doing the right thing.* □ *When I followed up Mary, I found errors in her work.*

follow someone's lead to do as someone else does; to accept someone's guidance; to follow someone's direction. □ *Just follow my lead and you will not get lost.* □ *John followed his father's lead and became a lawyer.*

follow suit to follow in the same pattern; to follow someone else's example. (From card games.) □ *Mary went to work for a bank, and Jane followed suit. Now they are both head cashiers.* □ *The Smiths went out to dinner, but the Browns didn't follow suit. They stayed home.*

follow the crowd to do what everyone else is doing. □ *I am an independent thinker. I could never just follow the crowd.* □ *When in doubt, I follow the crowd. At least I don't stand out like a fool.*

follow through (on something) AND **carry through (on something)** to complete a task; to see a task through to its completion. □ *You must follow through on the things that you start.* □ *Don't start the job if you can't follow through.* □ *Ask Sally to carry through on her project.*

follow up (on someone or something) to find out more about someone or something. □ *Please follow up on Mr. Brown and his activities.* □ *Bill, Mr. Smith has a complaint. Would you please follow up on it?*

□ *We can take care of that when we follow up.*

follow up (on something) to check (on something) and do what needs to be done. □ *I will follow up on this matter and make sure it is settled.* □ *There is a problem with the bank account. Will you please follow up?*

fond of someone or something to like someone or something. □ *I'm fond of chocolate.* □ *Mary isn't fond of me, but I'm fond of her.*

food for thought something to think about. □ *I don't like your idea very much, but it's food for thought.* □ *Your lecture was very good. It contained much food for thought.*

A **fool and his money are soon parted.** A person who acts unwisely with money soon loses it. (Often said about a person who has just lost a sum of money because of poor judgment.) □ *When Bill lost a \$400 bet on a horse race, Mary said, "A fool and his money are soon parted."* □ *When John bought a cheap used car that fell apart the next day, he said, "Oh, well, a fool and his money are soon parted."*

fool around (with someone or something) to fiddle, play, or mess with someone or something; to waste time with someone or something. (Informal.) □ *John is out fooling around with his friends again.* □ *That child spends most of his time fooling around.* □ *Please don't fool around with the light switch. You'll break it.* □ *There are lots of interesting things in here, but you must leave them alone. Don't fool around.*

fools rush in (where angels fear to tread) people with little experience or knowledge often get involved in difficult or delicate situations that wiser people would avoid. (Proverb.) □ *I wouldn't ask Jean about her divorce, but Kate did. Fools rush in, as they say.* □ *Only the newest member of the committee questioned the chairman's decision. Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.*

foot the bill to pay the bill; to pay (for something). □ *Let's go out and eat. I'll*

foot the bill. □ *If the bank goes broke, don't worry. The government will foot the bill.*

footloose and fancy-free without responsibilities or commitments. □ *All the rest of them have wives, but John is footloose and fancy-free.* □ *Mary never stays long in any job. She likes being footloose and fancy-free.*

for a lark AND **on a lark** for a joke; as something done for fun. □ *For a lark, I wore a clown's wig to school.* □ *On a lark, I skipped school and drove to the beach.*

for all I care I don't care if (something happens). (Informal.) □ *For all I care, the whole city council can go to the devil. They can all starve for all I care.*

for all I know according to the information I have; I think; probably. (Informal.) □ *For all I know, the mayor has resigned already.* □ *She may have gone to town for all I know.*

for all intents and purposes virtually; practically speaking; in effect. (Sometimes this expression has very little meaning.) □ *He entered the room, looking for all intents and purposes as if he would burst into song.* □ *She said that for all intents and purposes she had completed her assignment.*

for all it's worth AND **for what(ever) it's worth** if it has any value. □ *My idea—for all it's worth—is to offer them only \$300.* □ *Here is my thinking, for whatever it's worth.* □ *Ask her to give us her opinion, for what it's worth.*

for all practical purposes as might be reasonably expected; essentially. □ *For all practical purposes, this is simply a matter of right and wrong.* □ *This should be considered final, for all practical purposes.*

for all something in spite of something; even with so much of something. □ *For all her complaining, she still seems to be a happy person.* □ *For all my aches and pains, I'm still rather healthy.*

for all the world 1. exactly; precisely. (Especially with *look*.) □ *She sat there looking for all the world as if she was going to cry.* □ *It started out seeming for all the*

world like a beautiful day. Then a storm came up. **2.** everything. (Usually in the negative.) ☐ *I wouldn't give up my baby for all the world.* ☐ *They wouldn't sell their property for all the world.*

for better or for worse under any conditions; no matter what happens. ☐ *I married you for better or for worse.* ☐ *For better or for worse, I'm going to quit my job.*

for chicken feed AND **for peanuts** for nearly nothing; for very little money. (Informal.) ☐ *Bob doesn't get paid much. He works for chicken feed.* ☐ *You can buy an old car for chicken feed.* ☐ *I won't do that kind of work for peanuts!*

For crying out loud! For heaven's sake!; I am amazed! (An exclamation of surprise and mild shock.) ☐ *For crying out loud! I didn't expect to see you here.* ☐ *For crying out loud! What a time to call someone on the telephone.*

for days on end for many days. ☐ *We kept on traveling for days on end.* ☐ *Doctor, I've had this pain for days on end.*

for fear of something out of fear of something; because of fear of something. ☐ *He doesn't drive for fear of an accident.* ☐ *They lock their doors for fear of being robbed.*

for free for no charge or cost; free of any cost. ☐ *They let us into the movie for free.* ☐ *I will let you have a sample of the candy for free.*

for good forever; permanently. ☐ *I finally left home for good.* ☐ *They tried to repair it many times before they fixed it for good.*

for good measure as extra; (adding) a little more to make sure there is enough. ☐ *When I bought a pound of nails, the clerk threw in a few extra nails for good measure.* ☐ *I always put a little extra salt in the soup for good measure.*

for hours on end for many hours. ☐ *We sat and waited for the doctor for hours on end.* ☐ *We listened to the speaker for hours on end.*

for instance for example. ☐ *I've lived in many cities, for instance, Boston, Chicago, and Detroit.* ☐ *Jane is very generous. For*

instance, she volunteers her time and gives money to charities.

for keeps forever; permanently. (Informal. See also **play for keeps**. Compare this with **for good**.) ☐ *When I get married, it'll be for keeps.* ☐ *We've moved around a lot. Now I think we'll stay here for keeps.*

for kicks for fun; just for entertainment; for no good reason. (Slang.) ☐ *They didn't mean any harm. They just did it for kicks.* ☐ *We drove over to the next town for kicks.*

for life for the remainder of one's life. ☐ *The accident caused me to become blind for life.* ☐ *She will stay in prison for life.*

for one's (own) part as far as one is concerned; from one's point of view. ☐ *For my own part, I wish to stay here.* ☐ *For her part, she prefers chocolate.*

for one's (own) sake for one's good or benefit; in honor of someone. ☐ *I have to earn a living for my family's sake.* ☐ *I did it for my mother's sake.* ☐ *I didn't do it for my own sake.*

for openers AND **for starters** to start with. (Informal.) ☐ *For openers, they played a song everyone knows.* ☐ *For starters, I'll serve a delicious soup.*

for peanuts Go to **for chicken feed**.

for real authentic; genuine; really. (Informal or slang.) ☐ *Is this diamond for real?* ☐ *Are you for real?* ☐ *Are we there for real?*

for safekeeping for the purpose of keeping someone or something safe. ☐ *I put my jewelry in the vault for safekeeping.* ☐ *I checked my fur coat at the entrance to the bar for safekeeping.*

for sale available for purchase; buyable. (Compare this with **on sale**.) ☐ *Is this item for sale?* ☐ *How long has this house been for sale?* ☐ *My car is for sale. Are you interested?*

for short in a short form. (Usually refers to names of people or things.) ☐ *My name is William. They call me Bill for short.* ☐ *Almost everyone who is named Robert is called Bob for short.*

for starters Go to **for openers**.

for sure certainly; surely. (Informal or slang.) □ *MARY: Do you like my new jacket?* *JANE: For sure.* □ *For sure, I want to go on the picnic.*

for that matter besides; in addition. □ *If you're hungry, take one of my doughnuts. For that matter, take two.* □ *I don't like this house. The roof leaks. For that matter, the whole place is falling apart.* □ *Tom is quite arrogant. So is his sister, for that matter.*

[for the asking] Go to one's for the asking.

for the best Go to (all) for the best.

for the better better; an improvement. (See also **take a turn for the better**.) □ *A change of government would be for the better.* □ *A new winter coat would certainly be for the better.*

for the birds worthless; undesirable. (Slang.) □ *This television program is for the birds.* □ *Winter weather is for the birds.*

for the devil of it AND **for the heck of it; for the hell of it** just for fun; because it is slightly evil; for no good reason. (Informal. Use caution with *hell*.) □ *We filled their garage with leaves just for the devil of it.* □ *Tom tripped Bill for the heck of it.* □ *John picked a fight with Tom just for the hell of it.*

for the duration for the whole time that something continues; for the entire period of time required for something to be completed; for as long as something takes. □ *We are in this war for the duration.* □ *However long it takes, we'll wait. We are here for the duration.*

for the good of someone or something for the benefit, profit, or advantage of someone or something. □ *The president said the strict drug laws were for the good of the country.* □ *David took a second job for the good of his family.*

for the heck of it Go to for the devil of it.

for the hell of it Go to for the devil of it.

for the life of one even if one's life were threatened; even in exchange for one's life. (Informal. Always with a negative,

and usually having to do with one's memory.) □ *For the life of me, I don't remember your name.* □ *She couldn't recall the correct numbers for the life of her.* □ *For the life of them, they couldn't remember the way home.*

for the moment AND **for the time being** for the present; for now; temporarily. □ *This will have to do for the moment.* □ *This is all right for the time being. It'll have to be improved next week, however.* □ *This good feeling will last only for the time being.* □ *This solution is satisfactory for the moment.*

for the most part mostly; in general. □ *For the most part, the class is enjoying geometry.* □ *I like working here for the most part.*

for the odds to be against one for things to be against one generally; for one's chances of success to be slim. □ *You can give it a try, but the odds are against you.* □ *I know the odds are against me, but I wish to run in the race anyway.*

for the record so that (one's own version of) the facts will be known; so there will be a record of a particular fact. (This often is said when there are reporters present.) □ *I'd like to say—for the record—that at no time have I ever accepted a bribe from anyone.* □ *For the record, I've never been able to get anything done around city hall without bribing someone.*

for the sake of someone or something for the good of someone or something; for the honor or recognition of someone or something. (Compare this with **for one's own sake**.) □ *I did it for the sake of all those people who helped me get through school.* □ *I'm investing in a house for the sake of my children.* □ *For the sake of honesty, Bill shared all the information he had.*

for the time being Go to for the moment.

for what(ever) it's worth Go to for all it's worth.

forbidden fruit someone or something that one finds attractive or desirable partly because having the person or thing is immoral or illegal. (From the fruit in the Garden of Eden that was forbidden to

Adam by God.) □ *Jim flirts with his sister-in-law only because she's forbidden fruit.* □ *The boy watches that program only when his parents are out. It's forbidden fruit.*

force someone or something **down** someone's **throat** Go to **shove** someone or something **down** someone's **throat**.

force someone **out (of office)** **AND** **drive** someone **out (of office)** to pressure someone to leave an elective office. □ *The city council forced the mayor out of office.* □ *Please resign immediately, or I'll have to drive you out.*

force someone's **hand** to force a person to reveal plans, strategies, or secrets. (Refers to a handful of cards in card playing.) □ *We didn't know what she was doing until Tom forced her hand.* □ *We couldn't plan our game until we forced the other team's hand in the last play.*

force someone **to the wall** **AND** **drive** someone **to the wall** to push someone to an extreme position; to put someone into an awkward position. □ *He wouldn't tell the truth until we forced him to the wall.* □ *They don't pay their bills until you drive them to the wall.*

a **force to be reckoned with** someone or something that is important and powerful and must not be ignored. □ *Walter is a force to be reckoned with. Be prepared to deal with him.* □ *The growing discontent with the political system is a powerful force to be reckoned with.*

fore and aft at the front and the back, usually of a boat or ship. □ *They had to attach new lights fore and aft because the old ones were not bright enough to meet the new regulations.* □ *The captain ordered a watch stationed fore and aft.*

a **foregone conclusion** a conclusion already reached; an inevitable result. □ *That the company was moving to California was a foregone conclusion.* □ *That the mayor will win reelection is a foregone conclusion.*

forever and a day Go to **forever and ever**.

forever and ever **AND** **forever and a day** forever. □ *I will love you forever and ever.* □ *This car won't keep running forever and ever. We'll have to get a new one sometime.* □ *We have enough money to last forever and a day.*

forget oneself to forget one's manners or training. (Said in formal situations alluding to belching, bad table manners, and, in the case of very young children, pants-wetting.) □ *Sorry, Mother, I forgot myself.* □ *John, we are going out to dinner tonight. Please don't forget yourself.*

forgive and forget to forgive someone (for something) and forget that it ever happened. □ *I'm sorry, John. Let's forgive and forget. What do you say?* □ *It was nothing. We'll just have to forgive and forget.*

fork money out (for something) to pay (perhaps unwillingly) for something. (Informal. Often mention is made of the amount of money. See the examples below.) □ *Do you think I'm going to fork twenty dollars out for that book?* □ *Forking money out to everyone is part of life in a busy economy.* □ *I like that stereo, but I don't want to fork out a lot of money.*

fork something **over** to give something to someone. (Refers to handing over money. Slang. Usually used in a command.) □ *Now! Fork it over now!* □ *Okay, Joe. Fork over that twenty dollars you owe me.*

form and substance meaningful content; structure and meaningful content. (See also **sum and substance**.) □ *The first act of the play was one screaming match after another. It lacked form and substance throughout.* □ *Jane's report was good. The teacher commented on the excellent form and substance of the paper.*

form an opinion to think up or decide on an opinion. (Note the variation in the examples.) □ *I don't know enough about the issue to form an opinion.* □ *Don't tell me how to think! I can form my own opinion.* □ *I don't form opinions without careful consideration.*

forty winks a short sleep; a nap. (Informal. See also **catch forty winks**.) □ *I had forty*

winks on the plane. □ *If you're lucky you'll get forty winks while the children are out.*

foul one's own nest to harm one's own interests; to bring disadvantage upon oneself. □ *He tried to discredit a fellow senator with the president, but just succeeded in fouling his own nest.* □ *The boss really dislikes Mary. She certainly fouled her own nest when she spread those rumors about him.*

foul play illegal activity; bad practices. □ *The police investigating the death suspect foul play.* □ *Each student got an A on the test, and the teacher imagined it was the result of foul play.*

foul someone or something **up** to cause disorder and confusion for someone or something; to tangle up someone or something; to **mess** someone or something **up**. (Informal.) □ *Go away! Don't foul me up any more.* □ *You've fouled up my whole day.* □ *Watch out! You're going to foul up my kite strings.* □ *Stay off the field. You're going to foul up the coach.*

foul up to do (something) badly; to mess something up. (Informal.) □ *At the last minute, he fouled up and failed the course.* □ *Take your time. Plan your moves, and don't foul up.*

fouled up messed up; in disorder. □ *My fishing line is all fouled up.* □ *The football team got fouled up and lost the game.*

fraught with danger [of something] full of something dangerous or unpleasant. □ *The spy's trip to Russia was fraught with danger.* □ *My escape from the kidnappers was fraught with danger.*

free and clear without encumbrance, particularly in regard to the ownership of something. □ *After the last payment, Jane owned the car free and clear.* □ *If you can't prove that you own the house and the land it stands on free and clear, you can't sell it.*

free and easy casual. □ *John is so free and easy. How can anyone be so relaxed?* □ *Now, take it easy. Just act free and easy. No one will know you're nervous.*

free as a bird Go to (as) free as a bird.

free as (the) air Go to (as) free as (the) air.

free-for-all a disorganized fight or contest involving everyone; a brawl. □ *The picnic turned into a free-for-all after midnight.* □ *The race started out in an organized manner, but ended up being a free-for-all.*

free translation a translation that is not completely accurate and not well thought out. □ *John gave a free translation of the sentence, which did not help us at all.* □ *Anne gave a very free translation of the poem.*

fresh as a daisy Go to (as) fresh as a daisy.

fresh out (of something) AND **clean out (of something)** just now having sold or used up the last of something. (Folksy.) □ *Sorry, I can't serve you scrambled eggs. We are fresh out of eggs.* □ *We are fresh out of nails. I sold the last box just ten minutes ago.* □ *Lettuce? Sorry. I'm fresh out.* □ *Sorry. We are clean out of dried beans.*

A friend in need is a friend indeed. A true friend is a person who will help you when you really need someone. (Compare this with **fair-weather friend**.) □ *When Bill helped me with geometry, I really learned the meaning of "A friend in need is a friend indeed."* □ *"A friend in need is a friend indeed" sounds silly until you need someone very badly.*

friend or foe a friend or an enemy. □ *I can't tell whether Jim is friend or foe.* □ *"Who goes there? Friend or foe?" asked the sentry.*

frighten one out of one's wits AND **scare one out of one's wits** to frighten one very badly. (See also **frighten the wits out of someone**.) □ *Oh! That loud noise scared me out of my wits.* □ *I'll give him a good scolding and frighten him out of his wits.*

frighten someone to death AND **scare someone to death** to frighten someone severely. (Also literal.) □ *The dentist always frightens me to death.* □ *She scared me to death when she screamed.*

frighten the (living) daylight's out of someone Go to frighten the wits out of someone.

frighten the wits out of someone AND **frighten the (living) daylight out of** someone; **scare the (living) daylight out of** someone; **scare the wits out of** someone to frighten someone very badly. □ *We nearly had an accident. It frightened the living daylight out of me.* □ *The incident scared the wits out of me.*

frightened to death AND **scared to death** severely frightened. (Also literal.) □ *I don't want to go to the dentist today. I'm frightened to death.* □ *I'm frightened to death of dogs.* □ *She's scared to death she'll fail algebra.*

fritter something away to waste something little by little, especially time or money. (Folksy.) □ *Don't stand around and fritter the whole day away.* □ *Stop frittering away my hard-earned money!*

from dawn to dusk during the period of the day when there is light; from the rising of the sun to the setting of the sun. □ *I have to work from dawn to dusk on the farm.* □ *The factory runs from dawn to dusk to produce hats and gloves.*

from day to day on a daily basis; one day at a time; occasionally. □ *We face this kind of problem from day to day.* □ *I'll have to check into this matter from day to day.* □ *When you're very poor, you live from day to day.*

from door to door moving from one door to another—typically, from one house to another. (See also **door-to-door**.) □ *Anne went from door to door, selling books, to earn money for college.* □ *The children went from door to door, saying "Trick or treat!" at each one.*

from far and near AND **from near and far** from all around, both close by and farther away. (Reversible, but with a preference for **from far and near**.) □ *All the young people from far and near gathered at the high school for the game.* □ *The eagles gathered from near and far at the river where the salmon were spawning.*

from hand to hand from one person to a series of other persons. □ *The book traveled from hand to hand until it got back to its owner.* □ *By the time the baby had*

been passed from hand to hand, it was crying.

from head to toe from the top of one's head to one's feet; all over the body. (See also **from tip to toe**.) □ *She was decked out in flowers from head to toe.* □ *The huge parka covered the small child from head to toe, assuring that she would be well protected against the cold.*

from near and far Go to **from far and near**.

from overseas from a location on the other side of the Atlantic or Pacific Ocean, according to the point of view of someone located in the U.S. □ *The latest word from overseas is that the treaty has been signed.* □ *Is there any news from overseas about the war?*

from pillar to post from one place to a series of other places; (figuratively) from person to person, as with gossip. □ *My father was in the army, and we moved from pillar to post year after year.* □ *After I told one person my secret, it went quickly from pillar to post.*

from rags to riches from poverty to wealth; from modesty to elegance. □ *The princess used to be quite poor. She certainly moved from rags to riches.* □ *After I inherited the money, I went from rags to riches.*

from side to side moving first to one side and then to the other, repeatedly. □ *The pendulum of the clock swings from side to side.* □ *The singers swayed from side to side as they sang.*

from start to finish from the beginning to the end; throughout. □ *I disliked the whole business from start to finish.* □ *Mary caused problems from start to finish.*

from stem to stern from one end to another. (Refers to the front and back ends of a ship.) □ *Now, I have to clean the house from stem to stern.* □ *I polished my car carefully from stem to stern.*

from the bottom of one's heart sincerely. (Compare this with **with all one's heart and soul**.) □ *When I returned the lost kitten to Mrs. Brown, she thanked me from*

the bottom of her heart. □ *Oh, thank you! I'm grateful from the bottom of my heart.*

from the cradle to the grave from birth to death; throughout one's life. □ *The government promised to take care of us from the cradle to the grave.* □ *You can feel secure and well protected from the cradle to the grave.*

from the ground up from the beginning; from start to finish. (Refers to the building of a house or other building.) □ *We must plan our sales campaign carefully from the ground up.* □ *Sorry, but you'll have to start all over again from the ground up.*

from the heart from a deep and sincere emotional source. □ *I know that your kind words come from the heart.* □ *We don't want your gift unless it comes from the heart.*

from the horse's mouth Go to (straight) from the horse's mouth.

from the old school holding attitudes or ideas that were popular and important in the past, but which are no longer considered relevant or in line with modern trends. □ *Grammar was not taught much in my son's school, but fortunately he had a teacher from the old school.* □ *Aunt Jane is from the old school. She never goes out without wearing a hat and gloves.*

from the outset from the beginning. □ *We had problems with this machine from the outset.* □ *We knew about the unfriendly judge from the outset of our trial.*

from the top from the beginning of something, such as a song or a script. □ *Okay, let's try it again from the top.* □ *Play it from the top one more time.*

from the word go from the beginning. (Informal.) □ *I knew about the problem from the word go.* □ *She was failing the class from the word go.*

from this day forward Go to from this day on.

from this day on AND **from this day forward** from today into the future. (Formal.) □ *We'll live in love and peace from*

this day on. □ *I'll treasure your gift from this day forward.*

from time to time occasionally. □ *We have pizza from time to time.* □ *From time to time, a visitor comes to our door.*

from tip to toe from the top to the bottom. (Not necessarily of a person. See also **from head to toe**.) □ *She is wearing all new clothes from tip to toe.* □ *The house needs to be cleaned thoroughly from tip to toe.*

from top to bottom from the highest point to the lowest point; throughout. (Compare this with **from stem to stern**.) □ *I have to clean the house from top to bottom today.* □ *We need to replace our elected officials from top to bottom.*

from way back from far in the past; from an earlier time. (Informal.) □ *Grandfather comes from way back.* □ *This antique clock is from way back.*

fruit(s) of one's labor(s) the results of one's work. □ *We displayed the fruits of our labor at the convention.* □ *What have you accomplished? Where is the fruit of your labors?*

full as a tick Go to (as) full as a tick.

full blast Go to (at) full blast.

full of beans Go to full of hot air.

full of bull Go to full of hot air.

full of hot air AND **full of beans; full of bull; full of it; full of prunes** full of nonsense; talking nonsense. (Slang.) □ *Oh, shut up, Mary. You're full of hot air.* □ *Don't pay any attention to Bill. He's full of beans.* □ *My English professor is full of bull.* □ *You're full of it.* □ *She doesn't know what she's talking about. She's just full of prunes.*

full of it Go to full of hot air.

full of Old Nick Go to full of the devil.

full of oneself conceited; self-important. □ *Mary is very unpopular because she's so full of herself.* □ *She doesn't care about other people's feelings. She's too full of herself.*

full of prunes Go to full of hot air.

full of the devil AND **full of Old Nick** always making mischief. (Informal. *Old Nick* is another name for the devil.) □ *Tom is a lot of fun, but he's sure full of the devil.* □ *I've never seen a child get into so much mischief. He's really full of Old Nick.*

full steam ahead forward at the greatest speed possible; with as much energy and enthusiasm as possible. (From an instruction given to engineers on steamships.) □ *It will have to be full steam ahead for everybody if the factory gets this order.* □ *It's going to be full steam ahead for me this year. I take my final exams.*

fun and games playing around; doing worthless things. (Informal.) □ *All right, Bill, the fun and games are over. It's time to get down to work.* □ *This isn't a serious course. It's nothing but fun and games.*

funny as a barrel of monkeys Go to (as) funny as a barrel of monkeys.

funny as a crutch Go to (as) funny as a crutch.

funny business trickery or deception; illegal activity. □ *From the silence as she entered the room, the teacher knew there was some funny business going on.* □ *There's some funny business going on at the warehouse. Stock keeps disappearing.*

funny ha-ha amusing; comical. (Informal. Compare this with **funny peculiar**.) □ *I didn't mean that Mrs. Peters is funny ha-ha. She's weird—funny peculiar, in fact.* □ *Mike thinks his jokes are funny ha-ha, but we laugh because they are so silly.*

funny peculiar odd; eccentric. (Informal. Compare this with **funny ha-ha**.) □ *I didn't mean that Mary is funny ha-ha. She's weird—funny peculiar, in fact.* □ *His face is sort of funny—funny peculiar, that is.*

G

gain ground to make progress; to advance; to become more important or popular. □ *Our new product is gaining ground against that of our competitor.* □ *Since the government announced the new policies, the stock market is gaining ground.*

The **game is up.** AND The **jig is up.** The deception is over.; The illegal activity has come to an end. □ *When the police were waiting for them inside the bank vault, the would-be robbers knew that the game was up.* □ *“The jig is up!” said the cop as he grabbed the shoulder of the pickpocket.*

a **game that two can play** a manner of competing that two competitors can use; a strategy that competing sides can both use. (Also literal.) □ *The mayor shouted at the city council, “Politics is a game that two can play.”* □ *“Flattery is a game that two can play,” said John as he returned Mary’s compliment.*

gang up (on someone) to form into a group and attack someone. (Usually a physical attack, but it can also be a verbal attack.) □ *We can’t win against the robber unless we gang up on him.* □ *All right, you guys, don’t gang up on me. Play fair!*

a **gas** [someone or something] wild or funny. □ *You should have been at Susan’s party last night. It was a gas.* □ *That movie was such a gas. I haven’t laughed so hard in ages.*

gas up to fill up one’s gasoline tank with gasoline. (Informal.) □ *I have to stop at the next service station and gas up.* □ *The next time you gas up, try some of the gasoline with alcohol in it.*

gather a case (against someone) Go to build a case (against someone).

gaudy as a butterfly Go to (as) gaudy as a butterfly.

gear (oneself) up (for something) to prepare for something; to get into shape for something. □ *We are gearing up for a very busy summer season.* □ *We are not ready yet. We have to gear up.* □ *Tom is gearing himself up for his exams.*

gear something to someone or something to cause something to match something else or some group of people; to create or adapt something for a specific purpose. □ *Tim geared his speech to his audience.* □ *The newspaper geared its language to a fourth-grade reading level.*

generous to a fault too generous; overly generous. □ *My favorite uncle is generous to a fault.* □ *Sally—always generous to a fault—gave away her sandwiches.*

gentle as a lamb Go to (as) gentle as a lamb.

get a bang out of someone or something Go to get a charge out of someone or something.

get a bee in one’s bonnet to get an idea or a thought that remains in one’s mind; to get an obsession. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **put a bee in someone’s bonnet**.) □ *I have a bee in my bonnet that you’d be a good manager.* □ *I got a bee in my bonnet about swimming. I couldn’t stop wanting to go swimming.*

get a big send-off to receive or enjoy a happy celebration before departing. (Note: *Get* can be replaced with *have*. Note the variation in the examples. *Get* usually means “to become, to acquire, or to cause.” *Have* usually means “to possess, to be, or to have resulted in.”

See also **give** someone a **big send-off**.) □ *I had a wonderful send-off before I left.* □ *John got a fine send-off as he left for Europe.*

get a black eye 1. to get a bruise near the eye from being struck. (The area around the eye is darkened, not black. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I got a black eye from walking into a door.* □ *I have a black eye where John hit me.* **2.** to have one's character or reputation harmed. □ *Mary got a black eye because of her complaining.* □ *The whole group now has a black eye.*

get a break to have good fortune; to receive a bit of luck. (Often with *lucky*, *nice*, etc. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Mary is going to get a break.* □ *I wish I'd get a lucky break.* □ *Why don't I have a lucky break when I need one?* □ *She's got a lucky break and doesn't even know it.*

get a bright idea for a clever thought or idea to occur (to someone). (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Now and then I get a bright idea.* □ *John hardly ever gets a bright idea.* □ *Listen here! I have a bright idea!*

get a charge out of someone or something **AND** **get a bang out of** someone or something; **get a kick out of** someone or something to receive special pleasure from someone or something. (Informal.) □ *Tom is really funny. I always get a kick out of his jokes.* □ *Bill really got a bang out of the present we gave him.* □ *Mary got a charge out of Bob's visit.*

get a charley horse to develop a cramp in the arm or leg, usually from strain. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Don't work too hard or you'll get a charley horse.* □ *Poor Tom is always getting a charley horse in his leg.* □ *Sally can't play. She has a charley horse.*

get a checkup to have a physical examination by a physician. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *She got a checkup yesterday.* □ *I going to have a checkup in the morning. I hope I'm okay.*

get a clean bill of health [for someone] to be pronounced healthy by a physician. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Sally got a clean bill of health from the doctor.* □ *Now that Sally has a clean bill of health, she can go back to work.*

get a crush on someone to become infatuated with someone. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Mary thinks she's getting a crush on Bill.* □ *Sally says she'll never get a crush on anyone again.* □ *John has a crush on Mary.*

get a dirty look from someone to get frowned at by someone. □ *I stopped whistling when I got a dirty look from Ann.* □ *I got a dirty look from the teacher. I don't know why.*

get a feel for something Go to get the feel of something.

get a fix on something **1.** to find out the exact location of something. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **give** someone a **fix on** something.) □ *I can't get a fix on your location. Where are you?* □ *We are trying to get a fix on your radio transmission.* □ *I have a fix on them now.* **2.** to begin to understand the direction of a discussion. □ *I can't quite get a fix on what you're trying to say.* □ *I can't get a fix on where you're going with this argument.*

get a foothold (somewhere) AND get a toe-hold (somewhere) an initial position of support; a starting point. □ *It's difficult to get a foothold in the education market when schools are laying off teachers.* □ *Max's father helped him get a toehold in the textile industry.*

get a free hand (with someone or something) to be granted complete control over something. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **give** someone a **free hand (with** something).) □ *I didn't get a free hand with the last project.* □ *John was in charge then, but he didn't have a free hand either.* □ *I demand to have a free hand with my own child!*

get a frog in one's **throat** to get soreness or something else in one's throat that pre-

vents one from talking well. (This often leads to one clearing one's throat. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ *The speaker got a frog in his throat and had to stop talking for a while.* ☐ *Excuse me. I have a frog in my throat.*

get after someone to remind, scold, or nag someone (to do something). (Informal. See also **keep after** someone.) ☐ *John hasn't taken out the garbage. I'll have to get after him.* ☐ *Mary's mother will get after her if she doesn't do the dishes.*

get a grasp of something to understand something. (Also with *good*, *solid*, and *sound*, as in the examples. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ *Try to get a grasp of the basic rules.* ☐ *You don't have a good grasp of the principles yet.* ☐ *John was unable to get a solid grasp of the methods used in his work, and we had to let him go.*

get a handle on something Go to have a handle on something.

get a hand with something to receive assistance with something. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ *Mary would really like to get a hand with that. It's too much for one person.* ☐ *I'd like to have a hand with this.*

get ahead of oneself [for someone] to do or say something sooner than it ought to be done so that the proper explanation or preparations have not been made. ☐ *I have to stick to my notes or I will get ahead of myself in my lecture.* ☐ *When he bought a new little bicycle before the baby was born, he was getting ahead of himself.*

get a head start (on someone or something)

1. [with someone] to start (something) earlier than someone else. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ *Bill always gets there first because he gets a head start on everybody else.* ☐ *I'm doing well in my class because I have a head start.* **2.** [with something] to start something earlier (than someone else). ☐ *I was able to get a head start on my reading during the holidays.* ☐ *If I hadn't had a head start, I'd be behind in my reading.*

get (a)hold of someone or something **1.** [with someone] to make contact with someone; to call someone on the telephone. (See also **get one's hands on** someone or something; **get in touch** (with someone). Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ *I'll try to get hold of you in the morning.* ☐ *It's very hard to get hold of John. He's so busy.* **2.** [with something] to obtain something. ☐ *I'm trying to get hold of a glass jar. I need it for school.* ☐ *Does anyone know where I can get hold of a spare tire?* ☐ *I have hold of a very large piece of land.* **3.** Go to **take (a)hold of** someone or something.

get a hurry on AND **get a move on** to start to hurry. (Informal.) ☐ *We are going to leave in five minutes, Jane. Get a hurry on!* ☐ *Mary! Get a move on! We can't wait all day.*

get a jump(start) Go to get a start.

get a kick out of someone or something Go to get a charge out of someone or something.

get a licking AND **take a licking** to get a spanking; to get beat in a fight. (Folksy.) ☐ *Billy, you had better get in here if you don't want to get a licking.* ☐ *Bob took a real licking in the stock market.* ☐ *Tom took a licking in the fight he was in.*

Get a life! Don't act so stupid!; Get a purpose for existing! (Slang. Usually rude.) ☐ *Hey, stupid! You want to get run over?* *Get a life!* ☐ *You worthless jerk! Get a life!*

get a line on someone or something to get an idea on how to locate someone or something; to find out about someone who can help find someone or something. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ *I got a line on a book that might help explain what you want to know.* ☐ *Sally has a line on someone who could help you fix up your apartment.*

get (all) dolled up to dress (oneself) up. ☐ *I have to get all dolled up for the dance tonight.* ☐ *I just love to get dolled up in my best clothes.*

get a load off one's **feet** AND **take a load off** one's **feet** to sit down; to enjoy the results of sitting down. (Informal.) ☐ *Come in, John. Sit down and take a load off your*

feet. ☐ Yes, I need to get a load off my feet. I'm really tired.

get a load off one's mind to say what one is thinking; to talk about what is troubling one; to **speak one's mind**. (Informal.) ☐ He sure talked a long time. I guess he had to get a load off his mind. ☐ You aren't going to like what I'm going to say, but I have to get a load off my mind.

get a load of someone or something look at someone or something. (Informal or slang.) ☐ Get a load of that guy. Have you ever seen such arrogance? ☐ Get a load of that car. It's got real wire wheels.

get along (in years) to grow older. ☐ Grandfather is getting along in years. ☐ Yes, he's really getting along.

get along (on a shoestring) to be able to afford to live on very little money. ☐ For the last two years, we have had to get along on a shoestring. ☐ With so little money, it's hard to get along.

get along (without (someone or something)) to manage without someone or something; to do without someone or something. ☐ I don't think I can get along without my secretary. ☐ My secretary just quit, and I don't think I will be able to get along. ☐ I like steak, but I can't afford it. I guess I'll have to get along without.

get along (with someone or something) Go to get on (with someone or something).

get a lot of mileage out of something to get a lot of use from something, as if it were a car. ☐ Bob always got a lot of mileage out of one joke. ☐ I got a lot of mileage out of my TV before it broke down.

get a lump in one's throat to have the feeling of something in one's throat—as if one were going to cry. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ Whenever they play the national anthem, I get a lump in my throat. ☐ I have a lump in my throat because I'm frightened.

get a move on Go to get a hurry on.

get an earful to hear or listen to a great amount of discussion, criticism, or complaint. ☐ She was really mad about something, and I sure got an earful. ☐ Sue was

standing around the corner while Jim and Mary were arguing and got an earful.

get an eyeful (of someone or something) to see everything; to see a shocking or surprising sight. ☐ The office door opened for a minute and I got an eyeful of the interior. ☐ Mary got an eyeful of the company's extravagant spending when she peeked into the conference room.

get an in (with someone) to develop a way to request a special favor from someone; to gain influence with someone. (The *in* is a noun. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ Did you get an in with the mayor? I have to ask him a favor. ☐ Sorry, I don't have an in, but I know someone who does.

get another guess coming Go to get another think coming.

get another think coming AND **get another guess coming** to have to rethink something because one was wrong the first time. (Folksy. *Think* is a noun here. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ She's quite wrong. She's got another think coming if she wants to walk in here like that. ☐ You have another guess coming if you think you can treat me like that!

get ants in one's pants to become nervous and agitated. (Refers to the agitation caused by ants crawling into one's pants. Slang. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ I always get ants in my pants before a test. ☐ I wonder if all actors get ants in their pants before they go on stage.

get a rain check (on something) AND **take a rain check (on something)** 1. to accept a piece of paper allowing one to see an event—which has been canceled—at a later time. (Originally said of sporting events that had to be canceled because of rain. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ The game was canceled because of the storm, but we all got rain checks on it. ☐ I didn't take a rain check because I'm leaving town for a month. 2. to accept (or request) a reissuance of an invitation at a later date.

(Said to someone who has invited you to something that you cannot attend now, but would like to attend at a later time.)

□ *We would love to come to your house, but we are busy next Saturday. Could we take a rain check on your kind invitation?*

□ *Oh, yes. You have a rain check that's good anytime you can come by and visit.*

3. to accept a piece of paper that allows one to purchase an item on sale at a later date. (Stores issue these pieces of paper when they run out of specially priced sale merchandise.) □ *The store was all out of the shampoo they advertised, but I got a rain check.* □ *Yes, you should always take a rain check so you can get it at the sale price later when they have more.*

get a raw deal to receive unfair or bad treatment. (Slang. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also give someone **a raw deal**.) □ *Mary got a raw deal on her traffic ticket. She was innocent, but she had to pay a big fine.* □ *I bought a used TV that worked for two days and then quit. I sure got a raw deal.* □ *You sure had a raw deal.*

get a reputation (as a something) to become recognized for being something. (Can be a good or a bad reputation. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *You'll get a reputation as a cheater.* □ *She once had a reputation as a singer.* □ *Behave yourself, or you'll get a reputation.* □ *Unfortunately, Tom's got a reputation.*

get a reputation (for doing something) to become recognized for doing something. (Often a bad reputation, as in the examples. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *You'll get a reputation for cheating.* □ *I don't want to get a reputation.* □ *He's got a bad reputation.* □ *I have a reputation for being honest.*

get a rise out of someone to get a reaction from someone, usually anger or laughter. (Informal.) □ *Mary really liked my joke. I knew I could get a rise out of her.* □ *I got a rise out of him by telling him to go home.*

get a rough idea (about something) AND **get a rough idea (of something)** to receive

a general idea; to receive an estimate.

(Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I need to get a rough idea of how many people will be there.* □ *I don't need to know exactly. Just get a rough idea.*

□ *Judy has got a rough idea about who'll be there.* □ *I have a rough idea. That's good enough.*

get a rough idea (of something) Go to get a rough idea (about something).

get around to be experienced; to know a lot about life. (Informal. Use with caution—especially with females—since this can also refer to sexual experience. See also **have been around**.) □ *That's a hard question. I'll ask Jane. She gets around.* □ *John knows a lot about New York City. He gets around.*

get around to doing something to find time to do something; to do something after a long delay. (Compare this with **get (around) to** something.) □ *I finally got around to buying a new coat.* □ *It takes Sally years to get around to visiting her aunt.* □ *I finally got around to doing the breakfast dishes.*

get (around) to something to manage to deal with someone or something after a delay. (Compare this with **get around** to doing something.) □ *It was noon before I got around to the breakfast dishes.* □ *The doctor was not able to get to John, even though John waited for three hours.* □ *I can't get around to you until tomorrow.*

get a run for one's money **1.** to receive what one deserves, expects, or wants. (See also **give one a run for one's money**.) □ *I get a run for my money at a high school football game.* □ *I get a run for my money in the stock market.* **2.** to receive a challenge. □ *Bob got a run for his money when he tried to convince Mary to go to college.* □ *Bill got a run for his money playing cards with John.*

get a shellacking AND **take a shellacking** **1.** to receive a beating. (Informal.) □ *The boxer took a shellacking and lost the fight.* □ *I got a shellacking when I broke the window.* **2.** to be beaten—as in sports. (Informal.) □ *Our team played well, but got*

a shellacking anyway. ☐ I practiced my tennis game so I wouldn't take a shellacking in the tournament.

get a slap on the wrist to get a light punishment (for doing something wrong). (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **give** someone a slap on the wrist.) ☐ He created quite a disturbance, but he only got a slap on the wrist. ☐ I thought I'd get a slap on the wrist for speeding, but I got fined \$200. ☐ She had a slap on the wrist about that before.

get a start **1.** AND **get a jump(start)** to receive help starting one's car. ☐ My car is stalled. I need to get a start. ☐ I got my car going. I got a jump from John. **2.** to receive training or a big opportunity in beginning one's career. (The same as **get** one's start. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ She got a start in show business in Cincinnati. ☐ She had a start when she was only four.

get a taste of one's own medicine [for one] to receive difficulties of the same kind that one has been causing other people. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **dose** of one's own medicine.) ☐ Now you see how it feels to have someone call you names! You are getting a taste of your own medicine! ☐ John, who is often rude and abrupt with people, was devastated when the teacher treated him rudely. He doesn't like having a taste of his own medicine.

get a thing about someone or something to develop strong likes or dislikes about someone or something. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ I have a thing about celery. I can't stand it. ☐ John can't get enough celery. He's got a thing about it. ☐ John has a thing about Mary. He thinks he's in love.

get a toehold (somewhere) Go to get a foothold (somewhere).

get a tongue-lashing to receive a severe scolding. (Folksy. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **give** someone a tongue-lashing.) ☐ I really got a tongue-lashing when I got home. ☐ Ted

will have a tongue-lashing at home. ☐ I never had a tongue-lashing like that before.

get at someone or something **1.** to attack or strike someone or something. (Compare this with **go at** someone or something. Also with *have*.) ☐ The cat jumped over the wall to get at the mouse. ☐ Ok, you guys. There he is. Have at him! **2.** [with something] to eat food; to gobble up food. (Informal. Also with *have*.) ☐ I can't wait to get at that cake. ☐ Dinner's ready. Sit down and have at it. **3.** [with someone] to find a way to irritate someone; to manage to wound someone, physically or emotionally. ☐ Mr. Smith found a way to get at his wife. ☐ John kept trying to get at his teacher. **4.** [with something] to explain or try to explain something; to hint at something. ☐ We spent a long time trying to get at the answer. ☐ I can't understand what you're trying to get at. **5.** [with something] to begin to do something; to **get (around) to** something. ☐ I won't be able to get at it until the weekend. ☐ I'll get at it first thing in the morning.

get at the heart of the matter Go to get to the heart of the matter.

get away (from it all) to get away from one's work or daily routine; to go on a vacation. ☐ I just love the summer when I can take time off and get away from it all. ☐ Yes, that's the best time to get away.

get away with something to do something bad and not get punished or found out. ☐ Tom did it again and didn't get punished. He's always getting away with murder. ☐ Just because she's so popular, she thinks she can get away with anything. ☐ You'll never get away with it.

get a whiff of something AND **catch a whiff of** something to learn about someone almost accidentally. (Also literal.) ☐ The boss got a whiff of the problems in the accounting department. ☐ No one will get a whiff of your trouble with the police. I'll see to that.

get a word in edgewise Go to get a word in edgewise.

get a word in edgewise AND **get a word in edgewise** to manage to say some-

thing when other people are talking and ignoring you. (Often in the negative.) □ *It was such an exciting conversation that I could hardly get a word in edgewise.* □ *Mary talks so fast that nobody can get a word in edgeways.*

get back (at someone) AND **have back at** someone to repay one for a bad deed; to get even (with someone). (**Have back at** someone is informal or folksy. Compare this with **have at** someone or something at **get at** someone or something.) □ *Tom called me a jerk, but I'll get back at him.* □ *I don't know how I'll get back, but I will.* □ *Just wait. I'll have back at you!*

get back into circulation to start being social with people again after a period of being by oneself; to start dating again, especially after a divorce or breakup with a lover. □ *Sally is anxious to get back into circulation after the nasty divorce she went through.* □ *Todd could not bring himself to get back into circulation after the death of his wife.*

get back into harness to return to one's workplace, such as after a vacation or a period of illness. (Refers to harnessing a horse so it can return to work.) □ *I am not at all anxious to get back into harness after spending two weeks in Mexico.* □ *Tom was eager to get back into harness after his illness.*

get back on one's **feet** to become independent again; to become able to get around again. (Note the variations with *own* and *two* in the examples.) □ *He was sick for a while, but now he's getting back on his feet.* □ *My parents helped a lot when I lost my job. I'm glad I'm back on my own feet now.* □ *It feels great to be back on my own two feet again.*

get back (to someone) to continue talking with someone (at a later time); to find out information and tell it to a person (at a later time). □ *I don't have the answer to that question right now. Let me find out and get back to you.* □ *Okay. Please try to get back early tomorrow.*

get better to improve. □ *I had a bad cold, but it's getting better.* □ *Business was bad*

last week, but it's getting better. □ *I'm sorry you're ill. I hope you get better.*

get busy to start working; to work harder or faster. □ *The boss is coming. You'd better get busy.* □ *I've got to get busy and clean this house up.* □ *Come on, everybody. Let's get busy and get this job done.*

get butterflies in one's **stomach** to get a nervous feeling in one's stomach. (Informal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **give** one **butterflies in** one's **stomach**.) □ *Whenever I have to go on stage, I get butterflies in my stomach.* □ *She always has butterflies in her stomach before a test.*

get by (on something) to manage on the least amount of money, supplies, goods, etc. (Compare this with **get along (on a shoe-string)**.) □ *We don't have much money. Can we get by on love?* □ *I'll get by as long as I have you.* □ *We don't have very much food, but we'll get by for the weekend.*

get by (with something) 1. to satisfy the minimum requirements. □ *I was failing geometry, but managed to get by with a D.* □ *I took the bar exam and just barely got by.* 2. to do something bad and not get caught or punished; to **get away with something**. □ *Tom cheated on the test and got by with it.* □ *Maybe you can get by like that once or twice, but you'll get caught.*

get carried away to be overcome by emotion or enthusiasm (in one's thinking or actions). (Also literal when someone or something is transported away.) □ *Calm down, Jane. Don't get carried away.* □ *Here, Bill. Take this money and go to the candy store, but don't get carried away.*

get close (to someone or something) 1. [with someone] to be close friends with someone; to get to know someone well. □ *I would really like to get close to Jane, but she's so unfriendly.* □ *We talked for hours and hours, but I never felt that we were getting close.* □ *It's very hard to get next to someone who won't talk to you.* 2. [with something] to almost equal something; to be almost as good as something. (Often in the negative.) □ *I practiced and practiced, but my bowling couldn't get close to*

Mary's. ☐ Her performance was so good that I couldn't get close.

get cold feet AND **have cold feet** to become timid or frightened; to have one's feet seem to freeze with fear. ☐ I usually get cold feet when I have to speak in public. ☐ John got cold feet and wouldn't run in the race.

get cracking to get moving; to get busy. (Folksy.) ☐ Let's go. Come on, get cracking! ☐ Move it! We don't have all day. Let's get cracking! ☐ We'll never get finished if you don't get cracking.

get credit (for something) to receive praise or recognition for one's role in something. (Especially with a lot of, much, etc., as in the examples below.) ☐ Mary should get a lot of credit for the team's success. ☐ Each of the team captains should get credit.

get down to brass tacks to begin to talk about important things; to **get down to business**. ☐ Let's get down to brass tacks. We've wasted too much time chatting. ☐ Don't you think that it's about time to get down to brass tacks?

get down to business AND **get down to work** to begin to get serious; to begin to negotiate or conduct business. ☐ All right, everyone. Let's get down to business. There has been enough playing around. ☐ When the president and vice president arrive, we can get down to business. ☐ They're here. Let's get down to work.

get down to cases to begin to discuss specific matters; to **get down to business**. ☐ When we've finished the general discussion, we'll get down to cases. ☐ Now that everyone is here, we can get down to cases.

get down to (doing) something to begin doing some kind of work in earnest. ☐ I have to get down to my typing. ☐ John, you get in here this minute and get down to that homework!

get down to the facts to begin to talk about things that matter; to get to the truth. ☐ The judge told the lawyer that the time had come to get down to the facts. ☐ Let's get down to the facts, Mrs. Brown. Where were you on the night of January 16?

get down to the nitty-gritty to get down to the facts; to get down to cases. (Slang.) ☐ Stop fooling around. Get down to the nitty-gritty. ☐ Let's stop wasting time. We have to get down to the nitty-gritty.

get down to work Go to get down to business.

get even (with someone) to repay someone's bad deed; to **get back** (at someone). ☐ Bill hit Bob, and Bob got even with Bill by hitting him back. ☐ Some people always have to get even.

get fresh (with someone) to become overly bold or impertinent with someone. ☐ When I tried to kiss Mary, she slapped me and shouted, "Don't get fresh with me!" ☐ I can't stand people who get fresh.

get goose bumps AND **get goose pimples** [for one's skin] to feel prickly or become bumpy due to cold, fear, or excitement. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ When he sings, I get goose bumps. ☐ I never get goose pimples. ☐ That really scared her. Now she's got goose pimples.

get goose pimples Go to get goose bumps.

get gray hair(s) to have one's hair turn gray from stress or frustration. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ I'm getting gray hair because I have three teenage boys. ☐ Oh, Tom, stop it! I'm going to get gray hairs. ☐ I have gray hairs from raising four kids.

get hell Go to get the devil.

get in on something to become associated with something, such as an organization or an idea; to find out or be told about special plans. (Also with *be*, as in the final example.) ☐ There is a party upstairs, and I want to get in on it. ☐ I want to get in on your club's activities. ☐ Mary and Jane know a secret, and I want to get in on it. ☐ I'm happy to be in on your celebration. ☐ There is going to be a surprise party, and I'm in on it.

get in (on the ground floor) to become associated with something at its start. (Refers to getting into an elevator at the

lowest level when it is not yet crowded.)
☐ *If you move fast, you can still get in on the ground floor.* ☐ *A new business is starting up, and I want to get in early.*

get in someone's **hair** [for someone] to bother or irritate someone. (Also literal.)
☐ *Billy is always getting in his mother's hair.* ☐ *I wish you'd stop getting in my hair.*

get into a jam Go to get into a mess.

get into a mess AND **get into a jam** to get into difficulty or confusion. (Informal. Compare this with **get out of a mess**.) ☐ *Try to keep from getting into a mess.* ☐ *"Hello, Mom," said John on the telephone. "I'm at the police station. I got into a jam."*

get into an argument (with someone) to begin to argue with someone. ☐ *Let's try to discuss this calmly. I don't want to get into an argument with you.* ☐ *Tom got into an argument with John.* ☐ *Tom and John got into an argument.* ☐ *Let's not get into an argument.*

get into full swing AND **get into high gear** to move into the peak of activity; to start moving fast or efficiently. (Informal.) ☐ *In the summer months, things really get into full swing around here.* ☐ *We go skiing in the mountains each winter. Things get into high gear there in November.*

get into high gear Go to get into full swing.

get in(to) hot water to get into trouble or difficulty; to get involved in something that is complicated or troublesome. ☐ *When you start trying to build your own computer, you are getting into hot water.* ☐ *When Fred was caught cheating on his exam, he got into hot water.*

get into the act to try to be part of whatever is going on. (Refers to someone trying to get on stage and participate in a performance.) ☐ *I can do this by myself. There is no need for you to get into the act.* ☐ *Everyone wants to get into the act. Please let us do it. We don't need your help!*

get into the swing of things to join into the routine or the activities. ☐ *Come on,*

Bill. Try to get into the swing of things. ☐ *John just couldn't seem to get into the swing of things.*

get in touch (with someone) to communicate with someone; to telephone or write to someone. (See also **keep in touch (with someone)**.) ☐ *I have to get in touch with John and ask him to come over for a visit.* ☐ *Yes, you must try to get in touch.*

get involved (with someone) to become associated with someone. (Sometimes romantically involved.) ☐ *Sally is getting involved with Bill. They've been seeing a lot of each other.* ☐ *I hope they don't get too involved.* ☐ *He didn't want his son involved with the gangs.*

get it Go to get something.

get it (all) together to become fit or organized; to organize one's thinking; to become relaxed and rational. (Slang. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ *Bill seems to be acting more normal now. I think he's getting it all together.* ☐ *I hope he gets it together soon. His life is a mess.* ☐ *When Jane has it all together, she really makes sense.* ☐ *Sally is a lovely person. She really has it together.*

get it in the neck to receive something bad, such as punishment or criticism. (Slang. Compare this with **get it**.) ☐ *I don't know why I should get it in the neck. I didn't break the window.* ☐ *Bill got it in the neck for being late.*

get lost **1.** to become lost; to lose one's way. ☐ *We got lost on the way home.* ☐ *Follow the path, or you might get lost.* **2.** Go away!; Stop being an annoyance! (Slang. Always a command.) ☐ *Stop bothering me. Get lost!* ☐ *Get lost! I don't need your help.* ☐ *Stop following me. Get lost!*

get mad (at someone or something) **1.** to become angry at someone or something. ☐ *Don't get mad at me. I didn't do it.* ☐ *I got mad at my car. It won't start.* ☐ *I get mad every time I think about it.* **2.** [with something] to muster all one's physical and mental resources in order to do something. (Informal or slang.) ☐ *Come on, Bill. If you're going to lift your end of the piano, you're going to have to get mad*

at it. □ *The sergeant keep yelling, "Work, work! Push, push! Come on, you guys, get mad!"*

get married to become united as husband and wife. □ *Bill and Sally got married when they were in college.* □ *We got married in Texas just after we graduated from college.*

get mixed-up to get confused. □ *I get mixed-up easily whenever I take a test.* □ *Sorry, I didn't say the right thing. I got mixed-up.*

get nowhere fast not to make progress; to get nowhere. (Informal or slang.) □ *I can't seem to make any progress. No matter what I do, I'm just getting nowhere fast.* □ *Come on. Speed up this car. We're getting nowhere fast.*

get off 1. to escape or avoid punishment (for doing something wrong). (Also literal meaning to disembark.) □ *It was a serious crime, but Mary got off with a light sentence.* □ *I was afraid that the robber was going to get off completely.* **2.** to start off (on a friendship). (See also **get off on the wrong foot**. Compare this with **get along (with someone).**) □ *Tom and Bill had never met before. They seemed to get off all right, though.* □ *I'm glad they got off so well.* **3.** to leave; to depart. □ *The plane did not get off on time.* □ *We have to get off early in the morning before the traffic gets heavy.*

get off easy AND **get off lightly** to receive very little punishment (for doing something wrong). (See also **get a slap on the wrist.**) □ *It was a serious crime, but Mary got off easy.* □ *Billy's punishment was very light. Considering what he did, he got off lightly.*

Get off it! Don't talk nonsense!; Don't talk like that! (Usually a command.) □ *Get off it, Tom! You don't know that for a fact.* □ *Oh, get off it! You sound so conceited!*

get off lightly Go to get off easy.

get off on the wrong foot AND **get off to a bad start** to start something (such as a friendship) with negative factors. (Also literal. See also **get off; be off on the wrong foot; be off to a bad start; start off**

on the wrong foot.) □ *Bill and Tom got off on the wrong foot. They had a minor car accident just before they were introduced.* □ *Let's work hard to be friends. I hate to get off on the wrong foot.* □ *Bill is getting off to a bad start in geometry. He failed the first test.*

get off scot-free Go to go scot-free.

Get off someone's back! Go to Get off someone's case!

Get off someone's case! AND **Get off someone's back!; Get off someone's tail!** Leave someone alone!; Stop picking on someone! (Slang. Usually a command.) □ *I'm tired of your criticism, Bill. Get off my case!* □ *Quit picking on her. Get off her back!* □ *Leave me alone! Get off my tail!*

Get off someone's tail! Go to Get off someone's case!

get off the hook to free oneself from an obligation. □ *They have asked you to lead the parade, and I don't think you can get off the hook.* □ *I couldn't get off the hook no matter how much I pleaded.*

get off to a bad start Go to get off on the wrong foot.

get off to a flying start to have a very successful beginning to something. □ *The new business got off to a flying start with those export orders.* □ *We shall need a large donation from the local citizens if the charity is to get off to a flying start.*

get off your high horse to become less haughty. □ *You should get off your high horse and pay attention more to what people think.* □ *If she would get off her high horse and try to be human, everyone would like her better.*

get one's act together to get oneself organized, especially mentally. (Slang. Originally from theatrical use. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off.**) □ *I'm so confused about life. I have to get my act together.* □ *Bill Smith had a hard time getting his act together after his mother's death.* □ *Mary really has her act together. She handles herself very well.*

get one's bearings to determine where one is; to determine how one is oriented to

one's immediate environment. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.)
 □ *After he fell, it took Ted a few minutes to get his bearings.* □ *I don't have my bearings yet. Wait a minute.*

get one's comeuppance to get a reprimand; to get the punishment one deserves. (Folksy.) □ *Tom is always insulting people, but he finally got his comeuppance. Bill hit him.* □ *I hope I don't get my comeuppance like that.*

get one's ducks in a row to get something into order or into line; to put one's affairs in order; to get things ready. (Informal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. Refers to a mother duck leading a row of ducklings.) □ *Jane is organized. She really has all her ducks in a row.* □ *You can't hope to go into a company and sell something until you get your ducks in a row.* □ *As soon as you people get your ducks in a row, we'll leave.*

get (oneself) into a stew (over someone or something) to be worried or upset about someone or something. □ *Please don't get yourself into a stew over Walter.* □ *Liz is the kind of person who gets into a stew over someone else's business.*

get one's feet on the ground AND **have one's feet on the ground** to get firmly established or reestablished. (Also literal.) □ *He's new at the job, but soon he'll get his feet on the ground.* □ *Her productivity will improve after she gets her feet on the ground again.*

get one's feet wet to begin something; to have one's first experience of something. (Also literal. Informal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Of course he can't do the job right. He's hardly got his feet wet yet.* □ *I'm looking forward to learning to drive. I can't wait to get behind the steering wheel and get my feet wet.* □ *I've only been at this job for a month, and I don't have my feet wet yet.*

get one's fill of someone or something to receive enough of someone or something. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *You'll soon get your fill of Tom. He can be quite a pest.* □ *I can never get my*

fill of shrimp. I love it. □ *Three weeks of visiting grandchildren is enough. I've had my fill of them.*

get one's fingers burned to have a bad experience. (Also literal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I had my fingers burned the last time I did this.* □ *I tried that once before and got my fingers burned. I won't try it again.* □ *If you go swimming and get your fingers burned, you won't want to swim again.*

get one's foot in the door to achieve a favorable position (for further action); to take the first step in a process. (Refers to people selling things from door to door who block the door with a foot so it cannot be closed on them. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I think I could get the job if I could only get my foot in the door.* □ *It pays to get your foot in the door. Try to get an appointment with the boss.* □ *I have a better chance now that I have my foot in the door.*

get one's hands dirty AND **dirty one's hands; soil one's hands** to become involved with something illegal; to do a shameful thing; to do something that is beneath one. (Also literal.) □ *The mayor would never get his hands dirty by giving away political favors.* □ *I will not dirty my hands by breaking the law.* □ *Sally felt that to talk to the hobo was to soil her hands.*

get one's hands on someone or something AND **lay one's hands on** someone or something to **get (a)hold of** someone or something; to get someone or something in one's grasp. (Informal. Sometimes said in anger, as if one may wish to do harm.) □ *Just wait until I get my hands on Tom. I'll really give him something to think about.* □ *When I lay my hands on my book again, I'll never lend it to anyone.*

get one's head above water to get ahead of one's problems; to catch up with one's work or responsibilities. (Also literal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I can't seem to get my head above water. Work just keeps piling up.* □ *I'll be glad when I have my head above water.*

get one's hooks into someone or something to grasp someone or something; to acquire someone or something; to get someone or something in one's grasp. (Slang. Said of someone who is grasping and acquisitive and who will not let go easily. Usually said about a person or about something that is small enough to grasp in one's hand.) □ *I want to get my hooks into a copy of that book.* □ *She can't wait until she gets her hooks into George.*

get one's just deserts to get what one deserves. □ *I feel better now that Jane got her just deserts. She really insulted me.* □ *Bill got back exactly the treatment that he gave out. He got his just deserts.*

get one's just reward(s) to get something as bad as one deserves. □ *The criminal who was sent to prison got his just rewards.* □ *I am sure that when he died, he got his just reward.*

get one's knuckles rapped to receive punishment. (Also literal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I got my knuckles rapped for whispering too much.* □ *You will have your knuckles rapped if you are not careful.*

get one's money's worth to get everything that has been paid for; to get the best quality for the money paid. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Weigh that package of meat before you buy it. Be sure you're getting your money's worth.* □ *I didn't get my money's worth with my new camera, so I took it back.* □ *I will stay here and watch the movie over and over until I get my money's worth.*

get one's nose out of someone's business to stop interfering in someone else's business; to mind one's own business. (See also **keep one's nose out of someone's business**.) □ *Go away! Get your nose out of my business!* □ *Bob just can't seem to get his nose out of other people's business.*

get one's (own) way (with someone or something) to have someone or something follow one's plans; to control someone or something. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *The mayor got his way with the city council.* □ *He seldom*

gets his own way. □ *How often do you have your way with your own money?* □ *Parents usually have their way with their children.*

get one's say to be able to state one's position; to be able to say what one thinks. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **have a voice** (in something).) □ *I want to have my say on this matter.* □ *He got his say, and then he was happy.*

get one's sea legs to become accustomed to the movement of a ship at sea; to be able to walk steadily on the constantly rolling and pitching decks of a ship. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Jean was a little awkward at first, but in a few days she got her sea legs and was fine.* □ *You may feel a little sick until you get your sea legs.* □ *I will feel better when I have my sea legs.*

get one's second wind 1. for one's breathing to become stabilized after exerting oneself for a short time. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *John was having a hard time running until he got his second wind.* □ *Bill had to quit the race because he never got his second wind.* □ *"At last," thought Ann, "I have my second wind. Now I can really swim fast."* **2.** to become more active or productive (after starting off slowly). □ *I usually get my second wind early in the afternoon.* □ *Mary is a better worker now that she has her second wind.*

get one's start to receive the first major opportunity of one's career. □ *I had my start in painting when I was thirty.* □ *She helped me get my start by recommending me to the manager.*

get one's teeth into something to start on something seriously, especially a difficult task. (Informal. See also **sink one's teeth into** something.) □ *Come on, Bill. You have to get your teeth into your biology.* □ *I can't wait to get my teeth into this problem.*

get one's walking papers to get fired. (Informal. See also **give one one's walking papers**.) □ *Well, I'm through. I got my walking papers today.* □ *They are closing down*

my department. I guess I'll get my walking papers soon.

get one's wires crossed to get confused about something. (Informal. As if one's brain were an electrical circuit. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.)
☐ *You don't know what you are talking about. You really have your wires crossed!*
☐ *Joan got her wires crossed about who arrived first. It was Bob, not Gary.*

get one's wits about one to pull oneself together for action; to set one's mind to work, especially in a time of stress. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.)
☐ *Let me get my wits about me so I can figure this out.*
☐ *I don't have my wits about me at this time of the morning.*

get on someone to pester someone (about something); to pressure someone. (Also literal.)
☐ *John is supposed to empty the trash every day. He didn't do it, so I will have to get on him.*
☐ *It's time to get on Bill about his homework. He's falling behind.*

get on someone's nerves to irritate someone.
☐ *Please stop whistling. It's getting on my nerves.*
☐ *All this arguing is getting on their nerves.*

get on the bandwagon AND **jump on the bandwagon** to join the popular side (of an issue); to take a popular position.
☐ *You really should get on the bandwagon. Everyone else is.*
☐ *Jane has always had her own ideas about things. She's not the kind of person to jump on the bandwagon.*

get on the good side of someone to get in someone's favor.
☐ *You had better behave properly if you want to get on the good side of Mary.*
☐ *If you want to get on the good side of your teacher, you must do your homework.*

get on (with someone or something) AND **get along (with someone or something)** **1.** [with someone] to be friends with someone; to have a good relationship with someone. (The friendship is always assumed to be good unless it is stated to be otherwise.)
☐ *How do you get on with John?*
☐ *I get along with John just fine.*
☐ *We get along.*
☐ *I don't get on with John.*
☐ *We don't get*

along. **2.** [with something] to continue with something.
☐ *I must get on with my work.*
☐ *Now that the crisis is over, I'll get on with my life.*

get out from under someone or something **1.** [with someone] to get free of someone's control.
☐ *Mary wanted to get out from under her mother.*
☐ *We started our own business because we needed to get out from under our employer.* **2.** [with something] to get free of a burdensome problem.
☐ *I can't go out tonight until I get out from under this pile of homework.*
☐ *There is so much work to do! I don't know when I'll ever get out from under it.*

get out of a jam to get free from a problem or a bad situation.
☐ *Would you lend me five dollars? I need it to get out of a jam.*
☐ *I need some help getting out of a jam.*

get out of a mess to get free of a bad situation. (Informal. Also with *this*, *such a*, etc. See the examples. Compare this with **get into a mess**.)
☐ *How can anyone get out of a mess like this?*
☐ *Please help me get out of this mess!*

get out of someone's way AND **get out of the way** to move out of the path or route.
☐ *Will you please get out of the way?*
☐ *The dog got out of Jane's way just before she stepped on it.*

get out of the way Go to get out of someone's way.

get out of the wrong side of the bed Go to get up on the wrong side of the bed.

get out while the getting is good to leave a place while it is still possible to do so; to withdraw from a place, position, or some organization at an opportune time.
☐ *The party was getting noisy enough that one of the neighbors was bound to call the police, so we left. We always get out while the getting is good.*
☐ *Everyone at my office was being required to do more and more work. I decided to get out while the getting was good. I quit.*

get over someone or something to recover from someone or something.
☐ *Now that Bob has left me, I have to learn to get over him.*
☐ *It was a horrible shock. I don't know*

when I'll get over it. □ It was a serious illness. It took two weeks to get over it.

get physical (with someone) 1. to use physical force against someone. □ *The coach got in trouble for getting physical with some members of the team.* □ *When the suspect wouldn't cooperate, the police were forced to get physical.* 2. to touch someone in lovemaking. □ *I've heard that Bill tends to get physical with his dates.* □ *I don't care if he gets physical—within reason.*

get ready (to do something) to prepare to do something. □ *Get ready to jump!* □ *It's time to get ready to go to work.* □ *It's time to get ready.*

get religion to become serious (about something), usually after a powerful experience; to develop a strong religious belief. (Folksy. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I've always had religion. I don't need a crisis to make me get it.* □ *When I had an automobile accident, I really got religion. Now I'm a very safe driver.* □ *Soldiers often say they got religion in the midst of a battle.*

get rid of someone or something to get free of someone or something; to dispose of or destroy someone or something. □ *I'm trying to get rid of Mr. Smith. He's bothering me.* □ *I'll be happy when I get rid of my old car.*

get right on something to do something immediately. □ *I know it has to be done today. I'll get right on it.* □ *Please get right on these reports as soon as possible.*

get rolling to get started. (Informal.) □ *Come on. It's time to leave. Let's get rolling!* □ *Bill, it's 6:30. Time to get up and get rolling!*

get second thoughts about someone or something to have new doubts about someone or something. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I'm beginning to get second thoughts about Tom.* □ *Tom is getting second thoughts about it, too.* □ *We now have second thoughts about going to Canada.*

get set get ready; get organized. (Also with *be*, as in the examples below.) □ *We are*

going to start. Please get set. □ *We are set. Let's go.* □ *Hurry up and get set!*

get sick 1. to become ill (perhaps with vomiting). □ *I got sick and couldn't go to school.* □ *My whole family got sick with the flu.* 2. to vomit. (A euphemism.) □ *Mommy, the dog just got sick on the carpet.* □ *Bill got sick in the hallway.*

get sidetracked to become diverted from one's task; to start off on a second task before the first one is finished. □ *I'm sorry the work is not completed. I got sidetracked.* □ *Pay attention to what you are doing and don't get sidetracked.*

get someone down to depress someone; to make someone sad. □ *Try not to let all your problems get you down.* □ *She is very cheerful and practically nothing gets her down.*

get (someone) off the hook to free someone from an obligation. (Informal. When *someone* is omitted, this refers to oneself.) □ *Thanks for getting me off the hook. I didn't want to attend that meeting.* □ *I couldn't get off the hook by myself.*

get someone or something across Go to put someone or something across.

get someone or something down 1. [with *something*] to manage to swallow something, especially something large or unpleasant. □ *The pill was huge, but I got it down.* □ *It was the worst food I have ever had, but I got it down somehow.* 2. [with *someone*] to depress a person; to make a person very sad. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *My dog ran away, and it really got me down.* □ *Oh, that's too bad. Don't let it get you down.* □ *All my troubles really have me down.*

get someone or something out of one's head Go to **get someone or something out of one's mind**.

get someone or something out of one's mind AND **get someone or something out of one's head** to manage to forget someone or something; to stop thinking about or wanting someone or something. (Almost the same as **put someone or something out of one's mind**.) □ *I can't get him out of my mind.* □ *Mary couldn't get the song out of*

her mind. □ *Get that silly idea out of your head!*

get someone or something **out of the way** to remove someone or something out of the path or route. □ *Get your big feet out of my way!* □ *Please get your child out of the way!*

get someone **out of a jam** to free someone from a problem or a bad situation. (Informal. Compare this with **in a jam**.) □ *I like John. He got me out of a jam once.* □ *I would be glad to help get you out of a jam.*

get someone **over a barrel** AND **get** someone **under one's thumb** [for someone] to be put at the mercy of someone; to get control over someone. (Informal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *He got me over a barrel, and I had to do what he said.* □ *Ann will do exactly what I say. I've got her over a barrel.* □ *All right, John. You've got me under your thumb. What do you want me to do?*

get someone's **back up** Go to **get** someone's dander up.

get someone's **dander up** AND **get** someone's **back up**; **get** someone's **hackles up**; **get** someone's **Irish up** to make someone get angry. (Informal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Now, don't get your dander up. Calm down.* □ *I insulted him and really got his hackles up.* □ *Bob had his Irish up all day yesterday. I don't know what was wrong.* □ *She really got her back up when I asked her for money.* □ *Now, now, don't get your hackles up. I didn't mean any harm.*

get someone's **ear** to get someone to listen (to you). (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. Compare this with **bend** someone's ear.) □ *He got my ear and talked for an hour.* □ *While I have your ear, I'd like to tell you about something I'm selling.*

get someone's **eye** Go to **catch** someone's eye.

get someone's **goat** to irritate someone; to annoy and arouse someone to anger. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I'm sorry. I didn't mean to get your goat.* □ *Jean got Sally's goat and Sally*

made quite a fuss about it. □ *Tom really had her goat for a while.*

get someone's **hackles up** Go to **get** someone's dander up.

get someone's **Irish up** Go to **get** someone's dander up.

get someone's **number 1**. to find out someone's telephone number. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *As soon as I get Mary's number, I'll call her.* □ *I have her number. Do you want me to write it down for you?* **2**. to find out about a person; to learn the key to understanding a person. (Informal.) □ *I'm going to get your number if I can. You're a real puzzle.* □ *I've got Tom's number. He's ambitious.*

get someone **under one's thumb** Go to **get** someone **over a barrel**.

get something AND **get it 1**. to receive punishment. (Also literal meaning to receive something or to contract a disease.) □ *Bill broke the window, and he's really going to get a scolding.* □ *John got it for arriving late at school.* **2**. to receive the meaning of a joke; to understand something. □ *John told a joke, but I didn't get it.* □ *Bob laughed very hard, but Mary didn't get it.*

get something **across (to someone)** to convey information to someone; to teach someone. □ *I'm trying to get this across to you. Please pay attention.* □ *I'll keep trying until I get it across.*

get something **into** someone's **thick head** Go to **get** something **through** someone's thick skull.

get something **off** one's **chest** to tell something that has been bothering you. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I have to get this off my chest. I broke your window with a stone.* □ *I knew I'd feel better when I had that off my chest.*

get something **off (the ground)** to get something started. (Also literal.) □ *I can relax after I get this project off the ground.* □ *You'll have a lot of free time when you get the project off.*

get something on someone to learn something potentially damaging to someone. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Tom is always trying to get something on me. I can't imagine why.* □ *If he has something on you, he'll have you over a barrel.* □ *If he gets something on you, you ought to get something on him.*

get something out in the open to make something public; to stop hiding a fact or a secret. □ *We had better get this out in the open before the press gets wind of it.* □ *I'll feel better when it's out in the open. I can't stand all of this secrecy.*

get something out of one's system **1.** to get something like food or medicine out of one's body, usually through natural elimination. □ *He'll be more active once he gets the medicine out of his system.* □ *My baby, Mary, ate applesauce and has been crying for three hours. She'll stop when she gets the applesauce out of her system.* **2.** to be rid of the desire to do something; to do something that you have been wanting to do so that you aren't bothered by wanting to do it anymore. □ *I bought a new car. I've been wanting to for a long time. I'm glad I finally got that out of my system.* □ *I can't get it out of my system! I want to go back to school and earn a degree.*

get something out of something to get some kind of benefit from something. □ *I didn't get anything out of the lecture.* □ *I'm always able to get something helpful out of our conversations.*

get something over (with) to complete something, especially something you have dreaded. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Oh, please hurry and get it over with. It hurts.* □ *Please get it over.* □ *When I have this over with, I can relax.*

get something sewed up AND **get something wrapped up** to have something settled or finished. (See also **wrap** something **up**. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I'll take the contract to the mayor tomorrow morning. I'll get the whole deal sewed up by noon.* □ *Don't worry about the car loan. I'll have it sewed*

up in time to make the purchase. □ *I'll get the loan wrapped up, and you'll have the car this week.*

get something straight to understand something clearly. (Informal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Now get this straight. You're going to fail history.* □ *Let me get this straight. I'm supposed to go there in the morning?* □ *Let me make sure I have this straight.*

get something through someone's **thick skull** AND **get something into** someone's **thick head** to manage to get someone, including oneself, to understand something. (Informal.) □ *He can't seem to get it through his thick skull.* □ *If I could get this into my thick head once, I'd remember it.*

get something to go Go to buy something to go.

get something under one's belt **1.** to eat or drink something. (This means the food goes into one's stomach and is under one's belt. Informal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I'd feel a lot better if I had a cool drink under my belt.* □ *Come in out of the cold and get a nice warm meal under your belt.* **2.** to learn something well; to assimilate some information. □ *I have to study tonight. I have to get a lot of algebra under my belt.* □ *Now that I have my lessons under my belt, I can rest easy.*

get something under way to get something started. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *The time has come to get this meeting under way.* □ *Now that the president has the meeting under way, I can relax.*

get something wrapped up Go to get something sewed up.

get stars in one's **eyes** to be obsessed with show business; to be stage-struck. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Many young people get stars in their eyes at this age.* □ *Ann has stars in her eyes. She wants to go to Hollywood.*

get the advantage of someone AND **get the advantage over** someone; **get the edge on** someone; **get the edge over** someone to achieve a position superior to someone

else. (The word *the* can be replaced with *an*. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **take advantage of** someone or something.) □ *Toward the end of the race, I got the advantage over Mary.* □ *She'd had an advantage over me since the start of the competition.* □ *I got an edge on Sally, too, and she came in second.* □ *It's speed that counts. You can have the edge over everyone, but if you don't have speed, you lose.*

get the advantage over someone Go to get the advantage of someone.

get the air to be ignored or sent away. (See also **give someone the air**.) □ *Whenever I get around Tom, I end up getting the air.* □ *I hate to get the air. It makes me feel unwanted.*

get the ax Go to get the sack.

get the ball rolling AND **set the ball rolling; start the ball rolling** to start something; to get some process going. (Informal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *If I could just get the ball rolling, then other people would help.* □ *Who else would start the ball rolling?* □ *I had the ball rolling, but no one helped me with the project.* □ *Ann set the ball rolling, but didn't follow through.*

get the benefit of the doubt to receive a judgment in your favor when the evidence is neither for you nor against you. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **give someone the benefit of the doubt**.) □ *In my math course, I was right between a B and an A. I got the benefit of the doubt—an A.* □ *I thought I should have had the benefit of the doubt, but the judge made me pay a fine.*

get the best of someone Go to get the better of someone.

get the better of someone AND **get the best of** someone to win out over someone in a competition or bargain. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Bill got the best of John in the boxing match.* □ *I tried to get the better of John, but he won anyway.* □ *I set out to have the better of Sally, but I didn't have enough skill.*

get the blues to become sad or depressed. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *You'll have to excuse Bill. He has the blues tonight.* □ *I get the blues every time I hear that song.*

get the boot to be sent away (from somewhere); to be dismissed from one's employment; to be kicked out (of a place). (Slang. See also **get the sack; give someone the boot**.) □ *I guess I wasn't dressed well enough to go in there. I got the boot.* □ *I'll work harder at my job today. I nearly got the boot yesterday.*

get the brush-off to be ignored or sent away; to be rejected. (Slang.) □ *Don't talk to Tom. You'll just get the brush-off.* □ *I went up to her and asked for a date, but I got the brush-off.*

get the cold shoulder to be ignored; to be rejected. (Informal. See also **give someone the cold shoulder**.) □ *If you invite her to a party, you'll just get the cold shoulder.* □ *I thought that Sally and I were friends, but lately I've been getting the cold shoulder.*

get the creeps AND **get the willies** to become frightened; to become uneasy. (Slang. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I get the creeps when I see that old house.* □ *I really had the willies when I went down into the basement.*

get the day off to have a day free from working. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **take the day off**.) □ *The next time I get a day off, we'll go to the zoo.* □ *I have the day off. Let's go to the zoo.*

get the devil AND **catch hell; catch the devil; get hell** to receive a severe scolding. (Informal. Use caution with *hell*.) □ *Bill is always getting the devil about something.* □ *I'm late. If I don't get home soon, I'll catch hell!* □ *I caught the devil yesterday for being late.*

get the drift of something to understand the general idea of something. □ *I knew enough German to get the drift of this article.* □ *I don't get the drift of what you're trying to tell me.*

get the edge on someone Go to get the advantage of someone.

get the edge over someone Go to get the advantage of someone.

get the facts straight to get a good understanding of the facts; to make sure that all the facts are accurate and properly stated. □ *Ask a lot of questions and get all of the facts straight.* □ *Please be sure you get the facts straight before you make a decision.*

get the feel of something **AND** **get a feel for** something [for someone] to learn the way something feels (when it is used). (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **have the feel of** something.) □ *I haven't yet got the feel of this bat. I hope I don't strike out.* □ *I can drive better now that I have the feel of this car's steering.*

get the final word Go to get the last word.

get the floor to receive official permission to address the audience. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *When I get the floor, I'll make a short speech.* □ *The last time you had the floor, you talked for an hour.*

get the gate to be sent away; to be rejected. (Slang. See also **give someone the gate**.) □ *I thought he liked me, but I got the gate.* □ *I was afraid I'd get the gate, and I was right.*

get the glad hand to receive an overly friendly welcome; to receive insincere attention. (Informal.) □ *Whenever I go into that store, I get the glad hand.* □ *I hate to go to a party and get the glad hand.*

get the go-ahead **AND** **get the green light** to receive a signal to start or continue. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **give someone the go-ahead**.) □ *We have to wait here until we have the go-ahead.* □ *I hope we get the green light on our project soon.*

get the go-by to be ignored or passed by. (Slang.) □ *It was my turn, but I got the go-by.* □ *Tom stood on the road for fifteen minutes trying to get a ride, but all he could get was the go-by.*

get the goods on someone to find out something potentially damaging or embarrassing about someone. (Slang. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *John beat me unfairly in tennis, but I'll get even. I'll get the goods on him and his cheating.* □ *The authorities have the goods on Mr. Smith. He has been selling worthless land again.*

get the green light Go to get the go-ahead.

get the hang of something to learn how to do something; to learn how something works. (Informal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *As soon as I get the hang of this computer, I'll be able to work faster.* □ *Now that I have the hang of starting the car in cold weather, I won't have to get up so early.*

get the hard sell to receive considerable pressure to buy or accept (something). (Informal.) □ *I won't go to that store again. I really got the hard sell.* □ *You'll probably get the hard sell if you go to a used-car dealer.*

get the high sign to receive a prearranged signal. (Often refers to a hand signal or some other visual signal.) □ *When I got the high sign, I pulled cautiously out into the roadway.* □ *The train's engineer got the high sign and began to move the train out of the station.*

get the inside track to get the advantage (over someone) because of special connections, special knowledge, or favoritism. (The inside track is the shortest track in an oval race track that is divided into tracks. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *If I could get the inside track, I could win the contract.* □ *The boss likes me. Since I have the inside track, I'll probably be the new office manager.*

get the jump on someone to do something before someone; to get ahead of someone. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I got the jump on Tom and got a place in line ahead of him.* □ *We'll have to work hard to get the contract, because they have the jump on us.*

get the last laugh to laugh at or ridicule someone who has laughed at or ridiculed you; to put someone in the same bad position that you were once in; to **turn the tables (on someone)**. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **He who laughs last, laughs longest**.) □ *John laughed when I got a D on the final exam. I got the last laugh, though. He failed the course.* □ *Mr. Smith said I was foolish when I bought an old building. I had the last laugh when I sold it a month later for twice what I paid for it.*

get the last word AND **get the final word** to get to make the final point (in an argument); to get to make the final decision (in some matter). (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *The boss gets the last word in hiring.* □ *Why do you always have to have the final word in an argument?*

get the lead out AND **shake the lead out** to hurry; to move faster. (Slang. This means to get the lead weights out of your pants so you can move faster.) □ *Come on, you guys. Get the lead out!* □ *If you're going to sell cars, you're going to have to shake the lead out.*

get the low-down (on someone or something) to receive the full story about someone or something. (Slang. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **give someone the low-down (on someone or something)**.) □ *I need to get the low-down on John. Is he still an accountant?* □ *Sally wants to get the low-down on the new expressway. Please tell her all about it.* □ *Now I have the low-down on the princess!*

get the message Go to get the word.

get the nod to get chosen. (Informal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *The manager is going to pick the new sales manager. I think Ann will get the nod.* □ *I had the nod for captain of the team, but I decided not to do it.*

get the (old) heave-ho to get thrown out (of a place); to get dismissed (from one's employment). (Informal. From nautical use, where sailors used *heave-ho* to coordinate hard physical labor. One sailor

called "*Heave-ho*," and all the sailors would pull at the same time on the *ho*. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **give someone or something the (old) heave-ho**.) □ *I went there to buy a record album, but I got the old heave-ho. That's right. They threw me out!* □ *They fired a number of people today, but I didn't get the heave-ho.* □ *John had the old heave-ho last week. Now he's unemployed.*

get the once-over to receive a quick visual examination. (Note the variations in the examples. See also **give someone the once-over**.) □ *Every time John walks by I get the once-over. Does he like me?* □ *I went to the doctor yesterday, but I only had a once-over.* □ *I wanted a complete examination, not just a once-over.*

get the picture to understand the whole situation. (Informal or slang.) □ *Okay, Bob. That's the whole explanation. You get the picture?* □ *Yes, I got the picture.*

get the red-carpet treatment to receive very special treatment; to receive royal treatment. (This refers—sometimes literally—to the rolling out of a clean red carpet for someone to walk on. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**. See also **give someone the red-carpet treatment**; **roll out the red carpet for someone**.) □ *I love to go to fancy stores where I get the red-carpet treatment.* □ *The queen expects to get the red-carpet treatment wherever she goes.*

get the runaround to receive a series of excuses, delays, and referrals. □ *You'll get the runaround if you ask to see the manager.* □ *I hate it when I get the runaround.*

get the sack AND **get the ax** to get fired; to be dismissed (from one's employment). (Slang. See also **give someone the ax**.) □ *I got the sack yesterday. Now I have to find a new job.* □ *I tried to work harder, but I got the ax anyway.*

get the shock of one's life to receive a serious (emotional) shock. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *I opened the telegram and got the shock of*

my life. ☐ I had the shock of my life when I won \$5,000.

get the short end of the stick AND **end up with the short end of the stick** to end up with less (than someone else); to end up cheated or deceived. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ Why do I always get the short end of the stick? I want my fair share! ☐ She's unhappy because she has the short end of the stick again. ☐ I hate to end up with the short end of the stick.

get the show on the road to get (something) started. (Slang.) ☐ Hurry up, you guys. Let's get the show on the road. ☐ If you don't get the show on the road right now, we'll never finish today.

get the slip [for someone] to elude or escape (someone). (Slang.) ☐ We followed her for two blocks, and then got the slip. ☐ The police got the slip, and the criminal got away.

get the third degree to be questioned in great detail for a long period. (Slang. See also **give** someone **the third degree**.) ☐ Why is it I get the third degree from you every time I come home late? ☐ Poor Sally spent all night at the police station getting the third degree.

get the upper hand (on someone) to get into a position superior to someone; to get the advantage of someone. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ John is always trying to get the upper hand on someone. ☐ He never ends up having the upper hand, though.

get the willies Go to get the creeps.

get the word AND **get the message** to receive an explanation; to receive the final and authoritative explanation. ☐ I'm sorry, I didn't get the word. I didn't know the matter had been settled. ☐ Now that I have gotten the message, I can be more effective in answering questions.

get the works to receive a lot of something. (Slang. *The works* can be a lot of food, good treatment, bad treatment, etc. See also **give** someone **the works**.) ☐ BILL: Shall we order a snack or a big meal? JANE: I'm hungry. Let's get the works. ☐

But, your honor. I shouldn't get the works. I only drove too fast!

get the worst of something to experience the worst aspects of something. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ No matter what happens at the office, I seem to get the worst of it. ☐ He always gets the worst of the bargain. ☐ I got to choose which one I wanted, but I still got the worst of the two.

get through something **1.** to finish something; to work one's way through something. (Compare this with **get through with** something.) ☐ If I read fast, I can get through this book in an hour. ☐ I don't think I can get through all this work by quitting time. **2.** to survive something; to go through something. ☐ This is a busy day. I don't know how I'll get through it. ☐ Sally hopes to get through college in three years.

get through (to someone) **1.** to reach someone; to manage to communicate to someone. ☐ I called her on the telephone time after time, but I couldn't get through to her. ☐ I tried every kind of communication, but I couldn't get through. **2.** to pass through (something). ☐ The crowd was so thick that I couldn't get through to him. ☐ I tried, but I couldn't get through. The crowd was too heavy. **3.** to make someone understand something; to get something through someone's thick skull. ☐ Why don't you try to understand me? What do I have to do to get through to you? ☐ Can anybody get through, or are you just stubborn? ☐ Ann is still too sick to understand what I'm saying. Maybe I can get through to her tomorrow.

get through with something to get finished with something. (Compare this with **get through** something.) ☐ You can use this pencil when I get through with it. ☐ Can I have the salt when you get through with it?

get time off to receive a period of time that is free from employment. (Compare this with **get the day off**. See also **take time off**. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) ☐ I'll have to get time off for jury duty. ☐ I got time off to go downtown

and shop. □ *I don't have time off from work very often.*

get time off for good behavior to have one's prison sentence shortened because of good behavior. (Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Bob will get out of jail tomorrow rather than next week. He got time off for good behavior.* □ *I know I will have time off for good behavior.*

get time to catch one's breath to find enough time to relax or behave normally. (Also literal. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *When things slow down around here, I'll get time to catch my breath.* □ *Sally was so busy she didn't even have time to catch her breath.*

get to first base (with someone or something) AND **reach first base (with someone or something)** to make a major advance with someone or something. (Informal. *First base* refers to baseball.) □ *I wish I could get to first base with this business deal.* □ *John adores Sally, but he can't even reach first base with her. She won't even speak to him.* □ *He smiles and acts friendly, but he can't get to first base.*

get to one's feet to stand up. □ *On a signal from the director, the singers got to their feet.* □ *I was so weak, I could hardly get to my feet.*

get to someone to affect someone emotionally in a bad way; to bother someone. □ *Working with abandoned children eventually got to David, and he had to transfer to another department.* □ *Nothing gets to me like seeing people litter.*

get to the bottom of something to get an understanding of the causes of something. (Also literal.) □ *We must get to the bottom of this problem immediately.* □ *There is clearly something wrong here, and I want to get to the bottom of it.*

get to the heart of the matter AND **get at the heart of the matter** to get to the essentials of a matter. □ *We have to stop wasting time and get to the heart of the matter.* □ *You've been very helpful. You really seem to be able to get to the heart of the matter.*

get to the point Go to come to the point.

get to the root of the problem to gain an understanding of the causes or basis of a problem and propose a solution; to **get to the bottom of** something. □ *It will take a little more study to get to the root of the problem.* □ *Let's stop avoiding the issue and get to the root of the problem.*

get tough (with someone) to become firm with someone; to use physical force against someone. (Compare this with **get physical (with someone)**.) □ *The teacher had to get tough with the class because the students were acting badly.* □ *I've tried to get you to behave, but it looks like I'll have to get tough.*

get two strikes against one to get a number of things against one; to be in a position where success is unlikely. (From baseball where one is "out" after three strikes. Also with *have*. See the note at **get a big send-off**.) □ *Poor Bob got two strikes against him when he tried to explain where he was last night.* □ *I can't win. I've got two strikes against me before I start.*

get under someone's skin to bother or irritate someone. (Informal.) □ *John is so annoying. He really gets under my skin.* □ *I know he's bothersome, but don't let him get under your skin.*

get under way to start going; to start. (The word *get* can be replaced with *be*. Compare this with **get something under way**.) □ *The ship is leaving soon. It's about to get under way.* □ *Let us get our journey under way.* □ *I'm glad our project is under way.*

get-up-and-go energy; motivation. □ *I must be getting old. I just don't have my old get-up-and-go.* □ *A good breakfast will give you lots of get-up-and-go.*

get up enough nerve (to do something) to get brave enough to do something. □ *I could never get up enough nerve to sing in public.* □ *I'd do it if I could get up enough nerve, but I'm shy.*

get up on the wrong side of the bed AND **get out of the wrong side of the bed** to get up in the morning in a bad mood. □ *What's wrong with you? Did you get up*

on the wrong side of the bed today? □ *Excuse me for being grouchy. I got out of the wrong side of the bed.*

get used to someone or something to become accustomed to someone or something. □ *I got used to being short many years ago.* □ *John is nice, but I really can't get used to him. He talks too much.*

get well to become healthy again. □ *Ann had a cold for a week, and then she got well.* □ *Hurry up and get well!*

get wet to become soaked with water. (See also **all wet**.) □ *Get out of the rain or you'll get wet.* □ *Don't get wet, or you'll catch a cold.*

get what's coming to one to get what one deserves. (See also **give one what's coming to one**.) □ *If you cheat, you'll get in trouble. You'll get what's coming to you.* □ *Billy got what was coming to him.*

get wind of something to hear about something; to receive information about something. (Informal.) □ *I just got wind of your marriage. Congratulations.* □ *Wait until the boss gets wind of this. Somebody is going to get in trouble.*

get wise (to someone or something) to find out about someone or something; to see through the deception of someone or something. (Informal or slang.) □ *Watch out, John. Your friends are getting wise to your tricks.* □ *John's friends are getting wise. He had better watch out.*

get with something **1.** to become alert. (Slang. Usually with *it*.) □ *Hey, stupid. Get with it!* □ *Wake up, Bill. Get with what's going on!* **2.** to get up to date on something. (Slang. Usually with *it*.) □ *You're too old-fashioned, Mary. Get with it!* □ *Tom just couldn't get with the newest dance fad.*

get worked up (about something) Go to get worked up (over something).

get worked up (over something) AND **get worked up (about something)** to get excited or emotionally distressed about something. (See also **all worked up (over something)**.) □ *Please don't get worked up over this matter.* □ *They get worked up*

about these things very easily. □ *I try not to get worked up.*

a **ghost of a chance** even the slightest chance; even the most insubstantial chance. □ *She can't do it. She doesn't have a ghost of a chance.* □ *There is just a ghost of a chance that I'll be there on time.*

gild the lily to add ornament or decoration to something that is pleasing in its original state; to attempt to improve something that is already fine the way it is. (Often refers to flattery or exaggeration.) □ *Your house has lovely brickwork. Don't paint it. That would be gilding the lily.* □ *Oh, Sally. You're beautiful the way you are. You don't need makeup. You would be gilding the lily.*

gird (up) one's **loins** to get ready; to prepare oneself (for something). □ *Well, I guess I had better gird up my loins and go to work.* □ *Somebody has to do something about the problem. Why don't you gird your loins and do something?*

give a blank check to someone Go to give someone a blank check.

give a good account of oneself to do (something) well or thoroughly. □ *John gave a good account of himself when he gave his speech last night.* □ *Mary was not hungry, and she didn't give a good account of herself at dinner.*

give-and-take flexibility; willingness to compromise. □ *Don't expect any give-and-take when you are negotiating with Roger.* □ *There was no question of give-and-take in the contract talks. They would not budge on their demands one little bit.*

give (an) ear to someone or something AND **give one's ear** to someone or something to listen to someone or to what someone is saying. (Compare this with **get someone's ear**.) □ *I gave an ear to Mary so she could tell me her problems.* □ *She wouldn't give her ear to my story.* □ *He gave ear to the man's request.*

give as good as one gets to give as much as one receives; to pay someone back in kind. (Usually in the present tense.) □ *John can take care of himself in a fight. He can give as good as he gets.* □ *Sally usu-*

ally wins a formal debate. She gives as good as she gets.

give birth to someone or some creature to bring a baby or other offspring into the world through birth. ☐ *Mary gave birth to a lovely baby girl.* ☐ *The raccoon gave birth to 6 little raccoons.*

give birth to something to give rise to or start something. ☐ *The composer gave birth to a new kind of music.* ☐ *They gave birth to a new view of language.*

give carte blanche to someone Go to give someone *carte blanche*.

give chase (to someone or something) to chase someone or something. ☐ *The dogs gave chase to the fox.* ☐ *A mouse ran by, but the cat was too tired to give chase.* ☐ *The police gave chase to the robber.*

give credence to something to believe something; to consider something believable. ☐ *He tells lies. Don't give credence to what he says.* ☐ *Please don't give credence to Mary. She doesn't know what she's talking about.*

give credit where credit is due to give credit to someone who deserves it; to acknowledge or thank someone who deserves it. ☐ *We must give credit where credit is due. Thank you very much, Sally.* ☐ *Let's give credit where credit is due. Mary is the one who wrote the report, not Jane.*

give free rein to someone **AND** **give** someone **free rein** to allow someone to be completely in charge (of something). (See also **get a free hand** (with someone or something).) ☐ *The boss gave the manager free rein with the new project.* ☐ *The principal gave free rein to Mrs. Brown in her classes.*

give ground to retreat (literally or figuratively). ☐ *When I argue with Mary, she never gives ground.* ☐ *I approached the barking dog, but it wouldn't give ground.*

give her the gun Go to give it the gun.

give in (to someone or something) to yield to someone or something; to give up to someone or something. ☐ *He argued and*

argued and finally gave in to my demands. ☐ *I thought he'd never give in.*

Give it a rest. Stop talking and give your mouth a rest. (Informal.) ☐ *Shut up, Bob! Give it a rest!* ☐ *Give it a rest. You talk too much.*

give it the gun **AND** **give her the gun** to make a motor or engine run faster; to rev up an engine. (Informal or slang. The *her* is often pronounced "er.") ☐ *BILL: How fast will this thing go? BOB: I'll give it the gun and see.* ☐ *Hurry up, driver. Give 'er the gun. I've got to get there immediately.*

Give it time. Be patient.; In time, things will change for the better or for the worse. ☐ *Things will get better. Don't worry. Give it time.* ☐ *Of course, things will improve. Give it time.*

give it to someone (**straight**) to tell something to someone clearly and directly. (Informal.) ☐ *Come on, give it to me straight. I want to know exactly what happened.* ☐ *Quit wasting time, and tell me. Give it to me straight.*

Give it up. Give up.; Stop trying. ☐ *It's no use trying any more. Give it up.* ☐ *You will never get this car to start. Give it up.*

give of oneself to be generous with one's time and concern. ☐ *Tom is very good with children because he gives of himself.* ☐ *If you want to have more friends, you have to learn to give of yourself.*

Give one an inch, and one will take a mile. A person who is granted a little of something (such as a reprieve or lenience) will want more. (Proverb.) ☐ *I told John he could turn in his paper one day late, but he turned it in three days late. Give him an inch, and he'll take a mile.* ☐ *First we let John borrow our car for a day. Now he wants to go on a two-week vacation. If you give him an inch, he'll take a mile.*

give one a run for one's money 1. to give one what one deserves, expects, or wants. (See also **get a run for one's money**.) ☐ *High school football gives me a run for my money.* ☐ *I invest in the stock market, and that really gives me a run for my money.*

2. give one a challenge. □ *That was some argument. Bill gave John a run for his money.* □ *Tom likes to play cards with Mary because she always gives him a run for his money.*

give one butterflies in one's stomach to cause someone to have a nervous stomach. (See also **get butterflies in one's stomach.**) □ *Tests give me butterflies in my stomach.* □ *It was not frightening enough to give me butterflies in my stomach, but it made me a little apprehensive.*

give one one's freedom to set someone free; to divorce someone. □ *Mrs. Brown wanted to give her husband his freedom.* □ *Well, Tom, I hate to break it to you this way, but I have decided to give you your freedom.*

give one one's walking papers to fire someone; to **give someone the sack.** (Informal. See also **get one's walking papers.**) □ *Tom has proved unsatisfactory. I decided to give him his walking papers.* □ *We might even give Sally her walking papers, too.*

give one's ear to someone or something Go to give (an) ear to someone or something.

give one what's coming to one to give one what one deserves, either a punishment or a reward. (See also **get what's coming to one.**) □ *I'm here to be paid. Give me what's coming to me.* □ *Thank you. I will see that you get what's coming to you.*

give out to wear out; to become exhausted and stop. □ *The old lady's heart finally gave out.* □ *Our television set gave out right in the middle of my favorite program.* □ *Bill gave out in the middle of the race.*

give out with something to utter or say something. (Informal. Also with *have*. See the examples below.) □ *Suddenly, the dog gave out with a horrible growl.* □ *At that point, John gave out with a comment about how boring it all was.* □ *Come on, tell me. Have out with it!*

give rise to something to cause something. □ *The bad performance gave rise to many complaints.* □ *The new law gave rise to violence in the cities.*

give someone a bang AND **give someone a charge; give someone a kick** to give someone a bit of excitement. (Informal.) □ *John always gives me a bang.* □ *The whole afternoon, with all its silliness, gave me a charge anyway.*

give someone a big send-off to see someone off on a journey with celebration and encouragement. (See also **get a big send-off.**) □ *When I left for college, all my brothers and sisters came to the airport to give me a big send-off.* □ *When the sailors left, everyone went down to the docks and gave them a big send-off.*

give someone a black eye **1.** to hit someone near the eye so that a dark bruise appears. □ *John became angry and gave me a black eye.* □ *The door began to swing closed as I approached and it gave me a black eye.* **2.** to harm the character or reputation of someone. (See also **get a black eye**) □ *The constant complaining gave the whole group a black eye.* □ *His behavior gave him a black eye with the manager.*

give someone a blank check AND **give a blank check to** someone to give someone freedom or permission to act as one wishes or thinks necessary. (Refers to a signed bank check with the amount left blank.) □ *He's been given a blank check with regard to reorganizing the work force.* □ *The manager has been given no instructions about how to train the staff. The owner just gave him a blank check.* □ *Jean gave the decorator a blank check and said she wanted the whole house done.*

give someone a break to give someone a chance; to give someone another chance or a second chance. □ *I'm sorry. Don't send me home. Give me a break!* □ *They gave me a nice break. They didn't send me home.*

give someone a bright idea to give someone a clever thought or idea. □ *That gives me a bright idea!* □ *Thank you for giving me a bright idea.*

give someone a bum steer to give someone misleading instructions or guidance; to make a misleading suggestion. (Slang. *Bum* = false; *phony*. *Steer* = guidance, as

in the steering of a car.) ☐ *Max gave Ted a bum steer and Ted ended up in the wrong town.* ☐ *Someone gave me a bum steer and I paid far more than I needed to for a used car.*

give someone a buzz Go to give someone a ring.

give someone a charge Go to give someone a bang.

give someone a clean bill of health [for a doctor] to pronounce someone well and healthy. ☐ *The doctor gave Sally a clean bill of health.* ☐ *I had hoped to be given a clean bill of health, but there was something wrong with my blood test results.*

give someone a dirty look [for a person] to frown or make an angry face at someone. ☐ *Ann gave me a dirty look.* ☐ *I gave her a dirty look back.*

give someone a fair shake to give someone fair treatment. ☐ *He's unpleasant, but we have to give him a fair shake.* ☐ *We give all our people a fair shake.*

give someone a fix on something to tell someone the location of something. (See also **get a fix on** something.) ☐ *Please give me a fix on your location.* ☐ *If you give the tower a fix on where you are, they can advise you on runway selection.*

give someone a free hand (with something) to give someone complete control over something. (See also **get a free hand (with someone or something).**) ☐ *They gave me a free hand with the project.* ☐ *I feel proud that they gave me a free hand. That means that they trust my judgment.*

give someone a (good) dressing-down a scolding. ☐ *After that dressing-down I won't be late again.* ☐ *The boss gave Fred a real dressing-down for breaking the machine.*

give someone a hand (for something) to applaud someone for something. ☐ *After she sang, they gave her a nice hand.* ☐ *Come on, give them a hand. They did very well.*

give someone a hand (with someone or something) to help someone with someone or something, often with the hands. ☐ *Will*

somebody please give me a hand with this?
☐ *Can you give me a hand with the baby?*

give someone a hard time to give someone unnecessary difficulty. ☐ *Please don't give me a hard time.* ☐ *The clerk gave me a hard time, so I walked out.*

give someone a head start (on someone or something) **1.** [with someone] to allow someone to start (something) earlier than someone else. ☐ *They gave Bill a head start on everyone else, so he arrived early.* ☐ *Please give me a head start on Charles. He is too fast!* **2.** [with something] to allow someone to start something earlier (than someone else). ☐ *We'll give you a head start on the project.* ☐ *I need a head start on the test because I lost my glasses.*

give someone a kick Go to give someone a bang.

give someone a licking to beat someone. ☐ *Bill give Tom a licking in a fight.* ☐ *I'll give you a good licking if you don't leave me alone.*

give someone a line AND feed someone a line to lead someone on; to deceive someone with false talk. ☐ *Don't pay any attention to John. He gives everybody a line.* ☐ *He's always feeding us a line.*

give someone an earful **1.** to scold someone. ☐ *I was so mad at her! I really gave her an earful.* ☐ *When I find that little jerk I'm going to give him an earful.* **2.** to tell someone a lot of gossip; to give someone a lot of information. ☐ *I just talked to Margaret. Boy did she give me an earful.* ☐ *She always gives me an earful. Otherwise I'd never know what's going on.*

give someone a pain to annoy or bother someone. (Slang.) ☐ *Here comes Sally. Oh, she gives me a pain.* ☐ *She's such a pest. She really gives me a pain.*

give someone a pat on the back Go to pat someone on the back.

give someone a piece of one's mind to bawl someone out; to tell someone off; to rebuke someone. ☐ *I've had enough from John. I'm going to give him a piece of my mind.*

□ Sally, stop it, or I'll give you a piece of my mind.

give someone a rain check (on something)

1. to give someone a piece of paper allowing admission to an event—which has been canceled—at a later time. □ *The game was canceled because of the rain, but they gave everyone rain checks.* □ *They were not able to show the film, so everyone was given a rain check.* **2.** to tell someone that an invitation to a social event will be reissued at a later date. □ *We couldn't go to the Smiths' party, so they gave us a rain check.* □ *We are sorry we cannot attend, but we would love for you to give us a rain check on another date.* **3.** to issue a piece of paper that allows one to purchase an item on sale at a later date. □ *If you have no more of the sale shampoo, will you give me a rain check on it, please?* □ *Can I have a rain check on this item? You don't have enough of it in stock.*

give someone a raw deal to treat someone unfairly or badly. (See also **get a raw deal**.) □ *The judge gave Mary a raw deal.* □ *The students think that the teacher gave them a raw deal.*

give someone a reputation (as a something) to cause someone to be known for being something. □ *That evening gave him a reputation as a flirt.* □ *Yes, it gave him a reputation.*

give someone a reputation (for doing something) to cause someone to be known for doing something. □ *Her excellent parties gave Jane a reputation for entertaining well.* □ *You had better be careful or your behavior will give you a reputation.*

give someone a ring AND **give someone a buzz** to call someone on the telephone. (Informal.) □ *Nice talking to you. Give me a ring sometime.* □ *Give me a buzz when you're in town.*

give someone a rough idea (about something) AND **give someone a rough idea (of something)** to give someone a general idea or an estimate about something. □ *I don't need to know exactly. Just give me a rough idea about how big it should be.* □ *Let me give you a rough idea about my plan.*

give someone a rough idea (of something) Go to **give someone a rough idea (about something)**.

give someone a shellacking **1.** to beat someone. (See also **get a shellacking**.) □ *My dad gave me a shellacking when I broke his fishing rod.* □ *If you do that again, I will give you a shellacking.* **2.** to beat someone (in a contest). □ *The other team gave us a shellacking.* □ *The Bears gave the Packers a shellacking.*

give someone a slap on the wrist AND **slap someone on the wrist; slap someone's wrist** to give someone a light punishment (for doing something wrong). (See also **get a slap on the wrist**.) □ *The judge gave her a slap on the wrist for speeding.* □ *The judge should have done more than slap her wrist.* □ *They should do more than just slap his wrist.*

give someone a start **1.** to help start someone's car. □ *John gave me a start when my car was stalled.* □ *Won't someone please give me a start?* **2.** to give someone training or a big opportunity in beginning one's career. □ *No one gave me a start in the theater, and I eventually gave up trying.* □ *My career began when my father gave me a start in his act.* **3.** to startle someone; to make someone jerk or jump from a sudden fright. (Often with *quite*.) □ *The thunderclap gave me quite a start.* □ *I didn't mean to give you a start. I should have knocked before I entered.*

give someone a swelled head to make someone conceited. □ *Fame gave John a swelled head.* □ *Don't let this success give you a swelled head.*

give someone a tongue-lashing to give someone a severe scolding. (Folksy. See also **get a tongue-lashing**.) □ *I gave Bill a real tongue-lashing when he got home late.* □ *I will give you a real tongue-lashing if you ever do that again.*

give someone carte blanche AND **give carte blanche to someone** to give someone freedom or permission to act as one wishes or thinks necessary. (Almost the same as **give someone a blank check**.) □ *He's been given carte blanche with the re-*

organization of the work force. □ *The manager has been given no instructions about how to train the staff. The owner just gave him carte blanche.* □ *Jean gave carte blanche to the decorator and said she wanted the whole house done.*

give someone credit (for something) to praise or recognize someone for doing something. □ *The coach gave Mary a lot of credit.* □ *The director gave John much credit for his fine performance.*

give someone free rein Go to give free rein to someone.

give someone goose bumps AND **give someone goose pimples** to cause someone to have prickly or bumpy skin owing to excitement or fear. □ *It was a scary movie and it gave me goose bumps.* □ *I hate being in that old house. It gives me goose pimples.*

give someone goose pimples Go to give someone goose bumps.

give someone gray hair(s) to cause someone's hair to turn gray from stress or frustration. (Usually an expression of fear that one's hair will turn gray.) □ *My three teenage boys are giving me gray hair.* □ *Your behavior is giving me gray hairs.*

give someone hell Go to give someone the devil.

give someone or something a wide berth to keep a reasonable distance from someone or something; to steer clear (of someone or something). (Originally referred to sailing ships.) □ *The dog we are approaching is very mean. Better give it a wide berth.* □ *Give Mary a wide berth. She's in a very bad mood.*

give someone or something the (old) heave-ho to throw someone or something out; to get rid of someone or something; to fire someone. (Informal. See also **get the (old) heave-ho**.) □ *We gave Jane the old heave-ho today.* □ *John was behaving badly at our party, so my father gave him the heave-ho.* □ *This chair is completely worn out. Shall I give it the old heave-ho?*

give someone pause to cause someone to stop and think. □ *When I see a golden*

sunrise, it gives me pause. □ *Witnessing an accident is likely to give all of us pause.*

give someone some skin [for two people] to touch two hands together in a special greeting, like a handshake. (Slang. One hand may be slapped down on top of the other, or they may be slapped together palm to palm with the arms held vertically. Usually said as a command.) □ *Hey, Bob, give me some skin!* □ *Come over here, you guys. I want you to meet my brother and give him some skin!*

give someone the air to ignore someone; to dismiss someone. (See also **get the air**.) □ *Tom always gives me the air. Is there something wrong with me?* □ *Why is she giving him the air? What did he do?*

give someone the ax AND **give someone the sack** to fire someone; to terminate someone's employment. (See also **get the sack**.) □ *I gave Tom the sack, and he has to find a new job.* □ *I had to give three people the ax yesterday. We are having to reduce our office staff.*

give someone the benefit of the doubt to make a judgment in someone's favor when the evidence is neither for nor against the person. (See also **get the benefit of the doubt**.) □ *I'm glad the teacher gave me the benefit of the doubt.* □ *Please, judge. Give me the benefit of the doubt.*

give someone the boot to dismiss someone; to kick someone out (of a place). (Slang. See also **get the boot**.) □ *You had better behave, or they'll give you the boot.* □ *I will give him the boot if he doesn't straighten up.*

give someone the brush-off to send someone away; to reject someone. (Slang.) □ *Tom wouldn't talk to her. He just gave her the brush-off.* □ *Please don't give me the brush-off!*

give someone the bum's rush to hurry someone into leaving; to usher someone out of a place quickly. (As someone might quickly escort a vagrant from a fancy restaurant.) □ *The young customer in the jewelry store was being given the bum's rush, so he pulled out an enormous roll of bills and the clerk became much*

more helpful. □ *The doorman gave Bill the bum's rush at the restaurant because Bill did not have a tie on.*

give someone the business to harass someone; to give someone a bad time. (Informal.) □ *The people in that office can't answer your question. They just give you the business.* □ *I'll get rid of her. I'll give her the business.*

give someone the cold shoulder to ignore someone; to reject someone. (Informal. See also **get the cold shoulder**.) □ *She gave me the cold shoulder when I asked her to the party.* □ *Sally has been giving me the cold shoulder.*

give someone the creeps AND **give someone the willies** to make someone uneasy; to frighten someone. (Informal. See also **get the creeps**.) □ *That old house gives me the creeps.* □ *That strange old man gives him the willies.*

give someone the devil AND **give someone hell** to scold someone severely. (Informal. Use caution with *hell*.) □ *I'm going to give Bill hell when he gets home. He's late again.* □ *Bill, why do I always have to give you the devil?*

give someone the eye to look at someone in a way that communicates romantic interest. (Informal. See also **catch someone's eye**.) □ *Ann gave John the eye. It really surprised him.* □ *Tom kept giving Sally the eye. She finally left.*

give someone the gate to send someone away; to reject someone. (Slang. See also **get the gate**.) □ *Not only was he not friendly, he gave me the gate.* □ *He was rude, so we gave him the gate.*

give someone the glad hand to give someone an overly friendly welcome; to give someone insincere attention. (Informal.) □ *Here comes Tom. Watch him give us the glad hand and leave.* □ *These politicians give you the glad hand and ignore you after they are elected.*

give someone the go-ahead AND **give someone the green light** to give someone the signal to start or continue. (See also **get the go-ahead**.) □ *It's time to start work.*

Give everybody the go-ahead. □ *They gave us the green light to start.*

give someone the go-by to pass by or ignore someone. (Slang.) □ *I could see that Tom wanted a ride, but I gave him the go-by.* □ *There was no reason to give the me go-by!*

give someone the green light Go to give someone the go-ahead.

give someone the hard sell to put pressure on someone to buy or accept (something). (Informal.) □ *They gave me the hard sell, but I still wouldn't buy the car.* □ *The clerk gave the customer the hard sell.*

give someone the high sign to give someone a prearranged signal. □ *As the robber walked past me, I gave the police officer a high sign. Then the officer arrested the robber.* □ *Things got started when I gave the conductor the high sign.*

give someone the low-down (on someone or something) to tell someone the full story about someone or something. (Slang. See also **get the low-down (on someone or something)**.) □ *Please give Sally the low-down on the new expressway.* □ *I do not know what's going on. Please give me the low-down.*

give someone the once-over to visually examine someone quickly. (See also **get the once-over**.) □ *John gives me the once-over every time he walks by me.* □ *Why does he just give me the once-over? Why doesn't he say hello?*

give someone the red-carpet treatment to give someone very special treatment; to give someone royal treatment. (See also **get the red-carpet treatment**.) □ *We always give the queen the red-carpet treatment when she comes to visit.* □ *They never give me the red-carpet treatment.*

give someone the runaround to give someone a series of excuses, delays, and referrals. □ *If you ask to see the manager, they'll give you the runaround.* □ *Stop giving me the runaround!*

give someone the sack Go to give someone the ax.

give someone **the shirt off** one's **back** to be very generous or solicitous to someone.

□ *Tom really likes Bill. He'd give Bill the shirt off his back.* □ *John is so friendly that he'd give anyone the shirt off his back.*

give someone **the slip** to escape from or elude someone. (Slang.) □ *We followed her for two blocks, and then she gave us the slip.* □ *Max gave Lefty the slip.*

give someone **the third degree** to question someone in great detail for a long period. (Slang. See also **get the third degree**.) □ *The police gave Sally the third degree.* □ *Stop giving me the third degree. I told you what I know.*

give someone **the willies** Go to give someone the creeps.

give someone **the works** to give someone the full amount or the full treatment. (Slang. See also **get the works**.) □ *The judge gave her the works for driving too fast.* □ *I want everything on my hamburger. Give me the works.*

give someone **tit for tat** to give someone something equal to what was given you; to exchange a series of things, one by one, with someone. (Informal.) □ *They gave me the same kind of difficulty that I gave them. They gave me tit for tat.* □ *He punched me, so I punched him. Every time he hit me, I hit him. I just gave him tit for tat.*

give someone **to understand** something to explain something to someone; to imply something to someone. (This may mislead someone, accidentally or intentionally.) □ *Mr. Smith gave Sally to understand that she should be home by midnight.* □ *The mayor gave the citizens to understand that there would be no tax increase. He didn't promise, though.*

give someone **what for** to scold someone. (Folksy.) □ *Billy's mother gave him what for because he didn't get home on time.* □ *I will really give you what for if you don't straighten up.*

give something **a lick and a promise** to do something poorly—quickly and carelessly. (Informal.) □ *John! You didn't clean your room! You just gave it a lick and*

a promise. □ *This time, Tom, comb your hair. It looks as if you just gave it a lick and a promise.*

give something **a shot** **AND** **take a shot at** something to try something. □ *I have never dived before, but I will give it a shot.* □ *Tom decided to take a shot at writing a poem.*

give something **a whirl** make a try at doing something. □ *If at first you don't succeed, give it another whirl.* □ *John gave bowling a whirl last night.*

give something one's **best shot** to give a task one's best effort. □ *I gave the project my best shot.* □ *Sure, try it. Give it your best shot!*

give the **bride away** [for a bride's father] to accompany the bride to the groom in a wedding ceremony. □ *Mr. Brown is ill. Who'll give the bride away?* □ *In the traditional wedding ceremony, the bride's father gives the bride away.*

give the **devil her due** Go to give the devil his due.

give the **devil his due** **AND** **give the devil her due** to give your foe proper credit (for something). (This usually refers to a person who has been evil—like the devil.) □ *She's generally impossible, but I have to give the devil her due. She bakes a terrific cherry pie.* □ *John may cheat on his taxes and yell at his wife, but he keeps his car polished. I'll give the devil his due.*

give the **game away** to reveal a plan or strategy. (Informal.) □ *Now, all of you have to keep quiet. Please don't give the game away.* □ *If you keep giving out hints, you'll give the game away.*

give **up the ghost** to die; to release one's spirit. (Considered formal or humorous.) □ *The old man sighed, rolled over, and gave up the ghost.* □ *I'm too young to give up the ghost.*

give **vent** to something to express anger; to release one's anger, irritation, emotion, etc. (The *something* is usually anger, ire, irritation, etc.) □ *John gave vent to his anger by yelling at Sally.* □ *Bill couldn't*

give vent to his frustration because he had been warned to keep quiet.

give voice to something to express a feeling or an opinion in words; to speak out about something. □ *The bird gave voice to its joy in the golden sunshine.* □ *All the people gave voice to their anger at Congress.*

a **given** a fact that is taken for granted; a fact that is assumed. □ *That Mary will go to college is a given. The question is what she is going to study.* □ *It is a given that the earth revolves around the sun.*

given to doing something likely to do something; inclined to do something habitually. □ *Mary is given to singing in the shower.* □ *Bob is given to shouting when things don't go his way.*

given to understand made to believe. □ *They were given to understand that there would be no tax increase, but after the election taxes went up.* □ *She was given to understand that she had to be home by midnight.*

gloss something over to cover up or conceal an error; to make something appear right by minimizing or concealing the flaws. □ *When I asked him not to gloss the flaws over, he got angry.* □ *When Mr. Brown was selling me the car, he tried to gloss over its defects.*

glutton for punishment someone who seems to like doing or seeking out difficult, unpleasant, or badly paid tasks. □ *If you want to work for this charity, you'll have to be a glutton for punishment and work long hours for nothing.* □ *Jane must be a real glutton for punishment. She's typing Bill's manuscript free of charge, and he doesn't even thank her.*

gnash one's teeth to slash about with the teeth. □ *Bill clenched his fists and gnashed his teeth in anger.* □ *The wolf gnashed its teeth and chased after the deer.*

go about one's business to mind one's business; to move elsewhere and mind one's own business. □ *Leave me alone! Just go about your business!* □ *I have no more to say. I would be pleased if you would go about your business.*

go against the grain to go against the natural direction or inclination. (Refers to the grain of wood. See also **rub someone's fur the wrong way**.) □ *You can't expect me to help you cheat. That goes against the grain.* □ *Would it go against the grain for you to call in sick for me?*

go all out to use all one's resources; to be very thorough. (Informal. Compare this with **make an all-out effort**.) □ *Whenever they have a party, they really go all out.* □ *My cousin is coming for a visit, and she expects us to go all out.*

go all the way (with someone) AND **go to bed (with someone)** to have sexual intercourse with someone. (Euphemistic. Use with caution.) □ *If you go all the way, you stand a chance of getting pregnant.* □ *I've heard that they go to bed all the time.*

go along for the ride to accompany (someone) for the pleasure of riding along. □ *Join us. You can go along for the ride.* □ *I don't really need to go to the grocery store, but I'll go along for the ride.*

go a long way in doing something Go to go a long way toward doing something.

go a long way toward doing something AND **go a long way in** doing something almost to satisfy specific conditions; to be almost right. □ *This machine goes a long way toward meeting our needs.* □ *Your plan went a long way in helping us with our problem.*

go along (with someone or something) 1. [with something] to agree to something. (Also literal, meaning "to accompany someone.") □ *All right. I'll go along with your plan.* □ *I'm sure that John won't want to go along with it.* 2. [with someone] to agree with someone. □ *I go along with Sally. I'm sure she's right.* □ *I can't go along with John. He doesn't know what he's talking about.*

go ape (over someone or something) to become very excited and enthusiastic about someone or something. (Slang.) □ *I really go ape over chocolate ice cream.* □ *Tom really goes ape over Mary.*

go (a)round in circles 1. to keep going over the same ideas or repeating the same

actions, often resulting in confusion, without reaching a satisfactory decision or conclusion. ☐ *We're just going round in circles discussing the problems of the party. We need to consult someone else to get a new point of view.* ☐ *Fred's trying to find out what's happened but he's going round in circles. No one will tell him anything useful.* **2.** to be or act confused. (Informal.) ☐ *I'm so busy I'm going around in circles.* ☐ *I can't work anymore. I'm so tired that I'm going round in circles.*

go (a)round the bend 1. to go around a turn or a curve; to make a turn or a curve. ☐ *You'll see the house you're looking for as you go round the bend.* ☐ *John waved to his father until the car went round the bend.* **2.** to go crazy; to lose one's mind. (Informal.) ☐ *If I don't get some rest, I'll go round the bend.* ☐ *Poor Bob. He has been having trouble for a long time. He finally went around the bend.*

go around with someone Go to hang around (with someone).

go astray to leave the proper path (literally or figuratively). ☐ *Stay right on the road. Don't go astray and get lost.* ☐ *Follow the rules I've given you and don't go astray. That'll keep you out of trouble.*

go at it hammer and tongs Go to fight someone or something **hammer and tongs**.

go at it tooth and nail Go to fight someone or something **hammer and tongs**.

go at someone or something to attack someone or something; to move or lunge toward someone or something. ☐ *The dog went at the visitor and almost bit him.* ☐ *He went at the door and tried to break it down.*

go away empty-handed to depart with nothing. (Compare this with **come away empty-handed**.) ☐ *I hate for you to go away empty-handed, but I cannot afford to contribute any money.* ☐ *They came hoping for some food, but they had to go away empty-handed.*

go AWOL to become absent without leave. (See also **absent without leave**.) ☐ *Private Smith went AWOL last Wednesday. Now*

he's in a military prison. ☐ *Tom went AWOL once too often.*

go back on one's word to break a promise that one has made. ☐ *I hate to go back on my word, but I won't pay you \$100 after all.* ☐ *Going back on your word makes you a liar.*

go bad to become rotten, undesirable, evil, etc. ☐ *I'm afraid that this milk has gone bad.* ☐ *Life used to be wonderful. Now it has gone bad.*

go bananas to go crazy or become silly. (Slang.) ☐ *Whenever I see Sally, I just go bananas! She's fantastic.* ☐ *This was a horrible day! I almost went bananas.*

go begging to be unwanted or unused. (As if an object were begging for an owner or a user.) ☐ *There is still food left. A whole lobster is going begging. Please eat some more.* ☐ *There are many excellent books in the library just going begging because people don't know they are there.*

go broke to completely run out of money and other assets. ☐ *This company is going to go broke if you don't stop spending money foolishly.* ☐ *I made some bad investments last year, and it looks as if I may go broke this year.*

go by the board to get ruined or lost. (This is a nautical expression meaning "to fall or be washed overboard.") ☐ *I hate to see good food go by the board. Please eat up so we won't have to throw it out.* ☐ *Your plan has gone by the board. The entire project has been canceled.*

go by the book to follow the rules exactly. (Refers to a book of rules.) ☐ *The judge of the contest went by the book and disqualified us in the first round.* ☐ *Everyone insisted that the chairman go by the book and rule against the questionable motion.*

go chase oneself to go away (and stop being a bother). (Slang.) ☐ *He was bothering me, so I told him to go chase himself.* ☐ *Get out, you pest! Go chase yourself!*

Go climb a tree! AND Go fly a kite!; Go fry an egg!; Go jump in the lake!; Take a hike!; Take a walk! Go away and stop bothering me! ☐ *Go away and stop both-*

ering me. *Go climb a tree!* □ *Go climb a tree! You are a pain in the neck.*

go cold turkey to stop (doing something) without tapering off. (Slang. Originally drug slang. Now concerned with breaking any habit.) □ *I had to stop smoking, so I went cold turkey. It's awful!* □ *When heroin addicts go cold turkey, they get terribly sick.*

go crazy to become crazy, disorientated, or frustrated. □ *It is so busy here that I think I will go crazy.* □ *Bob went crazy because his car got a flat tire.*

go down fighting to continue the struggle until one is completely defeated. □ *I won't give up easily. I'll go down fighting.* □ *Sally, who is very determined, went down fighting.*

go downhill [for something] to decline and grow worse and worse. (Also literal.) □ *This industry is going downhill. We lose money every year.* □ *As one gets older, one tends to go downhill.*

go down in history to be remembered as historically important. □ *Bill is so great. I'm sure that he'll go down in history.* □ *This is the greatest party of the century. I bet it'll go down in history.*

go Dutch to share the cost of a meal or some other event. (See also **Dutch treat**.) □ *JANE: Let's go out and eat. MARY: Okay, but let's go Dutch.* □ *It's getting expensive to have Sally for a friend. She never wants to go Dutch.*

go easy (on someone or something) **1.** to be kind or gentle with someone or something. (See also **take it easy (on someone or something)**.) □ *Go easy on Tom. He just got out of the hospital.* □ *Go easy on the cat. It doesn't like to be roughed up.* □ *Okay, I'll go easy.* **2.** [with something] to use something sparingly. □ *Go easy on the mustard. That's all there is.* □ *When you make my sandwich, please go easy on the onions. I don't like them very well.*

go fifty-fifty (on something) to divide the cost of something in half with someone. □ *Todd and Jean decided to go fifty-fifty on dinner.* □ *The two brothers went fifty-fifty on a replacement for the broken lamp.*

Go fly a kite! Go to Go climb a tree!

go for broke to risk everything; to try as hard as possible. (Slang.) □ *Okay, this is my last chance. I'm going for broke.* □ *Look at Mary starting to move in the final hundred yards of the race! She is really going for broke.*

go for it to make a try for something; to decide to do something. (Slang.) □ *I have an offer of a new job. I think I'm going to go for it.* □ *Hey, great. Go for it!*

go for someone or something **1.** to desire someone or something. (Also literal meaning to go in someone's place. Usually with *could*, as in the examples.) □ *Look at that cute guy. I could really go for him.* □ *I could go for a nice cool glass of iced tea.*

2. to attack someone or something; to lunge at someone or something. □ *The lion went for the antelope's throat.* □ *After the robber struck Bill, he went for John.*

3. to reach for a weapon. □ *The robber went for his gun and the cop shot him.* □ *The hunter went for his knife, but it was too late. The bear was upon him.*

go from bad to worse to progress from a bad state to a worse state. □ *This is a terrible day. Things are going from bad to worse.* □ *My cold is awful. It went from bad to worse in just an hour.*

Go fry an egg! Go to Go climb a tree!

go great guns to go fast or energetically. (Folksy.) □ *I'm over my cold and going great guns.* □ *Business is great. We are going great guns selling ice cream.*

go haywire to go wrong; to malfunction; to break down. (Folksy.) □ *I was talking to Mary when suddenly the telephone went haywire. I haven't heard from her since.* □ *There we were, driving along, when the engine went haywire. It was two hours before the tow truck came.*

go hog-wild to behave wildly. (Folksy.) □ *Have a good time at the party, but don't go hog-wild.* □ *The teacher cannot control a class that is going hog-wild.*

go in a body to move in a group. □ *The whole team went in a body to talk to the*

coach. □ *Each of us was afraid to go alone, so we went in a body.*

go in for something to take part in something; to enjoy (doing) something. □ *John doesn't go in for sports.* □ *None of them seems to go in for swimming.*

go in one ear and out the other [for something] to be heard and then forgotten. (See also in one ear and out (of) the other.) □ *Everything I say to you seems to go in one ear and out the other. Why don't you pay attention?* □ *I can't concentrate. Things people say to me just go in one ear and out the other.*

go into action AND **swing into action** to start doing something. □ *I usually get to work at 7:45, and I go into action at 8:00.* □ *When the ball is hit in my direction, you should see me swing into action.*

go into a nosedive AND **take a nosedive**

1. [for an airplane] suddenly to dive toward the ground, nose first. □ *It was a bad day for flying, and I was afraid we'd go into a nosedive.* □ *The small plane took a nosedive. The pilot was able to bring it out at the last minute, so the plane didn't crash.* **2.** to go into a rapid emotional or financial decline, or a decline in health. (Informal.) □ *Our profits took a nosedive last year.* □ *After he broke his hip, Mr. Brown's health went into a nosedive, and he never recovered.*

go into a tailspin **1.** [for an airplane] to lose control and spin to the earth, nose first. □ *The plane shook and then suddenly went into a tailspin.* □ *The pilot was not able to bring the plane out of the tailspin, and it crashed into the sea.* **2.** [for someone] to become disoriented or panicked; [for someone's life] to fall apart. (Informal.) □ *Although John was a great success, his life went into a tailspin. It took him a year to get straightened out.* □ *After her father died, Mary's world fell apart, and she went into a tailspin.*

go into detail to give all the details; to present and discuss the details. □ *The clerk went into detail about the product with the customer.* □ *I just want a simple answer. Don't go into detail.*

go into effect AND **take effect** [for a law or a rule] to become effective; to start to function. □ *When does this new law go into effect?* □ *The new tax laws won't go into effect until next year.* □ *This law takes effect almost immediately.*

go into hiding to conceal oneself in a hidden place for a period of time. □ *The political dissident went into hiding.* □ *After robbing the bank, the bandits went into hiding for months.*

go into hock go into debt. □ *We will have to go into hock to buy a house.* □ *I go further into hock every time I use my credit card.*

go into one's song and dance (about something) to start giving one's explanations and excuses about something. (One's can be replaced by *the same old*.) □ *Please don't go into your song and dance about how you always tried to do what was right.* □ *John went into his song and dance about how he won the war all by himself.* □ *He always goes into the same old song and dance every time he makes a mistake.*

go into orbit to get very excited; to be in ecstasy. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *When I got a letter from my boyfriend in England, I almost went into orbit.* □ *Tom goes into orbit every time the football team scores.*

go into something to start something new. (Especially a new career, project, product line, etc. Compare this with **be into something**.) □ *I may quit selling and go into management.* □ *We are shifting production away from glass bottles, and we are going into vases and other decorative containers.* □ *After she graduated, she went into law.*

go it alone to do something by oneself. (Informal.) □ *Do you need help, or will you go it alone?* □ *I think I need a little more experience before I go it alone.*

Go jump in the lake! Go to Go climb a tree!

go like clockwork to progress with regularity and dependability. (Informal.) □ *The building project is progressing nicely. Everything is going like clockwork.* □ *The*

elaborate pageant was a great success. It went like clockwork from start to finish.

go off [for something] to explode. □ *The fireworks didn't go off when they were supposed to.* □ *There was a bomb in the building, but it didn't go off.*

go off half-cocked to proceed without proper preparation; to speak (about something) without adequate knowledge. (Informal or slang.) □ *Don't pay any attention to what John says. He's always going off half-cocked.* □ *Get your facts straight before you make your presentation. There is nothing worse than going off half-cocked.*

go off on a tangent to go off suddenly in another direction; suddenly to change one's line of thought, course of action, etc. (A reference to geometry.) □ *Please stick to one subject and don't go off on a tangent.* □ *If Mary would settle down and deal with one subject she would be all right, but she keeps going off on tangents.*

go off the deep end AND **jump off the deep end** to become deeply involved (with someone or something) before one is ready; to follow one's emotions into a situation. (Informal. Refers to going into a swimming pool at the deep end—rather than the shallow end—and finding oneself in deep water. Applies especially to falling in love.) □ *Look at the way Bill is looking at Sally. I think he's about to go off the deep end.* □ *Now, John, I know you really want to go to Australia, but don't go jumping off the deep end. It isn't all perfect there.*

go on stop saying those things; not so; I don't believe you. (Also literal, meaning "to continue." Always as a command.) □ *Go on! You don't know what you're talking about!* □ *Oh, go on! You're just trying to flatter me.*

go on a binge to do too much of something. (Slang. Especially to drink too much.) □ *Jane went on a binge last night and is very sick this morning.* □ *Bill loves to spend money on clothes. He's out on a binge right now—buying everything in sight.*

go on a fishing expedition to attempt to discover information. (Also literal.) □ *We are going to have to go on a fishing expedition to try to find the facts.* □ *One lawyer went on a fishing expedition in court, and the other lawyer objected.*

go on and on to (seem to) last or go forever. (Folksy.) □ *You talk too much, Bob. You just go on and on.* □ *The road to their house is very boring. It goes on and on with nothing interesting to look at.*

go on an errand Go to run an errand.

go on a rampage to have a rampage. □ *The angry bull went on a rampage and broke the fence.* □ *My boss went on a rampage because the report wasn't finished.*

go on to a better land to die. (Euphemistic.) □ *After a long illness, Reggie went on to a better land.* □ *When I finally go on to a better land, I hope there is enough money for a proper funeral.*

go out (for something) to try out for something. (Usually refers to attempting to get onto a sports team. Also literal.) □ *Mary went out for the soccer team.* □ *Tom went out for baseball.* □ *He didn't go out last year.*

go out of fashion AND **go out of style** to become unfashionable; to become obsolete. □ *That kind of furniture went out of style years ago.* □ *I hope this kind of thing never goes out of fashion.*

go out of one's way (to do something) 1. to travel an indirect route in order to do something. □ *I'll have to go out of my way to give you a ride home.* □ *I'll give you a ride even though I have to go out of my way.* 2. to make an effort to do something; to endure and accept the bother of doing something. □ *We went out of our way to please the visitor.* □ *We appreciate anything you can do, but don't go out of your way.*

go out of style Go to go out of fashion.

go (out) on strike [for a group of people] to quit working at their jobs until certain demands are met. □ *If we don't have a contract by noon tomorrow, we'll go out on*

strike. □ *The entire work force went on strike at noon today.*

go out (with someone) 1. to go out with someone for entertainment. □ *The Smiths went out with the Franklins to a movie.* □ *Those guys don't have much time to go out.* 2. to go on a date with someone; to date someone regularly. □ *Is Bob still going out with Sally?* □ *No, they've stopped going out.*

go over to succeed; to be accepted. □ *His idea went over well.* □ *How did my joke go over?*

go over big with someone to be very much appreciated by someone. □ *Your jokes did not exactly go over big with my parents.* □ *We hope that the musical will go over big with the audience.*

go overboard to do too much; to be extravagant. (Also literal as on a ship.) □ *Look, Sally, let's have a nice party, but don't go overboard. It doesn't need to be fancy.* □ *Okay, you can buy a big comfortable car, but don't go overboard.*

go over like a lead balloon to fail; to go over badly. (Slang. See also **go over with a bang**.) □ *Your joke went over like a lead balloon.* □ *If that play was supposed to be a comedy, it went over like a lead balloon.* □ *Her suggestion went over like a lead balloon.*

go over someone's head [for the intellectual content of something] to be too difficult for someone to understand. □ *All that talk about computers went over my head.* □ *I hope my lecture didn't go over the students' heads.*

go over something to review or explain something. (Also literal.) □ *The teacher went over the lesson.* □ *Will you please go over this form? I don't understand it.*

go over something with a fine-tooth comb AND **search something with a fine-tooth comb** to search through something very carefully. □ *I can't find my calculus book. I went over the whole place with a fine-tooth comb.* □ *I searched this place with a fine-tooth comb and didn't find my ring.*

go over with a bang to succeed spectacularly. (Informal. Compare this with **go over like a lead balloon**.) □ *The play was a success. It really went over with a bang.* □ *That's a great joke. It went over with a bang.*

go places to have a good future. (Informal.) □ *Sally shows great promise as a scholar. She's really going to go places.* □ *Tom is as good as we thought. He's certainly going places now.*

Go play in the traffic! Go to Take a long walk off a short pier.

go right through someone [for food] to pass through and out of the body very rapidly. (Informal. Use with caution.) □ *Those little apples go right through me, but I love them.* □ *I can't eat onions. They go right through me.*

go scot-free AND **get off scot-free** to go unpunished; to be acquitted of a crime. (This *scot* is an old word meaning "tax" or "tax burden.") □ *The thief went scot-free.* □ *Jane cheated on the test and got caught, but she got off scot-free.*

go sky-high to go very high, as with a price or a measurement. (Informal.) □ *Prices go sky-high whenever there is inflation.* □ *Oh, it's so hot. The temperature went sky-high about noon.*

go so far as to say something to put something into words; to risk saying something. □ *I think that Bob is dishonest, but I wouldn't go so far as to say he's a thief.* □ *Red meat may be harmful, but I can't go so far as to say it causes cancer.*

go someone one better AND **do someone one better** to do something superior to what someone else has done; to top someone. □ *That was a great joke, but I can go you one better.* □ *Your last song was beautifully sung, but Mary can do you one better.*

go (somewhere) by shank's mare to travel by foot; to go somewhere on foot. □ *The car wouldn't start so I had to go to work by shank's mare.* □ *We enjoy walking and go by shank's mare whenever we can.*

go stag to go to an event (which is meant for couples) without a member of the op-

posite sex. (Informal. Originally referred only to males.) □ *Is Tom going to take you, or are you going stag?* □ *Bob didn't want to go stag, so he took his sister to the party.*

go steady (with someone) to date someone on a regular basis. □ *Mary is going steady with John.* □ *Bill went steady for two years before he got married.*

go stir-crazy to become anxious because one is confined. (Slang. *Stir* is an old criminal word for "prison.") □ *If I stay around this house much longer, I'm going to go stir-crazy.* □ *John left school. He said he was going stir-crazy.*

go straight to begin to obey the law; to become law-abiding. (Also literal. Slang. Primarily criminal slang.) □ *When John got out of prison, he decided to go straight.* □ *I promised the teacher that I would go straight and that I would never cheat again.*

go the distance to do the whole amount; to play the entire game; to run the whole race. (Informal. Originally sports use.) □ *That horse runs fast. I hope it can go the distance.* □ *This is going to be a long, hard project. I hope I can go the distance.*

go the extra mile to try harder to please someone or to get the task done correctly; to do more than one is required to do to reach a goal. □ *I like doing business with that company. They always go the extra mile.* □ *My teacher goes the extra mile to help us.*

go the limit to do as much as possible. (Compare this with **go whole hog**.) □ *What do I want on my hamburger? Go the limit!* □ *Don't hold anything back. Go the limit.*

go through to be approved; to succeed in getting through the approval process. (See also **go through** something.) □ *I sent the board of directors a proposal. I hope it goes through.* □ *We all hope that the new law goes through.*

go through channels to proceed by consulting the proper persons or offices. (See also **work through channels**.) □ *If you want an answer to your questions, you'll*

have to go through channels. □ *If you know the answers, why do I have to go through channels?*

go through something 1. to examine something. □ *Give me a day or two to go through this contract, and then I'll call you with advice.* □ *Don't go through it too fast. Read it carefully, or you might miss something.* **2.** to experience something; to endure something unpleasant; to **get through** something. □ *It was a terrible thing. I don't know how I went through it.* □ *It'll take four years to go through college.*

go through the changes to experience a rough period in one's life. (Slang.) □ *Sally's pretty upset. She's really going through the changes.* □ *Most teenagers spend their time going through the changes.*

go through the motions to make a feeble effort to do something; to do something insincerely. □ *Jane isn't doing her best. She's just going through the motions.* □ *Bill was supposed to be raking the yard, but he was just going through the motions.*

go through the roof to go very high; to reach a very high degree (of something). (Informal.) □ *It's so hot! The temperature is going through the roof.* □ *Mr. Brown got so angry he almost went through the roof.*

go through with something to decide to do something; to finish something. □ *We decided to go through with the new highway.* □ *I can't do it. I just can't go through with it.*

go to any length to do whatever is necessary. □ *I'll go to any length to secure this contract.* □ *I want to get a college degree, but I won't go to any length to get one.*

go to bat for someone to support or help someone. (Informal. From baseball. See **pinch-hit** (for someone).) □ *I tried to go to bat for Bill, but he said he didn't want any help.* □ *I heard them gossiping about Sally, so I went to bat for her.*

go to bed to go to where one's bed is, get into it, and go to sleep. □ *It's time for me to go to bed.* □ *I want to go to bed, but there is too much work to do.*

go to bed (with someone) Go to go all the way (with someone).

go to bed with the chickens to go to bed at sundown; to go to bed very early (when the chickens do). ☐ *Of course I get enough sleep. I go to bed with the chickens.* ☐ *Mr. Brown goes to bed with the chickens and gets up with them, too.*

go to Davy Jones's locker to go to the bottom of the sea. (Thought of as a nautical expression.) ☐ *My camera fell overboard and went to Davy Jones's locker.* ☐ *My uncle was a sailor. He went to Davy Jones's locker during a terrible storm.*

go together 1. [for two things] to look, sound, or taste good together. ☐ *Do you think that this pink one and this purple one go together?* ☐ *Milk and grapefruit don't go together.* **2.** [for two people] to date each other regularly. ☐ *Bob and Ann have been going together for months.* ☐ *Tom and Jane want to go together, but they live too far apart.*

go to (hell) AND **go to (the devil)** to become ruined; to go away and stop bothering (someone). (Informal. Use caution with hell.) ☐ *This old house is just going to hell. It's falling apart everywhere.* ☐ *Leave me alone! Go to the devil!* ☐ *Oh, go to, yourself!*

go to hell in a handbasket to become totally worthless; to go to (hell). (Informal. Use caution with hell. Not used as a command.) ☐ *The whole country is going to hell in a handbasket.* ☐ *Look at my lawn—full of weeds. It's going to hell in a handbasket.*

go too far to do more than is acceptable. (Also literal.) ☐ *I didn't mind at first, but now you've gone too far.* ☐ *If you go too far, I'll slap you.*

go to pieces 1. to break into pieces; to fall apart. ☐ *My old winter coat is going to pieces.* ☐ *I don't want to see a nice vase like that go to pieces.* **2.** to break out in tears; to break down mentally. ☐ *On hearing of the death, we just went to pieces.* ☐ *I couldn't talk about it any longer. I went to pieces.*

go to pot AND **go to the dogs** to go to ruin; to deteriorate. (Informal.) ☐ *My whole life seems to be going to pot.* ☐ *My lawn is going to pot. I had better weed it.* ☐ *The government is going to the dogs.*

go to rack and ruin AND **go to wrack and ruin** to go to ruin. (The words rack and wrack mean “wreckage” and are found only in this expression.) ☐ *That lovely old house on the corner is going to go to rack and ruin.* ☐ *My lawn is going to wrack and ruin.*

go to seed Go to run to seed.

go to someone's head to make someone conceited; to make someone overly proud. ☐ *You did a fine job, but don't let it go to your head.* ☐ *He let his success go to his head, and soon he became a complete failure.*

go to the bathroom 1. to go into a rest room, bathroom, or toilet. ☐ *BILL: Where is Bob? JANE: He went to the bathroom.* ☐ *John went to the bathroom to brush his teeth.* **2.** to eliminate bodily wastes through defecation and urination. ☐ *Mommy! The dog went to the bathroom on the carpet!* ☐ *Billy's in there going to the bathroom. Don't disturb him.*

go to (the devil) Go to go to (hell).

go to the dogs Go to go to pot.

go to the expense (of doing something) to pay the (large) cost of doing something. ☐ *I hate to have to go to the expense of painting the house.* ☐ *It needs to be done, so you'll have to go to the expense.*

go to the lavatory to go somewhere and use a toilet. ☐ *Bob requested to leave the room to go to the lavatory.* ☐ *Please stop the car. I have to go to the lavatory.*

go to the limit to do as much as is possible to do. (Compare this with **go the limit**.) ☐ *Okay, we can't afford it, but we'll go to the limit.* ☐ *How far shall I go? Shall I go to the limit?*

go to the toilet to use a toilet for defecation or urination. ☐ *Jimmy washed his hands after he went to the toilet.* ☐ *Excuse me, I have to go to the toilet.*

go to the trouble (of doing something) AND go to the trouble (to do something) to endure the bother of doing something. ☐ *I really don't want to go to the trouble to cook.* ☐ *Should I go to the trouble of cooking something for her to eat?* ☐ *Don't go to the trouble. She can eat a sandwich.*

go to the trouble (to do something) Go to go to the trouble (of doing something).

go to the wall to be defeated; to fail in business. (Informal.) ☐ *We really went to the wall on that deal.* ☐ *The company went to the wall because of that contract. Now it's broke.*

go to town to work hard or fast. (Also literal. Informal.) ☐ *Look at all those ants working. They are really going to town.* ☐ *Come on, you guys. Let's go to town. We have to finish this job before noon.*

go to waste to be wasted; to be unused (and therefore thrown away). ☐ *Eat your potatoes! Don't let them go to waste.* ☐ *We shouldn't let all those nice flowers go to waste. Let's pick some.*

go to wrack and ruin Go to go to rack and ruin.

go under to fail. ☐ *The company was weak from the start, and it finally went under.* ☐ *Tom had a lot of trouble in school, and finally he went under.*

go under the knife to have a surgical operation. (Informal.) ☐ *Mary didn't want to go under the knife, but the doctor insisted.* ☐ *If I go under the knife, I want to be completely asleep.*

go up in flames AND **go up in smoke** to burn up. ☐ *The whole museum went up in flames.* ☐ *My paintings—my whole life's work—went up in flames.* ☐ *What a shame for all that to go up in smoke.*

go up in smoke Go to go up in flames.

go whole hog to do everything possible; to be extravagant. (Informal. Compare this with **go the limit**.) ☐ *Let's go whole hog. Order steak and lobster.* ☐ *Show some restraint. Don't go whole hog all the time.*

go window-shopping to go about looking at goods in store windows without ac-

tually buying anything. ☐ *The clerks usually go window-shopping in their lunch hour, looking for things to buy when they get paid.* ☐ *Joan said she was just going window-shopping, but she bought a new coat.*

go without (something) to manage to get along without something. (Compare this with **do without** (someone or something).) ☐ *I went without food for three days.* ☐ *Some people have to go without a lot longer than that.*

go with something 1. to go well with something. ☐ *Milk doesn't go with grapefruit.* ☐ *Pink doesn't go with orange.* **2.** to choose something (over something else). (Informal.) ☐ *I think I'll go with the yellow one.* ☐ *We decided to go with the oak table rather than the walnut one.*

go with the flow [for someone] to proceed easily and cooperatively in the same manner that other people or processes are moving. (Informal.) ☐ *John is very easy to get along with. He just goes with the flow.* ☐ *I try to cooperate. I go with the flow where possible.*

go wrong to fail; [for something bad] to happen. ☐ *The project failed. I don't know what went wrong.* ☐ *I'm afraid that everything will go wrong.*

goes to show you [something] serves to prove a point to you. ☐ *It just goes to show you that too much sugar is bad for you.* ☐ *Of course you shouldn't have married her. It goes to show you that your parents are always right.*

goes without saying [something] is so obvious that it need not be said. ☐ *It goes without saying that you are to wear formal clothing to dinner each evening.* ☐ *Of course. That goes without saying.*

the going the condition of a path of travel or progress. ☐ *The going was rough through the mountains.* ☐ *I decided to sell my stock while the going was still good.*

the going rate the current rate. ☐ *The going interest rate for your account is 10 percent.* ☐ *Our babysitter charges us the going rate.*

a **gold mine of information** someone or something that is full of information. □ *Grandfather is a gold mine of information about World War I.* □ *The new encyclopedia is a positive gold mine of useful information.*

gone but not forgotten gone or dead but still remembered. □ *The good days we used to have together are gone, but not forgotten.* □ *Uncle Harry is gone but not forgotten. The stain where he spilled the wine is still visible in the parlor carpet.*

gone goose someone or something that has departed or run away. □ *Surely, the burglar is a gone goose by now.* □ *The child was a gone goose, and we did not know where to look for him.*

gone on died. (Euphemistic.) □ *My husband, Tom—he's gone on, you know—was a great one for golf.* □ *Let us remember those who have gone on before.*

gone to meet one's Maker died. (Euphemistic.) □ *Poor old Bob has gone to meet his Maker.* □ *After a long illness, Reggie went to meet his Maker.*

gone with the wind gone; mysteriously gone. (A phrase made famous by the Margaret Mitchell novel and film *Gone with the Wind*. The phrase is used to make *gone* have a stronger force.) □ *Everything we worked for was gone with the wind.* □ *Jean was nowhere to be found. She was gone with the wind.*

a **goner** dead or finished; as good as dead or nearly dead. (Informal. Preceded by *be*, *become*, *seem like*, or *act like*.) □ *The boy brought the sick fish back to the pet store to get his money back. "This one is a goner," he said.* □ *John thought he was a goner when his parachute didn't open.*

good and something very something. (The something can be *ready*, *mad*, *tired*, *worn-out*, etc.) □ *Now I'm good and mad, and I'm going to fight back.* □ *I'll be there when I'm good and ready.* □ *He'll go to bed when he's good and tired.*

good as done Go to (as) good as done.

good as gold Go to (as) good as gold.

good enough for someone or something adequate for someone or something. □ *This seat is good enough for me. I don't want to move.* □ *I'm happy. It's good enough for me.* □ *That table is good enough for my office.*

good-for-nothing 1. worthless. □ *Here comes that good-for-nothing boy now.* □ *Where is that good-for-nothing pen of mine?* 2. a worthless person. □ *Tell that good-for-nothing to go home at once.* □ *Bob can't get a job. He's such a good-for-nothing.*

the **good old days** back in an earlier time, which everyone remembers as a better time, even if it really wasn't. □ *Back in the good old days, during WWII, they used real cactus needles in record players.* □ *The good old days didn't start until they had indoor bathrooms.*

good riddance (to bad rubbish) [it is] good to be rid (of worthless persons or things). □ *She slammed the door behind me and said, "Good riddance to bad rubbish!"* □ *"Good riddance to you, madam," thought I.*

good to go all ready to go; all checked and pronounced ready to go. □ *I've checked everything and we are good to go.* □ *Everything's good to go and we will start immediately.*

goof off to waste time. (Informal or slang.) □ *John is always goofing off.* □ *Quit goofing off and get to work!*

the **gospel truth** [of truth] undeniable. □ *The witness swore he was telling the gospel truth.* □ *I told my parents the gospel truth about how the vase broke.*

grab a bite (to eat) to get something to eat; to get food that can be eaten quickly. (Not usually done by grabbing.) □ *I need a few minutes to grab a bite to eat.* □ *Bob often tries to grab a bite between meetings.*

grace someone or something **with one's presence** to honor someone or something with one's presence. □ *"How nice of you to grace us with your presence," Mr. Wilson told Mary sarcastically as she entered the classroom late.* □ *The banquet was graced with the presence of the governor.*

graced with something made elegant by means of some ornament or decoration.

□ *The altar was graced with lovely white flowers.* □ *The end of the beautiful day was graced with a beautiful sunset.*

graceful as a swan Go to (as) graceful as a swan.

a **grain of truth** even the smallest amount of truth. □ *The attorney was unable to find a grain of truth in the defendant's testimony.* □ *If there were a grain of truth to your statement, I would trust you.*

grasp at straws to depend on something that is useless; to make a futile attempt at something. □ *John couldn't answer the teacher's question. He was just grasping at straws.* □ *There I was, grasping at straws, with no one to help me.*

grate on someone('s nerves) to annoy someone; to bother someone. □ *My obnoxious brother is grating on my nerves.* □ *Your whining really grates on me.*

gray area an area of a subject or question that is difficult to put into a particular category because it is not clearly defined and may have connections or associations with more than one category. □ *The responsibility for social studies in the college is a gray area. Several departments are involved.* □ *Publicity is a gray area in that firm. It is shared between the marketing and design divisions.*

gray matter intelligence; brains; power of thought. (Brain tissue is grayish in color.) □ *Use your gray matter and think what will happen if the committee resigns.* □ *Surely they'll come up with an acceptable solution if they use a bit of gray matter.*

grease someone's palm AND **oil someone's palm** to bribe someone. (Slang.) □ *If you want to get something done around here, you have to grease someone's palm.* □ *I'd never oil a police officer's palm. That's illegal.*

a **great deal** much; a lot. □ *You can learn a great deal about nature by watching television.* □ *This is a serious problem and it worries me a great deal.*

the **greatest thing since sliced bread** the best thing there ever was. (Usually sarcastic.) □ *To hear her talk, you would think she had found the greatest thing since sliced bread.* □ *Todd thinks he is the greatest thing since sliced bread.*

Greek to me Go to (all) Greek to me.

green around the gills Go to pale around the gills.

green with envy envious; jealous. □ *When Sally saw me with Tom, she turned green with envy. She likes him a lot.* □ *I feel green with envy whenever I see you in your new car.*

grin and bear it to endure something unpleasant in good humor. □ *There is nothing you can do but grin and bear it.* □ *I hate having to work for rude people. I guess I have to grin and bear it.*

grind to a halt to slow to a stop; to run down. □ *By the end of the day, the factory had ground to a halt.* □ *The car ground to a halt, and we got out to stretch our legs.*

grip someone's attention to attract and hold someone's attention. □ *The scary movie gripped my attention.* □ *The professor's interesting lecture gripped the attention of all the students.*

grist for someone's mill something that can be put to good use or that can bring advantage or profit. □ *Some of the jobs that we are offered are more interesting than others, but each one is grist for my mill.* □ *The company is having to sell some tacky-looking dresses, but they are grist for their mill and keep the company in business.*

grit one's teeth to grind one's teeth together in anger or determination. □ *I was so mad, all I could do was stand there and grit my teeth.* □ *All through the race, Sally was gritting her teeth. She was really determined.*

groan under the burden of something to suffer under the burden or domination of someone or something. □ *John groaned under the burden of his new responsibilities.* □ *The servant groaned under the burden of a cruel master.*

gross someone **out** to revolt someone; to make someone sick. (Slang.) □ *Oh, look at his face. Doesn't it gross you out?* □ *That teacher is such a creep. He grosses out the whole class.*

ground someone to take away someone's privileges. (Informal. Usually said of a teenager.) □ *My father said that if I didn't get at least C's, he'd ground me.* □ *Guess what! He grounded me!*

grounded in fact based on facts. □ *This movie is grounded in fact.* □ *The stories in this book are all grounded in actual fact.*

grounds for something a basis or cause for legal action, such as a lawsuit. □ *Your negligence is grounds for a lawsuit.* □ *Is infidelity grounds for divorce in this state?*

grow on someone [for someone or something] to become commonplace and comfortable to a person. (The *someone* is usually *one, someone, a person*, etc., not a specific person.) □ *That music is strange, but it grows on you.* □ *I didn't think I could ever get used to this town, but after a while it grows on one.*

grow out of something to abandon something as one matures. (Also literal.) □ *I used to have a lot of allergies, but I grew out of them.* □ *She grew out of the habit of biting her nails.*

grow to do something to gradually begin to do certain things, using verbs such as *feel, know, like, need, respect, sense, suspect, think, want, wonder*, etc. □ *I grew to hate Bob over a period of years.* □ *As I grew to know Bob, I began to like him.*

gruff as a bear Go to (as) gruff as a bear.

grunt work work that is hard and thankless. □ *During the summer, I earned money doing grunt work.* □ *I did all of the grunt work on the project, but my boss got all of the credit.*

guard against someone or something to take care to avoid someone or something. □

Try to guard against getting a cold. □ *You should guard against pickpockets.*

guest of honor a guest who gets special attention from everyone; the person for whom a party, celebration, or ceremony is held. □ *Bob is the guest of honor, and many people will make speeches about him.* □ *The guest of honor sits at the front of the room on the dais.*

gulp for air to eagerly or desperately try to get air or a breath. □ *Tom gulped for air after trying to hold his breath for three minutes.* □ *Mary came up out of the water, gulping for air.*

gum something up AND **gum up the works** to make something inoperable; to ruin someone's plans. (Informal.) □ *Please, Bill, be careful and don't gum up the works.* □ *Tom sure gummed it up.* □ *Tom sure gummed up the whole plan.*

gum up the works Go to gum something up.

gun for someone to be looking for someone, presumably to harm them. (Refers to a sheriff or outlaw seeking a person with the intention of shooting him. Originally from western and gangster movies.) □ *The coach is gunning for you. I think he's going to bawl you out.* □ *I've heard that the sheriff is gunning for me, so I'm getting out of town.*

gut feeling AND **gut reaction; gut response** a personal, intuitive feeling or response. □ *I have a gut feeling that something bad is going to happen.* □ *My gut reaction is that we should hire Susan for the job.*

gut reaction Go to gut feeling.

gut response Go to gut feeling.

gyp someone **out of** something to deceive someone in order to get something of value. □ *The salesclerk gypped me out of a dollar.* □ *The taxi driver tried to gyp me out of a fortune by driving all over town.*

H

hack something to endure something; to deal with something. (Slang. The *something* is usually *it*.) ☐ *I don't know if I can hack it.* ☐ *John works very hard, but he can't seem to hack it.*

had best do something ought to do something. (Informal. Almost the same as the following entry.) ☐ *You had best get that fixed right away.* ☐ *You had best be at school on time every day.*

had better do something ought to do something (or face the consequences). (Almost the same as the previous entry.) ☐ *I had better get home for dinner, or I'll get yelled at.* ☐ *You had better do your homework right now.*

had (just) as soon do something **AND would (just) as soon** do something would prefer to do something else; would be content to do something. (The *would* or *had* is usually 'd. Also with *just*, as in the examples below.) ☐ *They want me to go into town. I'd as soon stay home.* ☐ *If you're cooking stew tonight, we'd as soon eat somewhere else.* ☐ *I would just as soon stay home as see a bad movie.* ☐ *If that's what we're having for dinner, I'd just as soon starve.*

(had) known it was coming Go to knew it was coming.

had rather do something **AND had sooner** do something would prefer to do something. (The *had* is usually expressed in a contraction, 'd.) ☐ *I'd rather go to town than sit here all evening.* ☐ *They'd rather not.* ☐ *I'd sooner not make the trip.*

had sooner do something Go to had rather do something.

hail-fellow-well-met friendly to everyone; falsely friendly to everyone. (Usually said of males. See also **get the glad hand**.) ☐ *Yes, he's friendly, sort of hail-fellow-well-met.* ☐ *He's not a very sincere person. Hail-fellow-well-met—you know the type.* ☐ *What a pain he is. Good old Mr. Hail-fellow-well-met. What a phony!*

hail from somewhere [for someone] to come originally from somewhere. ☐ *I'm from Kansas. Where do you hail from?* ☐ *I hail from the Southwest.*

the **hair of the dog that bit one** a drink of liquor taken when one has a hangover; a drink of liquor taken when one is recovering from drinking too much liquor. (Informal.) ☐ *Oh, I'm miserable. I need some of the hair of the dog that bit me.* ☐ *That's some hangover you've got there, Bob. Here, drink this. It's some of the hair of the dog that bit you.*

hale and hearty well and healthy. ☐ *Doesn't Ann look hale and hearty?* ☐ *I don't feel hale and hearty. I'm really tired.*

Half a loaf is better than none. Having part of something is better than having nothing. (Proverb.) ☐ *When my raise was smaller than I wanted, Sally said, "Half a loaf is better than none."* ☐ *People who keep saying "Half a loaf is better than none" usually have as much as they need.*

half-and-half 1. a liquid that is half milk and half cream. ☐ *Harry would always pour half-and-half on his breakfast cereal in spite of what his doctor told him.* ☐ *There is less fat in half-and-half than there is in cream. 2.* a substance composed half of one thing and half of another. ☐ *This coffee is half-and-half, so there isn't quite as much caffeine as in regular coffee.* ☐ *I*

can't decide between a chocolate sundae and a pineapple sundae, so make mine half-and-half.

halfhearted (about someone or something) unenthusiastic about someone or something. ☐ *Ann was halfhearted about the choice of Sally for president.* ☐ *She didn't look halfhearted to me. She looked angry.*

ham something up to make a performance seem silly by showing off or exaggerating one's part. (Informal. A show-off actor is known as a *ham*.) ☐ *Come on, Bob. Don't ham it up!* ☒ *The play was going fine until Bob got out there and hammed up his part.*

hammer away (at someone or something) to keep trying to accomplish something with someone or something. (Refers to repeated pounding with a hammer.) ☐ *John, you've got to keep hammering away at your geometry.* ☐ *They hammered away at the prisoner until he confessed.*

hammer something home to try extremely hard to make someone understand or realize something. ☐ *The teacher hammered the dates home.* ☒ *I tried to hammer home to Anne the fact that she would have to get a job.* ☒ *The boss hopes to hammer home the company's precarious financial position to the staff.*

hammer something out **1.** to work hard at writing up an agreement; to work hard at writing something. (Literally to pound something flat with a hammer or mallet. This refers to hammering at the keys of a typewriter.) ☐ *I'm busy hammering my latest novel out.* ☒ *The lawyers sat down to hammer out a contract.* **2.** to play something on the piano. ☐ *She hammered the song out loudly and without feeling.* ☒ *Listen to John hammer out that song on the piano.*

hand in glove (with someone) very close to someone. ☐ *John is really hand in glove with Sally.* ☐ *The teacher and the principal work hand in glove.*

hand in hand **1.** holding hands. ☐ *They walked down the street hand in hand.* ☐ *Bob and Mary sat there quietly, hand in hand.* **2.** together, one with the other.

(Said of two things where the presence of one implies the other.) ☐ *Cookies and milk seem to go hand in hand.* ☐ *Teenagers and back talk go hand in hand.*

Hand it over. Give it to me. (Informal.) ☐ *It's mine. Hand it over!* ☐ *Come on. Give me the box of jewels. Hand it over!*

hand it to someone to give credit to someone. (Informal. Often with *have to* or *must*.) ☐ *I'll hand it to you. You did a fine job.* ☐ *We must hand it to Sally. She helped us a lot.*

hand-me-down something, such as an article of used clothing, that has been handed down from someone. (See also **hand something down (to someone)**.) ☐ *Why do I always have to wear my brother's hand-me-downs? I want some new clothes.* ☐ *This is a nice shirt. It doesn't look like a hand-me-down at all.*

hand over fist [for money and merchandise to be exchanged] very rapidly. ☐ *What a busy day. We took in money hand over fist.* ☐ *They were buying things hand over fist.*

hand over hand [moving] one hand after the other (again and again). ☐ *Sally pulled in the rope hand over hand.* ☐ *The man climbed the rope hand over hand.*

hand something down (to someone) **1.** to give something to a younger person. (Either at death or during life. See also **hand-me-down**.) ☐ *John handed his old shirts down to his younger brother.* ☒ *I hope my uncle will hand down his golf clubs to me when he dies.* **2.** to announce or deliver a (legal) verdict or indictment. ☒ *The grand jury handed down seven indictments last week.* ☒ *The jury handed down a guilty verdict.*

handle someone with kid gloves to be very careful with a touchy person. ☐ *Bill has become so sensitive. You really have to handle him with kid gloves.* ☐ *You don't have to handle me with kid gloves. I can take it.*

hands down without a doubt. (Usually regarding a choice or a winner.) ☐ *Jean was our choice for the new manager hands down.* ☐ *Todd won the race hands down.*

□ *Sharon was the favorite librarian of all the people there hands down.*

Hands off! Do not touch [someone or something]! □ *Careful! Don't touch that wire. Hands off!* □ *The sign says, "Hands off!" and you had better do what it says.*

Hands up! AND Stick 'em up! Put your hands in the air! (Slang. Said by robbers and police officers. Hands that are in the air cannot reach or draw a weapon.) □ *All right, you, hands up!* □ *Stick 'em up! I got you covered.*

hang a left to turn to the left. (Slang. See also the following entry.) □ *Hang a left up at that light.* □ *Go three blocks and hang a left.*

hang a right to turn to the right. (Slang.) □ *At the next corner, hang a right.* □ *Hang a right at the stop sign.*

hang around (with someone) AND go around with someone to spend a lot of time with someone; to waste away time with someone. (See also **run around with** someone.) □ *John hangs around with Bill a lot.* □ *They've been going around with the Smiths.* □ *I've asked them all to stop hanging around.*

hang back to stay behind (the others); to hold back (from the others). □ *Walk with the group, Bob. Don't hang back. You'll get left behind.* □ *Three of the marchers hung back and talked to each other.*

hang by a hair AND hang by a thread to be in an uncertain position; to depend on something very insubstantial; to **hang in the balance**. (Informal.) □ *Your whole argument is hanging by a thread.* □ *John isn't failing geometry, but his passing grade is just hanging by a hair.*

hang by a thread Go to **hang by a hair**.

hang fire to delay or wait. □ *I think we should hang fire and wait for other information.* □ *Our plans have to hang fire until we get planning permission.*

hang in the balance to be in an undecided state; to be between two equal possibilities. □ *The prisoner stood before the judge with his life hanging in the balance.* □ *This whole issue will have to hang in the bal-*

ance until Jane gets back from her vacation.

hang in there to keep trying; to persevere. (Slang.) □ *I know things are tough, John, but hang in there.* □ *I know if I hang in there, things will come out okay.*

hang loose to relax; to remain calm. (Slang.) □ *I know I can pass this test if I just hang loose.* □ *Hang loose, Bob. Everything is going to be all right.*

hang one's hat (up) somewhere to take up residence somewhere. □ *George loves Dallas. He's decided to buy a house and hang his hat up there.* □ *Bill moves from place to place and never hangs his hat up anywhere.*

hang on someone's **coattails** Go to ride on someone's **coattails**.

hang on someone's **every word** to listen with complete attention to everything someone says. □ *He gave a great lecture. We hung on his every word.* □ *Look at the way John hangs on Mary's every word. He must be in love with her.*

hang on (to someone or something) **AND hold on (to** someone or something) to remember someone or something for a long time; to be affected very much by someone or something in the past. (Also literal meaning grasping or holding someone or something.) □ *That's a nice thought, Bob. Hang on to it.* □ *You've been holding on to those bad memories for too long. It's time to let them go.* □ *Yes, I can't keep hanging on.*

hang out (somewhere) to spend time somewhere; to waste time somewhere. □ *I wish you guys wouldn't hang out around the bowling alley.* □ *Why do you have to hang out near our house?*

hang out (with someone) to waste time in the company of someone. □ *I hope Bob isn't hanging out with the wrong people.* □ *He needs to spend more time studying and less time hanging out.*

hang someone in effigy to hang a dummy or some other figure of a hated person. (See also **burn someone in effigy**.) □ *They*

hanged the dictator in effigy. □ *The angry mob hanged the president in effigy.*

hang tough to be firm in one's position; to stick to one's position. (Slang. Compare this with **hang in there**.) □ *I know that your parents don't want you to go out tonight, but hang tough. They may change their minds.* □ *Hang tough, Mary. You'll get your way!*

hang up to replace the telephone receiver; to terminate a telephone call. □ *If you have called a wrong number, you should apologize before you hang up.* □ *When you hear the busy signal, you're supposed to hang up.*

happen (up)on someone or something to meet someone, or find something unexpectedly. □ *I happened on this nice little restaurant on Elm Street yesterday.* □ *Mr. Simpson and I happened on one another in the bank last week.*

happy as a clam Go to (as) happy as a clam.

happy as a lark Go to (as) happy as a lark.

happy as can be Go to (as) happy as can be.

a **harbinger of things to come** AND a **portent of things to come**; a **sign of things to come**; a **taste of things to come** a sample of the events that are to occur in the future. □ *The first cuts in our budget are a harbinger of things to come.* □ *Today's visit from the auditors is a portent of things to come.*

hard-and-fast rigid or strict, especially when applied to rules, laws, or regulations. □ *The rule isn't hard-and-fast, but we expect you to obey it anyway.* □ *The company has a hard-and-fast rule about the use of radios, even in private offices.*

hard as a rock Go to (as) hard as a rock.

hard as nails Go to (as) hard as nails.

hard as stone Go to (as) hard as a rock.

a **hard nut to crack** AND a **tough nut to crack** difficult person or thing to deal with. (Informal.) □ *This problem is getting me down. It's a hard nut to crack.* □ *Tom sure is a hard nut to crack. I can't fig-*

ure him out. □ *He sure is a tough nut to crack.*

hard of hearing [of someone] unable to hear well; partially deaf. □ *Please speak loudly. I am hard of hearing.* □ *Tom is hard of hearing, but is not totally deaf.*

hard on someone's heels following someone very closely; following very closely to someone's heels. (Informal.) □ *I ran as fast as I could, but the dog was still hard on my heels.* □ *Here comes Sally, and John is hard on her heels.*

hard-pressed (to do something) Go to hard put (to do something).

hard put (to do something) AND **hard-pressed (to do something)** able to do something only with great difficulty. □ *I'm hard put to come up with enough money to pay the rent.* □ *I get hard put like that about once a month.*

hard up (for something) greatly in need of something. (Informal.) □ *Ann was hard up for cash to pay the bills.* □ *I was so hard up, I couldn't afford to buy food.*

hardly have time to breathe AND **scarcely have time to breathe** to be very busy. □ *This was such a busy day. I hardly had time to breathe.* □ *They made him work so hard that he hardly had time to breathe.*

hardly have time to think so busy that one can hardly think properly; very busy. □ *I've been so busy that I hardly have time to think.* □ *I hardly have time to think in the job that I do. We are just too busy.*

hark(en) back to something 1. to have originated as something; to have started out as something. (*Harken* is an older word meaning "pay heed to.") □ *The word ice-box harks back to refrigerators that were cooled by ice.* □ *Our modern breakfast cereals hark back to the porridge and gruel of our ancestors.* 2. to remind one of something. □ *Seeing a horse and buggy in the park harks back to the time when horses drew milk wagons.* □ *Sally says it harkens back to the time when everything was delivered by a horse-drawn wagon.*

harp on something to keep talking or complaining about something; to refer to something again and again. □ *Mary's always harping on being poor, but she has more than enough money.* □ *Jack has been harping on high taxes for years.*

hash something over to discuss something in great detail. (Informal.) □ *Okay, we can hash it over this afternoon.* □ *Why don't you come to my office so we can hash over this contract?*

Haste makes waste. Time gained in doing something rapidly and carelessly will be lost when one has to do the thing over again correctly. (Proverb.) □ *Now, take your time. Haste makes waste.* □ *Haste makes waste, so be careful as you work.*

hat in hand Go to (with) hat in hand.

hate someone's **guts** to hate someone very much. (Informal and rude.) □ *Oh, Bob is terrible. I hate his guts!* □ *You may hate my guts for saying so, but I think you're getting gray hair.*

haul someone **in** to arrest someone; [for a police officer] to take someone to the police station. (Slang.) □ *The cop hauled the crook in.* □ *They hauled in the suspects.* □ *The traffic officer said, "Do you want me to haul you in?"*

haul someone **over the coals** Go to rake someone over the coals.

haul up (somewhere) **AND pull up** (somewhere) to stop somewhere; to come to rest somewhere. □ *The car hauled up in front of the house.* □ *My hat blew away just as the bus pulled up.* □ *The attackers hauled up at the city gates.*

have a bad effect (on someone or something) to be bad for someone or something. □ *Aspirin has a bad effect on me.* □ *Cold weather has a bad effect on roses.*

have a ball have a really great time. (Slang. This ball is a formal, social dancing party.) □ *The picnic was fantastic. We had a ball!* □ *Hey, Mary! Have a ball at the party tonight!*

have a bee in one's bonnet to have an idea or a thought remain in one's mind; to have an obsession. □ *I have a bee in my*

bonnet that you'd be a good manager. □ *I had a bee in my bonnet about swimming. I couldn't stop wanting to go swimming.*

have a big mouth to be a gossip; to be a person who tells secrets. (Informal.) □ *Mary has a big mouth. She told Bob what I was getting him for his birthday.* □ *You shouldn't say things like that about people all the time. Everyone will say you have a big mouth.*

have a blowout **1.** [for one's car tire] to burst. □ *I had a blowout on the way here. I nearly lost control of the car.* □ *If you have a blowout in one tire, you should check the other tires.* **2.** to have a big, wild party; to enjoy oneself at a big party. □ *Mary and Bill had quite a blowout at their house Friday night.* □ *Fred and Tom had quite a blowout last night.*

have a bone to pick (with someone) to have a disagreement to discuss with someone; to have something to argue about with someone. (See also **bone of contention**.) □ *Hey, Bill. I've got a bone to pick with you. Where is the money you owe me?* □ *I had a bone to pick with her, but she was so sweet that I forgot about it.* □ *You always have a bone to pick.*

have a brush with something to have a brief contact with something; to have a brief experience with something. (Especially with the law. Sometimes a close brush. Compare this with **have a scrape** (with someone or something).) □ *Ann had a close brush with the law. She was nearly arrested for speeding.* □ *When I was younger, I had a brush with scarlet fever, but I got over it.*

have a case (against someone) to have much evidence that can be used against someone. (See also **build a case** (against someone).) □ *Do the police have a case against John?* □ *No, they don't have a case.*

have a change of heart to change one's attitude or decision, usually from a negative to a positive position. □ *I had a change of heart at the last minute and gave the old lady some money.* □ *Since I talked to you last, I have had a change of heart. I now approve of your marrying Sam.*

have a chip on one's shoulder to be tempting someone else to an argument or a fight; to seem willing to instigate conflict. □ *Who are you mad at? You always seem to have a chip on your shoulder.* □ *John has had a chip on his shoulder ever since he got his speeding ticket.*

have a clean conscience (about someone or something) Go to **have a clear conscience (about someone or something)**.

have a clear conscience (about someone or something) AND **have a clean conscience (about someone or something)** to be free of guilt about someone or something. □ *I'm not sorry that John got the blame. I have a clean conscience about the whole affair.* □ *I have a clear conscience about John and his problems.* □ *I didn't do it. I have a clean conscience.* □ *She can't sleep at night because she doesn't have a clear conscience.*

have a close call Go to **have a close shave**.

have a close shave AND **have a close call** to have a narrow escape from something dangerous. (See also **have a brush with something**.) □ *What a close shave I had! I nearly fell off the roof when I was working there.* □ *I almost got struck by a speeding car. It was a close shave.*

have a clue (about something) to know anything about something; to have even a hint about something. (Usually negative.) □ *I don't have a clue about where to start looking for Jim.* □ *Why do you think I have a clue about Tom's disappearance?*

have a conniption (fit) to get angry or hysterical. (Folksy. See also **have a fit**.) □ *I got so mad I thought I was going to have a conniption.* □ *My father had a conniption fit when I got home this morning.*

have a crack at something Go to **have a try at something**.

have a familiar ring [for a story or an explanation] to sound familiar. □ *Your excuse has a familiar ring. Have you done this before?* □ *This term paper has a familiar ring. I think it has been copied.*

have a feeling about something Go to **have a feeling (that)**.

have a feeling (that) AND **have a feeling about something** to have a premonition that [something might happen]; to have an intuition about something. □ *I had a feeling that you might be dropping by this afternoon.* □ *I didn't have any facts to support it. I just had a feeling.*

have a field day to experience freedom from one's usual work schedule; to have a wild time. (Refers to a day when children are released from classes to take part in sports and athletic contests.) □ *The boss was gone and we had a field day today. No one got anything done.* □ *The air was fresh and clear, and everyone had a field day in the park during the lunch hour.*

have a finger in the pie AND **have one's finger in the pie** to have a role in something; to be involved in something. □ *Tess wants to have a finger in the pie. She doesn't think we can do it by ourselves.* □ *Sally always wants to have a finger in the pie.*

have a fit to be very angry. (Informal.) □ *The teacher had a fit when the dog ran through the classroom.* □ *John had a fit when he found his car had been damaged.*

have a foot in both camps to have an interest in or to support each of two opposing groups of people. □ *The shop steward had been promised a promotion and so had a foot in both camps during the strike—workers and management.* □ *Mr. Smith has a foot in both camps in the parent-teacher dispute. He teaches math, but he has a son at the school.*

have a frog in one's throat to have a feeling of hoarseness. □ *I cannot speak more clearly. I have a frog in my throat.* □ *I had a frog in my throat, and the telephone receptionist couldn't understand me.*

have a glass jaw to be susceptible to collapsing when struck on the head. (Informal. Said only of boxers who are frequently knocked down by a blow to the head.) □ *When the prizefighter was knocked out in his third fight, the newspapers said he had a glass jaw.* □ *Once a*

fighter has a glass jaw, he's finished as a boxer.

have a go (at something) to make a try at something. (See also **take a try** at something.) □ *I've never fished before, but I'd like to have a go at it.* □ *Great, have a go right now. Take my fishing pole and give it a try.*

have a good command of something to know something well. □ *Bill has a good command of French.* □ *Jane has a good command of economic theory.*

have a good head on one's shoulders to have common sense; to be sensible and intelligent. □ *Mary doesn't do well in school, but she's got a good head on her shoulders.* □ *John has a good head on his shoulders and can be depended on to give good advice.*

have a (good) mind to do something to be tempted to do something; to be on the verge of doing something that one has thought about. □ *I have a good mind to tell her just exactly what I think of her.* □ *She had a mind to leave the room right then and there.*

have a good thing going to have something arranged for one's benefit. (Informal.) □ *Sally paints pictures and sells them at art fairs. She has a good thing going, and she makes good money.* □ *John inherited a fortune and doesn't have to work for a living anymore. He's got a good thing going.*

have a green thumb to have the ability to grow plants well. □ *Just look at Mr. Simpson's garden. He has a green thumb.* □ *My mother has a green thumb when it comes to houseplants.*

have a grudge (against someone) Go to bear a grudge (against someone).

have a hand in something to play a part in (doing) something. □ *I had a hand in the picnic plans.* □ *I want to have a hand in any revision of the script.*

have a handle on something AND **get a handle on** something to have or get control of something; to have or get an understanding of something. □ *Get a handle*

on your temper and calm down. □ *The police chief had a handle on the potential riot situation.*

have a hard time to experience unnecessary difficulties. □ *I get a hard time every time I come to this store.* □ *I never have a hard time at the store across the street.*

have a head for something have the mental capacity for something. □ *Jane has a good head for directions and never gets lost.* □ *Bill doesn't have a head for figures and should never become an accountant.*

have a heart to be compassionate; to be generous and forgiving. □ *Oh, have a heart! Give me some help!* □ *If Ann had a heart, she'd have made us feel more welcome.*

have a heart of gold to be generous, sincere, and friendly. □ *Mary is such a lovely person. She has a heart of gold.* □ *You think Tom stole your watch? Impossible! He has a heart of gold.*

have a heart of stone to be cold and unfriendly. □ *Sally has a heart of stone. She never even smiles.* □ *The villain in the play had a heart of stone. He was an ideal villain.*

have a heart-to-heart (talk) to have a sincere and intimate talk. □ *I had a heart-to-heart talk with my father before I went off to college.* □ *I have a problem, John. Let's sit down and have a heart-to-heart.*

have a hold on someone to have a strong and secure influence on someone. □ *The strange religion seemed to have a strong hold on its followers.* □ *The drug has a hold on the minds of those who use it.*

have a hunch about something Go to have a hunch (that).

have a hunch (that) something will happen AND **have a hunch about** something to have an idea about what did, will, or should happen; to have a feeling that something will or should happen. □ *I had a hunch that you would be here when I arrived.* □ *I have a hunch about the way things will happen.*

have a keen interest in something to have a strong interest in something; to be very

interested in something. □ *Tom had always had a keen interest in music, so he started a band.* □ *The children have a keen interest in having a pet, so I bought them a cat.*

have a look for someone or something Go to take a look for someone or something.

have a lot going (for one) to have many things working to one's benefit. □ *Jane is so lucky. She has a lot going for her.* □ *She has a good job and a nice family. She has a lot going.*

have a lot of promise to be very promising; to have a good future ahead. □ *Sally is quite young, but she has a lot of promise.* □ *This bush is small, but it has a lot of promise.*

have a lot on one's mind to have many things to worry about; to be preoccupied. □ *I'm sorry that I'm so grouchy. I have a lot on my mind.* □ *He forgot to go to his appointment because he had a lot on his mind.*

have a low boiling point to anger easily. (Informal.) □ *Be nice to John. He's upset and has a low boiling point.* □ *Mr. Jones sure has a low boiling point. I hardly said anything, and he got angry.*

have a mind like a steel trap to have a very sharp and agile mind; to have a mind capable of fast, incisive thought. □ *Sally can handle the questioning. She has a mind like a steel trap.* □ *If I had a mind like a steel trap, I wouldn't have so much trouble concentrating.*

have an accident 1. to experience something that was not foreseen or intended. □ *Traffic is very bad. I almost had an accident.* □ *Drive carefully. Try to avoid having an accident.* 2. to lose control of the bowels or the bladder. (Euphemistic. Usually said of a young child.) □ *"Oh, Ann," cried Mother. "It looks like you've had an accident!"* □ *Mother asked Billy to go to the bathroom before they left so that he wouldn't have an accident in the car.*

have an ace up one's sleeve to have a secret or concealed means of accomplishing something. (Refers to being prepared

to cheat in a card game.) □ *I think that Liz has an ace up her sleeve and will surprise us with success at the last minute.* □ *I have done all I can do. I have no idea what to do next. I don't have an ace up my sleeve, and I can't work miracles.*

have an ax to grind (with someone) to have something to complain about. (Informal.) □ *Tom, I need to talk to you. I have an ax to grind with you.* □ *Bill and Bob went into the other room to argue. They had an ax to grind.*

have an ear for something to have the ability to learn music or languages. □ *Bill doesn't have an ear for music. He can't carry a tune.* □ *Mary has a good ear for languages.*

have a near miss to nearly crash or collide. □ *The airplanes—flying much too close—had a near miss.* □ *I had a near miss while driving over here.*

have an eye for someone or something to have a taste or an inclination for someone or something. □ *Bob has an eye for beauty.* □ *He has an eye for color.* □ *Ann has an eye for well-dressed men.*

have an eye on someone or something **AND keep an eye on** someone or something to keep watch on someone or something; to keep track of someone or something. (The *an* can be replaced by *one's*.) □ *I have my eye on the apple tree. When the apples ripen, I'll harvest them.* □ *Please keep an eye on the baby.* □ *Will you please keep your eye on my house while I'm on vacation?*

have an eye out (for someone or something) **AND keep an eye out (for someone or something)** to watch for the arrival or appearance of someone or something. (The *an* can be replaced by *one's*.) □ *Please try to have an eye out for the bus.* □ *Keep an eye out for rain.* □ *Have your eye out for a raincoat on sale.* □ *Okay. I'll keep my eye out.*

have an in (with someone) to have a way to request a special favor from someone; to have influence with someone. □ *Do you have an in with the mayor? I have to*

ask him a favor. □ Sorry, I don't have an in, but I know someone who does.

have an itch for something to have a desire for something. □ I have an itch for a nice cool glass of lemonade. □ Who besides me has an itch for pizza?

have an itching palm Go to have an itchy palm.

have an itch to do something to have a desire to do something. □ I have an itch to see a movie tonight. □ Tom has an itch to go swimming.

have an itchy palm AND **have an itching palm** to be in need of a tip; to tend to ask for tips. (As if placing money in the palm would stop the itching.) □ All the waiters at that restaurant have itchy palms. □ The cabdriver was troubled by an itching palm. Since he refused to carry my bags, I gave him nothing.

have a nose for something to have the talent for finding something. □ Police dogs have a good nose for drugs. □ The reporter has a nose for news.

have an out to have an excuse; to have a means of avoiding something. (Refers to a way out or means of escape. Informal. The out is a noun.) □ He's very clever. No matter what happens, he always has an out. □ I agreed to go to a party that I don't want to go to now. I'm looking for an out.

have a one-track mind to have a mind that thinks entirely or almost entirely about one subject, often sex. □ Adolescent boys often have one-track minds. All they're interested in is the opposite sex. □ Bob has a one-track mind. He can only talk about football.

have a passion for someone or something to have a strong feeling of need or desire for someone, something, or some activity. □ Mary has a great passion for chocolate. □ John has a passion for fishing, so he fishes as often as he can.

have a peep AND **take a peep** to look quickly, sometimes through a small hole. □ Have a peep into the refrigerator and see if we need any milk. □ I took a peep at the comet through the telescope.

have a penchant for doing something to have a taste, desire, or inclination for doing something. □ John has a penchant for eating fattening foods. □ Ann has a penchant for buying clothes.

have a pick-me-up to eat or drink something stimulating. (The have can be replaced with need, want, etc. The me does not change.) □ I'd like to have a pick-me-up. I think I'll have a bottle of pop. □ You look tired. You need a pick-me-up.

have a price on one's head to be wanted by the authorities, who have offered a reward for one's capture. (Informal or folksy. Usually limited to western and gangster movies.) □ We captured a thief who had a price on his head, and the sheriff gave us the reward. □ The crook was so mean, he turned in his own brother, who had a price on his head.

have a right to do something AND **have the right to** do something to have the freedom to do something; to possess legal or moral permission or license to do something. □ You don't have the right to enter my home without my permission. □ I have a right to grow anything I want on my farmland.

have a rough time (of it) to experience a difficult period. □ Since his wife died, Mr. Brown has been having a rough time of it. □ Be nice to Bob. He's been having a rough time.

have arrived to reach a position of power, authority, or prominence. □ Jane saw her picture on the cover of the magazine and felt that she had finally arrived. □ When I got an office with a window, I knew that I had arrived.

have a run-in with someone to have an unpleasant and troublesome encounter with someone. □ I had a run-in with Anne at the party, so I left early. □ David had a small run-in with the law last night.

have a run of bad luck to have bad luck repeatedly; to have bad things happen a number of times. □ I have had a run of bad luck, and I have no more money to spend. □ The company had a run of bad luck over the last few years.

have a run of something to have a continuous series of events. □ *The city had a run of serious crimes that angered the citizens.* □ *We had a run of very hot days last July.*

have a say (in something) Go to have a voice (in something).

have a score to settle (with someone) to have a problem to clear up with someone; to have to get even with someone about something. (See also **settle a score with someone**.) □ *I have a score to settle with John.* □ *John and I have a score to settle.*

have a scrape (with someone or something) to come into contact with someone or something; to have a small battle with someone or something. (Compare this with **have a brush with something**.) □ *I had a scrape with the county sheriff.* □ *John and Bill had a scrape, but they are friends again now.*

have a screw loose to act silly or crazy. (Slang.) □ *John is such a clown. He acts as if he has a screw loose.* □ *What's the matter with you? Do you have a screw loose or something?*

have a shot at something Go to have a try at something.

have a smoke to smoke a cigarette, cigar, or pipe. (The *have* can be replaced with *need*, *want*, etc.) □ *Can I have a smoke? I'm very nervous.* □ *Do you have a cigarette? I need a smoke.*

have a snowball's chance in hell to have no chance at all; to have a chance no greater than that of a snowball in hell. (A snowball would melt in hell and have no chance of surviving. Use caution with *hell*.) □ *He has a snowball's chance in hell of passing the test.* □ *You don't have a snowball's chance in hell of her agreeing to marry you.*

have a soft spot in one's heart for someone or something to be fond of someone or something. □ *John has a soft spot in his heart for Mary.* □ *I have a soft spot in my heart for chocolate cake.*

have a spaz to get angry or hysterical; to have a conniption (fit). (Slang.) □ *Relax,*

Bob. Don't have a spaz. □ *My father had a spaz when I came in late last night.*

have a stroke to experience sudden unconsciousness or paralysis due to an interruption in the blood supply to the brain. (Also used as an exaggeration. See the last two examples below.) □ *The patient who received an artificial heart had a stroke two days after the operation.* □ *My great-uncle Bill—who is very old—had a stroke last May.* □ *Calm down, Bob. You're going to have a stroke.* □ *My father almost had a stroke when I came home at three o'clock this morning.*

have a sweet tooth to desire to eat many sweet foods—especially candy and pastries. □ *I have a sweet tooth, and if I don't watch it, I'll really get fat.* □ *John eats candy all the time. He must have a sweet tooth.*

have a taste for something a desire for a particular food, drink, or experience. □ *The Smiths have a taste for adventure and take exotic vacations.* □ *When she was pregnant, Mary often had a taste for pickles.*

have a thing going (with someone) AND **have something going (with someone)** to have a romance or a love affair with someone. (Informal.) □ *John and Mary have a thing going.* □ *Bill has a thing going with Ann.* □ *They have something going.*

have a try at something AND **have a shot at** something; **have a crack at** something to take a turn at trying to do something. (The expressions with *shot* and *crack* are more colloquial than the main entry phrase. See also the variants at **take a try at something**.) □ *You don't seem to be having a lot of luck with this. Can I have a try at it?* □ *Let Sally have a shot at it.* □ *If you let me have a crack at it, maybe I can be successful.*

have at someone or something Go to get at someone or something.

have a vested interest in something to have a personal or biased interest, often financial, in something. □ *Margaret has a vested interest in wanting her father to sell the family firm. She has shares in it and*

would make a large profit. □ *Jack has a vested interest in keeping the village traffic-free.*

have a voice (in something) AND have a say (in something) to have a part in making a decision. □ *I'd like to have a voice in choosing the carpet.* □ *John wanted to have a say in the issue also.* □ *He says he seldom gets to have a say.*

have a way with someone or something to handle or deal well with someone or something. □ *John has a way with hamburger. It's always delicious.* □ *Mother has a way with Father. She'll get him to paint the house.*

have a weakness for someone or something to be unable to resist someone or something; to be fond of someone or something; to be (figuratively) powerless against someone or something. (Compare this with **have a soft spot in one's heart for** someone or something.) □ *I have a weakness for chocolate.* □ *John has a weakness for Mary. I think he's in love.*

have a whale of a time to have an exciting time; to have a big time. (Slang. *Whale* is a way of saying *big*.) □ *We had a whale of a time at Sally's birthday party.* □ *Enjoy your vacation! I hope you have a whale of a time.*

have a word with someone to speak to someone, usually privately. □ *The manager asked to have a word with me when I was not busy.* □ *John, could I have a word with you? We need to discuss something.*

have back at someone Go to get back (at someone).

have bats in one's belfry to be slightly crazy. □ *Poor old Tom has bats in his belfry.* □ *Don't act so silly, John. People will think you have bats in your belfry.*

have bearing on something to apply to something; to affect or influence something. □ *The worker's opinion has no bearing on the boss's decision.* □ *Does this information have any bearing on the question?*

have been around to be experienced in life. (Informal. Use with caution—espe-

cially with females—since this can also refer to sexual experience. See also **get around**.) □ *Ask Sally about how the government works. She's been around.* □ *They all know a lot about life. They've been around.*

have been had to have been mistreated; to have been cheated or dealt with badly. (Informal or slang.) □ *They were cheated out of a thousand dollars. They've really been had.* □ *Look what they did to my car. Boy, have I been had.*

have been through the mill have been badly treated; have become exhausted. (Informal.) □ *This has been a rough day. I've really been through the mill.* □ *This old car is banged up, and it hardly runs. It's been through the mill.*

have been to hell and back to have survived a great deal of trouble. □ *What a terrible day! I feel like I have been to hell and back.* □ *After a day of shopping, I feel like I have been to hell and back.*

have bigger fish to fry Go to have other fish to fry.

have broad shoulders to have the ability to take on unpleasant responsibilities; to have the ability to accept criticism or rebuke. (Refers to the apparent strength of broad shoulders to support a heavy burden.) □ *No need to apologize to me. I can take it. I have broad shoulders.* □ *Karen may have broad shoulders, but she can't endure endless criticism.*

have clean hands to be guiltless. (Refers to the blood on the hands of a murderer.) □ *Don't look at me. I have clean hands.* □ *The police took him in, but let him go again because he had clean hands.*

have cold feet Go to get cold feet.

have come a long way to have accomplished much; to have advanced much. (Also literal.) □ *My, how famous you are. You've come a long way.* □ *Tom has come a long way in a short time.*

have contact with someone a link to someone resulting in communication. (Also literal.) □ *I have had no contact with Bill*

since he left town. □ *Tom had contact with a known criminal last month.*

have designs on someone or something to have plans for someone or something. □ *Mrs. Brown has designs on my apple tree. I think she's going to cut off the part that hangs over her fence.* □ *Mary has designs on Bill. I think she'll try to date him.*

have dibs on something to reserve something for oneself; to claim something for oneself. (Informal. See also **put** (one's) **dibs on** something.) □ *I have dibs on the last piece of cake.* □ *John has dibs on the last piece again. It isn't fair.*

have egg on one's face to be embarrassed because of an error that is obvious to everyone. (Also literal.) □ *Bob has egg on his face because he wore jeans to the party and everyone else wore formal clothing.* □ *John was completely wrong about the weather for the picnic. It snowed! Now he has egg on his face.*

have eyes bigger than one's stomach to have a desire for more food than one could possibly eat. (See also one's **eyes are bigger than one's stomach**.) □ *I know I have eyes bigger than my stomach, so I won't take a lot of food.* □ *Todd has eyes bigger than his stomach.*

have eyes in the back of one's head to seem to be able to sense what is going on outside of one's vision. □ *My teacher seems to have eyes in the back of her head.* □ *My teacher doesn't need to have eyes in the back of his head. He watches us very carefully.*

have feet of clay [for a strong person] to have a defect of character. □ *All human beings have feet of clay. No one is perfect.* □ *Sally was popular and successful. She was nearly fifty before she learned that she, too, had feet of clay.*

have foot-in-mouth disease to embarrass oneself through a silly blunder. (Informal. This is a parody on *foot-and-mouth disease* or *hoof-and-mouth disease*, which affects cattle and deer. See also **put** one's **foot in one's mouth**.) □ *I'm sorry I keep saying stupid things. I guess I have foot-in-*

mouth disease. □ *Yes, you really have foot-in-mouth disease tonight.*

have growing pains 1. [for a child] to have pains—which are attributed to growth—in the muscles and joints. □ *The doctor said that all Mary had were growing pains and that nothing was really wrong.* □ *Not everyone has growing pains.*

2. [for an organization] to have difficulties in its growth. □ *The banker apologized for losing my check and said the bank was having growing pains.* □ *Governments have terrible growing pains.*

have had enough to have had as much of something as is needed or will be tolerated. (Compare this with **have had it** (up to here).) □ *Stop yelling at me. I've had enough.* □ *No more potatoes, please. I've had enough.* □ *I'm leaving you, Bill. I've had enough!*

have had its day to be no longer useful or successful. □ *Streetcars have had their day in most American cities.* □ *Some people think that radio has had its day, but others prefer it to television.*

have had it (up to here) to have reached the end of one's endurance or tolerance. (Informal.) □ *Okay, I've had it. You kids go to bed this instant.* □ *We've all had it with you, John. Get out!* □ *I've had it. I've got to go to bed before I drop dead.* □ *Tom is disgusted. He said that he has had it up to here.*

have half a mind to do something Go to have half a notion to do something.

have half a notion to do something **AND have half a mind to** do something to have almost decided to do something, especially something unpleasant. (Informal.) □ *I have half a mind to go off and leave you here.* □ *The cook had half a notion to serve cold chicken.*

have hell to pay Go to have the devil to pay.

Have I got something for you! Would you believe that I have something really exciting for you? (Informal.) □ *Have I got something for you! Wait'll you hear about it!* □ *Have I got something for you! You're gonna love it.*

Have I made myself clear? Do you understand exactly what I am telling you? (Indicates anger or dominance.) ☐ *I don't intend to warn you again. Have I made myself clear?* ☐ *I do not want you to go there! Have I made myself clear?*

have it all over someone or something to be much better than someone or something. ☐ *This cake has it all over that one.* ☐ *My car has it all over yours.* ☐ *Sally can really run. She has it all over Bill.*

have it both ways to have both of two incompatible things. (Also literal. See also **have one's cake and eat it too**.) ☐ *John wants the security of marriage and the freedom of being single. He wants to have it both ways.* ☐ *John thinks he can have it both ways—the wisdom of age and the vigor of youth.*

have it in for someone to have something against someone; to plan to scold or punish someone. ☐ *Don't go near Bob. He has it in for you.* ☐ *Billy! You had better go home. Your mom really has it in for you.*

have method in one's madness to have a purpose in what one is doing, even though it seems to be mad. ☐ *What I'm doing may look strange, but there is method in my madness.* ☐ *Wait until she finishes; then you'll see that there is method in her madness.*

have mixed feelings (about someone or something) to be uncertain about someone or something. ☐ *I have mixed feelings about Bob. Sometimes I think he likes me; other times I don't.* ☐ *I have mixed feelings about my trip to England. I love the people, but the climate upsets me.* ☐ *Yes, I also have mixed feelings.*

have money to burn to have lots of money; to have more money than one needs. (See also **Money burns a hole in someone's pocket**.) ☐ *Look at the way Tom buys things. You'd think he had money to burn.* ☐ *If I had money to burn, I'd just put it in the bank.*

have more important fish to fry Go to have other fish to fry.

(have) never had it so good have never had so much good fortune. (Informal.)

☐ *No, I'm not complaining. I've never had it so good.* ☐ *Mary is pleased with her new job. She's never had it so good.*

have no business doing something to be wrong to do something; to be extremely unwise to do something. ☐ *You have no business bursting in on me like that!* ☐ *You have no business spending money like that!*

have none of something to tolerate or endure no amount of something. ☐ *I'll have none of your talk about quitting school.* ☐ *We'll have none of your gossip.* ☐ *I wish to have none of the sweet potatoes, please.*

have no staying power to lack endurance; not to be able to last. ☐ *Sally can swim fast for a short distance, but she has no staying power.* ☐ *That horse can race fairly well, but it has no staying power.*

have nothing on someone or something **1.** [with someone] to lack evidence against someone. (Informal.) ☐ *The police had nothing on Bob, so they let him loose.* ☐ *You've got nothing on me! Let me go!* **2.** to have no information about someone or something. ☐ *The dictionary had nothing on the word I looked up.* ☐ *The librarian said that the library has nothing on the Jones brothers.*

have nothing to do with someone or something **1.** not to be related to or concerned with someone or something. ☐ *Your wants and needs have nothing to do with my wants and needs.* ☐ *Waterloo? That has nothing to do with water!* **2.** to avoid being associated with someone or something. ☐ *She will have nothing to do with me anymore.* ☐ *I have nothing to do with computers after I found out how hard they are to operate.*

have one foot in the grave to be near death, either because of old age or because of illness. ☐ *Fred's uncle is ninety. He has one foot in the grave and may not live another two months.* ☐ *Terry has one foot in the grave and will perish unless he receives treatment soon.*

have one for the road to have a drink just before leaving. ☐ *I think I'll have one for the road, bartender.* ☐ *Forget having one for the road if you are driving.*

have one's back to the wall to be in a defensive position. (Informal. See also **push someone to the wall**.) □ *He'll have to give in. He has his back to the wall.* □ *How can I bargain when I've got my back to the wall?*

have one's cake and eat it too AND **eat one's cake and have it too** to enjoy both having something and using it up; to **have it both ways**. (Usually stated in the negative.) □ *Tom wants to have his cake and eat it too. It can't be done.* □ *Don't buy a car if you want to walk and stay healthy. You can't eat your cake and have it too.*

have one's druthers to get one's choice; to be permitted to have one's preference. (Folksy. The *druthers* is from *would rather*.) □ *If I had my druthers, I'd go to France.* □ *Tom said that if he had his druthers, he'd choose to stay home.*

have one's ear to the ground AND **keep one's ear to the ground** to listen carefully, hoping to get advance warning of something. (Refers to holding one's ear against the ground to listen for approaching horses or a train.) □ *John had his ear to the ground, hoping to find out about new ideas in computers.* □ *His boss told him to keep his ear to the ground so that he'd be the first to know of a new idea.*

have oneself something to select, use, or consume something. (Folksy. Also with non-reflexive pronouns, *me, him, her*, etc., as in the last example.) □ *He had himself a two-hour nap.* □ *I'll have myself one of those red ones.* □ *I think I'll have me a big, cold drink.*

have one's feet on the ground Go to get one's feet on the ground.

have one's finger in the pie Go to have a finger in the pie.

have one's finger in too many pies to be involved in too many things; to have too many tasks going to be able to do any of them well. □ *I'm too busy. I have my finger in too many pies.* □ *She never gets anything done because she has her finger in too many pies.*

have one's hand in the till to be stealing money from a company or an organiza-

tion. (The *till* is a cash box or drawer.) □ *Mr. Jones had his hand in the till for years before he was caught.* □ *I think that the new clerk has her hand in the till. There is cash missing every morning.*

have one's hands full (with someone or something) to be busy or totally occupied with someone or something. (Literal when one cannot hold anything else in one's hands.) □ *I have my hands full with my three children.* □ *You have your hands full with the store.* □ *We both have our hands full.*

have one's hands tied to be prevented from doing something. (See also **tie someone's hands**.) □ *I can't help you. I was told not to, so I have my hands tied.* □ *John can help. He doesn't have his hands tied.*

have one's head in the clouds to be unaware of what is going on. □ *"Bob, do you have your head in the clouds?" said the teacher.* □ *She walks around all day with her head in the clouds. She must be in love.*

have one's heart go out to someone to have compassion for someone. □ *I can't have my heart go out to everyone.* □ *To have compassion is to have one's heart go out to those who are suffering.*

have one's heart in the right place to have good intentions, even if there are bad results. (See also **one's heart is in the right place**.) □ *I don't always do what is right, but my heart is in the right place.* □ *Good old Tom. His heart's in the right place.* □ *It doesn't matter if she lost the game. She has her heart in the right place.*

have one's heart on one's sleeve Go to wear one's heart on one's sleeve.

have one's heart set against something to be totally against something. (Also with *dead*, as in the example. See also **dead set against** someone or something; **set one's heart against** something.) □ *Jane has her heart dead set against going to Australia.* □ *John has his heart set against going to college.*

have one's heart set on something to be desiring and expecting something. □ *Jane has her heart set on going to London.* □ *Bob will be disappointed. He had his heart*

set on going to college this year. □ *She had her heart set on it.*

have one's heart stand still <an expression said when one's heart (figuratively) stops beating because one is feeling strong emotions.> □ *I had my heart stand still once when I was overcome with joy.* □ *Lovers—at least the ones in love songs—usually have their hearts stand still.*

have one's luck run out for one's good luck to stop; for one's good fortune to come to an end. □ *I had my luck run out when I was in South America. I nearly starved.* □ *I hate to have my luck run out just when I need it.*

have one's nose in a book to be reading a book; to read books all the time. □ *Bob has his nose in a book every time I see him.* □ *His nose is always in a book. He never gets any exercise.*

have one's nose in the air to be conceited or aloof. (See also *one's nose is in the air.*) □ *Mary always seems to have her nose in the air.* □ *I wonder if she knows that she has her nose in the air.*

have one's sights trained on something Go to train one's sights on something.

have one's words stick in one's throat to be so overcome by emotion that one can hardly speak. □ *I sometimes have my words stick in my throat.* □ *John said that he never had his words stick in his throat.*

have one's work cut out for one to have a large and difficult task prepared for one. (See also *one's work is cut out for one.*) □ *They sure have their work cut out for them, and it's going to be hard.* □ *There is a lot for Bob to do. He has his work cut out for him.*

have other fish to fry AND **have bigger fish to fry; have more important fish to fry** to have other things to do; to have more important things to do. □ *I can't take time for your problem. I have other fish to fry.* □ *I won't waste time on your question. I have bigger fish to fry.*

have precedence over someone or something; AND **take precedence over** someone or something have the right to come before

someone or something else. □ *Ambulances have precedence over regular cars at intersections.* □ *My manager's concerns take precedence over mine.*

have pull with someone to have influence with someone. (Slang. Also with *some, much, lots, etc.*) □ *Let's ask Ann to help us. She has pull with the mayor.* □ *Do you know anyone who has some pull with the bank president? I need a loan.*

have rocks in one's head to be silly or crazy. (Slang.) □ *John is a real nut. He has rocks in his head.* □ *I don't have rocks in my head—I'm just different.*

have second thoughts about someone or something to have doubts about someone or something. □ *I'm beginning to have second thoughts about Tom.* □ *We now have second thoughts about going to Canada.*

have seen better days to be worn or worn out. (Informal.) □ *This coat has seen better days. I need a new one.* □ *Oh, my old legs ache. I've seen better days, but everyone has to grow old.*

have so Go to have too.

have someone dead to rights to have proven someone unquestionably guilty. □ *The police burst in on the robbers while they were at work. They had the robbers dead to rights.* □ *All right, Tom! I've got you dead to rights! Get your hand out of the cookie jar.*

have someone in one's pocket to have control over someone. (Informal.) □ *Don't worry about the mayor. She'll cooperate. I've got her in my pocket.* □ *John will do just what I tell him. I've got him and his brother in my pocket.*

have someone on the string to have someone waiting for your decision. (Informal.) □ *Sally has John on the string. He has asked her to marry him, but she hasn't replied yet.* □ *Yes, it sounds like she has him on the string.*

have someone or something in one's hands to have control of or responsibility for someone or something. □ *You have the whole project in your hands.* □ *The boss*

put the whole project in your hands. □ *I have to leave the baby in your hands while I go to the doctor.*

have someone or something **in tow** to lead, pull, or tow someone or something around. □ *Mrs. Smith has her son in tow.* □ *That car has a boat in tow.*

have someone or something **on one's hands** to be burdened with someone or something. □ *I run a record store. I sometimes have a large number of unwanted records on my hands.* □ *She the all the children on her hands today.*

have someone or something **on one's mind** to think often about someone or something; to be obsessed with someone or something. □ *Bill has chocolate on his mind.* □ *John has Mary on his mind every minute.*

have someone **over** to invite someone as a guest to one's house. □ *When can we have Aunt Jane over for dinner?* □ *I would love to have you over some time.*

have someone **pegged as** something Go to **peg** someone **as** something.

have someone's **blood on one's hands** to be responsible for someone's death; to be guilty of causing someone's death. (Also literal.) □ *The teenager's blood was on the policeman's hands.* □ *The king's blood was on the hands of the murderer who killed him.*

have someone's **hide** to scold or punish someone. (Refers to skinning an animal. Informal. Compare this with **skin** someone alive.) □ *If you ever do that again, I'll have your hide.* □ *He said he'd have my hide if I entered his garage again.*

have something against someone or something to possess something (such as prejudice or knowledge) that is harmful to someone or something. (Note the variation in the examples below.) □ *I have something against John. He was rude to me.* □ *Do you have something against North Americans?* □ *What do you have against me?* □ *I don't have anything against eating beef.*

have something at hand Go to **have** something **at one's fingertips**.

have something at one's fingertips **AND** **have something at hand** to have something within (one's) reach. (*Have* can be replaced with *keep*.) □ *I have a dictionary at my fingertips.* □ *I try to have everything I need at hand.* □ *I keep my medicine at my fingertips.*

have something coming (to one) to deserve punishment (for something). (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Bill broke a window, so he has a spanking coming to him.* □ *That's it, Bill. Now you've got it coming!*

have something doing **AND** **have something on** to have plans for a particular time. (Informal. Note the variation with *anything* in the examples below.) □ *BOB: Are you busy Saturday night?* *BILL: Yes, I've got something doing.* □ *I don't have anything doing Sunday night.* □ *I have something on almost every Saturday.*

have something down pat to have learned or memorized something perfectly. □ *I have practiced my speech until I have it down pat.* □ *Tom has his part in the play down pat. He won't make any mistakes.*

have something going (for oneself) [for someone] to have a beneficial scheme or operation going. (Informal.) □ *John really has something going for himself. He's a travel agent, and he gets to travel everywhere for free.* □ *I wish I could have something like that going.*

have something going (with someone) **1.** to have a business deal with someone. □ *Sally has a new business project going with Ann. They'll announce a new product in the spring.* □ *John and Tom work as stock-brokers. I've heard that they have a business deal going.* **2.** Go to **have a thing going (with someone)**.

have something hanging over one's head to have something bothering or worrying one; to have a deadline worrying one. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *I keep worrying about getting drafted. I hate to have something like that hanging over my head.* □ *I have a history paper that is hanging over my head.*

have something in common (with someone or something) [for groups of people or things] to resemble one another in specific ways.

□ *Bill and Bob both have red hair. They have that in common with each other.* □ *Bob and Mary have a lot in common. I can see why they like each other.*

have something in hand to have something in one's hand or close by. (Compare this with **have something at hand**.) □ *I have your letter of May tenth in hand.* □ *I have my pen in hand, and I'm ready to write.*

have something in mind to think of something in particular; to have an idea or image (of something) in one's mind. □ *BILL: I would like to purchase some boots. CLERK: Yes, sir. Did you have something in mind?* □ *I have something in mind, but I don't see it here. Good day.*

have something in stock to have merchandise available and ready for sale. □ *Do you have extra large sizes in stock?* □ *Of course, we have all sizes and colors in stock.*

have something in store (for someone) to have something planned for one's future. □ *Tom has a large inheritance in store for him when his uncle dies.* □ *I wish I had something like that in store.*

have something made **1.** to hire someone to make something. □ *Isn't it a lovely coat? I had to have it made because I couldn't find one I liked in a store.* □ *We had the cake made at the bakery. Our oven isn't big enough for a cake that size.* **2.** to have achieved a successful state. (Slang. Usually with *it*.) □ *Mary really has it made. She inherited one million dollars.* □ *I wish I had it made like that.*

have something on Go to have something doing.

have something on file to have a written record of something in storage. □ *I'm sure I have your letter on file. I'll check again.* □ *We have your application on file somewhere.*

have something on the ball to have a particular amount of smartness or cleverness. (Slang.) □ *Both John and Mary have a lot on the ball. They should go far.* □ *I*

think I'd do better in school if I had more on the ball. I learn slowly.

have something on the brain to be obsessed with something. (Slang.) □ *Bob has chocolate on the brain.* □ *Mary has money on the brain. She wants to earn as much as possible.*

have something on the tip of one's tongue to be on the verge of remembering a specific fact, such as someone's name; to have just forgotten a specific fact. (See also **on the tip of one's tongue**.) □ *Just give me a minute. I have her name on the tip of my tongue!* □ *I had her name on the tip of my tongue, but you made me forget it when you called.*

have something out (with someone) to settle a disagreement or a complaint. (Informal.) □ *John has been mad at Mary for a week. He finally had it out with her today.* □ *I'm glad we are having this out today.*

have something stick in one's craw to have something irritate or displease someone. (Folksy.) □ *I don't like to have Bill's words stick in my craw.* □ *He meant to have the problem stick in my craw and upset me.*

have something to do with something AND [not] have anything to do with something; **have nothing to do with something** to be associated with or related to something. □ *Does your dislike for Sally have something to do with the way she insulted you?* □ *My illness has something to do with my lungs.*

have something to go Go to buy something to go.

have something to spare to have more than enough of something. (Informal. See also **and something to spare**.) □ *Ask John for some firewood. He has firewood to spare.* □ *Do you have any candy to spare?*

have something up one's sleeve to have a secret or surprise plan or solution (to a problem). (Slang. Refers to cheating at cards by having a card hidden in one's sleeve.) □ *I've got something up my sleeve, and it should solve all your problems. I'll tell you what it is after I'm elected.* □ *The manager has something up her sleeve. She'll surprise us with it later.*

have sticky fingers to have a tendency to steal. (Slang.) □ *The clerk—who had sticky fingers—got fired.* □ *The little boy had sticky fingers and was always taking his father's small change.*

have the ball in one's court to be responsible for the next move in some process; to have to make a response to something that someone else has started. (Also literal.) □ *You have the ball in your court now. You have to answer the attorney's questions.* □ *There was no way that Liz could avoid acting. She had the ball in her court.*

have the best of both worlds to be in a situation where one can enjoy two different opportunities. □ *When Donna was a fellow at the university, she had the privileges of a professor and the freedom of a student. She definitely had the best of both worlds.* □ *Don hated to have to choose between retirement and continuing working. He wanted to do both so he could have the best of both worlds.*

have the cards stacked against one AND **have the deck stacked against one** to have one's chance at future success limited by factors over which one has no control; to have luck against one. □ *You can't get very far in life if you have the deck stacked against you.* □ *I can't seem to get ahead. I always have the cards stacked against*

have the courage of one's convictions to have enough courage and determination to carry out one's goals. □ *It's fine to have noble goals in life and to believe in great things. If you don't have the courage of your convictions, you'll never reach your goals.* □ *Jane was successful because she had the courage of her convictions.*

have the deck stacked against one Go to have the cards stacked against one.

have the devil to pay AND **have hell to pay** to have a great deal of trouble. (Informal. Use caution with *hell*.) □ *If you cheat on your income taxes, you'll have the devil to pay.* □ *I came home after three in the morning and had hell to pay.*

have the feel of something 1. [for something] to feel like something (else). □ *This plastic has the feel of fine leather.* □ *The little car has the feel of a much larger one.* 2. Go to get the feel of something.

have the gall to do something to have sufficient arrogance to do something. □ *I bet you don't have the gall to argue with the mayor.* □ *Only Jane has the gall to ask the boss for a second raise this month.*

have the gift of gab to have a great facility with language; to be able to use language very effectively. (Slang.) □ *My brother really has the gift of gab. He can convince anyone of anything.* □ *If I had the gift of gab like you do, I'd achieve more in life.*

have the makings of something to possess the qualities that are needed for something. □ *The young boy had the makings of a fine baseball player.* □ *My boss has all the makings of a prison warden.*

have the Midas touch to have the ability to be successful, especially the ability to make money easily. (From the name of a legendary king whose touch turned everything to gold.) □ *Bob is a merchant banker and really has the Midas touch.* □ *The poverty-stricken boy turned out to have the Midas touch and was a millionaire by the time he was twenty-five.*

have them rolling in the aisles to make an audience roll in the aisles with laughter. (Slang.) □ *I have the best jokes you've ever heard. I'll have them rolling in the aisles.* □ *What a great performance. We had them rolling in the aisles.*

have the patience of a saint to be very patient. (Refers to the "patience" that someone experiencing martyrdom might have.) □ *I don't know how she puts up with all those stupid questions. She has the patience of a saint.* □ *Hurry up, please. I am late and you are working too slow. I don't have the patience of a saint.*

have the presence of mind to do something to have the calmness and the ability to act sensibly in an emergency or difficult situation. □ *Jane had the presence of mind to phone the police when the child disap-*

peared. □ *The child had the presence of mind to take note of the car's license number.*

have the right-of-way to possess the legal right to occupy a particular space on a public roadway. (See also **yield the right-of-way**.) □ *I had a traffic accident yesterday, but it wasn't my fault. I had the right-of-way.* □ *Don't pull out onto a highway if you don't have the right-of-way.*

have the right to do something Go to have a right to do something.

have the shoe on the other foot to experience the opposite situation (from a previous situation). (Informal. Also with *be* instead of *have*. See the examples. See the proverb **The shoe is on the other foot**. Compare this with **in** someone else's shoes.) □ *I used to be a student, and now I'm the teacher. Now I have the shoe on the other foot.* □ *You were mean to me when you thought I was cheating. Now that I have caught you cheating, the shoe is on the other foot.*

have the time of one's life to have a very good time; to have the most exciting time in one's life. □ *What a great party! I had the time of my life.* □ *We went to Florida last winter and had the time of our lives.*

have the wherewithal (to do something) to have the means to do something, especially energy or money. □ *He has good ideas, but he doesn't have the wherewithal to carry them out.* □ *I could do a lot if only I had the wherewithal.*

have to do with someone or something to be associated with or related to someone or something. □ *This information only has to do with people who came in late.* □ *My illness has to do with my stomach.*

have to live with something to have to endure something. (See also **learn to live with** something.) □ *I have a slight limp in the leg that I broke last year. The doctor says I'll have to live with it.* □ *We don't like the new carpeting in the living room, but we'll have to live with it.*

have too AND **have so** to have done something (despite anything to the contrary). (This is an emphatic way of affirming

that something has happened.) □ *BILL: You haven't made your bed. BOB: I have too!* □ *I have so turned in my paper! If you don't have it, you lost it!*

have too many irons in the fire to be doing too many things at once. □ *Tom had too many irons in the fire and missed some important deadlines.* □ *It's better if you don't have too many irons in the fire.*

have turned the corner to have passed a critical point in a process. (Also literal.) □ *The patient has turned the corner. She should begin to show improvement now.* □ *The project has turned the corner. The rest should be easy.*

have two strikes against one to have several things against one; to be in a position where success is unlikely. □ *Poor Bob had two strikes against him when he tried to explain where he was last night.* □ *I can't win. I have two strikes against me before I start.*

have what it takes to have the ability, courage, or stamina (to do something). □ *Bill has what it takes. He can swim for miles.* □ *Tom won't succeed. He doesn't have what it takes.*

Have you been keeping busy? <a vague greeting inquiry asking about how someone has been occupied.> (Really just a way to say hello and open a conversation.) □ *How are you? Have you been keeping busy?* □ *What've you been doing? Have you been keeping busy?*

hazard a guess to make a guess. □ *Even if you don't know, please hazard a guess.* □ *If you don't know the answer, hazard a guess.*

hazard an opinion to give an opinion. □ *Anne asked the attorney to hazard an opinion about the strength of her lawsuit.* □ *Don't feel like you have to hazard an opinion on something you know nothing about.*

He laughs best who laughs last Go to **He who laughs last, laughs longest**.

He who laughs last, laughs longest. AND **He laughs best who laughs last.** Whoever succeeds in making the last move or

pulling the last trick has the most enjoyment. (Proverb.) □ *Bill had pulled many silly tricks on Tom. Finally Tom pulled a very funny trick on Bill and said, "He who laughs last, laughs longest."* □ *Bill pulled another, even bigger, trick on Tom and said, laughing, "He laughs best who laughs last."*

He who pays the piper calls the tune.

The person who is paying for something has control over how the money is used. (Proverb.) □ *Fred's father is paying his way through college, and wants to help him choose his courses. He says that he who pays the piper calls the tune.* □ *The bride's parents should have a say in where the wedding is held since they're paying for it. He who pays the piper calls the tune.*

a **head** AND **per head** [for] a person; [for] an individual. (Also used for cattle.) □ *How much do you charge per head for dinner?* □ *It costs four dollars a head.*

head and shoulders above someone or something clearly superior to someone or something. (Often with *stand*, as in the example.) □ *This wine is head and shoulders above that one.* □ *John stands head and shoulders above Bob.*

head for someone or something to aim for or move toward someone or something. □ *She waved good-bye as she headed for the door.* □ *Ann came in and headed for her mother.*

head for the last roundup to reach the end of something. (Originally said of a dying cowboy.) □ *This ballpoint pen is headed for the last roundup. I have to get another one.* □ *I am so weak. I think I'm headed for the last roundup.*

head over heels in debt deeply in debt. □ *Finally, when she was head over heels in debt, she tore up her credit cards.* □ *I couldn't stand being head over heels in debt, so I always pay off my bills immediately.*

head over heels in love (with someone) very much in love with someone. (See also *fall head over heels in love (with someone).*) □ *John is head over heels in love with Mary.* □ *They are head over heels in*

love with each other. □ *They are head over heels in love.*

head someone or something **off** to prevent someone or something from arriving. □ *The doctors worked round the clock to head the epidemic off.* □ *Bill headed his mother off so that we had time to clean up the mess before she saw it.* □ *The farmer headed off the herd of sheep before it ruined our picnic.*

head something up to serve as leader or head of something. □ *I had already agreed to head the fund-raising campaign up.* □ *They asked me to head up the meeting.*

heads or tails the face of a coin or the other side of a coin. (Often used in an act of coin tossing, where one circumstance is valid if the front of a coin appears and another circumstance is valid if the other side appears.) □ *Jim looked at Jane as he flipped the coin into the air. "Heads or tails?" he asked.* □ *It doesn't matter whether the result of the toss is heads or tails. I won't like the outcome in any case.*

Heads up! Raise your head from work and look around you carefully for information, danger, or warnings that you need to see! □ *Heads up! Watch out for that door!* □ *Heads up! There is a car coming.*

heads will roll someone will get into severe trouble. (Informal.) □ *When the company's year-end results are known, heads will roll.* □ *Heads will roll when the principal sees the damaged classroom.*

hear a peep out of someone to get some sort of a response from someone; to hear the smallest word from someone. (Usually in the negative.) □ *I don't want to hear another peep out of you.* □ *I didn't know they were there. I didn't hear a peep out of them.*

hear of something to tolerate something; to permit something. (Usually negative.) □ *No, you cannot go to the movies! I won't hear of it!* □ *My mother wouldn't hear of my marrying Bill.*

hear someone **out** to listen to everything that someone has to say and to not interrupt or go away. □ *Please, hear me out.*

This is important. □ He had a good idea, but the committee would not hear him out.

heart and soul the central core [of someone or something]. (Also literal.) □ *My very heart and soul was made sad by her hurtful attitude. □ Now we are getting to the heart and soul of the matter. □ This feature is the heart and soul of my invention.*

[heart goes out to someone] Go to one's heart goes out to someone.

[heart is in one's mouth] Go to one's heart is in one's mouth.

[heart is in the right place] Go to one's heart is in the right place.

[heart is (dead) set against something] Go to one's heart is (dead) set against something.

[heart is set on something] Go to one's heart is set on something.

[heart misses a beat] Go to one's heart misses a beat.

[heart skips a beat] Go to one's heart skips a beat.

[heart stands still] Go to one's heart stands still.

heavy going difficult to do, understand, or make progress with. (Informal.) □ *Jim finds math heavy going. □ Talking to Mary is heavy going. She has nothing to say.*

hedge one's bets to reduce one's loss on a bet or on an investment by counterbalancing the loss in some way. (Slang.) □ *Bob bet Ann that the plane would be late. He usually hedges his bets. This time he called the airline and asked about the plane before he made the bet. □ John bought some stock and then bet Mary that the stock would go down in value in one year. He has hedged his bets perfectly. If the stock goes up, he sells it, pays off Mary, and still makes a profit. If it goes down, he reduces his loss by winning the bet he made with Mary.*

hell-bent for leather moving or behaving recklessly; riding a horse fast and recklessly. (Informal. Typically found in west-

ern movies.) □ *They took off after the horse thief, riding hell-bent for leather. □ Here comes the boss. She's not just angry; she's hell-bent for leather.*

hell on earth a very unpleasant situation, as if one were in hell. □ *That man made my life hell on earth! □ The whole time I was there was just hell on earth.*

help do something to assist [someone to] do something. □ *Bill can help load the truck. □ I am too tired to help mow the grass. □ Bill can help us load the truck. □ I am too tired to help you mow the grass.*

help oneself to take whatever one wants or needs. □ *Please have some candy. Help yourself. □ When you go to a cafeteria, you help yourself to the food. □ Bill helped himself to dessert.*

help (someone or something) out (with someone or something) to assist (someone or something) with a person or a thing. □ *Can you help me out with my geometry? □ Yes, I can help out. □ Please help out my son with his geometry. □ Please help me out around the house. □ We helped out the school with its fund-raising.*

hem and haw (around) to be uncertain about something; to be evasive; to say "ah" and "eh" when speaking—avoiding saying something meaningful. (Folksy.) □ *Stop hemming and hawing around. I want an answer. □ Don't just hem and haw around. Speak up. We want to hear what you think.*

hem someone or something **in** to trap or enclose someone or something. □ *The large city buildings hem me in. □ Don't hem in the bird. Let it have a way to escape.*

the **here and now** the present, as opposed to the past or the future. □ *I don't care what's happening tomorrow or next week! I care about the here and now. □ The past is dead. Let's worry about the here and now.*

here and there at this place and that; from place to place. (Could imply a casual search. See also **here**, **there**, and **everywhere**; **hither and thither**.) □ *We find rare books in used-book stores here and there.*

□ *She didn't make a systematic search. She just looked here and there.*

Here goes nothing. I am beginning to do something that will probably fail or be poorly done. (Informal.) □ *Sally stood on the diving board and said, "Here goes nothing."* □ *As Ann walked onto the stage, she whispered, "Here goes nothing."*

Here (it) goes. Something is going to start.; I will start now.; I will do it now. (Informal or slang.) □ *I'm ready to start now. Here goes.* □ *Okay, it's my turn to kick the ball. Here it goes!*

here, there, and everywhere everywhere; at all points. (See also **hither, thither, and yon**. Compare this with **here and there**.) □ *Fred searched here, there, and everywhere, frantically looking for the lost check.* □ *She did not rest until she had been here, there, and everywhere, shopping for just the right gift.*

Here you go. AND **There you go.** Here is what you asked for. (Informal.) □ *"Here you go," said the waiter as he put the plate on the table.* □ *There you go. Here is your hamburger and your drink.*

Here's looking at you. Drink up. (A simple drinking toast.) □ *Here's look at you, Tom.* □ *Thanks for the drink. Here's looking at you.*

Here's mud in your eye. Drink up! (A simple and jocular drinking toast.) □ *Here's mud in your eye, Tom.* □ *Thanks for the drink. Here's mud in your eye.*

Here's to someone or something. <an expression used as a toast to someone or something to wish someone or something well.> □ *Here's to Jim and Mary! May they be very happy!* □ *Here's to your new job!*

hide-and-seek a guessing game where one has to find something or figure out something that is concealed or disguised. (Refers to a game where a person hides and another person tries to find the hidden person.) □ *I am tired of running up against a game of hide-and-seek every time I ask to see the financial records of this company.* □ *I have been trying to see the manager for two days. Where is she? I*

refuse to play hide-and-seek any longer. I want to see her now!

hide one's face in shame to cover one's face because of shame or embarrassment. □ *Mary was so embarrassed. She could only hide her face in shame.* □ *When Tom broke Ann's crystal vase, he wanted to hide his face in shame.*

hide one's head in the sand Go to bury one's head in the sand.

hide one's light under a bushel to conceal one's good ideas or talents. (A biblical theme.) □ *Jane has some good ideas, but she doesn't speak very often. She hides her light under a bushel.* □ *Don't hide your light under a bushel. Share your gifts with other people.*

high and dry 1. safe; unbothered by difficulties; unscathed. (Refers to being safe from a flood.) □ *While the riot was going on, I was high and dry in my apartment.* □ *Liz came out of the argument high and dry. 2.* abandoned; unsupported and helpless. (See also **leave** someone **high and dry**.) □ *Everyone else on the committee quit, leaving me high and dry.* □ *The company moved to Chicago, and I was left high and dry in Dallas.*

high-and-mighty self-important and arrogant. □ *I don't know why Albert is so high-and-mighty. He's no better than the rest of us.* □ *The boss acts high-and-mighty because he can fire us all.*

high as a kite Go to (as) high as a kite.

high man on the totem pole the person at the top of the hierarchy; the person in charge of an organization. (Informal. Compare this with **low man on the totem pole**.) □ *I don't want to talk to a secretary. I demand to talk to the high man on the totem pole.* □ *Who's in charge around here? Who's high man on the totem pole?*

high on something 1. intoxicated with some drug. (Slang.) □ *He got thrown out of the movie because he was high on something.* □ *Bill was high on marijuana and was singing loudly. 2.* enthusiastic about something. (Slang.) □ *Jane quit eating red meat. She's really high on fish, however.*

□ *Bob is high on meditation. He sits and meditates for an hour each day.*

highflier a person who is ambitious or who is very likely to be successful. (Informal.)

□ *Jack was one of the highfliers of our university year, and he is now in the foreign office.* □ *Tom is a highflier and has applied for the post of managing director.*

hightail it out of somewhere to run or ride a horse away from somewhere fast. (Folksy. Typically heard in western movies.) □ *Here comes the sheriff. We'd better hightail it out of here.* □ *Look at that guy go. He really hightailed it out of town.*

highways and byways [all the] roads; the major and minor roads and routes. (Both literal and figurative.) □ *I hope I meet you again some day on life's highways and byways.* □ *The city council voted to plant new trees along all the highways and byways of the town.*

hinge on something to depend on something. □ *This all hinges on how much risk you're willing to take.* □ *Whether we have the picnic hinges on the weather.*

hit a happy medium Go to strike a happy medium.

hit-and-miss AND **hit-or-miss** carelessly; aimlessly; without plan or direction. □ *There was no planning. It was just hit-and-miss.* □ *We handed out the free tickets hit-or-miss. Some people got one; others got five or six.*

hit-and-run an accident where the driver of a car strikes a person or another vehicle and speeds away without admitting to the deed or stopping to help. □ *Fred was injured in a hit-and-run accident.* □ *The state passed a law making any kind of hit-and-run accident a felony.*

hit a plateau to reach a higher level of activity, sales, production, output, etc., and then stop and remain unchanged. □ *When my sales hit a plateau, my boss gave me a pep talk.* □ *When production hit a plateau, the company built a new factory.*

hit a snag to run into a problem. (Informal.) □ *We've hit a snag with the build-*

ing project. □ *I stopped working on the roof when I hit a snag.*

hit a sour note Go to strike a sour note.

hit bottom to reach the lowest or worst point. □ *Our profits have hit bottom. This is our worst year ever.* □ *When my life hit bottom, I began to feel much better. I knew that if there was going to be any change, it would be for the better.*

hit home AND **strike home** to really make sense; [for a comment] to make a very good point. □ *Mary's criticism of my clothes hit home, so I changed.* □ *The teacher's comment struck home and the student vowed to work harder.*

hit it off (with someone) to quickly become good friends with someone. □ *Look how John hit it off with Mary.* □ *Yes, they really hit it off.*

hit one close to home Go to hit one where one lives.

hit one's stride Go to reach one's stride.

hit one where one lives AND **hit one close to home** to affect one personally and intimately. (Informal.) □ *Her comments really hit me where I live. Her words seemed to apply directly to me.* □ *I listened carefully and didn't think she hit close to home at all.*

hit-or-miss Go to hit-and-miss.

hit pay dirt to discover something of value. (Slang. Refers to discovering valuable ore.) □ *Sally tried a number of different jobs until she hit pay dirt.* □ *I tried to borrow money from a lot of different people. They all said no. Then when I went to the bank, I hit pay dirt.*

hit (someone) below the belt to do something unfair or unsporting to someone. (Informal. From boxing, where a blow below the belt line is not permitted.) □ *You really hit me below the belt when you told the boss about my tax problems.* □ *In business Bill is difficult to deal with. He hits below the belt.*

hit someone hard to affect someone's emotions strongly. (Also literal.) □ *The death*

of his friend hit John hard. □ *The investor was hit hard by the falling stock prices.*

hit (someone) like a ton of bricks to surprise, startle, or shock someone. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Suddenly, the truth hit me like a ton of bricks.* □ *The sudden tax increase hit like a ton of bricks. Everyone became angry.*

hit someone (right) between the eyes to become completely apparent; to surprise or impress someone. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Suddenly, it hit me right between the eyes. John and Mary were in love.* □ *Then—as he was talking—the exact nature of the evil plan hit me between the eyes.*

hit someone up (for something) to ask someone for something. (Informal.) □ *John hit me up for a loan.* □ *I told him to go hit up someone else.*

hit the books to begin to study; to study. (Slang.) □ *Well, time to hit the books.* □ *John, if you don't start hitting the books, you're going to fail.*

hit the bottle to drink alcohol to excess. (As if drinking directly from the bottle, that is, taking a *hit* from the bottle. Slang.) □ *Fred goes home and hits the bottle every night.* □ *Bill has been hitting the bottle a lot lately. I think he has a problem.*

hit the bricks to start walking; to go out into the streets. (Slang.) □ *If you want to get a job, you had better get out there and hit the bricks.* □ *I got fired today. The boss came by and told me to hit the bricks.*

hit the bull's-eye to achieve a goal perfectly. (Refers to hitting the center of a circular target. Informal.) □ *Your idea really hit the bull's-eye. Thank you!* □ *Jill has a lot of insight. She knows how to hit the bull's-eye in discussions.*

hit the ceiling to become very angry. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *My father hit the ceiling when I damaged the car.* □ *Our employer hit the ceiling when we lost an important contract.*

hit the hay AND **hit the sack** to go to bed and get some sleep. (Slang. Compare this with **sack out**.) □ *Look at the clock. It's*

time to hit the hay. □ *I like to hit the sack before midnight.*

hit the high spots to do only the important, obvious, or good things. (Informal.) □ *I won't discuss the entire report. I'll just hit the high spots.* □ *First, let me hit the high spots; then I'll tell you about everything.*

hit the jackpot 1. to win at gambling. (Refers to the “jack” in playing cards.) □ *Bob hit the jackpot three times in one night.* □ *I've never hit the jackpot even once.* **2.** to have a success. □ *I hit the jackpot on a business deal.* □ *I really hit the jackpot in the library. I found just what I needed.*

hit the nail (right) on the head to do exactly the right thing; to do something in the most effective and efficient way; to identify the exact nature of something. (Also literal.) □ *You've spotted the flaw, Sally. You hit the nail on the head.* □ *Bob doesn't say much, but every now and then he hits the nail right on the head.*

hit the road to depart; to begin one's journey, especially on a road trip; to leave for home. □ *It's time to hit the road. I'll see you.* □ *We have to hit the road very early in the morning.*

hit the sack Go to hit the hay.

hit the skids to decline; to decrease in value. (Slang.) □ *Business usually hits the skids in the summer.* □ *Tom hit the skids after he lost his job.*

hit the spot to be exactly right; to be refreshing. (Informal.) □ *This cool drink really hits the spot.* □ *That was a delicious meal, dear. It hit the spot.*

hit (up)on something to discover or think up something. (Informal.) □ *Ann hit on the idea of baking lots of bread and freezing it.* □ *John hit upon a new way of planting corn.*

hitch a ride Go to thumb a ride.

hither and thither here and there. (Formal and archaic.) □ *The dog chased the poor bunny hither and thither, failing at every turn to capture it.* □ *Sharon searched*

hither and thither, hoping to find her lost Persian cat.

hither, thither, and yon everywhere; here, there, and everywhere. (Formal and archaic.) □ *The prince looked hither, thither, and yon for the beautiful woman who had lost the glass slipper.* □ *The terrible wizard had sown the seeds of his evil vine hither, thither, and yon, and soon the evil, twisted plants began to sprout in all the land.*

hitting on all cylinders Go to firing on all cylinders.

a **hive of activity** the location where things are very busy. (Refers to the activity around a beehive.) □ *The hotel lobby was a hive of activity each morning.* □ *During the holidays, the shopping center is a hive of activity.*

hoarse as a crow Go to (as) hoarse as a crow.

Hobson's choice the choice between taking what is offered and getting nothing at all. (From the name of a stable owner in the seventeenth century who offered customers the hire of the horse nearest the door.) □ *We didn't really want that particular hotel, but it was a case of Hobson's choice. We booked very late and there was nothing else left.* □ *If you want a yellow car, it's Hobson's choice. The garage has only one.*

hoist by one's own petard AND **hoist with one's own petard** harmed or disadvantaged by an action of one's own that was meant to harm someone else. (From a line in Shakespeare's *Hamlet*.) □ *She intended to murder her brother but was hoist by her own petard when she ate the poisoned food intended for him.* □ *The vandals were hoist with their own petard when they tried to make an emergency call from the pay phone they had broken.*

hoist with one's own petard Go to hoist by one's own petard.

hold a grudge (against someone) Go to bear a grudge (against someone).

hold all the aces to be in a favorable position; to be in a controlling position.

(Slang. Refers to having possession of all four aces in a card game.) □ *How can I advance in my job when my enemy holds all the aces?* □ *If I held all the aces, I'd be able to do great things.*

hold a meeting to meet; to have a meeting (of an organization). □ *We'll have to hold a meeting to make a decision.* □ *Our club held a meeting to talk about future projects.*

hold forth (on something) to speak at length. □ *I've never seen anyone who could hold forth so long.* □ *The professor held forth on economic theory for nearly an hour.*

hold no brief for someone or something not to care about someone or something; to dislike someone or something. □ *I hold no brief for bad typists.* □ *My father says he holds no brief for sweet potatoes.*

hold one's breath to stop doing something and wait until something special happens. (Also literal. Informal. Usually in the negative.) □ *BOB: The bus is going to come soon. BILL: Don't hold your breath until it does.* □ *I expect the mail to be delivered soon, but I'm not holding my breath.*

hold one's end (of the bargain) up to do one's part as agreed; to attend to one's responsibilities as agreed. □ *If you don't hold your end up, the whole project will fail.* □ *Tom has to learn to cooperate. He must hold up his end of the bargain.*

hold one's fire **1.** to refrain from shooting (a gun, etc.). □ *The sergeant told the soldiers to hold their fire.* □ *Please hold your fire until I get out of the way.* **2.** to postpone one's criticism or commentary. (Informal.) □ *Now, now, hold your fire until I've had a chance to explain.* □ *Hold your fire, Bill. You're too quick to complain.*

hold one's ground Go to stand one's ground.

hold one's head up to retain or display one's dignity. (Also literal.) □ *I've done nothing wrong. I can hold my head up in public.* □ *I'm so embarrassed and ashamed. I'll never be able to hold up my head again.*

hold one's own to do as well as anyone else.

- *I can hold my own in a footrace any day.*
- *She was unable to hold her own, and she had to quit.*

hold one's peace to remain silent. □ *Bill was unable to hold his peace any longer. "Don't do it!" he cried.* □ *Quiet, John. Hold your peace for a little while longer.*

hold one's temper Go to keep one's temper.

hold one's tongue to refrain from speaking; to refrain from saying something unpleasant. (See also the fixed phrase **Hold your tongue!**) □ *I felt like scolding her, but I held my tongue.* □ *You must learn to hold your tongue, John. You can't talk to people that way.*

hold on (to someone or something) Go to hang on (to someone or something).

hold out for something to insist on getting something; to refuse to accept less than something. □ *The workers are holding out for a reasonable raise.* □ *The teachers are holding out for a reduction in class size.*

hold out the olive branch to offer to end a dispute and be friendly; to offer reconciliation. (The olive branch is a symbol of peace and reconciliation. A biblical reference.) □ *Jill was the first to hold out the olive branch after our argument.* □ *I always try to hold out the olive branch to someone I have hurt. Life is too short for a person to bear grudges for very long.*

hold someone down to try to keep someone from succeeding. (Also literal.) □ *I still think you're trying to hold him down.* ☐ *I'm not trying to hold down my brother.*

hold someone hostage to keep someone as a hostage. □ *The terrorists planned to hold everyone hostage in the airplane.* □ *My neighbor was held hostage in his own home by a robber.*

hold someone in high regard to have very great respect for someone or something; to admire someone or something greatly. □ *We hold our employees in very high regard.* □ *I do not hold Bob's abilities in high regard.*

hold someone or something in check Go to keep someone or something in check.

hold someone or something over to retain someone or something (for a period of time). □ *The storm held John over for another day.* □ *The manager held the movie over for another week.*

hold someone or something still Go to keep someone or something still.

hold someone or something up 1. [with someone] to rob someone (figuratively or literally). □ *I don't eat at that restaurant any more. The food is too expensive. They really held me up the last time I ate there.* □ *That's the one who held me up at gunpoint.* ☐ *The thug held up the old lady.* **2.** to detain someone or something; to make someone or something late. (Also literal meaning to keep someone or something upright.) □ *The traffic on the expressway held me up.* ☐ *A storm in Boston held up our plane.*

hold someone or something up (as an example) to point out someone or something as a good example. (See also **make an example of** someone.) □ *I was embarrassed when the boss held me up as an example.* □ *I don't like for anyone to hold me up like that.* ☐ *The teacher held up the leaf as an example of a typical compound leaf.*

hold someone's attention to keep someone's attention; to keep someone interested. □ *The boring teacher could not hold the students' attention.* □ *The mystery novel held my attention and I couldn't put it down.*

hold something against someone to blame something on someone; to bear a grudge against someone; to resent someone. (Also literal.) □ *Your brother is mean to me, but I can't hold it against you.* □ *You're holding something against me. What is it?*

hold still Go to keep still.

hold still for something Go to stand still for something.

hold the fort to take care of a place, such as a store or one's home. (Refers to defending a fort against attackers. Informal. From western movies.) □ *I'm going next door to visit Mrs. Jones. You stay here and hold the fort.* □ *You should open the store at eight o'clock and hold the fort until I get there at ten.*

hold the line (at someone or something) to limit the number of people or things; to limit (something) to someone or something. (See also **draw the line** (at something).) ☐ *The room will seat fifty, but I think you should hold the line at forty.* ☐ *The Browns and the Smiths could be invited, but I think we ought to hold the line at the Browns.* ☐ *Okay, we'll hold the line.*

hold true [for something] to be true; [for something] to remain true. ☐ *Does this rule hold true all the time?* ☐ *Yes, it holds true no matter what.*

hold up to endure; to last a long time. ☐ *How long will this cloth hold up?* ☐ *I want my money back for this chair. It isn't holding up well.*

hold up (for someone or something) Go to wait up (for someone or something).

hold up on something to delay doing something. ☐ *Please hold up on the project.* *We've run out of money.* ☐ *I have to hold up on my reading because I broke my glasses.*

hold with something to accept or agree with something. (Folksy. Usually in the negative.) ☐ *My father doesn't hold with fancy clothes.* ☐ *I don't hold with too many X rays.*

Hold your horses! Wait a minute and be reasonable!; Do not run off wildly! (Folksy. From western movies.) ☐ *Now, hold your horses, John. Be reasonable for a change.* ☐ *Don't get so mad. Just hold your horses.*

Hold your tongue! Be quiet!; Stop saying what you are saying! ☐ *Hold your tongue! I've heard enough of your insults.* ☐ *That's enough rudeness for today! Hold your tongue!*

a **hole in one** **1.** an instance of hitting a golf ball into a hole in only one try. (From the game of golf.) ☐ *John made a hole in one yesterday.* ☐ *I've never gotten a hole in one.* **2.** an instance of succeeding the first time. ☐ *It worked the first time I tried it—a hole in one.* ☐ *Bob got a hole in one on that sale. A lady walked in the door, and he sold her a car in five minutes.*

hole up (somewhere) to hide somewhere; to live in hiding somewhere. (Slang. Typically in western or gangster movies.) ☐ *The old man is holed up in the mountains, waiting for the war to end.* ☐ *If we are going to hole up for the winter, we'll need lots of food.*

holier-than-thou excessively pious; acting as though one is more virtuous than other people. ☐ *Jack always adopts a holier-than-thou attitude to other people, but people say he has been in prison.* ☐ *Jane used to be holier-than-thou, but she is marrying Tom, who is a crook.*

home in (on someone or something) to aim exactly at something and move toward it. ☐ *The sheriff walked into the room and homed in on the horse thief.* ☐ *The plane homed in on the beacon at the airport.* ☐ *First, you must set your goal and then home in.*

honest and aboveboard Go to above-board.

Honest to God. Go to Honest to goodness.

Honest to goodness. AND **Honest to God.; Honest to Pete.** I speak the truth. (Some people may object to the use of *God* in this phrase.) ☐ *Did he really say that? Honest to goodness?* ☐ *Honest to Pete, I've been to the moon.* ☐ *I've been there, too—honest to God.*

Honest to Pete. Go to Honest to goodness.

The **honeymoon is over.** The early pleasant beginning has ended. ☐ *Okay, the honeymoon is over. It's time to settle down and do some hard work.* ☐ *I knew the honeymoon was over when they started yelling at me to work faster.*

honor someone's check to accept someone's personal check. ☐ *The clerk at the store wouldn't honor my check. I had to pay cash.* ☐ *The bank didn't honor your check when I tried to deposit it. Please give me cash.*

hooked (on something) **1.** addicted to a drug or something similar. (Slang.) ☐ *Jenny is hooked on cocaine.* ☐ *She was not hooked on anything before that.* ☐ *John is hooked on coffee.* **2.** enthusiastic about some-

thing; supportive of something. ☐ *Mary is hooked on football. She never misses a game.* ☐ *Jane is so happy! She's hooked on life.*

hoot and holler to shout in disapproval; to call and shout one's displeasure. ☐ *After the umpire rendered his decision, the spectators hooted and hollered their thoughts on the matter.* ☐ *It's hard to play a good game of basketball when the fans are hooting and hollering at everything you do.*

a **hop, skip, and a jump** a short distance. (Also literal.) ☐ *Her house was just a hop, skip, and a jump away from mine, so we visited often.* ☐ *Our town is just a hop, skip, and a jump from a big city, so we get the advantages of both city and country life.*

Hop to it! Move fast!; Get started! (Slang.) ☐ *Come on, you guys, move it! Hop to it!* ☐ *Hop to it, Bill. You look like you're loafing.*

hope against (all) hope to have hope even when the situation appears to be hopeless. ☐ *We hope against all hope that she'll see the right thing to do and do it.* ☐ *There is little point in hoping against hope, except that it makes you feel better.*

hopeless at doing something incapable of doing something. ☐ *Tom is hopeless at cooking.* ☐ *Sally is hopeless at dusting. She hates it.*

hopped up 1. intoxicated with drugs or alcohol; stimulated by drugs or alcohol. (Slang.) ☐ *The old man was hopped up again. He was addicted to opium.* ☐ *John usually gets hopped up on the weekends.* **2.** excited; enthusiastic. (Slang.) ☐ *What are you hopped up about now? You're certainly cheery.* ☐ *I always get hopped up when I think of mountain climbing.*

horn in (on someone or something) 1. [with someone] to attempt to displace someone. (Informal.) ☐ *I'm going to ask Sally to the party. Don't you dare try to horn in on me!* ☐ *I wouldn't think of horning in.* **2.** [with something] to attempt to participate in something without invitation or consent. ☐ *Are you trying to horn in on my con-*

versation with Sally? ☐ *I hope you are not trying to horn in on our party.*

horse and buggy AND **horse and carriage** a carriage pulled by a horse, as opposed to a modern automobile. (A symbol of old-fashionedness or out-of-dateness. Particularly with *go out with*, as in the examples below.) ☐ *That kind of clothing went out with the horse and buggy.* ☐ *I thought suspenders went out with the horse and carriage, but I see them everywhere now.*

horse and carriage Go to horse and buggy.

horse around to play around; to waste time in frivolous activities. (Informal.) ☐ *Stop horsing around and get to work.* ☐ *The children were on the playground horsing around when the bell rang.*

a **horse of a different color** Go to a horse of another color.

a **horse of another color** AND a **horse of a different color** another matter altogether. ☐ *I was talking about trees, not bushes. Bushes are a horse of another color.* ☐ *Gambling is not the same as investing in the stock market. It's a horse of a different color.*

horse sense common sense; practical thinking. ☐ *Jack is no scholar but he has a lot of horse sense.* ☐ *Horse sense tells me I should not be involved in that project.*

hot and bothered 1. excited; anxious. (Informal.) ☐ *Now don't get hot and bothered. Take it easy.* ☐ *John is hot and bothered about the tax increase.* **2.** amorous; interested in romance or sex. (Informal and euphemistic. Use with caution.) ☐ *John gets hot and bothered whenever Mary comes into the room.* ☐ *The dog seems hot and bothered. I think it's that time of the year again.*

hot and heavy referring to serious passion or emotions. ☐ *Things were getting a little hot and heavy so Ellen asked to be taken home.* ☐ *The movie had one hot and heavy scene after another. Pretty soon it got to be a joke.*

hot as fire Go to (as) hot as fire.

hot as hell Go to (as) hot as hell.

hot on something enthusiastic about something; very much interested in something; knowledgeable about something. (Informal.) ☐ *Meg's hot on animal rights.*
☐ *Jean is hot on modern ballet just now.*

hot under the collar very angry. ☐ *The boss was really hot under the collar when you told him you lost the contract.* ☐ *I get hot under the collar every time I think about it.*

hotfoot it out of somewhere to run away from a place. (Folksy. Compare this with **high tail it out of** somewhere.) ☐ *Did you see Tom hotfoot it out of the office when the boss came in?* ☐ *Things are looking bad. I think we had better hotfoot it out of here.*

How goes it (with you)? Hello, how are you? (Informal.) ☐ *Hi, Mary. How goes it with you?* ☐ *How goes it, Bill?*

How's it going? How are you? (Informal.) ☐ *Hi, Bob. How's it going?* ☐ *How's it going? Everything all right?*

How's the world (been) treating you? How are you? ☐ *Hi, Jane, How's the world treating you?* ☐ *How's the world been treating you, Bill?*

a **hue and cry** a loud public protest or opposition. ☐ *There was a hue and cry when the city government tried to build houses on the playing field.* ☐ *The decision to close the local school started a real hue and cry.*

huff and puff to breathe very hard; to pant as one exerts effort. ☐ *John came up the stairs huffing and puffing.* ☐ *He huffed and puffed and finally got up the steep hill.*

hung up (on someone or something) obsessed with someone or something; devoted to someone or something. (Slang.) ☐ *John is really hung up on Mary.* ☐ *She's hung up, too. See how she smiles when he enters the room.*

hunger for something to have a strong desire for something. ☐ *All her life, Mary has had a hunger for affection.* ☐ *The pris-*

oner was consumed with a hunger for freedom.

hungry as a bear Go to (as) hungry as a bear.

hungry as a hunter Go to (as) hungry as a hunter.

hungry for something desiring something. ☐ *The orphan was hungry for the warmth of a family.* ☐ *Bill is hungry for knowledge and always studying.*

hunt-and-peck a slow "system" of typing where one searches for a letter and then presses it. (From the movement used by fowls when feeding.) ☐ *I never learned to type right. All I do is hunt-and-peck.* ☐ *I can't type. I just hunt-and-peck, but I get the job done—eventually.*

hunt high and low (for someone or something) **AND look high and low (for** someone or something); **search high and low (for** someone or something) to look carefully in every possible place for someone or something. ☐ *We looked high and low for the right teacher.* ☐ *The Smiths are searching high and low for the home of their dreams.*

hunt someone or something **up** Go to look someone or something up.

hurl an insult (at someone) to direct an insult at someone; to say something insulting directly to someone. ☐ *Anne hurled an insult at Bob that made him very angry.* ☐ *If you two would stop hurling insults, we could have a serious discussion.*

a **hush fell over** someone or something a sudden silence enveloped something, someone, or a group. ☐ *As the conductor raised his arms, a hush fell over the audience.* ☐ *The coach shouted and a hush fell over the locker room.*

hush money money paid as a bribe to persuade someone to remain silent and not reveal certain information. ☐ *Bob gave his younger sister hush money so that she wouldn't tell Jane that he had gone to the movies with Sue.* ☐ *The crooks paid Fred hush money to keep their whereabouts secret.*

Hush your mouth!

Hush your mouth! Please be quiet! (Not very polite.) □ *I've heard enough of that talk. Hush your mouth!* □ *Now, hush your mouth! You know you really should not talk about other people's problems like that!*

hustle and bustle confusion, hurry, and bother. □ *The hustle and bustle of the big city is especially annoying in the hot days of summer.* □ *Fred seems to enjoy the hustle and bustle of traffic during rush hour, so he is a very happy bus driver.*

I

I didn't catch your name. No one told me your name [or I have forgotten it]. (A carrying on of a conversation that has just started—if one hasn't been introduced properly—or simply finding out someone's name.) ☐ *I'm sorry, but I didn't catch your name.* ☐ *I'm Wally Ott. I didn't catch your name.*

I just have this feeling I have a premonition about this; I have a strange feeling about this. ☐ *I really don't know that something is wrong. I just have this feeling.* ☐ *I just have this feeling that she is not telling us the truth.*

if looks could kill <a catch phrase said when someone makes a frown at someone or when someone casts a dirty look.> ☐ *Did you see the way she looked at me? If looks could kill....* ☐ *If looks could kill. What a nasty glare.*

if not if that is not [the case]; if that is not so. ☐ *If not cleaned, the clock will stop running.* ☐ *He should be here at noon. If not, we will eat without him.*

if push comes to shove if the situation really becomes difficult; if matters escalate into a strong argument. (See also **when push comes to shove**.) ☐ *If push comes to shove, I am ready to be more aggressive.* ☐ *If push comes to shove, I am sure that our senator will help out.*

if so if that is [the case]; if that is so. ☐ *She might be late. If so, we will eat without her.* ☐ *She is supposed to be all right. If so, we have nothing to worry about.*

if the shoe fits, wear it. You should pay attention to advice or criticism if it applies to you. (Proverb.) ☐ *Some people here need to be quiet. If the shoe fits, wear*

it. ☐ *This doesn't apply to everyone. If the shoe fits, wear it.*

if worst comes to worst in the worst possible situation; if things really get bad. ☐ *If worst comes to worst, we'll hire someone to help you.* ☐ *If worst comes to worst, I'll have to borrow some money.*

ill at ease uneasy; anxious. ☐ *I feel ill at ease about the interview.* ☐ *You look ill at ease. Please relax.*

ill-disposed to doing something not friendly; not favorable; not well disposed. ☐ *I am ill-disposed to doing hard labor.* ☐ *The police chief was ill-disposed to discussing the details of the case to the news reporters.*

I'll drink to that! I agree with that! (Informal. As if joining in with drinks following a toast.) ☐ *Great idea! I'll drink to that.* ☐ *That's a fine suggestion. I'll drink to that.*

ill-gotten gains money or other possessions acquired in a dishonest or illegal fashion. ☐ *Fred cheated at cards and is now living on his ill-gotten gains.* ☐ *Mary is also enjoying her ill-gotten gains. She deceived an old lady into leaving her money in her will.*

I'll (try to) catch you later. I will try to talk with you or meet with you at some future time. (Informal.) ☐ *I don't have time to talk to you now. I'll try to catch you later.* ☐ *Hi, I'm leaving. I'll catch you later.*

ill will hostile feelings or intentions. ☐ *I hope you do not have any ill will toward me because of our argument.* ☐ *Dave felt such ill will toward his family that he left his fortune to his best friend.*

I'm awful at names. Go to I'm terrible at names.

I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't. There are problems if I do something and problems if I don't do it. □ *I can't win. I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't* □ *No matter whether I go or stay, I am in trouble. I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't.*

(I'm) sorry. <an expression used to excuse oneself politely or apologize, especially when one has collided with someone, when one has offended someone, or to ask someone to repeat what has been said.> □ *"I'm sorry," I said to the woman I bumped into.* □ *I'm sorry, what did you say? I couldn't hear you.*

I'm terrible at names. **AND I'm awful at names.** I can't seem to remember anyone's name. (Said as an apology to someone whose name you have forgotten.) □ *I'm terrible at names. Please tell me yours again.* □ *Haven't we met already? I'm awful at names.*

Imagine that! Is that so?; How interesting and strange! (Said when one hears something that is interesting. Often sarcastic.) □ *Fell out of bed. Imagine that!* □ *She's late again. Imagine that!*

immediate occupancy [of an apartment or house] ready to be moved into at this moment. □ *This house is for immediate occupancy. You can move in today if you want.* □ *It's empty, so that means immediate occupancy.*

implicate someone (in something) to suggest that someone is involved in something. □ *The mayor was implicated in the murder.* □ *Jane's essay implicated her teacher in the cheating scandal.*

in a bad mood sad; depressed; grouchy; with low spirits. □ *He's in a bad mood. He may yell at you.* □ *Please try to cheer me up. I'm in a bad mood.*

in a bad way in a critical or bad state. (Can refer to health, finances, mood, etc.) □ *Mr. Smith is in a bad way. He may have to go to the hospital.* □ *My bank account is in a bad way. It needs some help from a millionaire.* □ *My life is in a bad way, and I'm depressed about it.*

in abeyance in reserve. □ *Until the judge determined that the evidence could be used in the trial, it was held in abeyance.* □ *I kept my opinion in abeyance.*

in a bind **AND in a jam** in a tight or difficult situation; stuck on a problem. (Note: *In* can be replaced with *into* to show movement toward or into the state described by *bind* or *jam*. Especially get *into*. See the examples below.) □ *I'm in a bind. I owe a lot of money.* □ *Whenever I get into a jam, I ask my supervisor for help.* □ *When things get busy around here, we get in a bind. We could use another helper.*

in accordance with something in agreement with; in conformity with. □ *In accordance with our discussion, I have prepared a contract.* □ *I did this in accordance with your request.*

in a (constant) state of flux Go to in flux.

in a coon's age **AND in a month of Sundays** in a very long time. (Folksy. Usually negative. The *coon* is a *raccoon*.) □ *How are you? I haven't seen you in a coon's age.* □ *I haven't had a piece of apple pie this good in a coon's age.* □ *John hasn't seen a movie in a month of Sundays.*

in addition (to something) additionally; further; moreover; as an additional thing or person. □ *In addition, I would like for you to sweep the kitchen floor.* □ *I put the books away, and in addition, I cleaned up my desk.*

in a dead heat [finishing a race] at exactly the same time; tied. □ *The two horses finished the race in a dead heat.* □ *They ended the contest in a dead heat.*

in advance [of something given, paid, or provided] before it is due. □ *The bill isn't due for a month, but I paid it in advance.* □ *I want my pay in advance.*

in a family way **AND in the family way** pregnant. (Informal.) □ *I've heard that Mrs. Smith is in a family way.* □ *Our dog is in the family way.*

in a fix in a bad situation. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *I really got my-*

self into a fix. I owe a lot of money on my taxes. □ John is in a fix because he lost his wallet. □ John got into a fix.

in a flash quickly; immediately. (Informal.) □ I'll be there in a flash. □ It happened in a flash. Suddenly my wallet was gone.

in a fog preoccupied; not paying attention to what is going on around one; not alert. □ Jane always seems to be in a fog. □ When I get up, I'm in a fog for an hour.

in a fool's paradise in a condition of seeming happiness that will not last because it is based on false assumptions. □ They think they can live on love alone, but they are living in a fool's paradise. □ The inhabitants of the island feel politically secure, but they are living in a fool's paradise. They could be invaded at any time.

in agreement in harmony; agreeing. □ The business partners were never in agreement about marketing strategies. □ Because the partners were not in agreement, the business failed.

in a haze in a state of confusion. □ After being hit in the head by the bat, Bill was in a haze. □ After surgery, I was in a haze until the anesthetic wore off.

in a huff in an angry or offended manner. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See in a bind and the examples below.) □ He heard what we had to say, then left in a huff. □ She came in a huff and ordered us to bring her something to eat. □ She gets into a huff very easily.

in a jam Go to in a bind.

in a jiffy very fast; very soon. (Slang.) □ Just wait a minute. I'll be there in a jiffy. □ I'll be finished in a jiffy.

in a lather flustered; excited and agitated. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See in a bind and the examples below.) □ Now, calm down. Don't be in a lather. □ I always get in a lather when I'm late. □ I get into a lather easily.

in a little bit in a small amount of time; soon. □ I will be there in a little bit. Please wait. □ In a little bit, we can go outside and play.

in (all) good conscience having good motives; displaying motives that will not result in a guilty conscience. □ In all good conscience, I could not recommend that you buy this car. □ In good conscience, she could not accept the reward. She had only been acting as any good citizen should.

in all one's born days ever; in all one's life. (Folksy.) □ I've never been so angry in all my born days. □ Have you ever heard such a thing in all your born days?

in all probability very likely; almost certainly. □ He'll be here on time in all probability. □ In all probability, they'll finish the work today.

in a mad rush in a hurry; frantically. □ I ran around all day today in a mad rush, looking for a present for Bill. □ Why are you always in a mad rush?

in a month of Sundays Go to in a coon's age.

in and of itself itself; considering it alone. □ The idea in and of itself is not bad, but the side issues introduce many difficulties. □ Her action, in and of itself, caused us no problem.

in a nutshell in a few words; briefly; concisely. (Informal.) □ I don't have time for the whole explanation. Please give it to me in a nutshell. □ Well, in a nutshell, we have to work late.

in any case AND **in any event** no matter what happens. □ I intend to be home by supper time, but in any case by eight o'clock. □ In any event, I'll see you this evening.

in any event Go to in any case.

in a pinch in a situation where there is but one choice; in a situation where there is not time to locate another choice. □ I don't care for this kind of paint, but it will do in a pinch. □ Tom is not the best choice around, but he will have to do in a pinch.

in apple-pie order in very good order; very well organized. (Folksy. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See in a bind and the examples below.) □ Please put everything in apple-pie order before you leave. □ I always put my desk in apple-pie order every

evening. □ *I've put my entire life into apple-pie order.*

in a (pretty) pickle AND **in a real pickle** in a mess; in trouble. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *John has gotten himself into a pickle. He has two dates for the party.* □ *Now we are in a real pickle. We are out of gas.*

in a quandary uncertain about what to do; confused. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *Mary was in a quandary about what college to go to.* □ *I couldn't decide what to do. I was in such a quandary.* □ *I got myself into a quandary.*

in a real pickle Go to in a (pretty) pickle.

in arrears overdue; late, especially in reference to bills and money. □ *This bill is three months in arrears. It must be paid immediately.* □ *I was in arrears on my car payments, so the bank threatened to take my car away.*

in a rut Go to (stuck) in a rut.

in a sense in a way; sort of. □ *In a sense, cars make life better.* □ *But, in a sense, they also make life worse.*

in a snit in a fit of anger or irritation. (Slang. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *Mrs. Smith threw on her coat and left in a snit.* □ *Here comes John—in a snit again—as usual.* □ *Don't get into a snit.*

in a split second in just an instant. (Informal.) □ *The lightning struck, and in a split second the house burst into flames.* □ *Just wait. I'll be there in a split second.*

in a stage whisper in a loud whisper that everyone can hear. □ *John said in a stage whisper, "This play is boring."* □ *"When do we eat?" asked Billy in a stage whisper.*

in a stew (about someone or something) upset or bothered about someone or something. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See in a bind and the examples below.) □ *I'm in such a stew about my dog. She ran away last night.* □ *Now, now. Don't be in a stew. She'll be back when she*

gets hungry. □ *I hate to get into a stew about my friends.*

in a stupor in a dazed condition; in a condition in which one cannot concentrate or think. □ *The drunk driver walked away from the car accident in a stupor.* □ *In the morning, Mary remains in a stupor until she drinks coffee.*

in a (tight) spot caught in a problem; in a jam. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *Look, John, I'm in a tight spot. Can you lend me twenty dollars?* □ *I'm in a spot too. I need \$300.* □ *I have never gotten into a tight spot.*

in a tizzy in an excited and confused condition. □ *John is in a tizzy because we're an hour late.* □ *Mary was in a tizzy when she couldn't find her keys.*

in at the kill Go to in on the kill.

in a vicious circle in a situation in which the solution of one problem leads to a second problem, and the solution of the second problem brings back the first problem, etc. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *Life is so strange. I seem to be in a vicious circle most of the time.* □ *I put lemon in my tea to make it sour, then sugar to make it sweet. I'm in a vicious circle.* □ *Don't let your life get into a vicious circle.*

in awe (of someone or something) fearful and respectful of someone or something. □ *Everyone in the country was in awe of the king and queen.* □ *I love my new car. In fact, I'm in awe of it.* □ *When I first saw the house, I just stood there in awe.*

in a word said simply; concisely said. □ *Mrs. Smith is—in a word—haughty.* □ *In a word, the play flopped.*

in a world of one's own aloof; detached; self-centered. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *John lives in a world of his own. He has very few friends.* □ *Mary walks around in a world of her own, but she's very intelligent.* □ *When she's thinking, she drifts into a world of her own.*

in bad faith without sincerity; with bad or dishonest intent; with duplicity. (Compare this with **in good faith**.) □ *It appears that you acted in bad faith and didn't live up to the terms of our agreement.* □ *If you do things in bad faith, you'll get a bad reputation.*

in bad sorts in a bad humor; in a bad mood. □ *Bill is in bad sorts today. He's very grouchy.* □ *I try to be extra nice to people when I'm in bad sorts.*

in bad taste AND **in poor taste** rude; vulgar; obscene. □ *Mrs. Franklin felt that your joke was in bad taste.* □ *We found the play to be in poor taste, so we walked out in the middle of the second act.*

in bad (with someone) having someone against you; having gotten into trouble with someone. (Informal. Compare this with **in good (with someone)**.) □ *Sally is in bad with her parents for failing algebra.* □ *She's really in bad. She has real trouble.*

in behalf of someone AND **in someone's behalf; on behalf of someone; on someone's behalf; in someone's name** [doing something] as someone's agent; [doing something] in place of someone; for the benefit of someone. □ *I'm writing in behalf of Mr. Smith, who has applied for a job with your company.* □ *I'm calling on behalf of my client, who wishes to complain about your actions.* □ *I'm calling in her behalf.* □ *I'm acting on your behalf.*

in between located in the middle of two things, states, or possibilities. □ *It's not hot or cold. It's in between.* □ *A sandwich consists of two slices of bread with some other food in between.*

in black and white official, in writing or printing. (Said of something, such as an agreement or a statement, which has been recorded in writing. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *I have it in black and white that I'm entitled to three weeks of vacation each year.* □ *It says right here in black and white that oak trees make acorns.* □ *Please put the agreement into black and white.*

in bloom with many flowers; at the peak of blooming. □ *The garden is beautiful when it is in bloom.* □ *The roses are in bloom and they smell so sweet!*

in blossom with many flowers opening; in bloom. □ *The peonies are in blossom early this spring.* □ *If the daffodils are in blossom, spring is on the way.*

in brief briefly; concisely. □ *The whole story, in brief, is that Bob failed algebra because he did not study.* □ *Please tell me in brief why you want this job.*

in broad daylight publicly visible in the daytime. □ *The thief stole the car in broad daylight.* □ *There they were, selling drugs in broad daylight.*

in bulk in large quantities or amounts, rather than smaller, more convenient quantities or amounts. □ *Jane always bought office supplies in bulk to save money.* □ *Dave purchased cereal in bulk because his family used so much of it.*

in cahoots (with someone) in conspiracy with someone; in league with someone. (Folksy.) □ *The mayor is in cahoots with the construction company that got the contract for the new building.* □ *Those two have been in cahoots before.*

in care of someone [to be delivered to someone] through someone or by way of someone. (Indicates that mail is to be delivered to a person at some other person's address.) □ *Bill Jones is living at his father's house. Address the letter to Bill in care of Mr. John Jones.* □ *Bill said, "Please send me my mail in care of my father at his address."*

in case in the event (that). □ *What do we do in case the building catches fire?* □ *We should close the windows just in case it rains.*

in case of something in the event of something. (Compare this with **in the case of** someone or something; **in case** something happens.) □ *Please leave the building at once in case of fire.* □ *Please take your raincoat in case of rain.*

in case something happens in the event that something takes place. (Compare this

with **in case of** something.) □ *She carries an umbrella in case it rains.* □ *I have some aspirin in my office in case I get a headache.*

in character typical of someone's behavior. □ *For Tom to shout that way wasn't at all in character. He's usually quite pleasant.* □ *It was quite in character for Sally to walk away angry.*

in clover with good fortune; in a very good situation, especially financially. (Slang.) □ *If I get this contract, I'll be in clover for the rest of my life.* □ *I have very little money saved, so when I retire I won't exactly be in clover.*

in cold blood without feeling; with cruel intent. (Informal or slang. Frequently said of a crime, especially murder.) □ *The killer walked up and shot the woman in cold blood.* □ *How insulting! For a person to say something like that in cold blood is just horrible.*

in cold storage stored away for future use; in an out-of-the-way place. (Also literal.) □ *I have had this special gift in cold storage for an occasion such as this.* □ *Todd had been keeping himself in cold storage, trying to study for his exams.*

in concert (with someone) in cooperation with someone; with the aid of someone. □ *Mrs. Smith planned the party in concert with her sister.* □ *In concert they planned a lovely event.*

in condition **AND in shape** in good health; strong and healthy. (Used only with people. Compare this with **in good shape**. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *Bob exercises frequently, so he's in condition.* □ *If I were in shape, I could run faster and farther.* □ *I'm not healthy. I have to try to get into shape.*

in consequence (of something) as a result of something; because of something. □ *In consequence of the storm, there was no electricity.* □ *The wind blew down the wires. In consequence, we had no electricity.*

in consideration of something in return for something; as a result of something. (Compare this with **out of consideration**

(for someone or something).) □ *In consideration of your many years of service, we are pleased to present you with this gold watch.* □ *In consideration of your efforts, here is a check for \$3,000.*

in contempt (of court) disrespect for a judge or for courtroom procedures. □ *The bailiff ejected the lawyer who was held in contempt.* □ *The judge found the juror in contempt of court when she screamed at the attorney.*

in creation Go to on earth.

in custody of someone or something **AND in** someone's or something's **custody** the condition of being kept guarded by someone or some group. □ *The suspect was in the sheriff's custody awaiting a trial.* □ *The prisoner is in the custody of the state.*

in debt having debts; having much debt; owing money. □ *Mary is deeply in debt.* □ *I am in debt to the bank for my car loan.*

in deep **1.** deeply involved. □ *John and Mary have been seeing each other for months now. They are really in deep.* □ *Bill loves the theater. He's definitely in deep. He tries out for all the plays and gets into many of them.* **2.** deeply in debt. □ *Bill owes a lot of money to the bank. He's really in deep.* □ *John is in deep with his stockbroker.*

in deep water in a dangerous or vulnerable situation; in a serious situation; in trouble. (Refers to swimming in or falling into water that is over one's head. See also **go off the deep end**. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *John is having trouble with his taxes. He's in deep water.* □ *Bill is in deep water in algebra class. He's almost failing.* □ *He really got himself into deep water.*

in defiance (of someone or something) against someone's will or against instructions; in bold resistance to someone or someone's orders. □ *Jane spent the afternoon in the park, in defiance of her mother's instructions.* □ *She did it in defiance of her mother.* □ *She has done a number of things in defiance lately.*

in denial in a state of refusing to believe something that is true. ☐ *Mary was in denial about her illness and refused treatment.* ☐ *Tom doesn't think he's an alcoholic because he's still in denial.*

in detail with lots of details; giving all the details. ☐ *I explained the policy to the customer in detail.* ☐ *We planned the entire project in great detail.*

in disguise hidden behind a disguise; looking like something else. ☐ *Santa Claus was really the little child's father in disguise.* ☐ *What I thought was terrible turned out to be a blessing in disguise!*

in drag in the clothing of the opposite sex. (Usually refers to a man wearing women's clothing.) ☐ *The actor played the woman's part in drag.* ☐ *We all went to the costume party dressed in drag.*

in due course AND **in due time; in good time; in the course of time; in time** in a normal or expected amount of time. ☐ *The roses will bloom in due course.* ☐ *The vice president will become president in due course.* ☐ *I'll retire in due time.* ☐ *Just wait, my dear. All in good time.* ☐ *It'll all work out in the course of time.* ☐ *In time, things will improve.*

in due time Go to in due course.

in Dutch (with someone) in trouble with someone. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See in a bind and the examples below.) ☐ *I'm in Dutch with my parents for my low grades.* ☐ *You're in Dutch quite a bit.* ☐ *Don't get into Dutch with anyone.*

in earnest sincerely. ☐ *This time I'll try in earnest.* ☐ *She spoke in earnest, and many people believed her.*

in effect 1. in existence; applicable. ☐ *A reduced rate at the hotel is in effect until the end of the year.* ☐ *The curfew is in effect for all minors.* 2. producing a particular effect; effectively. ☐ *In effect, this new law will raise taxes for most people.* ☐ *This policy harms domestic manufacturers. In effect, all our clothing will be made in foreign countries.*

in essence basically; essentially. ☐ *I have lots of detailed advice for you, but in*

essence, I want you to do the best you can. ☐ *In essence, lightning is just a giant spark of electricity.*

in exchange (for someone or something) in return for someone or something. ☐ *They gave us two of our prisoners in exchange for two of theirs.* ☐ *I gave him chocolate in exchange for some licorice.* ☐ *John gave Mary a book and got a sweater in exchange.*

in existence now existing; currently and actually being. ☐ *The tiger may not be in existence in a few decades.* ☐ *All the oil in existence will not last the world for another century.*

in fact in reality; really; actually. ☐ *I'm over forty.* *In fact, I'm forty-six.* ☐ *This is a very good computer.* *In fact, it's the best.*

in fashion fitting in well with the clothing that has been designed for a particular season of a particular year; fashionable. ☐ *I understand that long skirts are in fashion this year.* ☐ *I always want to find out what styles are in fashion so I can avoid them.*

in favor of someone Go to in someone's favor.

in favor (of someone or something) approving, supporting, or endorsing someone or something. (See also in someone's favor.) ☐ *Are you in favor of lower taxes?* ☐ *Of course, I'm in favor.*

in fear and trembling with anxiety or fear; with dread. ☐ *In fear and trembling, I went into the room to take the test.* ☐ *The witness left the courtroom in fear and trembling.*

in fine feather in good humor; in good health. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) ☐ *Hello, John. You appear to be in fine feather.* ☐ *Of course I'm in fine feather. I get lots of sleep.* ☐ *Good food and lots of sleep put me into fine feather.*

in flight while flying. ☐ *A passenger became ill in flight and the pilot had to return to the airport.* ☐ *I really don't care to eat in flight. I am too nervous.*

in flux AND **in a (constant) state of flux** in constant change; changing. ☐ *I can't*

describe my job because it's in a constant state of flux. □ *The price of gold is in flux.*

in force in a very large group. (See also **out in force**.) □ *The entire group arrived in force.* □ *The mosquitoes will attack in force this evening.*

in for something due to receive a surprise; due to receive punishment. (When the something is it, the it usually means punishment.) □ *I hope I'm not in for any surprises when I get home.* □ *Tommy, you broke my baseball bat. You're really in for it!*

in full swing in progress; operating or running without restraint. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *We can't leave now! The party is in full swing.* □ *Our program to help the starving people is in full swing. You should see results soon.* □ *Just wait until our project gets into full swing.*

in general referring to the entire class being discussed; speaking of the entire range of possibilities; in most situations or circumstances. □ *I like vegetables in general, but not beets.* □ *In general, I prefer a hotel room on a lower floor, but will take a higher room if it's special.*

in good condition Go to **in good shape**.

in good faith with good and honest intent; with sincerity. (Compare this with **in bad faith**.) □ *We are convinced you were acting in good faith, even though you made a serious error.* □ *I think you didn't sign the contract in good faith. You never intended to carry out our agreement.*

in good hands in the safe, competent care of someone. □ *Don't worry. Your children are in good hands. Sally is a good babysitter.* □ *Your car is in good hands. My mechanics are factory-trained.*

in good repair in good condition; operating well; well taken care of. (Usually said of a thing rather than a person.) □ *The house is in good repair and ought to attract a number of potential buyers.* □ *If the car were in good repair, it would run more smoothly.*

in good shape AND **in good condition** physically and functionally sound and sturdy. (Used for both people and things. Compare this with **in condition**. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *This car isn't in good shape. I'd like to have one that's in better condition.* □ *Mary is in good condition. She works hard to keep healthy.* □ *You have to make an effort to get into good shape.*

in good spirits happy and cheerful; positive and looking toward the future, despite unhappy circumstances. □ *The patient is in good spirits and that will speed her recovery.* □ *Tom wasn't in very good spirits after he heard the bad news.*

in good time 1. quickly; in a short amount of time. □ *We traveled from Mexico to Texas in good time.* □ *I've never been able to make that trip in good time.* 2. Go to **in due course**.

in good (with someone) in someone's favor; to have pull with someone. (Compare this with **in bad (with someone)**.) □ *I can ask Mary a favor. I'm in good with her.* □ *Well, I'm not in good with her.* □ *I don't know Mary. How do I go about getting in good?*

in great demand wanted by many people; eagerly sought after. □ *Liz is in great demand as a singer.* □ *Mary's paintings are in great demand.*

in great haste very fast; in a big hurry. □ *John always did his homework in great haste.* □ *Why not take time and do it right? Don't do everything in great haste.*

in hand controlled; under control. □ *I thought I had my destiny in hand, but then fate played a trick on me.* □ *Don't worry about me. I have everything in hand.*

in heat in a period of sexual excitement; in estrus. (*Estrus* is the period of time in which females are most willing to breed. This expression is usually used for animals. It has been used for humans in a joking sense. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *She goes into heat every*

year at this time. □ *When my dog is in heat, I have to keep her locked in the house.*

in heaven 1. in a state of absolute bliss or happiness. □ *Lisa was in heaven after winning the lottery.* □ *Resting in his hammock, John was simply in heaven.* **2.** dead. (A polite euphemism, and perhaps used more when speaking to children.) □ *Mary's daddy is in heaven. He was in a car accident.* □ *I am afraid that she is not just sleeping. She is in heaven.*

in high dudgeon feeling or exhibiting great resentment; taking great offense at something. (Often with *leave*.) □ *After the rude remarks, the person who was insulted left in high dudgeon.* □ *Dennis strode from the room in high dudgeon, and we knew he would get his revenge eventually.*

in high gear very fast and active. (Also literal. Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *Don't leave now. The party is just now in high gear.* □ *When Jane is in high gear, she's a superb athlete.* □ *When Jane moved into high gear, I knew she'd win the race.*

in hindsight Go to **in retrospect**.

in hock in debt. □ *After buying the luxury car, Bob was in hock for years.* □ *I am deeply in hock and have to pay off my debts.*

in honor of someone or something showing respect or admiration for someone or something. □ *Our club gave a party in honor of the club's president.* □ *I wrote a poem in honor of John and Mary's marriage.*

in hopes of something expecting something. (Also with *high*, as in the example.) □ *I was in hopes of getting there early.* □ *We are in high hopes that John and Mary will have a girl.*

in horror with intense shock or disgust. □ *Mike stepped back from the rattlesnake in horror.* □ *The jogger recoiled in horror when she came upon a body in the park.*

in hot water in trouble. (Slang. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *John got himself into*

hot water by being late. □ *I'm in hot water at home for coming in late last night.* □ *I get into hot water a lot.*

in ink written or signed with a pen that uses ink. □ *You should write your report in ink.* □ *You must sign your checks in ink.*

in its entirety AND **in their entirety** in a state of completeness. □ *I watched the basketball game in its entirety.* □ *My friends and I ate the two large pizzas in their entirety.*

in its prime Go to **in one's prime**.

in jeopardy in danger; at risk; at hazard. □ *John puts himself in jeopardy every time he goes skydiving.* □ *I was in jeopardy when my car broke down on the deserted road.*

in (just) a minute Go to **in (just) a second**.

in (just) a second AND **in (just) a minute** in a very short period of time. □ *I'll be there in a second.* □ *I'll be with you in just a minute.* *I'm on the phone.*

in keeping (with something) AND **in line with something** in accord or harmony with something; following the rules of something. □ *In keeping with your instructions, I've canceled your order.* □ *I'm disappointed with your behavior. It really wasn't in keeping.* □ *It was not in line with the kind of behavior we expect here.*

in kind 1. in goods rather than in money. □ *The country doctor was usually paid in kind. He accepted two pigs as payment for an operation.* □ *Do you have to pay tax on payments made in kind?* **2.** similarly; [giving] something similar to what was received. □ *John punched Bill, and Bill gave it back in kind.* □ *She spoke rudely to me, so I spoke to her in kind.*

in labor [of a woman] experiencing the pains and exertion of childbirth. □ *Susan was in labor for nearly eight hours.* □ *As soon as she had been in labor for an hour, she went to the hospital.*

in league (with someone) in cooperation with someone; in a conspiracy with someone. □ *The mayor is in league with the city treasurer. They are misusing public*

money. □ *Those two have been in league for years.*

in less than no time very quickly. □ *I'll be there in less than no time.* □ *Don't worry. This won't take long. It'll be over with in less than no time.*

in lieu of something in place of something; instead of something. (The word *lieu* occurs only in this phrase.) □ *They gave me roast beef in lieu of beefsteak.* □ *We gave money to charity in lieu of sending flowers to the funeral.*

in light of something because of certain knowledge; considering something. (As if knowledge or enlightenment were like light shone on ignorance.) □ *In light of what you have told us, I think we must abandon the project.* □ *In light of the clerk's rudeness, we didn't return to that shop.*

in limbo **1.** a region on the border of hell. (In some Christian religions, there is a *limbo* set aside for souls that do not go to either heaven or hell. This sense is used only in this religious context. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *The baby's soul was in limbo because she had not been baptized.* □ *Considering all things, getting into limbo is probably better than going to hell.* **2.** in a state of neglect; in a state of oblivion; in an indefinite state. □ *We'll have to leave the project in limbo for a month or two.* □ *After I got hit on the head, I was in limbo for about ten minutes.*

in line AND **on line** standing and waiting in a line of people. (*On line* is used typically by New Yorkers.) □ *I've been in line for an hour.* □ *Get in line if you want to buy a ticket.* □ *We waited on line to see the movie.*

in line with something Go to in keeping (with something).

in love (with someone or something) feeling love for someone or something; experiencing a strong affectionate emotion for someone or something. □ *Mary was in love with her new car! It was perfect for*

her. □ *John is deeply in love with Mary.* □ *Those two are really in love.*

in luck fortunate; lucky. □ *You want a red one? You're in luck. There is one red one left.* □ *I had an accident, but I was in luck. It was not serious.*

in many respects Go to in some respects.

in memory of someone to continue the good memories of someone; for the honor of a deceased person. □ *Many streets were renamed in memory of John F. Kennedy.* □ *We planted roses in memory of my deceased father.*

in midair in a point high in the air. □ *The planes crashed in midair.* □ *Extra fuel was released from the plane in midair.*

in mint condition in perfect condition. (Refers to the perfect state of a coin that has just been minted. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *This is a fine car. It runs well and is in mint condition.* □ *We went through a house in mint condition and decided to buy it.* □ *We put our house into mint condition before we sold it.*

in name only nominally; not actual, only by terminology. □ *The president is head of the country in name only. Congress makes the laws.* □ *Mr. Smith is the boss of the Smith Company in name only. Mrs. Smith handles all the business affairs.*

in need [of someone] requiring basic things like food, clothing, and housing. □ *Please contribute some money for those who are in need.* □ *The charity works with old people who are in need.*

in need of something [of someone or some creature] requiring something. □ *We are in need of a new car.* □ *The company is in need of a larger building to hold all its employees.*

in neutral with the shift lever of a vehicle in the position where the motor is running but is not powering the wheels or other moving parts. □ *The car rolled down the hill because I'd left it in neutral and left the brake off.* □ *If you are moving and in neutral, you do not have control of your vehicle.*

in no mood to do something not to feel like doing something; to wish not to do something. □ *I'm in no mood to cook dinner tonight.* □ *Mother is in no mood to put up with our arguing.*

in nothing flat in exactly no time at all. (Informal.) □ *Of course I can get there in a hurry. I'll be there in nothing flat.* □ *We covered the distance between New York and Philadelphia in nothing flat.*

in no time (at all) very quickly. (Compare this with **in less than no time**.) □ *I'll be there in no time.* □ *It won't take long. I'll be finished in no time at all.*

in no uncertain terms in very specific and direct language. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *I was so mad. I told her in no uncertain terms to leave and never come back.* □ *I told him in no uncertain terms to stop it.* □ *He put his demands into no uncertain terms, and then they listened to him.*

in one breath Go to (all) in one breath.

in one ear and out (of) the other [for something to be] ignored; [for something to be] unheard or unheeded. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the explanation at **in a bind** and the examples. See also **go in one ear and out the other**.) □ *Bill just doesn't pay attention. Everything is in one ear and out the other.* □ *I told Billy to be home by dinnertime, but I am sure it's just in one ear and out the other.*

in one fell swoop Go to at one fell swoop.

in one's birthday suit naked; nude. (Informal. In the "clothes" in which one was born. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *I've heard that John sleeps in his birthday suit.* □ *We used to go down to the river and swim in our birthday suits.* □ *You have to get into your birthday suit to bathe.*

in one's blood Go to in the blood.

in one's book according to one's own opinion. (Informal.) □ *He's okay in my book.* □ *In my book, this is the best that money can buy.*

in one's cups drunk. (Euphemistic.) □ *She doesn't make much sense when she's in her cups.* □ *The speaker—who was in his cups—could hardly be understood.*

in one's element in a natural or comfortable situation or environment. (Compare this with **out of one's element**. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *Sally is in her element when she's working with algebra or calculus.* □ *Bob loves to work with color and texture. When he's painting, he's in his element.* □ *He's most comfortable when he can get into his element.*

in one's glory at one's happiest or best. □ *When I go to the beach on vacation, I'm in my glory.* □ *Sally is a good teacher. She's in her glory in the classroom.*

in one's mind's eye in one's mind. (Refers to visualizing something in one's mind.) □ *In my mind's eye, I can see trouble ahead.* □ *In her mind's eye, she could see a beautiful building beside the river. She decided to design such a building.*

in one's opinion according to one's belief or judgment. □ *In my opinion, that is a very ugly picture.* □ *That isn't a good idea in my opinion.*

in one's (own) backyard [figuratively] very close to one. (Also literal.) □ *That kind of thing is quite rare. Imagine it happening right in your backyard.* □ *You always think of something like that happening to someone else. You never expect to find it in your own backyard.*

in one's (own) (best) interest(s) to one's advantage; as a benefit to oneself. □ *It is not in your own interests to share your ideas with Jack. He will say that they are his.* □ *Jane thought it was in the best interest of her friend to tell his mother about his illness.*

in one's prime AND **in its prime** at one's or its peak or best time. (Compare this with **in the prime of life**.) □ *Our dog—which is in its prime—is very active.* □ *The program ended in its prime when we ran out of money.* □ *I could work long hours when I was in my prime.*

in one's right mind sane; rational and sensible. (Often in the negative.) □ *That was a stupid thing to do. You're not in your right mind.* □ *You can't be in your right mind! That sounds crazy!*

in one's salad days in one's youth. (Usually formal or literary. Comparing the greenness of a salad with the greenness, or freshness and inexperience, of youth.) □ *I recall the joys I experienced in the warm summer air in my salad days.* □ *In our salad days, we were apt to get into all sorts of mischief on the weekends.*

in one's second childhood [of an adult] interested in things or people that normally interest children. □ *My father bought himself a toy train, and my mother said he was in his second childhood.* □ *Whenever I go to the river and throw stones, I feel as if I'm in my second childhood.*

in one's spare time in one's extra time; in the time not reserved for doing something else. □ *I write novels in my spare time.* □ *I'll try to paint the house in my spare time.*

in one's Sunday best in one's best Sunday clothes; in the clothes one wears to church. (Folksy. See also **Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes**. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *All the children were dressed up in their Sunday best.* □ *I like to be in my Sunday best whenever I go out.* □ *Let's get into our Sunday best and go out for dinner.*

in on the kill AND **in at the kill** present at the end of some activity, usually an activity with negative results. (Refers to being present when a hunted animal is put to death. Informal when used about any other activity.) □ *Congress was due to defeat the bill, and I went to Washington so I could be in on the kill.* □ *The judge will sentence the criminal today, and I'm going to be in at the kill.*

in orbit 1. [for something] to circle a heavenly body. (Planets, moons, and stars are heavenly bodies. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *The moon is in orbit*

around the earth. □ *They put the satellite into orbit.* 2. ecstatic; thrilled; emotionally high. (Slang.) □ *Jane is in orbit about her new job.* □ *John went into orbit when he got the check in the mail.*

in order to do something for the purpose of doing something; as a means of doing something. □ *I went to college in order to further my education.* □ *I gave John three dollars in order to buy lunch.*

in other words said in another, simpler way. □ **BOB:** *Cease! Desist!* **BILL:** *In other words, you want me to stop?* □ *Our cash flow is negative, and our assets are worthless. In other words, we are broke.*

in over one's head having more difficulties than one can manage. (Informal. As if being in water that is too deep. See also **in deep; in deep water**.) □ *Calculus is very hard for me. I'm in over my head.* □ *Ann is too busy. She's really in over her head.*

in park [of an automobile transmission] having the gears locked so the automobile cannot move. □ *The driver stopped the car and placed it in park.* □ *You have to be in park in order to start this car.*

in part partly; to a lesser degree or extent. □ *I was not there, in part because of my disagreement about the purpose of the meeting. I also had a previous appointment.* □ *I hope to win, in part because I want the prize money.*

in particular specifically; especially. □ *I'm not going anywhere in particular.* □ *Of the three ideas, there is one I like in particular.*

in passing casually; as an aside. (See also **mention** someone or something **in passing**.) □ *I just heard your name in passing. I didn't hear more than that.* □ *The lecturer referred to George Washington in passing.*

in pencil written or signed with a pencil. □ *Why did you write your report in pencil?* □ *You can't sign a check in pencil!*

in perpetuity for an indefinitely long period of time; eternally. □ *My trust fund generates income in perpetuity.* □ *My family has owned this land for generations and will continue to do so in perpetuity.*

in person [with someone] actually present in a place rather than appearing in a film, on a television screen, on a telephone, or through a radio broadcast. □ *All the famous movie stars were there in person.* □ *You must appear in the office in person to collect the money that is due to you.*

in place **1.** in (someone's or something's) proper place or location. (See also **out of place**. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *The maid came into the room and put everything into place.* □ *It's good to see everything in place again.* **2.** proper. □ *Your remark was not in place.* □ *The presentation was quite in place and nicely done.*

in place of someone or something instead of someone or something. □ *John went in place of Mary.* □ *We had vegetables in place of meat.*

in plain English Go to **in plain language**.

in plain language AND **in plain English** in simple, clear, and straightforward language. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *That's too confusing. Please say it again in plain English.* □ *Tell me again in plain language.* □ *Please put it into plain language.*

in poor taste Go to **in bad taste**.

in practice **1.** in an application (of a principle, etc.); in the actual doing of something. □ *Our policy is to be very particular, but in practice we don't care that much.* □ *The instructions say not to set it too high. In practice I always set it as high as possible.* **2.** well-rehearsed; well-practiced; well-exercised. □ *The swimmer was not in practice and almost drowned.* □ *I play the piano for a living, and I have to keep in practice.*

in print [of a book, magazine, newspaper, or other written material] available for sale from the publisher. (Compare this with **out of print**. See also **put something into print**.) □ *I think I can get that book for you. It's still in print.* □ *This is the only book in print on this subject.*

in private privately. □ *I'd like to speak to you in private.* □ *I enjoy spending the evening in private.*

in progress happening now; taking place at this time. □ *You can't go into that room. There is a meeting in progress.* □ *Please tell me about the work you have in progress.*

in proportion AND **out of proportion** showing the right or wrong proportion relative to something else. □ *That man's large head is out of proportion to his small body.* □ *The cartoonist drew the dog in proportion to its surroundings.*

in public in a place or way so that other people can see or know about something. □ *It's illegal to walk naked in public.* □ *John always tries to embarrass me whenever we're in public.*

in pursuit of something chasing after something. □ *Bill spends most of his time in pursuit of money.* □ *Every year Bob goes into the countryside in pursuit of butterflies.*

in quest of someone or something AND **in search of** someone or something seeking or hunting something; trying to find something. □ *They went into town in quest of a reasonably priced restaurant.* □ *Monday morning I'll go out in search of a job.*

in rags [dressing] in worn-out and torn clothing. □ *Oh, look at my clothing. I can't go to the party in rags!* □ *I think the new casual fashions make you look as if you're in rags.*

in reality viewing things realistically; really. □ *Jane dreamed it was snowing, but in reality, it was very warm.* □ *John looks happy, but in reality, he is miserable.*

in receipt of something in a state of having received something. □ *We are in receipt of your letter of request.* □ *When we are in receipt of your check for the full balance, we will mark your bill as paid.*

in recent memory the recent period of time in which things happened that can be remembered. □ *Never in recent memory has there been this much snow!* □

I haven't been this happy in recent memory!

in rehearsal a stage of development in the production of a play, opera, or concert, involving many rehearsals. ☐ *The play is in rehearsal now and will open next month.* ☐ *While the opera was still in rehearsal, the star developed a hatred for the director.*

in remission [of a serious disease] not as bad or seeming to be getting better. ☐ *While the disease was in remission, John got to leave the hospital.* ☐ *The doctor said my cancer was in remission.*

in retrospect AND **in hindsight** reconsidering the past with the knowledge one now has. ☐ *In retrospect, I would have gone to a better college.* ☐ *David realized, in hindsight, that he should have finished school.*

in return for (someone or something) by way of giving something back; as a way of paying someone back for something; as part of an exchange. ☐ *I helped Tom yesterday, and he helped me in return for my efforts.* ☐ *I paid \$20 and received four tickets in return.*

in round figures Go to in round numbers.

in round numbers AND **in round figures** as an estimated number; a figure that has been rounded off. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) ☐ *Please tell me in round numbers what it'll cost.* ☐ *I don't need the exact amount. Just give it to me in round figures.*

in ruin a state of having been destroyed. ☐ *The enemy army left the cities they attacked in ruin.* ☐ *The crops laid in ruin after the flood.*

in search of someone or something Go to in quest of someone or something.

in season 1. currently available for selling. (Some foods and other things are available only at certain seasons. Compare this with **out of season**. *In* can be replaced with *into*, especially when used with *come*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) ☐ *Oysters are avail-*

able in season. ☐ *Strawberries aren't in season in January.* ☐ *When do strawberries come into season?* **2.** legally able to be caught or hunted. ☐ *Catfish are in season all year round.* ☐ *When are salmon in season?*

in secret secretly. ☐ *They planned in secret to blow up the bridge.* ☐ *I will tell her in secret so no one else will hear.*

in session [of a court, congress, or other organization] operating or functioning. ☐ *Smoking is forbidden while the meeting is in session.* ☐ *The spectators must remain quiet while court is in session.*

in seventh heaven in a very happy state. ☐ *Ann was really in seventh heaven when she got a car of her own.* ☐ *I'd be in seventh heaven if I had a million dollars.*

in shambles in a messy state; destroyed. ☐ *After the earthquake, the town lay in shambles.* ☐ *The TV set was in shambles after John tried to fix it.*

in shape Go to in condition.

in short stated briefly. ☐ *At the end of the financial report, the board president said, "In short, we are okay."* ☐ *My remarks, in short, indicate that we are in good financial shape.*

in short order very quickly. ☐ *I can straighten out this mess in short order.* ☐ *The people came in and cleaned the place up in short order.*

in short supply scarce. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) ☐ *Fresh vegetables are in short supply in the winter.* ☐ *Yellow cars are in short supply because everyone likes them and buys them.* ☐ *At this time of the year, fresh vegetables go into short supply.*

in sight able to be seen. ☐ *I hear birds, but there are none in sight.* ☐ *The locusts ate everything in sight.*

(in) single file lined up, one behind the other; in a line, one person or one thing wide. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) ☐ *Have you ever seen ducks walking in single file?* ☐ *No, do they usually*

walk single file? □ Please march in single file. □ Please get into single file.

in so many words exactly; explicitly; literally. □ *I told her in so many words to leave me alone.* □ *He said yes, but not in so many words.*

in some neck of the woods in some vicinity or neighborhood; in some remote place. (Folksy. The *some* is usually *this*, *that*, *your*, *their*, etc.) □ *I think that the Smiths live in your neck of the woods.* □ *What's happening over in that neck of the woods?*

in someone else's place Go to in someone else's shoes.

in someone else's shoes AND **in someone else's place** seeing or experiencing something from someone else's point of view. (See the note at in a bind and the examples. See also put oneself in someone else's place.) □ *You might feel different if you were in her shoes.* □ *Pretend you're in Tom's place, and then try to figure out why he acts the way he does.*

in someone's behalf Go to in behalf of someone.

in someone's favor **1.** to someone's advantage or credit. (Especially in sports scores, as in the examples below.) □ *The score was ten to twelve in our favor.* □ *At the end of the second half, the score was forty to three in the other team's favor.* **2.** liked by someone; approved of by someone. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *John might be able to help me. I hope I'm currently in his favor.* □ *My mother is mad at me. I'm certainly not in her favor.* □ *I'll try to get into her favor.* **3.** AND **in favor of** someone to someone, as when writing a check. (See also honor someone's check.) □ *Please make out a check for \$300 in Tom's favor.* □ *I'm making out the check in favor of Mr. Brown.*

in someone's name **1.** Go to in behalf of someone. **2.** in someone's ownership; as someone's property. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *The house is in my name. I own all of it.* □ *I put the house*

into my husband's name. □ *The car is in our names.*

in someone's or something's custody Go to in custody of someone or something.

in someone's prayers [of someone] remembered and called by name when someone prays. □ *I am sorry to hear of your sickness. You will be in our prayers.* □ *The whole family is in my prayers because they have suffered so much.*

in some respects AND **in many respects** with regard to some or many details. □ *In some respects, Anne's comments are similar to yours.* □ *The three proposals are quite different in many respects.*

in spite of someone or something regardless of someone or something; in defiance of someone or something. □ *In spite of what you said, I still like you.* □ *He went to the concert in spite of his parents.*

in step (with someone or something) **1.** [with someone] [marching or dancing] in cadence with another person; marching with the same rhythm as someone else. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *Please keep in step with Jane.* □ *You two, back there. You aren't in step.* □ *Get into step!* **2.** AND **in time** [with something] keeping in rhythm or cadence with music. □ *John, your marching isn't in step with the beat.* □ *I'm trying to play in time.* **3.** as up to date as someone or something. □ *Bob is not in step with the times.* □ *We try to keep in step.*

in stock readily available, as with goods in a store. □ *I'm sorry, I don't have that in stock. I'll have to order it for you.* □ *We have all our Christmas merchandise in stock now.*

in storage in a place where things are stored or kept. □ *Mary placed her winter clothes in storage during the summer.* □ *John's furniture is in storage while he is in the army.*

in style **1.** in fashion; fashionable. (Compare this with out of style. *In* can be replaced with *into*, especially with *come*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *This old coat isn't in*

style anymore. ☐ *I don't care if it's not in style. It's warm.* ☐ *I hope this coat comes into style again.* **2.** in elegance; in luxury. (Informal.) ☐ *If I had a million dollars, I could really live in style.* ☐ *If he saves his money, someday he'll be able to live in style.*

in surgery involved in surgery. ☐ *Dr. Smith is in surgery now.* ☐ *The patient is still in surgery.*

in tandem in single file. ☐ *We marched to the door in tandem.* ☐ *They rode along in tandem.*

in tatters in torn pieces of cloth. ☐ *The poor man's clothes hung in tatters.* ☐ *The flag was in tatters after the storm.*

in terms of something relating to something; with regard to something. ☐ *In terms of value to this company, how much do you think you are worth?* ☐ *Is this a good paint job on my car—in terms of the quality, not the color?*

in the absence of someone or something while someone or something isn't here; without someone or something. ☐ *In the absence of the cook, I'll prepare dinner.* ☐ *In the absence of opposition, she won easily.*

in the act (of doing something) while doing something. (See also **catch** someone **in the act (of doing something)**.) ☐ *There he was, in the act of opening the door.* ☐ *I tripped while in the act of climbing.* ☐ *It happened in the act, not before or after.*

in the affirmative in the form of an answer that means yes. ☐ *The soldier answered in the affirmative by nodding his head "yes."* ☐ *My manager's response was in the affirmative.*

in the air everywhere; all about. (Also literal.) ☐ *There is such a feeling of joy in the air.* ☐ *We felt a sense of tension in the air.*

in the altogether AND **in the buff; in the raw** naked; nude. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See in a bind and the examples below.) ☐ *We often went swimming in the altogether down at the creek.* ☐ *The museum has a painting of some ladies in the buff.* ☐ *Mary felt a little shy*

about getting into the altogether. ☐ *Bill says he sleeps in the raw.*

in the balance in an undecided state. (See also **hang in the balance**.) ☐ *He stood on the edge of the cliff, his life in the balance.* ☐ *With his fortune in the balance, John rolled the dice.*

in the bargain in addition to what was agreed on. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) ☐ *I bought a car, and they threw an air conditioner into the bargain.* ☐ *When I bought a house, I asked the seller to include the furniture in the bargain.*

in the best of health very healthy. ☐ *Bill is in the best of health. He eats well and exercises.* ☐ *I haven't been in the best of health. I think I have the flu.*

in the black not in debt; in a financially profitable condition. (Compare this with in the red. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See in a bind and the examples below.) ☐ *I wish my accounts were in the black.* ☐ *Sally moved the company into the black.*

in the blood AND **in one's blood** built into one's personality or character. ☐ *John's a great runner. It's in his blood.* ☐ *The whole family is very athletic. It's in the blood.*

in the buff Go to in the altogether.

in the bullpen [for a baseball pitcher to be] in a special place near a baseball playing field, warming up to pitch. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) ☐ *You can tell who is pitching next by seeing who is in the bullpen.* ☐ *Our best pitcher just went into the bullpen. He'll be pitching soon.*

in the cards in the future. (Informal.) ☐ *Well, what do you think is in the cards for tomorrow?* ☐ *I asked the boss if there was a raise in the cards for me.*

in the care of someone AND **in the charge of** someone in the keeping of someone. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) ☐ *I left the baby in the care of my mother.* ☐ *I placed the house into the care of my*

friend. □ *Bill left the office in the charge of his assistant.*

in the case of someone or something **1.** in the matter of someone or something; in the instance of someone or something. (See also **in case of** something. Compare this with **in the event of** something.) □ *In the case of John, I think we had better allow his request.* □ *In the case of this woman, we'll not grant permission.* **2.** [with someone] in the legal proceedings relating to someone. (The *someone* may be contained in the official name of a legal case.) □ *I recall a similar situation in the case of Ohio v. Jane Smith.* □ *Have they found any new facts in the case of Bill Wilson?*

in the charge of someone Go to **in the care of** someone.

in the chips wealthy; with much money. (Slang. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *John is a stock trader, and occasionally he's in the chips.* □ *Bill really came into the chips when his uncle died.*

in the clear **1.** not obstructed; not enclosed. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *You're in the clear. Go ahead and back up.* □ *Once the deer got into the clear, it ran away.* **2.** innocent; not guilty. □ *Don't worry, Tom. I'm sure you're in the clear.* □ *I'll feel better when I get into the clear.*

in the context of something in the circumstances under which something has happened. □ *In the context of a funeral, laughing loudly is inappropriate.* □ *In the context of an argument, it is fine to speak firmly.*

in the course of time Go to **in due course**.

in the dark (about someone or something) uninformed about someone or something; ignorant about someone or something. □ *I'm in the dark about who is in charge around here.* □ *I can't imagine why they are keeping me in the dark.* □ *You won't be in the dark long. I'm in charge.* □ *She's in the dark about how this machine works.*

in the doghouse in trouble; in (someone's) disfavor. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *I'm really in the doghouse. I was late for an appointment.* □ *I hate being in the doghouse all the time. I don't know why I can't stay out of trouble.*

in the doldrums sluggish; inactive; in low spirits. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *He's usually in the doldrums in the winter.* □ *I had some bad news yesterday, which put me into the doldrums.*

in the driver's seat in control. (Refers to driving and controlling a vehicle.) □ *Now that Fred is in the driver's seat, there is a lot less criticism about how things are being done.* □ *Joan can't wait to get into the driver's seat and do what she can to turn things around.*

in the event of something if something happens. (Compare this with **in the case of** someone or something.) □ *In the event of fire, please leave quickly and quietly.* □ *The picnic will be canceled in the event of rain.*

in the family Go to (all) in the family.

in the family way Go to **in a family way**.

in the final analysis AND **in the last analysis** in truth; when all the facts are known; when the truth becomes known. (Usually used when someone is speculating about what the final truth is.) □ *In the final analysis, it is usually the children who suffer most in a situation like this.* □ *In the last analysis, you simply do not want to do as you are told!*

in the first instance Go to **in the first place**.

in the first place AND **in the first instance** initially; to begin with. (Compare this with **in the second place**.) □ *In the first place, you don't have enough money to buy one. In the second place, you don't need one.* □ *In the first instance, I don't have the time. In the second instance, I'm not interested.*

in the flesh really present; in person. □ *I've heard that the queen is coming here in the flesh.* □ *Is she really here? In the*

flesh? □ *I've wanted a color television for years, and now I've got one right here in the flesh.*

in the forefront (of something) Go to at the forefront (of something).

in the gutter [for a person to be] in a low state; depraved. (Also literal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *You had better straighten out your life, or you'll end in the gutter.* □ *His bad habits put him into the gutter.*

in the hole in debt. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into* with *go*. See **in a bind** and the examples.) □ *I'm \$200 in the hole.* □ *Our finances end in the hole every month.* □ *We went into the hole on that deal.*

in the hot seat Go to on the hot seat.

in the interest of someone or something as an advantage or benefit to someone or something; in order to advance or improve someone or something. (Formal.) □ *In the interest of health, people are asked not to smoke.* □ *The police imprisoned the suspects in the interest of public safety.*

in the interim (between things) in the meantime; in the time between the ending of something and the beginning of something else. □ *In the interim between her morning and afternoon classes, Susan rushed home to get a book she had forgotten.* □ *My favorite show starts in five minutes, but I'll talk to you in the interim.*

in their entirety Go to in its entirety.

in the know knowledgeable. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *Let's ask Bob. He's in the know.* □ *I have no knowledge of how to work this machine. I think I can get into the know very quickly, though.*

in the lap of luxury in luxurious surroundings. (See the explanation at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *John lives in the lap of luxury because his family is very wealthy.* □ *When I retire, I'd like to live in the lap of luxury.*

in the last analysis Go to in the final analysis.

in the laundry with the clothes that are waiting to be washed. □ *Is my blue shirt clean or is it in the laundry?* □ *All my socks are in the laundry. What shall I do?*

in the limelight AND **in the spotlight** at the center of attention. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples. *Limelight* refers to an obsolete type of spotlight, and the word occurs only in this phrase.) □ *John will do almost anything to get himself into the limelight.* □ *I love being in the spotlight.* □ *All elected officials spend a lot of time in the limelight.*

in the line of duty as part of the expected (military or police) duties. □ *When soldiers fight people in a war, it's in the line of duty.* □ *Police officers have to do things they may not like in the line of duty.*

in the long run over a long period of time; ultimately. (Compare this with **in the short run**.) □ *We'd be better off in the long run buying one instead of renting one.* □ *In the long run, we'd be happier in the South.*

in the mainstream (of something) following the current trends or styles that are popular or are considered normal. □ *Bob is too old-fashioned to be in the mainstream of modern living.* □ *Max likes to make fun of people in the mainstream.*

in the market (for something) wanting to buy something. □ *I'm in the market for a video recorder.* □ *If you have a boat for sale, we're in the market.*

in the meantime the period of time between two things; the period of time between now and when something is supposed to happen. □ *The movie starts at 6:00. In the meantime, let's eat dinner.* □ *My flight was at 8:00. In the meantime, I played solitaire.*

in the middle of nowhere in a very remote place. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *To get to my house, you have to drive into the middle of nowhere.* □ *We*

found a nice place to eat, but it's out in the middle of nowhere.

in the money **1.** wealthy. (Informal. See also on the money.) □ *John is really in the money. He's worth millions.* □ *If I am ever in the money, I'll be generous.* **2.** in the winning position in a race or contest. (Refers to winning the prize money.) □ *I knew when Jane came around the final turn that she was in the money.* □ *The horses coming in first, second, and third are said to be in the money.*

in the mood for something **AND in the mood to** do something having the proper state of mind for a particular situation or for doing something. □ *I'm not in the mood to see a movie tonight.* □ *Are you in the mood for pizza?*

in the mood to do something Go to in the mood for something.

in the near future in the time immediately ahead. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *I don't plan to go to Florida in the near future.* □ *Today's prices won't extend into the near future.* □ *What do you intend to do in the near future?*

in the neighborhood of something Go to (somewhere) in the neighborhood of something.

in the nick of time Go to in the (very) nick of time.

in the nude in a state of nudity. □ *Bill says he sleeps in the nude.* □ *All the little boys swam in the nude in the creek.*

in the offing happening at some time in the future. (See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *There is a big investigation in the offing, but I don't know when.* □ *It's hard to tell what's in the offing if you don't keep track of things.*

in the open in the outdoors; in an area that is not closed in. □ *John's bike was stolen because he left it out in the open.* □ *Mary loves gardening because she loves to be in the open.*

in theory according to a theory; theoretically. □ *In theory, if I take my medicine regularly, I will get well.* □ *How things*

work in theory doesn't always match with how things work in reality.

in the pink (of condition) in very good health; in very good condition, physically and emotionally. (Informal. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See in a bind and the examples below.) □ *The garden is lovely. All the flowers are in the pink of condition.* □ *Jane has to exercise hard to get into the pink of condition.* □ *I'd like to be in the pink, but I don't have the time.*

in the prime of life in the best and most productive and healthy period of life. (See also in one's prime. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *The good health of one's youth can carry over into the prime of life.* □ *He was struck down by a heart attack in the prime of life.*

in the public eye publicly; visible to all; conspicuous. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *Elected officials find themselves constantly in the public eye.* □ *The mayor made it a practice to get into the public eye as much as possible.*

in the raw Go to in the altogether.

in the rear located in the space or area behind someone or something. □ *The waiter told me that the bathrooms were in the rear.* □ *All deliveries must be made in the rear.*

in the red in debt. (Compare this with in the black and out of the red. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at in a bind and the examples below.) □ *My accounts are in the red at the end of every month.* □ *It's easy to get into the red if you don't pay close attention to the amount of money you spend.*

in there pitching trying very hard. (Informal.) □ *Bob is always in there pitching.* □ *Just stay in there pitching. You'll make some progress eventually.*

in the right on the moral or legal side of an issue; on the right side of an issue. (Compare this with in the wrong.) □ *I felt I was in the right, but the judge ruled against me.* □ *It's hard to argue with Jane. She always believes that she's in the right.*

in the right place at the right time in the location where something is to happen, exactly when it happens. (Usually about something good.) □ *I got a good deal on a car because I was in the right place at the right time.* □ *Unless you are in the right place at the right time, you won't get a chance to meet a movie star.*

in the running in competition; competing and having a chance to win. (Compare this with **out of the running**. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *Is Tom still in the running? Does he still have a chance to be elected?* □ *I'm glad I didn't get into the running.*

in the same boat (as someone) in the same situation; having the same problem. (*In* can be replaced with *into*. See the explanation at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *TOM: I'm broke. Can you lend me twenty dollars?* *BILL: Sorry. I'm in the same boat.* □ *Jane and Mary are both in the same boat. They have been called for jury duty.* □ *I am in the same boat as Mary.*

in the same breath [stated or said] almost at the same time. □ *He told me I was lazy, but then in the same breath he said I was doing a good job.* □ *The teacher said that the students were working hard and, in the same breath, that they were not working hard enough.*

in the second place secondly; in addition. (Usually said after one has said **in the first place**.) □ *In the first place, you don't have enough money to buy one. In the second place, you don't need one.* □ *In the first place, I don't have the time. In the second place, I'm not interested.*

in the short run for the immediate future. (Compare this with **in the long run**.) □ *In the short run, we'd be better off saving our money.* □ *We decided to rent an apartment in the short run. We can buy a house later.*

in the soup in a bad situation. (Slang. *In* can be replaced with *into*. See **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *Now I'm really in the soup. I broke Mrs. Franklin's*

window. □ *I make a lot of mistakes. It's easy for me to get into the soup.*

in the spotlight Go to in the limelight.

in the swim of things involved in or participating in events or happenings. (The *in* can be replaced with *into*. See the explanation at **in a bind** and the examples. The opposite of **out of the swim of things**.) □ *I've been ill, but soon I'll be back in the swim of things.* □ *I can't wait to settle down and get into the swim of things.*

in the trust of someone under the responsibility or in the care of someone. □ *The state placed the orphan in the trust of the foster parents.* □ *Our bonds are left in the trust of our broker.*

in the twinkling of an eye very quickly. (A biblical reference.) □ *In the twinkling of an eye, the deer had disappeared into the forest.* □ *I gave Bill ten dollars and, in the twinkling of an eye, he spent it.*

in the unlikely event of something **AND in the unlikely event that** something happens if something—which probably will not happen—actually happens. (Compare this with **in the event of** something.) □ *In the unlikely event of my getting the job, I'll have to buy a car to get there every day.* □ *In the unlikely event of a fire, please walk quickly to an exit.*

in the unlikely event that something happens Go to in the unlikely event of something.

in the (very) nick of time just in time; at the last possible instant; just before it's too late. □ *The doctor arrived in the nick of time. The patient's life was saved.* □ *I reached the airport in the very nick of time.*

in the wake of something after something; as a result of some event. (Refers to the wake of a boat.) □ *We had no place to live in the wake of the fire.* □ *In the wake of the storm, there were many broken tree limbs.*

in the way of something as a kind of something; as a style of something. □ *What do you have in the way of leather shoes?* □ *We have nothing in the way of raincoats.* □

I've seen nothing in the way of nice weather in this part of the country.

in the wind about to happen. (Also literal.)

□ *There are some major changes in the wind. Expect these changes to happen soon.* □ *There is something in the wind. We'll find out what it is soon.*

in the works being prepared; being planned; being done. (Informal.) □ *There are some new laws in the works that will affect all of us.* □ *I have some ideas in the works that you might be interested in.*

in the world Go to on earth.

in the worst way very much. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *I want a new car in the worst way.* □ *Bob wants to retire in the worst way.*

in the wrong on the wrong or illegal side of an issue; guilty or in error. (Compare this with **in the right**.) □ *I felt she was in the wrong, but the judge ruled in her favor.* □ *It's hard to argue with Jane. She always believes that everyone else is in the wrong.*

in the wrong place at the wrong time in the location where something is to happen exactly when it happens. (Usually about something bad.) □ *I always get into trouble. I'm just in the wrong place at the wrong time.* □ *It isn't my fault. I was just in the wrong place at the wrong time.*

the in thing (to do) the fashionable thing to do. □ *Eating low-fat food is the in thing to do.* □ *Bob is very old-fashioned. He never does the in thing.*

in this day and age presently; currently; nowadays. (Folksy.) □ *You don't expect people to be polite in this day and age.* □ *Young folks don't take care of their parents in this day and age.*

in time 1. Go to in due course. **2.** Go to in step (with someone or something). **3.** before the deadline; before the last minute. □ *Did you turn in your paper in time?* □ *I didn't go to Florida. I didn't get to the airport in time.*

in times past long ago; in previous times. □ *In times past, you would not have been able to wear casual clothing to work.* □ *In*

times past, the air always seemed fresher and cleaner.

in top form 1. [of someone or some creature] in very good physical condition. □ *The runners are in top form, so this should be a good race.* □ *I'm not in top form, but I'm not a physical mess either.* **2.** able to make witty remarks and clever statements quickly and easily. □ *That was really funny, Bob. You are in top form tonight.*

in tow closely following; under someone's control. □ *The nanny walked into the park with three children in tow.* □ *The manager went to the meeting with her staff in tow.*

in transit while in the process of being transported. □ *Dave is in transit from London to Chicago.* □ *The new stereo is now in transit from the manufacturer.*

in triplicate [of a document] produced in three copies. □ *Mr. Smith asked me to type up his notes in triplicate.* □ *I completed each form in triplicate.*

in trouble 1. in danger; in difficulty; due for punishment. □ *If you don't be quiet, you're going to be in trouble.* □ *The company was in trouble for months, and then went bankrupt.* **2.** pregnant and unmarried. (Euphemistic.) □ *They had to get married. She was in trouble.* □ *She'll be in trouble before long, if she doesn't quit running around like that.*

in tune in a state where musical notes are at their proper intervals so that none are flat or sharp. (Compare this with **out of tune** (with someone or something).) □ *Your piano is nicely in tune.* □ *The choir members all sang in tune.*

in tune with someone or something **1.** at the same or a harmonizing musical pitch. (In can be replaced with *into*. See the note at **in a bind** and the examples below.) □ *The violin isn't in tune with the piano.* □ *Bill, please get in tune with John.* **2.** [with something] keeping up with something. □ *Tom, your clothes are old-fashioned. You aren't in tune with the times.* □ *Come on, Sally. Get in tune with what's going on around you.*

in turn one at a time in sequence. ☐ *Each of us can read the book in turn.* ☐ *We cut the hair of every child in turn.*

in two shakes of a lamb's tail very quickly. ☐ *I'll be there in two shakes of a lamb's tail.* ☐ *In two shakes of a lamb's tail, the bird flew away.*

in unison 1. [of musical notes, instruments, or voices] having the same pitch. ☐ *This part of the piece is performed in unison.* ☐ *The twins sang in unison.* 2. acting as one; together and at the same time. ☐ *In unison, all of the workers voted "yes" for the new contract.* ☐ *John and his wife responded to my question in unison.*

in view of something in consideration of something; because of something. ☐ *In view of the high cost of gasoline, I sold my car.* ☐ *I won't invite John to the meeting in view of his attitude.*

in with someone friends with someone; having influence with someone. ☐ *Are you in with John? I need to ask him for a favor.* ☐ *I've heard that the mayor is in with the county treasurer.*

inch along (something) to move slowly along something little by little. ☐ *The cat inched along the carpet toward the mouse.* ☐ *Traffic was inching along.*

inch by inch one inch at a time; little by little. ☐ *Traffic moved along inch by inch.* ☐ *Inch by inch, the snail moved across the stone.*

inclined to do something to tend to do something; to lean toward doing something. ☐ *Tom is inclined to tell jokes when he is with a group of people.* ☐ *I'm inclined to go to the beach tomorrow if it doesn't rain.*

incumbent upon someone **to** do something necessary for someone to do something. (*Upon* can be replaced with *on*.) ☐ *It's incumbent upon you to do the work.* ☐ *It was incumbent on me to make the presentation of the first prize.*

innocent as a lamb Go to (as) innocent as a lamb.

ins and outs of something the correct and successful way to do something; the special things that one needs to know to do

something. ☐ *I don't understand the ins and outs of politics.* ☐ *Jane knows the ins and outs of working with computers.*

inside the box 1. as if bound by old, nonfunctional, or limiting structures, rules, or practices. (An adverb. Compare this with **outside the box**.) ☐ *If you keep your discussions inside the box, you will be bound by traditional limitations.* ☐ *Nothing can be accomplished inside the box to solve this problem. We have already tried every obvious solution.* 2. bound by old, nonfunctional, or limiting structures, rules, or practices. (Usually **inside-the-box**. An adjective.) ☐ *You have some really inside-the-box ideas, Ralph. Why not be more creative?* ☐ *After some long, tedious, inside-the-box discussions, we arrived at the same old conclusion that we always arrive at.*

instrumental in doing something playing an important part in doing something. ☐ *John was instrumental in getting the contract to build the new building.* ☐ *Our senator was instrumental in defeating the bill.*

intent on doing something determined to do something. ☐ *The children were intent on making a snowman.* ☐ *The prisoner was intent on escaping.*

in(to) a jam in(to) a difficult situation. ☐ *Mary cannot keep track of the many times Dave got himself into a jam.* ☐ *I found myself in a jam when my car overheated on the highway.*

into being into existence. ☐ *The new law brought more problems into being.* ☐ *That idea came into being centuries ago.*

in(to) someone's clutches in the control of someone who has power or authority over someone else. ☐ *Snow White fell into the clutches of the evil witch.* ☐ *Once you're in my clutches, I'll ruin you.*

invasion of (someone's) privacy an intrusion that results in the loss of someone's privacy. ☐ *Your invasion of my privacy is not welcome!* ☐ *The athlete complained about the invasion of his privacy by the press.*

invest someone's **time in** something to put one's time, effort, or energy into a project. □ *Mary invests her time in charity work.* □ *I invested five weeks of my time building this model ship.*

invest someone **with** something to endow someone with something, such as power or privilege. □ *The Constitution invests the vice president with the authority to act on the president's behalf in certain conditions.* □ *The state has invested me with the authority to unite this couple in marriage.*

invest something **in** someone or something **1.** to put money, time, effort, etc., into someone or something, hoping for a return. □ *We will invest time and effort in Fred and make him into a movie star.* □ *Sharon invested a lot of money in the stock market.* **2.** to place power or authority under control of someone or something. □ *The Constitution has invested certain powers in the federal government and left the rest to the states.* □ *The law invests the power to arrest criminals in the sheriff's department.*

iron something **out** to solve a problem; to straighten out a problem; to smooth out a difficulty. (Also literal.) □ *The principal had to iron a classroom problem out.* □ *I just had to iron out this little problem; then I'll be able to see you.*

issue a call for something to make a public invitation or request for something. □ *The prime minister issued a call for peace.* □ *The person who organized the writing contest issued a call for entries.*

It behooves one to do something. It is necessary for one to do something.; It is incumbent upon someone to do something. □ *It behooves me to report the crime.* □ *It behooves you to pay for the window that you broke.*

It never rains but it pours. A lot of bad things tend to happen at the same time. (Proverb.) □ *The car won't start, the stairs broke, and the dog died. It never rains but it pours.* □ *More bad news? It never rains but it pours.*

It (only) stands to reason. It is only reasonable to hold a certain opinion. □ *It*

stands to reason that most people will not buy a new car if they don't think they can pay for it. □ *I think he will come back to pick up his check. It only stands to reason.*

It sucks. Go to That sucks.

It takes (some) getting used to. It is very unpleasant, but when it is gotten used to, it will not be so bothersome. (Said in recognition of the unpleasantness of something.) □ *I never ate duck's feet before. It takes some getting used to.* □ *These hot Mexican dishes seem impossible at first. They take some getting used to, I agree. But it's worth it.*

It'll never fly. It will never work!; It will never be approved! (Also literal. Refers to an evaluation of an unlikely-looking aircraft of some type.) □ *I have read your report and studied your proposal. It'll never fly.* □ *Your design for a new electric automobile is interesting, but it'll never fly!*

It's about time! It is almost too late!; I've been waiting a long time! (Informal. See also the following entry.) □ *So you finally got here! It's about time!* □ *They finally paid me my money. It's about time!*

It's (all) Greek to me. It is totally incomprehensible to me. □ *Can you explain what this paragraph in the lease means? Legal language is all Greek to me.* □ *I can't figure out this diagram of how to assemble my bicycle. It's all Greek to me.*

It's high time! It is past time [for someone or something!]; [Someone or something] is overdue! (Informal. See also the previous entry.) □ *It's high time that you got recognition for what you do!* □ *They sent me my check, and it's high time, too.*

It's not over till it's over. There is still hope for things to go the way I want until the entire event is over. (Proverb.) □ *They haven't won the game yet. It's not over till it's over.* □ *It looks bad for our side, but it's not over till it's over.*

It's no use (doing something). It is hopeless to do something.; It is pointless to do something. □ *It's no use trying to call on the telephone. The line is always busy.* □ *They tried and tried, but it was no use.*



a **jack-of-all-trades** someone who can do several different jobs instead of specializing in one. □ *John can do plumbing, carpentry, and roofing—a real jack-of-all-trades. He isn't very good at any of them.* □ *Take your car to a trained mechanic, not a jack-of-all-trades.*

jack someone up to motivate someone; to stimulate someone to do something. (Slang.) □ *The mail is late again today. We'll have to jack those people up at the post office.* □ *I guess I'll have to jack up the carpenter again to repair my stairs.*

jack something up 1. to raise something up on a mechanical lifting device. □ *Now I have to jack the car up so I can change the tire.* □ *Please jack up the car.* **2.** to raise the price of something. □ *The store keeps jacking prices up.* □ *The grocery store jacked up the prices again last night.*

jazz something up to make something more exciting, colorful, or lively. (Slang. Said especially of music.) □ *When we play the music this time, let's jazz it up a bit.* □ *I think we need to jazz up this room. It looks so drab.*

Jekyll and Hyde someone with both an evil and a good personality. (From the novel *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson.) □ *Bill thinks Mary is so soft and gentle, but she can be very cruel—she is a real Jekyll and Hyde.* □ *Jane doesn't know that Fred is a Jekyll and Hyde. She sees him only when he is being kind and generous, but he can be very cruel.*

The **jig is up**. Go to *The game is up*.

jockey for position to try to push or maneuver one's way into an advantageous position at the expense of others. □ *All*

the workers in the company are jockeying for position. They all want the manager's job. □ *It is unpleasant working for a company where people are always jockeying for position.*

jog someone's memory to stimulate someone's memory to recall something. □ *Hearing the first part of the song I'd forgotten really jogged my memory.* □ *I tried to jog Bill's memory about our childhood antics.*

Johnny-come-lately someone who joins in (something) after it is under way. □ *Don't pay any attention to Sally. She's just a Johnny-come-lately and doesn't know what she's talking about.* □ *We've been here for thirty years. Why should some Johnny-come-lately tell us what to do?*

Johnny-on-the-spot someone who is in the right place at the right time. □ *Here I am, Johnny-on-the-spot. I told you I would be here at 12:20.* □ *Bill is late again. You can hardly call him Johnny-on-the-spot.*

join forces (with someone) to unite with someone. □ *We joined forces with the police to search for the lost child.* □ *The choirs joined forces to sing the song.*

join hands [for people] to hold hands so that each person is holding the hands of two other people; [for two people] to hold each other's hands. □ *Let us join hands and pray together.* □ *The dancers joined hands and formed a circle that moved to the left.*

Join the club! <an expression indicating that the person spoken to is in the same, or a similar, unfortunate state as the speaker.> (Informal.) □ *You don't have*

anyplace to stay? Join the club! Neither do we. □ Did you get fired too? Join the club!

join the fray AND **jump into the fray; enter the fray** to join the fight or argument. □ After listening to the argument, Mary decided to jump into the fray. □ Tom joined the fray and immediately got knocked down.

joking aside Go to (all) joking aside.

jolt to a start AND **jolt to a stop** to start or stop moving suddenly, causing a jolt. □ The truck jolted to a stop at the stop sign. □ The little car jolted to a quick start and threw the passenger back in his seat.

jolt to a stop Go to jolt to a start.

judge one on one's own merit(s) to judge or evaluate one on one's own achievements and virtues, not someone else's. □ Please judge me on my own merits, not on those of my family. □ You should judge Sally on her own merit. Forget that her mother is a famous opera star.

judge something on its own merit(s) to judge or evaluate a thing on its own good points and usefulness. □ You have to judge each painting on its own merits. Not every painting by a famous painter is superior. □ Each rose must be judged on its own merit.

judging by something considering something; using something as an indication (of something else). □ Judging by your wet clothing, it must be raining. □ Judging by the looks of this house, I would guess there has been a party here.

juice and cookies trivial and uninteresting snacks or refreshments. (Also literal.) □ The party was not much. They might as well have served juice and cookies. □ After juice and cookies, we all went back into the meeting room for another hour of talk, talk.

jump all over someone AND **jump down someone's throat; jump on someone** to scold someone severely. (Also literal. Slang.) □ If I don't get home on time, my parents will jump all over me. □ Don't jump on me! I didn't do it! □ Please don't jump all over John. He wasn't the one who

broke the window. □ Why are you jumping down my throat? I wasn't even in the house when it happened.

jump at something to seize the opportunity to do something. (Usually with *it*. See also **jump at the chance**, from which this phrase comes.) □ When I heard about John's chance to go to England, I knew he'd jump at it. □ If something you really want to do comes your way, jump at it.

jump at the chance AND **jump at the opportunity; leap at the opportunity** to eagerly accept the opportunity to do something. □ John jumped at the chance to go to England. □ I don't know why I didn't jump at the opportunity myself. □ I should have leaped at the chance.

jump at the opportunity Go to jump at the chance.

jump bail AND **skip bail** to fail to appear in court for trial and give up one's bail bond. (Slang.) □ Not only was Bob arrested for theft, he skipped bail and left town. He's in a lot of trouble. □ I thought only criminals jumped bail.

jump down someone's throat Go to jump all over someone.

jump into the fray Go to join the fray.

jump off the deep end Go to go off the deep end.

jump on someone Go to jump all over someone.

jump on the bandwagon Go to get on the bandwagon.

jump out of one's skin to react strongly to a shock or a surprise. (Informal. Usually with *nearly*, *almost*, etc.) □ Oh! You really scared me. I nearly jumped out of my skin. □ Bill was so startled he almost jumped out of his skin.

jump the gun to start before the starting signal. (Originally used in sports contests that are started by firing a gun.) □ We all had to start the race again because Jane jumped the gun. □ When we took the test, Tom jumped the gun and started early.

jump the track 1. [for something] to fall or jump off the rails or guides. (Usually

said about a train.) ☐ *The train jumped the track, causing many injuries to the passengers.* ☐ *The engine jumped the track, but the other cars stayed on.* **2.** to change suddenly from one thing, thought, plan, or activity to another. ☐ *The entire project jumped the track, and we finally had to give up.* ☐ *John's mind jumped the track while he was in the play, and he forgot his lines.*

jump through a hoop AND **jump through hoops** to do everything possible to obey or please someone; to bend over backwards (to do something). (Informal. Trained animals jump through hoops.) ☐ *She expects us to jump through hoops for her.* ☐ *What do you want me to do—jump through a hoop?*

jump through hoops Go to jump through a hoop.

jump to conclusions AND **leap to conclusions** to judge or decide something without having all the facts; to reach unwarranted conclusions. ☐ *Now don't jump to conclusions. Wait until you hear what I have to say.* ☐ *Please find out all the facts so you won't leap to conclusions.*

jumping-off place Go to jumping-off point.

jumping-off point AND **jumping-off place** a point or place from which to begin something. ☐ *The local library is a logical jumping-off point for your research.* ☐ *The office job in that company would be a good jumping-off place for a job in advertising.*

The **jury is still out** (on someone or something). A decision has not been reached on someone or something.; The people making the decision on someone or something have not yet decided. (Also literal.)

☐ *The jury is still out on Jane. We don't know what we are going to do about her.*
☐ *The jury is still out on the question of building a new parking lot.*

(just) as I expected I thought so; I knew it would be this way. ☐ *Just as I expected. The window was left open and it rained in.*
☐ *As I expected, he left work early again.*

(just) a stone's throw away (from something) Go to within a stone's throw (of something).

just in case (something happens) if (something happens). (Compare this with in case something happens.) ☐ *All right. I'll take the umbrella just in case it rains.* ☐ *I'll take along some aspirin, just in case.*

just one of those things just something that couldn't have been prevented; some unfortunate event caused by fate. ☐ *I'm sorry, too. It's not your fault. It's just one of those things.* ☐ *I feel terrible that I didn't pass the bar exam. I guess it was just one of those things.*

just so **1.** in perfect order; neat and tidy. ☐ *Her hair is always just so.* ☐ *Their front yard is just so.* **2.** (Usually **Just so!**) Precisely right!; Quite right! ☐ *BILL: The letter should arrive tomorrow. TOM: Just so!* ☐ *JANE: We must always try our best. MARTIN: Just so!*

just the same Go to all the same.

just the same (to someone) Go to all the same (to someone).

just what the doctor ordered exactly what is required, especially for health or comfort. ☐ *That meal was delicious, Bob. Just what the doctor ordered.* ☐ *BOB: Would you like something to drink? MARY: Yes, a cold glass of water would be just what the doctor ordered.*

K

keel over [for a person] to fall over or fall down in a faint or in death. ☐ *Suddenly, Mr. Franklin keeled over. He had had a heart attack.* ☐ *It was so hot in the room that two people just keeled over.*

keen about someone or something Go to **keen on** someone or something.

keen on doing something willing or eager to do something. ☐ *Dave isn't very keen on going to the opera.* ☐ *The children are keen on swimming this afternoon. Shall I take them?*

keen on someone or something **AND** **keen about** someone or something to be enthusiastic about someone or something. ☐ *I'm not too keen on going to Denver.* ☐ *Sally is fairly keen about getting a new job.* ☐ *Mary isn't keen on her new boss.*

keep abreast (of something) to keep informed about something; to **keep up (with the times)**. (Also with *be* instead of *keep*, as in the examples below.) ☐ *I try to keep abreast of the financial markets.* ☐ *I believe that I'm abreast of foreign events.* ☐ *Yes, I try to keep abreast by reading the papers every day.*

keep a civil tongue (in one's head) to speak decently and politely. (Also with *have*. See the note at **keep a straight face**.) ☐ *Please, John. Don't talk like that. Keep a civil tongue in your head.* ☐ *John seems unable to keep a civil tongue.* ☐ *He'd be welcome here if he had a civil tongue in his head.*

keep a close rein on someone or something Go to **keep a tight rein on** someone or something.

keep after someone **AND** **keep at** someone; **keep on** someone; **stay after** someone to

remind or nag someone over and over to do something. (See also **get after** someone.) ☐ *I'll keep after you until you do it!* ☐ *Mother stayed after Bill until he did the dishes.* ☐ *She kept at him until he dried them and put them away.* ☐ *She kept on him for forty minutes before he finally finished.*

keep an eye on someone or something Go to **have an eye on** someone or something.

keep an eye out (for someone or something) Go to **have an eye out (for someone or something)**.

keep a secret to know a secret and not tell anyone. ☐ *Please keep our little secret private.* ☐ *Do you know how to keep a secret?*

keep a stiff upper lip to be calm and unmoved by unsettling events. (Also with *have*. See the note at **keep a straight face**.) ☐ *John always keeps a stiff upper lip.* ☐ *Now, Billy, don't cry. Keep a stiff upper lip.* ☐ *Bill can take it. He has a stiff upper lip.*

keep a straight face to make one's face stay free from smiles or laughter. (Note: *Keep* can be replaced with *have*. *Keep* implies the exercise of effort, and *have* means that a state exists.) ☐ *It's hard to keep a straight face when someone tells a funny joke.* ☐ *I knew it was John who played the trick. He couldn't keep a straight face.* ☐ *John didn't have a straight face.*

keep a tight rein on someone or something **AND** **keep a close rein on** someone or something to watch and control someone or something diligently. ☐ *The office manager kept a tight rein on the staff.* ☐ *Mary keeps a close rein on her children.*

Keep at it! Keep doing what you are doing!; Keep trying! (Encouragement to keep working at something.) ☐ *The boss told me to keep at it every time he passed my desk.* ☐ *Keep at it, Tom! You can do it!*

keep at someone or something **1.** [with someone] Go to keep after someone. **2.** [with something] to continue doing something; to continue trying to do something. ☐ *John kept at his painting until the whole house was done.* ☐ *Keep at the job if you want to get it finished.*

keep body and soul together to feed, clothe, and house oneself. ☐ *I hardly have enough money to keep body and soul together.* ☐ *How the old man was able to keep body and soul together is beyond me.*

keep (close) watch (on someone or something) to monitor someone or something; to observe someone or something. ☐ *Keep close watch on Bill. I think he's loafing.* ☐ *Okay. I'll keep watch, but I think he's a good worker.*

keep (close) watch (over someone or something) to guard or care for someone or something. ☐ *I'm keeping watch over my children to make sure they have the things they need.* ☐ *I think that an angel is keeping close watch over her to make sure nothing bad happens to her.* ☐ *Angels don't have much to do except to keep watch.*

keep company (with someone) to spend much time with someone; to associate with or consort with someone. (Compare this with **keep** someone **company**.) ☐ *Bill has been keeping company with Ann for three months.* ☐ *Bob has been keeping company with a tough-looking bunch of boys.*

keep cool to stay calm and undisturbed. (Also literal. Informal or slang.) ☐ *Relax man, keep cool!* ☐ *If Sally could just keep cool before a race, she could probably win.*

keep from doing something to avoid doing something; to refrain from doing something. ☐ *How could I keep from crying? It was so sad!* ☐ *Try to keep from falling off the ladder.*

keep good time [for a clock or watch] to be accurate. (See also **keep time**.) ☐ *I have to return my watch to the store because it doesn't keep good time.* ☐ *My alarm clock really keeps good time.*

keep harping on something to continue to talk or complain about something; to keep raising a topic of conversation. (See also **harp on** something.) ☐ *Why do you keep harping on the same old complaint?* ☐ *You keep harping on my problems and ignore your own!*

keep house to manage a household. ☐ *I hate to keep house. I'd rather live in a tent than keep house.* ☐ *My grandmother kept house for nearly sixty years.*

keep in touch (with someone) **AND stay in touch (with** someone) to remain in friendly communication with someone. (See also **get in touch (with** someone).) ☐ *I try to keep in touch with my cousins.* ☐ *All our family tries to stay in touch.*

keep late hours to stay up or stay out until very late. (This can cause one to be late for appointments or responsibilities.) ☐ *I'm always tired because I keep late hours.* ☐ *If I didn't keep late hours, I wouldn't sleep so late in the morning.*

keep off (something) to stay off someone's land; not to trespass. ☐ *You had better keep off my property.* ☐ *The sign says "Keep off."*

keep on an even keel to remain cool and calm. (Originally nautical. See also **keep** something **on an even keel**.) ☐ *If Jane can keep on an even keel and not panic, she will be all right.* ☐ *Try to keep on an even keel and not get upset so easily.*

keep one's cards close to one's chest Go to play one's cards close to the chest.

keep one's cards close to one's vest Go to play one's cards close to the chest.

keep one's chin up to keep one's spirits high; to act brave and confident. (Informal.) ☐ *Keep your chin up, John. Things will get better.* ☐ *Just keep your chin up and tell the judge exactly what happened.*

keep one's cool to remain calm, even when provoked. (Informal.) ☐ *I have a hard*

time keeping my cool when someone is yelling at me. □ *Whatever you do, try to keep your cool.*

keep one's distance (from someone or something) to maintain a respectful or cautious distance from someone or something. (The distance can be figurative or literal.) □ *Keep your distance from John. He's in a bad mood.* □ *Keep your distance from the fire.* □ *Okay. I'll tell Sally to keep her distance, too.*

keep one's ear to the ground Go to have one's ear to the ground.

keep one's eye on the ball **1.** to watch or follow the ball carefully, especially when one is playing a ball game; to follow the details of a ball game very carefully. □ *John, if you can't keep your eye on the ball, I'll have to take you out of the game.* □ *"Keep your eye on the ball!" the coach roared at the players.* **2.** to remain alert to the events occurring around one. (Informal.) □ *If you want to get along in this office, you're going to have to keep your eye on the ball.* □ *Bill would do better in his classes if he would just keep his eye on the ball.*

keep one's eyes open (for someone or something) AND **keep one's eyes peeled (for someone or something)** to remain alert and watchful for someone or something. (The entries with *peeled* are informal. *Peel* refers to moving the eyelids back.) □ *I'm keeping my eyes open for a sale on winter coats.* □ *Please keep your eyes peeled for Mary. She's due to arrive here any time.* □ *Okay. I'll keep my eyes open.*

keep one's eyes peeled (for someone or something) Go to **keep one's eyes open (for someone or something)**.

keep one's feet on the ground to remain firmly established. (See also **get one's feet on the ground**.) □ *Sally will have no trouble keeping her feet on the ground.* □ *If you can keep your feet on the ground, there should be no problem.*

keep one's fingers crossed (for someone or something) AND **cross one's fingers** to wish for luck for someone or something, often by crossing one's fingers; to hope for a

good outcome for someone or something. □ *I hope you win the race Saturday. I'm keeping my fingers crossed for you.* □ *I'm trying out for a play. Keep your fingers crossed!*

keep one's hand in (something) to retain one's control of something. (See also **take a hand in** something.) □ *I want to keep my hand in the running of the business.* □ *Mrs. Johnson has retired from the library, but she still wants to keep her hand in.*

keep one's hands off (someone or something) to refrain from touching or handling someone or something. □ *I'm going to put these cookies here. You keep your hands off them.* □ *Get your hands off my book, and keep them off.*

keep one's head to remain calm and sensible when in an awkward situation that might cause a person to panic or go out of control. □ *She was very angry. We had to calm her down and encourage her to keep her head.* □ *Always try to keep your head when others are panicking.*

keep one's head above water to stay ahead of one's responsibilities; to remain financially solvent. (Also literal.) □ *Now that I have more space to work in, I can easily keep my head above water.* □ *While I was out of work, I could hardly keep my head above water.*

keep one's mouth shut (about someone or something) to keep quiet about someone or something; to keep a secret about someone or something. (Informal.) □ *They told me to keep my mouth shut about the boss or I'd be in big trouble.* □ *I think I'll keep my mouth shut.*

keep one's nose clean to keep out of trouble, especially trouble with the law. (Slang.) □ *I'm trying to keep my nose clean by staying away from those rough guys.* □ *John, if you don't learn how to keep your nose clean, you're going to end up in jail.*

keep one's nose out of someone's business to refrain from interfering in someone else's business. (See also **get one's nose out of someone's business**.) □ *Let John have his privacy, and keep your nose out of my*

business, too! □ *Keep your nose out of my business!*

keep one's nose to the grindstone to keep busy continuously over a period of time. (See also **put one's nose to the grindstone**.) □ *The manager told me to keep my nose to the grindstone or be fired.* □ *Keep your nose to the grindstone, and you will prosper.*

keep one's opinions to oneself to stop mentioning one's own opinions, especially when they disagree with someone else's. □ *You ought to keep your opinions to yourself if you are going to be offensive.* □ *Please keep your rude opinions to yourself!*

keep one's own counsel to keep one's thoughts and plans to oneself; not to tell other people about one's thoughts and plans. □ *Jane is very quiet. She tends to keep her own counsel.* □ *I advise you to keep your own counsel.*

keep one's place to exhibit only the behavior appropriate to one's position or status in life. (Also literal.) □ *When I complained about the food, they told me to keep my place!* □ *I suggest you keep your place until you're in a position to change things.*

keep one's temper AND **hold one's temper** not to get angry; to hold back an expression of anger. (The opposite of **lose one's temper**.) □ *She should have learned to keep her temper when she was a child.* □ *Sally got thrown off the team because she couldn't hold her temper.*

keep one's weather eye open to watch for something (to happen); to be on the alert (for something); to be on guard. □ *Some trouble is brewing. Keep your weather eye open.* □ *Try to be more alert. Learn to keep your weather eye open.*

keep one's wits about one to keep one's mind operating in a time of stress. □ *If Jane hadn't kept her wits about her during the fire, things would have been much worse.* □ *I could hardly keep my wits about me.*

keep one's word to uphold one's promise. (The opposite of **break one's word**.) □ *I told her I'd be there to pick her up, and I*

intend to keep my word. □ *Keeping one's word is necessary in the legal profession.*

keep on one's toes to stay alert and watchful. □ *If you want to be a success at this job, you will have to keep on your toes.* □ *Please keep on your toes and report anything strange that you see.*

keep on someone Go to **keep after** someone.

keep pace (with someone or something) to move at the same speed as someone or something; to **keep up (with** someone or something). □ *The black horse was having a hard time keeping pace with the brown one.* □ *Bill can't keep pace with the geometry class.* □ *You've just got to keep pace.*

keep quiet (about someone or something) AND **keep still (about** someone or something) not to reveal something about someone or something; to keep a secret about someone or something. □ *Please keep quiet about the missing money.* □ *Please keep still about Mr. Smith's illness.* □ *All right. I'll keep still.*

keep someone company to sit or stay with someone, especially someone who is lonely. □ *I kept my uncle company for a few hours.* □ *He was very grateful for someone to keep him company. He gets very lonely.*

keep someone from doing something to prevent someone from doing something. □ *I kept the child from falling in the lake by grabbing his collar.* □ *I try to keep myself from overeating, but I seem to fail frequently.*

keep someone in line to make certain that someone behaves properly. (Informal.) □ *It's very hard to keep Bill in line. He's sort of rowdy.* □ *The teacher had to struggle to keep the class in line.*

keep someone in stitches to cause someone to laugh loud and hard, over and over. (Informal. Also with *have*. See the note at **keep a straight face**.) □ *The comedian kept us in stitches for nearly an hour.* □ *The teacher kept the class in stitches, but the students didn't learn anything.* □ *She had us in stitches for ten minutes.*

keep someone on tenterhooks to keep someone anxious or in suspense. (Also

with *have*. See the note at **keep a straight face**.) □ *Please tell me now. Don't keep me on tenterhooks any longer!* □ *Now that we have her on tenterhooks, shall we let her worry, or shall we tell her?*

keep someone or something **hanging in midair** Go to leave someone or something hanging in midair.

keep someone or something **in check** AND **hold** someone or something **in check** to keep someone or something under control; to restrain someone or something. □ *Hang on to this rope to keep the dog in check.* □ *I was so angry I could hardly hold myself in check.*

keep someone or something **in mind** AND **bear** someone or something **in mind** to remember and think about someone or something. □ *When you're driving a car, you must bear this in mind at all times: Keep your eyes on the road.* □ *As you leave home, keep your family in mind.*

keep someone or something **quiet** Go to keep someone or something **still**.

keep someone or something **still** 1. AND **keep** someone or something **quiet** to make someone or something silent or less noisy. □ *Can you please keep the baby quiet?* □ *Keep that stereo still!* 2. [with something] AND **keep** something **quiet** to keep something a secret. (See also **keep quiet** [about someone or something].) □ *I'm quitting my job, but my boss doesn't know yet. Please keep it quiet.* □ *Okay. I'll keep it still.* 3. AND **hold** someone or something **still** to restrain or control someone or something so that the person or thing cannot move. (See also **keep still**.) □ *Please keep your foot still. It makes me nervous when you wiggle it.* □ *You have to hold the nail still if you want to hit it.*

keep someone or something **up** 1. [with someone] to prevent someone from going to bed; to keep someone awake. □ *Their party kept me up all night.* □ *The noise kept up the entire household.* 2. [with something] to continue doing something. □ *I don't know how long I can keep this up.* □ *I can't keep up working this way much longer.*

keep someone **out in the cold** to prevent someone from being informed. (Also literal.) □ *Please don't keep me out in the cold. Tell me what's going on.* □ *Don't keep your supervisor out in the cold. Tell her what's going on.*

keep someone **posted** to keep someone informed (of what is happening); to keep someone up to date. □ *If the price of corn goes up, I need to know. Please keep me posted.* □ *Keep her posted about the patient's status.*

keep something **down** to keep food in one's stomach (without vomiting it up). □ *I don't know how I managed to keep the pill down.* □ *The food must have been spoiled. I couldn't keep it down.* □ *Sally is ill. She can't keep solid food down.*

keep something **on an even keel** to keep something in a steady and untroubled state. (See also **keep on an even keel**.) □ *The manager cannot keep the company on an even keel any longer.* □ *When the workers are unhappy, it is difficult to keep the factory on an even keel.*

keep something **quiet** Go to keep someone or something **still**.

keep something **to oneself** to keep something a secret. (Notice the use of *but* in the examples below.) □ *I'm quitting my job, but please keep that to yourself.* □ *Keep it to yourself, but I'm quitting my job.* □ *John is always gossiping. He can't keep anything to himself.*

keep something **under one's hat** to keep something a secret; to keep something in one's mind (only). (Informal. If the secret stays under your hat, it stays in your mind. Note the use of *but* in the examples below.) □ *Keep this under your hat, but I'm getting married.* □ *I'm getting married, but keep it under your hat.*

keep something **under wraps** to keep something concealed (until some future time). □ *We kept the plan under wraps until after the election.* □ *The automobile company kept the new model under wraps until most of the old models had been sold.*

keep still 1. AND **hold still** do not move. □ *Quit wiggling. Keep still!* □ *"Hold still.*

I can't examine your ear if you're moving," said the doctor. 2. Go to keep quiet (about someone or something).

keep still (about someone or something) Go to keep quiet (about someone or something).

keep tab(s) (on someone or something) AND keep track (of someone or something) to monitor someone or something; to follow the activities of someone or something. ☐ *I'm supposed to keep track of my books.* ☐ *Try to keep tabs on everyone who works for you.* ☐ *It's hard to keep tabs when you have a lot of other work to do.* ☐ *I can't keep track of the money I earn. Maybe someone else is spending it.*

keep the ball rolling to cause something that is in progress to continue. (Also literal. See also **get the ball rolling**.) ☐ *Tom started the project, and we kept the ball rolling.* ☐ *Who will keep the ball rolling now that she is gone?*

keep the home fires burning to keep things going at one's home or other central location. (From a World War I song.) ☐ *My uncle kept the home fires burning when my sister and I went to school.* ☐ *The manager stays at the office and keeps the home fires burning while I'm out selling our products.*

keep the lid on something to restrain something; to keep something quiet. (Also literal. Informal.) ☐ *The politician worked hard to keep the lid on the scandal.* ☐ *The party was noisy because they weren't trying to keep the lid on it. It got louder and louder.*

keep the wolf from the door to maintain oneself at a minimal level; to keep from starving, freezing, etc. ☐ *I don't make a lot of money, just enough to keep the wolf from the door.* ☐ *We have a small amount of money saved, hardly enough to keep the wolf from the door.*

keep time 1. to maintain a musical rhythm. ☐ *Bob had to drop out of the band because he couldn't keep time.* ☐ *Since he can't keep time, he can't march and he can't play the drums.* 2. to keep watch over the time in a game or an athletic contest. ☐ *Ann kept time at all the*

basketball games. ☐ *Whoever keeps time has to watch the referee very carefully.* 3. [for a clock or a watch] to keep track of time accurately. (See also **keep good time**.) ☐ *This watch doesn't keep time.* ☐ *My other watch kept time better.*

keep to oneself to remain solitary; to stay away from other people. ☐ *Ann tends to keep to herself. She doesn't have many friends.* ☐ *I try to keep to myself each morning so I can get some work done.*

keep track (of someone or something) Go to keep tab(s) (on someone or something).

keep up an act AND **keep up one's act** to maintain a false front; to act in a special way that is different from one's natural behavior. ☐ *Most of the time John kept up an act. He was really not a friendly person.* ☐ *He works hard to keep up his act.*

keep up appearances to keep oneself looking calm or happy despite serious problems. ☐ *Even with all the trouble Dave was having at home, he still managed to keep up appearances.* ☐ *She was trained from childhood to keep up appearances no matter how bad she really felt.*

keep up one's act Go to keep up an act.

keep up (with someone or something) to keep pace (with someone or something); to advance at the same rate as someone or something. (See the following two entries.) ☐ *You're running so fast that I cannot keep up with you.* ☐ *I don't make enough money to keep up with your spending.* ☐ *You don't even try to keep up.*

keep up (with the Joneses) to stay financially even with one's peers; to work hard to get the same amount of material goods that one's friends and neighbors have. ☐ *Mr. and Mrs. Brown bought a new car simply to keep up with the Joneses.* ☐ *Keeping up with the Joneses can take all your money.*

keep up (with the times) to stay in fashion; to keep up with the news; to be contemporary or modern. ☐ *I try to keep up with the times. I want to know what's going on.* ☐ *I bought a whole new wardrobe because I want to keep up with the times.*

□ *Sally learns all the new dances. She likes to keep up.*

Keep your shirt on! Be patient! (Slang. Usually considered rude.) □ *Hey, keep your shirt on! I'll be with you in a minute.* □ *I'll bring you your hamburger when it's cooked. Just keep your shirt on, friend.*

keyed up anxious; tense and expectant. (Informal.) □ *I don't know why I'm so keyed up all the time. I can't even sleep.* □ *Ann gets keyed up before a test.*

kick a habit AND **kick the habit** to break a habit. (Slang.) □ *It's hard to kick a habit, but it can be done. I stopped biting my nails.* □ *I used to drink coffee every morning, but I kicked the habit.*

kick off 1. to start a football game by kicking the ball a great distance. □ *Tom kicked off in the last game. Now it's my turn.* □ *John tripped when he was kicking off.* **2.** AND **kick the bucket** to die. (Slang. Impolite.) □ *Don't say that George Washington "kicked off."* Say that he "passed away." □ *My cat kicked off last night. She was tough as a lion.* □ *When I kick the bucket, I want a huge funeral with lots of flowers and crying.*

kick oneself (for doing something) to regret doing something. (Informal.) □ *I could just kick myself for going off and not locking the car door. Now the car has been stolen.* □ *Don't kick yourself. It's insured.*

kick over Go to turn over.

kick someone or something around 1. to treat someone or something badly. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *I finally quit my job. My boss wouldn't stop kicking me around.* □ *Stop kicking my car around. It does everything I ask it.* **2.** [with something] to discuss an idea or a proposal. (Slang.) □ *That sounds like a good idea to me. Let's kick it around in our meeting tomorrow.* □ *We kicked around John's idea for a while.*

kick someone out AND **boot someone out** to send someone away from a place. □ *I lived at home until I was eighteen and my father kicked me out.* □ *He kicked out his own child?* □ *Yes. He booted out my brother when he was twenty.*

kick something in to contribute some money (to a cause). (Literal meaning to break something in by kicking. Informal.) □ *John kicked five dollars in.* □ *I'd be happy to kick in a dollar, but no more.*

kick something off to start something; to start off an event. (Also literal.) □ *They kicked the picnic off with a footrace.* □ *We kicked off the party by singing rowdy songs.* □ *That was a great way to kick off a weekend.*

kick the bucket Go to kick off.

kick the habit Go to kick a habit.

kick up to cause trouble or discomfort. □ *The ignition in my car is kicking up again. I will have to have it looked into.* □ *Aunt Jane's arthritis is kicking up. She needs to see the doctor again.*

kick up a fuss AND **kick up a row; kick up a storm** to become a nuisance; to misbehave and disturb (someone). (Informal. Row rhymes with cow. Note the variation in the examples.) □ *The customer kicked up such a fuss about the food that the manager came to apologize.* □ *I kicked up such a row that they kicked me out.* □ *Oh, what pain! My arthritis is kicking up a storm.*

kick up a row Go to kick up a fuss.

kick up a storm Go to kick up a fuss.

kick up one's heels to act frisky; to be lively and have fun. (Informal.) □ *I like to go to an old-fashioned square dance and really kick up my heels.* □ *For an old man, your uncle is really kicking up his heels.*

kid around (with someone) to tease and joke with someone. (Informal.) □ *I like to kid around with John. We are great friends.* □ *Yes, John and I used to kid around a lot.*

kidding aside Go to (all) joking aside.

kid(s) stuff a very easy task. (Informal.) □ *Climbing that hill is kid stuff.* □ *Driving an automatic car is kid's stuff.*

kill the fatted calf to prepare an elaborate banquet (in someone's honor). (From the biblical story recounting the return of the prodigal son. *Fatted* is older

English for *fattened*.) □ *When Bob got back from college, his parents killed the fattened calf and threw a great party.* □ *Sorry this meal isn't much, John. We didn't have time to kill the fattened calf.*

kill time to waste time. (Informal.) □ *Stop killing time. Get to work!* □ *We went over to the record shop just to kill time.*

kill two birds with one stone to solve two problems with one solution. □ *John learned the words to his part in the play while peeling potatoes. He was killing two birds with one stone.* □ *I have to cash a check and make a payment on my bank loan. I'll kill two birds with one stone by doing them both in one trip to the bank.*

killed outright killed immediately. □ *The driver was killed outright in the accident.* □ *Twenty people were killed outright in the explosion.*

a **kind of (a)** something a variety of something that is fairly close to the real thing, even though it is not exactly the real thing. (See also **sort of** something.) □ *I used a folded newspaper as a kind of hat to keep the rain off.* □ *Bill is serving as a kind of helper or assistant on this project.*

kind of something Go to **sort of** something.

a **kink in my neck** a twisted place or a cramp in the neck that causes pain. □ *I got a kink in my neck from sleeping in a draft.* □ *When I read on the plane, I get a kink in my neck.*

kiss and make up to forgive (someone) and be friends again. (Also literal.) □ *They were very angry, but in the end they kissed and made up.* □ *I'm sorry. Let's kiss and make up.*

kiss and tell to participate in something secret and private, and then tell other people about it. (Also literal.) □ *The project was supposed to be a secret between Jane and me, but she spread it all around. I didn't think she was the type to kiss and tell.* □ *I am willing to discuss it with you, but only if you promise not to kiss and tell.*

the **kiss of death** an act that puts an end to someone or something. (Informal.) □ *The mayor's veto was the kiss of death for*

the new law. □ *Fainting on stage was the kiss of death for my acting career.*

kiss something good-bye to anticipate or experience the loss of something. □ *If you leave your camera on a park bench, you can kiss it good-bye.* □ *You kissed your wallet good-bye when you left it in the store.*

kit and caboodle the entire amount; everyone; everything. (Folksy. Often with *whole*.) □ *Everybody in the family was there—the whole kit and caboodle.* □ *The sheriff came and threw the crook out of town, kit and caboodle.*

kith and kin friends and relatives; people known to someone. (Older English. *Kith* means “acquaintances or neighbors” here.) □ *I was delighted to find all my kith and kin waiting for me at the airport to welcome me home.* □ *I sent cards to my kith and kin, telling them of my arrival.*

knee-high to a grasshopper not very tall; short and small, as a child. (Folksy.) □ *Hello, Billy. I haven't seen you since you were knee-high to a grasshopper.* □ *I have two grandchildren, both knee-high to a grasshopper.*

knew it was coming **AND (had) known it was coming** aware in advance that something was to happen. □ *I shouldn't act surprised. I knew it was coming.* □ *It's his own fault. He should have known it was coming.*

knit one's brow to wrinkle one's brow, especially by frowning. □ *The woman knit her brow and asked us what we wanted from her.* □ *While he read his book, John knit his brow occasionally. He must not have agreed with what he was reading.*

knock about (somewhere) to travel around; to act as a vagabond. (Informal.) □ *I'd like to take off a year and knock about Europe.* □ *If you're going to knock about, you should do it when you're young.*

knock-down-drag-out fight a serious fight; a serious argument. (Folksy.) □ *Boy, they really had a knock-down-drag-out fight.* □ *Stop calling each other names, or you're going to end up with a real knock-down-drag-out fight.*

knock it off to stop something; to cease something. (Slang.) □ *Shut up, you guys. Knock it off!* □ *Knock it off. I've heard enough of your music.*

knock off work to quit work (for the day). (Informal.) □ *It's time to knock off work.* □ *It's too early to knock off work.*

knock one off one's feet Go to sweep one off one's feet.

knock oneself out (to do something) to go to a great deal of trouble to do something. (Informal. As if one had worked oneself into unconsciousness.) □ *I knocked myself out to prepare this meal for you, and you won't even taste it!* □ *I don't know why I knock myself out to do these things for you. You are not at all appreciative.*

knock on wood <a phrase said to cancel out imaginary bad luck.> (The same as the British English "touch wood.") □ *My stereo has never given me any trouble—knock on wood.* □ *We plan to be in Florida by tomorrow evening—knock on wood.*

knock some heads together to scold some people; to get some people to do what they are supposed to be doing. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *If you kids don't quiet down and go to sleep, I'm going to come in your room and knock some heads together.* □ *The government is in a mess. We need to go to Washington and knock some heads together.*

knock someone dead to put on a stunning performance or display for someone. (Informal. *Someone* is often replaced by 'em from *them*.) □ *This band is going to do great tonight. We're going to knock them dead.* □ *"See how your sister is all dressed up!" said Bill. "She's going to knock 'em dead."*

knock someone down (to size) Go to beat someone down (to size).

knock someone for a loop Go to throw someone for a loop.

knock someone off Go to bump someone off.

knock someone or something about Go to knock someone or something around.

knock someone or something around AND **knock someone or something about** to mistreat someone or something physically. □ *They knocked my baggage around on the flight to Mexico.* □ *The tough guys knocked me around a little.* □ *They knocked my brother about a bit also.*

knock someone out (cold) **1.** to knock someone unconscious. (Informal.) □ *The blow knocked the boxer out cold.* □ *The attacker knocked the old man out cold.* **2.** to overwhelm someone. (*Someone* includes *oneself*. See also **knock oneself out (to do something)**.) □ *The bad news really knocked me out.* □ *Her story was great. It just knocked me out cold!*

knock someone over with a feather to leave someone stunned or surprised by something extraordinary. (Folksy.) □ *I was so surprised you could have knocked me over with a feather.* □ *When she heard the news, you could have knocked her over with a feather.*

knock someone's block off to strike someone hard, especially in the head. (Slang. *The block* is the head.) □ *If you touch me again, I'll knock your block off.* □ *John punched Bob so hard that he almost knocked his block off.*

knock something back Go to knock something down.

knock something down AND **knock something back** to drink down a drink of something, especially something alcoholic. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *I don't see how he can knock that stuff down.* □ *John knocked back two beers in ten minutes.*

knock something off to finish something, especially in haste or carelessly. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *I knocked it off with the help of Bob.* □ *I knocked off the last chapter of my book in four hours.*

knock the props out from under someone to destroy someone's emotional, financial, or moral underpinnings; to destroy someone's confidence. □ *When you told Sally that she was due to be fired, you really knocked the props out from under her.* □ *I don't want to knock the props out*

from under you, but the bank is foreclosing on your mortgage.

know (all) the tricks of the trade to possess the skills and knowledge necessary to do something. □ *Tom can repair car engines. He knows the tricks of the trade.* □ *If I knew all the tricks of the trade, I could be a better plumber.*

know a thing or two (about someone or something) to be well informed about someone or something; to know something unpleasant about someone or something. (Informal.) □ *I know a thing or two about cars.* □ *I know a thing or two about Mary that would really shock you.*

know a trick or two to know some special way of dealing with a problem. □ *I think I can handle all of this with no trouble. I know a trick or two.* □ *I may be a senior citizen, but I still know a trick or two. I think I can help you with this.*

know better (than to do something) to be wise enough, experienced enough, or well trained enough not to have done something wrong. □ *Mary should have known better than to accept a lift from a stranger.* □ *Children should know better than to play in the road.*

know-how knowledge and skill. (Informal.) □ *Peter doesn't have the know-how to mend that car.* □ *Mary hasn't the know-how to work the computer.*

know one's ABCs to know the alphabet; to know the most basic things (about something). □ *Bill can't do it. He doesn't even know his ABCs.* □ *You can't expect to write a letter when you don't even know your ABCs.*

know one's onions Go to **know one's stuff**.

know one's place to know the behavior appropriate to one's position or status in life. (See also **put one in one's place**.) □ *I know my place. I won't speak unless spoken to.* □ *People around here are expected to know their place. You have to follow all the rules.*

know one's stuff AND **know one's onions** to know what one is expected to know; to know what is needed. (Informal or

slang. See also **know the score**.) □ *I know my stuff. I can do my job.* □ *She can't handle the assignment. She doesn't know her onions.*

know one's way about Go to **know one's way around**.

know one's way around AND **know one's way about** to know the techniques of getting something done, especially in a bureaucracy. (Also literal.) □ *Sally can get the job done. She knows her way around.* □ *Since Sally worked at city hall for a year, she really knows her way about.*

know someone by sight to know the name and recognize the face of someone. □ *I've never met the man, but I know him by sight.* □ *BOB: Have you ever met Mary? JANE: No, but I know her by sight.*

know someone or something like a book Go to **know someone or something like the palm of one's hand**.

know someone or something like the back of one's hand Go to **know someone or something like the palm of one's hand**.

know someone or something like the palm of one's hand AND **know someone or something like the back of one's hand**; **know someone or something like a book** to know someone or something very well. □ *Of course I know John. I know him like the back of my hand.* □ *I know him like a book.*

know something backwards and forwards AND **know something forwards and backwards** to know something very well; to know a passage of language so well that one could recite it backwards as well as forwards. □ *Of course I've memorized my speech. I know it backwards and forwards.* □ *Todd knows the skeletal structure of the frog backwards and forwards.*

know something by heart to know something perfectly; to have memorized something perfectly. □ *I know my speech by heart.* □ *I went over and over it until I knew it by heart.*

know something **forwards and backwards** Go to **know** something backwards and forwards.

know something **from memory** to have memorized something so that one does not have to consult a written version; to know something well from seeing it very often. (Almost the same as **know** something by heart.) □ *Mary didn't need the script because she knew the play from memory.* □ *The conductor went through the entire concert without music. He knew it from memory.*

know something **in one's bones** Go to feel something in one's bones.

know something **inside out** to know something thoroughly; to know about something thoroughly. (Informal.) □ *I know my geometry inside out.* □ *I studied and studied for my driver's test until I knew the rules inside out.*

know something **only too well** to know something very well; to know something from unpleasant experience. (Note the variation in the examples below.) □ *I know the problem only too well.* □ *I know only too well the kind of problem you must face.*

know the ropes to know how to do something. (Informal. See also **learn the ropes**.) □ *I can't do the job because I don't know the ropes.* □ *Ask Sally to do it. She knows the ropes.*

know the score AND **know what's what** to know the facts; to know the facts about life and its difficulties. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Bob is so naive. He sure doesn't know the score.* □ *I know what you're trying to do. Oh, yes, I know what's what.*

know what's what Go to know the score.

know when one is not wanted to sense when one presence is not welcome; to know when one is not among friends. (Usually said when someone feels hurt by being ignored by people.) □ *I'm leaving this place! I know when I'm not wanted!* □ *She doesn't know when she's not wanted. Can't she tell she's out of place?*

know where all the bodies are buried to know all the secrets and intrigue; to know all the important details. □ *He is a good choice for president because he knows where all the bodies are buried.* □ *Since he knows where all the bodies are buried, he is the only one who can advise us.*

know whereof one speaks to know well the subject that one is speaking about. □ *You are wrong! You do not know whereof you speak.* □ *He simply doesn't know whereof he speaks.*

know where someone stands (on someone or something) to know what someone thinks or feels about someone or something. □ *I don't know where John stands on this issue.* □ *I don't even know where I stand.*

know which is which AND **tell which is which** to be able to distinguish one person or thing from another person or thing. □ *I have an old one and a new one, but I don't know which is which.* □ *I know that Bill and Bob are twins, but I can't tell which is which.*

know which side one's bread is buttered on to know what is most advantageous for one. □ *He'll do it if his boss tells him to. He knows which side his bread is buttered on.* □ *Since John knows which side his bread is buttered on, he'll be there on time.*

a **known fact** something that is generally recognized as a fact. □ *That grass is green is a known fact.* □ *It is a known fact that John was in Chicago on the night of the murder.*

known it was coming Go to knew it was coming.

a **known quantity** someone whose character, personality, and behavior are recognized and understood. □ *We need not worry about how John will behave. He is a known quantity.* □ *Lisa is a known quantity and I am sure she will not surprise us by voting with the opposition.*

knuckle down (to something) to get busy doing something; to get serious about one's work. (Informal.) □ *It's time you knuckled down to your studies.* □ *Sue must knuckle down if she wants to be successful at the office.*

knuckle under (to someone or something) to submit to someone or something; to yield or give in to someone or something. (Informal.) □ *You have to knuckle under to your boss if you expect to keep your job.* □ *I'm too stubborn to knuckle under.*

L

a **labor of love** a task that is either unpaid or badly paid and that one does simply for one's own satisfaction or pleasure or to please someone whom one likes or loves. □ *Jane made no money out of the biography she wrote. She was writing about the life of a friend and the book was a labor of love.* □ *Mary hates knitting, but she made a sweater for her boyfriend. What a labor of love.*

lace into someone or something **AND light into** someone or something to attack, devour, or scold someone or something. (Informal.) □ *We laced into a big meal of pork and beans.* □ *The bully punched John once, and then John really laced into him.* □ *John lit into him with both fists.* □ *My father really lit into me when I came in late. He yelled at me for ten minutes.*

laid-back relaxed and unperplexed by difficulties. (Slang.) □ *John is so laid-back. Nothing seems to disturb him.* □ *I wish I could be more laid-back. I get so tense.*

laid up immobilized for recuperation or repairs. (Said of people and things.) □ *I was laid up for two weeks after my accident.* □ *My car is laid up for repairs.* □ *I was laid up with the flu for a week.* □ *Todd was laid up for a month.*

the **land of Nod** sleep. (Humorous. Borrowed from the Bible, Gen. 4:16. From the fact that people sometimes nod when they are falling asleep.) □ *The baby is in the land of Nod.* □ *Look at the clock! It's time we were all in the land of Nod.*

land on both feet Go to land on one's feet.

land on one's feet **AND land on both feet** to recover satisfactorily from a trying situation or a setback. (Also literal. As if having fallen. Informal.) □ *Her first year*

was terrible, but she landed on both feet. □ *It's going to be a hard day. I only hope I land on my feet.*

land up somehow **OR** somewhere to finish somehow or somewhere; to come to be in a certain state or place at the end. (Usually in the wrong place or in a bad situation. See also **end up** somewhere.) □ *We set out for Denver but landed up in Salt Lake City.* □ *He's so extravagant that he landed up in debt.*

a **landslide victory** a victory by a large margin; a very substantial victory, particularly in an election. □ *The mayor won a landslide victory in the election.* □ *The younger man won a landslide victory in the presidential election.*

lap something **up** to believe something, especially something untrue. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Did she believe it? She just lapped it up.* □ *I can't imagine why she lapped up that ridiculous story.*

lapse into a coma to go into a coma. □ *The survivor of the crash lapsed into a coma.* □ *Aunt Mary lapsed into a coma and died.*

large as life Go to (as) large as life.

last but not least last in sequence, but not last in importance. (A cliché. Often said when introducing people.) □ *The speaker said, "And now, last but not least, I'd like to present Bill Smith, who will give us some final words."* □ *And last but not least, here is the loser of the race.*

a **last-ditch effort** a final effort; the last possible attempt. □ *I made one last-ditch effort to get her to stay.* □ *It was a last-ditch effort. I didn't expect it to work.*

the **last person** the most unlikely person of whom one could think in a particular situation; the most unlikely person to do something. (Also literal. Preceded by *be*, *become*, or *seem like*.) □ *Bob seems like the last person for Tom to insult. He's so hot-tempered.* □ *Mary was the last person to ask to chair the meeting—she's so shy.*

last will and testament Go to someone's last will and testament.

late in life when one is old. □ *She injured her hip running. She's exercising rather late in life.* □ *Isn't it sort of late in life to buy a house?*

late in the day far along in a project or activity; too late in a project or activity for action, decisions, etc., to be taken. □ *It was a bit late in the day for him to apologize.* □ *It's late in the day to try to change the plans.*

laugh all the way to the bank to be very happy about money that has been earned by doing something that other people might think is unfair. □ *He may not be in the nicest business, but he is doing well and can laugh all the way to the bank.* □ *She makes tons of money doing what no one else will do and laughs all the way to the bank.*

laugh out of the other side of one's mouth to change sharply from happiness to sadness. □ *Now that you know the truth, you'll laugh out of the other side of your mouth.* □ *He was so proud that he won the election. He's laughing out of the other side of his mouth since they recounted the ballots and found out that he lost.*

laugh something off to avoid or reject a serious problem by laughing at it. □ *Tom suffered an injury to his leg, but he laughed it off and kept playing ball.* □ *Mary just laughed off her bad experience.*

laugh something out of court to dismiss something as ridiculous. □ *The committee laughed the suggestion out of court.* □ *Bob's request for a large salary increase was laughed out of court.*

laugh up one's sleeve to laugh secretly; to laugh quietly to oneself. (Informal.) □

Jane looked very serious, but I knew she was laughing up her sleeve. □ *I told Sally that her dress was darling, but I was laughing up my sleeve because it was too small.*

launch forth (on something) Go to set forth (on something); take off (on something).

law unto oneself one who makes one's own laws or rules; one who sets one's own standards of behavior. □ *You can't get Bill to follow the rules. He's a law unto himself.* □ *Jane is a law unto herself. She's totally unwilling to cooperate.*

lay a finger on someone or something to touch someone or something, even slightly. (Usually in the negative. Compare this with **put one's finger on** something.) □ *Don't you dare lay a finger on my pencil. Go get your own!* □ *If you lay a finger on me, I'll scream.*

lay an egg [for someone] to give a bad performance. (Literal with birds and most reptiles. Informal.) □ *The cast of the play really laid an egg last night.* □ *I hope I don't lay an egg when it's my turn to sing.*

lay down one's life (for someone or something) to sacrifice one's life for someone or something. □ *Would you lay down your life for your country?* □ *There aren't many things for which I'd lay down my life.*

lay down on the job Go to lie down on the job.

lay down the law **1.** to state firmly what the rules are (for something). □ *Before the meeting, the boss laid down the law. We all knew exactly what to do.* □ *The way she laid down the law means that I'll remember her rules.* **2.** to scold someone for misbehaving. (Informal.) □ *When the teacher caught us, he really laid down the law.* □ *Poor Bob. He really got it when his mother laid down the law.*

lay eyes on someone or something Go to set eyes on someone or something.

lay hold of someone or something to grasp someone or something with the hands. (Informal. Compare this with **get one's hands on** someone or something; **get (a)hold of** someone or something.) □ *Just wait till I lay hold of Bill!* □ *I can't wait to lay hold*

of that fishing pole. I'm ready to catch a huge fish.

lay into someone or something to attack, consume, or scold someone or something. □ *Bob laid into the big plate of fried chicken.* □ *The bear laid into the hunter.* □ *My father really laid into me when I got home.*

lay it on thick AND **lay it on with a trowel; pour it on thick; spread it on thick** to exaggerate praise, excuses, or blame. □ *Sally was laying it on thick when she said that Tom was the best singer she had ever heard.* □ *After Bob finished making his excuses, Sally said that he was pouring it on thick.* □ *Bob always spreads it on thick.*

lay it on with a trowel Go to lay it on thick.

lay low Go to lie low.

lay off (someone or something) to leave someone or something alone; to stop bothering someone or something; to take it easy (on someone or something). (Slang. See also **lay someone off**.) □ *Lay off Bill. He didn't mean any harm!* □ *Hey! I said lay off!* □ *Lay off the butter. Don't use it all up.*

the **lay of the land** **1.** the arrangement of features on an area of land. □ *The surveyor mapped the lay of the land.* □ *The geologist studied the lay of the land, trying to determine if there was oil below.* **2.** the arrangement or organization of something other than land. □ *As soon as I get the lay of the land in my new job, things will go better.* □ *The company's corporate structure was complex, so understanding the lay of the land took time.*

lay one's cards on the table Go to put one's cards on the table.

lay one's hands on someone or something Go to get one's hands on someone or something.

lay over (somewhere) to pause somewhere during one's journey. (Compare this with **stop over** (somewhere).) □ *I had to lay over in San Antonio for a few hours before my plane left.* □ *I want a bus that goes straight through. I don't want to lay over.*

lay someone away to bury someone. □ *They laid my uncle away last week.* □ *They laid him away with a quiet ceremony.*

lay someone off to put an employee out of work, possibly temporarily. □ *They even laid the president off.* □ *The computer factory laid off two thousand workers.*

lay someone up to cause someone to be ill in bed. □ *A broken leg laid me up for two months.* □ *Flu laid up everyone at work for a week or more.*

lay something by Go to put something by.

lay something in to get something and store it for future use. □ *They laid a lot of food in for the holidays.* □ *We always lay in a large supply of firewood each November.*

lay something on someone to direct blame, guilt, or verbal abuse at someone. (Also literal. Slang. See also **put the blame on** someone or something.) □ *Don't lay that stuff on me! It's not my fault.* □ *The boss is in the conference room laying a lot of anger on the sales staff.*

lay something on the line Go to put something on the line.

lay something to rest Go to put something to rest.

lay something to waste AND **lay waste to** something to destroy an area (literally or figuratively). □ *The invaders laid the village to waste.* □ *The kids came in and laid waste to my clean house.*

lay the blame on someone or something Go to put the blame on someone or something.

lay the finger on someone Go to put the finger on someone.

lay waste to something Go to lay something to waste.

lead a dog's life AND **live a dog's life** to lead a miserable life. □ *Poor Jane really leads a dog's life.* □ *I've been working so hard. I'm tired of living a dog's life.*

lead off to begin; to start (assuming that others will follow). □ *We were waiting for someone to start dancing. Finally, Bob and Jane led off.* □ *The hunter led off, and the dogs followed.* □ *The first baseman will*

lead off as the first batter in the baseball game.

lead someone by the nose to force someone to go somewhere (with you); to lead someone by coercion. (Informal.) ☐ *John had to lead Tom by the nose to get him to the opera.* ☐ *I'll go, but you'll have to lead me by the nose.*

lead someone down the garden path to deceive someone. ☐ *Now, be honest with me. Don't lead me down the garden path.* ☐ *That cheater really led her down the garden path.*

lead someone on a merry chase to lead someone in a purposeless pursuit. ☐ *What a waste of time. You really led me on a merry chase.* ☐ *Jane led Bill on a merry chase trying to find an antique lamp.*

lead someone to believe something to imply something to someone; to cause someone to believe something untrue, without lying. ☐ *But you led me to believe that this watch was guaranteed!* ☐ *Did you lead her to believe that she was hired as a clerk?*

lead someone to do something to cause someone to do something. ☐ *This agent led me to purchase a worthless piece of land.* ☐ *My illness led me to quit my job.*

lead the life of Riley to live in luxury. (Informal. No one knows who Riley is.) ☐ *If I had a million dollars, I could live the life of Riley.* ☐ *The treasurer took our money to Mexico, where he lived the life of Riley until the police caught him.*

lead up to something to prepare the way for something. ☐ *His compliments were his way of leading up to asking for money.* ☐ *What were his actions leading up to?*

a **leading question** a question that suggests the kind of answer that the person who asks it wants to hear. ☐ *The mayor was angered by the reporter's leading questions.* ☐ *"Don't you think that the police are failing to stop crime?" is an example of a leading question.*

leaf through something Go to thumb through something.

leak something (out) AND **let something (get) out** to disclose special information to the

press so that the resulting publicity will accomplish something. (Also literal. Usually said of government disclosures. Also used for accidental disclosures.) ☐ *Don't leak that information out.* ☐ *I don't want to be the one to leak it.* ☐ *They let it get out on purpose.*

lean on someone to try to make someone do something; to coerce someone to do something. (Also literal. Informal.) ☐ *If she refuses to do it, lean on her a bit.* ☐ *Don't lean on me! I don't have to do it if I don't want to.*

lean over backwards (to do something) Go to fall over backwards (to do something).

lean toward doing something to tend toward doing something; to favor doing something. ☐ *The union is leaning toward accepting the proposal.* ☐ *My friends leaned toward swimming instead of shopping.*

leap at the opportunity Go to jump at the chance.

leap to conclusions Go to jump to conclusions.

learn something by heart to learn something so well that it can be written or recited without thinking; to memorize something. ☐ *The director told me to learn my speech by heart.* ☐ *I had to go over it many times before I learned it by heart.*

learn something by rote to learn something by memorizing without giving any thought to what is being learned. ☐ *I learned history by rote; then I couldn't pass the test that required me to think.* ☐ *If you learn things by rote, you'll never understand them.*

learn something from the bottom up to learn something thoroughly, from the very beginning; to learn all aspects of something, even the least important ones. ☐ *I learned my business from the bottom up.* ☐ *I started out sweeping the floors and learned everything from the bottom up.*

learn (something) the hard way AND **find (something) out the hard way** to learn something by experience, especially by an unpleasant experience. ☐ *She learned how to make investments the hard way.* ☐

I wish I didn't have to learn things the hard way. □ I found out the hard way that it's difficult to work and go to school at the same time. □ Investing in real estate is tricky. I found that out the hard way.

learn the ropes to learn how to do something; to learn how to work something. (Informal. See also **know the ropes**; **show someone the ropes**.) □ *I'll be able to do my job very well as soon as I learn the ropes. □ John is very slow to learn the ropes.*

learn to live with something to learn to adapt to something unpleasant or painful. (See also **have to live with** something.) □ *Finally the doctor told Marion that she was going to have to learn to live with her arthritis. □ The floor plan of the house we bought is not as handy as we had thought, but we will learn to live with it.*

least of all least; of smallest importance. (Informal.) □ *There were many things wrong with the new house. Least of all, the water faucets leaked. □ What a bad day. Many things went wrong, but least of all, I tore my shirt.*

leave a bad taste in someone's mouth [for someone or something] to leave a bad feeling or memory with someone. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *The whole business about the missing money left a bad taste in his mouth. □ It was a very nice party, but something about it left a bad taste in my mouth. □ I'm sorry that Bill was there. He always leaves a bad taste in my mouth.*

leave a lot to be desired to be lacking something important; to be inadequate. (A polite way of saying that something is bad.) □ *This report leaves a lot to be desired. □ I'm sorry to have to fire you, Mary, but your work leaves a lot to be desired.*

leave a sinking ship Go to desert a sinking ship.

leave no stone unturned to search in all possible places. (Refers to finding something under a rock.) □ *Don't worry. We'll find your stolen car. We'll leave no stone unturned. □ In searching for a nice place to live, we left no stone unturned.*

leave oneself wide open for something **AND** **leave oneself wide open to** something to invite criticism or joking about oneself; to fail to protect oneself from criticism or ridicule. □ *Yes, that was a harsh remark, Jane, but you left yourself wide open to it. □ I can't complain about your joke. I left myself wide open for it.*

leave oneself wide open to something Go to **leave oneself wide open** for something.

leave one's mark on someone [for someone like a teacher] to affect the behavior and performance of another person. □ *The wise professor left her mark on her students. □ My father left his mark on me, and I will always remember all his good advice.*

leave one to one's fate to abandon someone to whatever may happen—possibly death or some other unpleasant event. □ *We couldn't rescue the miners, and we were forced to leave them to their fate. □ Please don't try to help. Just go away and leave me to my fate.*

leave someone flat **1.** to fail to entertain or stimulate someone. (Informal.) □ *Your joke left me flat. □ We listened carefully to his lecture, but it left us flat. 2.* to leave someone without any money—**flat broke**. □ *Paying all my bills left me flat. □ The robber took all my money and left me flat. 3.* to leave someone completely alone. □ *I was at the dance with Harry, but when he met Alice, he left me flat. □ They just walked off and left us flat.*

leave someone for dead to abandon someone as being dead. (The abandoned person may actually be alive.) □ *He looked so bad that they almost left him for dead. □ As the soldiers turned—leaving the enemy captain for dead—the captain fired at them.*

leave someone high and dry **1.** to leave someone unsupported and unable to maneuver; to leave someone helpless. (Also literal. See also **high and dry**.) □ *All my workers quit and left me high and dry. □ All the children ran away and left Billy high and dry to take the blame for the broken window. 2.* to leave someone flat

broke. ☐ *Mrs. Franklin took all the money out of the bank and left Mr. Franklin high and dry.* ☐ *Paying the bills always leaves me high and dry.*

leave someone holding the bag to leave someone to take all the blame; to leave someone appearing guilty. (Also literal. Informal.) ☐ *They all ran off and left me holding the bag. It wasn't even my fault.* ☐ *It was the mayor's fault, but he wasn't left holding the bag.*

leave someone in peace to stop bothering someone; to go away and leave someone alone. (Does not necessarily mean to go away from a person.) ☐ *Please go—leave me in peace.* ☐ *Can't you see that you're upsetting her? Leave her in peace.*

leave someone in the lurch to leave someone waiting for or anticipating your actions. ☐ *Where were you, John? You really left me in the lurch.* ☐ *I didn't mean to leave you in the lurch. I thought we had canceled our meeting.*

leave someone or something hanging in midair AND **keep someone or something hanging in midair** to suspend dealing with someone or something; to leave someone or something waiting to be finished or continued. (Also literal.) ☐ *She left her sentence hanging in midair.* ☐ *She left us hanging in midair when she paused.* ☐ *Tell me the rest of the story. Don't leave me hanging in midair.* ☐ *Don't leave the story hanging in midair.*

leave someone or something in one's hands to give one control of or responsibility for someone or something. ☐ *You left the whole project in my hands!* ☐ *I have to leave the care of baby in your hands while I go to the doctor.*

leave someone out in the cold to fail to inform someone; to exclude someone. (Also literal. Informal. Compare this with the previous entry.) ☐ *I don't know what's going on. They left me out in the cold.* ☐ *Tom wasn't invited. They left him out in the cold.*

leave something on to leave something running or operating. (Also literal in reference to wearing clothes.) ☐ *Please don't*

leave the light on. ☐ *Ann went to school and left her radio on.*

leave something open to leave a date or time unscheduled. ☐ *I left something open on Friday, just in case we want to leave work early.* ☐ *Please leave an appointment open for Mrs. Wallace next week. She will be calling in to our office for an appointment.*

leave well enough alone Go to let well enough alone.

leave word (with someone) to leave a message with someone (who will pass the message on to someone else). ☐ *If you decide to go to the convention, please leave word with my secretary.* ☐ *Leave word before you go.* ☐ *I left word with your brother. Didn't he give you the message?*

left and right Go to right and left.

lend a hand (to someone) Go to lend (someone) a hand.

lend an ear (to someone) to listen to someone. ☐ *Lend an ear to John. Hear what he has to say.* ☐ *I'd be delighted to lend an ear. I find great wisdom in everything John has to say.*

lend color to something to provide an interesting accompaniment for something. ☐ *Your clever comments lent a great deal of color to the slide show of your vacation.* ☐ *The excellent master of ceremonies will lend color to an otherwise dry and uninteresting dance recital.*

lend oneself or itself to something [for someone or something] to be adaptable to something; [for someone or something] to be useful for something. ☐ *This room doesn't lend itself to bright colors.* ☐ *John doesn't lend himself to casual conversation.*

lend (someone) a hand AND **lend a hand (to someone)** to give someone some help, not necessarily with the hands. ☐ *Could you lend me a hand with this piano? I need to move it across the room.* ☐ *Could you lend a hand with this math assignment?* ☐ *I'd be happy to lend a hand.*

less than pleased displeased. ☐ *We were less than pleased to learn of your comments.* ☐ *Bill was less than pleased at the outcome of the election.*

the **lesser (of the two)** the smaller one (of two); the one having the least amount.

□ *The last two pieces of pie were not quite the same size, and I chose the lesser of the two.* □ *Faced with a basket containing too much and one with too little, Tom chose the lesser.*

the **lesser of two evils** the less bad thing, of a pair of bad things. □ *I didn't like either politician, so I voted for the lesser of two evils.* □ *Given the options of going out with someone I don't like and staying home and watching a boring television program, I chose the lesser of the two evils and watched television.*

let alone someone or something not to mention or think of someone or something; not even to take someone or something into account. □ *Do I have a dollar? I don't even have a dime, let alone a dollar.* □ *I didn't invite John, let alone the rest of his family.*

Let bygones be bygones. One should forget the problems of the past. (Proverb.) □ *Okay, Sally, let bygones be bygones. Let's forgive and forget.* □ *Jane was unwilling to let bygones be bygones. She still won't speak to me.*

let go of someone or something to release someone or something. □ *Please let go of me!* □ *Don't let go of the steering wheel.*

let go (with something) AND cut loose (with something); let loose (with something) to shout something out or expel something; to shout or express something wildly. (Slang.) □ *The audience cut loose with a loud cheer.* □ *The whole team let go with a loud shout.* □ *John let loose with a horrendous belch.* □ *I wish you wouldn't let loose like that!*

let grass grow under one's feet to do nothing; to stand still. □ *Mary doesn't let the grass grow under her feet. She's always busy.* □ *Bob is too lazy. He's letting the grass grow under his feet.*

let her rip AND **let it roll** to go ahead and start something; let something begin. (Informal or slang. Her is usually 'er.) □ *When Bill was ready for John to start the engine, he said, "Okay, John, let 'er rip."* □

When Sally heard Bob say "Let 'er rip," she let the anchor go to the bottom of the lake.

□ *Let's go, Bill. Let it roll!*

let it all hang out to tell or reveal everything and hold back nothing (because one is relaxed or carefree). (Also literal. Slang.) □ *Sally has no secrets. She lets it all hang out all the time.* □ *Relax, John. Let it all hang out.*

Let it go. Forget it.; Stop worrying about it. □ *Don't get so angry about it. Let it go.* □ *Let it go. Stop fretting.*

let it roll Go to let her rip.

let loose (with something) Go to let go (with something).

let off steam AND **blow off steam** [for someone] to release excess energy or anger. (Also literal in the case of steam engines. Informal.) □ *Whenever John gets a little angry, he blows off steam.* □ *Don't worry about John. He's just letting off steam.*

let oneself go to become less constrained; to get excited and have a good time. □ *I love to dance and just let myself go.* □ *Let yourself go, John. Learn to enjoy life.*

let one's emotions show to be emotional, especially where it is not appropriate. □ *I'm sorry for the outburst. I didn't mean to let my emotions show.* □ *Please stop crying. You mustn't let your emotions show.*

let one's hair down to become more intimate and begin to speak frankly. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Come on, Jane, let your hair down and tell me all about it.* □ *I have a problem. Do you mind if I let down my hair?*

let out some kind of sound [for a living creature] to make some kind of a noise or sound. □ *Be quiet. Don't let out a sound!* □ *Suddenly, Jane let out a shriek.*

Let sleeping dogs lie. One should not search for trouble and one should leave well enough alone. (Proverb.) □ *Don't mention that problem with Tom again. It's almost forgotten. Let sleeping dogs lie.* □ *You'll never be able to reform Bill. Leave him alone. Let sleeping dogs lie.*

let someone down to disappoint someone; to fail someone. (Also literal.) □ *I'm sorry I let you down. Something came up, and I couldn't meet you.* □ *I don't want to let you down, but I can't support you in the election.*

let someone go to dismiss someone from employment; to fire someone. □ *John was not working out as well as we had hoped, and we had to let him go.* □ *They let a number of the older workers go and were faced with an age discrimination suit.*

let someone have it (with both barrels) to strike someone or attack someone verbally. (Refers to firing a shotgun. Informal. *With both barrels* intensifies the phrase. Refers to the firing a double-barreled shotgun.) □ *I really let Tom have it with both barrels. I told him he had better not do that again if he knows what's good for him.* □ *Bob let John have it—with both barrels.*

let someone in on something to tell someone the secret. (Informal. *The something* can be a *plan, arrangements, scheme, trick*, or anything else that might be kept a secret.) □ *Should we let John in on the secret?* □ *Please let me in on the plan.*

let someone know (about something) to tell someone something; to inform someone of something. □ *Please let me know about it soon.* □ *Will you be coming to the picnic? Please let me know.*

let someone off easy Go to **let someone or something off**.

let someone off (the hook) to release someone from a responsibility. □ *Please let me off the hook for Saturday. I have other plans.* □ *Okay, I'll let you off.*

let someone or something off 1. AND **let someone off easy** [with *someone*] to release or dismiss someone without punishment. (See also **get off easy**.) □ *The judge didn't let me off.* □ *The judge let off Mary with a warning.* **2.** [with *someone*] to permit someone to disembark or leave a means of transportation. □ *The driver let Mary off the bus.* □ *"I can't let you off at this corner," said the driver.* **3.** [with *something*] to release something; to give

something off. □ *The engine was letting off some kind of smoke.* □ *The flower let off a wonderful smell.*

let something (get) out Go to **leak something (out)**.

let something pass to let something go unnoticed or unchallenged. □ *Bob let Bill's insult pass because he didn't want to argue.* □ *Don't worry, I'll let this little incident pass.*

let something ride to allow something to continue or remain as it is. (Informal.) □ *It isn't the best plan, but we'll let it ride.* □ *I disagree with you, but I'll let it ride.*

let something slide to neglect something. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *John let his lessons slide.* □ *Jane doesn't let her work slide.*

let something slide by Go to **let something slip by**.

let something slip by AND **let something slide by 1.** to forget or miss an important time or date. (Also literal.) □ *I'm sorry I just let your birthday slip by.* □ *I let it slide by accidentally.* **2.** to waste a period of time. □ *You wasted the whole day by letting it slip by.* □ *We were having fun, and we let the time slide by.*

let something slip (out) to tell a secret by accident. (Also literal.) □ *I didn't let it slip out on purpose. It was an accident.* □ *John let the plans slip when he was talking to Bill.*

Let the buyer beware. The person who buys something should investigate the goods or property thoroughly for damage or suitability. (Proverb.) □ *Be careful when buying things from street vendors. Let the buyer beware.* □ *It's the purchaser's job to make sure the goods are ok. Let the buyer beware.*

let the cat out of the bag AND **spill the beans** to reveal a secret or a surprise by accident. (Also literal.) □ *When Bill glanced at the door, he let the cat out of the bag. We knew then that he was expecting someone to arrive.* □ *We are planning a surprise party for Jane. Don't let the cat out*

of the bag. ☐ *It's a secret. Try not to spill the beans.*

let the chance slip by to lose the opportunity (to do something). ☐ *When I was younger, I wanted to become a doctor, but I let the chance slip by.* ☐ *Don't let the chance slip by. Do it now!*

let things slide to ignore the things that one is supposed to do; to fall behind in the doing of one's work. (Also literal.) ☐ *I am afraid that I have let things slide while I was recovering from my operation.* ☐ *If I let things slide for even one day, I get hopelessly behind in my work.*

let up (on someone or something) to take the pressure off someone or something; to take it easy (on someone or something). ☐ *Please let up on me. I can't work any faster, and you're making me nervous.* ☐ *Let up on the project. You're working too hard.* ☐ *Yes, I guess I had better let up.*

let us do something we will do something [together]. (A gentle command. More formal than *let's*.) ☐ *Let us go in peace.* ☐ *Let us bow our heads in prayer.*

let well enough alone AND **leave well enough alone** to leave things as they are (and not try to improve them). ☐ *There isn't much more you can accomplish here. Why don't you just let well enough alone?* ☐ *This is as good as I can do. I'll stop and leave well enough alone.*

Let's do lunch. Let's have lunch together sometime. (Informal.) ☐ *Some time next week, let's do lunch.* ☐ *Can't talk to you now. Let's do lunch sometime.*

level something at someone to aim a remark at someone; to direct something at someone. ☐ *John leveled a sarcastic comment at his teacher.* ☐ *The editorial leveled its remarks at the mayor.*

level with someone to be honest with someone. (Slang.) ☐ *Come on, Bill. Level with me. Did you do it?* ☐ *I'm leveling with you. I wasn't even in town. I couldn't have done it.*

license to do something permission, right, or justification to do something. ☐ *You have no license to behave in that manner!* ☐

Who granted you license to enter my house without knocking?

a **lick of work** [not even] a bit of work. (Usually in the negative.) ☐ *I couldn't get her to do a lick of work all day long!* ☐ *The boys didn't do a lick of work while you were away.*

lick one's chops to show one's eagerness to do something, especially to eat something. (Refers to the licking of one's lips in expectation of eating. Some animals, but not people, really do lick their chops.) ☐ *We could tell from the way the boys were licking their chops that they really wanted a turn at riding the motorcycle.* ☐ *Fred started licking his chops when he smelled the turkey roasting in the oven.*

lick one's lips to show eagerness or pleasure about a future event. (Also literal. Informal. From the habit of people licking their lips when they are about to enjoy eating something.) ☐ *The children licked their lips at the sight of the cake.* ☐ *The author's readers were licking their lips in anticipation of her new novel.* ☐ *The journalist was licking his lips when he went off to interview the disgraced politician.*

lick something into shape AND **whip something into shape** to put something into good condition. (Informal.) ☐ *I have to lick this report into shape this morning.* ☐ *Let's all lend a hand and whip this house into shape. It's a mess.*

lie down on the job AND **lay down on the job** to do one's job poorly or not at all. (Lay is a common error for lie.) ☐ *Tom was fired because he was laying down on the job.* ☐ *You mean he was lying down on the job, don't you?* ☐ *Sorry, I was lying down on the job in English class.*

lie fallow 1. [for land] to remain unused. ☐ *Each year we let a different section of our farmland lie fallow.* ☐ *The land that is lying fallow this year will be cultivated next year.* **2.** [for a skill and talent] to remain unused and neglected. ☐ *You should not let your talent lie fallow. Practice the piano before you forget how to play it.* ☐ *His writing had lain fallow for so long that he could hardly write a proper sentence.*

lie in state [for a corpse] to be on display in a public place. □ *The dead leader lay in state for three days in the country's main city.* □ *While the king lay in state, many people walked by and paid their respects.*

lie in wait for someone or something to wait quietly in ambush for someone or something. □ *The lion lay in wait for the zebra.* □ *The robber was lying in wait for a victim.*

lie low AND **lay low** to keep quiet and not be noticed; to avoid being conspicuous. (Informal. *Lay* is a common error for *lie*.) □ *I suggest you lie low for a few days.* □ *The robber said that he would lay low for a short time after the robbery.*

lie through one's teeth to lie boldly. □ *I knew she was lying through her teeth, but I didn't want to say so just then.* □ *I'm not lying through my teeth! I never do!*

life is too short life is short and there is no point in wasting it on things like worry, hatred, vengeance, etc. □ *I am not going to spend any more time trying to get even with Wally. Life's too short.* □ *It's a waste of time worrying about money. Life is too short for that.*

the **life of the party** the type of person who is lively and helps make a party fun and exciting. □ *Bill is always the life of the party. Be sure to invite him.* □ *Bob isn't exactly the life of the party, but he's polite.*

Life's been good (to me). I am grateful that I am doing well in life. □ *I can't complain. Life's been good to me.* □ *I doing fine. Life's been good.*

lift a hand (against someone or something) AND **raise a hand (against someone or something)** to threaten (to strike) someone or something. (Often in the negative. The *a hand* can be replaced with *one's hand*.) □ *She's very peaceful. She wouldn't lift a hand against a fly.* □ *That's right. She wouldn't lift a hand.* □ *Would you raise your hand against your own brother?*

light as a feather Go to (as) light as a feather.

light into someone or something Go to lace into someone or something.

light out (for somewhere) to depart in haste for somewhere. (Informal.) □ *The bus pulled away and lit out for the next stop.* □ *It's time I lit out for home.* □ *I should have lit out ten minutes ago.*

light out (of somewhere) to depart somewhere in haste. (Informal.) □ *It's time I lit out of here. I'm late for my next appointment.* □ *Look at that horse go. He really lit out of the starting gate.*

Lightning never strikes twice (in the same place). It is extremely unlikely that the same misfortune will occur again in the same set of circumstances or to the same people. (Proverb.) □ *Ever since the fire, Jean has been afraid that her house will catch fire again, but they say that lightning never strikes twice.* □ *Supposedly lightning never strikes twice, but the Smiths' house has been robbed twice this year.*

like a bat out of hell with great speed and force. (Use caution with *hell*.) □ *Did you see her leave? She left like a bat out of hell.* □ *The car sped down the street like a bat out of hell.*

like a bolt out of the blue suddenly and without warning. (Refers to a bolt of lightning coming out of a clear blue sky. See also **out of a clear blue sky**.) □ *The news came to us like a bolt out of the blue.* □ *Like a bolt out of the blue, the boss came and fired us all.*

like a bump on a log unresponsive; immobile. □ *I spoke to him, but he just sat there like a bump on a log.* □ *Don't stand there like a bump on a log. Give me a hand!*

like a fish out of water appearing to be completely out of place; in a very awkward manner. □ *Vincent stood there in his rented tuxedo, looking like a fish out of water.* □ *Whenever I am with your friends, I feel like a fish out of water. What on earth do you see in them—or me?* □ *At a formal dance, John is like a fish out of water.*

like a house afire Go to like a house on fire.

like a house on fire AND **like a house afire** rapidly and with force. (Folksy.) □ *The truck came roaring down the road like a house on fire.* □ *The crowd burst through the gate like a house afire.*

(like) an open book like someone or something that is easy to understand. (Preceded by *be* or *seem*.) □ *Jane's an open book. I always know what she is going to do next.* □ *The committee's intentions are an open book. They want to save money.*

like a sitting duck AND **like sitting ducks** unguarded; unsuspecting and unaware. (The second phrase is the plural form. See also **be a sitting duck**.) □ *He was waiting there like a sitting duck—a perfect target for a mugger.* □ *The soldiers were standing at the top of the hill like sitting ducks. It's a wonder they weren't all killed.*

like a three-ring circus chaotic; exciting and busy. □ *Our household is like a three-ring circus on Monday mornings.* □ *This meeting is like a three-ring circus. Quiet down and listen!*

like crazy AND **like mad** furiously; very much, fast, many, or actively. (Slang.) □ *People are coming in here like crazy. There isn't enough room for them all.* □ *We sold ice cream like crazy. It was a very hot day.* □ *When she stubbed her toe, she started screaming like mad.*

like greased lightning very fast. (Folksy. Informal. See also **(as) quick as greased lightning**.) □ *He left the room like greased lightning.* □ *They fled the burning building like greased lightning.*

like it or lump it either accept it or drop dead. (Slang and fairly rude.) □ *I don't care whether you care for my attitude or not. You can just like it or lump it.* □ *This is all the food you get. Like it or lump it!*

Like it's such a big deal! It really isn't all that important! (Informal. Sarcastic.) □ *So I dropped the glass. Like it's such a big deal.* □ *Like it's such a big deal. Who cares?*

like lambs to the slaughter quietly and without seeming to realize or complain about the likely difficulties or dangers of a situation. □ *Young men fighting in*

World War I simply went like lambs to the slaughter. □ *Our team went on the football field like lambs to the slaughter to meet the league-leaders.*

like looking for a needle in a haystack engaged in a hopeless search. □ *Trying to find a white dog in the snow is like looking for a needle in a haystack.* □ *I tried to find my lost contact lens on the beach, but it was like looking for a needle in a haystack.*

like mad Go to **like crazy**.

like nothing on earth 1. very untidy or very unattractive. (Informal.) □ *Joan arrived at the office looking like nothing on earth. She had fallen in the mud.* □ *Alice was like nothing on earth in that electric yellow dress.* 2. very unusual; otherworldly. □ *The new car models look like nothing on earth this year.* □ *This cake is so good! It's like nothing on earth!*

like one of the family as if someone (or a pet) were a member of one's family. (Informal.) □ *We treat our dog like one of the family.* □ *We are very happy to have you stay with us, Bill. I hope you don't mind if we treat you like one of the family.*

like sitting ducks Go to **like a sitting duck**.

like to hear oneself talk [for someone] to enjoy one's talking more than other people enjoy listening to it. □ *I guess I don't really have anything to say. I just like to hear myself talk, I guess.* □ *There he goes again. He just likes to hear himself talk.*

like (two) peas in a pod very close or intimate. (Compare this with **as alike as (two) peas in a pod**.) □ *Yes, they're close. Like two peas in a pod.* □ *They're always together. Like peas in a pod.*

like water off a duck's back easily; without any apparent effect. □ *Insults rolled off John like water off a duck's back.* □ *The bullets had no effect on the steel door. They fell away like water off a duck's back.*

likely as not Go to **(as) likely as not**.

the **likes of** someone someone; anyone like someone. (Informal. Almost always in a negative sense.) □ *I don't like Bob. I*

wouldn't do anything for the likes of him.
☐ Nobody wants the likes of him around.

the **line of least resistance** the course of action that will cause least trouble or effort. (Compare this with **path of least resistance**.) ☐ *Jane won't stand up for her rights. She always takes the line of least resistance.* ☐ *Joan never states her point of view. She takes the line of least resistance and agrees with everyone else.*

line one's own pockets to make money for oneself in a greedy or dishonest fashion. (Slang.) ☐ *When it was discovered that the sales manager was lining her own pockets with commissions, she was fired.* ☐ *If you line your pockets while in public office, you'll get in serious trouble.*

line someone or something up with something to position someone or something (or a group) in reference to other things. (See also **fix someone up** (with someone or something).) ☐ *Please line the chairs up with the floor tiles.* ☒ *Line up this brick with the bricks below and at both sides. That's the way you lay bricks.* ☒ *Line up the boys with the row of trees.*

line someone up (for something) to schedule someone for something; to arrange for someone to do or be something. ☐ *I lined gardeners up for the summer work on the gardens.* ☒ *I lined up four of my best friends to serve as ushers at my wedding.*

line someone up with someone Go to fix someone up with someone.

the **lion's share (of something)** the larger share of something. ☐ *The elder boy always takes the lion's share of the food.* ☐ *Jim was supposed to divide the cake in two equal pieces but he took the lion's share.*

listen to reason to yield to a reasonable argument; to take the reasonable course. ☐ *Please listen to reason, and don't do something you'll regret.* ☐ *She got into trouble because she wouldn't listen to reason.*

litmus test a question or experiment that seeks to determine the state of one important factor. ☐ *His performance on the long exam served as a litmus test to determine whether he would go to college.* ☐

The amount of white cells in my blood became the litmus test for diagnosing my disease.

A **little bird told me** learned from a mysterious or secret source. (Often given as an evasive answer to someone who asks how you learned something. Rude in some circumstances.) ☐ *"All right," said Mary, "where did you get that information?" John replied, "A little bird told me."* ☐ *A little bird told me where I might find you.*

a **little bit** a small amount; some. ☐ *Can I have a little bit of candy?* ☐ *I need a little bit of time to finish this essay.*

little by little slowly, a bit at a time. ☐ *Little by little, he began to understand what we were talking about.* ☐ *The snail crossed the stone little by little.*

A **little (hard) work never hurt anyone.** AND A **little (hard) work never killed anyone.** One should expect to do hard or difficult work and not avoid doing it. (Proverb.) ☐ *Go help your father with the yard work. A little hard work never hurt anyone.* ☐ *Go ahead. Bring me some more bricks. A little work never killed anyone.*

A **little (hard) work never killed anyone.** Go to A little (hard) work never hurt anyone.

A **little knowledge is a dangerous thing.** Incomplete knowledge can embarrass or harm someone or something. ☐ *The doctor said, "Just because you've had a course in first aid, you shouldn't have treated your own illness. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing."* ☐ *John thought he knew how to take care of the garden, but he killed all the flowers. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.*

live a dog's life Go to lead a dog's life.

live a life of something to have a life of a certain quality or style. ☐ *The movie star lived a life of luxury.* ☐ *After Anne won the lottery, she lived the life of a queen.*

live and learn to increase one's knowledge by experience. (Also informal and folksy. Usually said when one is surprised to learn something.) ☐ *I didn't know that*

snakes could swim. Well, live and learn! □ *John didn't know he should water his houseplants a little extra in the dry winter months. When they all died, he said, "Live and learn."*

live and let live not to interfere with other people's business or preferences. □ *I don't care what they do! Live and let live, I always say.* □ *Your parents are strict. Mine just live and let live.*

live beyond one's means to spend more money than one can afford. (Compare this with **live within one's means**.) □ *The Browns are deeply in debt because they are living beyond their means.* □ *I keep a budget so that I don't live beyond my means.*

live by one's wits to survive by being clever. □ *When you're in the kind of business I'm in, you have to live by your wits.* □ *John was orphaned at the age of ten and grew up living by his wits.*

live for the moment to live without planning for the future. □ *John has no health or life insurance. He lives only for the moment.* □ *When you're young, you tend to live for the moment and not plan for your future security.*

live from hand to mouth to live in poor circumstances. (Informal.) □ *When both my parents were out of work, we lived from hand to mouth.* □ *We lived from hand to mouth during the war. Things were very difficult.*

live happily ever after to live in happiness after a specific event. (Usually found at the end of fairy tales.) □ *The prince and the princess lived happily ever after.* □ *They went away from the horrible haunted castle and lived happily ever after.*

live high off the hog AND **live high on the hog** to live well and eat good food. (Folksy. Note the variation with *pretty*. See also **eat high on the hog**.) □ *After they discovered oil on their land, they lived pretty high on the hog.* □ *Looks like we're living high off the hog tonight. What's the occasion?*

live high on the hog Go to live high off the hog.

live in to live at the residence at which one works. (Said of servants.) □ *In order to be here early enough to prepare breakfast, the cook has to live in.* □ *Mr. Simpson has a valet, but he doesn't live in.*

live in an ivory tower to be aloof from the realities of living. (*Live* can be replaced by a number of expressions meaning "to dwell or spend time," as in the first example.) □ *If you didn't spend so much time in your ivory tower, you'd know what people really think!* □ *Many professors are said to live in ivory towers. They don't know what the real world is like.*

live it up to have an exciting time; to do what one pleases—regardless of cost—to please oneself. □ *At the party, John was really living it up.* □ *Come on! Have fun! Live it up!* □ *They spent a week in Mexico living it up and then came home broke.*

live off the fat of the land to grow one's own food; to live on stored-up resources or abundant resources. □ *If I had a million dollars, I'd invest it and live off the fat of the land.* □ *I'll be happy to retire soon and live off the fat of the land.* □ *Many farmers live off the fat of the land.*

live on borrowed time to live longer than circumstances warrant. □ *John has a terminal disease, and he's living on borrowed time.* □ *This project is living on borrowed time. It is overdue for completion.*

live out of a suitcase to live briefly in a place, never unpacking one's luggage. □ *I hate living out of a suitcase. For my next vacation, I want to go to just one place and stay there the whole time.* □ *We were living out of suitcases in a motel while they repaired the damage the fire caused to our house.*

live something down to overcome the shame or embarrassment of something. □ *You'll live it down someday.* □ *Max will never be able to live down what happened at the party last night.*

live through something to endure something. □ *I thought I'd never be able to live through the lecture. It was so boring.* □ *I just can't live through another day like this.*

live up to one's end of the bargain to carry through on a bargain; to do as was promised in a bargain. □ *You can't quit now. You have to live up to your end of the bargain.* □ *Bob isn't living up to his end of the bargain, so I am going to sue him.*

live up to something to fulfill expectations; to satisfy a set of goals. (Often with *one's reputation, promise, word, standards*, etc.) □ *I hope I can live up to my reputation.* □ *The class lives up to its reputation of being exciting and interesting.* □ *He never lives up to his promises.* □ *She was unable to live up to her own high standards.*

live within one's means to spend no more money than one has. (Compare this with **live beyond one's means**.) □ *We have to struggle to live within our means, but we manage.* □ *John is unable to live within his means.*

loaded for bear **1.** angry. (Slang and folksy.) □ *He left here in a rage. He was really loaded for bear.* □ *When I got home from work, I was really loaded for bear. What a horrible day!* **2.** drunk. (An elaboration of *loaded*, which means "drunk." Slang and folksy.) □ *By the end of the party, Bill was loaded for bear.* □ *The whole gang drank for an hour until they were loaded for bear.*

lock horns (with someone) to get into an argument with someone. (Informal.) □ *Let's settle this peacefully. I don't want to lock horns with the boss.* □ *The boss doesn't want to lock horns either.*

lock something in to make something, such as a rate of interest, permanent over a period of time. (Informal.) □ *We locked in an 11 percent rate on our mortgage.* □ *You should try to lock in a high percentage rate on your bonds.*

lock, stock, and barrel everything. □ *We had to move everything out of the house—lock, stock, and barrel.* □ *We lost everything—lock, stock, and barrel—in the fire.*

long and (the) short of it the whole story; all the necessary facts. □ *I was late and I missed my train, and that's the long and short of it.* □ *Soon after the big green frog turned into a handsome prince, Princess*

Ellen and her newfound love went to live happily ever after in a kingdom by the sea, and that's the long and the short of it.

Long time no see. I have not seen you for a long time. (Informal.) □ *Hello, John. Long time no see.* □ *When John and Mary met on the street, they both said, "Long time no see."*

look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth to appear to be cold and unfeeling (despite any information to the contrary). □ *Sally looks as if butter wouldn't melt in her mouth. She can be so cruel.* □ *What a sour face. He looks as if butter wouldn't melt in his mouth.*

look at someone cross-eyed to do something slightly provocative. (Informal.) □ *Bob is very excitable. He'd lose his temper if anyone so much as looked at him cross-eyed.* □ *Don't even look cross-eyed at the boss this morning unless you want trouble.*

look daggers at someone to give someone a dirty look. (Compare this with **look at** someone **cross-eyed**.) □ *Tom must have been mad at Ann from the way he was looking daggers at her.* □ *Don't you dare look daggers at me! Don't even look cross-eyed at me!*

look down one's nose at someone or something Go to **look down on** someone or something.

look down on someone or something **AND look down one's nose at** someone or something to regard someone or something with contempt or displeasure. (Also literal.) □ *I think that John liked Mary, although he did seem to look down on her.* □ *Don't look down your nose at my car just because it's rusty and noisy.*

look for trouble Go to ask for trouble.

look forward to something to anticipate something with pleasure. □ *I'm really looking forward to your visit next week.* □ *We all look forward to your new book on gardening.*

look good on paper seems fine in theory, but not perhaps in practice; appears to be a good plan. □ *The plan looks good on paper, but it may not work.* □ *This looks good*

on paper. Let's hope it works in the real world.

look high and low (for someone or something)

Go to hunt high and low (for someone or something).

look in (on someone or something) AND check in (on someone or something)

to see to the welfare of someone or something; to visit someone or something. □ *I'll stop by your house and look in on things while you're on vacation.* □ *Yes, just look in and make sure nothing is wrong.* □ *I checked in on John yesterday. He's almost over his illness.* □ *He was glad I checked in.*

look into something AND check into something; see into something

to investigate something. □ *I'll have to look into that matter.* □ *The police checked into her story.* □ *Don't worry about your problem. I'll see into it.*

look like a million dollars

to look very good. □ *Oh, Sally, you look like a million dollars.* □ *Your new hairdo looks like a million dollars.*

look like death warmed over

to look quite ill; to look as pale as a dead person. □ *Poor Tom had quite a shock. He looks like death warmed over.* □ *After her long ordeal with chemotherapy, she looked like death warmed over.*

look like something to give the appearance of predicting (something).

□ *The sky looks like rain.* □ *No, it looks like snow.* □ *Oh, oh. This looks like trouble. Let's go.*

look like something the cat dragged in

to look very shabby, worn, exhausted, or abused. (Also literal. Informal. Sometimes with *drug*.) □ *That new sofa of theirs looks like something the cat dragged in.* □ *Poor Dave looks like something the cat drug in. He must have been out late last night.*

look like the cat that swallowed the canary

to appear as if one had just had a great success. □ *After the meeting John looked like the cat that swallowed the canary. I knew he must have been a success.* □ *What happened? You look like the cat that swallowed the canary.*

look on someone as something to view or think of someone as something. □ *I look on you as a very thoughtful person.* □ *Mary looked on Jane as a good friend.*

look out

Go to watch out.

look out for someone or something

Go to watch out for someone or something.

look someone in the eye

Go to look someone in the face.

look someone in the face AND look someone in the eye; stare someone in the face

to face someone directly. (Facing someone this way should assure sincerity.) □ *I don't believe you. Look me in the eye and say that.* □ *She looked him in the face and said she never wanted to see him again.* □ *I dare you to stare him in the face and say that!*

look someone or something over

to examine someone or something carefully. □ *She looked him over and decided to hire him.* □ *Please look over this report.*

look someone or something up AND hunt someone or something up

to search for and find someone or something. □ *I don't know where the hammer is. I'll have to hunt it up.* □ *Ann looked the word up in the dictionary.* □ *Would you please look up John? I need to talk to him.*

look the other way

to ignore (something) on purpose. (Also literal.) □ *John could have prevented the problem, but he looked the other way.* □ *By looking the other way, he actually made the problem worse.*

look to one's laurels

to take care not to lower or diminish one's reputation or position, especially in relation to that of someone else potentially better. □ *With the arrival of the new member of the football team, James will have to look to his laurels to remain as the highest scorer.* □ *The older members of the team will have to look to their laurels when young people join.*

look to someone or something (for something)

to expect someone or something to supply something. □ *Children look to their parents for help.* □ *Tom looked to the bank for*

a loan. □ *Most people who need to borrow money look to a bank.*

look under the hood to examine the engine of a car; to check the oil and water associated with the engine of a car. □ *I finished putting gas in. I need to look under the hood.* □ *Do you want me to look under the hood, sir?*

look up to someone to view someone with respect and admiration. □ *Bill really looks up to his father.* □ *Everyone in the class looked up to the teacher.*

loom large (on the horizon) to be of great importance, especially when referring to a possible problem, danger, or threat. (Also literal. A cliché.) □ *The exams were looming large on the horizon.* □ *Eviction was looming large when the students could not pay their rent.*

lord it over someone to dominate someone; to direct and control someone. □ *Mr. Smith seems to lord it over his wife.* □ *The boss lords it over everyone in the office.*

lose face to lose status; to become less respectable. □ *John is more afraid of losing face than losing money.* □ *Things will go better if you can explain to him where he was wrong, without making him lose face.*

lose ground to fall behind; to fall back. □ *She was recovering nicely yesterday, but she lost ground last night.* □ *We are losing ground in our fight against mosquitoes.*

lose heart to lose one's courage or confidence. □ *Now, don't lose heart. Keep trying.* □ *What a disappointment! It's enough to make one lose heart.*

lose one's cool AND **blow one's cool** to lose one's temper; to lose one's nerve. (Slang.) □ *Wow, he really lost his cool! What a tantrum!* □ *Whatever you do, don't blow your cool.*

lose oneself (in something) to become deeply involved in something (so that everything else is forgotten). □ *Jane has a tendency to lose herself in her work.* □ *I often lose myself in thought.* □ *Excuse me, I lost myself for a moment.*

lose one's grip to lose control of a situation. (Also literal.) □ *I can't seem to run things*

the way I used to. I'm losing my grip. □ *They replaced the board of directors because it was losing its grip.*

lose one's head (over someone or something) to become confused or "crazy" about someone or something. (Literal in reference to execution by decapitation. Refers especially to emotional attachments.) □ *Don't lose your head over John. He isn't worth it.* □ *I'm sorry. I got upset and lost my head.*

lose one's marbles AND **lose one's mind** to go crazy; to go out of one's mind. (The first phrase is slang and can be literal. See also **not have all one's marbles**.) □ *What a silly thing to say! Have you lost your marbles?* □ *I can't seem to remember anything. I think I'm losing my mind.*

lose one's mind Go to **lose one's marbles**.

lose one's reason to lose one's power of reasoning, possibly in anger. □ *I was so confused that I almost lost my reason.* □ *Bob seems to have lost his reason when he struck John.*

lose one's shirt to lose all of one's assets (including one's shirt). (Also literal. Slang.) □ *I almost lost my shirt on that deal. I have to invest more wisely.* □ *No, I can't loan you \$200. I just lost my shirt at the racetrack.*

lose one's temper to become angry. □ *Please don't lose your temper. It's not good for you.* □ *I'm sorry that I lost my temper.*

lose one's touch (with someone or something) to lose one's ability to handle someone or something. □ *I seem to have lost my touch with my children. They won't mind me anymore.* □ *We've both lost our touch as far as managing people goes.* □ *Tom said that he had lost his touch with the stock market.*

lose one's train of thought to forget what one was talking or thinking about. (See also **train of thought**.) □ *Excuse me, I lost my train of thought. What was I talking about?* □ *You made the speaker lose her train of thought.*

lose out (on something) Go to **miss out (on something)**.

lose out to someone or something to lose a competition to someone or something. □ *Our team lost out to the other team.* □ *Bill lost out to Sally in the contest.*

lose sleep (over someone or something) to worry about someone or something. (Literal when worry keeps one awake.) □ *I keep losing sleep over my son, who is in the army.* □ *Do you lose sleep over your investments?* □ *No, I don't lose sleep, and I never worry.*

lose touch (with someone or something) to lose contact with someone or something. (Compare this with **keep in touch (with someone).**) □ *Poor Sally has lost touch with reality.* □ *I've lost touch with all my relatives.* □ *Jane didn't mean to lose touch, but she did.*

lose track (of someone or something) to forget where someone or something is; to lose or misplace someone or something. □ *I've lost track of the time.* □ *The mother lost track of her child and started calling her.* □ *When I get tired, I tend to lose track.*

lost-and-found an office or department that handles items that someone has lost that have been found by someone else. □ *The lost-and-found office had an enormous collection of umbrellas and four sets of false teeth!* □ *I found a book on the seat of the bus. I turned it in to the driver, who gave it to the lost-and-found office.*

lost and gone forever lost; permanently lost. □ *My poor doggy is lost and gone forever.* □ *My money fell out of my pocket, and I am sure that it is lost and gone forever.*

a **lost cause** a futile attempt; a hopeless matter. □ *Our campaign to have the new party on the ballot was a lost cause.* □ *Todd gave it up as a lost cause.*

lost in thought busy thinking. □ *I'm sorry, I didn't hear what you said. I was lost in thought.* □ *Bill—lost in thought as always—went into the wrong room.*

lost on someone having no effect on someone; wasted on someone. (Informal.) □ *The joke was lost on Jean. She didn't understand it.* □ *The humor of the situation*

was lost on Mary. She was too upset to see it.

a **lot of** someone or something **AND** **lots of** people or things a large number of people or things; much of something. □ *I got a lot of presents for my birthday.* □ *I ate lots of cookies after dinner.*

lots of people or things Go to a **lot of** someone or something.

loud and clear clear and distinctly. (Originally said of radio reception that is heard clearly and distinctly.) □ *TOM: If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times: Stop it! Do you hear me? BILL: Yes, loud and clear.* □ *I hear you loud and clear.*

louse something up to mess up or ruin something. (Slang.) □ *I've worked hard on this. Please don't louse it up.* □ *You've loused up all my plans.*

lousy with something with something in abundance. (Slang.) □ *This place is lousy with cops.* □ *Our picnic table was lousy with ants.*

love at first sight love established when two people first see one another. □ *Bill was standing at the door when Ann opened it. It was love at first sight.* □ *It was love at first sight when they met, but it didn't last long.*

lovely weather for ducks rainy weather. □ *BOB: Not very nice out today, is it? BILL: It's lovely weather for ducks.* □ *I don't like this weather, but it's lovely weather for ducks.*

low man on the totem pole the least important person. (Compare this with **high man on the totem pole.**) □ *I was the last to find out because I'm low man on the totem pole.* □ *I can't be of any help. I'm low man on the totem pole.*

lower oneself to some level to bring oneself down to some lower level of behavior. (Also literal.) □ *I refuse to lower myself to your level.* □ *Has TV news lowered itself to the level of the tabloids?*

lower one's sights to set one's goals lower than they were. (Literal in reference to aiming a weapon.) □ *Even though you get*

frustrated, don't lower your sights. □ I shouldn't lower my sights. If I work hard, I can do what I want.

lower one's voice to speak more softly. □ *Please lower your voice, or you'll disturb the people who are working. □ He wouldn't lower his voice, so everyone heard what he said.*

lower the boom on someone to scold or punish someone severely; to crack down on someone; to **throw the book at** someone. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *If Bob won't behave better, I'll have to lower the boom on him. □ The teacher lowered the boom on the whole class for misbehaving.*

luck out to get lucky (about something). (Slang.) □ *I won \$100 in the lottery. I really lucked out. □ Bob lucked out when he got an easy teacher for geometry.*

[luck runs out] Go to one's **luck runs out**.

the **lull before the storm** AND the **calm before the storm** a quiet period just before a period of great activity or excitement. (Literal in reference to weather.) □ *It was very quiet in the cafeteria just be-*

fore the students came in for lunch. It was the lull before the storm. □ In the brief calm before the storm, the clerks prepared themselves for the doors to open and bring in thousands of shoppers.

lull someone into a false sense of security to lead someone into believing that all is well before attacking or doing someone bad. □ *We lulled the enemy into a false sense of security by pretending to retreat. Then we launched an attack. □ The boss lulled us into a false sense of security by saying that our jobs were safe and then let half the staff go.*

lull someone to sleep to cause someone to fall asleep. □ *The mother lulled her baby to sleep. □ The boring professor lulled the students to sleep.*

the **lunatic fringe** the more extreme members of a group. □ *Most of the members of that religious sect are quite reasonable, but Lisa belongs to the lunatic fringe. □ Many people try to avoid eating a lot of fat, but Mary is part of the lunatic fringe and will hardly eat anything.*

M

mad about someone or something Go to crazy about someone or something.

mad as a hatter Go to (as) mad as a hatter.

mad as a hornet Go to (as) mad as a hornet.

mad as a March hare Go to (as) mad as a March hare.

mad as a wet hen Go to (as) mad as a wet hen.

mad as hell Go to (as) mad as hell.

mad enough to chew nails **AND** **angry enough to chew nails** angry enough to bite through metal nails. ☐ *I am mad enough to chew nails! Who took my check-book?* ☐ *Her sudden tirade made him angry enough to chew nails.*

mad for someone or something Go to mad about someone or something.

made for each other [for two people] to be very well suited romantically. ☐ *Bill and Jane were made for each other.* ☐ *Mr. and Mrs. Smith were not exactly made for each other. They really don't get along.*

made from the same mold Go to cut from the same cloth.

made to measure [of clothing] made especially to fit the measurements of a particular person. ☐ *Jack has his suits made to measure because he's rather large.* ☐ *Having clothes made to measure is rather expensive.*

made to order put together on request. (Compare this with **in stock**.) ☐ *This suit fits so well because it's made to order.* ☐ *His feet are so big that all his shoes have to be made to order.*

maiden voyage the first voyage of a ship or boat. ☐ *The liner sank on its maiden voyage.* ☐ *Jim is taking his yacht on its maiden voyage.*

main strength and awkwardness great force; brute force. (Folksy.) ☐ *They finally got the piano moved in to the living room by main strength and awkwardness.* ☐ *Lifting the table must be done carefully. This is not a job requiring main strength and awkwardness.*

make a bed **AND** **make** someone's **bed** to arrange neatly the sheets and blankets of a bed. ☐ *The hotel maid made our bed.* ☐ *Billy had to make his bed before he went to school.*

make a beeline for someone or something to head straight toward someone or something. (Refers to the way bees fly in a straight line. Informal.) ☐ *Billy came into the kitchen and made a beeline for the cookies.* ☐ *After the game, we all made a beeline for John, who was serving cold drinks.*

make a big deal about something Go to make a federal case out of something.

make a break for something **or** somewhere to move or run quickly to something or somewhere. (Informal.) ☐ *Before we could stop her, she made a break for the door and got away.* ☐ *The mouse got frightened and made a break for a hole in the wall.*

make a bundle **AND** **make a pile** to make a lot of money. (Slang.) ☐ *John really made a bundle on that deal.* ☐ *I'd like to make a pile and retire.*

make a check out (to someone) to write a check naming someone as payee. ☐

Please make a check out to John Jones. □ Do you want cash, or should I make out a check?

make a clean breast of something to confess something; to get something off one's chest. □ *You'll feel better if you make a clean breast of it. Now tell us what happened. □ I was forced to make a clean breast of the whole affair.*

make a clean sweep to do something completely or thoroughly, with no exceptions. (Informal.) □ *The boss decided to fire everybody, so he made a clean sweep. □ They made a clean sweep through the neighborhood, repairing all the sidewalks.*

make a comeback to return to one's former (successful) career. (Informal.) □ *After ten years in retirement, the singer made a comeback. □ You're never too old to make a comeback.*

make a day of doing something **AND make a day of it** to spend the whole day doing something. □ *We went to the museum to see the new exhibit and then decided to make a day of it. □ They made a day of cleaning the attic.*

make a day of it Go to make a day of doing something.

make a dent in something to begin to consume or accomplish something. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Bob, you've hardly made a dent in your dinner! □ There is a lot of rice left. We hardly made a dent in it all week. □ Get busy! You haven't even made a dent in your work.*

make a face to twist one's face into a strange expression in order to show one's dislike, ridicule, etc., or in order to make someone laugh. □ *The comedian made faces in order to amuse the children. □ Jane made a face when she was asked to work late.*

make a face (at someone) **1.** to make a face at someone in ridicule. □ *Mother, Billy made a face at me! □ The teacher sent Jane to the principal for making a face in class. 2.* to attempt to communicate to someone through facial gestures, usually an attempt to say "no" or "stop." □ *I*

started to tell John where I was last night, but Bill made a face so I didn't. □ John made a face at me as I was testifying, so I avoided telling everything.

make a fast buck **AND make a quick buck** to make money with little effort. (Slang.) □ *Tom is always ready to make a fast buck. □ I made a quick buck selling used cars.*

make a federal case out of something **AND make a big deal about** something to exaggerate the seriousness of something. (The first entry head can be literal. Slang.) □ *Come on. It was nothing! Don't make a federal case out of it. □ I only stepped on your toe. Don't make a big deal about it.*

make a fool out of someone **AND make a monkey out of** someone to make someone look foolish. □ *John made a monkey out of himself while trying to make a fool out of Jim. □ John made a fool out of himself at the party. □ Are you trying to make a monkey out of me?*

make a friend **AND make friends** to establish a link of friendship with someone. □ *I have never found it difficult to make friends. □ Mary had to make new friends when she changed schools.*

make a fuss (over someone or something) **AND make over** someone or something **1.** to worry about or make a bother about someone or something. □ *Why do you fuss over a problem like that? □ Please don't make a fuss. Everything will be all right. □ Don't make over me so much! 2.* to be very solicitous and helpful toward a person or a pet. □ *How can anyone make a fuss over a cat? □ Billy was embarrassed when his mother made a fuss over him. 3.* to argue about someone or something. □ *Please don't make a fuss over who gets the last cookie. □ Please discuss it. Don't make a fuss over it!*

make a go of it to make something work out all right. (Informal.) □ *It's a tough situation, but Ann is trying to make a go of it. □ We don't like living here, but we have to make a go of it.*

make a great show of something to make something obvious; to do something in a showy fashion. □ *Ann made a great show of wiping up the drink that John spilled.* □ *Jane displayed her irritation at our late arrival by making a great show of serving the cold dinner.*

make a hit (with someone or something) to please someone. (Informal.) □ *The singer made a hit with the audience.* □ *She was afraid she wouldn't make a hit.* □ *John made a hit with my parents last evening.*

make a killing to have a great success, especially in making money. (Slang.) □ *John has got a job selling insurance. He's not exactly making a killing.* □ *Bill made a killing at the racetrack yesterday.*

make a laughingstock of oneself or something AND **make oneself or something a laughingstock** to make oneself a source of ridicule or laughter; to do something that invites ridicule. □ *Laura made herself a laughingstock by arriving at the fast-food restaurant in full evening dress.* □ *The board of directors made the company a laughingstock by hiring an ex-convict as president.*

make a living to earn enough money to live on. □ *I'll be glad when I get a job and can make a living.* □ *I can hardly make a living with the skills I have.*

make allowance(s) (for someone or something) **1.** to allow time, space, food, etc., for someone or something. □ *When planning the party, please make allowances for John and his family.* □ *I'm making allowance for ten extra guests.* **2.** to make excuses or explanations for someone or something; to take into consideration the negative effects of someone or something. □ *You're very late even when we make allowance for the weather.* □ *We have to make allowance for the age of the house when we judge its condition.*

make a long story short to bring a story to an end. (A formula that introduces a summary of a story or a joke.) □ *And—to make a long story short—I never got back the money that I lent him.* □ *If I can*

make a long story short, let me say that everything worked out fine.

make a meal of something to eat only a large portion of one kind of food as an entire meal. □ *There were lots of salad makings, so we fixed a large salad and made a meal of it.* □ *We had tons of leftover turkey after the festival, so the next day we sat down and made a meal of it.*

make amends (for something) to do something as an act of restitution or to make up for some error, injury, or loss that one has caused. □ *After the argument, Jane later called her friend to make amends.* □ *After amends had been made, Jane took her friend to dinner.*

make a monkey out of someone Go to make a fool out of someone.

make a mountain out of a molehill to make a major issue out of a minor one; to exaggerate the importance of something. □ *Come on, don't make a mountain out of a molehill. It's not that important.* □ *Mary is always making mountains out of molehills.*

make an all-out effort to make a thorough and energetic effort. (See also **all-out effort**.) □ *Sally made an all-out effort to get to class on time.* □ *In my job, I have to make an all-out effort every day.*

make a name (for oneself) to become famous. □ *Sally wants to work hard and make a name for herself.* □ *It's hard to make a name without a lot of talent and hard work.*

make an appearance to appear; to appear in a performance. (Compare this with **put in an appearance**.) □ *We waited for thirty minutes for the professor to make an appearance, then we went home.* □ *The famous singing star made an appearance in Detroit last August.*

make an appointment (with someone) to schedule a meeting with someone. □ *I made an appointment with the doctor for late today.* □ *The professor wouldn't see me unless I made an appointment.*

make an example of someone to make a public issue out of someone's bad

behavior. □ *The judge decided to make an example of John, so he fined him the full amount.* □ *The teacher made an example of Mary, who had disturbed the class constantly with her whispering.*

make an exception (for someone) to suspend a rule or practice for someone in a single instance. □ *Please make an exception just this once.* □ *The rule is a good one, and I will not make an exception for anyone.*

make an exhibition of oneself to embarrass oneself by showing off or doing something daring in public. (Sometimes under the influence of alcohol.) □ *You can be certain that Joan will have too much to drink and make an exhibition of herself.* □ *Sit down and be quiet. Stop making an exhibition of yourself.*

make a night of doing something to do something for the entire night. □ *We partied until three in the morning and then decided to make a night of it.* □ *Once or twice in the early spring we make a night of fishing.*

make an impression (on someone) to produce a memorable effect on someone. (Often with *good, bad,* or some other adjective.) □ *Tom made a bad impression on the banker.* □ *I'm afraid that you haven't made a very good impression on our visitors.* □ *You made quite an impression on my father.*

make an issue of someone or something Go to make a point of someone or something.

make a note of something to write something down. □ *Please make a note of this address.* □ *This is important. Make a note of it.*

make a nuisance of oneself to be a constant bother. □ *I'm sorry to make a nuisance of myself, but I do need an answer to my question.* □ *Stop making a nuisance of yourself and wait your turn.*

make an uproar Go to create an uproar.

make a pass at someone to flirt with someone; to make a romantic advance at someone. (This often has sexual implications. Compare this with **make a play**

(for someone).) □ *I was shocked when Ann made a pass at me.* □ *I think Bob was making a pass at me, but he did it very subtly.*

make a pile Go to make a bundle.

make a pitch (for someone or something) to say something in support of someone or something; to attempt to promote, sell, or advance someone or something. (Informal.) □ *Bill is making a pitch for his friend's new product again.* □ *The theatrical agent came in and made a pitch for her client.* □ *Every time I turn on the television set, someone is making a pitch.*

make a play (for someone) to attempt to attract the romantic interest of someone. (Informal. Compare this with **make a pass at** someone.) □ *Ann made a play for Bill, but he wasn't interested in her.* □ *I knew he liked me, but I never thought he'd make a play.*

make a point to state an item of importance. (Also literal, as in sports and games.) □ *You made a point that we all should remember.* □ *He spoke for an hour without making a point.*

make a point of doing something to make an effort to do something. □ *Please make a point of mailing this letter. It's very important.* □ *The hostess made a point of thanking me for bringing flowers.*

make a point of someone or something **AND** **make an issue of** someone or something to turn someone or something into an important matter. □ *Please don't make a point of John's comment. It wasn't that important.* □ *I hope you make an issue of Tom's success and the reasons for it.* □ *Tom has a lot of problems. Please don't make an issue of him.*

make a practice of something **AND** **make something a practice** to turn something into a habitual activity. □ *Jane makes a practice of planting daisies every summer.* □ *Her mother also made it a practice.*

make a quick buck Go to make a fast buck.

make a reservation **AND** **make reservations** to reserve a seat, as in an airplane,

restaurant, or theater in advance; to reserve a room, as in a hotel in advance. □ *Did you make a reservation or are we just going to chance getting a table?* □ *I made reservations for a flight at twelve noon.*

make arrangements (for someone or something) 1. to make plans for someone or something. □ *I'm making arrangements for the convention.* □ *It starts next week, and I hardly have time to make arrangements.* 2. [with someone] to plan accommodations for someone. □ *John is coming for a visit next week. Please make arrangements for him at the hotel.* □ *I will make arrangements for everyone when I call the hotel.*

make a run for it to run fast to get away or get somewhere. (Informal. Compare this with **make a break for** something or somewhere.) □ *When the guard wasn't looking, the prisoner made a run for it.* □ *In the baseball game, the player on first base made a run for it, but he didn't make it to second base.*

make a scene AND **create a scene** to make a public display or disturbance. □ *When John found a fly in his drink, he started to create a scene.* □ *Oh, John, please don't make a scene. Just forget about it.*

make as if to do something to act as if one were about to do something. □ *The thief made as if to run away but changed his mind.* □ *Jane made as if to smack the child.*

make a silk purse out of a sow's ear to create something of value out of something of no value. (Often in the negative.) □ *Don't bother trying to fix up this old bicycle. You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.* □ *My mother made a lovely jacket out of an old coat. She succeeded in making a silk purse out of a sow's ear.*

make a stink (about something) Go to create a stink (about something).

make away with someone or something AND **make off with** someone or something to take someone or something away; to make someone or something disappear. □ *The robber made away with the jewelry.* □ *The*

maid quickly made off with the children. We only saw them for a moment.

make book on something to make or accept bets on something. (Slang.) □ *It looks as if it will rain, but I wouldn't make book on it.* □ *John's making book on the football game this Saturday.*

make (both) ends meet to manage to live on a small amount of money. (Also literal.) □ *It's hard these days to make ends meet.* □ *I have to work overtime to make both ends meet.*

make chin music to talk or chatter. (Slang.) □ *We sat around all evening making chin music.* □ *You were making chin music when you should have been listening.*

make cracks (about someone or something) to ridicule or make jokes about someone or something. (Informal.) □ *Please stop making cracks about my haircut. It's the new style.* □ *Some people can't help making cracks. They are just rude.*

make do (with someone or something) to do as well as possible with someone or something. □ *You'll have to make do with less money next year. The economy is very weak.* □ *We'll have to make do with John even though he's a slow worker.* □ *Yes, we'll have to make do.*

make eyes (at someone) to flirt with someone. □ *Tom spent all afternoon making eyes at Ann.* □ *How could they sit there in class making eyes?*

make fast work of someone or something Go to make short work of someone or something.

make for somewhere to run or travel to somewhere. (Slang, especially criminal slang.) □ *When I got out of class, I made for the gym.* □ *When he got out of jail, he made for Toledo.*

make free with someone or something 1. [with someone] Go to take liberties with someone or something. 2. [with something] to take advantage of or use something as if it were one's own. (Compare this with **take liberties with** someone or something.) □ *I wish you wouldn't come into my house and make free with my food and drink.* □

Please make free with my car while I'm gone.

make friends Go to make a friend.

make fun (of someone or something) to ridicule someone or something. ☐ *Please stop making fun of me. It hurts my feelings.* ☐ *Billy teases and makes fun a lot, but he means no harm.*

make good as something to succeed in a particular role. ☐ *I hope I make good as a teacher.* ☐ *John made good as a football player.*

make good (at something) to succeed at something. ☐ *Bob worked hard to make good at selling.* ☐ *Jane was determined to make good.*

make good money to earn a large amount of money. (Informal.) ☐ *Ann makes good money at her job.* ☐ *I don't know what she does, but she makes good money.*

make good on something **1.** to fulfill a promise. ☐ *Tom made good on his pledge to donate \$1,000.* ☐ *Bill refused to make good on his promise.* **2.** to repay a debt. (See also **make something good**.) ☐ *I couldn't make good on my debts, and I got in a lot of trouble.* ☐ *If you don't make good on this bill, I'll have to take back your car.*

make good time to travel fast; to progress rapidly. ☐ *I am making good time. My report is almost finished.* ☐ *Now that we are clear of the city traffic, we can make good time.*

make hamburger out of someone or something **AND** **make mincemeat out of** someone or something to beat up or overcome someone or something. (Literal when referring to foodstuffs. Figurative with people. Slang.) ☐ *Stop acting silly, or I'll make hamburger out of you.* ☐ *Our team made mincemeat out of the other team.*

make it to succeed. (See also **make something**.) ☐ *I hope Bob's new business makes it.* ☐ *Donna wants to graduate this year. I hope she makes it.*

make it as far as something Go to make it (until something).

make it hot for someone to make things difficult for someone; to put someone under pressure. (Also literal. Slang.) ☐ *Maybe if we make it hot for them, they'll leave.* ☐ *John likes making it hot for people. He's sort of mean.*

make it one's business to do something to do something on one's own even if it means interfering in something that does not directly concern one. (As opposed to minding one's own business. See also **take it upon oneself to** do something.) ☐ *I know I doesn't concern me, but I made it my business to call city hall because someone had to.* ☐ *Jane made it her business to find out exactly what had happened to the old lady.*

make it to something Go to make it (until something).

make it (until something) **AND** **make it to something; make it as far as** something to endure until something; to last until some time. ☐ *I hope my car can make it to the next town.* ☐ *Do you think you can make it until we come to a stopping point?* ☐ *I made it as far as the first turn and decided to give up.*

make it worth someone's while to make something profitable enough for someone to do. (See also **worth someone's while**.) ☐ *If you deliver this parcel for me, I'll make it worth your while.* ☐ *The boss said he'd make it worth our while if we worked late.*

make life miserable for someone to make someone unhappy over a long period of time. ☐ *My shoes are tight, and they are making life miserable for me.* ☐ *Jane's boss is making life miserable for her.*

make light of something to treat something as if it were unimportant or humorous. ☐ *I wish you wouldn't make light of his problems. They're quite serious.* ☐ *I make light of my problems, and that makes me feel better.*

make little of someone or something to minimize someone or something; to play someone or something down; to belittle someone or something. ☐ *John made little of my efforts to collect money for charity.* ☐ *The*

neighbors made little of John and thought he would amount to nothing.

make love (to someone) to share physical or emotional love (or both) with someone. (This phrase usually has a sexual meaning.) ☐ *Tom and Ann turned out the lights and made love.* ☐ *The actress refused to make love to the leading man on stage.*

make merry to have fun; to have an enjoyable time. ☐ *The guests certainly made merry at the wedding.* ☐ *The children were making merry in the backyard.*

make mincemeat out of someone or something Go to make hamburger out of someone or something.

make mischief to cause trouble. ☐ *Bob loves to make mischief and get other people into trouble.* ☐ *Don't believe what Mary says. She's just trying to make mischief.*

Make no bones about it. Make no mistake (about it); Do not doubt it. (Folksy.) ☐ *This is the greatest cake I've ever eaten. Make no bones about it.* ☐ *Make no bones about it, Mary is a great singer.*

make no difference (to someone) not to matter to someone; for someone not to care (about something). ☐ *It makes no difference to me what you do.* ☐ *Do whatever you want. It really makes no difference.*

make no mistake (about it) without a doubt; certainly. (Informal.) ☐ *This car is a great buy. Make no mistake about it.* ☐ *We support your candidacy—make no mistake.*

make nothing of something to ignore something as if it had not happened; to think no more about something. (Often with *it*.) ☐ *My father caught me throwing the snowball, but he made nothing of it.* ☐ *I made nothing of the remark, even though it seemed quite rude.* ☐ *I saw him leave, but I made nothing of it.*

make off with someone or something Go to make away with someone or something.

make oneself at home to make oneself comfortable as if one were in one's own home. ☐ *Please come in and make your-*

self at home. ☐ *I'm glad you're here. During your visit, just make yourself at home.*

make oneself conspicuous to attract attention to oneself. ☐ *Please don't make yourself conspicuous. It embarrasses me.* ☐ *Ann makes herself conspicuous by wearing brightly colored clothing.*

make oneself heard to speak loudly so that one will be heard above the noise. ☐ *I had to shout to make myself heard.* ☐ *He screamed to make himself heard over the sound of the plane's engines.*

make oneself or something a laughingstock Go to make a laughingstock of oneself or something.

make oneself scarce to go away. (Slang.) ☐ *Hey, kid, go away. Make yourself scarce.* ☐ *When there is work to be done, I make myself scarce.*

make (oneself) up to put makeup on oneself. ☐ *I have to make up now. I go on stage in ten minutes.* ☐ *I will make myself up. I don't need your help.*

make one's mind up to decide. ☐ *Please make your mind up. Which do you want?* ☐ *Would you help me make up my mind?*

make one's way through something Go to pick one's way through something.

make or break someone either to improve or ruin someone. ☐ *The army will either make or break him.* ☐ *It's a tough assignment, and it will either make or break her.*

make out (with someone or something) **1.** to manage to do (something) with someone or something. ☐ *I think I can make out with this hammer.* ☐ *If I can't make out with John, I'll have to ask for more help.* **2.** [with someone] to flirt with, kiss, or hug someone; to make love (to someone). (Slang.) ☐ *Bob was trying to make out with Sally all evening.* ☐ *She didn't want to make out, so she left.*

make over someone or something Go to make a fuss (over someone or something).

make overtures to give hints about something; to present or suggest ideas. ☐ *The company made overtures about hiring me.*

□ *Tom is making overtures about inviting us to his country home next month.*

make peace (with someone) to end a quarrel with someone. (Compare this with **kiss and make up**.) □ *Don't you think it's time to make peace with your brother? There is no point in arguing anymore. □ Yes, it's time we made peace.*

make points (with someone) to gain favor with someone. (Slang.) □ *Tom is trying to make points with Ann. He wants to ask her out. □ He's trying to make points by smiling and telling her how nice she looks.*

make reservations Go to make a reservation.

make sense to be understandable to someone. □ *John doesn't make sense. □ What John says makes sense.*

make sense out of someone or something to understand or interpret someone or something. (Also with *some*, as in the second example.) □ *I can hardly make sense out of John. □ I'm trying to make some sense out of what John is saying.*

make short work of someone or something AND **make fast work of** someone or something to finish with someone or something quickly. □ *I made short work of Tom so I could leave the office to play golf. □ Billy made fast work of his dinner so he could go out and play.*

make someone **eat crow** to cause someone to retract a statement or admit an error. (Informal.) □ *Because Mary was completely wrong, we made her eat crow. □ They won't make me eat crow. They don't know I was wrong.*

make someone **look good** to cause someone to appear successful or competent (especially when this is not the case). (Also literal.) □ *John arranges all his affairs to make himself look good. □ The manager didn't like the quarterly report because it didn't make her look good.*

make someone **look ridiculous** to make someone look foolish (not funny). □ *This hat makes me look ridiculous. □ Please make me look good. Don't make me look ridiculous!*

make someone or something **available** to someone to supply someone with someone or something. □ *I made my car available to Bob. □ They made their maid available to us.*

make someone or something **over** Go to do someone or something **over**.

make someone's **bed** Go to make a bed; make the bed.

make someone's **blood boil** to make someone very angry. (Informal.) □ *It just makes my blood boil to think of the amount of food that gets wasted around here. □ Whenever I think of that dishon-est mess, it makes my blood boil.*

make someone's **blood run cold** to shock or horrify someone. □ *The terrible story in the newspaper made my blood run cold. □ I could tell you things about prisons that would make your blood run cold.*

make someone's **flesh crawl** to cause someone's skin to feel funny or get goose pimples through fright. □ *Just to hear the story of the killings made my flesh crawl. □ The horror movie made our flesh crawl.*

make someone's **gorge rise** to cause someone to become very angry. □ *The unnecessary accident made my gorge rise. □ Getting his tax bill made Bob's gorge rise.*

make someone's **hair curl** Go to curl someone's **hair**.

make someone's **hair stand on end** to cause someone to be very frightened. (Literal if referring to the effects of a charge of static electricity. Informal.) □ *The horrible scream made my hair stand on end. □ The ghost story made our hair stand on end.*

make someone's **head spin** Go to make someone's **head swim**.

make someone's **head swim** AND **make** someone's **head spin** **1.** to make someone dizzy or disoriented. □ *Riding in your car makes my head spin. □ Breathing the gas made my head swim. 2.* to confuse or overwhelm someone. □ *All these numbers make my head swim. □ The physics lecture made my head spin.*

make someone sick to disgust someone.

□ *I am really tired of your vile talk. You make me sick!* □ *She screamed at him that he made her sick and then she ran out of the house.*

make someone's mouth water to make someone hungry (for something). (Also literal for causing saliva to flow into someone's mouth. Informal.) □ *That beautiful salad makes my mouth water.* □ *Talking about food makes my mouth water.*

make someone's position clear to clarify where someone stands on an issue. □ *I don't think you understand what I said. Let me make my position clear.* □ *I can't tell whether you are in favor of or against the proposal. Please make your position clear.*

make someone the scapegoat for something to make someone take the blame for something. □ *They made Tom the scapegoat for the whole affair. It wasn't all his fault.* □ *Don't try to make me the scapegoat. I'll tell who really did it.*

make someone up to put makeup on someone. □ *She made herself up before leaving the house.* ☐ *The crew made up the cast before the play.*

make something to attend an event. (See also **make it**.) □ *I hope you can make our party.* □ *I am sorry, but I won't be able to make it.*

make something a practice Go to make a practice of something.

make something from scratch to make something by starting with the basic ingredients. (Informal.) □ *We made the cake from scratch, using no prepared ingredients.* □ *I didn't have a ladder, so I made one from scratch.*

make something good AND **make something right** to replace or restore something. (Informal. See also **set something right**.) □ *I know I owe you some money, but don't worry, I'll make it good.* □ *I'm sorry I broke your window. I'll make it right, though.*

make something out of nothing 1. to make an issue of something of little importance. (See also **make a mountain out of a molehill**.) □ *Relax, John, you're making a big problem out of nothing.* □ *You have no evidence. You're making a case out of nothing.* **2.** to create something of value from nearly worthless parts. □ *My uncle—he sells sand—made a fortune out of nothing.* □ *My model airplane won the contest even though I made it out of nothing.*

make something (out) of something 1. to make an interpretation of something. □ *Can you make anything out of this message? I don't understand it.* □ *I'm sorry, I can't make any sense out of it.* **2.** to interpret something negatively, possibly leading to a disagreement. (Informal. Compare this with **make nothing of something**.) □ *So, I'm wrong! You want to make something of it?* □ *The hostess made too much out of my absence.*

make something right Go to make something good.

make something to order to put something together only when someone requests it. (Usually said about clothing. See also **build something to order**.) □ *This store only makes suits to order.* □ *Our shirts fit perfectly because we make each one to order.*

make something up 1. to repay or redo something. ☐ *Can I make up the test I missed?* ☐ *Please make up the payment you missed.* □ *You can make it up.* **2.** to create a story or a lie. □ *That's not true! You just made it up!* □ *Bob made up a story about a tiny mouse and its friends.* **3.** to mix something up; to assemble something. □ *JOHN: Is my prescription ready?* DRUGGIST: *No, I haven't made it up yet.* ☐ *I'll make up your prescription in a minute.*

make something up out of whole cloth to create a story or a lie from no facts at all. □ *I don't believe you. I think you made that up out of whole cloth.* ☐ *Ann made up her explanation out of whole cloth. There was not a bit of truth in it.*

make something up to someone to repay someone; to make amends to someone.

□ *I'm so sorry I've insulted you. How can I make it up to you?* □ *I'm sorry I broke our date. I'll make it up to you, I promise.*

make something worth someone's **while** to make something profitable enough for someone to do. □ *If you deliver this parcel for me, I'll make it worth your while.* □ *The boss said he'd make it worth our while if we worked late.*

make the bed AND **make** someone's **bed** to restore a bed to an unslept-in condition. □ *I make my bed every morning.* □ *The maid goes to all the rooms to make the beds.*

make the best of something to try to make a bad situation work out well. (Compare this with **make the most of** something.) □ *It's not good, but we'll have to make the best of it.* □ *Ann is clever enough to make the best of a bad situation.*

make the feathers fly Go to make the fur fly.

make the fur fly AND **make the feathers fly** to cause a fight or an argument; to create an uproar (about something). (Informal.) □ *When your mother gets home and sees what you've done, she'll really make the fur fly.* □ *When those two get together, they'll make the feathers fly. They hate each other.*

make the grade to be satisfactory; to be what is expected. (Informal.) □ *I'm sorry, but your work doesn't exactly make the grade.* □ *This meal doesn't just make the grade. It is excellent.*

make the most of something to make something appear as good as possible; to exploit something; to get as much out of something as is possible. (Compare this with **make the best of** something.) □ *Mary knows how to make the most of her talents.* □ *They designed the advertisements to make the most of the product's features.*

make the scene to appear somewhere, especially at a social event. (Slang.) □ *I hope I can make the scene Saturday night at the party.* □ *The big race is tomorrow.*

Man, I've got to make the scene. The whole world will be there!

make time (for someone or something) to schedule time to see someone or do something. □ *I can make time for you tomorrow morning.* □ *I am very busy, but I can make time.* □ *You are going to have to start making time for balanced meals.*

make time (with someone) to flirt with, date, or hang around with someone. (Informal.) □ *I hear that Tom's been making time with Ann.* □ *I hear they've been making time for months.*

make up for lost time to do much of something; to do something fast. □ *Because we took so long eating lunch, we have to drive faster to make up for lost time. Otherwise we won't arrive on time.* □ *At the age of sixty, Bill learned to play golf. Now he plays it every day. He's making up for lost time.*

make up for someone or something to take the place of someone or something. □ *John can't play in the game Saturday, but I think I can make up for him.* □ *Do you think that this cat can make up for the one that ran away?*

make up (with someone) to reconcile with someone; to end a disagreement (with someone). □ *Bill and Max decided to make up.* □ *They made up with each other and are still very good friends.*

make use of someone or something to use or utilize someone or something. □ *If you make use of all your talents and skills, you should succeed.* □ *The technician makes good use of a number of special tools.*

make waves to make trouble or difficulties. (Also literal. Informal. Compare this with **rock the boat**.) □ *I don't want to make waves, but this just isn't right.* □ *Why do you always have to make waves? Can't you be constructive?*

make way to make progress; to move ahead. (Originally nautical. See also **make way** (for someone or something).) □ *Is this project making way?* □ *A sailboat can't make way if there is no wind.*

make way (for someone or something) to clear a path for someone or something. □ *Make way for the stretcher.* □ *Please make way for the nurse.* □ *Here comes the doctor—make way!*

man-about-town a fashionable man who leads a sophisticated life. □ *He prefers wine bars to pubs—quite a man-about-town.* □ *Jack's too much of a man-about-town to go to a football game.*

the **man in the street** the ordinary person. □ *Politicians rarely care what the man in the street thinks.* □ *The man in the street has little interest in literature.*

man to man AND **woman to woman** speaking frankly and directly, one person to another. □ *Let's discuss this man to man so we know what each other thinks.* □ *The two mothers discussed their child-raising problems woman to woman.*

Many hands make light work. A lot of help will make a chore seem easier. (Proverb.) □ *Let's all work together and get this finished. Many hands make light work.* □ *Many hands make light work, so please lend a hand.*

many is the time on many occasions. □ *Many is the time I wanted to complain, but I just kept quiet.* □ *Many is the time that we don't have enough to eat.*

march to (the beat of) a different drummer to believe in a different set of principles. □ *John is marching to a different drummer, and he doesn't come to our parties anymore.* □ *Since Sally started marching to the beat of a different drummer, she has had a lot of great new ideas.*

mark my word(s) remember what I'm telling you. □ *Mark my word, you'll regret this.* □ *This whole project will fail—mark my words.*

mark someone or something down **1.** [with someone] to make a note about someone; to note a fact about someone. □ *I'm going to the party. Please mark me down.* □ *Mark me down, too.* **2.** [with someone] [for a teacher] to give someone a low score. □ *He'll mark you down for misspelled words.* □ *I marked down Tom for bad spelling.* **3.** [with something] to lower

the price of something. □ *Okay, we'll mark it down.* □ *Let's mark down this price so it'll sell faster.*

mark something up **1.** to mess something up with marks. □ *Don't mark up your book!* □ *Who marked this book up?* **2.** to grade a paper and make lots of informative marks and comments on it. □ *The teacher really marked up my term paper.* □ *Why did you mark my test up so much?* *I hardly made any errors.* **3.** to raise the price of something. □ *The grocery store seems to mark the price of food up every week.* □ *They don't mark up the price of turkey at Thanksgiving.*

a **marvel to behold** someone or something quite exciting or wonderful to see. □ *Our new house is a marvel to behold.* □ *Mary's lovely new baby is a marvel to behold.*

a **match for** someone, something, or some creature someone, something, or some creature that is the equal of someone, something, or some other creature, especially in a contest. □ *My older brother is no match for me; he's much weaker.* □ *Your horse is a good match for mine in the race. Either one might win.*

matter-of-fact businesslike; unfeeling. (See also **a matter of fact**.) □ *Don't expect a lot of sympathy from Ann. She's very matter-of-fact.* □ *Don't be so matter-of-fact. It hurts my feelings.*

a **matter of life and death** an issue of great urgency; a situation that will affect life or death. □ *We must find a doctor. It's a matter of life and death.* □ *A matter of life and death demands that I return home at once.*

a **matter of opinion** the matter of how good or bad someone or something is; a question about which there are different opinions. □ *It's a matter of opinion how good the company is. John thinks it's great and Fred thinks it's poor.* □ *How efficient the committee is is a matter of opinion.*

mean business to be very serious and determined about something. (Informal.) □ *Billy, get into this house and do your homework, and I mean business.* □ *We*

mean business when we say you must stop all this nonsense.

mean for someone to do something to intend for someone to do something. ☐ *John meant for us to go with them to the zoo.* ☐ *John meant for Jane to do the dishes.*

mean nothing (to someone) **1.** not to make sense to someone. ☐ *This sentence means nothing to me. It isn't clearly written.* ☐ *I'm sorry. This message means nothing.* **2.** [for someone] not to have feeling for (someone or something). ☐ *Do I mean nothing to you after all these years?* ☐ *Do all those years mean nothing?*

mean something (to someone) **1.** to make sense to someone. (See also the preceding entry.) ☐ *Does this line mean anything to you?* ☐ *Yes, it means something.* **2.** for someone to have feeling for (someone or something). ☐ *You mean a lot to me.* ☐ *This job means a lot to Ann.*

mean to (do something) to plan or intend to do something. ☐ *Did you mean to do that?* ☐ *No, it was an accident. I didn't mean to.*

meant to be destined to exist. ☐ *Our love was meant to be!* ☐ *It was not meant to be.*

meant to be something destined or fated to be something. ☐ *Jane was meant to be a chemist.* ☐ *I was meant to be rich, but something didn't work right!*

measure up (to someone or something) to be equal to someone or something. ☐ *Ann is good, but she doesn't measure up to Mary.* ☐ *Tom measures up to the job.*

measure up (to someone's expectations) AND **measure up to someone's standards** to be as good as one expects. ☐ *This measures up to my standards quite nicely.* ☐ *This meal doesn't measure up to my expectations.*

measure up to someone's standards Go to **measure up (to someone's expectations).**

meat-and-potatoes basic, sturdy, and hearty. (Often refers to a robust person, usually a man, with simple tastes in food and other things.) ☐ *Fred was your meat-and-potatoes kind of guy. No creamy sauces for him.* ☐ *There is no point in try-*

ing to cook up something special for the Wilsons. They are strictly meat-and-potatoes.

a **Mecca** for someone a place that is frequently visited by a particular group of people because it is important to them for some reason. (From the city of Mecca, the religious center of Islam.) ☐ *New York City is a Mecca for theatergoers.* ☐ *St. Andrews is a Mecca for golf enthusiasts because of its famous course.*

meek as a lamb Go to (as) **meek as a lamb.**

meet one's death AND **meet one's end** to experience something, especially death or problems. ☐ *After 20 years, my dog finally met his death when he got hit by a bus.* ☐ *The sky diver met his end when his parachute didn't open.*

meet one's end Go to **meet one's death.**

meet one's match to meet one's equal. ☐ *John played tennis with Bill yesterday, and it looks as if John has finally met his match.* ☐ *Listen to Jane and Mary argue. I always thought that Jane was loud, but she has finally met her match.*

meet one's Waterloo to meet one's final and insurmountable challenge. (Refers to Napoleon's defeat at Waterloo.) ☐ *The boss is being very hard on Bill. It seems that Bill has finally met his Waterloo.* ☐ *John was more than Sally could handle. She has finally met her Waterloo.*

meet someone halfway to offer to compromise with someone. (Also literal.) ☐ *No, I won't give in, but I'll meet you halfway.* ☐ *They settled the argument by agreeing to meet each other halfway.*

meet the requirements (for something) to fulfill the requirements for something. ☐ *Sally was unable to meet the requirements for the job.* ☐ *Jane met the requirements and was told to report to work the next day.*

a **meeting of minds** the establishment of agreement; complete agreement. ☐ *After a lot of discussion we finally reached a meeting of minds.* ☐ *We struggled to bring about a meeting of minds on the issues.*

melt in one's mouth **1.** to taste very good. (Also can be literal.) □ *This cake is so good it'll melt in your mouth.* □ *John said that the food didn't exactly melt in his mouth.* **2.** [of meat] to be very, very tender. □ *My steak is so tender it could melt in my mouth.* □ *This fillet will melt in your mouth!*

mend (one's) fences to restore good relations (with someone). (Also literal.) □ *I think I had better get home and mend my fences. I had an argument with my daughter this morning.* □ *Sally called up her uncle to apologize and try to mend fences.*

mend one's ways to improve one's behavior. □ *John used to be very wild, but he's mended his ways.* □ *You'll have to mend your ways if you go out with Mary. She hates people to be late.*

mention someone or something in passing to mention someone or something casually; to mention someone or something while talking about someone or something else. □ *He just happened to mention in passing that the mayor had resigned.* □ *John mentioned in passing that he was nearly eighty years old.*

merry as a cricket Go to (as) merry as a cricket.

merry as the day is long Go to (as) merry as the day is long.

mess about (with someone or something) Go to mess around (with someone or something).

mess around (with someone or something) AND **mess about (with someone or something); monkey around (with someone or something); screw around (with someone or something)** to play with or waste time with someone or something. (Slang.) □ *Will you please stop messing around with that old car!* □ *Stop messing about! Get busy!* □ *Tom wastes a lot of time messing around with Bill.* □ *Don't monkey around with my computer!* □ *John is always screwing around with his stereo.*

mess someone or something up **1.** [with someone] to rough someone up; to beat someone up. (Slang.) □ *The robbers threatened to mess Bob up if he didn't cooperate.* □ *John messed up Bill a little, but no real*

harm was done. **2.** [with something] to make something disorderly. □ *You really messed this place up!* □ *Who messed up my bed?*

middle-of-the-road halfway between two extremes, especially political extremes. (Also literal.) □ *Jane is very left-wing, but her husband is politically middle-of-the-road.* □ *I don't want to vote for either the left-wing or the right-wing candidate. I prefer someone with more middle-of-the-road views.*

might and main great physical strength; great force. □ *The huge warrior, with all his might and main, could not break his way through the castle gates.* □ *The incredible might and main of the sea crushed the ship against the cliff.*

milestone in someone's life a very important event or point in one's life. (From the stone at the side of a road showing the distance to or from a place.) □ *Joan's wedding was a milestone in her mother's life.* □ *The birth of a child is a milestone in every parent's life.*

milk of human kindness natural kindness and sympathy shown to others. (From Shakespeare's play *Macbeth*, I. v.) □ *Mary is completely hard and selfish—she has no milk of human kindness in her.* □ *Roger is too full of the milk of human kindness and people take advantage of him.*

milk someone for something to pressure someone into giving information or money. □ *The reporter milked the mayor's aide for information.* □ *The thief milked me for \$20.*

millstone about one's neck a continual burden or handicap. □ *This huge and expensive house is a millstone about my neck.* □ *Bill's inability to read is a millstone about his neck.*

mince (one's) words to lessen the force of one's statement by choosing weak or polite words; to be euphemistic. (Formal.) □ *I won't mince words. You did a rotten job.* □ *I'm not one to mince words, so I have to say that you behaved very badly.*

mind one's own business to attend only to the things that concern one. □ *Leave*

me alone, Bill. Mind your own business. □ I'd be fine if John would mind his own business.

mind one's p's and q's to pay attention to small details of behavior, especially manners. □ *When we go to the mayor's reception, please mind your p's and q's. □ I always mind my p's and q's when I eat at a restaurant with white tablecloths.*

mind the store to take care of local matters. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Please stay here in the office and mind the store while I go to the conference. □ I had to stay home and mind the store when Ann went to Boston.*

mind you <a phrase indicating that something should be taken into consideration.> □ *He's very well dressed, but mind you, he's got plenty of money to buy clothes. □ Lisa is unfriendly to me, but mind you, she's never very nice to anyone.*

mind your manners to be careful to use good manners. □ *Mind your manners while we visit Aunt Mary's house. □ Jimmy! Mind your manners!*

a **mine of information** someone or something that is full of information. □ *Grandfather is a mine of information about World War I. □ The new encyclopedia is a positive mine of useful information.*

the **minute** something happens the point in time at which an event happens. □ *I'll be inside the minute it rains. □ Call me the minute you get to town.*

a **miscarriage of justice** a wrong or mistaken decision, especially one made in a court of law. □ *Sentencing the old man on a charge of murder proved to be a miscarriage of justice. □ Punishing the student for cheating was a miscarriage of justice. He was innocent.*

misplace one's trust (in someone) to put trust in the wrong person; to put trust in someone who does not deserve it. □ *The writer misplaced his trust in his editor. □ The voters misplaced their trust in the corrupt politician.*

miss out (on something) AND lose out (on something) to fail to participate in something; to fail to take part in something. □ *I'm sorry I missed out on the ice cream. □ I lost out on it, too. □ We both missed out.*

miss (something) by a mile to fail to hit something by a great distance; to land wide of the mark. □ *Ann shot the arrow and missed the target by a mile. □ "Good grief, you missed by a mile," shouted Sally.*

miss the boat to miss out (on something); to be ignorant (of something). (Also literal. Slang.) □ *Pay attention, John, or you'll miss the boat. □ Tom really missed the boat when it came to making friends.*

miss the point to fail to understand the important part of something. (Also literal.) □ *I'm afraid you missed the point. Let me explain it again. □ You keep explaining, and I keep missing the point.*

[mission in life] Go to someone's mission in life.

mistake someone for someone else AND mix someone up with someone else to confuse someone with someone else; to think that one person is another person. □ *I'm sorry. I mistook you for John. □ Tom is always mistaking Bill for me. We don't look a thing alike, though. □ Try not to mix Bill up with Bob.*

mix and match 1. to assemble a limited number of items, usually clothing, in a number of different ways. □ *Alice was very good at mixing and matching her skirts, blouses, and sweaters so that she always could be attractively dressed on a limited budget. □ Gary always bought black, blue, and gray trousers and shirts so he could mix and match without too many bad combinations. 2. to select a number of items from an assortment, often in order to get a quantity discount. (As opposed to getting a quantity discount for buying a lot of only one item.) □ *The candles were 25 percent off, and you could mix and match colors, sizes, and length. □ I found a good sale on shirts. They were four for fifty dollars, and the store would let you mix and match.**

mix it up to argue or fight. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *First they were just talking, then suddenly one of them got mad and they really began to mix it up.* □ *Look at you, Bill! Your face is bleeding. Have you been mixing it up with John again?*

mix someone or something **up** **1.** to confuse two things or two people with each other. □ *Please don't mix these ideas up. They are quite distinct.* □ *I always mix up Bill and Bob.* □ *Why do you mix them up?* **2.** [with someone] to cause someone to be confused or puzzled. □ *I'm confused as it is. Don't mix me up anymore.* □ *They mixed up my uncle by giving him too many things to remember.* **3.** [with something] to blend the ingredients of something; to assemble and mix the parts of something. (Usually refers to fluid matter such as paint, gasoline, or milk.) □ *The glue will be ready to use as soon as I mix it up.* □ *Now, mix up the eggs, water, and salt; then add the mixture to the flour and sugar.*

mix someone **up with** someone **else** Go to mistake someone for someone else.

a **mixed bag** a varied collection of people or things. (Refers to a bag of game brought home after a day's hunting.) □ *The new students in my class are a mixed bag—some bright, some positively stupid.* □ *The furniture I bought is a mixed bag. Some of it is valuable and the rest is worthless.*

the **moment everyone has been waiting for** Go to the big moment.

the **moment of truth** the point at which someone has to face the reality or facts of a situation. □ *The moment of truth is here. Turn over your test papers and begin.* □ *Now for the moment of truth when we find out whether we have got permission or not.*

Money burns a hole in someone's **pocket.** Someone spends as much money as possible. (Proverb. See also **have money to burn.**) □ *Sally can't seem to save anything. Money burns a hole in her pocket.* □ *If money burns a hole in your pocket, you never have any for emergencies.*

Money is no object. AND **Expense is no object.** It does not matter how much something costs. □ *Please show me your finest automobile. Money is no object.* □ *I want the finest earrings you have. Don't worry about how much they cost because expense is no object.*

Money is the root of all evil. Money is the basic cause of all wrongdoing. (Proverb. The full version is *The love of money is the root of all evil.*) □ *Why do you work so hard to make money? It will just cause you trouble. Money is the root of all evil.* □ *Any thief in prison can tell you that money is the root of all evil.*

money talks money gives one power and influence to help get things done or get one's own way. (Informal.) □ *Don't worry. I have a way of getting things done. Money talks.* □ *I can't compete against rich old Mrs. Jones. She'll get her way because money talks.*

monkey around (with someone or something) Go to mess around (with someone or something).

monkey business playful or out of the ordinary activities; mischievous or illegal activities. □ *There's been some monkey business in connection with the bank's accounts.* □ *Bob left the company quite suddenly. I think there was some monkey business between him and the boss's wife.*

monkey suit a tuxedo. (Jocular. Possibly alluding to the fancy suit worn by an organ grinder's monkey.) □ *Do I have to wear a monkey suit to dinner?* □ *All the men except me wore monkey suits at dinner on the cruise.*

months running Go to days running.

mop the floor up with someone to overwhelm and physically subdue someone; to beat someone. (Slang. See also **wipe up the floor with** someone.) □ *Stop talking like that, or I'll mop the floor up with you!* □ *Did you hear that? He threatened to mop up the floor with me!*

mope around to go about in a depressed state. (Informal.) □ *Since her dog ran away, Sally mopes around all day.* □ *Don't mope around. Cheer up!*

more and more an increasing amount; additional amounts. □ *As I learn more and more, I see how little I know.* □ *Dad seems to be smoking more and more lately.*

more dead than alive exhausted; in very bad condition; near death. (Almost always an exaggeration.) □ *We arrived at the top of the mountain more dead than alive.* □ *The marathon runners stumbled one by one over the finish line, more dead than alive.*

more fun than a barrel of monkeys Go to (as) funny as a barrel of monkeys.

more often than not usually. □ *These flowers will live through the winter more often than not.* □ *This kind of dog will grow up to be a good watchdog more often than not.*

more or less to some extent; approximately; sort of. □ *This one will do all right, more or less.* □ *We'll be there at eight, more or less.*

more someone or something than one can shake a stick at a lot; too many to count. (Folksy.) □ *There were more snakes than you could shake a stick at.* □ *There are lots of flowers in the field—more than one can shake a stick at.*

more than one can bear AND **more than one can take; more than one can stand** more of something, such as trouble or something bad, than a person can endure. □ *This news is more than I can bear!* □ *I've heard enough of this horrid music. It's more than I can stand.*

more than one can stand Go to more than one can bear.

more than one can take Go to more than one can bear.

more than someone bargained for more than one thought one would get. (Usually in reference to trouble or difficulty.) □ *When Betsy brought home the sweet little puppy for a companion, she got more than she bargained for. That animal has cost her hundreds of dollars in medical bills.* □ *I got more than I bargained for when I took this job.*

the **more the merrier** the more people there are, the happier they will be. □ *Of course you can have a ride with us! The more the merrier.* □ *The manager hired a new employee even though there's not enough work for all of us now. Oh, well, the more the merrier.*

more (to something) than meets the eye [there are] hidden values or facts in something. □ *There is more to that problem than meets the eye.* □ *What makes you think that there is more than meets the eye?*

the **morning after (the night before)** the morning after a night spent drinking, when one has a hangover. □ *Oh, I've got a headache. Talk about the morning after the night before!* □ *It looked like a case of the morning after the night before, and Frank asked for some aspirin.*

move heaven and earth to do something to make a major effort to do something. □ *"I'll move heaven and earth to be with you, Mary," said Bill.* □ *I had to move heaven and earth to get there on time.* □ *Your father and I had to move heaven and earth to pay for your braces and your college bills, and what thanks do we get?*

move in (on someone or something) 1. [with someone] to attempt to displace someone or take over someone's property, interests, or relationships. (Slang, especially criminal slang. Compare this with **muscle in** (on someone or something).) □ *Look here, pal, Sally's my girl. Are you trying to move in on me?* □ *It looks like the south-side gang is trying to move in. We'll have to teach them a lesson.* 2. [with someone] to move into someone's household. □ *My mother-in-law moved in on us for two months.* □ *I wouldn't move in on you without an invitation.* 3. to move closer to someone or something, especially with a camera. □ *Now, slowly move in on the cereal box. This will be a great advertisement.* □ *Hold the camera very steady and move in on the baby.*

move into something to get started in a new enterprise, job, etc. (Also literal.) □ *I moved into a new job last week. It's very*

exciting work. □ *John moved into a new line of work, too.*

move up (in the world) to advance (oneself) and become successful. □ *The harder I work, the more I move up in the world.* □ *Keep your eye on John. He's really moving up.*

movers and shakers people who get things done; people who are productive and cause other people to be productive; people who create and produce. □ *The trouble with the ABC Company is that all the movers and shakers are leaving to take jobs elsewhere.* □ *It seems as if all the movers and shakers of the world are employed by a very small number of large firms.*

much ado about nothing a lot of excitement about nothing. (This is the title of a play by Shakespeare. Do not confuse *ado* with *adieu*.) □ *All the commotion about the new tax law turned out to be much ado about nothing.* □ *Your promises always turn out to be much ado about nothing.*

much in evidence very visible or evident. □ *John was much in evidence during the conference.* □ *Your influence is much in evidence. I appreciate your efforts.*

much sought after wanted or desired very much; highly desirable. □ *This kind of crystal is much sought after. It's very rare.* □ *Sally is a great singer. She's much sought after.*

muddy the water to make something less clear; to make matters confusing; to create difficulty where there was none before. (Also literal.) □ *Things were going along quite smoothly until you came along and muddied the water.* □ *The events of the past month have muddied the water as far as our proposed joint venture is concerned.*

muff one's lines Go to fluff one's lines.

mull something over to think about something; to ponder or worry about something. □ *That's an interesting idea, but I'll have to mull it over.* □ *I'll mull over your suggestions and report to you next week.*

mum's the word don't spread the secret. □ *Don't tell anyone what I told you. Remember, mum's the word.* □ *Okay, mum's the word. Your secret is safe with me.*

murder on something very destructive or harmful to something. □ *Running a marathon is murder on your knees.* □ *This dry weather is murder on my crops.*

muscle in (on someone or something) to try forcefully to displace someone or take over someone's property, interests, or relationships. (Slang, especially criminal slang. Compare this with **move in (on someone or something)**.) □ *Are you trying to muscle in on my scheme?* □ *If you try to muscle in, you'll be facing big trouble.*

a must something that you must do. (Informal. Preceded by *be*, *become*, or *seem* like.) □ *When you're in San Francisco, see the Golden Gate Bridge. It's a must.* □ *It's a must that you brush your teeth after every meal.*

muster (up) one's courage to build up one's courage; to call or bring forth one's courage. □ *I mustered my courage and dove from the high diving board.* □ *He had to muster up all his courage in order to attend the dance.*

my gut tells me (that) something is so my instincts tell me that something is so. (This refers to one's *gut reaction* or *gut response*, that is, the way someone feels about something.) □ *My gut tells me that her idea is a sound one.* □ *This looks good on paper, but my gut tells me that it is all wrong.*

my one and only one's spouse. (Informal. See also **the one and only**.) □ *Look at the time. I've got to get home to my one and only.* □ *You're my one and only. There is no one else for me.*

N

nail in someone's or something's **coffin** Go to (another) **nail in** someone's or something's coffin.

nail someone or something **down** **1.** [with someone] to get a firm and final decision from someone (on something). (Also literal. Informal.) □ *I want you to find Bob and get an answer from him. Nail him down one way or the other.* □ *Please nail down John on the question of signing the contract.* **2.** [with something] to get a firm and final decision (from someone) on something. (Informal.) □ *Find Bob and nail down an answer.* □ *Let's get in touch with John and nail down this contract.*

naked as a jaybird Go to (as) **naked as a jaybird**.

the **naked eye** the human eye, unassisted by optics, such as a telescope, microscope, or spectacles. □ *I can't see the bird's markings with the naked eye.* □ *The scientist could see nothing in the liquid with the naked eye, but with the aid of a microscope, she identified the bacteria.* □ *That's how it appears to the naked eye.*

[name is mud] Go to one's **name is mud**.

the **name of the game** goal or purpose. (Slang.) □ *The name of the game is sell. You must sell, sell, sell if you want to make a living.* □ *Around here, the name of the game is look out for yourself.*

name someone **after** someone **else** **AND** **name** someone **for** someone **else** to give someone (usually a baby) the name of another person. □ *We named our baby after my aunt.* □ *My parents named me for my grandfather.*

name someone **for** someone **else** Go to **name** someone **after** someone **else**.

near at hand close or handy (to someone). (See also **at hand**; **close at hand**.) □ *Do you have a pencil near at hand?* □ *My dictionary isn't near at hand.*

neat as a pin Go to (as) **neat as a pin**.

neck and neck exactly even, especially in a race or a contest. (Informal.) □ *John and Tom finished the race neck and neck.* □ *Mary and Ann were neck and neck in the spelling contest. Their scores were tied.*

need something **like a hole in the head** not to need something at all. (Informal.) □ *I need a housecat like I need a hole in the head!* □ *She needs a car like she needs a hole in the head.*

need something **yesterday** to require something in a very big hurry. (Informal.) □ *Yes, I'm in a hurry! I need it yesterday!* □ *When do I need it? Now! Now! No, I need it yesterday!*

neither fish nor fowl not any recognizable thing; not any recognizable category. □ *The car that they drove up in was neither fish nor fowl. It must have been made out of spare parts.* □ *This proposal is neither fish nor fowl. I can't tell what you're proposing.*

neither here nor there of no consequence or meaning; irrelevant and immaterial. □ *Whether you go to the movie or stay at home is neither here nor there.* □ *Your comment—though interesting—is neither here nor there.*

neither hide nor hair no sign or indication (of someone or something). □ *We could find neither hide nor hair of him. I don't know where he is.* □ *There has been no one here—neither hide nor hair—for the last three days.*

never fear do not worry; have confidence.

□ *I'll be there on time—never fear.* □ *I'll help you, never fear.*

never had it so good Go to (have) never had it so good.

never in one's life not in one's experience.

□ *Never in my life have I been so insulted!*
□ *He said that never in his life had he seen such an ugly painting.*

never mind forget it; pay no more attention (to something). □ *I wanted to talk to you, but never mind. It wasn't important.*
□ *Never mind. I'm sorry to bother you.*

never would have guessed 1. never would have thought something to be the case. (Not used in other tenses.) □ *He was the one who did it? I never would have guessed.* □ *I never would have guessed that he wanted the job. He kept it a very good secret.* 2. knew it all the time because it was so obvious. (Sarcastic. Not used in other tenses.) □ *I never would have guessed that he wanted the job. He only begged and begged for it.* □ *Now she wants to go back home? I never would have guessed! She has been homesick for days.*

new ball game Go to (whole) new ball game.

new blood Go to (some) new blood.

new hire a person who has recently been hired; a newly employed person. □ *Anne is our new hire who will begin work Tuesday.* □ *The accounting department is full of new hires.*

a **new lease on life** a renewed and revitalized outlook on life. □ *Getting the job offer was a new lease on life.* □ *When I got out of the hospital, I felt as if I had a new lease on life.*

new to (all) this Go to (a little) new to (all) this.

next-door neighbor the person living in the house or apartment closest to one's own. □ *My next-door neighbor came over to borrow a shovel.* □ *I will be visiting our next-door neighbor if you need me.*

next of kin someone's closest living relative or relatives. □ *The police notified the dead*

man's next of kin. □ *My next of kin lives 800 miles away.*

next to nothing hardly anything; almost nothing. □ *This car's worth next to nothing. It's full of rust.* □ *I bought this antique chair for next to nothing.*

next to someone or something near to someone or something; adjacent to someone or something. □ *I live next to a bank.* □ *Please sit next to me.*

nice and some quality enough of some quality; adequately; sufficiently. □ *It is nice and cool this evening.* □ *I think your steak is nice and done now and probably overcooked.*

nickel and dime someone to charge someone many small amounts of money; to assess many small fees against someone. □ *We will not stay at that resort again. They nickel and dime you to death in that place. There is a charge for everything.* □ *Tuition at the university hasn't gone up in two years but other small fees have. They really nickel and dime you there.*

night and day Go to day and night.

a **night on the town** a night of celebrating (at one or more places in a town). □ *Did you enjoy your night on the town?* □ *After we got the contract signed, we celebrated with a night on the town.*

night owl someone who usually stays up very late. (Preceded by *be, become, seem like, or act like.*) □ *Anne's a real night owl. She never goes to bed before 2 A.M. and sleeps till noon.* □ *Jack's a night owl and is at his best after midnight.*

a **nine days' wonder** something that is of interest to people only for a short time. □ *Don't worry about the story about you in the newspaper. It'll be a nine days' wonder, and then people will forget.* □ *The elopement of Jack and Anne was a nine days' wonder. Now people never mention it.*

a **nine-to-five job** a job with regular and normal hours. □ *I wouldn't want a nine-to-five job. I like the freedom I have as my own boss.* □ *I used to work nights, but now I have a nine-to-five job.*

nip and tuck almost even; almost tied. (Informal.) □ *The horses ran nip and tuck for the first half of the race. Then my horse pulled ahead.* □ *In the football game last Saturday, both teams were nip and tuck throughout the game.*

nip something in the bud to put an end to something at an early stage. (Also literal.) □ *John is getting into bad habits, and it's best to nip them in the bud.* □ *There was trouble in the classroom, but the teacher nipped it in the bud.*

No big deal! Not a big problem! (Informal.) □ *It didn't hurt. No big deal!* □ *It isn't a problem. No big deal!*

no buts about it Go to no ifs, ands, or buts about it.

No can do. It can't be done.; I can't do it. (Slang.) □ *Sorry, John. No can do. I can't sell you this one. I've promised it to Mrs. Smith.* □ *BILL: Please fix this clock today.* *BOB: No can do. It'll take a week to get the parts.*

No comment. I have nothing to say on this matter. □ *Q: When did you stop beating your dog? A: No comment.* □ *Q: Georgie, did you chop down the cherry tree? A: No comment.*

no doubt surely; without a doubt; undoubtedly. □ *He will be here again tomorrow, no doubt.* □ *No doubt you will require a ride home?*

no end of something lots of something. (Informal.) □ *It was a wonderful banquet. They had no end of good food.* □ *Tom is a real problem. He's no end of trouble.*

no flies on someone someone is not slow; someone is not wasting time. (Refers to a person moving too fast to allow flies to light.) □ *Of course I work fast. I go as fast as I can. There are no flies on me.* □ *There are no flies on Robert. He does his work very fast and very well.*

no great shakes nothing important or worth noticing. (Slang.) □ *It's okay, but it's no great shakes.* □ *I like John, but he's no great shakes when it comes to sports.*

no hard feelings no anger or resentment. (Informal. No can be replaced with any.)

□ *I hope you don't have any hard feelings.*
□ *No, I have no hard feelings.*

No harm done. It is all right. No one or nothing has been harmed. (Informal.) □ *It's okay. No harm done.* □ *A: I am sorry I stepped on your toe. B: No harm done.*

no holds barred with no restraints. (Slang. From wrestling.) □ *I intend to argue it out with Mary, no holds barred.* □ *When Ann negotiates a contract, she goes in with no holds barred and comes out with a good contract.*

no ifs, ands, or buts about it **AND NO BUTS ABOUT IT** absolutely no discussion, dissension, or doubt about something. □ *I want you there exactly at eight, no ifs, ands, or buts about it.* □ *This is the best television set available for the money, no buts about it.*

no joke a serious matter. (Informal.) □ *It's no joke when you miss the last train.* □ *It's certainly no joke when you have to walk home.*

no kidding [spoken] honestly; [someone is] not joking or lying. (Slang.) □ *No kidding, you really got an A in geometry?* □ *I really did, no kidding.*

no laughing matter a serious matter. □ *Be serious. This is no laughing matter.* □ *This disease is no laughing matter. It's quite deadly.*

no love lost (between someone and someone else) no friendship wasted between someone and someone else (because they are enemies). □ *Ever since their big argument, there has been no love lost between Tom and Bill.* □ *You can tell by the way that Jane is acting toward Ann that there is no love lost.*

no matter what happens in any event; without regard to what happens (in the future). □ *We'll be there on time, no matter what.* □ *No matter what happens, we'll still be friends.*

No news is good news. If one has not had any information about someone or something for some time, it means that all is well, since one would have heard if anything bad or unfortunate had occurred.

(Proverb.) ☐ *I haven't heard from my son since he left for college, but I suppose no news is good news.* ☐ *I think Joan would have heard by now if she hadn't got the job.* *No news is good news.*

no point in something no purpose in doing something. ☐ *There is no point in locking the barn door now that the horse has been stolen.* ☐ *There's no point in crying over spilled milk.*

no problem Go to **no sweat**.

no skin off someone's **nose** Go to **no skin off** someone's **teeth**.

no skin off someone's **teeth** AND **no skin off** someone's **nose** no difficulty for someone; no concern of someone. ☐ *It's no skin off my nose if she wants to act that way.* ☐ *She said it was no skin off her teeth if we wanted to sell the house.*

no sooner said than done <an expression indicating that something has been done quickly and obediently.> ☐ *When Sally asked for someone to open the window, it was no sooner said than done.* ☐ *As Jane opened the window, she said, "No sooner said than done."*

no spring chicken not young (anymore). (Informal.) ☐ *I don't get around very well anymore. I'm no spring chicken, you know.* ☐ *Even though John is no spring chicken, he still plays tennis twice a week.*

no sweat AND **no problem** no difficulty; do not worry. (Slang.) ☐ *Of course I can have your car repaired by noon. No sweat.* ☐ *You'd like a red one? No problem.*

no trespassing do not enter. (Usually seen on a sign. Not usually spoken.) ☐ *The sign on the tree said, "No Trespassing." So we didn't go in.* ☐ *The angry farmer chased us out of the field shouting, "Get out! Don't you see the no trespassing sign?"*

no two ways about it no choice about it; no other interpretation of it. (Folksy. Note the form *there's* rather than *there are*.) ☐ *You have to go to the doctor whether you like it or not. There's no two ways about it.* ☐ *This letter means you're in trouble with the tax people. There's no two ways about it.*

no-win situation a situation where there is no correct or satisfactory solution. ☐ *The general was too weak to fight and too proud to surrender. It was a no-win situation.* ☐ *The huge dog my father gave us as a gift eats too much. If we get rid of the dog, my father will be insulted. If we keep it, we will go broke buying food for it. This is a classic no-win situation.*

no wonder [something is] not surprising. (Informal.) ☐ *No wonder the baby is crying. She's wet.* ☐ *It's no wonder that plant died. You watered it too much.*

nobody's fool a sensible and wise person who is not easily deceived. ☐ *Mary's nobody's fool. She knows Jack would try to cheat her.* ☐ *Anne looks as though she's not very bright, but she's nobody's fool.*

nod off to fall asleep, usually while sitting up. (Informal.) ☐ *Jack nodded off during the minister's sermon.* ☐ *Father always nods off after Sunday lunch.*

none of someone's **beeswax** **none of** someone's **business** (Slang.) ☐ *The answer to that question is none of your beeswax.* ☐ *It's none of your beeswax what I do with my spare time.*

none of someone's **business** not of someone's concern. (A gentle rebuke.) ☐ Q: *When are you going to leave for home?* A: *None of your business.* ☐ *How I manage to keep thin is none of your business.*

none other than someone the very person. ☐ *The new building was opened by none other than the mayor.* ☐ *Jack's wife turned out to be none other than my cousin.*

none the wiser not knowing any more. ☐ *I was none the wiser about the project after the lecture. It was a complete waste of time.* ☐ *Anne tried to explain the situation tactfully to Jack, but in the end, he was none the wiser.*

none the worse for wear no worse because of use or effort. ☐ *I lent my car to John. When I got it back, it was none the worse for wear.* ☐ *I had a hard day today, but I'm none the worse for wear.*

none too something not very something; not at all something. ☐ *The towels in the*

bathroom were none too clean. □ *It was none too warm in their house.*

nose about Go to nose around.

nose around AND **nose about** to investigate; to check (into something). (Informal.) □ *I don't have an answer to your question, but I'll nose around and see what I can find out.* □ *I'll nose about, too. Who knows what we'll find out?*

nose in(to something) to move into something, front end first. □ *Slowly the car nosed into its parking place.* □ *You must nose in very carefully.*

[nose is in the air] Go to one's nose is in the air.

nose someone out to push someone away; to exclude someone. □ *Where I work someone is always trying to nose me out. I'd hate to lose my job.* □ *John nosed out Bill from the team.*

not a bit none at all. □ *Am I unhappy? Not a bit.* □ *I don't want any mashed potatoes. Not a bit!*

[not able] Go to the expressions listed at can't as well as those listed below.

not able to call one's time one's own too busy; so busy as not to be in charge of one's own schedule. (Informal. *Not able to* is often expressed as *can't*.) □ *It's been so busy around here that I haven't been able to call my time my own.* □ *She can't call her time her own these days.*

not able to go on unable to continue (doing something—even living). (*Not able to* is often expressed as *can't*.) □ *I just can't go on this way.* □ *Before her death, she left a note saying she was not able to go on.*

not able to help something unable to prevent or control something. (*Not able to* is often expressed as *can't*.) □ *I'm sorry about being late. I wasn't able to help it.* □ *Bob can't help being boring.*

not able to make anything out of someone or something unable to understand someone or something. (*Not able to* is often expressed as *can't*. The *anything* may refer to something specific, as in the first example.) □ *I can't make sense out of*

what you just said. □ *We were not able to make anything out of the message.*

not able to see the forest for the trees

allowing many details of a situation to obscure the situation as a whole. (*Not able to* is often expressed as *can't*.) □ *The solution is obvious. You missed it because you can't see the forest for the trees.* □ *She suddenly realized that she hadn't been able to see the forest for the trees.*

not able to stomach someone or something AND **cannot stomach** someone or something not to be able to put up with someone or something; not to be able to tolerate or endure someone or something. □ *Jane cannot stomach violent movies.* □ *The unpopular student could not stomach a lot of ridicule.*

not able to wait to have to go to the bathroom urgently. (Also literal in a general sense. Informal.) □ *Mom, I can't wait.* □ *Driver, stop the bus! My little boy can't wait.*

not agree with someone [for food] to make someone ill; [for something one has eaten] to give one minor stomach distress. □ *Fried foods don't agree with Tom.* □ *I always have onions in my garden, but I never eat them. They just don't agree with me.*

not a living soul nobody. (Informal. See also *not tell a (living) soul*.) □ *No one was there—not a living soul.* □ *Not a living soul saw me leave.*

not all something is cracked up to be AND **not what something is cracked up to be** not as good as something is said to be. (Informal. *Not all* is in the negative.) □ *This isn't a very good pen. It's not all it's cracked up to be.* □ *Is this one all it's cracked up to be?* □ *This restaurant isn't what it's cracked up to be.*

not all there not mentally adequate; crazy or silly. (Informal.) □ *Sometimes I think you're not all there.* □ *Be nice to Sally. She's not all there.*

not a moment to spare AND **without a moment to spare** just in time; with no extra time. □ *Hurry, hurry! There's not*

a moment to spare! □ *I arrived without a moment to spare.*

not at all certainly not; absolutely not. □ *No, it doesn't bother me—not at all.* □ *I'm not complaining. Not me. Not at all.*

not bat an eyelid to show no signs of distress even when something bad happens or something shocking is said. □ *Sam didn't bat an eyelid when the mechanic told him how much the car repairs would cost.* □ *The pain of the broken arm must have hurt Sally terribly, but she did not bat an eyelid.*

not believe one's eyes not to believe what one is seeing; to be shocked or dumbfounded at what one is seeing. □ *I walked into the room and I couldn't believe my eyes. All the furniture had been stolen!* □ *When Jimmy opened his birthday present, he could hardly believe his eyes. Just what he wanted!*

not born yesterday experienced; knowledgeable in the ways of the world. □ *I know what's going on. I wasn't born yesterday.* □ *Sally knows the score. She wasn't born yesterday.*

not breathe a word (about someone or something) to keep a secret about someone or something. □ *Don't worry. I won't breathe a word about the problem.* □ *Please don't breathe a word about Bob and his problems.*

not breathe a word of it not to tell something (to anyone). □ *Don't worry. I won't breathe a word of it.* □ *Tom won't breathe a word of it.*

not buy something not accept something (to be true). (Also literal. Slang.) □ *You may think so, but I don't buy it.* □ *The police wouldn't buy his story.*

not by a long shot not by a great amount; not. (Informal.) □ *Did I win the race? Not by a long shot.* □ *Not by a long shot did she complete the assignment.*

not care two hoots (about someone or something) **AND not give two hoots (about** someone or something); **not give a hang (about** someone or something); **not give a hoot (about** someone or something)

not to care at all about someone or something. (Folksy.) □ *I don't care two hoots about whether you go to the picnic or not.* □ *She doesn't give a hoot about me. Why should I care?* □ *I don't give a hang about it.*

not dry behind the ears Go to wet behind the ears.

not enough room to swing a cat not very much space. (Folksy.) □ *Their living room was very small. There wasn't enough room to swing a cat.* □ *How can you work in a small room like this? There's not enough room to swing a cat.*

not for a moment not at all; not even for a short amount of time; never. □ *I don't want you to leave. Not for a moment!* □ *I could not wish such a horrible punishment on anyone. Not for a moment!*

not for (anything in) the world AND not for love nor money; not on your life not for anything (no matter what its value). (Note the variation in the examples. The order of love nor money is fixed.) □ *I won't do it for love nor money.* □ *He said he wouldn't do it—not for the world.* □ *She said no, not for anything in the world.* □ *Me, go there? Not on your life!*

not for hire [of a taxi] not available to take new passengers. □ *The taxi was going to pick someone up at a nearby hotel and was not for hire.* □ *The taxi had a lighted sign that said it was not for hire.*

not for love nor money Go to not for (anything in) the world.

not for publication not to be talked about openly; secret. □ *Please tell no one about this. It's not for publication.* □ *This report is not for publication, so keep the results to yourself.*

not give a hang (about someone or something) Go to not care two hoots (about someone or something).

not give a hoot (about someone or something) Go to not care two hoots (about someone or something).

not give it another thought not to worry about something anymore. (A polite way

of accepting someone's apology.) □ *It's okay. Please don't give it another thought.* □ *You should not give it another thought. No one was bothered at all.*

not give someone the time of day to ignore someone (usually out of dislike). (Informal.) □ *Mary won't speak to Sally. She won't give her the time of day.* □ *I couldn't get an appointment with Mr. Smith. He wouldn't even give me the time of day.*

not give two hoots (about someone or something) Go to **not care two hoots (about someone or something)**.

not half bad okay; pretty good. (Folksy.) □ *Say, this roast beef isn't half bad.* □ *Hey, Sally! You're not half bad!*

[not] have anything to do with something Go to **have something to do with** something.

not hold a candle to someone or something Go to **not hold a stick to** someone or something.

not hold a stick to someone or something **AND not hold a candle to** someone or something not to be nearly as good as someone or something. (Informal.) □ *Sally is much faster than Bob. Bob doesn't hold a stick to Sally.* □ *This TV doesn't hold a candle to that one. That one is much better.*

not hold water to make no sense; to be illogical. (Also literal. Informal. Said of ideas, arguments, etc., not people. It means that the idea has holes in it.) □ *Your argument doesn't hold water.* □ *This scheme won't work because it can't hold water.*

not hurt a flea not to harm anything or anyone, even a tiny insect. (Also with other forms of negation.) □ *Ted would not even hurt a flea. He could not have struck Bill.* □ *Ted would never hurt a flea, and he would not hit anyone as you claim.*

not in the same league with someone or something not anywhere nearly as good as someone or something. (Also literal.) □ *John isn't in the same league with Bob and his friends.* □ *This house isn't in the same league with our old one.*

not know beans (about someone or something) to know nothing about someone or

something. (Slang.) □ *Bill doesn't know beans about flying an airplane.* □ *When it comes to flying, I don't know beans.* □ *She doesn't know beans about Bill.*

not know enough to come in out of the rain to be very stupid. □ *Bob is so stupid he doesn't know enough to come in out of the rain.* □ *You can't expect very much from somebody who doesn't know enough to come in out of the rain.*

not know from nothing to be stupid, innocent, and naive. (Slang. This *nothing* is not replaced with *something*. Usually with *don't*, as in the examples below.) □ *Old John—he don't know from nothing.* □ *What do you expect from somebody who don't know from nothing?*

not know if one is coming or going Go to **not know whether one is coming or going**.

not know one's own strength not to realize how destructive or harmful one's strength can be. (Present tense only.) □ *I didn't mean to hurt you. I guess I don't know my own strength.* □ *He might break the door down by accident. He doesn't know his own strength and could end up pushing too hard against the door.*

not know someone from Adam not to know someone at all. □ *I wouldn't recognize John if I saw him. I don't know him from Adam.* □ *What does she look like? I don't know her from Adam.*

not know the first thing about someone or something not to know anything about someone or something. □ *I don't know the first thing about flying an airplane.* □ *She doesn't know the first thing about John.*

not know where to turn **AND not know which way to turn** to have no idea about what to do (about something). □ *I was so confused I didn't know where to turn.* □ *We needed help, but we didn't know which way to turn.*

not know whether one is coming or going **AND not know if one is coming or going** to be very confused. □ *I'm so busy that I don't know if I'm coming or going.*

□ *You look as if you don't know whether you're coming or going.*

not know which way to turn Go to not know where to turn.

not let someone **catch** someone doing something AND **not want to catch** someone doing something to find someone doing something wrong. (The idea is that the person ought not to do the wrong thing again, not that the person simply avoid getting caught.) □ *How many times have I told you not to play ball in the house? Don't let me catch you doing that again.* □ *If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times: Don't do that! I don't want to catch you doing it again!*

not lift a finger (to help someone) AND **not lift a hand (to help someone)** to do nothing to help someone. (The *someone* is *anyone* in the negative.) □ *They wouldn't lift a finger to help us.* □ *Can you imagine that they wouldn't lift a finger?* □ *Sally refused to lift a hand to help her own sister.*

not lift a hand (to help someone) Go to not lift a finger (to help someone).

not long for this world to be about to die. □ *Our dog is nearly twelve years old and not long for this world.* □ *I'm so tired. I think I'm not long for this world.*

not made of money [of a person] not having a lot of money; not having an unlimited supply of money. □ *I can't afford a car like that. I'm not made of money you know.* □ *There is only so much they can pay. They're not made of money.*

not miss a thing Go to not miss much.

not miss much 1. AND **not miss a thing** not to miss observing any part of what is going on. (Usually with *do* as in the examples below.) □ *Ted doesn't miss much. He is very alert.* □ *The puppy doesn't miss a thing. He sees every move you make.* **2.** not to miss experiencing something that really was not worth experiencing anyway. (Sarcastic. Usually with *do* as in the examples below.) □ *I missed the big sales meeting last week, but I understand I didn't miss much.* □ *BILL: I didn't see that*

new movie that is showing at the theater. TOM: *You didn't miss much.*

not move a muscle to remain perfectly motionless. □ *Be quiet. Sit there and don't move a muscle.* □ *I was so tired I couldn't move a muscle.*

not on any account Go to on no account.

not one iota not even a tiny bit. □ *I won't give you any at all! Not one iota!* □ *I did not get one iota of encouragement from any of those people.*

not one's place not one's role to do something. □ *It was not my place to criticize my boss.* □ *It was Bill's place to ask the questions, not yours.*

not on your life Go to not for (anything in) the world.

not open one's mouth AND **not utter a word** not to say anything at all; not to tell something (to anyone). □ *Don't worry, I'll keep your secret. I won't even open my mouth.* □ *Have no fear. I won't utter a word.* □ *I don't know how they found out. I didn't even open my mouth.*

not see any objection (to something) Go to see no objection (to something).

not see farther than the end of one's nose AND **not see past the end of one's nose** not to care about what is not actually present or obvious; not to care about the future or about what is happening elsewhere or to other people. (Could be literal or an exaggeration in a heavy fog or in dim light.) □ *Mary can't see past the end of her nose. She doesn't care about what will happen in the future as long as she's comfortable now.* □ *Jack's been accused of not seeing farther than the end of his nose. He refuses to expand the company and look for new markets.*

not see past the end of one's nose Go to not see farther than the end of one's nose.

not set foot somewhere not to go somewhere. □ *I wouldn't set foot in John's room. I'm very angry at him.* □ *He never set foot here.*

not show one's face not to appear (somewhere). ☐ *After what she said, she had better not show her face around here again.*
☐ *If I don't say I'm sorry, I'll never be able to show my face again.*

not sleep a wink not to sleep at all. (Informal.) ☐ *I couldn't sleep a wink last night.* ☐ *Ann hasn't been able to sleep a wink for a week.*

not someone's cup of tea not something one prefers. ☐ *Playing cards isn't her cup of tea.* ☐ *Sorry, that's not my cup of tea.*

not take no for an answer not to accept someone's refusal. (Informal. A polite way of being insistent.) ☐ *Now, you must drop over and see us tomorrow. We won't take no for an answer.* ☐ *I had to go. They just wouldn't take no for an answer.*

not take stock in something Go to take no stock in something.

not tell a (living) soul not to reveal something to anyone. ☐ *You secret is safe with me. I won't tell a living soul.* ☐ *Promise you won't tell a soul, but I'm engaged.*

not up to scratch AND **not up to snuff** not adequate. (Informal. See also **up to snuff**; **up to scratch**.) ☐ *Sorry, your paper isn't up to scratch. Please do it over again.* ☐ *The performance was not up to snuff.*

not up to snuff Go to not up to scratch.

not utter a word Go to not open one's mouth.

not want to catch someone doing something Go to not let someone catch someone doing something.

not what something is cracked up to be Go to not all something is cracked up to be.

not with it not able to think clearly; not able to understand things. ☐ *Lisa's mother is not really with it anymore. She's going senile.* ☐ *Tom's not with it yet. He's only just come round from the anesthetic.*

not worth a dime AND **not worth a red cent** worthless. (Informal.) ☐ *This land is all swampy. It's not worth a dime.* ☐ *This pen I bought isn't worth a dime. It has no ink.* ☐ *It's not worth a red cent.*

not worth a hill of beans AND **not worth a plugged nickel** worthless. (Folksy.) ☐ *Your advice isn't worth a hill of beans.* ☐ *This old cow isn't worth a plugged nickel.*

not worth a plugged nickel Go to not worth a hill of beans.

not worth a red cent Go to not worth a dime.

not worth mentioning 1. not important enough to require a comment. ☐ *There are others, but they are not worth mentioning.* ☐ *A small number of books hint at the phenomenon, but they aren't worth mentioning.* 2. [of an error or wrong] not worth apologizing for. ☐ *This isn't a problem at all. It's not worth mentioning.* ☐ *No need to apologize to me. No harm done. It's not worth mentioning.*

not worth one's while not worth bothering with; not worth spending time on. ☐ *It's not worth my while to discuss it with you.* ☐ *Don't bother trying to collect money from them. It isn't worth your while.*

not worth the trouble not important enough to require a comment. ☐ *Don't bother with it. It isn't worth the trouble.* ☐ *There is no point in trying to get the spot out of the carpet. It isn't worth the trouble.*

nothing but skin and bones AND **(all) skin and bones** very thin or emaciated. (Informal.) ☐ *Bill has lost so much weight. He's nothing but skin and bones.* ☐ *Look at Bill. He's just skin and bones.* ☐ *That old horse is all skin and bones. I won't ride it.*

nothing but something only something; just something. ☐ *Joan drinks nothing but milk.* ☐ *Fred buys nothing but expensive clothes.*

nothing doing no. (Informal.) ☐ *No, I won't do that. Nothing doing.* ☐ **BOB:** Will you help me with this? **BILL:** Nothing doing.

nothing down requiring no down payment. ☐ *You can have this car for nothing down and \$140 a month.* ☐ *I bought a winter coat for nothing down and no payments due until February.*

nothing of the kind 1. no; absolutely not.

□ *I didn't tear your jacket—nothing of the kind!* □ *Did I break your vase? Nothing of the kind!* 2. nothing like that. □ *That's not true. We did nothing of the kind!* □ *She did nothing of the kind! She wasn't even there!*

nothing short of something more or less the same as something bad; as bad as something. □ *His behavior was nothing short of criminal.* □ *Climbing those mountains alone is nothing short of suicide.*

nothing to choose from no choice; no choice in the selection; not enough of something to make a choice. □ *I went to the store looking for new shoes, but there was nothing to choose from.* □ *By the time I got around to selecting a team of helpers, there was nothing to choose from.*

nothing to complain about all right. (Folksy. Said in answer to the question "How are you?") □ *Bob said he has nothing to complain about.* □ *BILL: How're you doing, Bob?* *BOB: Nothing to complain about, Bill. Yourself?*

nothing to it it is easy; no difficulty involved. □ *Driving a car is easy. There's nothing to it.* □ *Geometry is fun to learn. There's nothing to it.*

nothing to sneeze at not small or unimportant. (Informal.) □ *It's not a lot of money, but it's nothing to sneeze at.* □ *Our house isn't a mansion, but it's nothing to sneeze at.*

nothing to speak of not many; not much. (Informal.) □ *JOHN: What's happening around here?* *BILL: Nothing to speak of.* □ *MARY: Has there been any rain in the last week?* *SALLY: Nothing to speak of.*

nothing to write home about nothing exciting or interesting. (Folksy.) □ *I've been busy, but nothing to write home about.* □ *I had a dull week—nothing to write home about.*

Nothing ventured, nothing gained. You cannot achieve anything if you do not try. (Proverb.) □ *Come on, John. Give it a try. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.* □ *I felt as if I had to take the chance. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.*

now and again Go to (every) now and then.

now and then Go to (every) now and then.

Now hear this! Pay attention to what is going to be said! (In the manner of an announcement over the public address system, especially in the military.) □ *Now hear this! You have to turn off the television and go to bed!* □ *Now hear this! Now hear this! Everyone is ordered to abandon ship.*

now or never at this time and no other. □ *This is your only chance, John. It's now or never.* □ *I decided that it was now or never, and jumped.*

(Now), where was I? I was interrupted, so please help me remember what I was talking about. (The emphasis is on *was*.) □ *Now, where was I! I think I lost my place.* □ *Q: Where was I? A: You had just described the War of 1812.*

nowhere near not nearly. □ *We have nowhere near enough wood for the winter.* □ *They're nowhere near ready for the game.*

null and void canceled; worthless. □ *I tore the contract up, and the entire agreement became null and void.* □ *The judge declared the whole business null and void.*

[number is up] Go to one's number is up.

a **number of** things or people some things or people, in an indefinite amount. □ *I subscribe to a number of different magazines.* □ *A number of people are here now.*

nurse a grudge (against someone) to keep resenting and disliking someone over a period of time. (See also **bear a grudge (against someone)**.) □ *Sally is still nursing a grudge against Mary.* □ *How long can anyone nurse a grudge?*

nurse someone back to health [for anyone] to provide medical care that will restore someone to good health. □ *After my operation, my mother nursed me back to health.* □ *Lots of good food and loving care will help nurse you back to health.*

nuts about someone or something Go to crazy about someone or something.

the **nuts and bolts (of something)** the basic facts about something; the practical details of something. □ *Tom knows all about the nuts and bolts of the chemical process.* □ *Ann is familiar with the nuts and bolts of public relations.*

nutty as a fruitcake Go to (as) nutty as a fruitcake.

nuzzle up to someone or something to nestle against someone or something, especially if pressing with the nose or face. □ *The puppy nuzzled up to its mother.* □ *Tom nuzzled up to Jane and asked her for a kiss.*

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occur to someone [for an idea or thought] to come into someone's mind. □ *It occurred to me that you might be hungry after your long journey.* □ *Would it ever occur to you that I want to be left alone?*

an **ocean of** someone or something Go to **oceans of** someone or something.

oceans of someone or something AND an **ocean of** someone or something a very large amount of something. □ *The naughty student was in oceans of trouble.* □ *After a week of vacation, there was an ocean of work to do.*

odd man out an unusual or atypical person or thing. □ *I'm odd man out because I'm not wearing a tie.* □ *You had better learn to work a computer unless you want to be odd man out.*

the **odd** something an extra or spare something. □ *The tailor repaired the odd loose button on my shirt.* □ *When I travel, I might buy the odd trinket or two, but I never spend much money.*

odds and ends small, miscellaneous things. □ *There were lots of odds and ends in the attic, but nothing of real value.* □ *I had the whole house cleaned up except for a few odds and ends that didn't seem to belong anywhere.*

odor of sanctity an atmosphere of excessive holiness or piety. □ *I hate their house. There's such an odor of sanctity, with Bibles and religious pictures everywhere.* □ *People are made nervous by Jane's odor of sanctity. She's always praying for people or doing good works and never has any fun.*

of age old enough to marry or to sign legal agreements. (See also **come of age**.)

Preceded by *be* or *seem*.) □ *Now that Mary is of age, she can buy her own car.* □ *When I'm of age, I'm going to get married and move to the city.*

of all the nerve how shocking; how dare (someone). (Informal. The speaker is exclaiming that someone is being very cheeky or rude.) □ *How dare you talk to me that way! Of all the nerve!* □ *Imagine anyone coming to a formal dance in jeans. Of all the nerve!*

of all things Can you imagine?; Imagine that! (Folksy.) □ *She wore jeans to the dance. Of all things!* □ *Billy, stop eating the houseplant! Of all things!*

of benefit (to someone) serving someone well; to the good of someone. □ *I can't believe that this proposal is of benefit to anyone.* □ *Oh, I'm sure it's of benefit.*

of interest (to someone) interesting to someone. □ *This is no longer of any interest.* □ *This is of little interest to me.*

of late lately. (Formal.) □ *Have you seen Sally of late?* □ *We haven't had an opportunity to eat out of late.*

of no avail Go to to no avail.

of one's own accord AND **of one's own free will** by one's own choice, without coercion. □ *I wish that Sally would choose to do it of her own accord.* □ *I'll have to order her to do it because she won't do it of her own free will.*

of one's own free will Go to **of one's own accord**.

of the first water [someone] of the finest quality. (From the system of grading pearls for quality.) □ *She is a very fine*

lady—a pearl of the first water. □ *Tom is of the first water—a true gentleman.*

of the old school holding attitudes or ideas that were popular and important in the past, but which are no longer considered relevant or in line with modern trends. □ *Grammar was not much taught in my son's school, but fortunately he had a teacher of the old school.* □ *Aunt Jane is of the old school. She never goes out without wearing a hat and gloves.*

off again, on again Go to on again, off again.

off and on Go to on and off.

off and running started up and going. (Also literal, as in a footrace.) □ *The car was finally loaded by 9:30, and we were off and running.* □ *The construction of the building was going to take two years, but we were off and running, and it appeared we would finish on schedule.*

off base unrealistic; inexact; wrong. (Also literal in baseball.) □ *I'm afraid you're off base when you state that this problem will take care of itself.* □ *You're way off base!*

off campus not located on the grounds of a college or university. □ *Tom has an apartment off campus.* □ *The dean is off campus and cannot be reached.*

off-center not exactly in the center or middle. □ *The arrow hit the target a little off-center.* □ *The picture hanging over the chair is a little off-center.*

off chance slight possibility. □ *I need your phone number on the off chance I need more help.* □ *There's an off chance that we might be hiring next month.*

off-color 1. not the exact color (that one wants). □ *The book cover used to be red, but now it's a little off-color.* □ *The wall was painted off-color. I think it was meant to be orange.* **2. in bad taste;** rude, vulgar, or impolite. □ *That joke you told was off-color and embarrassed me.* □ *The nightclub act was a bit off-color.*

off duty not working at one's job. (The opposite of **on duty**.) □ *I'm sorry, I can't talk to you until I'm off duty.* □ *The police of-*

ficer couldn't help me because he was off duty.

off like a shot away [from a place] very quickly. □ *He finished his dinner and was off like a shot.* □ *The thief grabbed the lady's purse and was off like a shot.*

off limits AND **out of bounds** forbidden. □ *This area is off limits. You can't go in there.* □ *Don't go there. It's out of bounds.* □ *That kind of behavior is off limits. Stop it!*

off one's nut Go to off one's rocker.

off one's rocker AND **off one's nut; off one's trolley** crazy; silly. (Slang.) □ *Sometimes, Bob, I think you're off your rocker.* □ *Good grief, John. You're off your nut.* □ *About this time of the day, I go off my trolley. I get so tired.*

off one's trolley Go to off one's rocker.

off season not in the busy time of the year. □ *We don't have much to do off season.* □ *Things are very quiet around here off season.*

off someone or something goes someone or something is leaving. (Said on the departure of someone or something.) □ *It's time to leave. Off I go.* □ *Sally looked at the airplane taking off and said, "Off it goes."*

off the air not broadcasting (a radio or television program). □ *The radio audience won't hear what you say when you're off the air.* □ *When the performers were off the air, the director told them how well they had done.*

off the (beaten) track in an unfamiliar place; on a route that is not often traveled. (See also **off the track**.) □ *Their home is in a quiet neighborhood, off the beaten track.* □ *We like to stop there and admire the scenery. It's off the track, but it's worth the trip.*

off-the-cuff spontaneous; without preparation or rehearsal. (Informal.) □ *Her remarks were off-the-cuff, but very sensible.* □ *I'm not very good at making speeches off-the-cuff.*

off the mark not quite exactly right. □ *Her answer was a little off the mark.* □ *You were off the mark when you said we would be a little late to the party. It was yesterday, in fact!*

off the record unofficial; informal. □ *This is off the record, but I disagree with the mayor on this matter.* □ *Although her comments were off the record, the newspaper published them anyway.*

off the subject not concerned with the subject being discussed. □ *I got off the subject and forgot what I was supposed to be talking about.* □ *The speaker was off the subject, telling about his vacation in Hawaii.*

off the top of one's head [to state something] quickly and without having to think or remember. (Informal.) □ *I can't think of the answer off the top of my head.* □ *Jane can tell you the correct amount off the top of her head.*

off the track 1. Go to off the (beaten) track. 2. irrelevant and immaterial (comments). □ *I'm afraid you're off the track, John. Try again.* □ *I'm sorry. I was thinking about dinner, and I got off the track.*

off-the-wall odd; silly; unusual. (Slang.) □ *Why are you so off-the-wall today?* □ *This book is strange. It's really off-the-wall.*

off to a running start with a good, fast beginning, possibly a head start. □ *I got off to a running start in math this year.* □ *The horses got off to a running start.*

off to one side beside (something); (moved) slightly away from something. □ *Our garden has roses in the middle and a spruce tree off to one side.* □ *He took me off to one side to tell me the bad news.*

oil someone's palm Go to grease someone's palm.

old as the hills Go to (as) old as the hills.

old enough to be someone's father Go to old enough to be someone's mother.

old enough to be someone's mother AND **old enough to be someone's father** as old as someone's parents. (Also literal. Usually a way of saying that a person is too

old.) □ *You can't go out with Bill. He's old enough to be your father!* □ *He married a woman who is old enough to be his mother.*

Old habits die hard. It's hard to stop doing things that are part of a habit, especially a habit that one is trying to break. (Proverb.) □ *A: My grandfather still uses hand signals when he turns right. B: Old habits die hard.* □ *Old habits die hard and bad one's last even longer.*

an **old hand** at doing something someone who is experienced at doing something. (Preceded by *be*, *become*, *seem like*, or *act like*.) □ *I'm an old hand at fixing clocks.* □ *He's an old hand at changing diapers.*

old hat old-fashioned; outmoded. (Informal. Preceded by *be*, *become*, or *seem*.) □ *That's a silly idea. It's old hat.* □ *Nobody does that anymore. That's just old hat.*

[old stamping ground] Go to one's old stamping ground.

on a bias AND **on the bias** on a diagonal line; on a diagonal pathway or direction. (Usually with reference to cloth.) □ *The panels of the dress were cut on a bias.* □ *The seamstress sewed the fabric on the bias.*

on account [money paid or owed] on a debt. □ *I paid twelve dollars on account last month. Wasn't that enough?* □ *I still have \$100 due on account.*

on active duty in battle or ready to go into battle. (Military.) □ *The soldier was on active duty for ten months.* □ *That was a long time to be on active duty.*

on a diet trying to lose weight by eating less food or specific foods. □ *I didn't eat any cake because I'm on a diet.* □ *I'm getting too heavy. I'll have to go on a diet.*

on a first-name basis (with someone) knowing someone very well; good friends with someone. □ *I'm on a first-name basis with John.* □ *John and I are on a first-name basis.*

on a fool's errand involved in a useless journey or task. □ *Bill went for an interview, but he was on a fool's errand. The job*

had already been filled. □ *I was sent on a fool's errand to buy some flowers. I knew the shop would be closed by then.*

on again, off again AND **off again, on again** uncertain; indecisive. □ *I don't know about the picnic. It's on again, off again. It depends on the weather.* □ *Jane doesn't know if she's going to the picnic. She's off again, on again about it.*

on a lark Go to for a lark.

on all fours on one's hands and knees. □ *I dropped a contact lens and spent an hour on all fours looking for it.* □ *The baby can walk, but is on all fours most of the time anyway.*

on and off AND **off and on** occasionally; erratically; now and again. □ *I feel better off and on, but I'm not well yet.* □ *He only came to class on and off.*

on any account for any purpose; for any reason; no matter what. (Compare this with **on no account**.) □ *On any account, I'll be there on time.* □ *This doesn't make sense on any account.*

on approval for examination, with the privilege of return. □ *I ordered the merchandise on approval so I could send it back if I didn't like it.* □ *Sorry, you can't buy this on approval. All sales are final.*

on a shoestring with a very small amount of money. □ *We lived on a shoestring for years before I got a good job.* □ *John traveled to Florida on a shoestring.*

on a splurge an instance of extravagant spending. □ *Bob went on a splurge and bought a new car.* □ *Susan has been on another spending splurge! Look at that new furniture.*

on a waiting list [with one's name] on a list of people waiting for an opportunity to do something. (A can be replaced with *the*.) □ *I couldn't get a seat on the plane, but I got on a waiting list.* □ *There is no room for you, but we can put your name on the waiting list.*

on behalf of someone Go to in behalf of someone.

on bended knee with great humility. (The form *bended* is obsolescent and occurs now only in this phrase.) □ *Do you expect me to come to you on bended knee and ask you for forgiveness?* □ *The suitors came on bended knee and begged the attention of the princess.*

on board 1. aboard (on or in) a ship, bus, airplane, etc. □ *Is there a doctor on board? We have a sick passenger.* □ *When everyone is on board, we will leave.* **2.** employed by (someone); working with (someone). (Informal.) □ *Our company has a computer specialist on board to advise us about automation.* □ *Welcome to the company, Tom. We're all glad you're on board now.*

on Broadway located in the Broadway theater district of New York City; performed in the Broadway theater district. □ *Our musical is the best thing on Broadway!* □ *I want to be a star on Broadway someday.*

on call ready to serve when called. □ *I live a very hard life. I'm on call twenty hours a day.* □ *I'm sorry, but I can't go out tonight. I'm on call at the hospital.*

on campus located or being on the grounds of a college or university. □ *Do you live on campus or off campus?* □ *I don't think that Lisa is on campus right now.*

on cloud nine very happy. (Informal.) □ *When I got my promotion, I was on cloud nine.* □ *When the check came, I was on cloud nine for days.*

on consignment [of goods] having been placed in a store for sale, without transferring the title of the goods to the operator of the store. □ *The artist placed his work in a gallery on consignment.* □ *I will attempt to sell your clothing on consignment.*

on credit using credit; buying something using credit. □ *I tried to buy a new suit on credit, but I was refused.* □ *The Smiths buy everything on credit and are very much in debt.*

on dead center 1. at the exact center of something. (*Dead* means "exact" here.) □ *The arrow hit the target on dead cen-*

ter. ☐ When you put the flowers on the table, put them on dead center. **2.** exactly correct. ☐ Mary is quite observant. Her analysis is on dead center. ☐ My view isn't on dead center, but it's sensible.

on deck 1. on the deck of a boat or a ship. ☐ Everyone except the cook was on deck when the storm hit. ☐ Just pull up the anchor and leave it on deck. **2.** ready (to do something); ready to be next (at something). ☐ Ann, get on deck. You're next. ☐ Who's on deck now?

on duty at work; currently doing one's work. (The opposite of **off duty**.) ☐ I can't help you now, but I'll be on duty in about an hour. ☐ Who is on duty here? I need some help.

on earth AND in creation; in the world really; indeed; in fact. (Used as an intensifier after *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *how*, *nothing*, *nowhere*.) ☐ What on earth do you mean? ☐ How in creation do you expect me to do that? ☐ Who in the world do you think you are? ☐ When on earth do you expect me to do this?

on easy street in luxury. (Slang.) ☐ If I had a million dollars, I'd be on easy street. ☐ Everyone has problems, even people who live on easy street.

on edge 1. on (something's own) edge. ☐ Can you stand a dime on edge? ☐ You should store your records on edge, not flat. **2.** nervous. ☐ I have really been on edge lately. ☐ Why are you so on edge?

on fire burning; being burned with flames. ☐ Help! My car is on fire! ☐ That house on the corner is on fire!

on foot by walking. ☐ My bicycle is broken, so I'll have to travel on foot. ☐ You can't expect me to get there on foot! It's twelve miles!

on good terms (with someone) friendly with someone. ☐ I'm on good terms with Ann. I'll ask her to help. ☐ We're on good terms now. Last week we were not.

on hold 1. waiting; temporarily halted. (See also **put** someone or something **on hold**.) ☐ The building project is on hold while we try to find money to complete it. ☐ We put

our plans on hold until we finished school. **2.** left waiting on a telephone line. ☐ I hate to call up someone and then end up on hold. ☐ I waited on hold for ten minutes when I called city hall.

on horseback on the back of a horse. ☐ Anne rode on horseback across the field. ☐ Because they loved horses, the couple decided to marry on horseback.

on impact Go to (up)on impact.

on impulse after having had an impulse or sudden thought. ☐ On impulse, Bob decided to buy a car. ☐ I didn't need a cellular telephone. I just bought it on impulse.

on in years Go to up in years.

on land on the soil; on the land and not at sea. ☐ The flight was rough and I feel better now that I am back on land. ☐ When I am at sea, I feel more relaxed than when I am on land.

on line 1. Go to in line. **2.** connected to a remote computer. ☐ As soon as I get on line, I can check the balance of your account. ☐ I was on line for an hour before I found out what I wanted to know.

on location a place, located in a place distant from the movie studio, where a movie is filmed. ☐ This movie was shot on location in Ontario. ☐ The actress went on location in Spain for her latest film.

on medication taking medicine for a current medical problem. ☐ I can't drive the car since I am on medication. ☐ He is on medication and hopes to be well soon.

on no account AND not on any account for no reason; absolutely not. ☐ On no account will I lend you the money. ☐ Will I say I'm sorry? Not on any account.

on occasion occasionally. ☐ We go out for dinner on occasion. ☐ I enjoy going to a movie on occasion.

on one's best behavior being as polite as possible. ☐ When we went out, the children were on their best behavior. ☐ I try to be on my best behavior all the time.

on one's feet 1. standing up. ☐ Get on your feet. They are playing the national an-

them. □ *I've been on my feet all day, and they hurt.* **2.** well and healthy, especially after an illness. □ *I hope to be back on my feet next week.* □ *I can help out as soon as I'm back on my feet.*

on (one's) guard cautious; watchful. □ *Be on guard. There are pickpockets around here.* □ *You had better be on your guard.*

on one's honor on one's solemn oath; sincerely. □ *On my honor, I'll be there on time.* □ *He promised on his honor that he'd pay me back next week.*

on one's mind occupying one's thoughts; currently being thought about. □ *You've been on my mind all day.* □ *Do you have something on your mind? You look so serious.*

on one's own by oneself. □ *Did you do this on your own, or did you have help?* □ *I have to learn to do this kind of thing on my own.*

on one's own time not while one is at work. □ *The boss made me write the report on my own time. That's not fair.* □ *Please make your personal telephone calls on your own time.*

on one's person [of something] carried with one. □ *Always carry identification on your person.* □ *I'm sorry, I don't have any money on my person.*

on one's toes alert. (Also literal. See also **step on someone's toes**.) □ *You have to be on your toes if you want to be in this business.* □ *My boss keeps me on my toes.*

on one's way to doing something Go to **on the way to** doing something.

on order ordered with delivery expected. □ *Your car is on order. It'll be here in a few weeks.* □ *I don't have the part in stock, but it's on order.*

on par (with someone or something) equal to someone or something. □ *Your effort is simply not on par with what's expected from you.* □ *These two reports are right on par.*

on patrol Go to (out) on patrol.

on pins and needles anxious; in suspense. (See also **pins and needles**.) □ *I've been*

on pins and needles all day, waiting for you to call with the news. □ *We were on pins and needles until we heard that your plane landed safely.*

on probation **1.** serving a period of probation. □ *While Anne was on probation, she reported to the police regularly.* □ *John was on probation for a year.* **2.** serving a trial period. □ *All new members are on probation for a year.* □ *I was on probation in my job for a full year before it became permanent.*

on purpose intentionally; in a way that is meant or intended; not an accident. □ *The bully stepped on my foot on purpose.* □ *Jealously, Jimmy destroyed Billy's sand castle on purpose.*

on sale offered for sale at a special low price. □ *I won't buy anything that's not on sale.* □ *I need a new coat, but I want to find a nice one on sale.*

on schedule at the expected or desired time. □ *The plane came in right on schedule.* □ *Things have to happen on schedule in a theatrical performance.*

on second thought having given something more thought; having reconsidered something. □ *On second thought, maybe you should sell your house and move into an apartment.* □ *On second thought, let's not go to a movie.*

on someone's account because of someone. □ *Don't do it on my account.* □ *They were late on Jane's account.*

on someone's back Go to **on someone's case**.

on someone's behalf Go to **in behalf of** someone.

on someone's case AND **on someone's back** constantly criticizing someone. (Slang. See also **Get off someone's case!**) □ *I'm tired of your being on my case all the time.* □ *It seems as if someone is always on his back.*

on someone's doorstep Go to **at** someone's doorstep.

on someone's head on someone's own self. (Usually with **blame**.) □ *All the blame fell*

on their heads. □ *I don't think that all the criticism should be on my head.*

on someone's or something's last legs [for someone or something] to be almost worn out or finished. (Informal.) □ *This building is on its last legs. It should be torn down.* □ *I feel as if I'm on my last legs. I'm really tired.*

on someone's say-so on someone's authority; with someone's permission. □ *I can't do it on your say-so. I'll have to get a written request.* □ *BILL: I canceled the contract with the ABC Company. BOB: On whose say-so?*

on someone's shoulders on someone's own self. (Also literal. Usually with responsibility.) □ *Why should all the responsibility fall on my shoulders?* □ *She carries a tremendous amount of responsibility on her shoulders.*

on someone's way (somewhere) Go to on the way (somewhere).

on speaking terms (with someone) on friendly terms with someone. (Often in the negative. Compare this with **on good terms (with someone).**) □ *I'm not on speaking terms with Mary. We had a serious disagreement.* □ *We're not on speaking terms.*

on standby waiting for one's turn, especially describing the status of travelers who wait near a train, plane, or bus, hoping that a seat will become available. □ *The passenger waited on standby for an available seat.* □ *The agent was able to seat all of the passengers on standby.*

on target on schedule; exactly as predicted. □ *Your estimate of the cost was right on target.* □ *My prediction was not on target.*

on the air broadcasting (a radio or television program). □ *The radio station came back on the air shortly after the storm.* □ *We were on the air for two hours.*

on the alert (for someone or something) watchful and attentive for someone or something. □ *Be on the alert for pickpockets.* □ *You should be on the alert when you cross the street in heavy traffic.*

on the average generally; usually. □ *On the average, you can expect about a 10 percent failure rate.* □ *This report looks okay, on the average.*

on the ball alert, effective, and efficient. (Slang.) □ *Sally has a lot on the ball.* □ *You've got to be on the ball if you want to succeed in this business.*

on the beam exactly right; thinking along the correct lines. (Informal.) □ *That's the right idea. Now you're on the beam!* □ *She's not on the beam yet. Explain it to her again.*

on the bench **1.** directing a session of court. (Also literal. Said of a judge.) □ *I have to go to court tomorrow. Who's on the bench?* □ *It doesn't matter who's on the bench. You'll get a fair hearing.* **2.** sitting, waiting for a chance to play in a game. (In sports, such as basketball, football, soccer, etc.) □ *Bill is on the bench now. I hope he gets to play.* □ *John played during the first quarter, but now he's on the bench.*

on the bias Go to on a bias.

on the blink Go to on the fritz.

on the block **1.** on a city block. □ *John is the biggest kid on the block.* □ *We had a party on the block last weekend.* **2.** on sale at auction; on the auction block. □ *We couldn't afford to keep up the house, so it was put on the block to pay the taxes.* □ *That's the finest painting I've ever seen on the block.*

on the borderline in an uncertain position between two statuses; undecided. (Also literal.) □ *Bill was on the borderline between an A and a B in biology.* □ *Jane was on the borderline of joining the navy.*

on the button exactly right; in exactly the right place; at exactly the right time. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *That's it! You're right on the button.* □ *He got here at one o'clock on the button.*

on the contrary as the opposite. (Compare this with **to the contrary.**) □ *I'm not ill. On the contrary, I'm very healthy.* □ *She's not in a bad mood. On the contrary, she's as happy as a lark.*

on the defensive overly ready to defend oneself. □ *John goes on the defensive when his athletic ability is questioned.* □ *The child was on the defensive when questioned about cheating.*

on the dot at exactly the right time. (Also literal. Informal. Compare this with at sometime **sharp**.) □ *I'll be there at noon on the dot.* □ *I expect to see you here at eight o'clock on the dot.*

on the double very fast. (Informal.) □ *Okay, you guys. Get over here on the double.* □ *Get yourself into this house on the double.*

on the eve of something just before something, possibly the evening before something. □ *John decided to leave school on the eve of his graduation.* □ *The team held a party on the eve of the tournament.*

on the face of it superficially; from the way it looks. □ *This looks like a serious problem on the face of it. It probably is minor, however.* □ *On the face of it, it seems worthless.*

on the fence (about something) undecided. (Informal.) □ *Ann is on the fence about going to Mexico.* □ *I wouldn't be on the fence. I'd love to go.*

on the fritz AND **on the blink** not operating; not operating correctly. (Slang.) □ *This vacuum cleaner is on the fritz. Let's get it fixed.* □ *How long has it been on the blink?*

on the go busy; moving about busily. (Informal.) □ *I'm usually on the go all day long.* □ *I hate being on the go all the time.*

on the heels of something soon after something. (Informal.) □ *There was a rainstorm on the heels of the windstorm.* □ *The team held a victory celebration on the heels of their winning season.*

on the horizon soon to happen. (Also literal. See also in the **offing**.) □ *Do you know what's on the horizon?* □ *Who can tell what's on the horizon?*

on the horns of a dilemma bothered by having to decide between two things, people, etc. □ *Mary found herself on the*

horns of a dilemma. She didn't know which to choose. □ *I make up my mind easily. I'm not on the horns of a dilemma very often.*

on the hot seat AND **in the hot seat** in a difficult position; subject to much criticism. (Slang.) □ *I was really in the hot seat for a while.* □ *Now that John is on the hot seat, no one is paying any attention to what I do.*

on the hour at each hour on the hour mark. □ *I have to take this medicine every hour on the hour.* □ *I expect to see you there on the hour, not one minute before and not one minute after.*

on the house [something that is] given away free by a merchant. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *"Here," said the waiter, "have a cup of coffee on the house."* □ *I went to a restaurant last night. I was the 10,000th customer, so my dinner was on the house.*

on the job working; doing what one is expected to do. □ *I'm always on the job when I should be.* □ *I can depend on my furnace to be on the job day and night.*

on the level Go to (strictly) on the level.

on the lookout (for someone or something) watchful for someone or something. □ *Be on the lookout for signs of a storm.* □ *I'm on the lookout for John, who is due here any minute.* □ *Okay, you remain on the lookout for another hour.*

on the loose running around free. (Informal.) □ *Look out! There is a bear on the loose from the zoo.* □ *Most kids enjoy being on the loose when they go to college.*

on the make 1. building or developing; being made. (Informal.) □ *There is a company that is on the make.* □ *That was a very good sales strategy, John. You're a real-estate agent on the make.* 2. making sexual advances; seeking sexual activities. (Slang.) □ *It seems like Bill is always on the make.* □ *He should meet Sally, who is also on the make.*

on the market available for sale; offered for sale. (Compare this with **on the block**.) □ *I had to put my car on the mar-*

ket. □ *This is the finest home computer on the market.*

on the mend getting well; healing. □ *My cold was terrible, but I'm on the mend now.* □ *What you need is some hot chicken soup. Then you'll really be on the mend.*

on the money AND **on the nose** in exactly the right place; in exactly the right amount (of money). (Also literal. Slang.) □ *That's a good answer, Bob. You're right on the money.* □ *This project is going to be finished right on the nose.*

on the move moving; happening busily. □ *What a busy day. Things are really on the move at the store.* □ *When all the buffalo were on the move across the plains, it must have been very exciting.*

on the nose Go to on the money.

on the off-chance because of a slight possibility that something may happen, might be the case; just in case. □ *I went to the theater on the off-chance that there were tickets for the show left.* □ *We didn't think we would get into the stadium, but we went anyway on the off-chance.*

on (the) one hand from one point of view; as one side (of an issue). □ *On one hand, I really ought to support my team. On the other hand, I don't have to time to attend all the games.* □ *On the one hand, I need Ann's help. On the other hand, she and I don't get along very well.*

on the other hand from another point of view; as the other side (of an issue). See the examples for **on (the) one hand**.

on the point of doing something AND **at the point of** doing something ready to start doing something. (Compare this with **on the verge** (of doing something).) □ *I was just on the point of going out the door.* □ *We were almost at the point of buying a new car.*

on the QT quietly; secretly. (Informal.) □ *The company president was making payments to his wife on the QT.* □ *The mayor accepted a bribe on the QT.*

on the right track following the right set of assumptions. (Refers to following the

right trail.) □ *Tom is on the right track and will solve the mystery soon.* □ *You are on the right track to find the answer.*

on the rocks **1.** in a state of destruction or wreckage. (Refers to a ship stranded on the rocks.) □ *I hear their marriage is on the rocks.* □ *The company is on the rocks and may not survive.* **2.** [poured] onto ice cubes in a glass. □ *Joan prefers her drinks on the rocks.* □ *Could I have a scotch on the rocks?*

on the spot **1.** at exactly the right place; at exactly the right time. (Also literal. Informal. See also **Johnny-on-the-spot**.) □ *It's noon, and I'm glad you're all here on the spot. Now we can begin.* □ *I expect you to be on the spot when and where trouble arises.* **2.** in trouble; in a difficult situation. (Informal. Compare this with **on the hot seat**.) □ *There is a problem in the department I manage, and I'm really on the spot.* □ *I hate to be on the spot when it's not my fault.*

on the spur of the moment suddenly; spontaneously. □ *We decided to go on the spur of the moment.* □ *I had to leave town on the spur of the moment.*

on the strength of something because of the support of something, such as a promise or evidence; due to something. □ *On the strength of your comment, I decided to give John another chance.* □ *On the strength of my testimony, my case was dismissed.*

on the take accepting bribes. (Slang.) □ *I don't believe that the mayor is on the take.* □ *The county clerk has been on the take for years.*

on the tip of one's tongue about to be said; almost remembered. (Also literal. See also **have something on the tip of one's tongue**.) □ *It's right on the tip of my tongue. I'll think of it in a second.* □ *The answer was on the tip of my tongue, but Ann said it first.*

on the track of someone or something Go to **on the trail of** someone or something.

on the trail of someone or something AND **on the track of** someone or something seeking someone or something; about to find

someone or something. ☐ *I'm on the trail of a new can opener that is supposed to be easier to use.* ☐ *I spent all morning on the track of the new secretary, who got lost on the way to work.*

on the up-and-up Go to (strictly) on the up-and-up.

on the verge (of doing something) just about to do something, usually something important. (Compare this with **on the point of** doing something.) ☐ *I'm on the verge of opening a shoe store.* ☐ *Tom was on the verge of quitting school when he became interested in physics.* ☐ *I haven't done it yet, but I'm on the verge.*

on the wagon not drinking alcohol; no longer drinking alcohol. (Also literal.) ☐ *None for me, thanks. I'm on the wagon.* ☐ *Look at John. I don't think he's on the wagon anymore.*

on the warpath angry and upset (at someone). (Informal.) ☐ *Oh, oh. Here comes Mrs. Smith. She's on the warpath again.* ☐ *Why are you always on the warpath? What's wrong?*

on the way (somewhere) AND **on someone's way (somewhere)** along the route to somewhere. ☐ *She's now on the way to San Francisco.* ☐ *Yes, she's on the way.*

on the way to doing something AND **on one's way to** doing something in the process of doing something. ☐ *You're on the way to becoming a very good carpenter.* ☐ *She's on her way to becoming a first-class sculptor.*

on the whole generally; considering everything. ☐ *On the whole, this was a very good day.* ☐ *Your work—on the whole—is quite good.*

on the wing while flying; while in flight. (Refers to birds, fowl, etc., not people or planes.) ☐ *There is nothing as pretty as a bird on the wing.* ☐ *The hawk caught the sparrow on the wing.*

on the wrong track going the wrong way; following the wrong set of assumptions. (Also literal.) ☐ *You'll never get the right answer. You're on the wrong track.* ☐ *They*

won't get it figured out because they are on the wrong track.

on thin ice in a risky situation. (Also literal.) ☐ *If you try that you'll really be on thin ice. That's too risky.* ☐ *If you don't want to find yourself on thin ice, you must be sure of your facts.*

on time at the scheduled time; at the predicted time. ☐ *The plane landed right on time.* ☐ *We'll have to hurry to get there on time.*

on tiptoe standing or walking on the front part of the feet (the balls of the feet) with no weight put on the heels. (This is done to gain height or to walk quietly.) ☐ *I had to stand on tiptoe in order to see over the fence.* ☐ *I came in late and walked on tiptoe so I wouldn't wake anybody up.*

on top victorious over something; famous or notorious for something. (Also literal.) ☐ *I have to study day and night to keep on top.* ☐ *Bill is on top in his field.*

on top of something 1. up-to-date on something; knowing about the current state of something. (Informal.) ☐ *Ask Mary. She's on top of this issue.* ☐ *This issue is constantly changing. She has to pay attention to it to stay on top of things.* **2.** in addition to something. ☐ *Jane told Bill he was dull. On top of that, she said he was unfriendly.* ☐ *On top of being dull, he's unfriendly.*

on top of the world Go to (feel) on top of the world; (sitting) on top of the world.

on trial being tried in court. ☐ *My sister is on trial today, so I have to go to court.* ☐ *They placed the suspected thief on trial.*

on vacation away, taking a vacation; on holiday. ☐ *Where are you going on vacation this year?* ☐ *I'll be away on vacation for three weeks.*

on view visible; on public display. ☐ *The painting will be on view at the museum.* ☐ *I'll pull the shades so that we won't be on view.*

once and for all finally and irreversibly. ☐ *I want to get this problem settled once and for all.* ☐ *I told him once and for all that he has to start studying.*

once in a blue moon very rarely. ☐ *I seldom go to a movie—maybe once in a blue moon.* ☐ *I don't go into the city except once in a blue moon.*

once-in-a-lifetime chance a chance that will never occur again in one's lifetime. ☐ *This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance. Don't miss it.* ☐ *She offered me a once-in-a-lifetime chance, but I turned it down.*

once in a while Go to (every) now and then.

once-over-lightly **1.** a quick and careless treatment. (A noun. Said of an act of cleaning, studying, examination, or appraisal.) ☐ *Bill gave his geometry the once-over-lightly and then quit studying.* ☐ *Ann, you didn't wash the dishes properly. They only got a once-over-lightly.* **2.** cursory; in a quick and careless manner. (An adverb.) ☐ *Tom studied geometry once-over-lightly.* ☐ *Ann washed the dishes once-over-lightly.*

once upon a time once in the past. (A formula used to begin a fairy tale.) ☐ *Once upon a time, there were three bears.* ☐ *Once upon a time, I had a puppy of my own.*

one and all everyone. ☐ *"Good morning to one and all," said Jane as she walked through the outer office.* ☐ *Let's hope that this turns out to be a wonderful party for one and all.*

the **one and only** the famous and talented (person). (Used in theatrical introductions. See also **my one and only**.) ☐ *And now—the one and only—Jane Smith!* ☐ *Let's have a big hand for the one and only Bob Jones!*

one and the same the very same person or thing. ☐ *John Jones and J. Jones are one and the same.* ☐ *Men's socks and men's stockings are almost one and the same.*

one at a time Go to one by one.

one by one AND **one at a time** the first one, then the next one, then the next one, etc.; one at a time; each in turn. ☐ *I have to deal with problems one by one. I can't handle them all at once.* ☐ *Okay, just take things one at a time.* ☐ *The children came*

into the room one by one. ☐ *Fred peeled potatoes one by one, hating every minute of it.*

one for the (record) books a record-breaking act. ☐ *What a dive! That's one for the record books.* ☐ *I've never heard such a funny joke. That's really one for the books.*

One good turn deserves another. A good deed should be repaid with another good deed. (Proverb.) ☐ *If he does you a favor, you should do him a favor. One good turn deserves another.* ☐ *Glad to help you out. One good turn deserves another.*

one in a hundred Go to one in a thousand.

one in a million Go to one in a thousand.

one in a thousand AND **one in a hundred; one in a million** unique; one of a very few. ☐ *He's a great guy. He's one in million.* ☐ *Mary's one in a hundred—such a hard worker.*

one jump ahead (of someone or something) AND **one move ahead (of someone or something)** one step in advance of someone or something. ☐ *Try to stay one jump ahead of the customer.* ☐ *If you're one move ahead, you're well prepared to deal with problems. Then, nothing is a surprise.*

one little bit any at all; at all. (Also literal.) ☐ *Jean could not be persuaded to change her mind one little bit.* ☐ *I don't want to hear anything more about it. Not even one little bit.*

One man's meat is another man's poison. One person's preference may be disliked by another person. (Proverb.) ☐ *John just loves his new fur hat, but I think it is horrible. Oh, well, one man's meat is another man's poison.* ☐ *The neighbors are very fond of their dog even though it's ugly, loud, and smelly. I guess one man's meat is another man's poison.*

One man's trash is another man's treasure. Something that one person considers worthless may be considered valuable by someone else. (Proverb.) ☐ *Q: Why would anyone want to hang a picture like that on the wall? A: One man's trash is another man's treasure.* ☐ *A: Bob's un-*

cle is always going through people's garbage, looking for old stuff. B: One man's trash is another man's treasure.

one move ahead (of someone or something)

Go to one jump ahead (of someone or something).

one-night stand an activity lasting one night. (Informal. Refers to either a musical performance or a period of sexual activity.) ☐ *Our band has played a lot of one-night stands.* ☐ *What we want is an engagement for a week, not just a one-night stand.*

one of these days someday; in some situation like this one. ☐ *One of these days, someone is going to steal your purse if you don't take better care of it.* ☐ *You're going to get in trouble one of these days.*

one sandwich short of a picnic not very smart; lacking sufficient intelligence. (Jocular.) ☐ *Poor Bob just isn't too bright. He's one sandwich short of a picnic.* ☐ *She not stupid. Just one sandwich short of a picnic.*

One thing leads to another. One event sets things up for another event and so on. (As an explanation of how little problems lead to big problems.) ☐ *I kept spending more and more money until I was broke. You know how one thing leads to another.* ☐ *He bought a car, then a house, then a boat. One thing leads to another.*

one thing or person **after another** a series of things or people that seems without limit. ☐ *It's just one problem after another.* ☐ *One customer after another has been buying shoes today!*

one to a customer each person can have or receive only one. (Refers to sales restrictions where each customer is permitted to buy only one.) ☐ *"Only one to a customer!" said the chef as he handed out the hamburgers.* ☐ *Is it one to a customer, or can I take two now?*

one up (on someone) ahead of someone; with an advantage over someone. ☐ *Tom is one up on Sally because he got a job and*

she didn't. ☐ *Yes, it sounds like Tom is one up.*

one way or another somehow. ☐ *I'll do it one way or another.* ☐ *One way or another, I'll get through school.*

One's bark is worse than one's bite. One may threaten, but not do much damage. (Proverb.) ☐ *Don't worry about Bob. He won't hurt you. His bark is worse than his bite.* ☐ *She may scream and yell, but have no fear. Her bark is worse than her bite.*

one's **better half** one's spouse. (Usually refers to a wife.) ☐ *I think we'd like to come for dinner, but I'll have to ask my better half.* ☐ *I have to go home now to my better half. We are going out tonight.*

one's **brother's keeper** someone responsible for someone else. (Preceded by *be, become, seem like, or act like.*) ☐ *I can't force these kids to go to school and get an education so they can get jobs. I am not my brother's keeper.* ☐ *You can't expect me to be my brother's keeper. Each of us should be responsible!*

one's **daily dozen** physical exercises done every day. (Informal.) ☐ *My brother always feels better after his daily dozen.* ☐ *She would rather do her daily dozen than go on a diet.*

one's **days are numbered** one faces death or dismissal. ☐ *If I don't get this contract, my days are numbered at this company.* ☐ *Uncle Tom has a terminal disease. His days are numbered.*

one's **deepest sympathy** one's very sincere sympathy. ☐ *I am so sorry about the death of your father. You have my deepest sympathy.* ☐ *She sent her deepest sympathy to the family.*

one's **ears are red** one's ears are red from embarrassment. (Also used figuratively.) ☐ *I'm so embarrassed. Wow, are my ears red!* ☐ *My ears are red! I can't believe I said that.*

one's **ears are ringing** one hears a ringing sound because of exposure to an explosion, very loud music, or some other very loud sound. ☐ *After the explosion, my ears*

were ringing for hours. □ *My ears are ringing because I have a cold.*

oneself **again** healthy again; calm again; restored. (Preceded by *be, become, seem like, or act like.*) □ *After such a long illness, it's good to be myself again.* □ *I'm sorry that I lost my temper. I think I'm myself again now.*

One's **eyes are bigger than one's stomach.**

One has taken more food than one can eat. □ *I can't eat all this. I'm afraid that my eyes were bigger than my stomach.* □ *Try to take less food. Your eyes are bigger than your stomach at every meal.*

one's **fair share** a share of something that is equal to what others get or in proportion to what is deserved. □ *Let him take more. He didn't get his fair share.* □ *I want my fair share. You cheated me! Give me some more!*

one's **for the asking** one's property if one asks for it. □ *I have a cherry pie here. A slice is yours for the asking if you want it.* □ *Uncle Mac said we could have his old car if we wanted it. It was ours for the asking.*

one's **heart goes out to** someone one feels compassion for someone. □ *My heart goes out to those starving children I see on television.* □ *We are so sorry. Our hearts go out to you.*

one's **heart is (dead) set against** something one is totally against something. □ *Jane's heart is set against going there.* □ *We are dead set against it.*

one's **heart is in one's mouth** one feels strongly emotional (about someone or something). □ *"Gosh, Mary," said John, "my heart is in my mouth whenever I see you."* □ *My heart is in my mouth whenever I hear the national anthem.* □ *It was a touching scene. My heart was in my mouth the whole time.*

one's **heart is in the right place** one has good intentions, even if the results are bad. (See also **have one's heart in the right place.**) □ *She gave it a good try. Her heart was in the right place.* □ *He is awkward, but his heart is in the right place.*

one's **heart is set on** something one desires and expects something. □ *Jane's heart is set on going to London.* □ *My heart is set on returning home.*

one's **heart misses a beat** AND one's **heart skips a beat** one's heart is fluttering or palpitating. □ *Whenever I'm near you, my heart skips a beat.* □ *When the racehorse fell, my heart missed a beat.*

one's **heart skips a beat** Go to one's heart misses a beat.

one's **heart stands still** one's heart (figuratively) stops beating because of strong emotions. □ *When I first saw you, my heart stood still.* □ *My heart will stand still until you answer.*

one's **luck runs out** one's good luck stops. □ *My luck ran out, so I had to come home.* □ *She will quit gambling when her luck runs out.*

one's **name is mud** one is in trouble or humiliated. (Slang.) □ *If I can't get this contract signed, my name will be mud.* □ *His name is mud ever since he broke the crystal vase.*

one's **nose is in the air** one is acting conceited or aloof. (Note the variation with *always*. See also **have one's nose in the air.**) □ *Mary's nose is always in the air.* □ *Her mother's nose was always in the air, too.*

one's **number is up** one's time to die—or to suffer some other unpleasantness—has come. (Informal.) □ *John is worried. He thinks his number is up.* □ *When my number is up, I hope it all goes fast.*

one's **old stamping ground** the place where one was raised or where one has spent a lot of time. (Folksy. There are variants with *stomping* and *grounds*.) □ *Ann should know about that place. It's near her old stamping ground.* □ *I can't wait to get back to my old stomping grounds.*

one's **way of life** one's lifestyle; one's pattern of living. □ *That kind of thing just doesn't fit into my way of life.* □ *Our way of life includes contributing to worthy causes.*

one's **work is cut out for** one one's task is prepared for one; one has a lot of work to do. (See also **have one's work cut out for** one.) □ *This is a big job. My work is cut out for me.* □ *The new president's work is cut out for him.*

only have eyes for someone to be loyal to only one person, in the context of romance. □ *Oh, Jane! I only have eyes for you!* □ *Don't waste any time on Tom. He only has eyes for Ann.*

onto someone or something having discovered the truth about someone or something. (Informal.) □ *The police are onto John's plot.* □ *Yes, they are onto him, and they are onto the plot.*

open a conversation to start a conversation. (See also **strike up a conversation**.) □ *I tried to open a conversation with him, but he had nothing to say.* □ *She opened a conversation with an inquiry into my health, which got me talking about my favorite subject.*

open and aboveboard Go to aboveboard.

an **open-and-shut case** something, usually a legal matter, that is simple and straightforward without complications. □ *The murder trial was an open-and-shut case. The defendant was caught with the murder weapon.* □ *Jack's death was an open-and-shut case of suicide. He left a suicide note.*

an **open book** someone or something that is easy to understand. □ *Jane's an open book. I always know what she is going to do next.* □ *The council is an open book. It wants to save money.*

open fire (on someone) to start (doing something, such as asking questions or criticizing). (Refers to starting to shoot at someone.) □ *The reporters opened fire on the mayor.* □ *When the reporters opened fire, the mayor was smiling, but not for long.*

open for business [of a shop, store, restaurant, etc.] operating and ready to do business. □ *The store is now open for business and invites you to come in.* □ *The*

construction will be finished in March, and we will be open for business in April.

open one's heart (to someone) to reveal one's inmost thoughts to someone. □ *I always open my heart to my spouse when I have a problem.* □ *It's a good idea to open your heart every now and then.*

open Pandora's box to uncover a lot of unsuspected problems. □ *When I asked Jane about her problems, I didn't know I had opened Pandora's box.* □ *You should be cautious with people who are upset. You don't want to open Pandora's box.*

open season (on someone or something) 1. [with something] unrestricted hunting of a particular game animal. □ *It's always open season on rabbits around here.* □ *Is it ever open season on deer?* **2.** [with someone] a time when everyone is criticizing someone. (Informal. See also **open fire (on someone)**.) □ *It seems as if it's always open season on politicians.* □ *At the news conference, it was open season on the mayor.*

open secret something that is supposed to be secret but is known to a great many people. □ *Their engagement is an open secret. Only their friends are supposed to know, but in fact, the whole town knows.* □ *It's an open secret that Max is looking for a new job.*

open someone's eyes (to something) 1. to become aware of something. □ *He finally opened his eyes to what was going on.* □ *It was a long time before he opened his eyes and realized what had been happening.* **2.** to cause someone else to be aware of something. □ *I opened his eyes to what was happening at the office.* □ *Why can't I make you understand? What do I have to do to open your eyes to the problem?*

open something up 1. to unwrap something; to open something. □ *Yes, I want to open my presents up.* □ *I can't wait to open up my presents.* □ *Open up this door!* **2.** to begin examining or discussing something. □ *Do you really want to open it up now?* □ *Now is the time to open up the question of taxes.* **3.** to reveal the possibilities of something; to reveal an op-

portunity. □ *Your letter opened new possibilities up.* □ *Your comments opened up a whole new train of thought.* **4.** to start the use of something, such as land, a building, a business, etc. □ *They opened the coastal lands up to cotton planting.* □ *We opened up a new store last March.* **5.** to make a vehicle go as fast as possible. (Informal.) □ *We took the new car out on the highway and opened it up.* □ *I've never really opened up this truck. I don't know how fast it'll go.* **6.** to make something less congested. □ *They opened the yard up by cutting out a lot of old shrubbery.* □ *We opened up the room by taking the piano out.*

open the door to something to permit or allow something to become a possibility. (Also literal.) □ *Your policy opens the door to cheating.* □ *Your statement opens the door to John's candidacy.*

open to something agreeable to hear or learn about new ideas and suggestions. □ *The store owner was open to suggestions from her employees.* □ *We are always open to new ideas.*

open up 1. open your door. (A command.) □ *I want in. Open up!* □ *Open up! This is the police.* **2.** to become available. □ *A new job is opening up at my office.* □ *Let me know if any other opportunities open up.* **3.** to go as fast as possible. □ *I can't get this car to open up. Must be something wrong with the engine.* □ *Faster, Tom! Open up! Let's go!* **4.** to become clear, uncluttered, or open. □ *As we drove along, the forest opened up, and we entered into a grassy plain.* □ *The sky opened up, and the sun shone.*

open (up) a can of worms to uncover a set of problems; to create unnecessary complications. (Informal. *Can of worms* means "mess." Also with various modifiers such as *new*, *whole*, *another*, as in the examples. Compare this with **open Pandora's box**.) □ *Now you are opening a whole new can of worms.* □ *How about cleaning up this mess before you open up a new can of worms?*

open up (on someone or something) to attack someone or something; to fire a gun or

other weapon at someone or something. □ *The sergeant told the soldiers to open up on the enemy position.* □ *"Okay, you guys," shouted the sergeant. "Open up!"*

open up (to someone) AND open up (with someone) to talk frankly, truthfully, or intimately. □ *Finally Sally opened up to her sister and told her what the problem was.* □ *Bill wouldn't open up with me. He's still keeping quiet.* □ *At last, Sally opened up and told everything.*

open up (with someone) Go to open up (to someone).

open with something to start out with something. (Usually said of a performance of some type.) □ *We'll open with a love song and then go on to something faster.* □ *The play opened with an exciting first act, and then it became very boring.*

opening gambit an opening movement or statement that is made to secure a position that is to one's advantage. □ *The rebel army's opening gambit was to bomb the city's business district.* □ *The prosecution's opening gambit was to call a witness who linked the defendant to the scene of the crime.*

the opposite sex [from the point of view of a female] males; [from the point of view of a male] females. (Also with *member of*, as in the example.) □ *Ann is crazy about the opposite sex.* □ *Bill is very shy when he's introduced to the opposite sex.* □ *Do members of the opposite sex make you nervous?*

or else or suffer the consequences. □ *Do what I tell you, or else.* □ *Don't be late for work, or else!*

or words to that effect or with other words that have about the same meaning. □ *She told me I ought to read more carefully—or words to that effect.* □ *I was instructed to go to the devil, or words to that effect.*

the order of the day something necessary or usual; an overriding necessity. □ *Warm clothes are the order of the day when camping in the winter.* □ *Going to*

bed early was the order of the day when we were young.

order someone about AND **order someone around** to give commands to someone. ☐ *I don't like for someone to order me about.* ☐ *Don't order me around!*

order someone around Go to order someone about.

order something to go Go to buy something to go.

the **other side of the tracks** the poorer section of town or the richer section of town, depending on perspective. (Also literal. Usually refers to the **wrong side of the tracks**.) ☐ *He is from a wealthy family and I am from a very humble background, but he is the first boy I have met from the other side of the tracks, and I want to marry him.* ☐ *I hear he is dating someone from the other side of the tracks.*

other things being equal if things stay the way they are now; if there were no complications by other factors. ☐ *Other things being equal, we should have no trouble getting your order to you on time.* ☐ *I anticipate no problems, other things being equal.*

the **other way round** the reverse; the opposite. ☐ *No, it won't fit that way. Try it the other way round.* ☐ *It doesn't make any sense like that. It belongs the other way round.*

An **ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure**. It is easier and better to prevent something bad than to deal with the results. ☐ *When you ride in a car, buckle your seat belt. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.* ☐ *Every child should be vaccinated against polio. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.*

out and about able to go out and travel around. ☐ *Beth has been ill, but now she's out and about.* ☐ *As soon as I feel better, I'll be able to get out and about.*

an **out-and-out** something a complete or absolute something; an indisputable something. (Informal. The *something* must always be a specific thing.) ☐ *If he said*

that, he told you an out-and-out lie! ☐ *You're an out-and-out liar!*

out cold AND **out like a light** unconscious. ☐ *I fell and hit my head. I was out cold for about a minute.* ☐ *Tom fainted! He's out like a light!*

out from under (something) free and clear of something; no longer bearing a (figurative) burden. ☐ *I'll feel much better when I'm out from under this project.* ☐ *Now that I'm out from under, I can relax.*

out front in the front of one's house. ☐ *Our mailbox is out front.* ☐ *We have a spruce tree out front and a maple tree in the back.*

out in force appearing in great numbers. (See also in **force**.) ☐ *What a night! The mosquitoes are out in force.* ☐ *The police were out in force over the holiday weekend.*

out in left field offbeat; unusual and eccentric. (Literal in reference to a baseball field. Informal. See also **come out of left field**.) ☐ *Sally is a lot of fun, but she's sort of out in left field.* ☐ *What a strange idea. It's really out in left field.*

out like a light Go to out cold.

out of a clear blue sky AND **out of the blue** suddenly; without warning. (See also **like a bolt out of the blue**.) ☐ *Then, out of a clear blue sky, he told me he was leaving.* ☐ *Mary appeared on my doorstep out of the blue.*

out of (all) proportion of an exaggerated proportion; of an unrealistic proportion compared to something else; (figuratively) lopsided. ☐ *This problem has grown out of all proportion.* ☐ *Yes, this thing is way out of proportion.*

out of bounds **1.** outside the boundaries of the playing area. (In various sports.) ☐ *The ball went out of bounds, but the referee didn't notice.* ☐ *The play ended when Sally ran out of bounds.* **2.** unreasonable. (Informal.) ☐ *Your demands are totally out of bounds.* ☐ *Your request for money is out of bounds.* **3.** Go to off limits.

out of breath breathing fast and hard. ☐ *I ran so much that I got out of breath.* ☐

Mary gets out of breath when she climbs stairs.

out of character 1. unlike one's usual behavior. ☐ *Ann's remark was quite out of character.* ☐ *It was out of character for Ann to act so stubborn.* **2.** inappropriate for the character that an actor is playing. ☐ *Bill went out of character when the audience started giggling.* ☐ *Bill played the part so well that it was hard for him to get out of character after the performance.*

out of circulation 1. no longer available for use or lending. (Usually said of library materials.) ☐ *I'm sorry, but the book you want is temporarily out of circulation.* ☐ *How long will it be out of circulation?* **2.** not interacting socially with other people. (Informal.) ☐ *I don't know what's happening because I've been out of circulation for a while.* ☐ *My cold has kept me out of circulation for a few weeks.*

out of commission 1. [for a ship] to be not currently in use or under command. ☐ *This vessel will remain out of commission for another month.* ☐ *The ship has been out of commission since repairs began.* **2.** broken, unserviceable, or inoperable. ☐ *My watch is out of commission and is running slow.* ☐ *I can't run in the marathon because my knees are out of commission.*

out of condition Go to out of shape.

out of consideration (for someone or something) with consideration for someone or something; with kind regard for someone or something. ☐ *Out of consideration for your past efforts, I will do what you ask.* ☐ *They let me do it out of consideration. It was very thoughtful of them.*

out of control AND **out of hand** uncontrollable; wild and unruly. ☐ *The party got out of control about midnight, and the neighbors called the police.* ☐ *We tried to keep things from getting out of hand.*

out of courtesy (to someone) in order to be polite to someone; **out of consideration** for someone. ☐ *We invited Mary's brother out of courtesy to her.* ☐ *They invited me out of courtesy.*

out-of-date old-fashioned; **out of style**; obsolete. (See also **go out of style**.) ☐ *Isn't that suit sort of out-of-date?* ☐ *All my clothes are out-of-date.*

out of earshot too far from the source of a sound to hear the sound. ☐ *I was out of earshot and could not hear the conversation.* ☐ *Mary waited until her children were out of earshot before mentioning the party to Bill.*

out of fashion Go to out of style.

out of favor (with someone) no longer desirable or preferred by someone. ☐ *I can't ask John to help. I'm out of favor with him.* ☐ *That kind of thing has been out of favor for years.*

out of gas 1. having no gasoline (in a car, truck, etc.). ☐ *We can't go any farther. We're out of gas.* ☐ *This car will be completely out of gas in a few more miles.* **2.** tired; exhausted; worn out. (Informal.) ☐ *What a day! I've been working since morning, and I'm really out of gas.* ☐ *This electric clock is out of gas. I'll have to get a new one.*

out of hand 1. Go to out of control. **2.** immediately and without consulting anyone; without delay. ☐ *I can't answer that out of hand. I'll check with the manager and call you back.* ☐ *The offer was so good that I accepted it out of hand.*

out of it Go to out to lunch.

out of keeping (with something) not following the rules of something; out of accord with something. (Compare this with **in keeping (with something)**.) ☐ *The length of this report is out of keeping with your request.* ☐ *I didn't even read it because it was so much out of keeping.*

out of kilter 1. out of balance; crooked or tilted. (Slang.) ☐ *John, your tie is sort of out of kilter. Let me fix it.* ☐ *Please straighten the picture on the wall. It's out of kilter.* **2.** malfunctioning; **on the fritz**. (Slang.) ☐ *My furnace is out of kilter. I have to call someone to fix it.* ☐ *This computer is out of kilter. It doesn't work.*

out of line 1. Go to out of line (with something). **2.** improper. ☐ *I'm afraid that your*

behavior was quite out of line. I do not wish to speak further about this matter. □ Bill, that remark was out of line. Please be more respectful.

out of line (with something) 1. not properly lined up in a line of things. □ *I told you not to get out of line. Now, get back in line. □ One of those books on the shelf is out of line with the others. Please fix it.* **2.** unreasonable when compared to something (else). □ *The cost of this meal is out of line with what other restaurants charge. □ Your request is out of line.*

out of luck without good luck; having bad fortune. (Informal.) □ *If you wanted some ice cream, you're out of luck. □ I was out of luck. I got there too late to get a seat.*

out of necessity because of necessity; due to need. □ *I bought this hat out of necessity. I needed one, and this was all there was. □ We sold our car out of necessity.*

out of one's element not in a natural or comfortable situation. (Compare this with in one's element.) □ *When it comes to computers, I'm out of my element. □ Sally's out of her element in math.*

out of one's head Go to out of one's mind.

out of one's mind AND **out of one's head;** **out of one's senses** silly and senseless; crazy; irrational. □ *Why did you do that? You must be out of your mind! □ Good grief, Tom! You have to be out of your head! □ She's acting as if she were out of her senses.*

out of one's senses Go to out of one's mind.

out of order 1. not in the correct order. □ *This book is out of order. Please put it in the right place on the shelf. □ You're out of order, John. Please get in line after Jane.* **2.** not following correct parliamentary procedure. □ *I was declared out of order by the president. □ Ann inquired, "Isn't a motion to table the question out of order at this time?"* **3.** not operating; broken. □ *The coffee machine is out of order. It takes your money and gives you no coffee. □ We will have to use the stairs. The elevator is out of order.*

out of place 1. not in a proper place. □ *The salt was out of place in the cupboard, so I couldn't find it. □ Billy, you're out of place. Please sit next to Tom.* **2.** improper and impertinent; out of line. □ *That kind of behavior is out of place in church. □ Your rude remark is quite out of place.*

out-of-pocket expenses the actual amount of money spent. (Refers to the money one person pays while doing something on someone else's behalf. One is usually paid back this money.) □ *My out-of-pocket expenses for the party were nearly \$175. □ My employer usually pays all out-of-pocket expenses for a business trip.*

out of practice performing poorly due to a lack of practice. □ *I used to be able to play the piano extremely well, but now I'm out of practice. □ The baseball players lost the game because they were out of practice.*

out of print [for a book] to be no longer available for sale from the publisher. □ *The book you want is out of print, but perhaps I can find a used copy for you. □ It was published nearly ten years ago, so it's probably out of print.*

out of proportion Go to in proportion.

out of reach 1. not near enough to be reached or touched. □ *Place the cookies out of reach, or Bob will eat them all. □ The mouse ran behind the piano, out of reach. The cat just sat and waited for it.* **2.** unattainable. □ *I wanted to be president, but I'm afraid that such a goal is out of reach. □ I shall choose a goal that is not out of reach.*

out of season 1. not now available for sale. (The opposite of in season. Compare this with off season.) □ *Sorry, oysters are out of season. We don't have any. □ Watermelon is out of season in the winter.* **2.** not now legally able to be hunted or caught. □ *Are salmon out of season? □ I caught a trout out of season and had to pay a fine.*

out of service inoperable; not now operating. □ *Both elevators are out of service, so I had to use the stairs. □ The washroom is temporarily out of service.*

out of shape AND **out of condition** not in the best physical condition. ☐ *I get out of breath when I run because I'm out of shape.* ☐ *Keep exercising regularly, or you'll get out of condition.*

out of sight **1.** not visible. (Especially with get, keep, or stay.) ☐ *The cat kept out of sight until the mouse came out.* ☐ *"Get out of sight, or they'll see you!" called John.* **2.** [for a price to be] very high. (Informal.) ☐ *I won't pay this bill. It's out of sight.* ☐ *The estimate was out of sight, so I didn't accept it.* **3.** figuratively stunning, unbelievable, or awesome. (Slang.) ☐ *Wow, this music is out of sight!* ☐ *What a wild party—out of sight!*

Out of sight, out of mind. If you do not see something, you will not think about it. (Proverb.) ☐ *When I go home, I put my schoolbooks away so I won't worry about doing my homework. After all, out of sight, out of mind.* ☐ *Jane dented the fender on her car. It's on the right side, so she doesn't have to look at it. Like they say, out of sight, out of mind.*

out of sorts not feeling well; grumpy and irritable. ☐ *I've been out of sorts for a day or two. I think I'm coming down with something.* ☐ *The baby is out of sorts. Maybe she's getting a tooth.*

out of spite with the desire to harm someone or something. ☐ *Jane told some evil gossip about Bill out of spite.* ☐ *That was not an accident! You did it out of spite.*

out of step (with someone or something) **1.** AND **out of time (with someone or something)** [marching or dancing] out of cadence with someone else. ☐ *You're out of step with the music.* ☐ *Pay attention, Ann. You're out of time.* **2.** not as up-to-date as someone or something. ☐ *John is out of step with the times.* ☐ *Billy is out of step with the rest of the class.*

out of stock not immediately available in a store; [for goods] to be temporarily unavailable. ☐ *Those items are out of stock, but a new supply will be delivered on Thursday.* ☐ *I'm sorry, but the red ones are out of stock. Would a blue one do?*

out of style AND **out of fashion** not fashionable; old-fashioned; obsolete. ☐ *John's clothes are really out of style.* ☐ *He doesn't care if his clothes are out of fashion.*

out of the blue Go to out of a clear blue sky.

out of the corner of one's eye [seeing something] at a glance; glimpsing (something). ☐ *I saw someone do it out of the corner of my eye. It might have been Jane who did it.* ☐ *I only saw the accident out of the corner of my eye. I don't know who is at fault.*

out of the frying pan into the fire from a bad situation to a worse situation. (Often with jump.) ☐ *When I tried to argue about my fine for a traffic violation, the judge charged me with contempt of court. I really went out of the frying pan into the fire.* ☐ *I got deeply in debt. Then I really got out of the frying pan into the fire when I lost my job.*

out of the hole out of debt. (Also literal. Informal.) ☐ *I get paid next week, and then I can get out of the hole.* ☐ *I can't seem to get out of the hole. I keep spending more money than I earn.*

out of the ordinary unusual. ☐ *It was a good meal, but not out of the ordinary.* ☐ *Your report was nicely done, but nothing out of the ordinary.*

out of the question not possible; not permitted. ☐ *I'm sorry, but it's out of the question.* ☐ *You can't go to Florida this spring. We can't afford it. It's out of the question.*

out of the red out of debt. (Informal.) ☐ *This year our company is likely to get out of the red before fall.* ☐ *If we can cut down on expenses, we can get out of the red fairly soon.*

out of the running no longer being considered; eliminated from a contest. (Compare this with **the running**.) ☐ *After the first part of the diving meet, three members of our team were out of the running.* ☐ *After the scandal was made public, I was no longer in the running. I pulled out of the election.*

out of the swim of things not in the middle of activity; not involved in things. (Informal. The opposite of **in the swim of things**.) □ *While I had my cold, I was out of the swim of things.* □ *I've been out of the swim of things for a few weeks. Please bring me up to date.*

out-of-the-way not on the regular route; following a different, more awkward, route. □ *They live on a quiet, out-of-the-way street.* □ *I know an out-of-the-way little restaurant on Maple Street.*

out of the woods past a critical phase; out of the unknown. (Informal.) □ *When the patient got out of the woods, everyone relaxed.* □ *I can give you a better prediction for your future health when you are out of the woods.*

out of thin air out of nowhere; out of nothing. (Informal.) □ *Suddenly—out of thin air—the messenger appeared.* □ *You just made that up out of thin air.*

out of this world wonderful; extraordinary. □ *This pie is just out of this world.* □ *Look at you! How lovely you look—simply out of this world.*

out of time (with someone or something) Go to **out of step (with someone or something)**.

out of touch (with someone or something) **1.** [with someone] no longer talking to or writing to someone; knowing no news of someone. □ *I've been out of touch with my brother for many years.* □ *We've been out of touch for quite some time.* **2.** [with something] not keeping up with the developments of something. □ *I've been out of touch with automobile mechanics for many years.* □ *I couldn't go back into mechanics because I've been out of touch for too long.*

out of town temporarily not in one's own town. □ *I'll be out of town next week. I'm going to a conference.* □ *I take care of Mary's cat when she's out of town.*

out of tune (with someone or something) **1.** not in musical harmony with someone or something. (Compare this with **in tune**.) □ *The oboe is out of tune with the flute.* □ *The flute is out of tune with John.* □

They are all out of tune. **2.** not in (figurative) harmony or agreement. □ *Your proposal is out of tune with my ideas of what we should be doing.* □ *Your ideas and mine are out of tune.*

out of turn not at the proper time; not in the proper order. (See also **speak out of turn**.) □ *We were permitted to be served out of turn because we had to leave early.* □ *Bill tried to register out of turn and was sent away.*

out of w(h)ack **1.** crazy; silly; irrational. (Slang.) □ *Why do you always act as if you're out of whack?* □ *I'm not out of wack. I'm eccentric.* **2.** out of adjustment; out of order. (Slang.) □ *I'm afraid that my watch is out of whack.* □ *The elevator is out of whack. We'll have to walk up.*

out of work unemployed, temporarily or permanently. □ *How long have you been out of work?* □ *My brother has been out of work for nearly a year.*

out on a limb in a dangerous position; taking a chance. (Also literal.) □ *I don't want to go out on a limb, but I think I'd agree to your request.* □ *She really went out on a limb when she agreed.*

out on bail out of jail because bail bond money has been paid. (The money will be forfeited if the person who is **out on bail** does not appear in court at the proper time. See also **jump bail**.) □ *Bob is out on bail waiting for his trial.* □ *The robber committed another crime while out on bail.*

out on parole out of jail but still under police supervision. □ *Bob got out on parole after serving only a few years of his sentence.* □ *He was out on parole because of good behavior.*

(out) on patrol away from a central location, watching over a distant area while moving through it. □ *Officer Smith is out on patrol and cannot see you now.* □ *The soldiers who are on patrol on this snowy night must be very cold.*

out on the town celebrating at one or more places in a town. (See also **night on the town**.) □ *I'm really tired. I was out*

on the town until dawn. ☐ We went out on the town to celebrate our wedding anniversary.

out to lunch 1. eating lunch away from one's place of work or activity. ☐ I'm sorry, but Sally Jones is out to lunch. May I take a message? ☐ She's been out to lunch for nearly two hours. When will she be back? **2.** AND **out of it** not alert; giddy; uninformed. (Slang.) ☐ Bill is really out of it. Why can't he pay attention? ☐ Don't be so out of it, John. Wake up! ☐ Ann is really out to lunch these days.

out West in the western part of the United States. (See also **back East**, **down South**, **up North**.) ☐ We lived out West for nearly ten years. ☐ Do they really ride horses out West?

outgrow something **1.** to get too big for something. ☐ Tom outgrew all his clothes in two months. ☐ The plant outgrew its pot. **2.** to become too mature for something. ☐ I outgrew my allergies. ☐ The boys will outgrow their toys.

outguess someone to guess what someone else might do; to predict what someone might do. ☐ I can't outguess Bill. I just have to wait and see what happens. ☐ Don't try to outguess John. He's too sharp and tricky.

outside of something except for something; besides something. (Also literal.) ☐ Outside of the cost of my laundry, I have practically no expenses. ☐ Outside of some new shoes, I don't need any new clothing.

outside the box 1. as if not bound by old, nonfunctional, or limiting structures, rules, or practices. (An adverb. Compare this with **inside the box**.) ☐ You need to move your discussions outside the box and get away from silly limitations. ☐ Nothing can be done outside the box in such a rigid intellectual environment. **2.** not bound by old, nonfunctional, or limiting structures, rules, or practices. (Usually **outside-the-box**. An adjective.) ☐ You have some really outside-the-box ideas, Ralph. ☐ After some long, outside-the-box discussions, we arrived at a creative solution.

over again Go to (all) over again.

over and above something more than something; in addition to something. (Informal.) ☐ I'll need another twenty dollars over and above the amount you have already given me. ☐ You've been eating too much food—over and above what is required for good nutrition. That's why you're gaining weight.

over and done with finished. (Informal.) ☐ I'm glad that's over and done with. ☐ Now that I have college over and done with, I can get a job.

over and over (again) repeatedly. ☐ She stamped her foot over and over again. ☐ Bill whistled the same song over and over.

over my dead body not if I can stop you. (Slang. It means that you'll have to kill me to prevent me from keeping you from doing something.) ☐ Over my dead body you'll sell this house! ☐ You want to quit college? Over my dead body!

over someone's head too difficult or clever for someone to understand. (Also literal.) ☐ The children have no idea what the new teacher is talking about. Her ideas are way over their heads. ☐ She enrolled in a physics course, but it turned out to be miles over her head.

over the hill overage; too old to do something. (Informal.) ☐ Now that Mary's forty, she thinks she's over the hill. ☐ My grandfather was over eighty before he felt as if he was over the hill.

over the hump over the difficult part. (Informal.) ☐ This is a difficult project, but we're over the hump now. ☐ I'm halfway through—over the hump—and it looks as if I may get finished after all.

over the long haul for a relatively long period of time. ☐ Over the long haul, it might be better to invest in stocks. ☐ Over the long haul, everything will turn out all right.

over there Go to (way) over there.

over the short haul for the immediate future. ☐ Over the short haul, you'd be better off to put your money in the bank. ☐

Over the short haul, you may wish you had done something different. But things will work out all right.

over the top **1.** having gained more than one's goal. □ *Our fund-raising campaign went over the top by \$3,000.* □ *We didn't go over the top. We didn't even get half of what we set out to collect.* **2.** excessive; beyond the pale; overdone. □ *Her imitation of the president was over the top and completely offensive.* □ *This is not satire! It is cruel and over the top.*

over with Go to (all) over with.

owing to because of something; due to the fact of something. □ *Owing to the lateness of the evening, I must go home.* □ *We were late owing to the heavy traffic.*

own up (to something) to confess to something. □ *I know you broke the window. Come on and own up to it.* □ *The boy holding the baseball bat owned up. What else could he do?*

P

pack a punch Go to pack a wallop.

pack a wallop AND **pack a punch** to provide a burst of energy, power, or excitement. (Informal.) ☐ *Wow, this spicy food really packs a wallop.* ☐ *I put a special kind of gasoline in my car because I thought it would pack a punch. It didn't.*

a **pack of lies** a series of lies. ☐ *The thief told a pack of lies to cover up the crime.* ☐ *John listened to Bill's pack of lies about the fight and became very angry.*

pack them in to draw a lot of people. (Informal.) ☐ *It was a good night at the theater. The play really packed them in.* ☐ *The circus manager knew he could pack them in if he advertised the lion tamer.*

packed (in) like sardines packed very tightly. (Note the variation in the examples.) ☐ *It was terribly crowded there. We were packed in like sardines.* ☐ *The bus was full. The passengers were packed like sardines.* ☐ *They packed us in like sardines.*

pad the bill to put unnecessary items on a bill to make the total cost higher. (Informal.) ☐ *The plumber had padded the bill with things we didn't need.* ☐ *I was falsely accused of padding the bill.*

paddle one's own canoe to do (something) by oneself. (Also literal.) ☐ *I've been left to paddle my own canoe too many times.* ☐ *Sally isn't with us. She's off paddling her own canoe.*

a **pain in the neck** a bother; an annoyance. (Slang.) ☐ *This assignment is a pain in the neck.* ☐ *Your little brother is a pain in the neck.*

paint the town red to have a wild celebration during a night on the town. ☐

Let's all go out and paint the town red! ☐ *Oh, do I feel awful. I was out all last night, painting the town red.*

pal around (with someone) to be friends with someone; to be the companion of someone. ☐ *Bill likes to pal around with Mary, but it's nothing serious.* ☐ *Ann and Jane still like to pal around.*

pale around the gills AND **blue around the gills; green around the gills** looking sick. (Informal. The *around* can be replaced with *about*.) ☐ *John is looking a little pale around the gills. What's wrong?* ☐ *Oh, I feel a little green about the gills.*

pale as death Go to (as) pale as death.

palm something off (on someone) to try to get something accepted as good. ☐ *The crook palmed a fake \$50 bill off on me.* ☐ *Bob palmed his research off as original work, but we all knew he plagiarized it.*

pan out Go to turn out (all right).

paper over the cracks (in something) to try to hide faults or difficulties, often in a hasty or not very successful way. (Also literal when applying wallpaper.) ☐ *The politician tried to paper over the cracks in his party's economic policy.* ☐ *Tom tried to paper over the cracks in his relationship with the boss, but it was not possible.* ☐ *She didn't explain it. She just papered over the cracks.*

par for the course typical; about what one could expect. (This refers to golf courses, not school courses.) ☐ *So he went off and left you? Well that's about par for the course. He's no friend.* ☐ *I worked for days on this project, but it was rejected. That's par for the course around here.*

a **paradise (on earth)** a place on earth that is as lovely as paradise. □ *The retirement home was simply a paradise on earth.* □ *The beach where we went for our vacation was a paradise.*

Pardon my French. Excuse me for swearing or saying naughty words. (Informal.) □ *Pardon my French, but get that damn cat out of here!* □ *He slipped and fell on his butt, pardon my French.*

part and parcel (of something) part of something; an important part of something. (See also **bag and baggage**.) □ *This point is part and parcel of my whole argument.* □ *Get every part and parcel of this machine out of my living room.* □ *Come on! Move out—part and parcel!*

part company (with someone) to leave someone; to depart from someone. □ *Tom finally parted company with his brother.* □ *They parted company, and Tom got in his car and drove away.*

part someone's **hair** to come very close to someone. (Also literal. Informal. Usually an exaggeration.) □ *That plane flew so low that it nearly parted my hair.* □ *He punched at me and missed. He only parted my hair.*

partake of something to take something; to eat or drink something. (Formal.) □ *I don't usually partake of rich foods, but in this instance I'll make an exception.* □ *Good afternoon, Judge Smith, would you care to partake of some wine?*

partial to someone or something favoring or preferring someone or something. □ *The boys think their teacher is partial to female students.* □ *I am partial to vanilla ice cream.*

the **particulars of** something specific details about something. □ *My boss stressed the important particulars of the project.* □ *What are the particulars of your request?*

parting of the ways a point at which people separate and go their own ways. (Often with *come to a*, *arrive at a*, *reach a*, etc.) □ *Jane and Bob finally came to a parting of the ways.* □ *Bill and his parents reached a parting of the ways.*

the **party line** the official ideas and attitudes that are adopted by the leaders of a particular group and that the other members are expected to accept. (From *political party*.) □ *Tom has left the club. He refused to follow the party line.* □ *Many politicians agree with the party line without thinking.*

The **party's over.** A happy or fortunate time has come to an end. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *We go back to school tomorrow. The party's over.* □ *The staff hardly worked at all under the old management, but they'll find the party's over now.*

pass as someone or something **AND** **pass for** someone or something to succeed in being accepted as someone or something. □ *The spy was able to pass as a regular citizen.* □ *You could pass for your twin brother.* □ *The thief was arrested when he tried to pass as a priest.*

pass away **AND** **pass on** to die. (A euphemism.) □ *My aunt passed away last month.* □ *When I pass away, I want to have lots of flowers and a big funeral.* □ *When I pass on, I won't care about the funeral.*

pass for someone or something Go to **pass as** someone or something

pass muster to measure up to the required standards. (Folksy.) □ *I tried, but my efforts didn't pass muster.* □ *If you don't wear a suit, you won't pass muster at that fancy restaurant. They won't let you in.*

pass on Go to **pass away**.

pass out to faint; to lose consciousness. □ *Oh, look! Tom has passed out.* □ *When he got the news, he passed out.*

pass the buck to pass the blame (to someone else); to give the responsibility (to someone else). (Informal.) □ *Don't try to pass the buck! It's your fault, and everybody knows it.* □ *Some people try to pass the buck whenever they can.*

pass the hat to attempt to collect money for some (charitable) project. (Refers to a hat that is sometimes used to hold the collected cash.) □ *Bob is passing the hat to collect money to buy flowers for Ann.*

□ *He's always passing the hat for something.*

pass the time to fill up time (by doing something). □ *I never know how to pass the time when I'm on vacation.* □ *What do you do to pass the time?*

pass the time of day (with someone) to chat or talk informally with someone. □ *I saw Mr. Brown in town yesterday. I stopped and passed the time of day with him.* □ *No, we didn't have a serious talk; we just passed the time of day.*

pass through someone's mind AND **cross someone's mind** to come to mind briefly; for an idea to occur to someone. (Compare this with **come to mind**.) □ *Let me tell you what just crossed my mind.* □ *As you were speaking, something passed through my mind that I'd like to discuss.*

passport to something something that allows something good to happen. □ *John's new girlfriend is his passport to happiness.* □ *Anne's new job is a passport to financial security.*

a **past master at** something someone proven to be extremely good or skillful at an activity. (Preceded by *be, become, seem like, or act like*.) □ *Mary is a past master at cooking omelets.* □ *Pam is a past master at the art of complaining.*

past someone's or something's **prime** beyond the most useful or productive period. □ *Joan was a wonderful singer, but she's past her prime now.* □ *This old car's past its prime. I'll need to get a new one.*

pat someone on the back AND **give someone a pat on the back** to congratulate someone; to encourage someone. (Also literal when the recipient is actually patted on the back.) □ *We patted Ann on the back for a good performance.* □ *When people do a good job, you should give them a pat on the back.*

patch someone or something up 1. [with someone] to doctor someone; to dress someone's wounds. (Informal.) □ *They patched John up in the emergency room.* □ *I patched up Ann's cuts with bandages and sent her home.* **2.** [with something] to (figuratively) repair the damage done by

an argument or disagreement. (Also literal.) □ *Mr. and Mrs. Smith are trying to patch things up.* □ *We patched up our argument, then kissed and made up.*

the **path of least resistance** to do the easiest thing; to take the easiest route. (Often with *follow the* or *take the*. Compare this with **line of least resistance**.) □ *John will follow the path of least resistance.* □ *I like challenges. I won't usually take the path of least resistance.*

patient as Job Go to (as) patient as Job.

pave the way (for someone or something) to prepare (someone or something) for someone or something. □ *The public doesn't understand the metric system. We need to pave the way for its introduction.* □ *They are paving the way in the schools.*

pay a call on someone to visit someone. □ *Grandmother always paid us a call on Sundays.* □ *Let's pay a call on Mary at the hospital.*

pay a king's ransom (for something) to pay a great deal for something. (To pay an amount as large as one might have to pay to get back a king held for ransom.) □ *I would like to buy a nice watch, but I don't want to pay a king's ransom for it.* □ *It's a lovely house. I had to pay a king's ransom, but it is worth it.*

pay an arm and a leg (for something) AND **pay through the nose (for something)** to pay too much [money] for something. (Informal.) □ *I hate to have to pay an arm and a leg for a tank of gas.* □ *If you shop around, you won't have to pay an arm and a leg.* □ *Why should you pay through the nose?*

pay as you go 1. to pay costs as they occur; to pay for goods as they are bought (rather than charging them). (Literal when it means to pay for goods or services as you leave.) □ *You ought to pay as you go. Then you won't be in debt.* □ *If you pay as you go, you'll never spend too much money.* **2.** paying costs as they occur. (Usually **pay-as-you-go**.) □ *There is no charging allowed here. This store is strictly pay-as-you-go.* □ *I can't buy this*

then. I didn't know your policy was pay-as-you-go.

pay attention (to someone or something) to be attentive to someone or something; to give one's attention or concentration to someone or something. ☐ *Pay attention to me!* ☐ *I'm paying attention!*

pay a visit to someone or something Go to pay (someone or something) a visit.

pay for something **1.** to pay out money for something. ☐ *Did you pay for the magazine, or shall I?* ☐ *No, I'll pay for it.* **2.** to be punished for something. ☐ *The criminal will pay for his crimes.* ☐ *I don't like what you did to me, and I'm going to see that you pay for it.*

pay homage to someone to praise, respect, and honor someone. ☐ *My parents taught me to pay homage to my elders.* ☐ *The widower paid homage to his dead wife by placing flowers on her grave.*

pay in advance to pay (for something) before it is received or delivered. ☐ *I want to make a special order. Will I have to pay in advance?* ☐ *Yes, please pay in advance.*

pay lip service (to something) to express loyalty, respect, or support for something insincerely. ☐ *You don't really care about politics. You're just paying lip service to the candidate.* ☐ *Don't sit here and pay lip service. Get busy!*

pay one's debt (to society) to serve a sentence for a crime, usually in prison. ☐ *The judge said that Mr. Simpson had to pay his debt to society.* ☐ *Mr. Brown paid his debt in state prison.*

pay one's dues to have earned one's right to something through hard work or suffering. (Literal when referring to paying the fees required to belong to an organization. Informal.) ☐ *He worked hard to get to where he is today. He paid his dues and did what he was told.* ☐ *I have every right to be here. I paid my dues!*

pay one's last respects to attend the wake or funeral of someone; to approach the coffin containing someone in a final act of respect. ☐ *I went to Bill's wake to pay my last respects.* ☐ *Everyone in town came*

to the mayor's funeral to pay their last respects.

pay someone a back-handed compliment AND **pay someone a left-handed compliment** to give someone a false compliment that is really an insult. ☐ *John said that he had never seen me looking better. I think he was paying me a left-handed compliment.* ☐ *I'd prefer that someone insulted me directly. I hate it when someone pays me a back-handed compliment—unless it's a joke.*

pay someone a compliment to compliment someone. ☐ *Sally thanked me for paying her a compliment.* ☐ *When Tom did his job well, I paid him a compliment.*

pay someone a left-handed compliment Go to pay someone a back-handed compliment.

pay (someone or something) a visit AND **pay a visit to someone or something** to visit someone or something. ☐ *Bill paid a visit to his aunt in Seattle.* ☐ *Please pay a visit to our house whenever you are in town.*

pay someone or something off **1.** [with someone] to pay someone a bribe (for a favor already done). (Compare this with **buy** someone off.) ☐ *The lawyer was put in prison for paying the judge off. The judge was imprisoned also.* ☒ *The lawyer paid off the judge for deciding the case in the lawyer's favor.* **2.** to pay a debt; to pay a debtor; to pay the final payment for something bought on credit. ☐ *This month I'll pay the car off.* ☒ *Did you pay off the plumber yet?*

pay someone respect to honor someone; to have and show respect for someone. ☐ *You really should pay your boss more respect.* ☐ *We have to pay our parents a lot of respect.*

pay someone's (own) way to pay the costs (of something) for someone. ☐ *I wanted to go to Florida this spring, but my parents say I have to pay my own way.* ☐ *My aunt is going to pay my way to Florida—only if I take her with me!*

pay the piper to face the results of one's actions; to receive punishment for something. (Also literal.) ☐ *You can put off*

paying your debts only so long. Eventually you'll have to pay the piper. □ *You can't get away with that forever. You'll have to pay the piper someday.*

pay through the nose (for something) Go to pay an arm and a leg (for something).

pay to do something to be beneficial to do something; to be profitable. □ *It doesn't pay to drive downtown when you can take the train.* □ *It pays to take an umbrella with you if it's supposed to rain.*

pay up Pay me now! (Slang.) □ *You owe me \$200. Come on, pay up!* □ *If you don't pay up, I'll take you to court.*

peg away (at something) Go to plug away (at something).

peg someone as something AND **have someone pegged as** something to think of someone in a certain way. □ *Susan pegged the new employee as a lazy worker.* □ *I had you pegged as an angry rebel before I got to know you.*

A penny saved is a penny earned. Money saved through thrift is the same as money earned by employment. (Sometimes used to explain stinginess.) □ *"I didn't want to pay that much for the book," said Mary. "After all, a penny saved is a penny earned."* □ *Bob put his money in a new bank that pays more interest than his old bank, saying, "A penny saved is a penny earned."*

penny-wise and pound-foolish <an expression meaning that it is foolish to lose a lot of money to save a little money.> (This is the British pound sterling.) □ *Sally shops very carefully to save a few cents on food, then charges the food to a charge card that costs a lot in annual interest. That's being penny-wise and pound-foolish.* □ *John drives thirty miles to buy gas for three cents a gallon less than it costs here. He's really penny-wise and pound-foolish.*

pep someone or something **up** to make someone or something more sprightly and active. □ *I need a bottle of pop to pep me up.* □ *The third act of this play needs something to pep it up. How about a few good jokes?*

per head Go to a head.

Perish the thought. Do not even consider thinking of something. (Formal.) □ *If you should become ill—perish the thought—I'd take care of you.* □ *I'm afraid that we need a new car. Perish the thought.*

perk someone or something **up** to make someone or something more cheery. □ *A nice cup of coffee would really perk me up.* □ *Don't you think that new curtains would perk up this room?*

persist in doing something to continue, with determination, to do something. □ *John persists in thinking that he's always right.* □ *Tom persists in demanding that I agree to his terms.*

persist with something to continue the state of something; to extend an action or state. □ *Please do not persist with your demands that I agree to your terms.* □ *If you persist with this intrusion, I'm going to call the police.*

perspective on something a way of looking at a situation and determining what is important. □ *The jury did not have a good perspective on the crime since some of the evidence had to be ignored.* □ *Studying history gives one perspective on the present.*

[pet hate] Go to someone's pet hate.

[pet peeve] Go to someone's pet peeve.

peter out [for something] to die or dwindle away; [for something] to become exhausted gradually. (Informal.) □ *When the fire petered out, I went to bed.* □ *My money finally petered out, and I had to come home.*

phony as a three-dollar bill Go to (as) phony as a three-dollar bill.

pick a fight with someone Go to pick a quarrel (with someone).

pick a lock to open a lock without a key; to open a lock without using a key. □ *The robber picked the lock with a nail file.* □ *The thief picked the lock on the safe and stole the money.*

pick and choose to choose very carefully from a number of possibilities; to be selective. □ *You must take what you are given. You cannot pick and choose.* □ *Meg is so beautiful. She can pick and choose from a whole range of boyfriends.*

pick a quarrel (with someone) AND pick a fight with someone to start an argument or fight with someone. □ *Are you trying to pick a quarrel with me?* □ *Max intended to pick a fight with Lefty.*

pick at someone or something **1.** to be very critical of someone or something; to pick on someone or something. (Informal.) □ *Why are you always picking at me?* □ *You always seem to be picking at your car.* **2.** [with something] to eat only little bits of something. □ *You're only picking at your food. Don't you feel well?* □ *Billy is only picking at his peas, and he usually eats all of them.*

pick holes in something **AND pick something to pieces** to criticize something severely; to find all the flaws or fallacies in an argument. (Also literal.) □ *The lawyer picked holes in the witness's story.* □ *They will pick holes in your argument.* □ *She picked my story to pieces.*

the **pick of** something the best of the group. □ *This playful puppy is the pick of the whole lot.* □ *These potatoes are the pick of the crop.*

pick one's way through something **AND make one's way through** something to work slowly and meticulously through written material. (Literal when referring to moving carefully through a route filled with obstacles.) □ *My teacher said he couldn't even pick his way through my report. It was just too confusing.* □ *I spent an hour picking my way through the state tax forms.*

pick on somebody your own size Go to pick on someone your own size.

pick on someone or something to criticize someone or something; to abuse someone or something. □ *Stop picking on me!* □ *Why are you always picking on your dog?* □ *Don't pick on our house. It's old, but we love it.*

pick on someone your own size AND pick on somebody your own size to abuse someone who is big enough to fight back. □ *Go pick on somebody your own size!* □ *Max should learn to pick on someone his own size.*

pick someone or something off to kill someone or something with a carefully aimed gunshot. (Also literal.) □ *The hunter picked the deer off with great skill.* □ *The killer tried to pick off the police officer.*

pick someone or something up 1. [with someone] to go to a place in a car, bus, etc., and take on a person as a passenger. □ *Please come to my office and pick me up at noon.* □ *I have to pick up Billy at school.* **2.** [with someone] to stop one's car, bus, etc., and offer someone a ride. □ *Don't ever pick a stranger up when you're out driving!* □ *I picked up a hitchhiker today, and we had a nice chat.* **3.** [with someone] to attempt to become acquainted with someone for romantic or sexual purposes. (Informal.) □ *Who are you anyway? Are you trying to pick me up?* □ *No, I never picked up anybody in my life!* **4.** [with someone] [for the police] to find and bring someone to the police station for questioning or arrest. □ *I tried to pick her up, but she heard me coming and got away.* □ *Sergeant Jones, go pick up Sally Franklin and bring her in to be questioned about the jewel robbery.* **5.** [with something] to tidy up or clean up a room or some other place. □ *Let's pick this room up in a hurry.* □ *I want you to pick up the entire house.* **6.** [with something] to find, purchase, or acquire something. □ *Where did you pick that up?* □ *I picked up this tool at the hardware store.* **7.** [with something] to learn something. □ *I pick languages up easily.* □ *I picked up a lot of knowledge about music from my brother.* □ *I picked up an interesting melody from a movie.* **8.** [with something] to cause something to go faster, especially music. □ *All right, let's pick this piece up and get it moving faster.* □ *Okay, get moving. Pick it up!* **9.** [with something] to resume something. □ *Pick it up right where you stopped.* □ *I'll have to pick up my work where I left off.* **10.** [with something] to

receive radio signals; to bring something into view. □ *I can just pick it up with a powerful telescope.* □ *I can hardly pick up a signal.* □ *We can pick up a pretty good television picture where we live.* **11.** [with something] to find a trail or route. □ *The dogs finally picked up the scent.* □ *You should pick up Highway 80 in a few miles.*

pick someone's brain(s) to talk with someone to find out information about something. □ *I spent the afternoon with Donna, picking her brain for ideas to use in our celebration.* □ *Do you mind if I pick your brains? I need some fresh ideas.*

pick something over to sort through something; to rummage through something. □ *They picked all the records over.* □ *The shoppers quickly picked over the sale merchandise.*

pick something to pieces Go to pick holes in something.

pick up 1. to tidy up. □ *When you finish playing, you have to pick up.* □ *Please pick up after yourself.* **2.** to get busy; to go faster. □ *Things usually pick up around here about 8:00.* □ *I hope things pick up a little later. It's boring here.*

pick up the check Go to pick up the tab.

pick up the tab AND **pick up the check** to intercept and pay the charges for a meal, entertainment, or other goods or services. (Meaning that the one who picks up the check pays the charges listed on it. Informal.) □ *Whenever we go out, my father picks up the tab.* □ *Order whatever you want. The company is picking up the check.*

picked over rejected; worn, dirty, or undesirable. □ *This merchandise looks worn and picked over. I don't want any of it.* □ *Everything in the store is picked over by the end of the month.*

the **picture of** something the perfect example of something; an exact image of something. □ *The young newlyweds were the picture of happiness.* □ *Our family is just the picture of love and joy.* □ *The doctor says I am the picture of health.*

pie in the sky a future reward after death, considered as a replacement for a reward not received on earth. □ *You expect to get rich from this scheme, but that's just pie in the sky.* □ *His promises are just pie in the sky! He is a liar if I ever saw one.*

piece of cake very easy. (Slang.) □ *No, it won't be any trouble. It's a piece of cake.* □ *It's easy! Look here—piece of cake.*

a **piece of the action** a share in a scheme or project; a degree of involvement. (Slang.) □ *If you guys are going to bet on the football game, I want a piece of the action, too.* □ *My brother wants in on it. Give him a piece of the action.*

a **piercing scream** a very loud and shrill scream. □ *Suddenly, there was a piercing scream from the next room.* □ *Bob heard Susan's piercing scream and ran to help her.*

pile in(to something) to climb into something or get into something roughly. □ *Okay, kids, pile in!* □ *The children piled into the car and slammed the door.*

pile out (of something) to get out of something roughly. □ *Okay, kids, pile out!* □ *The car door burst open, and the children piled out.*

pile something up to crash or wreck something. (Also literal meaning "to heap something up.") □ *Drive carefully if you don't want to pile the car up.* □ *The driver piled up the car against a tree.*

pile up to crash or wreck. (Also literal.) □ *The car piled up against the tree.* □ *The bus piled up on the curve.*

a **pillar of strength** AND a **pillar of support**; a **tower of strength** someone or something that consistently provides moral, emotional, or financial support as does a pillar. □ *My parents are my pillars of support.* □ *The minister looked to God as her pillar of strength.* □ *Jack was a tower of strength during the time that his father was unemployed.*

a **pillar of support** Go to a pillar of strength.

pin one's faith on someone or something AND **pin one's hope(s) on** someone or something

to put one's hope, trust, or faith in someone or something. ☐ *I'm pinning my faith on your efforts.* ☐ *Don't pin your hopes on Tom. He's not dependable.*

pin one's hope(s) on someone or something Go to **pin one's faith on** someone or something.

pin someone down to force someone to make a decision or choice. (See also on **pins and needles**.) ☐ *The doctor tried to pin Jane Smith down for her next appointment.* ☐ *I won't make up my mind for a week so don't try to pin me down now.*

pin someone down (on something) to force someone to explain or clarify something. (Also literal. Informal.) ☐ *Try to pin her down on the time.* ☒ *Pin down Jane on exactly what she means.* ☐ *Please find out exactly how much it costs. Pin them down on the price.*

pin someone's ears back to scold someone severely; to beat someone. (Slang.) ☐ *Tom pinned my ears back because I insulted him.* ☐ *I got very mad at John and wanted to pin his ears back, but I didn't.*

pin something on someone to place the blame for something on someone. (Also literal. Slang.) ☐ *I didn't take the money. Don't try to pin it on me. I wasn't even there.* ☐ *The police managed to pin the crime on Bob.*

pinch-hit (for someone) to substitute for someone. (Originally from baseball, where it refers to a substitute batter.) ☐ *Will you pinch-hit for me at band practice?* ☐ *Sorry, I can't pinch-hit. I don't have the time.*

pins and needles a tingling feeling in some part of one's body, especially the arms and legs. (See also on **pins and needles**.) ☐ *I've got pins and needles in my legs.* ☐ *Mary gets pins and needles if she crosses her arms for long.*

pipe down to be quiet; to get quiet. (Slang.) ☐ *Okay, you guys, pipe down!* ☐ *I've heard enough out of you. Pipe down!*

a **pipe dream** a wish or an idea that is impossible to achieve or carry out. (From the dreams or visions induced by the

smoking of an opium pipe.) ☐ *Going to the West Indies is a pipe dream. We'll never have enough money.* ☐ *Your hopes of winning a lot of money are just a silly pipe dream.*

pipe up with something to speak up and say something, especially with a high-pitched voice. ☐ *Billy piped up with a silly remark.* ☐ *Did I hear somebody pipe up with an insult?*

piping hot [of food] extremely hot. ☐ *On a cold day, I like to eat piping hot soup.* ☐ *Be careful! This coffee is piping hot!*

pique someone's curiosity AND **pique someone's interest** to arouse interest; to arouse curiosity. ☐ *The advertisement piqued my curiosity about the product.* ☐ *The professor tried to pique the students' interest in French literature.*

pique someone's interest Go to **pique someone's curiosity**.

pit someone or something **against** someone or something to set someone or something in opposition to someone or something. ☐ *The rules of the tournament pit their team against ours.* ☐ *John pitted Mary against Sally in the tennis match.* ☐ *In an interesting plowing match, Bill pitted himself against a small tractor.*

pitch a tent to erect a tent at a campsite. ☐ *The campers pitched their tent in a clearing in the woods.* ☐ *I pitched my tent next to a large oak tree.*

pitch-black very black; as black as pitch. ☐ *The hearse was pitch-black.* ☐ *The bandit rode on a pitch-black horse and wore black clothing.*

pitch camp to set up or arrange a campsite. ☐ *We pitched camp near the stream.* ☐ *Two campers went ahead of us to pitch camp while it was still light.*

pitch-dark very dark; as dark as pitch. ☐ *I couldn't see anything outside because it was pitch-dark.* ☐ *The room was pitch-dark, and I couldn't find the light switch!*

pitch in (and help) to get busy and help (with something). ☐ *Pick up a paintbrush and pitch in and help.* ☐ *Why don't some*

of you pitch in? We need all the help we can get.

pitch someone **a curve (ball)** to surprise someone with an unexpected act or event. (Alluding to pitching a curve ball in baseball. It is the route of the ball that is curved, not the ball itself.) ☐ *You really pitched me a curve ball when you said I had done a poor job. I did my best.* ☐ *You asked Tom a hard question. You certainly pitched him a curve.*

the **pits** the worst possible. (Slang.) ☐ *John is such a boring person. He's the pits.* ☐ *This restaurant isn't the best, but it's not the pits either.*

place an order to submit an order. ☐ *My secretary placed an order for a new computer.* ☐ *I placed my order only yesterday.*

[place of business] Go to someone's place of business.

place someone to recall someone's name; to recall the details about a person that would help you identify the person. ☐ *I am sorry, I can't seem to place you. Could you tell me your name again?* ☐ *I can't place her. Did I meet her once before?*

place the blame on someone or something Go to put the blame on someone or something.

a **place to call** one's **own** Go to somewhere to hang (up) one's hat.

a **place to hang** one's **hat** Go to somewhere to hang (up) one's hat.

plain and simple Go to pure and simple.

plain as a pikestaff Go to (as) plain as a pikestaff.

plain as day Go to (as) plain as day.

plain as the nose on one's face Go to (as) plain as the nose on one's face.

play about (with someone or something) Go to play around (with someone or something).

play a joke on someone to make a joke that tricks someone. ☐ *The children played a joke on their teacher.* ☐ *I don't like it when you play jokes on me.*

play along with someone or something to agree to cooperate or conspire with someone or someone's plan; to pretend to

agree to cooperate or conspire with someone or someone's plan. ☐ *I refused to play along with the treasurer when she outlined her plan.* ☐ *It might be wise to play along with the kidnappers, at least for a little while.* ☐ *I'll play along with your scheme until the others get here, but I don't like it.*

play around (with someone or something)

AND play about (with someone or something) to engage in some amusing activity with someone or something; to tease someone or something. ☐ *Please don't play around with that vase. You'll break it.* ☐ *Don't play about with the parrot. It'll bite you.* ☐ *Bill and I were just playing around when we heard the sound of breaking glass.*

play a trick on someone to do a trick that affects someone. ☐ *Somebody played a trick on me by hiding my shoes.* ☐ *The little boys planned to play a trick on their teacher by turning up the heat in the classroom.*

play ball (with someone) to cooperate with someone. (Literal when referring to playing a ball game. Informal.) ☐ *Look, friend, if you play ball with me, everything will work out all right.* ☐ *Things would go better for you if you'd learn to play ball.*

play both ends (against the middle) [for one] to scheme in a way that pits two sides against each other (for one's own gain). (Informal.) ☐ *I told my brother that Mary doesn't like him. Then I told Mary that my brother doesn't like her. They broke up, so now I can have the car this weekend. I succeeded in playing both ends against the middle.* ☐ *If you try to play both ends, you're likely to get in trouble with both sides.*

play by ear Go to play something by ear.

a **play-by-play description** a description of an event given as the event is taking place. (Usually in reference to a sporting event.) ☐ *And now here is Bill Jones with a play-by-play description of the baseball game.* ☐ *John was giving me a play-by-play description of the argument going on next door.*

play cat and mouse (with someone) to alternate between kinds of behavior when dealing with someone, often in matters of pursuit. □ *The police played cat and mouse with the suspect until they had sufficient evidence to make an arrest.* □ *Tom had been playing cat and mouse with Ann. Finally she got tired of it and broke up with him.*

play dumb Go to play ignorant.

play fair to do something by the rules; to play something in a fair and just manner. □ *John won't play with Bill anymore because Bill doesn't play fair.* □ *You moved the golf ball with your foot! That's not playing fair!*

play fast and loose (with someone or something) to act carelessly, thoughtlessly, and irresponsibly. (Informal.) □ *I'm tired of your playing fast and loose with me. Leave me alone.* □ *Bob got fired for playing fast and loose with the company's money.* □ *If you play fast and loose like that, you can get into a lot of trouble.*

play first chair **1.** to be the leader of a section of instruments in an orchestra or a band. □ *Sally learned to play the violin so well that she now plays first chair in the orchestra.* □ *I'm going to practice my flute so I can play first chair.* **2.** to act as a leader. □ *I need to get this job done. Who plays first chair around here?* □ *You're not the boss! You don't play first chair.*

play footsie (with someone) **1.** to attract someone's attention by touching feet under the table; to flirt with someone. (Informal.) □ *Bill was trying to play footsie with Sally at the dinner table. The hostess was appalled.* □ *They shouldn't play footsie at a formal dinner.* **2.** to get involved with someone; to collaborate with someone. (Informal.) □ *The treasurer got fired for playing footsie with the vice president.* □ *When politicians play footsie, there is usually something illegal going on.*

play for keeps to take an action that is permanent or final. (Slang.) □ *Mary told me that Tom wants to marry me. I didn't know he wanted to play for keeps.* □ *I like*

to play cards and make money, but I don't like to play for keeps.

play hard to get to be coy, shy, and fickle. (Usually refers to someone of the opposite sex.) □ *Why can't we go out? Why do you play hard to get?* □ *Sally annoys all the boys because she plays hard to get.*

play havoc with someone or something Go to raise havoc with someone or something.

play hob with someone or something Go to raise hob with someone or something.

play hooky not to go to school or to some important meeting. (Slang.) □ *Why aren't you in school? Are you playing hooky?* □ *I don't have time for the sales meeting today, so I think I'll just play hooky.*

play ignorant AND **play dumb** to pretend to be ignorant [of something]. □ *I played ignorant even though I knew about the surprise party.* □ *John played ignorant when I asked him if he knew who had been on the telephone.*

play innocent to pretend to be innocent and not concerned. □ *There is no need to play innocent. I know you broke the lamp!* □ *John is playing innocent, and he knows more than he is telling us.*

play into someone's hands [for a person one is scheming against] to come under one's control without realizing it. □ *John is doing exactly what I hoped he would. He's playing into my hands.* □ *John played into my hands by taking the coins he found in my desk. I caught him and had him arrested.*

play it cool to act calm and unconcerned. (Slang.) □ *No one will suspect anything if you play it cool.* □ *Don't get angry, Bob. Play it cool.*

play it safe to be or act safe; to avoid taking a risk. □ *You should play it safe and take your umbrella.* □ *If you have a cold or the flu, play it safe and go to bed.*

play one's cards close to one's vest Go to play one's cards close to the chest.

play one's cards close to the chest AND **play one's cards close to one's vest;** **keep one's cards close to one's chest;**

keep one's cards close to one's vest [for someone] to work or negotiate in a careful and private manner. (Literal when referring to concealing one's cards in a card game.) □ *It's hard to figure out what John is up to because he plays his cards close to his chest.* □ *Don't let them know what you're up to. Keep your cards close to your vest.*

play one's cards right AND **play one's cards well** to work or negotiate correctly and skillfully. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *If you play your cards right, you can get whatever you want.* □ *She didn't play her cards well, and she ended up with something less than what she wanted.*

play one's cards well Go to **play one's cards right**.

play one's trump card to use a special trick; to use one's most powerful or effective strategy or device. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *I won't play my trump card until I have tried everything else.* □ *I thought that the whole situation was hopeless until Mary played her trump card and solved the whole problem.*

play on something to have an effect on something; to manage something for a desired effect. □ *The clerk played on my sense of responsibility in trying to get me to buy the book.* □ *See if you can get her to confess by playing on her sense of guilt.*

play politics **1.** to negotiate politically. □ *Everybody at city hall is playing politics as usual.* □ *If you're elected as a member of a political party, you'll have to play politics.* **2.** to allow politics to dominate in matters where principle should prevail. □ *Look, I came here to discuss this trial, not play politics.* □ *They're not making reasonable decisions. They're playing politics.*

play possum to pretend to be inactive, unobservant, asleep, or dead. (Folksy. The possum is an opossum.) □ *I knew that Bob wasn't asleep. He was just playing possum.* □ *I can't tell if this animal is dead or just playing possum.*

play second fiddle (to someone) to be in a subordinate position to someone. □ *I'm tired of playing second fiddle to John.* □

I'm better trained than he, and I have more experience. I shouldn't play second fiddle.

play someone for something to treat someone like (a) something. (Slang. Compare this with **take** someone **for** someone or something.) □ *Don't play me for a fool! I know what's going on.* □ *They played her for a jerk, but were they surprised!*

play someone off against someone else to scheme in a manner that pits two of your adversaries against one another. □ *Bill wanted to beat me up and so did Bob. I did some fast talking, and they ended up fighting with each other. I really played Bill off against Bob.* □ *The president played the House off against the Senate and ended up getting his own way.*

play someone or something down to lessen the effect or importance of someone or something. □ *John is a famous actor, but the director tried to play him down as just another member of the cast.* □ *They tried to play down her earlier arrest.*

play someone or something up to make someone or something seem to be more important. □ *The director tried to play Ann up, but she was not really a star.* □ *Try to play up the good qualities of our product.*

play something by ear **1.** to be able to play a piece of music after just listening to it a few times, without looking at the notes. □ *I can play "Stardust" by ear.* □ *Some people can play Chopin's music by ear.* **2.** AND **play by ear** to play a musical instrument well, without formal training. □ *John can play the piano by ear.* □ *If I could play by ear, I wouldn't have to take lessons—or practice!* **3.** to improvise; to decide what to do after one is already involved in a situation. (Compare this with **wing it**.) □ *When we get into the meeting we'll have to play everything by ear.* □ *He never prepared his presentations. He always played things by ear.*

play (the) devil's advocate to put forward arguments against or objections to a proposition—which one may actually agree with—purely to test the validity of the proposition. (The devil's advocate

was given the role of opposing the canonization of a saint in the medieval Church in order to prove that the grounds for canonization were sound.) □ *I agree with your plan. I'm just playing the devil's advocate so you'll know what the opposition will say.* □ *Mary offered to play devil's advocate and argue against our case so that we would find out any flaws in it.*

play the field to date many different people rather than going steady. (Informal. See also **go steady with** someone.) □ *When Tom told Ann good-bye, he said he wanted to play the field.* □ *He said he wanted to play the field while he was still young.*

play the fool to act in a silly manner in order to amuse other people. □ *The teacher told Tom to stop playing the fool and sit down.* □ *Fred likes playing the fool, but we didn't find him funny last night.*

play the market to invest in the stock market, perhaps recklessly. (Informal. As if it were a game or gambling.) □ *Would you rather put your money in the bank or play the market?* □ *I've learned my lesson playing the market. I lost a fortune.*

play to the gallery to perform in a manner that will get the strong approval of the audience; to perform in a manner that will get the approval of the ruder members of the audience. □ *John is a competent actor, but he has a tendency to play to the gallery.* □ *When he made the rude remark, he was just playing to the gallery.*

play tricks (on someone) to trick or confuse someone. □ *I thought I saw a camel over there. I guess my eyes are playing tricks on me.* □ *Please don't play tricks on your little brother. It makes him cry.*

play up to someone to try to gain someone's favor. □ *Bill is always playing up to the teacher.* □ *Ann played up to Bill as if she wanted him to marry her.*

play with fire to take a big risk. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *If you accuse her of stealing, you'll be playing with fire.* □ *I wouldn't try that if I were you—unless you like playing with fire.*

played out worn out; spent; exhausted. □ *This charcoal is just about played out.* □ *The batteries in this flashlight are almost played out.*

pleased as punch Go to (as) pleased as punch.

plenty of something lots of something; an abundance of something; enough of something. □ *I have plenty of candy. Do you want some?* □ *This project is giving me plenty of trouble.*

The **plot thickens**. Things are becoming more complicated or interesting. □ *The police assumed that the woman was murdered by her ex-husband, but he has an alibi. The plot thickens.* □ *John is supposed to be going out with Mary, but I saw him last night with Sally. The plot thickens.*

plow into someone or something to crash into someone or something; to bump hard into someone or something. (Also literal if one is running a plow into someone or something.) □ *The car plowed into the ditch.* □ *The runner plowed into another player.*

plow through something to work through something with determination. (Also literal.) □ *She plowed through the book to learn everything she could.* □ *Billy plowed through dinner and ran outside to play.*

pluck up one's **courage** to increase one's courage a bit. □ *Come on, Ann, make the dive. Pluck up your courage and do it.* □ *Pluck up your courage, Ann! You can do it!*

plug away (at something) AND **peg away (at something)** to keep trying something; to keep working at something. □ *John kept pegging away at the trumpet until he became pretty good at it.* □ *I'm not very good at it, but I keep plugging away.*

plug something in to place a plug into a receptacle. (In can be replaced with into.) □ *This television set won't work unless you plug it in!* ☑ *Please plug in this lamp.*

plug something up to stop or fill up a hole, crack, or gap. □ *Take out the nail and plug the hole up with something.* ☑ *You have to plug up the cracks to keep out the cold.*

plumb loco completely crazy. (Folksy.) □ *If you think you can stand up against Marshall Dillon, you're plumb loco.* □ *Bob is not just a little strange, he's plumb loco.*

poetic justice the appropriate but chance receiving of rewards or punishments by those deserving them. □ *It was poetic justice that Jane won the race after Mary tried to get her banned.* □ *The car thieves stole a car with no gas. That's poetic justice.*

the **point of no return** the halfway point; the point at which it is too late to turn back. (Often with *past*.) □ *The flight was past the point of no return, so we had to continue to our destination.* □ *The entire project is past the point of no return; we will have to continue with it.*

point of view a way of thinking about something; [someone's] viewpoint; an attitude or expression of self-interest. □ *From my point of view, all this talk is a waste of time.* □ *She has a strange point of view, but she has made some good observations about the problem.*

point someone or something out to select or indicate someone or something (from a group). □ *Everyone pointed the error out.* □ *She pointed the thief out to the police officer.* □ *She pointed out the boy who took her purse.*

point something up to emphasize something; to demonstrate a fact. □ *I'd like to point your approach up by citing some authorities who agree with you.* □ *This kind of incident points up the flaws in your system.*

point the finger at someone to blame someone; to identify someone as the guilty person. (See also **put the finger on** someone.) □ *Don't point the finger at me! I didn't take the money.* □ *The manager refused to point the finger at anyone in particular and said that everyone was sometimes guilty of being late.*

poised for something ready for something; in the right position and waiting for something. □ *The cat stared at the mouse, poised for action.* □ *The army was poised for battle.*

poised to do something ready to do something; in the right position to do some-

thing. □ *The cat is poised to jump on the mouse.* □ *The army is poised to attack at dawn.*

poke about AND **poke around** to look or search around. □ *I've been poking around in the library looking for some statistics.* □ *I don't mind if you look in my drawer for a paper clip, but please don't poke about.*

poke around Go to poke about.

poke fun (at someone) to make fun of someone; to ridicule someone. □ *Stop poking fun at me! It's not nice.* □ *Bob is always poking fun.*

poke one's nose in(to something) AND **stick one's nose in(to something)** to interfere with something; to be nosy about something. (Also literal.) □ *I wish you'd stop poking your nose into my business.* □ *She was too upset for me to stick my nose in and ask what was wrong.*

poles apart very different; far from coming to an agreement. (Preceded by *be*, *grow*, or *seem*.) □ *Mr. and Mrs. Jones don't get along well. They are poles apart.* □ *They'll never sign the contract because they are poles apart.*

polish something off to finish something off. □ *There is just a little bit of work left. It won't take any time to polish it off.* □ *Bob polished off the rest of the pie.*

poop out to quit; to wear out and stop. (Slang.) □ *I'm so tired I could poop out right here.* □ *My car sounded as if it were going to poop out.*

pooped out [for a person or animal to be] exhausted. (Slang.) □ *The horse was pooped out and could run no more.* □ *I can't go on. I'm pooped out.*

poor as a church mouse Go to (as) poor as a church mouse.

poor but clean having little money but clean and of good habits, nonetheless. (Either extremely condescending or jocular. Some people would consider it offensive.) □ *My salary isn't very high, and I only have two color TV sets. Anyway, I'm poor but clean.* □ *When Fred uttered the phrase poor but clean in reference to some*

of the people working in the yard, Ellen went into a rage.

pop off to make a wisecrack or smart-aleck remark. (Informal.) ☐ *If you pop off one more time, you'll have to stay after school.* ☐ *Bob keeps popping off at the worst times.*

pop one's cork 1. to suddenly become mentally disturbed; to go crazy. (Slang.) ☐ *I was so upset that I nearly popped my cork.* ☐ *They put him away because he popped his cork.* **2.** to become very angry. (Slang.) ☐ *My mother popped her cork when she heard about my grades.* ☐ *Calm down! Don't pop your cork.*

pop the question to ask someone to marry one. (Informal.) ☐ *I was surprised when he popped the question.* ☐ *I've been waiting for years for someone to pop the question.*

pop up 1. [for a baseball batter] to hit a baseball that goes upward rather than outward. ☐ *The catcher came to bat and popped up.* ☐ *I hope I don't pop up this time.* **2.** [for a baseball] to fly upward rather than outward. ☐ *The ball popped up and went foul.* ☐ *The ball will always pop up if you hit it in a certain way.* **3.** to arise suddenly; to appear without warning. ☐ *New problems keep popping up all the time.* ☐ *Billy popped up out of nowhere and scared his mother.*

a portent of things to come Go to a harbinger of things to come.

pose a question to ask a question; to imply the need for asking a question. ☐ *Genetic research poses many ethical questions.* ☐ *My interviewer posed a hypothetical question.*

pose as someone to pretend to be someone. ☐ *The impostor posed as the president of the company.* ☐ *My twin posed as me while I went on vacation.*

possessed by something under the control of something; obsessed with something. ☐ *She acted as if she were possessed by evil spirits.* ☐ *He was possessed by a powerful sense of guilt.*

possessed of something having something. (Formal.) ☐ *Bill was possessed of an enor-*

mous sense of self-worth. ☐ *The Smiths were possessed of a great deal of fine ranch land.*

postage and handling charges for sending [something] through the mail and for wrapping and handling the item. (See also **shipping and handling**.) ☐ *The cost of the book was quite reasonable, but the postage and handling was outrageous.* ☐ *They did not charge postage and handling because I prepaid the order.*

the **pot calling the kettle black** [an instance of] someone with a fault accusing someone else of having the same fault. ☐ *Ann is always late, but she was rude enough to tell everyone when I was late.* *Now that's the pot calling the kettle black!* ☐ *You're calling me thoughtless? That's really a case of the pot calling the kettle black.*

pound a beat to walk a route. (Informal. Usually said of a police patrol officer.) ☐ *Officer Smith pounded the same beat for years and years.* ☐ *I don't want to pound a beat all my life.*

pound something out 1. to play something loudly on the piano. (Also literal. Slang. Compare this with **belt something out**.) ☐ *Don't pound the music out! Just play it.* ☐ *Listen to her pound out that song.* **2.** to type something on a typewriter. (Slang.) ☐ *Please pound it out again. There are six errors.* ☐ *It'll take just a few minutes to pound out this letter.*

pound the pavement to walk through the streets looking for a job. (Informal.) ☐ *I spent two months pounding the pavement after the factory I worked for closed.* ☐ *Hey, Bob. You'd better get busy pounding those nails unless you want to be out pounding the pavement.*

pour cold water on something **AND dash cold water on** something; **throw cold water on** something to discourage doing something; to reduce enthusiasm for something. ☐ *When my father said I couldn't have the car, he poured cold water on my plans.* ☐ *John threw cold water on the whole project by refusing to participate.* ☐ *I hate to dash cold water on your*

party, but you cannot use the house that night.

pour it on thick Go to lay it on thick.

pour money down the drain to waste money; to spend money as if one were throwing it away. (Informal.) □ *What a waste! You're just pouring money down the drain.* □ *Don't buy any more of that low-quality merchandise. That's just throwing money down the drain.*

pour oil on troubled water(s) to calm things down. (If oil is poured onto rough seas during a storm, the water will become more calm.) □ *That was a good thing to say to John. It helped pour oil on troubled water. Now he looks happy.* □ *Bob is the kind of person who pours oil on troubled waters.*

pour one's heart (out to someone) to tell all one's hopes, fears, and feelings to someone. □ *She was so upset. She poured her heart out to Sally.* □ *She sat there talking for over an hour—pouring out her heart.*

pouring rain very heavy rain. □ *The children's clothes were soaked after they played out in the pouring rain.* □ *I waited in the pouring rain for the next bus.*

the **power behind the throne** the person who controls the person who is apparently in charge. □ *Mr. Smith appears to run the shop, but his brother is the power behind the throne.* □ *They say that the vice president is the power behind the throne.*

the **powers that be** the people who are in authority. □ *The powers that be have decided to send back the immigrants.* □ *I have applied for a license, and the powers that be are considering my application.*

praise someone or something to the skies to give someone or something much praise. □ *He wasn't very good, but his friends praised him to the skies.* □ *They liked your pie. Everyone praised it to the skies.*

preach to the converted to praise or recommend something to someone who is already in favor of it. (Also literal.) □ *Mary was preaching to the converted when she tried to persuade Jean to become a feminist. She's been one for years.* □ *Bob found*

himself preaching to the converted when he was telling Jane the advantages of living in the country. She hates city life.

precious few AND **precious little** very few; very little. (Informal. *Few* with things that are countable, otherwise, *little*.) □ *We get precious few tourists here in the winter.* □ *There's precious little food in the house and there is no money.*

precious little Go to precious few.

a **prelude** to something an act or event that comes before and signals another act or event. □ *Her rudeness to her boss was a prelude to her resignation.* □ *The invasion of Poland was a prelude to World War II.*

press one's luck Go to push one's luck.

press someone to the wall Go to push someone to the wall.

press the panic button Go to push the panic button.

pressed for time in a hurry. □ *I am sorry. I can't talk to you. I'm just too pressed for time.* □ *If you are pressed for time, you might want to stop for some food somewhere on the highway.*

pretty as a picture Go to (as) pretty as a picture.

Pretty is as pretty does. You should do pleasant things if you wish to be considered pleasant. (Proverb.) □ *Now, Sally. Let's be nice. Pretty is as pretty does.* □ *My great-aunt always used to say "pretty is as pretty does" to my sister.*

a **pretty state of affairs** AND a **fine state of affairs** an unpleasant state of affairs. (See also *fine kettle of fish*.) □ *This is a pretty state of affairs, and it's all your fault.* □ *What a fine state of affairs you've got us into.*

prevail (up)on someone to ask or beg someone (for a favor). □ *Can I prevail upon you to give me some help?* □ *Perhaps you could prevail on my brother for a loan.*

prick up one's ears to listen more closely. (Alluding to animals that move their ears about to hear better.) □ *At the sound of my voice on the telephone, my sister*

pricked up her ears. □ *I pricked up my ears when I heard my name mentioned.*

pride and joy something or someone that one is very proud of. (Often in reference to a baby, a car, a house, etc.) □ *And this is our little pride and joy, Roger.* □ *Fred pulled up in his pride and joy and asked if I wanted a ride.*

Pride goes before a fall. Someone who behaves in an arrogant or vain way is likely to suffer misfortune. (Proverb. From the Bible.) □ *Bert was so busy admiring his reflection in a shop window that he stepped in a puddle. Pride goes before a fall.* □ *Jean was boasting about how well she thought she'd done on her final exams, but she failed them all. You know what they say. Pride goes before a fall.*

pride oneself in something Go to **pride oneself on** something.

pride oneself on something AND **pride oneself in** something to take special pride in something. □ *Ann prides herself on her apple pies.* □ *John prides himself in his ability to make people feel at ease.*

prime mover the force that sets something going; someone or something that starts something off. □ *The manager was the prime mover in getting the clerk fired.* □ *Discontent with his job was the prime mover in John's deciding to go to Alaska.*

privy to something uniquely knowledgeable about something. □ *The reporter became privy to the senator's evil plan.* □ *Why are you privy to this secret information?*

promise someone the moon Go to **promise the moon** (to someone).

promise the moon (to someone) AND **promise someone the moon** to make extravagant promises to someone. □ *Bill will promise you the moon, but he won't live up to his promises.* □ *My boss promised the moon, but only paid the minimum wage.*

prone to something likely to [do] something; apt to have something. □ *My boss is prone to fits of anger when my work isn't done.* □ *My sister is prone to sneezing because of her allergies.*

propose a toast to make a toast before drinking. □ *I'd like to propose a toast in honor of your birthday.* □ *At the wedding reception, the bride's father proposed a toast.*

proud as a peacock Go to (as) proud as a peacock.

prove to be someone or something to be shown to be someone or something; to be found to be someone or something. □ *Susan proved to be a good friend when she lent me some money.* □ *The food proved to be spoiled when I smelled it.*

provided that something is so on the condition that something is so. □ *I will come, provided that I am invited.* □ *I will help you, provided that you pay me.*

psyche out to go wild or crazy; to become irrational. (Slang. Pronounced as if it were spelled *sike*.) □ *I don't know what happened to me. Suddenly I psyched out and started yelling.* □ *Max nearly psyched out when he saw the bill.*

psyche someone out 1. to figure out someone psychologically. (Slang. Pronounced as if it were spelled *sike*.) □ *Don't try to psyche me out. Just be my friend.* □ *I think I've psyched out my opponent so I can beat him.* 2. to confuse someone; to cause someone to go crazy. (Slang. Pronounced as if it were spelled *sike*.) □ *All that bright light psyched me out. I couldn't think straight.* □ *They psyched out the enemy soldiers, causing them to jump into the river.*

psyche someone up to cause someone to be enthusiastic about doing something. (Slang. Pronounced as if it were spelled *sike*.) □ *The coach psyched up the team before the game.* □ *I need someone to psyche me up before I go on stage.*

psyched out confused and disoriented. (Slang. Pronounced as if it were spelled *siked*.) □ *What an upsetting day! I'm really psyched out.* □ *She is so psyched out she can't see straight.*

psyched up (for something) excited and enthusiastic. (Slang. Pronounced as if it were spelled *siked*.) □ *I can play a great*

tennis game if I'm psyched up. □ She is really psyched up for the game.

publish or perish [for a professor] to publish many books or articles in scholarly journals or get released from a university or fall into disfavor in a university. (Also occurs as other parts of speech. See the examples below.) □ Alice knew she would have to publish or perish if she took the teaching job. □ This is a major research university and publish or perish is the order of the day. □ When Jane heard that publish or perish was the rule at her university, she was afraid that she would not get any professors who were interested in her intellectual advancement.

pull a boner to do something stupid or silly. (Slang.) □ Boy, I really pulled a boner! I'm so dumb. □ If you pull a boner like that again, you're fired!

pull a fast one to succeed in an act of deception. (Slang.) □ She was pulling a fast one when she said she had a headache and went home. □ Don't try to pull a fast one with me! I know what you're doing.

pull a gun (on someone) AND **pull a knife (on someone)** to bring out a gun or knife suddenly so that it is ready for use against someone. □ I screamed when the mugger pulled a knife on me. □ The police shot the thief when he pulled a gun.

pull a knife (on someone) Go to pull a gun (on someone).

pull a stunt (on someone) AND **pull a trick (on someone)** to deceive someone. □ Let's pull a trick on the teacher. □ Don't you dare pull a stunt like that!

pull a trick (on someone) Go to pull a stunt (on someone).

pull oneself together to become emotionally stabilized; to regain one's composure. □ Now, calm down. Pull yourself together. □ I'll be all right as soon as I can pull myself together.

pull oneself up (by one's own bootstraps) to achieve (something) through one's own efforts. □ They simply don't have the resources to pull themselves up by their

own bootstraps. □ If I could have pulled myself up, I'd have done it by now.

pull one's (own) weight Go to carry one's (own) weight.

pull one's punches 1. [for a boxer] to strike with light blows to enable the other boxer to win. (Slang.) □ Bill has been barred from the boxing ring for pulling his punches. □ "I never pulled my punches in my life!" cried Tom. **2.** to hold back in one's criticism. (Slang. Usually in the negative. The one's can be replaced with any.) □ I didn't pull any punches. I told her just what I thought of her. □ The teacher doesn't pull any punches when it comes to discipline.

pull out all the stops to use all one's energy and effort in order to achieve something. (From the stops of a pipe organ. The more that are pulled out, the louder it gets.) □ You'll have to pull out all the stops if you're going to pass the course. □ The doctors will pull out all the stops to save the child's life.

pull rank (on someone) to assert one's rank, authority, or position over someone when making a request or giving an order. □ Don't pull rank on me! I don't have to do what you say! □ When she couldn't get her way politely, she pulled rank and really got some action.

pull someone or something down 1. [with someone] to degrade someone; to humiliate someone. (Also literal.) □ I'm afraid that your friends are pulling you down. Your manners used to be much better. □ My bad habits are pulling me down. □ There is no need to pull down everyone. **2.** [with something] to earn a certain amount of money. (Slang.) □ She's able to pull down \$400 a week. □ I wish I could pull down a salary like that. □ How much is she pulling down? **3.** [with something] to demolish something; to raze something. □ Why do they want to pull it down? Why not remodel it? □ They are going to pull down the old building today. **4.** [with something] to lower or reduce the amount of something. □ That last test pulled my grade down. □ Let's see if we can pull down your temperature.

pull someone's leg to kid, fool, or trick someone. (Informal.) □ *You don't mean that. You're just pulling my leg.* □ *Don't believe him. He's just pulling your leg.*

pull someone's or something's teeth to reduce the power of someone or something. (Also literal in the case of someone. Informal.) □ *The mayor tried to pull the teeth of the new law.* □ *The city council pulled the teeth of the new mayor.*

pull someone through (something) to help someone survive something. (Also literal.) □ *With the help of the doctor, we pulled her through her illness.* □ *With lots of encouragement, we pulled her through.*

pull something off to manage to make something happen. (Also literal. Slang. See also **carry something off**.) □ *Yes, I can pull it off.* □ *Do you think you can pull off this deal?*

pull something on someone to play a trick on someone; to deceive someone with a trick. □ *You wouldn't pull a trick on me, would you?* □ *Who would pull something like that on an old lady?*

pull something out of a hat AND **pull something out of thin air** to produce something as if by magic. (Also literal.) □ *This is a serious problem, and we just can't pull a solution out of a hat.* □ *I'm sorry, but I don't have a pen. What do you want me to do, pull one out of thin air?*

pull something out of thin air Go to **pull something out of a hat**.

pull something together to organize something; to arrange something. (Compare this with **scrape something together**.) □ *How about a party? I'll see if I can pull something together for Friday night.* □ *This place is a mess. Please pull things together.*

pull strings to use influence (with someone to get something done). □ *I can get it done easily by pulling strings.* □ *Is it possible to get anything done around here without pulling strings?*

pull the plug (on someone or something) 1. to cause someone or something to end; to reduce the power or effectiveness of

someone or something. (Informal.) □ *Jane pulled the plug on the whole project.* □ *The mayor was doing a fine job until the treasurer pulled the plug because there was no more money.* 2. [with someone] to turn off someone's life support system in a hospital. (This results in the death of person whose life support has been terminated.) □ *They had to get a court order to pull the plug on their father.* □ *Fred signed a living will making it possible to pull the plug on him without a court order.*

pull the rug out (from under someone) to make someone ineffective. (Also literal.) □ *The treasurer pulled the rug out from under the mayor.* □ *Things were going along fine until the treasurer pulled the rug out.*

pull the wool over someone's eyes to deceive someone. □ *You can't pull the wool over my eyes. I know what's going on.* □ *Don't try to pull the wool over her eyes. She's too smart.*

pull through to get better; to recover from a serious illness or other problem. □ *She's very ill, but I think she'll pull through.* □ *Oh, I hope she pulls through.*

pull up (somewhere) Go to **haul up (somewhere)**.

pull up stakes to move to another place. (Refers to pulling up tent stakes and moving to another campsite.) □ *I've been here long enough. It's time to pull up stakes.* □ *I hate the thought of having to pull up stakes.*

punch a hole in something to make a hole in something with something. □ *John punched a hole in the wall with his fist.* □ *Mary punched a hole in the paper with her pencil.*

pure and simple AND **plain and simple** absolutely; without further complication or elaboration. (Informal.) □ *I told you what you must do, and you must do it, pure and simple.* □ *Will you kindly explain to me what it is, pure and simple, that I am expected to do?* □ *Just tell me plain and simple, do you intend to go or don't you?* □ *I explained it to her plain and simple, but she still didn't understand.*

pure as the driven snow Go to (as) pure as the driven snow.

push off to go away. (Informal.) □ *We told the children to push off.* □ *Push off! We don't want you here.*

push one's luck AND **press one's luck** to expect continued good fortune; to expect to continue to escape bad luck. □ *You're okay so far, but don't push your luck.* □ *Bob pressed his luck too much and got into a lot of trouble.*

push someone to the wall AND **press someone to the wall** to force someone into a position where there is only one choice to make; to put someone in a defensive position. (Also literal.) □ *There was little else I could do. They pushed me to the wall.* □ *When we pressed him to the wall, he told us where the cookies were hidden.*

push the panic button AND **press the panic button** to panic; to become anxious or panicky. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *I do okay taking tests as long as I don't push the panic button.* □ *Whatever you do, don't press the panic button.*

pushing up daisies dead and buried. (Folksy.) □ *If you don't drive safely, you'll be pushing up daisies.* □ *We'll all be pushing up daisies in the long run.*

put a bee in someone's bonnet to give someone an idea (about something). (See also **get a bee in one's bonnet**.) □ *Somebody put a bee in my bonnet that we should go to a movie.* □ *Who put a bee in your bonnet?*

put a cap on something to put a limit on something (Also literal.) □ *We need to put a cap on spending on every department.* □ *The city put a cap on the amount each landlord could charge.*

put a hold on something place a restriction on something to show that it is reserved, delayed, or inactivated. □ *The bank put a hold on my credit card until I paid my bill.* □ *The committee agreed to put a hold on the troublesome piece of business.*

put all one's eggs in one basket to risk everything at once. (Also literal. Often negative.) □ *Don't put all your eggs in one*

basket. Then everything won't be lost if there is a catastrophe. □ *John only applied to the one college he wanted to go to. He put all his eggs in one basket.*

put an end to something Go to put a stop to something.

put a spin on something to interpret an event to make it seem favorable or beneficial to oneself. □ *The mayor tried to put a positive spin on the damaging polls.* □ *The pundit's spin on the new legislation was highly critical.*

put a stop to something AND **put an end to** something to bring something to an end. □ *I want you to put a stop to all this bad behavior.* □ *Please put an end to this conversation.*

put ideas into someone's head to suggest something—usually something bad—to someone (who would not have thought of it otherwise). □ *Bill keeps getting into trouble. Please don't put ideas into his head.* □ *Bob would get along all right if other kids didn't put ideas into his head.*

put in a good word (for someone) to say something (to someone) in support of someone. □ *I hope you get the job. I'll put in a good word for you.* □ *Yes, I want the job. If you see the boss, please put in a good word.*

put in an appearance to appear (somewhere) for just a little while. (Compare this with **make an appearance**.) □ *I couldn't stay for the whole party, so I just put in an appearance and left.* □ *Even if you can't stay for the whole thing, at least put in an appearance.*

put off by someone or something distressed or repelled by someone or something. □ *I was really put off by your behavior.* □ *We were all put off by the unfairness of the rules.*

put on to pretend; to act as if something were true. □ *Ann wasn't really angry. She was just putting on.* □ *I can't believe she was just putting on. She really looked mad.*

put on a brave face to try to appear happy or satisfied when faced with misfortune or danger. □ *We've lost all our money, but*

we must put on a brave face for the sake of the children. □ *Jim has lost his job and is worried, but he's putting on a brave face.*

put on a (brave) front Go to put up a (brave) front.

put on airs to act superior. □ *Stop putting on airs. You're just human like the rest of us.* □ *Ann is always putting on airs. You'd think she was a queen.*

put on an act to pretend that one is something other than what one is. (See also **put on**.) □ *Be yourself, Ann. Stop putting on an act.* □ *You don't have to put on an act. We accept you the way you are.*

put one in one's place to rebuke someone; to remind one of one's (lower) rank or station. □ *The boss put me in my place for criticizing her.* □ *Then her boss put her in her place for being rude.*

put one's back (in)to something **1.** to apply great physical effort to lift or move something. □ *All right, you guys. Put your backs into moving this piano.* □ *You can lift it if you put your back to it.* **2.** to apply a lot of mental or creative effort to doing something. □ *If we put our backs to it, we can bake twelve dozen cookies today.* □ *The artist put his back into finishing the picture on time.*

put one's best foot forward to act or appear at one's best; to try to make a good impression. □ *When you apply for a job, you should always put your best foot forward.* □ *I try to put my best foot forward whenever I meet someone for the first time.*

put one's cards on the table AND **lay one's cards on the table** to reveal everything; to be open and honest with someone. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Come on, John, lay your cards on the table. Tell me what you really think.* □ *Why don't we both put our cards on the table?*

put (one's) dibs on something to lay a claim to something; to state one's claim to something. (Informal. See also **have dibs on** something.) □ *I put dibs on the last piece of cake.* □ *Mary put her dibs on the book you are reading. She gets it next.*

put oneself in someone else's place AND **put oneself in someone else's shoes** to allow oneself to see or experience something from someone else's point of view. (See also **in** someone else's place; **in** someone else's shoes.) □ *Put yourself in someone else's place, and see how it feels.* □ *I put myself in Tom's shoes and realized that I would have made exactly the same choice.*

put oneself in someone else's shoes Go to put oneself in someone else's place.

put one's finger on something to identify something as very important. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Ann put her finger on the cause of the problem.* □ *Yes, she really put her finger on it.*

put one's foot down (about something) to become adamant about something. (Informal.) □ *Ann put her foot down about what kind of car she wanted.* □ *She doesn't put her foot down very often, but when she does, she really means it.*

put one's foot in it Go to put one's foot in one's mouth.

put one's foot in one's mouth AND **put one's foot in it; stick one's foot in one's mouth** to say something that you regret; to say something stupid, insulting, or hurtful. □ *When I told Ann that her hair was more beautiful than I had ever seen it, I really put my foot in my mouth. It was a wig.* □ *I put my foot in it by telling John's secret.*

put one's hand(s) on something to locate and acquire something. (Compare this with **get** one's hands on someone or something.) □ *I wish I could put my hands on a 1954 Chevrolet.* □ *If I could put my hands on that book, I could find the information I need.*

put one's hand to the plow to begin to do a big and important task; to undertake a major effort. (Also literal.) □ *If John would only put his hand to the plow, he could do an excellent job.* □ *You'll never accomplish anything if you don't put your hand to the plow.*

put one's head on the block (for someone or something) to take great risks for someone or something; to go to a lot of trouble or difficulty for someone or some-

thing; to attempt to gain favor for someone or something. (Also literal.) □ *I don't know why I should put my head on the block for Joan. What has she ever done for me?* □ *Sally tried to get me to put in a good word about her with the boss. You know, tell the boss what a great worker she is and how smart she is. The last time I put my head on the block for anyone, it all backfired, and when the person goofed up, I looked like an idiot!*

put one's house in order to put one's business or personal affairs into good order. (Also literal.) □ *There was some trouble at work and the manager was told to put his house in order.* □ *Every now and then, I have to put my house in order. Then life becomes more manageable.*

put one's mind to something to give one's complete attention to something. □ *I could finish this job tonight if I put my mind to it.* □ *Please put your mind to it and concentrate on getting it finished.*

put one's nose to the grindstone to keep busy doing one's work. (Also with *have* and *get*, as in the examples. See also **keep one's nose to the grindstone**.) □ *The boss told me to put my nose to the grindstone.* □ *I've had my nose to the grindstone ever since I started working here.* □ *If the other people in this office would get their noses to the grindstone, more work would get done.*

put one's oar in to give help; to interfere by giving advice; to **put one's two cents' worth** in. (Refers to adding one's efforts to rowing a boat.) □ *You don't need to put your oar in. I don't need your advice.* ☞ *I'm sorry. I shouldn't have put in my oar.*

put one's shoulder to the wheel to get busy. □ *You won't accomplish anything unless you put your shoulder to the wheel.* □ *I put my shoulder to the wheel and finished the job quickly.*

put one's thinking cap on to start thinking in a serious manner. (Usually used with children.) □ *It's time to put our thinking caps on, children.* ☞ *All right now, let's put on our thinking caps and do some arithmetic.*

put one's two cents(' worth) in to add one's comments (to something). (Informal.) ☞ *Can I put in my two cents' worth?* □ *Sure, go ahead—put your two cents in.*

put one through one's paces to make one demonstrate what one can do; to make one do one's job thoroughly. (See also **put something through its paces**.) □ *The boss really put me through my paces today. I'm tired.* □ *I tried out for a part in the play, and the director really put me through my paces.*

put on the dog to dress or entertain in an extravagant or showy manner. (Informal.) □ *The Smiths really put on the dog at their party last Saturday.* □ *They're always putting on the dog.*

put on the feed bag to eat a meal. (Literal with horses. Folksy and slang.) □ *It's noon—time to put on the feed bag.* □ *I didn't put on the feed bag until about eight o'clock last night.*

put out (about someone or something) irritated; bothered. □ *John behaved rudely at the party, and the hostess was quite put out.* □ *Liz was quite put out about the question.*

put out (some) feelers to attempt to find out something without being too obvious. (Refers to what an insect does to sense what is happening around it.) □ *I wanted to get a new job, so I put out some feelers.* □ *The manager was mean to everyone in the office, so everyone put out feelers in an attempt to find new jobs.*

put someone away **1.** to kill someone. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *The gangster threatened to put me away if I told the police.* ☞ *They've put away witnesses in the past.* **2.** to bury someone. □ *My uncle died last week. They put him away on Saturday.* **3.** to have someone put into a mental institution. □ *My uncle became irrational, and they put him away.* ☞ *They put away my aunt the year before.*

put someone down as something bad to judge that someone is bad or undesirable in some way. (See also **put someone or something down**.) □ *He was so rude that I put him down as someone to be avoided.* □ *If*

you act silly all the time, people will put you down as a fool.

put someone down (for something) to put someone's name on a list of people who volunteer to do something or give an amount of money. □ *Can I put you down for ten dollars?* □ *We're having a picnic, and you're invited. Everyone is bringing something. Can I put you down for potato salad?*

put someone in the picture to give someone all the necessary facts about something. (Literal for a painter or digital graphics artist.) □ *They put the police in the picture about how the accident happened.* □ *Would someone put me in the picture about what went on in my absence?*

put someone off 1. to avoid responding to someone; to delay a response to someone. □ *I keep asking her, but she just keeps putting me off.* □ *Don't put me off again. Answer me now!* **2.** to repel someone; to make someone feel uneasy. □ *Your bad attitude puts people off.*

put someone on to tease or deceive someone. (Slang.) □ *Oh, you're not serious. You're putting me on.* □ *Stop putting me on!*

put someone on a pedestal to respect, admire, or worship a person. □ *He has put her on a pedestal and thinks she can do no wrong.* □ *Don't put me on a pedestal. I'm only human.*

put someone on the spot to ask someone embarrassing questions; to demand that someone produce as expected. □ *Don't put me on the spot. I can't give you an answer.* □ *The boss put Bob on the spot and demanded that he do everything he had promised.*

put someone or something across AND get someone or something across 1. [with someone] to present someone in a good way or a good light. □ *I don't want Tom to make the speech. He doesn't put himself across well.* □ *I get myself across in situations like this. I'll do it.* **2.** to make a clear explanation of something; to explain oneself clearly. □ *The teacher got the idea across with the help of pictures.* □ *I'm taking a course in public speaking to help put my-*

self across better. **3.** [with something] to convince someone of something; to get a plan accepted. □ *After many weeks of trying, we were unable to put our plan across. They refused to accept it.* □ *We just couldn't get it across.*

put someone or something at someone's disposal to make someone or something available to someone; to offer someone or something to someone. □ *I'd be glad to help you if you need me. I put myself at your disposal.* □ *I put my car at my neighbor's disposal.*

put someone or something down 1. to belittle or degrade someone or something. (Slang.) □ *It's an old car, but that's no reason to put it down.* □ *Please stop putting me down all the time. It hurts my feelings.* □ *You put down everything you don't understand!* **2.** [with something] to repress or (figuratively) crush something. □ *The army was called to put down the rebellion.* □ *The police used tear gas to put the riot down.* **3.** [with something] to write something down. □ *I'll give you the address. Please put it down.* □ *I'll put down the address in my address book.* **4.** [with something] to land an aircraft. □ *The pilot put the plane down exactly on time.* □ *I can't put down this plane in the rain.* **5.** [with something] to take the life of an animal, such as a pet that is suffering. (This is usually done by a veterinarian.) □ *We had to put our dog down. She was suffering so.* □ *It's very difficult to put down one's pet.*

put someone or something off 1. [with someone] to divert or avoid someone. □ *I don't wish to see Mr. Brown now. Please put him off.* □ *I won't talk to reporters. Tell them something that will put them off.* □ *Put off those annoying people.* **2.** [with someone] to upset or distress someone. □ *She always puts me off. She's so rude.* □ *I try not to put off people.* **3.** [with something] to delay something; to postpone something. □ *I had to put off my appointment with the doctor.* □ *It's raining, so we'll have to put the picnic off.*

put someone or something on hold 1. [with someone] to stop all activity or commu-

nication with someone. (See also on hold.) □ *John put Ann on hold and started dating Mary.* □ “*You can’t just put me on hold!*” cried Ann. **2.** [with someone] to leave someone waiting on a telephone call. (See also on hold.) □ *Please don’t put me on hold. I’ll call back later when you aren’t so busy.* □ *I’ll have to put you on hold while I look up the information.* **3.** [with something] to postpone something; to stop the progress of something. (See also on hold.) □ *They put the project on hold until they got enough money to finish it.* □ *Sorry, but we must put your plan on hold.*

put someone or something out 1. [with something] to extinguish something. □ *Put out the fire before you go to bed.* □ *My grandfather told me to put out the light and go to bed.* **2.** [with someone] to distress or inconvenience someone. □ *I’d like to have a ride home, but not if it puts you out.* □ *Don’t worry. It won’t put out anybody.* **3.** [with something] to publish something. □ *They are putting the book out next month.* □ *When did you put out the article?* **4.** [with someone] to make someone “out” in baseball. □ *The pitcher put the runner out.* □ *I thought the catcher put out the runner.*

put someone or something out of one’s mind to forget someone or something; to make an effort to stop thinking about someone or something. (Almost the same as **get** someone or something **out of one’s mind**.) □ *Try to put it out of your mind.* □ *I can’t seem to put him out of my mind.*

put someone or something out to pasture to retire someone or something. (Refers to a horse that is too old to work.) □ *Please don’t put me out to pasture. I have lots of good years left.* □ *This car has reached the end of the line. It’s time to put it out to pasture.*

put someone or something to bed 1. [with someone] to help someone—usually a child—get into a bed. □ *Come on, Billy, it’s time for me to put you to bed.* □ *I want Grandpa to put me to bed.* **2.** [with something] to complete work on something and send it on to the next step in pro-

duction, especially in publishing. □ *This edition is finished. Let’s put it to bed.* □ *Finish the editing of this book and put it to bed.*

put someone or something to sleep 1. to kill someone or something. (Euphemistic.) □ *We had to put our dog to sleep.* □ *The robber said he’d put us to sleep forever if we didn’t cooperate.* **2.** to cause someone or something to sleep, perhaps through drugs or anesthesia. □ *The doctor put the patient to sleep before the operation.* □ *I put the cat to sleep by stroking its tummy.* **3.** [with someone] to bore someone. □ *That dull lecture put me to sleep.* □ *Her long story almost put me to sleep.*

put someone or something to the test to see what someone or something can achieve. □ *I think I can jump that far, but no one has ever put me to the test.* □ *I’m going to put my car to the test right now, and see how fast it will go.*

put someone or something up 1. [with someone] to provide lodging for someone. □ *I hope I can find someone to put me up.* □ *They were able to put up John for the night.* **2.** [with something] to preserve and store food by canning or freezing. □ *This year we’ll put some strawberries up.* □ *We put up a lot of food every year.* **3.** [with something] to offer something, such as an idea. □ *We need a better idea. Who’ll put one up?* □ *Let me put up a different idea.* **4.** [with someone] to run someone as a candidate. □ *I think you should put someone else up.* □ *We’re putting up Ann for treasurer.* **5.** [with something] to build a building, a sign, a fence, a wall, etc. □ *We’ll put a garage up next month.* □ *The city put up a fence next to our house.* **6.** [with something] to provide the money for something. □ *The government put the money up for the cost of construction.* □ *Who will put up the money for my education?* **7.** [with something] to shape and arrange one’s hair (with curlers, hairpins, etc.). □ *I can’t go out because I just put my hair up.* □ *I put up my hair every night.* **8.** [with something] to make a struggle, a fight, etc. (Usually *put up something*, and not *put*

something up.) □ *Did he put up a fight?*
 □ *No, he only put up a bit of a struggle.*

put someone's eye out to puncture or harm someone's eye causing blindness. □ *Careful with that stick or you'll put your eye out.* □ *He fell and almost put his eye out!*

put someone's nose out of joint to offend someone; to cause someone to feel slighted or insulted. (Informal.) □ *I'm afraid I put his nose out of joint by not inviting him to the picnic.* □ *There is no reason to put your nose out of joint. I meant no harm.*

put someone through the wringer to give someone a difficult time. (Informal.) □ *They are really putting me through the wringer at school.* □ *The boss put Bob through the wringer over this contract.*

put someone to bed with a shovel to kill someone; to kill and bury someone. (Slang.) □ *That guy'd better be careful, or somebody's going to put him to bed with a shovel.* □ *"Watch out, wise guy," said the robber, "or I'll put you to bed with a shovel."*

put someone to shame to show someone up; to embarrass someone; to make someone ashamed. □ *Your excellent efforts put us all to shame.* □ *I put him to shame by telling everyone about his bad behavior.*

put someone up to something to cause someone to do something; to bribe someone to do something; to give someone the idea of doing something. □ *Who put you up to it?* □ *Nobody put me up to it. I thought it up myself.*

put someone wise to someone or something to inform someone about someone or something. (Informal.) □ *I put her wise to the way we do things around here.* □ *I didn't know she was taking money. Mary put me wise to her.*

put some teeth into something to increase the power of something. □ *The mayor tried to put some teeth into the new law.* □ *The statement is too weak. Put some teeth in to it.*

put something by AND **lay something by** to reserve a portion of something; to preserve

and store something, such as food. (Folksy.) □ *I put some money by for a rainy day.* □ *I laid some eggs by for our use tomorrow.*

put something down in black and white to write down the terms of an agreement; to draw up a written contract; to put the details of something down on paper. (Refers to black ink and white paper.) □ *We agree on all the major points. Now, let's put it down in black and white.* □ *I think I understand what you are talking about, but we need to put it down in black and white.*

put something down to something AND **set something down to something** to explain something as being caused by something else. □ *I put his bad humor down to his illness.* □ *We set your failure down to your emotional upset.*

put something forward to state an idea; to advance an idea. (Also literal.) □ *Toward the end of the meeting, Sally put an idea forward.* □ *Now, I'd like to put something forward.* □ *He put several suggestions forward.*

put something in 1. to submit something. (Also literal.) □ *In fact, I put the order in some time ago.* □ *I put in a request for a new typewriter.* **2.** to spend an amount of time (doing something). □ *You put how much time in?* □ *I put in four months on that project.*

put something in mothballs to put something in storage. (Also literal in reference to clothing. Often said of battleships.) □ *The navy put the old cruiser in mothballs and no one ever expected to see it again.* □ *Let's just put this small bicycle in mothballs until we hear of a child who can use it.*

put something into practice to start using a scheme or plan. □ *I hope we can put your idea into practice soon.* □ *The mayor hopes to put the new plan into practice after the next election.*

put something into print to have something printed and published. □ *It's true, but I never believed you'd put it into print.* □ *This is a very interesting story. I can't wait to put it into print.*

put something into words to state or utter a thought; to find a way to express a feeling with words. □ *I can hardly put my gratitude into words.* □ *John has a hard time putting his feelings into words.*

put something off to postpone something; to schedule something for a later time. □ *I have to put off our meeting until a later time.* □ *I put off a visit to the dentist as long as I could.*

put something on to place clothing onto one's body; to get into a piece of clothing. □ *I put on a heavy coat to go outside in the cold.* □ *Please put this on and see if it fits.*

put something on ice AND **put something on the back burner** to delay or postpone something; to put something on hold. (Also literal.) □ *I'm afraid that we'll have to put your project on ice for a while.* □ *Just put your idea on ice and keep it there till we get some money.*

put something on paper to write something down; to type or otherwise record something important. □ *You have a great idea for a novel. Now put it on paper.* □ *I'm sorry, I can't discuss your offer until I see something in writing. Put it on paper, and then we'll talk.*

put something on the back burner Go to **put something on ice**.

put something on the cuff to buy something on credit; to add to one's credit balance. □ *I'll take two of those, and please put them on the cuff.* □ *I'm sorry, Tom. We can't put anything more on the cuff.*

put something on the line AND **lay something on the line** to speak very firmly and directly about something. □ *She was very mad. She put it on the line, and we had no doubt about what she meant.* □ *All right, you kids. I'm going to lay it on the line. Don't ever do that again if you know what's good for you.*

put something over to accomplish something; to put something across. □ *This is a very hard thing to explain to a large audience. I hope I can put it over.* □ *This is a big request for money. I go before the board of directors this afternoon, and I hope I can put it over.*

put something over (on someone) to manage to trick or deceive someone. □ *They really put one over on me.* □ *It's easy to put something over if you plan carefully.*

put something plainly to state something firmly and explicitly. □ *To put it plainly, I want you out of this house immediately.* □ *Thank you. I think you've put your feelings quite plainly.*

put something right Go to **set something right**.

put something straight AND **set something straight** to clarify something; to straighten something out. □ *He has made such a mess of this report. It'll take hours to put it straight.* □ *I'm sorry I confused you. Let me set it straight.*

put something through its paces to demonstrate how well something operates; to demonstrate all the things something can do. (Compare this with **put one through one's paces**.) □ *I was down by the barn, watching Sally put her horse through its paces.* □ *This is an excellent can opener. Watch me put it through its paces.*

put something together to consider some facts and arrive at a conclusion. (Also literal.) □ *I couldn't put everything together to figure out the answer in time.* □ *When I put together all the facts, I found the answer.*

put something to (good) use to use something. □ *This is a very nice present. I'm sure I'll put it to good use.* □ *I hope you can put these old clothes to use.*

put something to rest AND **lay something to rest** to put an end to a rumor; to finish dealing with something and forget about it. (Also literal.) □ *I've heard enough about Ann and her illness. I'd like to put the whole matter to rest.* □ *I'll be happy to lay it to rest, but will Jane?*

Put that in your pipe and smoke it! See how you like that!; It is final, and you have to live with it! □ *Well, I'm not going to do it, so put that in your pipe and smoke it!* □ *I'm sick of you, and I'm leaving. Put that in your pipe and smoke it!*

put the arm on someone to apply pressure to someone. (Slang.) □ *John's been*

putting the arm on Mary to get her to go out with him. □ *John has been putting the arm on Bill to get him to cooperate.*

put the bite on someone **AND put the touch on** someone to try to get money from someone. (Slang.) □ *Tom put the bite on me for ten dollars.* □ *Bill put the touch on me, but I told him to drop dead.*

put the blame on someone or something **AND lay the blame on** someone or something; **place the blame on** someone or something to blame someone or something. □ *Don't put the blame on me. I didn't do it.* □ *We'll have to place the blame for the damage on the storm.*

put the cart before the horse to have things in the wrong order; to have things confused and mixed up. (Also with have.) □ *You're eating your dessert! You've put the cart before the horse.* □ *Slow down and get organized. Don't put the cart before the horse!* □ *John has the cart before the horse in most of his projects.*

put the clamps on (someone) to restrain or restrict someone. (Slang.) □ *Tom's parents put the clamps on him. They decided he was getting out of hand.* □ *They got mad and put on the clamps.*

put the finger on someone **AND lay the finger on** someone to accuse someone; to identify someone as the one who did something. (Slang. See also **point the finger at** someone.) □ *Tom put the finger on John, and John is really mad.* □ *He'd better not lay the finger on me. I didn't do it.*

put the heat on (someone) **AND put the screws on** (someone); **put the squeeze on** (someone) to put pressure on someone (to do something); to coerce someone. (Slang.) □ *John wouldn't talk, so the police were putting the heat on him to confess.* □ *When they put the screws on, they can be very unpleasant.* □ *The police know how to put the squeeze on.*

put the kibosh on something to put an end to something; to veto something. (Slang.) □ *The mayor put the kibosh on the project.* □ *It's a great idea, and I'm sorry that I had to put the kibosh on it.*

put the screws on (someone) Go to **put the heat on** (someone).

put the skids on (something) to cause something to fail. (Slang.) □ *They put the skids on the project when they refused to give us any more money.* □ *That's the end of our great idea! Somebody put the skids on.*

put the squeeze on (someone) Go to **put the heat on** (someone).

put the touch on someone Go to **put the bite on** someone.

put to it in trouble or difficulty; hard up (for something such as money). (Slang.) □ *I'm in big trouble. I'm really put to it.* □ *John was put to it to get there on time.*

put two and two together to figure something out from the information available. (Also literal.) □ *Well, I put two and two together and came up with an idea of who did it.* □ *Don't worry. John won't figure it out. He can't put two and two together.*

put up a (brave) front **AND put on a (brave) front** to appear to be brave (even if one is not). □ *Mary is frightened, but she's putting up a brave front.* □ *If she weren't putting on a front, I'd be more frightened than I am.*

put upon by someone to be made use of to an unreasonable degree. (Typically passive.) □ *My mother was always put upon by her neighbors. She was too nice to refuse their requests for help.* □ *Jane feels put upon by her husband's parents.* □ *They're always coming to stay with her.*

Put up or shut up! 1. <a command to prove something or stop talking about it; to do something or stop promising to do it.> (Slang.) □ *I'm tired of your telling everyone how fast you can run. Now, do it! Put up or shut up!* □ *Now's your chance to show us that you can run as fast as you can talk. Put up or shut up!* 2. <a command to bet money in support of what one advocates.> (See also **Put your money where your mouth is!**) □ *If you think that your horse is faster than mine, then make a bet. Put up or shut up!* □ *You think you can beat me at cards? Twenty bucks says you're wrong. Put up or shut up!*

put up with someone or something to endure someone or something. □ *I can't put up with you anymore. I'm leaving.* □ *She couldn't put up with the smell, so she opened the window.*

put weight on to gain weight; to grow fat. □ *I have to go on a diet because I've been putting on a little weight lately.* ☐ *The doctor says I need to put on some weight.*

put words into someone's **mouth** to speak for another person without permission. □ *Stop putting words into my mouth. I can speak for myself.* □ *The lawyer was scolded for putting words into the witness's mouth.*

Put your money where your mouth is!
<a command to stop talking big and

make a bet.> □ *I'm tired of your bragging about your skill at betting. Put your money where your mouth is!* □ *You talk about betting, but you don't bet. Put your money where your mouth is!*

putty in someone's **hands** easily influenced by someone else; excessively willing to do what someone else wishes. □ *Bob's wife is putty in his hands. She never thinks for herself.* □ *Jane's putty in her mother's hands. She always does exactly what she is told.*

puzzle something out to figure something out; to try to figure something out. □ *I looked and looked at it, but I couldn't puzzle it out.* ☐ *See if you can puzzle out this confusing mess.*

Q

quake in one's boots Go to shake in one's boots.

queer as a three-dollar bill Go to (as) queer as a three-dollar bill.

quick and dirty [done] fast and carelessly; [done] fast and cheaply. ☐ *I am not interested in a quick and dirty job. I want it done right.* ☐ *The contractor made a lot of money on quick and dirty projects that would never last very long.*

quick as a flash Go to (as) quick as a wink.

quick as a wink Go to (as) quick as a wink.

quick as greased lightning Go to (as) quick as greased lightning.

quick on the draw Go to quick on the trigger.

quick on the trigger AND **quick on the draw** **1.** quick to draw a gun and shoot. (Informal.) ☐ *Some of the old cowboys were known to be quick on the trigger.* ☐ *Wyatt Earp was particularly quick on the draw.* **2.** quick to respond to anything. (Informal.) ☐ *John gets the right answer before anyone else. He's really quick on the trigger.* ☐ *Sally will probably win the quiz game. She's really quick on the draw.*

quick on the uptake quick to understand (something). ☐ *Just because I'm not quick*

on the uptake, it doesn't mean I'm stupid.

☐ *Mary understands jokes before anyone else because she's so quick on the uptake.*

quiet as a mouse Go to (as) quiet as a mouse.

quiet as the grave Go to (as) quiet as the grave.

quite a bit AND **quite a few; quite a little; quite a lot; quite a number** much or many. ☐ *Do you need one? I have quite a few.* ☐ *I have quite a little—enough to spare some.* ☐ *How many? Oh, quite a number.*

quite a few Go to quite a bit.

quite a little Go to quite a bit.

quite a lot Go to quite a bit.

quite a number Go to quite a bit.

quite a something definitely [something]; a good example of [something]. ☐ *The captain of the swim team is quite a swimmer.* ☐ *That's quite a bruise you have there.*

quote a price to name or state in advance the charge for doing or supplying something. ☐ *The mechanic quoted a price of \$100 to repair my car.* ☐ *The carpenter quoted a price for fixing up the stairs.*

R

race against time **1.** a rush; rushing to beat a deadline. ☐ *We were in a race against time to beat the deadline.* ☐ *It was a race against time, but we made it.* **2.** to hurry to beat a deadline. ☐ *We had to race against time to finish before the deadline.* ☐ *You don't need to race against time. Take all the time you want.*

rack one's brain(s) to try very hard to think of something. (Informal.) ☐ *I racked my brains all afternoon, but couldn't remember where I put the book.* ☐ *Don't waste any more time racking your brain. Go borrow the book from the library.*

racked with pain suffering from severe pain. ☐ *My body was racked with pain, and I nearly passed out.* ☐ *I sat there racked with pain, waiting for the doctor.*

rail at someone (about something) to complain loudly or violently to someone about something. ☐ *Jane railed at the treasurer about not having received her check.* ☐ *I am not responsible for your problems. Don't rail at me!*

rain cats and dogs to rain very hard. ☐ *It's raining cats and dogs. Look at it pour!* ☐ *I'm not going out in that storm. It's raining cats and dogs.*

rain on someone's parade to ruin someone's planned event; to spoil someone's plans or scheme. (Informal.) ☐ *I hate to rain on your parade, but the guest of honor cannot come to the reception.* ☐ *The boss rained on our parade by making us all work overtime.*

rain or shine no matter whether it rains or the sun shines. ☐ *Don't worry. I'll be there rain or shine.* ☐ *We'll hold the picnic—rain or shine.*

rain something out [for the weather] to spoil something by raining. ☐ *Oh, the weather looks awful. I hope it doesn't rain the picnic out.* ☐ *It's starting to sprinkle now. Do you think it will rain out the ball game?*

raise a hand (against someone or something) Go to lift a hand (against someone or something).

raise (an) objection (to someone or something) to mention an objection about someone or something. ☐ *I hope your family won't raise an objection to my staying for dinner.* ☐ *I'm certain no one will raise objection. We are delighted to have you.*

raise a stink (about something) Go to create a stink (about something).

raise Cain (with someone or something) Go to raise the devil (with someone or something).

raise havoc with someone or something AND play havoc with someone or something to create confusion or disruption for or among someone or something. ☐ *Your announcement raised havoc with the students.* ☐ *I didn't mean to play havoc with them.*

raise hell (with someone or something) Go to raise the devil (with someone or something).

raise hob with someone or something AND play hob with someone or something to do something devilish to someone or something; to cause trouble for someone or something. (A *hob* is a hobgoblin, a wicked little elf.) ☐ *Your sudden arrival is going to play hob with my dinner plans.* ☐ *Sorry, I didn't mean to raise hob with you.*

raise one's sights to set higher goals for oneself. ☐ *When you're young, you tend to*

raise your sights too high. □ *On the other hand, some people need to raise their sights.*

raise one's voice (to someone) to speak loudly or shout at someone in anger. □ *Don't you dare raise your voice to me!* □ *I'm sorry. I didn't mean to raise my voice.*

raise some eyebrows to shock or surprise people mildly (by doing or saying something). (Some can be replaced with a few, someone's, a lot of, etc.) □ *What you just said may raise some eyebrows, but it shouldn't make anyone really angry.* □ *John's sudden marriage to Ann raised a few eyebrows.*

raise the devil (with someone or something) AND **raise hell (with someone or something); raise cain (with someone or something); raise the dickens (with someone or something)** to act in some extreme manner; to make trouble; to behave wildly; to be very angry. (Informal. Use caution with *hell*.) □ *John was out all night raising the devil.* □ *Don't come around here and raise hell with everybody.* □ *That cheap gas I bought really raised the dickens with my car's engine.*

raise the dickens (with someone or something) Go to **raise the devil (with someone or something)**.

raised in a barn brought up to behave like a barnyard animal; behaving crudely. (Folksy.) □ *Close the door behind you! Were you raised in a barn?* □ *Don't wipe your nose on your sleeve. Were you raised in a barn?*

rake someone over the coals AND **haul someone over the coals** to give someone a severe scolding. □ *My mother hauled me over the coals for coming in late last night.* □ *The manager raked me over the coals for being late again.*

rake something off to steal or embezzle a portion of a payment. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *They claimed that no one was raking anything off and that the money was only mislaid.* □ *The county treasurer was caught raking off some of the tax money.*

rake something up AND **dredge something up** to uncover something unpleasant and remind people about it. (Also literal.) □ *The young journalist raked up the old scandal about the president.* □ *The politician's opponents are trying to dredge up some unpleasant details about his past.*

rally (a)round someone or something to come together to support someone or something. □ *Everyone rallied around Jack when he lost his job.* □ *Former students rallied round their college when it was in danger of being closed.*

ram someone or something down someone's throat Go to **shove** someone or something down someone's throat.

ramble on (about someone or something) to talk aimlessly about someone or something. □ *John is so talkative. He's always rambling on about something.* □ *You're rambling on yourself.*

rank and file 1. regular soldiers, not the officers. □ *I think there is some trouble with the rank and file, sir.* □ *The rank and file usually do exactly as they are told.* 2. the members of a group, not the leaders. □ *The rank and file will vote on the proposed contract tomorrow.* □ *The last contract was turned down by the rank and file last year.*

rant and rave (about someone or something) to shout angrily and wildly about someone or something. □ *Bob rants and raves when anything displeases him.* □ *Bob rants and raves about anything that displeases him.* □ *Father rants and raves if we arrive home late.*

rant (at someone) about someone or something to talk in a loud, violent way, about someone or something. □ *Anne ranted about the bad service she had received at the store.* □ *On the bus, someone was ranting at me about the end of the world.*

rap someone's knuckles to punish someone slightly. (Also literal.) □ *She rapped his knuckles for whispering too much.* □ *Don't rap my knuckles. I didn't do it.*

rap with someone to talk; to chat. (Slang.) □ *I rapped with the school counselor for*

half an hour. □ *My neighbor rapped with me on my back porch all night.*

rarin' to go to be extremely eager to act or do something. (Informal.) □ *Jane can't wait to start her job. She's rarin' to go.* □ *Mary is rarin' to go and can't wait for her university term to start.*

rat on someone to report someone's bad behavior; to tattle on someone. (Slang.) □ *John ratted on me, and I got in trouble.* □ *If he rats on me, I'll hit him!*

rat race a fierce struggle for success, especially in one's career or business. □ *Bob got tired of the rat race. He's retired and gone to the country.* □ *The money market is a rat race, and many people who work in it die of the stress.*

rate with someone to be in someone's favor; to be thought of highly by someone. □ *Ann is great. She really rates with me.* □ *She doesn't rate with me at all.*

rattle something off AND **reel something off** to recite something quickly and accurately. □ *She can really reel them off.* □ *Listen to Mary rattle off those numbers.*

ravished with delight made very happy or delighted; overcome with happiness or delight. (Men are less likely to be **ravished with delight**.) □ *Mary was ravished with delight by the dozen roses.* □ *My parents were ravished with delight when I graduated from college.*

reach a compromise to achieve a compromise; to make a compromise. □ *After many hours of discussion, we finally reached a compromise.* □ *We were unable to reach a compromise and quit trying.*

reach an agreement to achieve an agreement; to make an agreement. □ *We reached an agreement and signed a contract.* □ *We could not reach an agreement, so we stopped negotiating.*

reach an impasse to progress to the point that a barrier stops further progress. □ *When negotiations with management reached an impasse, the union went on strike.* □ *The discussion reached an impasse and no one was able to propose a compromise.*

reach first base (with someone or something)

Go to get to first base (with someone or something).

reach for the sky 1. to aspire to something; to set one's goals high. □ *It's a good idea to set high goals, but there is no point in reaching for the sky.* □ *Go ahead, you can do it! Reach for the sky! 2.* <a command to put one's hands up, as in a robbery.> (Slang.) □ *Reach for the sky! This is a stickup!* □ *The sheriff told the bank robbers to reach for the sky.*

reach one's stride AND **hit one's stride** to do something at one's best level of ability. □ *When I reach my stride, things will go faster, and I'll be more efficient.* □ *Now that I've hit my stride, I can work more efficiently.*

read between the lines to infer something (from something). (Usually figurative. Does not necessarily refer to written or printed information.) □ *After listening to what she said, if you read between the lines, you can begin to see what she really means.* □ *Don't believe everything you hear. Learn to read between the lines.*

read one one's rights to make the required statement of legal rights to a person who has been arrested. □ *All right, read this guy his rights and book him on a charge of theft.* □ *You have to read them their rights before putting them in jail.*

read someone like a(n open) book to understand someone very well. □ *I've got John figured out. I can read him like a book.* □ *Of course I understand you. I read you like an open book.*

read someone out of something to expel someone from an organization, such as a political party. □ *Because of her statement, they read her out of the party.* □ *The officers tried to read me out of the society, but they didn't succeed.*

read someone's mind to guess what someone is thinking, as if one had special powers to sense someone else's thoughts. □ *You'll have to tell me what you want. I can't read your mind, you know.* □ *If I*

could read your mind, I'd know what you expect of me.

read someone the riot act to give someone a severe scolding. □ *The manager read me the riot act for coming in late.* □ *The teacher read the students the riot act for their failure to do their assignments.*

read something into something to attach or attribute a new or different meaning to something. □ *This statement means exactly what it says. Don't try to read anything else into it.* □ *Am I reading too much into your comments?*

read something over to read something. □ *When you have a chance, read this over.* □ *Also, read over this report.*

read something through to read all of something. □ *Take this home and read it through.* □ *Read through this report and see if you can find any errors.*

read the handwriting on the wall to anticipate what is going to happen by observing small hints and clues. □ *I know I am going to be fired. I can read the handwriting on the wall.* □ *Can't you read the handwriting on the wall? Can't you see what they are planning?*

read up (on someone or something) to find and read some information about someone or something. □ *Please go to the library and read up on George Washington.* □ *I don't know anything about that. I guess I need to read up.*

ready to do something [of someone or some creature] prepared and willing. □ *Are you ready to leave for the airport?* □ *If you need me, I'm ready to help.*

ready, willing, and able eager or at least willing [to do something]. □ *If you need someone to help you move furniture, I'm ready, willing, and able.* □ *Fred is ready, willing, and able to do anything you ask him.*

the **real thing** something that is genuine and not an imitation. □ *I don't want frozen yogurt, I want the real thing! Yes, ice cream!* □ *She hates plastic that looks like wood. She wants the real thing.*

the **reality of the situation** the truth or actuality of the situation; the way the situation really is. □ *The reality of the situation is that we must act right now.* □ *Let's face the reality of the situation and go out and get jobs so we can buy food.*

rear its ugly head [for something unpleasant] to appear or become obvious after lying hidden. □ *Jealousy reared its ugly head and destroyed their marriage.* □ *The question of money always rears its ugly head in matters of business.*

receive someone with open arms AND **welcome someone with open arms** to greet someone eagerly. (Used literally or figuratively.) □ *I'm sure they wanted us to stay for dinner. They received us with open arms.* □ *When I came home from school, the whole family welcomed me with open arms.*

reckon with someone or something to deal with someone or something; to confront someone or something. □ *Eventually you will have to reckon with getting a job.* □ *I really don't want to have to reckon with the manager when she's mad.*

recognize one for what one is Go to recognize something for what it is.

recognize something for what it is AND **recognize one for what one is** to see and understand exactly what someone or something is or represents. □ *The disease represented a serious threat to all peoples, and Dr. Smith recognized it for what it was.* □ *I recognize you for what you are, you scoundrel!*

reconcile oneself to something to grow to feel comfortable with an undesirable or challenging situation. □ *John reconciled himself to living alone.* □ *Anne reconciled herself to having to wear glasses.*

red as a cherry Go to (as) red as a cherry.

red as a poppy Go to (as) red as a poppy.

red as a rose Go to (as) red as a rose.

red as a ruby Go to (as) red as a ruby.

red as blood Go to (as) red as blood.

red herring a piece of information or suggestion introduced to draw attention

away from the real facts of a situation. (A red herring is a type of strong-smelling smoked fish that was once drawn across the trail of a scent to mislead hunting dogs and put them off the scent.) □ *The detectives were following a red herring, but they're on the right track now.* □ *Jack and Mary were hoping their friends would confuse their parents with a red herring so that they wouldn't realize that they had eloped.*

red in the face embarrassed. □ *After we found Ann hiding in the closet, she became red in the face.* □ *The speaker kept making errors and became red in the face.*

red tape over-strict attention to the wording and details of rules and regulations, especially by government workers. (From the color of the tape used by government departments in England to tie up bundles of documents.) □ *Because of red tape, Frank took weeks to get a visa.* □ *Red tape prevented Jack's wife from joining him abroad.*

reduced to something brought into a certain humble condition or state. □ *The grieving family was reduced to tears.* □ *The poor man was reduced to begging for food.*

reel something off Go to rattle something off.

refill a prescription sell a second or subsequent set of doses of a medicine upon a doctor's orders. □ *The pharmacy refused to refill my prescription because it has expired.* □ *If you want the drugstore to refill your prescription, just give them the prescription number over the telephone.*

regain one's composure to become calm and composed. □ *I found it difficult to regain my composure after the argument.* □ *Here, sit down and relax so that you can regain your composure.*

regain one's feet **1.** to stand up again after falling or stumbling. □ *I fell on the ice and almost couldn't regain my feet.* □ *I helped my uncle regain his feet as he tried to get up from the chair.* **2.** to become independent after financial difficulties. □ *I lent Bill \$400 to help him regain his feet.* □ *I'll be able to pay my bills when I regain my feet.*

regardless of something without considering something; at any rate; whatever is done; whatever option is chosen. □ *Regardless of what you say, I'm still going to the club tonight.* □ *I still have to pay the bill, regardless of the facts.*

regular as clockwork Go to (as) regular as clockwork.

relative to someone or something **1.** concerning someone or something. □ *I have something to say relative to Bill.* □ *Do you have any information relative to the situation in South America?* **2.** in proportion to someone or something. □ *My happiness is relative to yours.* □ *I can spend an amount of money relative to the amount of money I earn.*

reliance on someone or something trust and dependence on someone or something. □ *John's reliance on his family is holding him back.* □ *Reliance on sleeping pills is dangerous.*

religious about doing something strict about something; conscientious about something. □ *Bob is religious about paying his bills on time.* □ *Max tries to be religious about being polite to everyone.*

reluctance to do something a feeling of not wanting to do something; unwillingness to do something. □ *Mary showed great reluctance to go bowling with me.* □ *Because of John's reluctance to make friends, he was lonely.*

reminiscent of someone or something reminding someone about someone or something; seeming like or suggesting someone or something. □ *This fragrance is reminiscent of fresh flowers.* □ *Jane's dress is reminiscent of the style worn in the 1920s.*

reputed to be something **AND** **reputed to do** something; **reputed to have** something thought to do, be, or have something. □ *My boss is reputed to have cancer.* □ *My neighbor was reputed to have been a spy during the war.*

reputed to do something Go to reputed to be something.

reputed to have something Go to reputed to be something.

resign oneself to something to accept something reluctantly. □ *I finally resigned myself to going to Mexico even though I didn't want to.* □ *Mary resigned herself to her fate.*

resonate with someone [for an idea, issue, or concept] to appeal to someone or cause someone to relate to it. □ *The concept of buying CDs at a clothing store seems to resonate with young people.* □ *Your notion just doesn't resonate with the public in general.*

the **responsible party** the person or organization responsible or liable for something. □ *I intend to find the responsible party and get some answers to my questions.* □ *Mary sued the responsible party in the car crash.*

rest assured to be assured; to be certain. □ *Rest assured that you'll receive the best of care.* □ *Please rest assured that we will do everything possible to help.*

rest in peace to lie dead peacefully for eternity. □ *We prayed that the deceased would rest in peace.* □ *The bodies of the soldiers will rest in peace.*

rest on one's laurels to enjoy one's success and not try to achieve more. □ *Don't rest on your laurels. Try to continue to do great things!* □ *I think I'll rest on my laurels for a time before attempting anything new.*

result in something to cause something to happen. □ *The storm resulted in a lot of flooding.* □ *Her fall resulted in a broken leg.*

return someone's compliment Go to return the compliment.

return the compliment AND **return** someone's **compliment** to pay a compliment to someone who has paid you a compliment. (See also **pay** someone a **compliment**.) □ *Mary told me that my hair looked nice, so I returned her compliment and told her that her hair was lovely.* □ *When someone says something nice, it is polite to return the compliment.*

return the favor to do a good deed for someone who has done a good deed for you. □ *You helped me last week, so I'll return the favor and help you this week.* □ *There is no point in helping Bill. He'll never return the favor.*

rev something up to make an idling engine run very fast, in short bursts of speed. □ *Hey! Stop revving it up!* □ *I wish that Tom wouldn't sit out in front of our house in his car and rev up his engine.*

rich in something having valuable resources, characteristics, traditions, or history. □ *The entire region is rich in historical churches.* □ *Our soil is rich in important nutrients.*

rich with something having a lot of something; not lacking; abundant. □ *The beautiful book was rich with color illustrations.* □ *The old town was rich with elegant Victorian houses.*

ride herd on someone or something to supervise someone or something. (Informal. Refers to a cowboy supervising cattle.) □ *I'm tired of having to ride herd on my kids all the time.* □ *My job is to ride herd on this project and make sure everything is done right.*

ride off in all directions to behave in a totally confused manner; to try to do everything at once. (Folksy. Can be said of one or more people.) □ *Bill has a tendency to ride off in all directions. He's not organized enough.* □ *Now, calm down. There is no sense in riding off in all directions.*

ride on someone's **coattails** AND **hang on** someone's **coattails** to make one's good fortune or success depend on another person. (Also with *else*, as in the examples below.) □ *Bill isn't very creative, so he rides on John's coattails.* □ *Some people just have to hang on somebody else's coattails.*

ride roughshod over someone or something to treat someone or something with disdain or scorn. □ *Tom seems to ride roughshod over his friends.* □ *You shouldn't have come into our town to ride roughshod over our laws and our traditions.*

ride something **out** to endure something unpleasant. (Originally referred to ships lasting out a storm.) □ *It was a nasty situation, but the mayor tried to ride it out.* ▢ *The mayor decided to ride out the scandal.*

ride the gravy train to live in luxury. (Informal.) □ *If I had a million dollars, I sure could ride the gravy train.* □ *I wouldn't like loafing. I don't want to ride the gravy train.*

riding for a fall risking failure or an accident, usually due to overconfidence. □ *Tom drives too fast, and he seems too sure of himself. He's riding for a fall.* □ *Bill needs to eat better and get more sleep. He's riding for a fall.*

right and left AND **left and right** to both sides; on all sides; everywhere. □ *I dropped the tennis balls, and they rolled right and left.* □ *There were children everywhere—running right and left.*

right as rain Go to (as) right as rain.

right at a specific time exactly or precisely at [a specific place or time]. □ *Meet me at this corner right at noon.* □ *The restaurant is right at First and Main Streets.*

right away immediately. □ *Please do it right away!* □ *I'll be there right away. I'm leaving this instant.*

right down someone's **alley** AND **right up** someone's **alley** ideally suited to one's interests or abilities. (Informal.) □ *Skiing is right down my alley. I love it.* □ *This kind of thing is right up John's alley.*

right off the bat immediately; first thing. (Informal.) □ *When he was learning to ride a bicycle, he fell on his head right off the bat.* □ *The new manager demanded new office furniture right off the bat.*

right on time at the correct time; no later than the specified time. □ *Bill always shows up right on time.* □ *If you get there right on time, you'll get one of the free tickets.*

right side up with the correct side upwards, as with a box or some other container. □ *Keep this box right side up, or the*

contents will be crushed. □ *Please set your coffee cup right side up so I can fill it.*

(right) under someone's (very) nose 1. right in front of someone. □ *I thought I'd lost my purse, but it was sitting on the table under my very nose.* □ *How did Mary fail to see the book? It was right under her nose.* **2.** in someone's presence. (Note the variation in the examples.) □ *The thief stole Jim's wallet right under his nose.* □ *The jewels were stolen from under the very noses of the security guards.*

right up someone's **alley** Go to right down someone's **alley**.

ring a bell [for something] to cause someone to remember something or for it to seem familiar. (Informal.) □ *I've never met John Franklin, but his name rings a bell.* □ *Whenever I see a bee, it rings a bell. I remember when I was stung by one.*

ring down the curtain (on something) AND **bring down the curtain (on something)** to bring something to an end; to declare something to be at an end. □ *It's time to ring down the curtain on our relationship. We have nothing in common anymore.* □ *We've tried our best to make this company a success, but it's time to ring down the curtain.* □ *After many years the old man brought down the curtain and closed the restaurant.*

ring in the New Year to celebrate the beginning of the new year at midnight on December 31. □ *We are planning a big party to ring in the New Year.* □ *How did you ring in the New Year?*

ring something up to record the cost of an item on a cash register. □ *Please ring this chewing gum up first, and I'll put it in my purse.* ▢ *The cashier rang up each item and told me how much money I owed.*

ring true to sound or seem true or likely. (From testing the quality of metal or glass by striking it and evaluating the sound made.) □ *The student's excuse for being late doesn't ring true.* □ *Do you think that Mary's explanation for her absence rang true?*

rip into someone or something to attack someone or something, physically or verbally.

(Informal.) □ *The bear ripped into the deer.* □ *The angry teacher ripped into the student.*

rip someone or something **off** 1. [with *someone*] to cheat or deceive someone; to steal from someone. (Slang.) □ *That store operator ripped me off.* □ *They shouldn't rip off people like that.* 2. [with *something*] to steal something. (Slang.) □ *I bought it! I didn't rip it off!* □ *The crooks ripped off a car in broad daylight.*

a **ripe old age** a very old age. □ *Mr. Smith died last night, but he lived to a ripe old age—99.* □ *All the Smiths seem to reach a ripe old age.*

a **ripple of excitement** a series of quiet but excited murmurs. □ *A ripple of excitement spread through the crowd.* □ *As the president came near, a ripple of excitement indicated that people could really see him.*

a **ripple of protest** a few quiet remarks protesting something; a small amount of subdued protest. □ *There was only a ripple of protest about the new tax law.* □ *The rude comedian hardly drew a ripple of protest.*

Rise and shine! Get out of bed and be lively and energetic! (Informal. Often a command.) □ *Come on, children! Rise and shine! We're going to the beach.* □ *Father always calls "Rise and shine!" in the morning when we want to go on sleeping.*

rise to the bait to be lured by some kind of bait. (Literal when referring to a fish.) □ *I threatened to take another job elsewhere, but the boss did not rise to the bait.* □ *When I said I was leaving, Ted rose to the bait and asked why.*

rise to the occasion to meet the challenge of an event; to try extra hard to do a task. □ *John was able to rise to the occasion and make the conference a success.* □ *It was a big challenge, but he rose to the occasion.*

risk of rain and **risk of showers; risk of thunder(storms)** a chance of precipitation or rain. (Used only in weather forecasting. There is no "risk" of hazard or injury involved.) □ *And for tomorrow, there is a slight risk of showers in the*

morning. □ *There is a 50 percent risk of rain tonight.*

risk of showers Go to risk of rain.

risk of thunder(storms) Go to risk of rain.

risk one's neck (to do something) to risk physical harm in order to accomplish something. (Informal.) □ *Look at that traffic! I refuse to risk my neck just to cross the street to buy a paper.* □ *I refuse to risk my neck at all.*

rivet someone's attention to keep someone's attention fixed [on something]. □ *The movie riveted the audience's attention.* □ *Professor Jones's lecture riveted the students' attention.*

road-hog someone who drives carelessly and selfishly. □ *Look at that road-hog driving in the middle of the road and stopping other drivers from passing him.* □ *That road-hog nearly knocked the children over. He was driving too fast.*

rob Peter to pay Paul to take from one in order to give to another. □ *Why borrow money to pay your bills? That's just robbing Peter to pay Paul.* □ *There's no point in robbing Peter to pay Paul. You will still be in debt.*

rob the cradle to marry or date someone who is much younger than you are. (Informal.) □ *I hear that Bill is dating Ann. Isn't that sort of robbing the cradle? She's much younger than he is.* □ *Uncle Bill—who is nearly eighty—married a thirty-year-old woman. That is really robbing the cradle.*

rock the boat to cause trouble where none is welcome; to disturb a situation that is otherwise stable and satisfactory. (Also literal. Often negative.) □ *Look, Tom, everything is going fine here. Don't rock the boat!* □ *You can depend on Tom to mess things up by rocking the boat.*

roll in to come in large numbers or amounts. (Informal.) □ *We didn't expect many people at the party, but they just kept rolling in.* □ *Money is simply rolling in for our charity appeal.*

roll one's sleeves up to get ready to do some work. (Also literal.) □ *Roll your*

sleeves up and get busy. This isn't a picnic. This is work! □ *Come on, you guys, get busy. Roll up your sleeves and go to work.*

roll out the red carpet for someone to provide special treatment for someone. (Literal when the special treatment actually includes a length of red carpeting.) □ *There's no need to roll out the red carpet for me.* □ *We rolled out the red carpet for the king and queen.*

roll (over) in one's **grave** Go to turn (over) in one's grave.

roll something **back** to reduce a price to a previous amount. (Also literal.) □ *The government forced the company to roll its prices back.* □ *It wouldn't have rolled back its prices if the government hadn't forced it to.*

rolling in something having large amounts of something, usually money. (Informal.) □ *That family is rolling in money.* □ *Jack doesn't need to earn money. He's rolling in it.*

A **rolling stone gathers no moss.** A person who keeps changing jobs or residences and, therefore, accumulates no possessions or responsibilities. (Proverb.) □ *"John just can't seem to stay in one place," said Sally. "Oh, well, a rolling stone gathers no moss."* □ *Bill has no furniture to bother with because he keeps on the move. He keeps saying that a rolling stone gathers no moss.*

Rome wasn't built in a day. Important things don't happen overnight. (Proverb.) □ *Don't expect a lot to happen right away. Rome wasn't built in a day, you know.* □ *Don't be anxious about how fast you are growing. Rome wasn't built in a day.*

room and board food to eat and a place to live; the cost of food and lodging. □ *That college charges too much for room and board.* □ *How much is your room and board?*

root for someone or something to cheer and encourage someone or something. (Informal.) □ *Are you rooting for anyone in particular, or are you just shouting because*

you're excited? □ *I'm rooting for the home team.*

root something **out** to get rid of something completely; to destroy something. □ *No government will ever root out crime completely.* □ *The headmaster wants to root troublemakers out at the local school.*

rooted in something based on something; connected to a source or cause. □ *The civil war was rooted in old ethnic hatred.* □ *This fictional book was rooted in actual events.*

rooted to the spot unable to move because of fear or surprise. □ *Joan stood rooted to the spot when she saw the ghostly figure.* □ *Mary was rooted to the spot as the mugger snatched her bag.*

rope someone **into** doing something to persuade or trick someone into doing something. (Informal.) □ *I don't know who roped me into this, but I don't want to do it.* □ *See if you can rope somebody into taking this to the post office.*

rotten to the core completely no good and worthless. (Also literal in reference to apples or other edible things.) □ *Fred is rotten to the core. He will never be a good member of society.* □ *I hope that just because I made one little mistake with my life that you don't think I am rotten to the core.*

rough-and-ready strong, active, and ready for anything. □ *John is not exactly rough-and-ready, but he is a moderately good athlete.* □ *Ralph is very rough-and-ready, but his table manners are very bad.*

rough-and-tumble [of physical activity] rough; [of living creatures] overly active. □ *The game got sort of rough-and-tumble, so I stopped playing.* □ *Jane runs with a rough-and-tumble crowd that's always involved in some sort of sport.*

rough it to live in discomfort; to live in uncomfortable conditions without the usual amenities, such as on a camping trip. (Informal.) □ *The students are roughing it in a shack with no running water.* □ *Bob and Jack had nowhere to live and so they had to rough it in a tent till they found somewhere.*

rough someone **up** to beat or physically harass someone. (Slang.) □ *The gangsters roughed their victim up.* □ *The police roughed up the suspect, and they got in trouble for it.*

round out something Go to **round** something off.

round something **off** **1.** to change a number to the next higher or lower whole number. □ *You should round 8.122 off.* □ *I rounded off 8.789 to 9.* **2.** AND **round out** something to finish something by doing something special. □ *She rounded her schooling off with a trip to Europe.* □ *I like to round out the day with a period of meditation.*

round something **off** to something AND **round** something **up** to something; **round** something **down** to something to express a number in the nearest whole amount or nearest group of 1, 10, 100, 1,000, $\frac{1}{10}$, $\frac{1}{100}$, $\frac{1}{1,000}$, etc. □ *When doing taxes, Anne rounded her figures off to the nearest dollar.* □ *These census figures are rounded up to the nearest million.*

round something **up** to something Go to **round** something **off** to something.

round the clock Go to (a)round the clock.

round-trip ticket a ticket (for a plane, train, bus, etc.) that allows one to go to a destination and return. □ *A round-trip ticket is usually cheaper than a one-way ticket.* □ *How much is a round-trip ticket to San Francisco?*

the **royal treatment** very good treatment; very good and thoughtful care of a person. □ *I was well cared for. They gave me the royal treatment.* □ *I had the royal treatment when I stayed at that expensive hotel.*

rub elbows (with someone) AND **rub shoulders** with someone to associate with someone; to work closely with someone. □ *I don't care to rub elbows with someone who acts like that!* □ *I rub shoulders with John at work. We are good friends.*

rub off (on someone) [for a characteristic of one person] to seem to transfer to someone else. (Also literal.) □ *I'll sit by Ann.*

She has been lucky all evening. Maybe it'll rub off on me. □ *Sorry. I don't think that luck rubs off.*

rub salt in the wound deliberately to make someone's unhappiness, shame, or misfortune worse. (Also literal.) □ *Don't rub salt in the wound by telling me how enjoyable the party was.* □ *Jim is feeling miserable about losing his job, and Fred is rubbing salt into the wound by saying how good his replacement is.*

rub shoulders with someone Go to **rub elbows (with someone)**.

rub someone **out** to kill someone. (Slang.) □ *The crook said, "Bill is getting to be a problem. We're going to have to rub him out."* □ *The gangsters tried to rub out the witness.*

rub someone's (fur) **the wrong way** to irritate someone. (From the rubbing of a cat's or dog's fur the wrong way.) □ *I'm sorry I rubbed your fur the wrong way. I didn't mean to upset you.* □ *Don't rub her the wrong way!*

rub someone's **nose in it** to remind one of something one has done wrong; to remind one of something bad or unfortunate that has happened. (From a method of housebreaking pets.) □ *When Bob failed his exam, his brother rubbed his nose in it.* □ *Mary knows she shouldn't have broken off her engagement. Don't rub her nose in it.*

rub something **in** to keep reminding one of one's failures; to nag someone about something. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *I like to rub it in. You deserve it!* □ *Why do you have to rub in everything I do wrong?*

ruffle its feathers [for a bird] to point its feathers outward. □ *The bird ruffled its feathers when it was annoyed.* □ *My parrot ruffles its feathers whenever it is ready to preen itself.*

ruffle someone's **feathers** to upset or annoy someone. (See **ruffle its feathers** for an explanation.) □ *You certainly ruffled Mrs. Smith's feathers by criticizing her garden.* □ *Try to be tactful and not ruffle people's feathers.*

the **ruin of** someone or something the cause of destruction; a failure. □ *Your bad judgment will be the ruin of this company!* □ *The greedy politicians were the ruin of the old empire.*

a **rule of thumb** a rough or an inexact guide; a basic or accepted pattern or rule. (From the use of one's thumb to make quick and rough measurements.) □ *It's a rule of thumb that the bus will be late whenever I'm in a hurry.* □ *As a good rule of thumb, prepare two large potatoes for each person.*

rule someone or something **out** to prevent, disqualify, overrule, or cancel someone or something. □ *John's bad temper rules him out for the job.* □ *The weather ruled out a picnic for the weekend.*

rule the roost to be the boss or manager, especially at home. (Informal.) □ *Who rules the roost at your house?* □ *Our new office manager really rules the roost.*

rump session a meeting held after a larger meeting. □ *A rump session continued after the meeting was adjourned.* □ *A lot of business was conducted in the rump session.*

run across someone or something Go to come across someone or something.

run a fever AND **run a temperature** to have a body temperature higher than normal; to have a fever. □ *I ran a fever when I had the flu.* □ *The baby is running a temperature and is grouchy.*

run afoul of someone or something Go to fall afoul of someone or something.

run after someone to chase someone of the opposite sex hoping for a date or some attention. (Also literal.) □ *Is John still running after Ann?* □ *No, Ann is running after John.*

run an errand AND **do an errand; go on an errand** to take a short trip to do a specific thing; to complete an errand. (The plural is with *some errands*.) □ *I've got to run an errand. I'll be back in a minute.* □ *John has gone on an errand. He'll be back shortly.*

run a risk (of something) AND **run the risk (of something)** to take a chance that something (bad) will happen. □ *I don't want to run the risk of losing my job.* □ *Don't worry. You won't have to run a risk.*

run (around) in circles Go to run around like a chicken with its head cut off.

run around like a chicken with its head cut off AND **run (around) in circles** to run around frantically and aimlessly; to be in a state of chaos. (See also **go (a)round in circles**.) □ *I spent all afternoon running around like a chicken with its head cut off.* □ *If you run around in circles, you'll never get anything done.* □ *Get organized and stop running in circles.*

run around with someone to be friends with someone; to go places with regular friends. □ *John and I were great friends. We used to run around with each other all the time.* □ *Mary ran around with Jane for about a year.*

run a taut ship Go to run a tight ship.

run a temperature Go to run a fever.

run a tight ship AND **run a taut ship** to run a ship or an organization in an orderly and disciplined manner. (*Taut* and *tight* mean the same thing. *Taut* is correct nautical use.) □ *The new office manager really runs a tight ship.* □ *Captain Jones is known for running a taut ship.*

run circles around someone AND **run rings around** someone to outrun or outdo someone. (Informal.) □ *John is a much better racer than Mary. He can run circles around her.* □ *Mary can run rings around Sally.*

run counter to something to be in opposition to something; to run against something. □ *Your proposal runs counter to what is required by the manager.* □ *His idea runs counter to good sense.*

run for it to try to escape by running. (Informal.) □ *The guard's not looking. Let's run for it!* □ *The convict tried to run for it, but the guard caught him.*

run for one's life to run away to save one's life. □ *The dam has burst! Run for your*

life! □ *The captain told us all to run for our lives.*

run in the family for a characteristic to appear in all (or most) members of a family. □ *My grandparents lived well into their nineties, and it runs in the family.* □ *My brothers and I have red hair. It runs in the family.*

run into a stone wall to come to a barrier against further progress. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *We've run into a stone wall in our investigation.* □ *Algebra was hard for Tom, but he really ran into a stone wall with geometry.*

run into someone Go to **bump into** someone.

run like clockwork to run very well; to progress very well. □ *I want this office to run like clockwork—with everything on time and everything done right.* □ *The plans for the party were made and we knew that we could depend on Alice to make sure that everything ran like clockwork.*

run low (on something) to near the end of a supply of something. (See also **run short** (of something).) □ *We are running low on salt. It's time to buy more.* □ *The car is running low on gas.*

run off at the mouth to talk excessively. (Slang.) □ *Shut up, John. You're always running off at the mouth.* □ *There is no need to run off at the mouth. Stop talking so much for so long.*

run off with someone or something **1.** to take something or someone away; to steal something or kidnap someone. □ *The thief ran off with the lady's purse.* □ *The kidnapper ran off with the baby.* **2.** [with someone] AND **run off** to run away with someone, as in an elopement. □ *Tom ran off with Ann.* □ *Tom and Ann ran off and got married.*

run-of-the-mill common or average; typical. □ *The restaurant we went to was nothing special—just run-of-the-mill.* □ *The service was good, but the food was run-of-the-mill or worse.*

run out of gas to use up all the gasoline in a car's tank. □ *I hope we don't run out*

of gas. □ *I am sorry I am late. I ran out of gas.*

run out of patience to become annoyed after being patient for a while. □ *I finally ran out of patience and lost my temper.* □ *The boss ran out of patience with me and sent me back to my desk.*

run out of something to use up all of something and have no more. □ *We ran out of milk, so we will have to buy some more.* □ *I usually run out of money at the end of the month.*

run out of time to use up all the available time. □ *I ran out of time and couldn't finish.* □ *I hope she answers the question before she runs out of time.*

run rampant to run, develop, or grow out of control. □ *The children ran rampant through the house.* □ *Weeds have run rampant around the abandoned house.*

run rings around someone Go to **run circles around** someone.

run riot AND **run wild** to go out of control. □ *The dandelions have run riot in our lawn.* □ *The children ran wild at the birthday party and had to be taken home.*

run scared to behave as if one were going to fail. (Informal. Typically said of someone running for election.) □ *The mayor was running scared, but won anyway.* □ *When we lost that big contract, everyone in the office was running scared. We thought we'd be fired.*

run short (of something) to use up almost all of something; to have too little or few of something left. (See also **run low (on something)**.) □ *We are running short of milk. Please buy some on the way home.* □ *When it comes to money, we are always running short.*

run someone in to take someone to the police station and make an arrest. □ *"Don't run me in," cried the driver. "I'm innocent."* □ *The police officer was angry and ran in the motorist.*

run someone or something down **1.** to degrade physically or put wear on someone or something. □ *All these years of hard work have run Mrs. Brown down severely.* □

Our neighbors ran down their house before they sold it. **2.** to say bad things about someone or something. ☐ *Why are you always running your friends down?* ☒ *Don't run down my paintings! You just don't understand art!* **3.** to look for and finally find someone or something. ☐ *I finally ran John Smith down. He had moved to another town.* ☒ *I will see if I can run down the book that you want.*

run someone or something **to earth** to find someone or something after a search. ☐ *Lisa finally ran her long-lost cousin to earth in Paris.* ☐ *After months of searching, I ran a copy of Jim's book to earth.*

run someone **ragged** to run someone hard and fast; to keep someone very busy. (Informal.) ☐ *This busy season is running us all ragged at the store.* ☐ *What a busy day. I ran myself ragged.*

run something **into the ground** **AND** **drive** something **into the ground** to carry something too far. (Informal.) ☐ *It was a good joke at first, Tom, but you've run it into the ground.* ☐ *Just because everyone laughed once, you don't have to drive it into the ground.*

run something **up** **1.** to raise a flag. ☐ *I run it up every day except when it's raining.* ☒ *We run up the flag every day.* **2.** to add to a bill; to add many charges to one's account. ☐ *He ran the bill up until they asked him to pay part of it.* ☒ *Tom ran up a big tab at the hotel.*

run that by (someone) **again** say that again. (Slang.) ☐ *I didn't hear you. Could you run that by me again?* ☐ *Run that by again. I don't believe my ears.*

run the gamut to cover the range [from one thing to another]. ☐ *She wants to buy the house, but her requests run the gamut from expensive new carpeting to completely new landscaping.* ☐ *His hobbies run the gamut from piano repair to portrait painting.*

run the good race to do the best that one could; to live life as well and as fully as possible. (Also literal.) ☐ *He didn't get what he wanted, but he ran the good race.* ☐ *Joan ran the good race, and she will be remembered by all of us.*

run the risk (of something) Go to run a risk (of something).

run through something **1.** to waste something; to use up something rapidly. (Also literal.) ☐ *Have you run through all those eggs already?* ☐ *I ran through my allowance in one day.* **2.** to read through something rapidly. ☐ *I ran through your report, and it looks okay.* ☐ *I didn't read the novel, I only ran through it.*

run to an amount of money to amount to a certain amount of money. ☐ *In the end, the bill ran to thousands of dollars.* ☐ *His account ran to more than I expected.*

run to seed **AND** **go to seed** to become worn-out and uncared for. (Said especially of a lawn that needs care.) ☐ *Look at that lawn. The whole thing has run to seed.* ☐ *Pick things up around here. This place is going to seed. What a mess!*

run wild Go to run riot.

running high [for feelings] to be in a state of excitement or anger. ☐ *Feelings were running high as the general election approached.* ☐ *The mood of the crowd was running high when they saw the mother slap her child.*

a **rush on** something a large demand for something. ☐ *There was a rush on bottled water during the drought.* ☐ *During the hot summer, there was a rush on air conditioners.*

rustle something up to find and prepare some food. (Folksy.) ☐ *I'm sure he can rustle something up.* ☒ *Just go out into the kitchen and ask Bill to rustle up some food.*

S

sack out to go to bed; to go to sleep. (Slang. Compare this with **hit the sack** at **hit the hay**.) □ *Look at the clock. It's time to sack out.* □ *John sacks out at about nine o'clock.*

sacred cow something that is regarded by some people with such respect and veneration that they do not like it being criticized by anyone in any way. (From the fact that the cow is regarded as sacred in India and is not eaten or mistreated.) □ *A university education is a sacred cow in the Smith family. Fred is regarded as a failure because he quit school at 16.* □ *Don't talk about eating meat to Pam. Vegetarianism is one of her sacred cows.*

sadder but wiser unhappy but educated [about someone or something—after an unpleasant event]. □ *After the accident, I was sadder but wiser, and would never make the same mistake again.* □ *We left the meeting sadder but wiser, knowing that we could not ever come to an agreement with Becky's aunt.*

saddle someone with something to give someone something undesirable, annoying, or difficult to deal with. (Informal.) □ *Mary says she doesn't want to be saddled with a baby, but her husband would just love one.* □ *Jim saddled Eddie with the most boring jobs so that he would leave.*

safe and sound safe and whole or healthy. □ *It was a rough trip, but we got there safe and sound.* □ *I'm glad to see you here safe and sound.*

safety in numbers safety achieved by being concealed in large numbers of people or other creatures. □ *We stayed close together, thinking that there was safety in numbers.* □ *The elderly people went out*

together for a walk, knowing that there was safety in numbers.

sage advice very good and wise advice. (Refers to a sage or wise man.) □ *My parents gave me some sage advice when I turned 18.* □ *I asked my uncle for some of his sage advice.*

sail (right) through something to finish something quickly and easily. (Informal.) □ *The test was not difficult. I sailed right through it.* □ *Bob sailed through his homework in a short amount of time.*

sail under false colors to pretend to be something that one is not. (Originally nautical, referring to a pirate ship disguised as an innocent merchant ship.) □ *John has been sailing under false colors. He's really a spy.* □ *I thought you were wearing that uniform because you worked here. You are sailing under false colors.*

the **salt of the earth** the most worthy of people; a very good or worthy person. (A biblical reference, *Matthew 5:13*.) □ *Mrs. Jones is the salt of the earth. She is the first to help anyone in trouble.* □ *Frank's mother is the salt of the earth. She has five children of her own and yet fosters three others.*

salt something away to store or save something. (Originally referred to preserving food and storing it.) □ *Mary salted some extra candy away for use during the holidays.* □ *I salted away about \$1,000 when I worked as a clerk in the grocery store.*

the **same as** someone or something identical to someone or something. □ *Can you build me a birdhouse the same as yours?* □ *Have you noticed that Mary looks the same as her mother?*

same here Me too!; I agree! (Informal.) □
BOB: I'll have chocolate ice cream! BILL: Same here. □ *MARY: I'll vote for the best candidate. TOM: Same here!*

the **same old story** something that occurs or has occurred in the same way often. □
Jim's got no money. It's the same old story. He's spent it all on clothing. □ *The company is getting rid of workers. It's the same old story—a shortage of orders.*

the **same to you** the same comment applies to you. (Informal. This can be a polite or a rude comment.) □ *BILL: Have a pleasant evening. BOB: Thank you. The same to you.* □ *MARY: You're the most horrible person I've ever met! JOHN: The same to you!*

the **sands of time** the accumulated tiny amounts of time; time represented by the sand in an hourglass. □ *The sands of time will make you grow old like everyone else.* □ *My only enemy is the sands of time.*

Save it. Stop talking.; Shut up!; Tell it to me later. (Informal.) □ *I've heard enough. Save it!* □ *Save it! You talk too much!*

save one's breath to refrain from talking, explaining, or arguing. □ *There is no sense in trying to convince her. Save your breath.* □ *Tell her to save her breath. He won't listen to her.*

save (one's) face to preserve one's good standing or high position (after a failure). □ *The ambassador was more interested in saving his face than winning the argument.* □ *Most diplomats are concerned with saving face.*

save someone's neck Go to **save** someone's skin.

save someone's skin AND **save someone's neck** to save someone from injury, embarrassment, or punishment. (Informal.) □ *I saved my skin by getting the job done on time.* □ *Thanks for saving my neck! I would have fallen down the stairs if you hadn't held my arm.*

save something for a rainy day to reserve something—usually money—for some future need. (Also literal. *Save something* can be replaced with *put something aside*,

hold something back, keep something, etc.) □ *I've saved a little money for a rainy day.* □ *Keep some extra candy for a rainy day.*

save the day to produce a good result when a bad result was expected. □ *The team was expected to lose, but Sally made many points and saved the day.* □ *Your excellent speech saved the day.*

save up (for something) to save money in order to buy something. □ *I'm saving up for a bicycle.* □ *I'll have to save up for a long time. It costs a lot of money.*

saved by the bell rescued from a difficult or dangerous situation just in time by something that brings the situation to a sudden end. (From the sounding of a bell marking the end of a round in a boxing match.) □ *James didn't know the answer to the question but he was saved by the bell when the teacher was called away from the room.* □ *I couldn't think of anything to say to the woman at the bus stop, but I was saved by the bell when my bus arrived.*

saving grace the one thing that saves or redeems someone or something that would otherwise be a total disaster. □ *Her saving grace is that she has a lot of money.* □ *The saving grace for the whole evening was the good music played by the band.*

say a mouthful to say a lot; to say something very important or meaningful. (Folksy.) □ *When you said things were busy around here, you said a mouthful. It is terribly busy.* □ *You sure said a mouthful, Bob. Things are really busy.*

say grace to say a prayer of gratitude before or after a meal. □ *Grandfather always says grace at Thanksgiving.* □ *A local preacher said grace at the banquet.*

say something in a roundabout way to imply something without saying it; to say something indirectly; to speak using circumlocution. □ *Why don't you say what you mean? Why do you always say something in a roundabout way?* □ *What did she mean? Why did she say it in a roundabout way?*

say something (right) to someone's face to say something (unpleasant) directly to someone. □ *She knew I thought she was rude*

because I said it right to her face. □ I thought she felt that way about me, but I never thought she'd say it to my face.

say something under one's breath to say something so softly that almost no one can hear it. □ *John was saying something under his breath, and I don't think it was very pleasant. □ I'm glad he said it under his breath. If he had said it out loud, it would have caused an argument.*

say that something is so to assume something; to suppose that something were so. □ *Say that x is equal to a whole number greater than 10. □ Say that two trains leave two different cities at the same time.*

say the word to give a signal to begin; to say yes or okay. □ *I'm ready to start any time you say the word. □ We'll all shout "Happy Birthday!" when I say the word.*

say uncle to surrender; to give in. (Informal.) □ *Ann held Bobby down on the ground until he said uncle. □ Why isn't it enough to win the argument? Why do you demand that I say uncle?*

scale something down to make something smaller by a certain amount or proportion. □ *I scaled down the guest list because I couldn't invite so many people. □ Jane's salary was scaled down by 10 percent last year.*

scarcely have time to breathe Go to hardly have time to breathe.

scarcer than hens' teeth Go to (as) scarce as hens' teeth.

scare one out of one's wits Go to frighten one out of one's wits.

scare someone or something up to search for and find someone or something. (Slang.) □ *Go out in the kitchen and scare some food up. □ I'll see if I can scare up somebody to fix the broken chair.*

scare someone stiff to scare someone severely; to frighten someone to death. (See the explanation at **scared stiff**.) □ *That loud noise scared me stiff. □ The robber jumped out and scared us stiff.*

scare someone to death Go to frighten someone to death.

scare the living daylights out of someone Go to frighten the wits out of someone.

scare the wits out of someone Go to frighten the wits out of someone.

scared silly frightened very much. □ *I was scared silly by the loud explosion. □ We were scared silly to go into the park after dark.*

scared stiff badly frightened. (Frightened to the point of being petrified and unable to move.) □ *We were scared stiff by the robber. □ I was scared stiff when the dog growled at me.*

scared to death Go to frightened to death.

school of thought a particular philosophy or way of thinking about something. □ *One school of thought holds that cats cause allergic reactions. □ I come from the school of thought that believes people should always be polite.*

scout around for someone or something to search here and there for someone or something. □ *Tom is scouting around for a date for Friday night. □ Please scout around for some ideas on what to cook for dinner.*

scrape something together to assemble something quickly, usually from a small supply of components. □ *I'll try to scrape something together for dinner. □ We really should try to have a party to celebrate the boss's birthday. Let's try to scrape together a little something.*

scrape the bottom of the barrel to select from among the worst; to choose from what is left over. □ *You've bought a bad-looking car. You really scraped the bottom of the barrel to get that one. □ The worker you sent over was the worst I've ever seen. Send me another—and don't scrape the bottom of the barrel.*

scratch around (for something) to look here and there for something. (Informal.) □ *Let me scratch around for a better bargain. Maybe I can come up with something you like. □ I'll scratch around for a week or two and see what I come up with.*

scratch someone's back to do a favor for someone in return for a favor done for

you. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *You scratch my back, and I'll scratch yours.* □ *We believe that the mayor has been scratching the treasurer's back.*

scratch the surface to just begin to find out about something. □ *The investigation of the governor's staff revealed some suspicious dealing. It is thought that the investigators have just scratched the surface.* □ *We don't know how bad the problem is. We've only scratched the surface.*

scream bloody murder to complain bitterly; to complain unduly. (Slang. See also **cry bloody murder**.) □ *When we put him in an office without a window, he screamed bloody murder.* □ *There is something wrong next door. Everyone is screaming bloody murder.*

screw around (with someone or something) Go to mess around (with someone or something).

screw someone or something up to cause trouble for someone or something. (Slang.) □ *Your advice about making a lot of money really screwed me up. Now I'm broke.* □ *Your efforts screwed up the entire project.*

screw up one's courage to build up one's courage. □ *I guess I have to screw up my courage and go to the dentist.* □ *I spent all morning screwing up my courage to take my driver's test.*

scrimp and save to be very thrifty; to live on very little money, often in order to save up for something. □ *We had to scrimp and save in order to send the children to college.* □ *The Smiths scrimp and save all year in order to go on a Caribbean cruise.*

the **seamy side of life** the most unpleasant or roughest aspect of life. (Informal. Refers to the inside of a garment where the seams show. Seamy occurs only in this expression.) □ *Doctors in that area really see the seamy side of life.* □ *Mary saw the seamy side of life when she worked as a volunteer in the shelter.*

search high and low (for someone or something) Go to hunt high and low (for someone or something).

search something with a fine-tooth comb Go to go over something with a fine-tooth comb.

second nature to someone easy and natural for someone. □ *Swimming is second nature to Jane.* □ *Driving is no problem for Bob. It's second nature to him.*

second-rate not of the best quality; inferior. □ *Bill's a second-rate tennis player compared with Bob.* □ *The government is building second-rate housing.*

second to none better than everything. □ *This is an excellent car—second to none.* □ *Her suggestion was second to none, and the manager accepted it eagerly.*

security against something something that keeps something safe; something that protects; a protection. □ *Insurance provides security against financial loss owing to theft, loss, or damage.* □ *A good education is a security against unemployment.*

see about something to ask about something; to check on something. □ *I'll have to see about your request to leave early.* □ *I must see about the cake I have in the oven.*

see a man about a dog to leave for some unmentioned purpose. (Informal. Often refers to going to the rest room.) □ *I don't know where Tom went. He said he had to see a man about a dog.* □ *When John said he was going to see a man about a dog, I thought he would be gone for only a minute.*

see double to see two of everything instead of one. □ *When I was driving, I saw two people on the road instead of one. I'm seeing double. There's something wrong with my eyes.* □ *Mike thought he was seeing double when he saw Mary with her twin sister. He didn't know she had a twin.*

see eye to eye (with someone) (about something) AND **see eye to eye (with someone) (on something)** to view something in the same way (as someone else). □ *John and Ann see eye to eye about the new law. Neither of them likes it.* □ *John sees eye to eye with Ann about it.* □ *That's interesting because they rarely see eye to eye.*

see eye to eye (with someone) (on something) Go to see eye to eye (with someone) (about something).

see fit (to do something) to decide to do something. ☐ *If I see fit to return, I'll bring Bill with me.* ☐ *She'll do it if she sees fit.*

see into something Go to look into something.

see no objection (to something) AND not see any objection (to something) not to think of any objection to something. ☐ *I see no objection to your idea.* ☐ *Do you see any objection?* ☐ *I do not see any objection to anything you have done.*

see one's way clear (to do something) to find it possible to do something. ☐ *I'd be happy if you could see your way clear to attend our meeting.* ☐ *I wanted to be there, but I couldn't see my way clear.*

see red to be angry. (Informal.) ☐ *Whenever I think of the needless destruction of trees, I see red.* ☐ *Bill really saw red when the tax bill arrived.*

see someone or something as something to consider someone or something; to deem someone or something as something. ☐ *The manager saw the skilled employee as a godsend.* ☐ *John saw the new salesman as a threat to his territory.*

see someone home to accompany someone home. ☐ *Bill agreed to see his aunt home after the movie.* ☐ *You don't need to see me home. It's perfectly safe, and I can get there on my own.*

see someone to somewhere to escort someone to a place; to make sure that someone gets somewhere safely; to accompany someone to a place. ☐ *I saw Mary to her door, and then got back in my car and left.* ☐ *Bill saw his cousin to the train station, and then they parted.*

see someone to the door Go to show someone (to) the door.

see something through to follow through on something until it is completed. (Compare this with **see through** someone or something.) ☐ *Mary is prepared to see the project through.* ☐ *It's going to be an*

unpleasant experience, but I hope you'll see it through.

see stars to see flashing lights after receiving a blow to the head. ☐ *I saw stars when I bumped my head on the attic ceiling.* ☐ *The little boy saw stars when he fell headfirst onto the concrete.*

see the color of someone's money to verify that someone has money or has enough money. (Slang.) ☐ *So, you want to make a bet? Not until I see the color of your money.* ☐ *I want to see the color of your money before we go any further with this business deal.*

see the (hand)writing on the wall to know that something is certain to happen. ☐ *If you don't improve your performance, they'll fire you. Can't you see the writing on the wall?* ☐ *I know I'll get fired. I can see the handwriting on the wall.*

see the last of someone or something to see someone or something for the last time. ☐ *I'm glad to see the last of that old car. It has a lot of problems.* ☐ *The people at my office were happy to see the last of John. He caused a lot of trouble before he left.*

see the light to understand something clearly at last. (Also literal. See also the following two entries.) ☐ *After a lot of studying and asking many questions, I finally saw the light.* ☐ *I know that geometry is difficult. Keep working at it. You'll see the light pretty soon.*

see the light (at the end of the tunnel) to foresee an end to something, such as a problem or a task, after a long period of time. ☐ *I had been horribly ill for two months before I began to see the light at the end of the tunnel.* ☐ *I began to see the light one day in early spring. At that moment, I knew I'd get well.* ☐ *When I got to the last chapter, I could see the light at the end of the tunnel.*

see the light (of day) to come to the end of a very busy time. ☐ *Finally, when the holiday season was over, we could see the light of day. We had been so busy!* ☐ *When business lets up for a while, we'll be able to see the light.*

see the sights to see the important things in a place; to see what tourists usually see.

- *We plan to visit Paris and see the sights.*
- *Everyone left the hotel early in the morning to see the sights.*

see through someone or something to understand or detect the true nature of someone or something. (Compare this with **see something through**.) □ *You can't fool me anymore. I can see through you and all your tricks.* □ *This plan is designed to make money for you, not to help people. I can see through it! I'm not a fool!*

see (to it) that something is done to make sure of something; to make certain of something; to be certain to do something. □ *The manager saw to it that everyone began working on time.* □ *The mayor should see that the potholes are repaired.*

see to someone or something to take care of someone or something. □ *Tom will see to the horses. Come to the house and freshen up.* □ *I hear the doorbell. Will someone please see to the door?* □ *This paper needs filling out. Will you please see to it?*

see which way the wind is blowing to determine what is the most expedient thing to do. □ *We studied the whole situation to see which way the wind was blowing and decided to avoid any conflict at that time.* □ *Sam failed to see which way the wind was blowing and got himself caught up in an argument.*

seeing is believing one must believe something that one sees. □ *I never would have thought that a cow could swim, but seeing is believing.* □ *I can hardly believe we are in Paris, but there's the Eiffel Tower, and seeing is believing.*

seeing things to imagine one sees someone or something that is not there. □ *Lisa says that she saw a ghost, but she was just seeing things.* □ *I thought I was seeing things when Bill walked into the room. Someone had told me he was dead.*

seize the bull by the horns Go to take the bull by the horns.

seize the opportunity to take advantage of an opportunity. □ *My uncle offered me*

a trip to Europe, so I seized the opportunity. □ *Whenever you have a chance, you should seize the opportunity.*

seize (up)on something to (figuratively) take hold of something and make an issue of it. (Also literal.) □ *Whenever I mention money, you seize on it and turn it into an argument!* □ *The lawyer seized upon one point and asked many questions about it.*

sell like hotcakes [for something] to be sold very fast. □ *The delicious candy sold like hotcakes.* □ *The fancy new cars were selling like hotcakes.*

sell someone a bill of goods to get someone to believe something that isn't true; to deceive someone. (Informal.) □ *Don't pay any attention to what John says. He's just trying to sell you a bill of goods.* □ *I'm not selling you a bill of goods. What I say is true.*

sell someone down the river Go to sell (someone or something) out.

sell someone on a plan or idea to convince someone of something. (Informal.) □ *You don't have to sell me on the value of an education.* □ *Try to sell John on going to Mexico for a vacation.*

sell (someone or something) out 1. [with someone] AND **sell** someone **down the river** to betray someone; to reveal damaging information about someone. (Slang, especially criminal slang.) □ *Bill told everything he knew about Bob, and that sold Bob down the river.* □ *You'll be sorry if you sell me out.* ① *Lefty sold out, and we'll all soon be arrested.* **2.** [with something] to sell all of something. □ *You've sold them all out?* ② *We sold out all our red ones yesterday.*

sell someone or something short to underestimate someone or something; to fail to see the good qualities of someone or something. □ *This is a very good restaurant. Don't sell it short.* □ *When you say that John isn't interested in music, you're selling him short. Did you know he plays the violin quite well?*

sell something for a song to sell something for very little money. (As in trading something of value for the singing of a

song.) □ *I had to sell my car for a song because I needed the money in a hurry.* □ *I have two geometry books and I would sell one of them for a song.*

sell something off to sell much or all of something. □ *Please try to sell these items off. We have too many of them.* □ *I sold off all my books.*

sell something on credit to sell something now and let the purchaser pay for it later. (Compare this with **buy something on credit**.) □ *I'm sorry, we don't sell groceries on credit. It's strictly cash-and-carry.* □ *There is a shop around the corner that sells clothing on credit.*

send one about one's business to send someone away, usually in an unfriendly way. □ *Is that annoying man on the telephone again? Please send him about his business.* □ *Ann, I can't clean up the house with you running around. I'm going to have to send you about your business.*

send someone into something to cause someone to be in a certain state or condition. □ *The horrifying news sent our family into hysterics.* □ *The clerk's rude behavior sent the customer into a fit of anger.*

send someone off to participate in saying good-bye to someone who is leaving. □ *We had a party to send Tom off on his vacation.* □ *Bob's parents sent him off from the airport.*

send someone or something up to ridicule or make fun of someone or something; to satirize someone or something. (Informal.) □ *John is always sending Jane up by mocking the way she walks.* □ *The drama group sent their leaders up.*

send someone (out) on an errand to send someone out to do a specific task. □ *Mother sent Billy out on an errand.* □ *I'm late because Bill sent me on an errand.*

send someone packing to send someone away; to dismiss someone, possibly rudely. □ *I couldn't stand him anymore, so I sent him packing.* □ *The maid proved to be so incompetent that I had to send her packing.*

send someone to the showers to send a player out of the game and off the field, court, etc. (From sports.) □ *John played so badly that the coach sent him to the showers after the third quarter.* □ *After the fistfight, the coaches sent both players to the showers.*

send someone up the river to send someone to prison. (Slang.) □ *The judge sent Bill up the river for ten years.* □ *The same judge sent him up the river the last time.*

send something C.O.D. to send merchandise to someone who will pay for it when it is delivered. (C.O.D. means "cash on delivery" or "collect on delivery.") □ *I sent away for a special book and asked them to send it C.O.D.* □ *This person has ordered a copy of our record. Send the record C.O.D.*

send up a trial balloon to suggest something and see how people respond to it; to test public opinion. (Slang.) □ *Mary had an excellent idea, but when we sent up a trial balloon, the response was very negative.* □ *Don't start the whole project without sending up a trial balloon.*

separate but equal segregated but of equal value or quality. (A doctrine once sanctioned by the U.S. Supreme Court regarding racial segregation.) □ *The separate but equal doctrine was abandoned years ago.* □ *They were provided with facilities that were said to be separate but equal—but were really of a lower standard.*

separate the men from the boys to separate the competent from those who are less competent. □ *This is the kind of task that separates the men from the boys.* □ *This project requires a lot of thinking. It'll separate the men from the boys.*

separate the sheep from the goats to divide people into two groups. □ *Working in a place like this really separates the sheep from the goats.* □ *We can't go on with the game until we separate the sheep from the goats. Let's see who can jump the farthest.*

the **separation of church and state** the constitutional barrier that prevents gov-

ernment from establishing a state religion. (This refers to eliminating evidence of religion in connection with government as well as assuring that the U.S. government does not establish a state religion.) □ *The city council stopped beginning each meeting with a prayer because someone suggested that it violated the principle of the separation of church and state.* □ *Many countries do not have the separation of church and state.*

serve as a guinea pig [for someone] to be experimented on; to allow some sort of test to be performed on someone. (A guinea pig was once the quintessential experimental animal.) □ *Try it on someone else! I don't want to serve as a guinea pig!* □ *Jane agreed to serve as a guinea pig. She'll be the one to try out the new flavor of ice cream.*

serve notice (on someone) to announce (something) to someone. □ *John served notice on his fellow workers that he would not prepare the coffee anymore.* □ *I'm serving notice that I'll resign as secretary next month.*

serve someone right [for an act or event] to punish someone fairly [for doing something]. □ *John copied off my test paper. It would serve him right if he fails the test.* □ *It'd serve John right if he got arrested.*

serve someone's purpose Go to answer someone's purpose.

serve time to spend a certain amount of time imprisoned. □ *The criminal served ten years in jail.* □ *After the felon served his time, he was released from prison.*

set a precedent to establish a pattern; to set a policy that must be followed in future cases. □ *I'll do what you ask this time, but it doesn't set a precedent.* □ *We've already set a precedent in matters such as these.*

set a trap to adjust and prepare a trap to catch an animal. □ *Bill set a mousetrap and baited it with cheese.* □ *The old man set a trap to catch an annoying squirrel.*

set eyes on someone or something **AND lay eyes on** someone or something to see someone or something for the first time. □ *I*

knew when I set eyes on that car that it was the car for me. □ *Have you ever laid eyes on such a beautiful flower?*

set fire to someone or something **AND set someone or something on fire** to ignite someone or something; to put someone or something to flames. □ *The thief set fire to the building.* □ *The poor man accidentally set himself on fire.*

set foot somewhere to go or enter somewhere. (Often in the negative.) □ *If I were you, I wouldn't set foot in that town.* □ *I wouldn't set foot in her house! Not after the way she spoke to me.*

set forth (on something) AND launch forth (on something) **1.** to start out on something. (See also **take off (on something)**.) □ *We intend to set forth on our journey very early in the morning.* □ *What time will you launch forth?* **2.** to begin presenting a speech or an explanation. □ *As soon as John set forth on his speech, three people walked out.* □ *Every time he launches forth, somebody walks out.*

set great store by someone or something to have positive expectations for someone or something; to have high hopes for someone or something. □ *I set great store by my computer and its ability to help me in my work.* □ *We set great store by John because of his quick mind.*

set in [for a kind of weather, especially winter] to begin. (Often said of weather or climatic conditions.) □ *Winter set in very early this year.* □ *We got the windows painted before winter set in.*

set in one's ways leading a fixed lifestyle; living according to one's own established patterns. □ *At her age, she's getting sort of set in her ways.* □ *If you weren't so set in your ways, you'd be able to understand young people better.*

set one back on one's heels to surprise, shock, or overwhelm someone. □ *Her sudden announcement set us all back on our heels.* □ *The manager scolded me, and that really set me back on my heels.*

set one's heart against something to turn against something; to become totally against something. (See also **have one's**

heart set against something.) □ *Jane set her heart against going to Australia.* □ *I set my heart against her departure.*

set one's heart on something to become determined about something. □ *Jane set her heart on going to London.* □ *Todd had set his heart on returning.*

set one's sights on something to select something as one's goal. □ *I set my sights on a master's degree from the state university.* □ *Don't set your sights on something you cannot possibly do.*

set sail (for somewhere) to depart in a boat for somewhere. (In a sailboat or powerboat.) □ *This ship sets sail for Japan in two days.* □ *When do you set sail?*

set someone back (some amount of money) to cost someone (an amount of money). (Informal.) □ *This coat set me back about \$250.* □ *That dinner at the restaurant last night really set us back.*

set someone or something free to release someone or something; to allow someone or something to leave, go away, depart, escape. □ *Jimmy went outside and set his balloon free.* □ *The army set the political prisoners free.*

set someone or something off 1. [with someone] to get someone very excited and angry. □ *Whenever I see someone mistreating an animal, it really sets me off.* □ *The tax bill set off Bob. He raved for an hour!* **2.** [with something] to start something. □ *Don't set another discussion off, please!* □ *The question of taxes set off an argument.*

set someone or something on fire Go to **set fire** to someone or something.

set someone or something straight 1. [with someone] to explain (something) to someone. (See also **put** something straight.) □ *I don't think you understand about taxation. Let me set you straight.* □ *Ann was confused, so I set her straight.* **2.** [with something] to explain something (to someone). (See also **put** something straight.) □ *This is very confusing, but with a little explaining I can set it straight.* □ *We'll set this matter straight in a short time.*

set someone or something up 1. [with someone] to lead—by deception—a person to play a particular role in an event; to arrange an event—usually by deception—so that a specific person takes the consequences for the event; to frame someone. (Informal or slang.) □ *I had nothing to do with the robbery! I was just standing there. Somebody must have set me up!* □ *John isn't the one who started the fight. Somebody set up the poor guy.* **2.** [with something] to put something together; to erect something. □ *My parents bought me a dollhouse, but I had to set it up myself.* □ *It took nearly an hour to set up the tent.* **3.** [with something] to establish or found something. □ *We set up a fund to buy food for the needy.* □ *The business owners set a bank up in the small town.* **4.** [with something] to make plans for something. □ *John and Mary are hard at work setting something up for the meeting.* □ *Sally and Tom set up a party for Saturday night.*

set someone's teeth on edge 1. [for a sour or bitter taste] to irritate one's mouth and make it feel funny. □ *Have you ever eaten a whole lemon? It'll set your teeth on edge.* □ *I can't stand food that sets my teeth on edge.* **2.** [for a person or a noise] to be irritating or get on one's nerves. □ *Please don't scrape your fingernails on the blackboard! It sets my teeth on edge!* □ *Here comes Bob. He's so annoying. He really sets my teeth on edge.*

set someone up (as something) to establish someone as something. (Compare this with **set someone up (in business)**.) □ *Bill set himself up as boss.* □ *When Mary got her degree, she set herself up as a consultant.* □ *My father set up my sisters as co-owners of the family business.* □ *He set them up with the help of a lawyer.*

set someone up (in business) to help establish someone in business; to provide the money someone needs to start a business. □ *My father set my sisters up in business.* □ *He helped set them up so he could keep the business in the family.*

set something down to something Go to **put** something down to something.

set something **right** **AND** **put** something **right** to correct something; to alter a situation to make it more fair. (See also **make** something **good**.) □ *This is a very unfortunate situation. I'll ask the people responsible to set this matter right.* □ *I'm sorry that we overcharged you. We'll try to put it right.*

set something **straight** Go to **put** something straight.

set something **to music** to incorporate words into a piece of music; to write a piece of music to incorporate a set of words. □ *The musician set my lyrics to music.* □ *The rock band set the poem to music.*

set the ball rolling Go to get the ball rolling.

set the stage for something to prepare for something; to get all of the appropriate things in place for something. (Refers to arranging the scenery, properties, and lighting for a theater production.) □ *The events of the past week have set the stage for further negotiation with the other side.* □ *Your comments set the stage for the next step—which is the hard one.*

set the table to place plates, glasses, napkins, etc., on the table before a meal. (The opposite of **clear the table**.) □ *Jane, would you please set the table?* □ *I'm tired of setting the table. Ask someone else to do it.*

set the world on fire to do exciting things that bring fame and glory. □ *I'm not very ambitious. I don't want to set the world on fire.* □ *You don't have to set the world on fire. Just do a good job.*

set to do something Go to (all) **set to** do something.

set tongues (a)wagging to cause people to start gossiping. □ *The affair between the boss and her accountant set tongues awagging.* □ *If you don't get the lawn mowed soon, you will set tongues wagging in the neighborhood.*

set type to arrange type for printing, now usually on a computer. □ *Have you finished setting the type for page one yet?* □ *John sets type for a living.*

set upon someone or something to attack someone or something violently. □ *The dogs set upon the bear and chased it up a tree.* □ *Bill set upon Tom and struck him hard in the face.*

set up shop somewhere to establish one's place of work somewhere. (Informal.) □ *Mary set up shop in a small office building on Oak Street.* □ *The police officer said, "You can't set up shop right here on the sidewalk!"*

settle a score with someone **AND** **settle the score (with someone)** to clear up a problem with someone; to get even with someone. (Slang. See also **have a score to settle (with someone)**.) □ *John wants to settle a score with his neighbor.* □ *Tom, it's time you and I settled the score.*

settle down **1.** to calm down. □ *Now, children, it's time to settle down and start class.* □ *If you don't settle down, I'll send you all home.* **2.** to settle into a stable way of life; to get married and settle into a stable way of life. □ *Tom, don't you think it's about time you settled down and stopped all of this running around?* □ *Bill and Ann decided to settle down and raise some children.*

settle for something to agree to accept something (even though something else would be better). □ *We wanted a red one, but settled for a blue one.* □ *Ask your grocer for Wilson's canned corn—the best corn in cans. Don't settle for less!*

settle on something to decide on something. □ *We've discussed the merits of all of them, and we've settled on this one.* □ *I can't settle on one or the other, so I'll buy both.*

settle someone's **affairs** to deal with one's business matters; to manage the business affairs of someone who can't. □ *When my uncle died, I had to settle his affairs.* □ *I have to settle my affairs before going to Mexico for a year.*

settle (something) (out of court) to end a disagreement and reach an agreement without having to go through a court of justice. □ *The plaintiff and defendant de-*

cided to settle before the trial. □ *Mary and Sue settled out of court before the trial.*

settle the score (with someone) Go to settle a score with someone.

settle up with someone to pay someone what one owes; to pay someone one's share of something. □ *I must settle up with Jim for the bike I bought for him.* □ *Fred paid the whole restaurant bill and we all settled up with him later.*

sever ties with someone to end a relationship or agreement suddenly. □ *The company severed its ties with the dishonest employee.* □ *John has severed all ties with his parents.*

sew something up to complete something; to secure something. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *The manager told me to sew the contract up, or else.* □ *Let's sew up this contract today.*

shack up (with someone) **1.** to have a one-night stand with someone; to copulate (with someone). (Informal.) □ *Those two just wanted to shack up for a while.* □ *He only wanted to shack up with me.* **2.** to move in with someone temporarily, presumably for sexual purposes. (Informal.) □ *They shacked up for over a year until her parents found out and stopped sending her money.*

shades of someone or something reminders of someone or something; reminiscent of someone or something. □ *When I met Jim's mother, I thought "shades of Aunt Mary."* □ *"Shades of grade school," said Jack as the university lecturer rebuked him for being late.*

shadow of itself Go to shadow of oneself.

shadow of oneself AND **shadow of itself** someone or something that is not as strong, healthy, full, or lively as before. □ *The sick man was a shadow of his former self.* □ *The redecorated house was merely a shadow of its old self.*

shake (hands) on something to clasp and shake the hand of someone as a sign of agreement about something. □ *The two people didn't sign a contract; they just shook hands on the terms of the agree-*

ment. □ *I think it would be better to sign an agreement than shake on it.*

shake hands (with someone) to clasp and shake the hand of someone as a greeting. □ *His hands were full, and I didn't know whether to try to shake hands with him or not.* □ *He put down his packages, and we shook hands.*

shake in one's boots AND **quake in one's boots** to be afraid; to shake from fear. □ *I was shaking in my boots because I had to go see the manager.* □ *Stop quaking in your boots, Bob. I'm not going to fire you.*

shake someone or something down **1.** [with someone] to extort money from someone; to blackmail someone. (Slang, especially criminal slang.) □ *The gang of criminals made a living from shaking people down.* □ *Lefty was trying to shake down the storekeeper.* **2.** [with something] to try something out; to test something and give the flaws a chance to appear. (Informal.) □ *We took the new car out for a trip to shake it down.* □ *You need to shake down a complicated piece of machinery when you first get it. Then any problems will show up while the guarantee is still in effect.*

shake someone or something off **1.** [with someone] to get rid of someone; to get free of someone who is bothering you. (Slang.) □ *Stop bothering me! What do I have to do to shake you off?* □ *I wish I could shake off John. He's such a pest!* **2.** [with something] to avoid getting a disease, such as a cold; to fight something off. (Informal.) □ *I thought I was catching a cold, but I guess I shook it off.* □ *I hope I can shake off this cold pretty soon.*

shake someone or something up **1.** [with someone] to shock or upset someone. (Slang. See also shook up.) □ *The sight of the injured man shook me up.* □ *Your rude remark really shook up Tom.* **2.** to jostle or knock someone or something around; to toss someone or something back and forth. □ *We rode over a rough road, and that shook us up.* □ *The accident shook up John quite a bit.* **3.** to reorganize something or a group of people. □ *The new manager shook the office up and made*

things run a lot better. ☐ *The coach shook the team up before the last game and made them better organized.*

shake something off Go to **toss something off**.

shake the lead out Go to **get the lead out**.

Shame on someone. What a shameful thing someone has done! ☐ *You've torn your shirt again, Billy! Shame on you!* ☐ *When Billy tore his shirt, his mother said, "Shame on you!"*

shape someone up to get someone into good physical shape; to make someone behave or perform better. (See also **shape up**.) ☐ *I've got to shape myself up to improve my health.* ☐ *The trainer was told that he'd have to shape up the boxer before the fight.*

shape up to improve one's behavior or performance; to improve one's physical shape. ☐ *Look at this, John! What a poor job you've done! It's time you shaped up!* ☐ *If I'm going to run in the marathon, I'm going to have to shape up.*

Shape up or ship out. Either improve one's performance (or behavior) or leave. ☐ *Okay, Tom. That's the end. Shape up or ship out!* ☐ *John was late again, so I told him to shape up or ship out.*

share and share alike with equal shares. ☐ *I kept five and gave the other five to Mary—share and share alike.* ☐ *The two roommates agreed that they would divide expenses—share and share alike.*

share someone's pain to understand and sympathize with someone's pain or emotional discomfort. (Said in order to sound sympathetic.) ☐ *I am sorry about the loss of your home. I share your pain.* ☐ *We sympathize about the loss of your mother. We share your pain.*

share someone's sorrow to grieve as someone else grieves. ☐ *We all share your sorrow on this sad, sad day.* ☐ *I am sorry to hear about the death in your family. I share your sorrow.*

sharp as a razor Go to (as) **sharp as a razor**.

sharp as a tack Go to (as) **sharp as a tack**.

shed crocodile tears AND **cry crocodile tears** to shed false tears; to pretend that one is weeping. ☐ *The child wasn't hurt, but she shed crocodile tears anyway.* ☐ *He thought he could get his way if he cried crocodile tears.*

shed (some) light on something AND **throw (some) light on something** to reveal something about something; to clarify something. (Also with *any*.) ☐ *This discussion has shed some light on the problem.* ☐ *Let's see if Ann can throw any light on this question.*

shell something out to pay money (out). (Slang.) ☐ *You'll have to shell plenty out to settle this bill.* ☐ *The traffic ticket turned out to be very expensive. I had to shell out \$150.*

shift for oneself AND **fend for oneself** to get along by oneself; to support oneself. ☐ *I'm sorry, I can't pay your rent anymore. You'll just have to shift for yourself.* ☐ *When I became twenty years old, I left home and began to fend for myself.*

shine up to someone to try to gain someone's favor by being extra nice. ☐ *John is a nice guy, except that he's always trying to shine up to the professor.* ☐ *Mary never tries to shine up to the manager.*

shipping and handling the costs of handling a product and transporting it. (See also **postage and handling**.) ☐ *Shipping and handling charges were included in the price.* ☐ *The cost of the goods is low and shipping and handling added only a few cents.*

ships that pass in the night people who meet each other briefly by chance and who are unlikely to meet again. ☐ *Mary wanted to see Jim again, but to him, they were ships that passed in the night.* ☐ *When you travel a lot on business, you meet many ships that pass in the night.*

shirk one's duty to neglect one's job or task. ☐ *The guard was fired for shirking his duty.* ☐ *You cannot expect to continue shirking your duty without someone noticing.*

The **shoe is on the other foot**. One is experiencing the same things that one

caused another person to experience. (Proverb. Note the variation in the examples. See also **have the shoe on the other foot**.) □ *The teacher is taking a course in summer school and is finding out what it's like when the shoe is on the other foot.* □ *When the policeman was arrested, he learned what it was like to have the shoe on the other foot.*

shook up upset; shocked. (Slang. See also **shake** someone or something **up**.) □ *Relax, man! Don't get shook up!* □ *I always get shook up when I see something like that.*

shoot for something to try to do something; to attempt to do something; to aim toward a goal. □ *The industrious student shot for success.* □ *The worker shot for a \$2 per hour raise.*

shoot from the hip 1. to fire a gun that is held at one's side, against one's hip. (This increases one's speed in firing a gun.) □ *When I lived at home on the farm, my father taught me to shoot from the hip.* □ *I quickly shot the snake before it bit my horse. I'm glad I learned to shoot from the hip.* **2.** to speak directly and frankly. (Informal.) □ *John has a tendency to shoot from the hip, but he generally speaks the truth.* □ *Don't pay any attention to John. He means no harm. It's just his nature to shoot from the hip.*

shoot one's mouth off to boast or talk too much; to tell someone's secrets. (Slang.) □ *Don't pay any attention to Bob. He's always shooting his mouth off.* □ *Oh, Sally! Stop shooting off your mouth! You don't know what you're talking about.*

shoot something out 1. to stick, throw, or thrust something outward. □ *The diamond shot bright shafts of light out when the sun fell on it.* □ *The little girl shot out her tongue at the teacher.* **2.** to settle a matter by the use of guns. (Slang. Typical of gangster or western movies.) □ *Bill and the cowboy—with whom he had been arguing—went out in the street and shot it out.* □ *Don't they know they can settle a problem by talking? They don't need to shoot out the problem when they can talk it over.*

shoot the breeze to spend time chatting. (Slang. See also the following entry.) □ *I went over to Bob's place and shot the breeze for about an hour.* □ *Don't spend so much time shooting the breeze. Get to work!*

shoot the bull to spend time chatting about one's accomplishments, especially with others who are doing the same. (Slang. See also the previous entry.) □ *Those guys out in the backyard are just sitting around shooting the bull.* □ *It was raining, so everybody spent the day indoors drinking beer and shooting the bull.*

shoot the works to do everything; to use up everything; to bet everything. (Slang.) □ *Shall I bet half our money, or shall I shoot the works?* □ *We shot the works at the carnival—spent every cent we brought with us.*

shop around (for something) to shop at different stores to find what you want at the best price. □ *I've been shopping around for a new car, but they are all priced too high.* □ *You can find a bargain, but you'll have to shop around.*

short and sweet brief (and pleasant because of briefness). □ *That was a good sermon—short and sweet.* □ *I don't care what you say, as long as you make it short and sweet.*

short for something <[of a word] being a shortened form of a word or phrase.> □ *Photo is short for photograph.* □ *Dave is short for David.*

short of something not having enough of something. □ *I wanted to bake a cake, but I was short of eggs.* □ *Usually at the end of the month, I'm short of money.*

a **shot in the arm** a boost; something that gives someone energy. (Informal.) □ *Thank you for cheering me up. It was a real shot in the arm.* □ *Your friendly greeting card was just what I needed—a real shot in the arm.*

a **shot in the dark** a random or wild guess or try. (Slang.) □ *I don't know how I guessed the right answer. It was just a shot in the dark.* □ *I was lucky to hire such a*

good worker as Sally. When I hired her, it was just a shot in the dark.

shot through with something containing something; interwoven, intermixed, or filled with something. □ *The rose was a lovely pink shot through with streaks of white.* □ *John's comments are often shot through with sarcasm.* □ *I want a well-marbled steak—one shot through with fat.*

shot to hell Go to (all) shot to hell.

a **shotgun wedding** a forced wedding. (Informal. From imagery of the bride's father having threatened the bridegroom with a shotgun to force him to marry.) □ *Mary was six months pregnant when she married Bill. It was a real shotgun wedding.* □ *Bob would never have married Jane if she hadn't been pregnant. Jane's father saw to it that it was a shotgun wedding.*

should have stood in bed should have stayed in bed. □ *What a horrible day! I should have stood in bed.* □ *The minute I got up and heard the news this morning, I knew I should have stood in bed.*

shoulder to shoulder side by side; with a shared purpose. □ *The two armies fought shoulder to shoulder against the joint enemy.* □ *The strikers said they would stand shoulder to shoulder against the management.*

shove one's **way** somewhere to make a path through a crowd by pushing. □ *The impatient man shoved his way through the crowd.* □ *The reporter shoved her way to the front of the crowd.*

shove someone or something **down** someone's **throat** and **ram** someone or something **down** someone's **throat**; **force** someone or something **down** someone's **throat** to force someone or something on someone. (Slang and a little rude.) □ *I don't want any more insurance, and I don't want anyone to shove any insurance down my throat.* □ *Mary isn't invited to my party, and I don't wish for anyone to ram her down my throat!* □ *Someone is always trying to force some stupid propaganda down my throat.*

show-and-tell a trivial presentation of something of little interest. (Refers to the name of a classroom period in the lower grades where children bring something interesting into the classroom and show it to the rest of the class.) □ *I wouldn't call that meeting useful. It was sort of a grown-up show-and-tell.* □ *After the show-and-tell session where the author talked about his book, we all went into the hall and had refreshments.*

show good faith to demonstrate good intentions or good will. □ *I'm certain that you showed good faith when you signed the contract.* □ *Do you doubt that she is showing good faith?*

show off to do things in a way that is meant to attract attention. □ *Please stop showing off! You embarrass me.* □ *John is always showing off to his girlfriend.*

a **show of hands** a display of raised hands [in a group of people] that can be counted for the purpose of votes or surveys. □ *We were asked to vote for the candidates for captain by a show of hands.* □ *Jack wanted us to vote on paper, not by a show of hands, so that we could have a secret ballot.*

show one's hand to reveal one's intentions to someone. (From card games.) □ *I don't know whether Jim is intending to marry Jane or not. He's not one to show his hand.* □ *If you want to get a raise, don't show the boss your hand too soon.*

show one's (true) colors to show what one is really like or what one is really thinking. □ *Whose side are you on, John? Come on. Show your colors.* □ *It's hard to tell what Mary is thinking. She never shows her true colors.*

show one to one's seat Go to show someone to a seat.

show signs of something to show hints or indications of something. □ *I let the horse run at full speed until it began to show signs of tiring.* □ *Sally is showing signs of going to sleep.*

show someone or something **off** to display someone or something so that the best features are apparent. □ *Mrs. Williams*

was showing off her baby to the neighbors.
☐ Bill drove around all afternoon showing his new car off.

show someone the ropes to tell or show someone how something is to be done. ☐ Since this was my first day on the job, the manager spent a lot of time showing me the ropes. ☐ Take some time and show the new boy the ropes.

show someone to a seat AND **show one to one's seat** to lead or direct someone to a place to sit. ☐ May I show you to your seat, sir? ☐ The ushers showed us to our seats politely and efficiently.

show someone (to) the door AND **see someone to the door** to lead or take someone to the door or exit. ☐ After we finished our talk, she showed me to the door. ☐ Bill and I finished our chat as he saw me to the door.

show someone up to make someone's faults or shortcomings apparent. ☐ John's excellent effort really showed up Bill, who didn't try very hard at all. ☐ John is always trying to show someone up to make himself look better.

show someone up as something to reveal that someone is really something (else). ☐ The investigation showed her up as a fraud. ☐ The test showed the banker up as unqualified.

show something to good advantage to display the best features of something; to display something so that its best features are apparent. ☐ Put the vase in the center of the table and show it to good advantage. ☐ Having and using a large vocabulary shows your intelligence to good advantage.

shuffle off this mortal coil to die. (Often jocular or formal euphemism. Not often used in consoling someone.) ☐ Cousin Fred shuffled off this mortal coil after drinking a jug full of rat poison. ☐ When I shuffle off this mortal coil, I want to go out in style—bells, flowers, and a long, boring funeral.

shut someone up to silence someone. ☐ Oh, shut yourself up! ☐ Will you please shut up that crying baby!

shut something down Go to close something down.

shut the door on someone or something AND **close the door on** someone or something **1.** to close the door in order to keep someone or something out. ☐ Bob opened the door, and when he saw it was Mary, he closed the door on her. ☐ "Don't shut the door on me!" screamed Mary. **2.** [with something] to terminate, exclude, or obstruct something. ☐ Your bad attitude shuts the door on any future cooperation from me. ☐ The bad service at that store closes the door on any more business from my company.

shuttle someone or something from person to person AND **shuttle someone or something from place to place** to move or pass someone or something from person to person; to move or pass someone or something from place to place. ☐ My phone call was shuttled from person to person. ☐ Mary shuttled her children from home to school to practice.

shuttle someone or something from place to place Go to shuttle someone or something from person to person.

shy away (from someone or something) to avoid someone or something. ☐ The dog shies away from John since he kicked it. ☐ I can understand why the dog would shy away. ☐ I shy away from eating onions. I think I'm allergic to them.

sick and tired of someone or something disgusted and annoyed with someone or something. ☐ I'm sick and tired of Ann and her whistling. ☐ We are all sick and tired of this old car.

sick as a dog Go to (as) sick as a dog.

sick in bed remaining in bed while (one is) ill. ☐ Tom is sick in bed with the flu. ☐ He's been sick in bed for nearly a week.

side against someone to be against someone; to take sides against someone. ☐ I thought you were my friend! I never thought you would side against me! ☐ The two brothers were always siding against their sister.

side with someone to join with someone; to take someone else's part; to be on someone's side. □ *Why is it that you always side with him when he and I argue?* □ *I never side with anybody. I form my own opinions.*

sight for sore eyes a welcome sight. (Folksy.) □ *Oh, am I glad to see you here! You're a sight for sore eyes.* □ *I'm sure hungry. This meal is a sight for sore eyes.*

a **sign of things to come** Go to a harbinger of things to come.

sign one's own death warrant to do something (knowingly) that will most likely result in severe trouble. (As if one were ordering one's own execution.) □ *I wouldn't ever gamble a large sum of money. That would be signing my own death warrant.* □ *The killer signed his own death warrant when he walked into the police station and gave himself up.*

sign on the dotted line to place one's signature on a contract or other important paper. (The line is usually straight and solid.) □ *This agreement isn't properly concluded until we both sign on the dotted line.* □ *Here are the papers for the purchase of your car. As soon as you sign on the dotted line, that beautiful, shiny automobile will be all yours!*

sign on (with someone) to sign an agreement to work with or for someone, especially on a ship. □ *The sailor signed on with Captain Smith.* □ *Hardly any other sailor was willing to sign on.*

signal (to) someone to do something [for someone] to give someone a command or instruction using a signal. □ *The traffic cop signaled me to stop.* □ *Bill signaled the other driver to pull over to the side of the road.*

signed, sealed, and delivered formally and officially signed; [for a formal document to be] executed. □ *Here is the deed to the property—signed, sealed, and delivered.* □ *I can't begin work on this project until I have the contract signed, sealed, and delivered.*

silent as the dead Go to (as) silent as the dead.

silent as the grave Go to (as) silent as the grave.

silly as a goose Go to (as) silly as a goose.

silly season the time of year, usually late in the summer, when there is a lack of important news and newspapers contain articles about unimportant or trivial things instead. □ *It must be the silly season. There's a story here about peculiarly shaped potatoes.* □ *There's a piece on the front page about people with big feet. Talk about the silly season!*

simmer down to get quiet or calm. (Informal.) □ *Hey, you guys! Simmer down! Stop all the noise and go to sleep!* □ *I'm very busy now. Please come back in a few hours when things have simmered down a bit.*

since time immemorial since a very long time ago. □ *My hometown has had a big parade on the Fourth of July since time immemorial.* □ *Since time immemorial, the trees have blossomed each spring.*

sing a different tune AND **sing another tune** to change one's manner, usually from bad to good. (Almost the same as **dance to another tune**.) □ *When she learned that I was a bank director, she began to sing a different tune.* □ *You will sing another tune as soon as you find out how right I am!*

sing another tune Go to sing a different tune.

sing someone's praises to praise someone highly and enthusiastically. □ *The boss is singing the praises of his new secretary.* □ *The theater critics are singing the praises of the young actor.*

single file Go to (in) single file.

sink in [for knowledge] to be understood. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *I heard what you said, but it took a while for it to sink in.* □ *I pay careful attention to everything I hear in class, but it usually doesn't sink in.*

sink into despair [for someone] to grieve or become depressed. □ *After losing all my money, I sank into despair.* □ *There is*

no need to sink into despair. Everything is going to be all right.

sink one's teeth into something **1.** to take a bite of some kind of food, usually a special kind of food. ☐ *I can't wait to sink my teeth into a nice juicy steak.* ☐ *Look at that chocolate cake! Don't you want to sink your teeth into that?* **2.** to get a chance to do, learn, or control something. ☐ *That appears to be a very challenging assignment. I can't wait to sink my teeth into it.* ☐ *Being the manager of this department is a big task. I'm very eager to sink my teeth into it.*

sink or swim to fail or succeed. ☐ *After I've studied and learned all I can, I have to take the test and sink or swim.* ☐ *It's too late to help John now. It's sink or swim for him.*

sit around (somewhere) to sit somewhere and relax or do nothing; to sit idly somewhere. ☐ *Tom likes to sit around the house in shorts and a T-shirt on hot days.* ☐ *Too many people are just sitting around doing nothing at my office.*

sit at someone's feet to admire someone greatly; to be influenced by someone's teaching; to be taught by someone. ☐ *Jack sat at the feet of Picasso when he was studying in Europe.* ☐ *Tom would love to sit at the feet of the musician Yehudi Menuhin.*

sit back and let something happen to relax and not interfere with something; to let something happen without playing a part in it. ☐ *I can't just sit back and let you waste all our money!* ☐ *Don't worry. Just sit back and let things take care of themselves.*

sit bolt upright to sit up straight. ☐ *Tony sat bolt upright and listened to what the teacher was saying to him.* ☐ *After sitting bolt upright for almost an hour in that crowded airplane, I swore I would never travel again.*

sit (idly) by to remain inactive when other people are doing something; to ignore a situation that calls for help. ☐ *Bob sat idly by even though everyone else was hard at work.* ☐ *I can't sit by while all those people need food.*

sit in for someone to take someone's else's place in a specific activity. (The activity usually involves being seated.) ☐ *I can't be at the meeting Thursday. Will you sit in for me?* ☐ *Sorry, I can't sit in for you. John is also going to be absent, and I am sitting in for him.*

sit in (on something) to witness or observe something without participating. (Usually involves being seated.) ☐ *I can't sign up for the history class, but I have permission to sit in on it.* ☐ *I asked the professor if I could sit in.*

sit on its hands [for an audience] to refuse to applaud. ☐ *We saw a very poor performance of the play. The audience sat on its hands for the entire play.* ☐ *The audience just sat on its hands.*

sit on one's hands to do nothing; to fail to help. ☐ *When we needed help from Mary, she just sat on her hands.* ☐ *We need the cooperation of everyone. You can't sit on your hands!*

sit on someone or something to hold someone or something back; to delay someone or something. (Also literal. Informal.) ☐ *The project cannot be finished because the city council is sitting on the final approval.* ☐ *Ann deserves to be promoted, but the manager is sitting on her because of a disagreement.*

sit on the fence not to take sides in a dispute; not to make a clear choice between two possibilities. (Also literal.) ☐ *When Jane and Tom argue, it is well to sit on the fence and then you won't make either of them angry.* ☐ *No one knows which of the candidates Joan will vote for. She's sitting on the fence.*

sit something out not to participate in something; to wait until something is over before participating. ☐ *Oh, please play with us. Don't sit it out.* ☒ *I'm tired of playing cards, so I think I'll sit out this game.*

sit through something to witness or endure all of something. ☐ *The performance was so bad that I could hardly sit through it.* ☐ *You can't expect small children to sit through a long movie.*

sit tight to wait; to wait patiently. (Informal. This does not necessarily refer to sitting.) □ *Just relax and sit tight. I'll be right with you.* □ *We were waiting in line for the gates to open when someone came out and told us to sit tight because it wouldn't be much longer before we could go in.*

sit up and take notice to become alert and pay attention. □ *A loud noise from the front of the room caused everyone to sit up and take notice.* □ *The company wouldn't pay any attention to my complaints. When I had my lawyer write them a letter, they sat up and took notice.*

sit up with someone to stay with someone through the night, especially with a sick or troubled person or with someone who is waiting for something. □ *I had to sit up with my younger sister when she was ill.* □ *I sat up with Bill while he waited for an overseas telephone call.*

sit with someone **1.** to stay with someone; to **sit up with** someone. □ *Sally was upset, so I sat with her for a while.* □ *My uncle sat with me my first day in the hospital.* **2.** to stay with and care for one or more children; to baby-sit for someone. □ *I hired Mrs. Wilson to sit with the children.* □ *We couldn't go out for dinner because we couldn't find anyone to sit with the kids.*

a **sitting duck** someone or something vulnerable to attack, physical or verbal. (Preceded by *be*, *become*, *seem* like, or *act* like. See also a **sitting target**.) □ *You are a sitting duck out there. Get in here where the enemy cannot fire at you.* □ *The senator was a sitting duck because of his position on school reform.*

sitting on a powder keg in a risky or explosive situation; in a situation where something serious or dangerous may happen at any time. (Informal. A powder keg is a keg of gunpowder.) □ *Things are very tense at work. The whole office is sitting on a powder keg.* □ *The fire at the oil field seems to be under control for now, but all the workers there are sitting on a powder keg.*

(sitting) on top of the world feeling wonderful; glorious; ecstatic. □ *Wow, I feel on*

top of the world. □ *Since he got a new job, he's on top of the world.*

sitting pretty living in comfort or luxury; in a good situation. (Informal.) □ *My uncle died and left enough money for me to be sitting pretty for the rest of my life.* □ *Now that I have a good-paying job, I'm sitting pretty.*

a **sitting target** someone or something that is in a position that is easily attacked. (See also a **sitting duck**.) □ *The old man was a sitting target for the burglars. He lived alone and did not have a telephone.* □ *People recently hired will be sitting targets if the company needs to cut back.*

six of one and half a dozen of the other about the same one way or another. □ *It doesn't matter to me which way you do it. It's six of one and half a dozen of the other.* □ *What difference does it make? They're both the same—six of one and half a dozen of the other.*

sixth sense a supposed power to know or feel things that are not perceptible by the five senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste, and touch. □ *I have a sixth sense that told me to avoid going home by my usual route. Later I discovered there had been a fatal accident on it.* □ *Jane's sixth sense demanded that she not trust Tom, even though he seemed honest enough.*

size someone or something **up** to observe someone or something to get information; to **check** someone or something. □ *The comedian sized the audience up and decided not to use his new material.* □ *I like to size up a situation before I act.*

skate on thin ice to be in a risky situation. (Also literal. See also **on thin ice**.) □ *I try to stay well informed so I don't end up skating on thin ice when the teacher asks me a question.* □ *You are skating on thin ice when you ask me that!*

a **skeleton in the closet** AND **skeletons in the closet** a hidden and shocking secret. □ *You can ask anyone about how reliable I am. I don't mind. I don't have any skeletons in the closet.* □ *My uncle was in jail for a day once. That's our family's skeleton in the closet.*

skin and bones Go to nothing but skin and bones.

skin someone **alive** to be very angry with someone; to scold someone severely. (Folksy.) □ *I was so mad at Jane that I could have skinned her alive.* □ *If I don't get home on time, my parents will skin me alive.*

skip bail Go to jump bail.

skip out (on someone or something) to sneak away from someone or some event; to leave someone or an event in secret. (Slang.) □ *I heard that Bill skipped out on his wife.* □ *I'm not surprised. I thought he should have skipped out long ago.*

skip rope to jump over an arc of rope that is passed beneath one's feet then over one's head, repeatedly. □ *The children skipped rope on the playground.* □ *The boxer skipped rope while training.*

The **sky's the limit**. There is no limit to the success that can be achieved or the money that can be gained or spent. □ *If you take a job with us, you'll find the promotion prospects very good. The sky's the limit, in fact.* □ *The insurance salesmen were told that the sky was the limit when it came to potential earnings.*

slack off 1. to taper off; to reduce gradually. □ *Business tends to slack off during the winter months.* □ *The storms begin to slack off in April.* **2.** to become less active; to become lazy or inefficient. □ *Near the end of the school year, Sally began to slack off, and her grades showed it.* □ *John got fired for slacking off during the busy season.*

a **slap in the face** an insult; an act that causes disappointment or discouragement. □ *Losing the election was a slap in the face for the club president.* □ *Failing to get into a good college was a slap in the face to Tim after his years of study.*

slap someone **down** to rebuke or rebuff someone, possibly with actual slapping. □ *You may disagree with her, but you needn't slap her down like that.* □ *I only asked you what time it was! There's no need to slap me down! What a rotten humor you're in!*

slap someone **on the wrist** Go to give someone a slap on the wrist.

slap someone's **wrist** Go to give someone a slap on the wrist.

slap something **together** Go to throw something together.

slated for something scheduled for something. (Refers to a schedule written on a slate.) □ *John was slated for Friday's game, but he couldn't play with the team.* □ *Ann is slated for promotion next year.*

slated to do something scheduled to do something. □ *John was slated to play ball Friday.* □ *Who is slated to work this weekend?*

a **slave to** something someone who is under the control of something; someone who is controlled by something. (Preceded by *be, become, seem like, or act like.*) □ *Mary is a slave to her job.* □ *Bill is a slave to his drug addiction.*

sleep in to oversleep; to sleep late in the morning. □ *If you sleep in again, you'll get fired.* □ *I really felt like sleeping in this morning.*

sleep like a baby Go to sleep like a log.

sleep like a log AND **sleep like a baby** to sleep very soundly. □ *Everyone in our family sleeps like a log, so no one heard the fire engines in the middle of the night.* □ *Nothing can wake me up. I usually sleep like a baby.*

sleep on something to think about something overnight; to weigh a decision overnight. □ *I don't know whether I agree to do it. Let me sleep on it.* □ *I slept on it, and I've decided to accept your offer.*

sleep something **off** to sleep while the effects of liquor or drugs pass away. □ *John drank too much and went home to sleep it off.* □ *Bill is at home sleeping off the effects of the drug they gave him.*

sleep with someone **1.** to share a bed with someone. □ *Do I have to sleep with my little brother?* □ *Many little boys have to sleep with their brothers.* **2.** to copulate with someone. (Euphemistic.) □ *I hear*

Sam's sleeping with Sally now. □ *Whom did you say he slept with?*

a **slice of the cake** a share of something. (Also literal.) □ *There's not much work around and so everyone must get a slice of the cake.* □ *The company makes huge profits and the workers want a slice of the cake.*

slick as a whistle Go to (as) slick as a whistle.

slip away AND **slip off; slip out** to go away or escape quietly or in secret. □ *I slipped away when no one was looking.* □ *Let's slip off somewhere and have a little talk.* □ *I'll try to slip out for an hour or two when Tom is asleep.*

slip off Go to slip away.

a **slip of the tongue** an error in speaking where a word is pronounced incorrectly, or where something that the speaker did not mean to say is said. □ *I didn't mean to tell her that. It was a slip of the tongue.* □ *I failed to understand the instructions because the speaker made a slip of the tongue at an important point.*

slip one's mind [for something that was to be remembered] to be forgotten. □ *I meant to go to the grocery store on the way home, but it slipped my mind.* □ *My birthday slipped my mind. I guess I wanted to forget it.*

slip out 1. [for secret information] to be revealed. □ *I asked her to keep our engagement secret, but she let it slip out.* □ *I didn't mean to tell. It just slipped out.* **2.** Go to slip away.

slip through someone's **fingers** to get away from someone; for someone to lose track (of something or someone). (Also literal.) □ *I had a copy of the book you want, but somehow it slipped through my fingers.* □ *There was a detective following me, but I managed to slip through his fingers.*

slip up to make an error. (Informal. Also without up.) □ *Try as hard as you can to do it right and not slip up.* □ *Everything was going fine until the last minute when I slipped up.*

slippery as an eel Go to (as) slippery as an eel.

Slow and steady wins the race. Deliberateness and determination will lead to success, or (literally) a reasonable pace will win a race. (Proverb.) □ *I worked my way through college in six years. Now I know what they mean when they say, "Slow and steady wins the race."* □ *Ann won the race because she started off slowly and established a good pace. The other runners tried to sprint the whole distance, and they tired out before the final lap. Ann's trainer said, "You see! I told you! Slow and steady wins the race."*

slow as molasses in January Go to (as) slow as molasses in January.

slow going the rate of speed when one is making progress. □ *It was slow going at first, but I was able to finish the project by the weekend.* □ *Getting the heavy rocks out of the field is slow going.*

slow on the draw 1. slow in drawing a gun. (Slang. Compare this with **quick on the draw**. Cowboy and gangster talk.) □ *Bill got shot because he's so slow on the draw.* □ *The gunslinger said, "I have to be fast. If I'm slow on the draw, I'm dead."*

2. AND slow on the uptake slow to figure something out; slow-thinking. (Slang. Compare this with **quick on the draw**.) □ *Sally didn't get the joke because she's sort of slow on the draw.* □ *Bill—who's slow on the uptake—didn't get the joke until it was explained to him.*

slow on the uptake Go to slow on the draw.

slow someone or something **down** Go to slow someone or something up.

slow someone or something **up** AND **slow** someone or something **down** to cause someone or something to reduce speed. (The phrases with **up** are informal.) □ *I'm in a hurry. Don't try to slow me down.* □ *Please slow up the train. There are sheep near the track.*

slower and slower at a decreasing rate of speed; slow and then even slower. □ *The car is going slower and slower and will stop*

soon. □ *The dog's breathing got slower and slower as it went to sleep.*

slower than molasses in January Go to (as) slow as molasses in January.

slow(ly) but sure(ly) slowly but with a purpose; slowly and deliberately. (The expression without the *-ly* is informal.) □ *Slowly but surely, the little train reached the top of the mountain.* □ *Progress was slow but sure. Someday we would be finished.*

sly as a fox Go to (as) sly as a fox.

smack-dab in the middle right in the middle. (Informal.) □ *I want a big helping of mashed potatoes with a glob of butter smack-dab in the middle.* □ *Tom and Sally were having a terrible argument, and I was trapped—smack-dab in the middle.*

small fry 1. unimportant people. (*Small fry* are small, juvenile fish.) □ *The police have only caught the small fry. The leader of the gang is still free.* □ *You people are just small fry! I want to talk to the boss.* 2. children. □ *Peter's taking the small fry to the zoo.* □ *We should take the small fry to the pantomime.*

small hours (of the night) AND **wee hours (of the night)** the hours immediately after midnight. □ *The dance went on into the small hours of the night.* □ *Jim goes to bed in the wee hours and gets up at lunchtime.*

the **small print** AND the **fine print** the part of a document that is not easily noticed, often because of the smallness of the print, and that often contains important information. □ *You should have read the small print before signing the contract.* □ *You should always read the fine print in an insurance policy.*

small-time small; on a small scale. (Informal.) □ *Our business is small-time just now, but it's growing.* □ *He's a small-time crook.*

smear campaign (against someone) a campaign aimed at damaging someone's reputation by making accusations and spreading rumors. □ *The politician's opponents are engaging in a smear campaign*

against him. □ *Jack started a smear campaign against Tom so that Tom wouldn't get the manager's job.*

smell a rat to suspect that something is wrong; to sense that someone has caused something wrong. (Slang.) □ *I don't think this was an accident. I smell a rat. Bob had something to do with this.* □ *The minute I came in, I smelled a rat. Sure enough, I had been robbed.*

smell to high heaven Go to stink to high heaven.

smile on someone or something to be favorable to someone or something. □ *Fate smiled on me and I got the job.* □ *Lady luck smiled on our venture and we made a profit.*

smoke and mirrors deception and confusion. (Said of statements or more complicated rhetoric used to mislead people rather than inform. Refers to the way a magician uses optical illusion to create believability while performing a trick.) □ *Most people know that the politician was just using smoke and mirrors to make things look better than they really were.* □ *Her report was little more than smoke and mirrors. No one will believe any of it.*

smoke someone or something **out** to force someone or something out (of something), perhaps with smoke. (In cowboy or gangster talk this refers to the smoke from gunfire.) □ *There was a mouse in the attic, but I smoked it out.* □ *The sheriff and the deputies smoked out the bank robbers.*

smooth as glass Go to (as) smooth as glass.

smooth as silk Go to (as) smooth as silk.

smooth something out Go to smooth something over.

smooth something over AND **smooth something out** to reduce the intensity of an argument or a misunderstanding; to try to make people feel better about something that has happened. (Also literal.) □ *Mary and John had a terrible argument, and they are both trying to smooth it over.* □ *Let's get everyone together and try to*

smooth things out. We can't keep on arguing with one another. ☐ *We can smooth over the whole affair.*

- a **snake in the grass** a low and deceitful person. ☐ *Sally said that Bob couldn't be trusted because he was a snake in the grass.*
 ☐ *"You snake in the grass!" cried Sally. "You cheated me."*

snap at someone to speak sharply or angrily to someone. ☐ *Don't snap at me. What did I do?* ☐ *Why did you snap at me? What did I do?*

snap out of something to become suddenly freed from a state. (Informal. The state can be a depression, an illness, unconsciousness, etc.) ☐ *I was very depressed for a week, but this morning I snapped out of it.* ☐ *It isn't often that a cold gets me down. Usually I can snap out of it quickly.*

snap something up 1. to grab and buy something. ☐ *I always snap bargains up whenever I go shopping.* ☐ *I went to the store, and they had soup on sale, so I snapped up plenty.* 2. to make something go faster. ☐ *You're playing this music too slowly. Snap it up!* ☐ *This performance is getting slow and dull. Let's snap up the whole thing!*

sniff someone or something **out** to locate someone or something. (Also literal.) ☐ *I'll see if I can sniff out the correct stylus for your stereo.* ☐ *Billy was lost, but by looking around, we were able to sniff him out.*

snug as a bug in a rug Go to (as) snug as a bug in a rug.

so-and-so a despised person. (Informal. This expression is used in place of other very insulting terms. Often modified, as in the example below.) ☐ *You dirty so-and-so! I can't stand you!* ☐ *Don't you call me a so-and-so, you creep!*

So be it. This is the way it will be. ☐ *If you insist on running off and marrying her, so be it. Only don't say I didn't warn you!* ☐ *Mary has decided that this is what she wants. So be it.*

so clean you could eat off the floor [of a room or a house] very clean. ☐ *Her kitchen is so clean you could eat off the*

floor! ☐ *It's so clean here you could eat off the floor. I prefer a little mess, myself.*

so far as anyone knows Go to (as) far as anyone knows.

so far as possible Go to as far as possible.

so far as someone or something is concerned Go to (as) far as someone or something is concerned.

so far as something is concerned Go to (as) far as something is concerned.

So far, so good. All is going well so far. ☐ *We are half finished with our project. So far, so good.* ☐ *The operation is proceeding quite nicely—so far, so good.*

So it goes. That is the kind of thing that happens.; That is life. ☐ *Too bad about John and his problems. So it goes.* ☐ *I just lost a twenty-dollar bill, and I can't find it anywhere. So it goes.*

so long good-bye. (Informal.) ☐ *So long, see you later.* ☐ *As John got out of the car, he said, "Thanks for the ride. So long."*

so long as Go to as long as.

so mad I could scream very mad. ☐ *I am just so mad I could scream! Why is he such a jerk?* ☐ *She makes me so mad I could scream.*

so much for someone or something that is the last of someone or something; there is no need to consider someone or something anymore. ☐ *It just started raining. So much for our picnic this afternoon.* ☐ *So much for John. He just called in sick and can't come to work today.*

so much the better even better; all to the better. (Informal.) ☐ *Please come to the picnic. If you can bring a salad, so much the better.* ☐ *The flowers look lovely on the shelf. It would be so much the better if you put them on the table.*

so quiet you could hear a pin drop Go to so still you could hear a pin drop.

so-so not good and not bad; mediocre. (Informal.) ☐ *I didn't have a bad day. It was just so-so.* ☐ *The players put on a so-so performance.*

so soon early; before the regular time; ahead of schedule. □ *I got there early because my bus arrived so soon.* □ *Because the meeting ended so soon, I had some extra time.*

so still you could hear a pin drop ^{AND} **so quiet you could hear a pin drop** very quiet. (Also with *can*.) □ *When I came into the room, it was so still you could hear a pin drop. Then everyone shouted, "Happy birthday!"* □ *Please be quiet. Be so quiet you can hear a pin drop.*

so to speak as one might say; said a certain way, even though the words are not exactly accurate. □ *John helps me with my taxes. He's my accountant, so to speak.* □ *I just love my little poodle. She's my baby, so to speak.*

soaked to the skin with one's clothing wet clear through to the skin. □ *I was caught in the rain and got soaked to the skin.* □ *Oh, come in and dry off! You must be soaked to the skin.*

sober as a judge Go to (as) sober as a judge.

sock something away to store something in a safe place. (Informal.) □ *While I worked in the city, I was able to sock \$100 away every month.* □ *At the present time, I can't sock away that much.*

soft as a baby's bottom Go to (as) soft as a baby's bottom.

soft as down Go to (as) soft as down.

soft as silk Go to (as) soft as silk.

soft as velvet Go to (as) soft as velvet.

soil one's diaper(s) [for a baby] to excrete waste into its diaper. □ *The baby soiled his diapers.* □ *I detect that someone has soiled his diaper.*

soil one's hands Go to get one's hands dirty.

sold out [of a product] completely sold with no more items remaining; [of a store] having no more of a particular product. □ *The tickets were sold out so we couldn't go to the concert.* □ *I wanted new shoes like yours, but they were sold out.*

solid as a rock Go to (as) solid as a rock.

(some) new blood new personnel; new members brought into a group to revive it. □ *This company needs some new blood on its board to bring in new ideas.* □ *We're trying to get some new blood in the club. Our membership is falling.* □ *Our club needs new blood. It has become boring.* □ *The firm's management has at last got a little new blood. Things should improve now.*

someone or something **checks out** someone or something is verified or authenticated. (Informal.) □ *I spent all afternoon working with my checkbook, trying to get the figures to check out.* □ *The police wouldn't believe that I am who I say I am until they made a few telephone calls to see if my story checked out.*

someone **of note** a person who is famous. □ *We invited a speaker of note to lecture at the next meeting.* □ *The baseball player of note was inducted into the Hall of Fame.*

someone's **ace in the hole** something or someone held (secretly) in reserve; anything that can help in an emergency. (Slang. Refers to an ace dealt facedown in poker.) □ *The hostages served as the terrorists' ace in the hole for getting what they wanted.* □ *The twenty-dollar bill in my shoe is my ace in the hole.*

someone's **bread and butter** someone's income; someone's livelihood—the source of one's food. (Work or a job leads to a paycheck that will buy bread and butter.) □ *I can't miss another day of work. That's my bread and butter.* □ *I like to go to business conferences. That's good because that's my bread and butter.*

someone's **goose is cooked** one is finished; one has been found out and is in trouble. □ *It's over. His goose is cooked!* □ *If I get caught, my goose is cooked.*

someone's **last will and testament** a will; the last edition of someone's will. □ *The lawyer read Uncle Charles's last will and testament to a group of expectant relatives.* □ *Fred dictated his last will and testament on his deathbed.*

someone's **mission in life** one's purpose for living; the reason for which one lives on the earth. □ *Bob's mission in life is to make money.* □ *My mission in life is to help people live in peace.*

someone's **pet hate** something that is disliked intensely by someone and is a constant or repeated annoyance. □ *My pet hate is being put on hold on the telephone.* □ *Another pet hate of mine is having to stand in line.*

someone's **pet peeve** one's "favorite" or most often encountered annoyance. □ *My pet peeve is someone who always comes into the theater after the show has started.* □ *Drivers who don't signal are John's pet peeve.*

someone's **place of business** a place where business is done; a factory or office. □ *Our place of business opens at noon each day.* □ *You will have to come to our place of business to make a purchase.*

someone's **swan song** the last work or performance of a playwright, musician, actor, etc., before death or retirement. □ *His portrayal of Lear was the actor's swan song.* □ *We didn't know that her performance last night was the singer's swan song.*

someone's **train of thought** someone's pattern of thinking; someone's sequence of ideas; what one was just thinking about. (See also **lose one's train of thought**.) □ *My train of thought is probably not as clear as it should be.* □ *I cannot seem to follow your train of thought on this matter. Will you explain it a little more carefully, please?*

someone **wrote the book on** something to be very authoritative about something; to know enough about something to write the definitive book on it. (Also literal. Always in past tense.) □ *Ted wrote the book on unemployment. He's been looking for work in three states for two years.* □ *Do I know about misery? I wrote the book on misery!*

something about someone or something something strange, special, or curious about someone or something. □ *There is*

something about Jane. I just can't figure her out. □ *I love Mexican food. There's just something about it.*

something else something wonderful; something extra special. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Did you see her new car? That's really something else!* □ *John hit a ball yesterday that went out of the stadium and kept on going. He's something else!*

something else (again) something entirely different. (Informal.) □ *Borrowing is one thing, but stealing is something else.* □ *Skin diving is easy and fun, but scuba diving is something else again.*

something of the sort something of the kind just mentioned. □ *This is a spruce tree, or something of the sort.* □ *Jane has a cold or something of the sort.*

something or other something; one thing or another. (Informal.) □ *I can't remember what Ann said—something or other.* □ *A messenger came by and dropped off something or other at the front desk.*

something to that effect **AND words to that effect** something like what was just said. (Informal.) □ *She said she wouldn't be available until after three, or something to that effect.* □ *I was told to keep out of the house—or something to that effect.*

something's up something is going to happen; something is going on. (Slang.) □ *Everybody looks very nervous. I think something's up.* □ *From the looks of all the activity around here, I think something's up.*

(somewhere) in the neighborhood of an amount approximately a particular measurement. □ *I take somewhere in the neighborhood of ten pills a day for my various ailments.* □ *My rent is in the neighborhood of \$700 per month.*

somewhere to hang (up) one's hat **AND a place to hang one's hat; a place to call one's own** a place to live; a place to call one's home. □ *What I need is somewhere to hang up my hat. I just can't stand all this traveling.* □ *A home is a lot more than a place to hang your hat.*

son of a bitch 1. a very horrible person. (Informal. Use with caution. Usually intended as a strong insult. Never used casually.) □ *Bill called Bob a son of a bitch, and Bob punched Bill in the face.* □ *This guy's a son of a bitch. He treats everybody rotten.* **2.** a useless annoyance; something worthless. □ *This car is a son of a bitch. It won't ever start when it's cold.* □ *This bumpy old road needs paving. It's a real son of a bitch.* **3.** a difficult task. (Informal.) □ *This job is a son of a bitch.* □ *I can't do this kind of thing. It's too hard—a real son of a bitch.*

son of a gun 1. a horrible person. (Informal. A euphemism for **son of a bitch**. Use with caution.) □ *When is that plumber going to show up and fix this leak? The stupid son of a gun!* □ *Bob is a rotten son of a gun if he thinks he can get away with that.* **2.** old (male) friend. (Informal. A friendly—male to male—way of referring to a friend. Use with caution.) □ *Why Bill, you old son of a gun, I haven't seen you in three or four years.* □ *When is that son of a gun John going to come visit us? He's neglecting his friends.*

son of a sea biscuit a person, usually a male. (Sometimes a substitute for **son of a bitch**.) □ *Why, good to see you, you old son of a sea biscuit.* □ *You son of a sea biscuit! You make me so mad I could slug you.*

soon as possible Go to (as) soon as possible.

sooner or later eventually; in the short term or in the long term. □ *He'll have to pay the bill sooner or later.* □ *She'll get what she deserves sooner or later.*

sorry Go to (I'm) sorry.

sort of something AND **kind of** something almost something; somewhat; somehow. (Informal.) □ *Isn't it sort of cold out?* □ *That was kind of a stupid thing to do, wasn't it?*

sort something out to clear up confusion; to straighten out something disorderly. (Also literal.) □ *Now that things are settled down, I can sort out my life.* □ *This place is a mess. Let's sort things out before we do anything else.*

sound as a dollar Go to (as) sound as a dollar.

sound as if AND **sound like** to seem, from what has been said, as if something were so. (*Sound like* is colloquial.) □ *It sounds as if you had a good vacation.* □ *You sound like you are angry.*

sound like Go to sound as if.

sound like a broken record to say the same thing over and over again. (From an earlier age when a crack in a 78 rpm record would cause the needle (or stylus) to stay in the same groove and play it over and over.) □ *He's always complaining about the way she treats him. He sounds like a broken record!* □ *I hate to sound like a broken record, but we just don't have enough people on the payroll to work efficiently.*

sound like something to seem like something. □ *That sounds like a good idea.* □ *Your explanation sounds like an excuse!*

sound off (about something) to speak loudly and freely about something, especially when complaining. (Informal.) □ *The people at the bus stop were sounding off about the poor transportation services.* □ *Bob was sounding off about the government's economic policies.* □ *Sam sounds off every chance he gets.*

sound someone out to try to find out what someone thinks (about something). □ *I don't know what Jane thinks about your suggestion, but I'll sound her out.* □ *Please sound out everyone in your department.*

soup something up to make something (especially a car) more powerful. (Slang.) □ *I wish someone would soup my car up. It'll hardly run.* □ *Bill spent all summer soup-ing up that old car he bought.*

sour as vinegar Go to (as) sour as vinegar.

sow one's wild oats to do wild and foolish things in one's youth. (Often assumed to have some sort of sexual meaning.) □ *Dale was out sowing his wild oats last night, and he's in jail this morning.* □ *Mrs. Smith told Mr. Smith that he was too old to be sowing his wild oats.*

spaced-out *dopey; giddy. (Slang.)* □ *I don't see how Sally can accomplish anything. She's so spaced-out!* □ *She's not really spaced-out. She acts that way on purpose.*

spare someone something to exempt someone from having to listen to or experience something. □ *I'll spare you the details and get to the point.* □ *Please, spare me the story and tell me what you want.*

speak for itself AND **speak for themselves** [for something] not to need explaining; [for things] to have an obvious meaning. □ *The evidence speaks for itself.* □ *The facts speak for themselves. Tom is guilty.* □ *Your results speak for themselves. You need to work harder.*

speak for themselves Go to speak for itself.

speak highly of someone or something to say good things about someone or something. (Note the variation in the examples. See also **think a lot of** someone or something.) □ *Ann speaks quite highly of Jane's work.* □ *Everyone speaks very highly of Jane.*

speak ill of someone to say something bad about someone. □ *I refuse to speak ill of any of my friends.* □ *Max speaks ill of no one and refuses to repeat gossip.*

speak off the cuff to speak in public without preparation. □ *I'm not too good at speaking off the cuff.* □ *I need to prepare a speech for Friday, although I speak off the cuff quite well.*

speak of the devil said when someone whose name has just been mentioned appears or is heard from. □ *Well, speak of the devil! Hello, Tom. We were just talking about you.* □ *I had just mentioned Sally when—speak of the devil—she walked in the door.*

speak one's mind to say frankly what one thinks (about something). (See also **speak out** (on something).) □ *Please let me speak my mind, and then you can do whatever you wish.* □ *You can always depend on John to speak his mind. He'll let you know what he really thinks.*

speak out of turn to say something unwise or imprudent; to say the right thing at the wrong time. □ *Excuse me if I'm speaking out of turn, but what you are proposing is quite wrong.* □ *Bob was quite honest, even if he was speaking out of turn.*

speak out (on something) to say something frankly and directly; to **speak** one's mind. (See also **speak up**.) □ *This law is wrong, and I intend to speak out on it until it is repealed.* □ *You must speak out. People need to know what you think.*

speak the same language [for people] to have similar ideas, tastes, etc. (Also literal.) □ *Jane and Jack get along very well. They really speak the same language about almost everything.* □ *Bob and his father didn't speak the same language when it comes to politics.*

speak up 1. to speak more loudly. □ *They can't hear you in the back of the room. Please speak up.* □ *What? Speak up, please. I'm hard of hearing.* **2.** to **speak out** (on something). □ *If you think that this is wrong, you must speak up and say so.* □ *I'm too shy to speak up.*

speak up for someone or something to speak in favor of someone or something; to speak in someone's defense. □ *If anybody says bad things about me, I hope you speak up for me.* □ *I want to speak up for the rights of students.*

speak with a forked tongue to tell lies; to try to deceive someone. □ *Jean's mother sounds very charming, but she speaks with a forked tongue.* □ *People tend to believe Fred because he seems plausible, but we know he speaks with a forked tongue.*

spell something out 1. to spell something (in letters). (Also without out.) □ *I can't understand your name. Can you spell it out?* □ *Please spell out all the strange words so I can write them down correctly.* **2.** to give all the details of something. □ *I want you to understand this completely, so I'm going to spell it out very carefully.* □ *The instruction book for my computer spells out everything very carefully.*

spell trouble to signify future trouble; to mean trouble. (Informal.) □ *This letter*

that came today spells trouble. □ The sky looks angry and dark. That spells trouble.

spick-and-span very clean. (Informal.) □ *I have to clean up the house and get it spick-and-span for the party Friday night. □ I love to have everything around me spick-and-span.*

spill the beans Go to let the cat out of the bag.

spin a yarn to tell a tale. □ *Grandpa spun an unbelievable yarn for us. □ My uncle is always spinning yarns about his childhood.*

spin one's wheels to be in motion, but get nowhere. (Slang.) □ *This is a terrible job. I'm just spinning my wheels and not getting anywhere. □ Get organized and try to accomplish something. Stop spinning your wheels!*

spin something off to create something as a by-product of something else. □ *When the company reorganized, it spun its banking division off. □ By spinning off part of its assets, a company gets needed capital.*

spit (something) up to throw something up; to vomit something. (A little gentler than **throw (something) up**.) □ *I guess that the food didn't agree with the dog, because he spit it up. □ The baby has been spitting up all morning. □ Bob spit up his whole dinner.*

split hairs to quibble; to try to make petty distinctions. □ *They don't have any serious differences. They are just splitting hairs. □ Don't waste time splitting hairs. Accept it the way it is.*

split one's sides (with laughter) to laugh so hard that one's sides almost split. (Always an exaggeration.) □ *The members of the audience almost split their sides with laughter. □ When I heard what happened to Patricia, I almost split my sides.*

split people up to separate two or more people (from one another). □ *If you two don't stop chattering, I'll have to split you up. □ The group of people grew too large, so we had to split them up. □ I will have to split up that twosome in the corner.*

split something fifty-fifty Go to divide something fifty-fifty.

split the difference to divide the difference evenly (with someone else). □ *You want to sell for \$120, and I want to buy for \$100. Let's split the difference and close the deal at \$110. □ I don't want to split the difference. I want \$120.*

split up [for people] to separate or leave one another; [for a couple] to divorce or separate. □ *I heard that Mr. and Mrs. Brown have split up. □ Our little club had to split up because everyone was too busy.*

spoken for taken; reserved (for someone). □ *I'm sorry, but this one is already spoken for. □ Pardon me. Can I sit here, or is this seat spoken for?*

spook someone or something to startle or disorient someone or something. (Folksy.) □ *A snake spooked my horse, and I nearly fell off. □ Your warning spooked me, and I was upset for the rest of the day.*

spoon-feed someone to treat someone with too much care or help; to teach someone with methods that are too easy and do not stimulate the learner to independent thinking. (Also literal.) □ *The teacher spoon-feeds the students by dictating notes on the novel instead of getting the children to read the books. □ You mustn't spoon-feed the new recruits by telling them what to do all the time. They must use their initiative.*

a sporting chance a reasonably good chance. (See also **fighting chance**.) □ *If you hurry, you have a sporting chance of catching the bus. □ The small company has only a sporting chance of getting the export order.*

spout off (about someone or something) to talk too much about someone or something. (Informal.) □ *Why do you always have to spout off about things that don't concern you? □ Everyone in our office spouts off about the boss. □ There is no need to spout off like that. Calm down and think about what you're saying.*

spread it on thick Go to lay it on thick.

spread like wildfire to spread rapidly and without control. □ *The epidemic is spreading like wildfire. Everyone is getting*

sick. ☐ *John told a joke that was so funny it spread like wildfire.*

spread oneself too thin to do so many things that you can do none of them well. ☐ *It's a good idea to get involved in a lot of activities, but don't spread yourself too thin.* ☐ *I'm too busy these days. I'm afraid I've spread myself too thin.*

spring for something to treat (someone) to something. (Slang.) ☐ *John and I went out last night, and he sprang for dinner.* ☐ *At the park Bill usually springs for ice cream.*

spring something on someone to surprise someone with something. (Informal.) ☐ *I'm glad you told me now, rather than springing it on me at the last minute.* ☐ *I sprang the news on my parents last night. They were not glad to hear it.*

spruce someone or something **up** to make someone or something clean and orderly. ☐ *I'll be ready to go as soon as I spruce myself up a bit.* ☒ *I have to spruce up the house for the party.*

square accounts (with someone) **1.** to settle one's financial accounts with someone. ☐ *I have to square accounts with the bank this week, or it'll take back my car.* ☐ *I called the bank and said I needed to come in and square accounts.* **2.** to get even with someone; to straighten out a misunderstanding with someone. (Informal.) ☐ *I'm going to square accounts with Tom. He insulted me in public, and he owes me an apology.* ☐ *Tom, you and I are going to have to square accounts.*

square deal a fair and honest transaction; fair treatment. (Informal.) ☐ *All the workers want is a square deal, but their boss underpays them.* ☐ *You always get a square deal with that travel company.*

square meal a nourishing, filling meal. ☐ *All you've eaten today is junk food. You should sit down to a square meal.* ☐ *The poor old man hadn't had a square meal in weeks.*

square off (for something) to get ready for an argument or a fight. ☐ *John was angry and appeared to be squaring off for a*

fight. ☐ *When those two square off, everyone gets out of the way.*

a **square peg in a round hole** a misfit. ☐ *John can't seem to get along with the people he works with. He's just a square peg in a round hole.* ☐ *I'm not a square peg in a round hole. It's just that no one understands me.*

square someone or something **away** to get someone or something arranged or properly taken care of. ☐ *See if you can square Bob away in his new office.* ☒ *Please square away the problems we discussed earlier.*

square up to someone or something to face someone or something bravely; to tackle someone or something. ☐ *You'll have to square up to the bully or he'll make your life miserable.* ☐ *It's time to square up to your financial problems. You can't just ignore them.*

square up with someone to pay someone what one owes; to pay one's share of something to someone. (Informal.) ☐ *I'll square up with you later if you pay the whole bill now.* ☐ *Bob said he would square up with Tom for his share of the gas.*

squared away arranged or properly taken care of. ☐ *Is Ann squared away yet?* ☐ *I will talk to you when I am squared away.*

squeak by (someone or something) to just barely get by someone or something. (Informal.) ☐ *The guard was almost asleep, so I squeaked by him.* ☐ *I wasn't very well prepared for the test, and I just squeaked by.*

squirrel something away to hide or store something. (Folksy.) ☐ *Billy has been squirreling candy away in his top drawer.* ☒ *I've been squirreling away a little money each week for years.*

stab someone in the back to betray someone. (Also literal. Informal.) ☐ *I thought we were friends! Why did you stab me in the back?* ☐ *You don't expect a person whom you trust to stab you in the back.*

stack something up to make a stack of things. (Also without the up.) ☐ *Where should I*

stack them up? ☐ *Please stack up these boxes.*

stack the cards (against someone or something) Go to **stack the deck (against someone or something)**.

stack the deck (against someone or something) AND **stack the cards (against someone or something)** to arrange things against someone or something. (Slang. Originally from card playing.) ☐ *I can't get ahead at my office. Someone has stacked the cards against me.* ☐ *Do you really think that someone has stacked the deck? Isn't it just fate?*

stake a claim (to something) to lay or make a claim for something. (Informal.) ☐ *I want to stake a claim to that last piece of pie.* ☐ *You don't need to stake a claim. Just ask politely.*

stall someone or something off to put off or delay someone or something. ☐ *The sheriff is at the door. I'll stall him off while you get out the back door.* ☐ *You can stall off the sheriff, but you can't stall off justice.*

stamp someone or something out **1.** [with someone] to get rid of or kill someone. (Slang.) ☐ *You just can't stamp somebody out on your own!* ☐ *The victim wanted to stamp out the robbers without a trial.* **2.** [with something] to extinguish something. ☐ *Quick, stamp that fire out before it spreads.* ☐ *Tom stamped out the sparks before they started a fire.* **3.** [with something] to eliminate something. ☐ *The doctors hope they can stamp cancer out.* ☐ *Many people think that they can stamp out evil.*

stand a chance to have a chance. ☐ *Do you think I stand a chance of winning first place?* ☐ *Everyone stands a chance of catching the disease.*

stand and deliver to give up something to someone who demands it. (Originally used by highway robbers asking for passengers' valuables. Now used figuratively.) ☐ *And when the tax agent says "Stand and deliver" you have to be prepared to pay what is demanded.* ☐ *The robber stopped the coach and demanded of Lady Ellen, "Stand and deliver!"*

stand behind someone or something AND **stand (in) back of someone or something** to endorse or guarantee something or the actions of a person. (Also literal.) ☐ *Our company stands behind this product 100 percent.* ☐ *I stand behind Bill and everything he does.*

stand by to wait and remain ready. (Generally heard in communication, such as broadcasting, telephones, etc.) ☐ *Your transatlantic telephone call is almost ready. Please stand by.* ☐ *Is everyone ready for the telecast? Only ten seconds—stand by.*

stand by someone to support someone; to continue supporting someone even when things are bad. (Also literal. Compare this with **stick by** someone or something.) ☐ *Don't worry. I'll stand by you no matter what.* ☐ *I feel as though I have to stand by my brother even if he goes to jail.*

stand corrected to admit that one has been wrong. ☐ *I realize that I accused him wrongly. I stand corrected.* ☐ *We appreciate now that our conclusions were wrong. We stand corrected.*

stand for something **1.** to endure something. ☐ *The teacher won't stand for any whispering in class.* ☐ *We just can't stand for that kind of behavior.* **2.** to signify something. ☐ *In a traffic signal, the red light stands for "stop."* ☐ *The abbreviation Dr. stands for "doctor."* **3.** to endorse or support an ideal. ☐ *The mayor claims to stand for honesty in government and jobs for everyone.* ☐ *Every candidate for public office stands for all the good things in life.*

stand in awe (of someone or something) to be overwhelmed with respect for someone or something. ☐ *Many people stand in awe of the president.* ☐ *Bob says he stands in awe of a big juicy steak. I think he's exaggerating.* ☐ *When it comes to food, you can say that it's delicious, but one hardly stands in awe.*

stand (in) back of someone or something Go to **stand behind someone or something**.

stand in (for someone) to substitute for someone; to serve in someone's place. ☐ *The famous opera singer was ill, and an in-*

experienced singer had to stand in for her. □ *The new singer was grateful for the opportunity to stand in.*

stand in someone's **way** to be a barrier to someone's desires or intentions. (Also literal.) □ *I know you want a divorce so you can marry Ann. Well, I won't stand in your way. You can have the divorce.* □ *I know you want to leave home, and I don't want to stand in your way. You're free to go.*

stand on ceremony to hold rigidly to protocol or formal manners. (Often in the negative.) □ *Please help yourself to more. Don't stand on ceremony.* □ *We are very informal around here. Hardly anyone stands on ceremony.*

stand one's ground AND **hold one's ground** to stand up for one's rights; to resist an attack. □ *The lawyer tried to confuse me when I was giving testimony, but I managed to stand my ground.* □ *Some people were trying to crowd us off the beach, but we held our ground.*

stand on one's own two feet to be independent and self-sufficient. (Informal. Compare this with **get back on one's feet**.) □ *I'll be glad when I have a good job and can stand on my own two feet.* □ *When Jane gets out of debt, she'll be able to stand on her own two feet again.*

stand out to be uniquely visible or conspicuous. □ *This computer stands out as one of the best available.* □ *Because John is so tall, he really stands out in a crowd.*

stand over someone to monitor or watch over someone, possibly while actually standing near the person. □ *You don't have to stand over me. I can do it by myself.* □ *I know from previous experience that if I don't stand over you, you'll never finish.*

stand pat to remain as is; to preserve the status quo. (Informal.) □ *We can't just stand pat! We have to keep making progress!* □ *This company isn't increasing sales. It's just standing pat.*

stand someone in good stead to be useful or beneficial to someone. □ *This is a fine overcoat. I'm sure it'll stand you in good stead for many years.* □ *I did the mayor a*

favor that I'm sure will stand me in good stead.

stand someone to a treat to pay for food or drink for someone as a special favor. □ *We went to the zoo, and my father stood us all to a treat. We had ice cream and soft drinks.* □ *We went to a nice restaurant and had a fine meal. It was even better when Mr. Williams told us he'd stand us to a treat, and he picked up the bill.*

stand someone up to fail to meet someone for a date or an appointment. □ *John and Jane were supposed to go out last night, but she stood him up.* □ *If you stand up people very often, you'll find that you have no friends at all.*

stand still for something AND **hold still** for something to tolerate or endure something. (Often in the negative.) □ *I won't stand still for that kind of behavior!* □ *She won't hold still for that kind of talk.*

stand to reason to seem reasonable. □ *It stands to reason that it'll be colder in January than it is in November.* □ *It stands to reason that Bill left in a hurry, although no one saw him go.*

stand up and be counted to state one's support (for someone or something); to come out for someone or something. □ *If you believe in more government help for farmers, write your representative—stand up and be counted.* □ *I'm generally in favor of what you propose, but not enough to stand up and be counted.*

a **standing joke** a subject that regularly and over a period of time causes amusement whenever it is mentioned. □ *Uncle Jim's driving was a standing joke. He used to drive incredibly slowly.* □ *Their mother's inability to make a decision was a standing joke in the Smith family all their lives.*

stare someone in the face Go to look someone in the face.

stark raving mad totally insane; completely crazy; out of control. (Often an exaggeration.) □ *When she heard about what happened at the office, she went stark raving mad.* □ *You must be stark raving*

mad if you think I would trust you with my car!

start from scratch to start from the beginning; to start from nothing. (Informal. Compare this with **make something from scratch**.) □ *Whenever I bake a cake, I start from scratch. I never use a cake mix in a box.* □ *I built every bit of my own house. I started from scratch and did everything with my own hands.*

start off on the wrong foot to begin [something] by doing something wrong. (Also literal. See also **be off on the wrong foot**; **get off on the wrong foot**.) □ *I don't want to start off on the wrong foot by saying something stupid. What should I say?* □ *Poor Donna started off on the wrong foot when she arrived forty minutes late.*

start (off) with a clean slate AND **start (over) with a clean slate** to start out again afresh; to ignore the past and start over again. (Refers to making marks on a [clean] slate with chalk.) □ *I plowed under all last year's flowers so I could start with a clean slate next spring.* □ *If I start off with a clean slate, then I'll know exactly what each plant is.* □ *When Bob got out of jail, he started over with a clean slate.*

start (over) with a clean slate Go to start (off) with a clean slate.

start someone in (as something) AND **start someone out (as something)** to start someone on a job as a certain kind of worker. □ *I got a job in a restaurant today. They started me in as a dishwasher.* □ *I now work for the telephone company. They started me out as a local operator.*

start someone out (as something) Go to start someone in (as something).

start something to start a fight or an argument. (Also literal. *Something is anything or nothing in the negative.*) □ *Hey, you! Better be careful unless you want to start something.* □ *I don't want to start anything. I'm just leaving.*

start something up to start something, such as a car or some procedure. (Also without up.) □ *It was cold, but I managed to start up the car without any difficulty.* □

We can't start the project up until we have more money.

start the ball rolling Go to get the ball rolling.

stay after someone Go to keep after someone.

stay in touch (with someone) Go to keep in touch (with someone).

stay put not to move; to stay where one is. (Informal.) □ *We've decided to stay put and not to move to Florida.* □ *If the children just stay put, their parents will come for them soon.*

steady as a rock Go to (as) steady as a rock.

steal a base to sneak from one base to another in baseball. □ *The runner stole second base, but he nearly got put out on the way.* □ *Tom runs so slowly that he never tries to steal a base.*

steal a march (on someone) to get some sort of an advantage over someone without being noticed. □ *I got the contract because I was able to steal a march on my competitor.* □ *You have to be clever and fast—not dishonest—to steal a march.*

steal someone's thunder to lessen someone's force or authority. □ *What do you mean by coming in here and stealing my thunder? I'm in charge here!* □ *Someone stole my thunder by leaking my announcement to the press.*

steal the show Go to steal the spotlight.

steal the spotlight AND **steal the show** to give the best performance in a show, play, or some other event; to get attention for oneself. □ *The lead in the play was very good, but the butler stole the show.* □ *Ann always tries to steal the spotlight when she and I make a presentation.*

steamed up angry. (Informal.) □ *What Bob said really got me steamed up.* □ *Why do you get so steamed up about nothing?*

steaming (mad) very angry; very mad; very upset. □ *The steaming coach yelled at the clumsy players.* □ *The principal was steaming mad when he found that his office had been vandalized.*

steer clear (of someone or something) to avoid someone or something. □ *John is mad at me, so I've been steering clear of him.* □ *Steer clear of that book. It has many errors in it.* □ *Good advice. I'll steer clear.*

step-by-step little by little, one step at a time. (Refers both to walking and following instructions.) □ *Just follow the instructions step-by-step, and everything will be fine.* □ *The old man slowly moved across the lawn step-by-step.*

step down (from something) to resign a job or a responsibility. (Also literal.) □ *The mayor stepped down from office last week.* □ *It's unusual for a mayor to step down.*

step into someone's shoes to take over a job or some role from someone. □ *I was prepared to step into the boss's shoes, so there was no disruption when he left for another job.* □ *There was no one who could step into Alice's shoes when she left, so everything came to a stop.*

step in(to the breach) to move into a space or vacancy; to assume the job of someone who has left it. □ *When Ann resigned as president, I stepped into the breach.* □ *A number of people asked me to step in and take her place.*

step on it Go to step on the gas.

step on someone's toes to interfere with or offend someone. (Also literal.) □ *When you're in public office, you have to avoid stepping on anyone's toes.* □ *Ann stepped on someone's toes during the last campaign and lost the election.*

step on the gas AND **step on it** hurry up. (Informal.) □ *I'm in a hurry, driver. Step on it!* □ *I can't step on the gas, mister. There's too much traffic.*

step out of line to misbehave; to do something offensive. (Also literal.) □ *I'm terribly sorry. I hope I didn't step out of line.* □ *John is a lot of fun to go out with, but he has a tendency to step out of line.*

step (right) up to move forward, toward someone. □ *Step up and get your mail when I call your name.* □ *Come on, everybody. Step right up and help yourself to supper.*

step something up to cause something to go faster. □ *The factory was not making enough cars, so they stepped up production.* □ *The music was not fast enough, so the conductor told everyone to step it up.*

stew in one's own juice to be left alone to suffer one's anger or disappointment. (Informal.) □ *John has such a terrible temper. When he got mad at us, we just let him go away and stew in his own juice.* □ *After John stewed in his own juice for a while, he decided to come back and apologize to us.*

stick around [for a person] to remain in a place. (Informal.) □ *The kids stuck around for a time after the party was over.* □ *Oh, Ann. Please stick around for a while. I want to talk to you later.*

stick by someone or something AND **stick with** someone or something to support someone or something; to continue supporting someone or something when things are bad. (Informal. Compare this with **stand by** someone.) □ *Don't worry. I'll stick by you no matter what.* □ *I feel as if I have to stick by my brother even if he goes to jail.* □ *I'll stick by my ideas whether you like them or not.*

Stick 'em up! Go to Hands up!

stick-in-the-mud someone who is stubbornly old-fashioned. □ *Come on to the party with us and have some fun. Don't be an old stick-in-the-mud!* □ *Tom is no stick-in-the-mud. He's really up-to-date.*

stick one's foot in one's mouth Go to put one's foot in one's mouth.

stick one's neck out (for someone or something) to take a risk. (Informal.) □ *Why should I stick my neck out to do something for her? What's she ever done for me?* □ *He made a risky investment. He stuck his neck out for the deal because he thought he could make some money.*

stick one's nose in(to something) Go to poke one's nose in(to something).

stick out like a sore thumb to be very prominent or unsightly; to be obvious and visible. (Informal.) □ *Bob is so tall that he sticks out like a sore thumb in a*

crowd. □ *The house next door needs painting. It sticks out like a sore thumb.*

stick someone or something up 1. [with something] to affix or attach something onto a wall, post, etc. □ *This notice ought to be on the bulletin board. Please stick it up.* □ *I'm going to stick up this poster near the entrance.* 2. to rob someone or something. □ *One robber stuck the cashier up first, but someone sounded the alarm before any money was taken.* □ *The robbers came in and tried to stick up the bank, but they got caught first.*

stick someone with someone or something to burden someone with someone or something. (Informal.) □ *The dishonest merchant stuck me with a faulty television set.* □ *John stuck me with his talkative uncle and went off with his friends.*

stick something out to endure something. (Also literal.) □ *The play was terribly boring, but I managed to stick it out.* □ *College was very difficult for Bill, but he decided to stick it out.*

stick together to remain together as a group. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *Come on, you guys. Let's stick together. Otherwise somebody will get lost.* □ *Our group of friends has managed to stick together for almost twenty years.*

stick to one's guns to remain firm in one's convictions; to stand up for one's rights. (Informal. Compare this with **stand one's ground**.) □ *I'll stick to my guns on this matter. I'm sure I'm right.* □ *Bob can be persuaded to do it our way. He probably won't stick to his guns on this point.*

stick to one's ribs [for food] to last long and fortify one well; [for food] to sustain one even in the coldest weather. (Refers to the inside of one's ribs.) □ *This oatmeal ought to stick to your ribs. You need something hearty on a cold day like this.* □ *I don't want soup! I want something that will stick to my ribs.*

stick up for someone or something to support someone or something; to speak in favor of someone or something. □ *Everyone was making unpleasant remarks about*

John, but I stuck up for him. □ *Our team was losing, but I stuck up for it anyway.*

stick with someone or something Go to **stick by** someone or something.

sticks and stones elements of harm [directed at someone]. (Part of a rhyme, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.") □ *I have had enough of your sticks and stones. I have enough trouble without your adding to it.* □ *After the opposing candidate had used sticks and stones for a month, suddenly there were kind words heard.*

stiff as a poker Go to (as) **stiff as a poker**.

still as death Go to (as) **still as death**.

stink to high heaven AND **smell to high heaven** to smell very bad. □ *What happened? This place stinks to high heaven.* □ *This meat smells to high heaven. Throw it away!*

stir someone or something up 1. [with someone] to make someone angry or excited; to make someone get active. (Also literal.) □ *I need a cup of hot coffee to stir me up in the morning.* □ *Reading the newspaper always stirs up my father.* 2. [with something] to cause trouble; to foment disagreement and difficulty. □ *They stirred up quite a commotion.* □ *Who stirred up this matter?*

stir up a hornet's nest to create trouble or difficulties. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *What a mess you have made of things. You've really stirred up a hornet's nest.* □ *Bill stirred up a hornet's nest when he discovered the theft.*

stock up (on something) to build up a supply of something. □ *Before the first snow, we always stock up on firewood.* □ *John drinks a lot of milk, so we stock up when we know he's coming.*

a **stone's throw (away) (from something)** Go to **within a stone's throw (of something)**.

stoop to doing something to degrade oneself or condescend to doing something; to do something that is beneath one. □ *Whoever thought that the manager of the de-*

partment would stoop to typing? ☐ I never dreamed that Bill would stoop to stealing.

stop-and-go halting repeatedly; stopping and continuing repeatedly. ☐ This project has been stop-and-go since we began. Problems keep appearing. ☐ The traffic was stop-and-go for miles. I thought I would never get here!

stop at nothing to do everything possible (to accomplish something); to be unscrupulous. ☐ Bill would stop at nothing to get his way. ☐ Bob is completely determined to get promoted. He'll stop at nothing.

stop by (somewhere) **AND stop in** (somewhere) to visit a place, usually briefly. ☐ I was coming home, but I decided to stop by my aunt's on the way. ☐ She was very glad that I stopped in.

stop in (somewhere) Go to **stop by** (somewhere).

stop, look, and listen to exercise caution at street corners and railroad crossings, by stopping, looking to the left and to the right, and listening for approaching vehicles or a train. ☐ Sally's mother trained her to stop, look, and listen at every street corner. ☐ It is a good practice to stop, look, and listen at a railroad crossing.

stop off (somewhere) to stop somewhere on the way to some other place. ☐ I stopped off at the store to buy milk on the way home. ☐ We stopped off for a few minutes and chatted with my uncle.

stop over (somewhere) to break one's journey somewhere, usually overnight or even longer. (Compare this with **lay over** (somewhere).) ☐ On our way to New York, we stopped over in Philadelphia for the night. ☐ That's a good place to stop over. There are some nice hotels in Philadelphia.

stop short of doing something not to go as far as doing something; not to go as far as something. ☐ Fortunately Bob stopped short of hitting Tom. ☐ The boss criticized Jane's work, but stopped short of reprimanding her. ☐ Jack was furious but stopped short of hitting Tom. ☐ Jane wouldn't stop short of telling lies in order to get a job.

A **storm is brewing**. **1.** There is going to be a storm. ☐ Look at the clouds. A storm is brewing. ☐ A storm is brewing in the west. **2.** There is going to be trouble or emotional upset. ☐ He looks angry. A storm is brewing.

the **straight and narrow** a straight and law-abiding route through life. (Informal. From *straight and narrow pathway*.) ☐ You should have no trouble with the police if you stick to the straight and narrow. ☐ Roger was the kind who followed the straight and narrow every day of his life.

straight as an arrow Go to (as) straight as an arrow.

(**straight**) **from the horse's mouth** from an authoritative or dependable source. ☐ I know it's true! I heard it straight from the horse's mouth! ☐ This comes from the horse's mouth, so it has to be believed.

straight from the shoulder sincerely; frankly; holding nothing back. ☐ Sally always speaks straight from the shoulder. You never have to guess what she really means. ☐ Bill gave a good presentation—straight from the shoulder and brief.

straighten someone or something out **1.** [with someone] to make someone understand something. (Also literal.) ☐ Jane was confused about the date, so I straightened her out. ☐ I took a few minutes and straightened out everyone. **2.** [with someone] to reform someone. ☐ Most people think that jail never straightens anybody out. ☐ The judge felt that a few years at hard labor would straighten out the thief. **3.** [with something] to make a situation less confused. ☐ John made a mess of the contract, so I helped him straighten it out. ☐ Please straighten out your checking account. It's all messed up.

straighten someone or something up **1.** to put someone or something into an upright position. ☐ The fence is tilted. Please straighten up that post when you get a chance. ☐ Bill, you're slouching again. Straighten yourself up. **2.** to tidy up someone or something. ☐ John straightened himself up a little before going on stage.

☐ *This room is a mess. Let's straighten up this place, right now!*

straighten up 1. to sit or stand more straight. ☐ *Billy's mother told him to straighten up or he'd fall out of his chair.*

☐ *John straightened up so he'd look taller.*

2. to behave better. ☐ *Bill was acting badly for a while; then he straightened up.*

☐ *Sally, straighten up, or I will punish you!*

stranger to something or somewhere someone who is new to an area or place. ☐ *Although John was no stranger to big cities, he did not enjoy visiting New York.* ☐ *You are a stranger to our town, and I hope you feel welcome.*

strapped (for something) very much in need of money. (Informal.) ☐ *I'm strapped for a few bucks. Can you loan me five dollars?*

☐ *Sorry, I'm strapped, too.*

stretch a point AND **stretch the point** to interpret a point flexibly and with great latitude. ☐ *Would it be stretching a point to suggest that everyone is invited to your picnic?* ☐ *To say that everyone is invited is stretching the point.*

stretch one's legs to walk around after sitting down or lying down for a time. ☐ *We wanted to stretch our legs during the theater intermission.* ☐ *After sitting in the car all day, the travelers decided to stretch their legs.*

stretch the point Go to stretch a point.

stretch the truth to exaggerate; to misrepresent the truth just a little bit. ☐ *She was stretching the truth when she said everything was ready for the party.* ☐ *I don't want to stretch the truth. Our town is probably the wealthiest around here.*

(strictly) on the level honest; dependably open and fair. ☐ *How can I be sure you're on the level?* ☐ *You can trust Sally. She's strictly on the level.*

(strictly) on the up-and-up honest; fair and straight. (Slang. Compare this with **on the level**.) ☐ *Do you think that the mayor is on the up-and-up?* ☐ *Yes, the mayor is strictly on the up-and-up.*

strike a balance (between two or more things) to find a satisfactory compromise

between two extremes. ☐ *The political party must strike a balance between the right wing and the left wing.* ☐ *Jane is overdressed for the party and Sally is underdressed. What a pity they didn't strike a balance.*

strike a bargain to reach an agreement on a price (for something). ☐ *They argued for a while and finally struck a bargain.*

☐ *They were unable to strike a bargain, so they left.*

strike a chord (with someone) to cause someone to remember something; to remind someone or something; to be familiar. ☐ *The woman in the portrait struck a chord and I realized that it was my grandmother.* ☐ *His name strikes a chord with me, but I don't know why.*

strike a happy medium AND **hit a happy medium; find a happy medium.** to find a compromise position; to arrive at a position halfway between two unacceptable extremes. ☐ *Ann likes very spicy food, but Bob doesn't care for spicy food at all. We are trying to find a restaurant that strikes a happy medium.* ☐ *Tom is either very happy or very sad. He can't seem to hit a happy medium.*

strike a match to light a match. ☐ *Mary struck a match and lit a candle.* ☐ *When Sally struck a match to light a cigarette, Jane said quickly, "No smoking, please."*

strike a pose to position oneself in a certain posture. ☐ *Bob struck a pose in front of the mirror to see how much he had grown.* ☐ *Lisa walked into the room and struck a pose, hoping she would be noticed.*

strike a sour note AND **hit a sour note** to signify something unpleasant. (Informal.) ☐ *Jane's sad announcement struck a sour note at the annual banquet.* ☐ *News of the crime hit a sour note in our holiday celebration.*

strike home Go to hit home.

strike it rich to acquire wealth suddenly. (Informal.) ☐ *If I could strike it rich, I wouldn't have to work anymore.* ☐ *Sally ordered a dozen oysters and found a huge pearl in one of them. She struck it rich!*

strike out 1. [for a baseball batter] to be declared “out” after three strikes. (See also **strike someone out**.) □ *Bill almost never strikes out.* □ *John struck out at least once in every game this season.* **2.** to fail. (Slang.) □ *Ann did her best, but she struck out anyway.* □ *Give it another try. Just because you struck out once doesn’t mean you can’t do better now.*

strike out at someone or something to (figuratively or literally) hit at or attack someone or something. □ *She was so angry she struck out at the person she was arguing with.* □ *I was frantic. I wanted to strike out at everything and everybody.*

strike someone as something [for a thought or behavior] to affect someone a certain way. □ *John’s rude behavior struck me as odd.* □ *Mary’s attitude struck me as childish.*

strike someone funny to seem funny to someone. □ *Sally has a great sense of humor. Everything she says strikes me funny.* □ *Why are you laughing? Did something I said strike you funny?*

strike someone out [for a baseball pitcher] to get a batter declared “out” after three strikes. □ *I never thought he’d strike Tom out.* □ *Bill struck out all our best players.*

strike someone’s fancy to appeal to someone. (See also **tickle someone’s fancy**.) □ *I’ll have some ice cream, please. Chocolate strikes my fancy right now.* □ *Why don’t you go to the store and buy a record album that strikes your fancy?*

strike the right note to achieve the desired effect; to do something suitable or pleasing. (A musical reference.) □ *Meg struck the right note when she wore a dark suit to the interview.* □ *The politician’s speech failed to strike the right note with the crowd.*

strike up a conversation to start a conversation (with someone). □ *I struck up an interesting conversation with someone on the bus yesterday.* □ *It’s easy to strike up a conversation with someone when you’re traveling.*

strike up a friendship to become friends (with someone). □ *I struck up a friend-*

ship with John while we were on a business trip together. □ *If you’re lonely, you should go out and try to strike up a friendship with someone you like.*

strike while the iron is hot to do something at the best possible time; to do something when the time is ripe. □ *He was in a good mood, so I asked for a loan of \$200. I thought I’d better strike while the iron was hot.* □ *Please go to the bank and settle this matter now! They are willing to be reasonable. You’ve got to strike while the iron is hot.*

string along (with someone) to accompany someone; to run around with someone. □ *Sally seemed to know where she was going, so I decided to string along with her.* □ *She said it was okay if I strung along.*

string something out to draw something out (in time); to make something last a long time. (Also literal.) □ *The meeting was long enough. There was no need to string it out further with all those speeches.* □ *They tried to string out the meeting to make things seem more important.*

a stroke of luck a bit of luck; a lucky happening. □ *I had a stroke of luck and found Tom at home when I called. He’s not usually there.* □ *Unless I have a stroke of luck, I’m not going to finish this report by tomorrow.*

strong as a horse Go to (as) strong as a horse.

strong as a lion Go to (as) strong as a lion.

strong as an ox Go to (as) strong as an ox.

a struggle to the death a bitter struggle either to success or failure. (Also literal.) □ *It was a struggle to the death, but I finally finished my report on time.* □ *I had a terrible time getting my car started. It was a struggle to the death, but it finally started.*

strung out 1. extended in time; overly long. □ *Why was that lecture so strung out? She talked and talked.* □ *It was strung out because there was very little to be said.*

2. doped or drugged. (Slang.) □ *Bob acted very strangely—as if he were strung*

out or something. □ *I've never seen Bob or any of his friends strung out.*

stubborn as a mule Go to (as) stubborn as a mule.

(stuck) in a rut kept in an established way of living that never changes. □ *David felt like he was stuck in a rut, so he went back to school.* □ *Anne was tired of being in a rut, so she moved to Los Angeles.*

stuck in traffic to be caught in a traffic jam. □ *I am sorry I am late. I was stuck in traffic.* □ *Our taxi was stuck in traffic, and I thought I would never get to the airport on time.*

stuck on someone or something **1.** [with someone] to be fond of or in love with someone. □ *John was stuck on Sally, but she didn't know it.* □ *He always is stuck on the wrong person.* **2.** [with something] to be locked into an idea, cause, or purpose. □ *Mary is really stuck on the idea of going to France this spring.* □ *You've proposed a good plan, Jane, but you're stuck on it. We may have to make some changes.*

stuck with someone or something burdened with someone or something; left having to care for someone or something. (Informal.) □ *Please don't leave me stuck with your aunt. She talks too much.* □ *My roommate quit school and left me stuck with the telephone bill.*

stuff and nonsense nonsense. (Informal.) □ *Come on! Don't give me all that stuff and nonsense!* □ *I don't understand this book. It's all stuff and nonsense as far as I am concerned.*

stuff the ballot box to put fraudulent ballots into a ballot box; to cheat in counting the votes in an election. □ *The election judge was caught stuffing the ballot box in the election yesterday.* □ *Election officials are supposed to guard against stuffing the ballot box.*

stumble across someone or something **AND stumble into** someone or something; **stumble (up)on** someone or something to find someone or something, usually by accident. □ *I stumbled across an interesting book yesterday when I was shopping.* □ *Guess who I stumbled into at the library*

yesterday? I stumbled on a real bargain at the bookstore last week.

stumble into someone or something **1.** to bump into someone or something accidentally. □ *I stumbled into John, and I apologized. It was my fault.* □ *I stumbled into a post and hurt my arm.* **2.** Go to **stumble across** someone or something. **3.** [with something] to enter something or a place by stumbling. □ *I tripped on the curb and stumbled into the car.* □ *I stumbled into the house, exhausted and in need of a cool drink.*

stumble (up)on someone or something **1.** Go to **stumble across** someone or something. **2.** to trip over someone or something. □ *There were three of us sleeping in the small tent. Each of us would stumble on the others whenever we went out or came in.* □ *I stumbled on the curb and twisted my ankle.*

stumbling block something that prevents or obstructs progress. □ *We'd like to buy that house, but the high price is the stumbling block.* □ *Jim's age is a stumbling block to getting another job. He's over 60.*

subject to something **1.** likely to have something, such as a physical disorder. □ *The sick man was subject to dizzy spells.* □ *I am subject to frequent headaches.* **2.** tentative, depending on something; vulnerable to something. □ *I have made all the necessary plans, subject to your approval, of course.* □ *My remarks are, of course, subject to your criticisms.*

subscribe to something to have a standing order for a magazine or something similar. □ *I usually buy my monthly magazines at the newsstand. I don't subscribe to them.* □ *I subscribe to all the magazines I read because it's nice to have them delivered by mail.*

such and such someone or something whose name has been forgotten or should not be said. (Informal.) □ *Mary said that such and such was coming to her party, but I forgot their names.* □ *If you walk into a store and ask for such and such and they don't have it, you go to a different store.*

such as 1. of a particular kind; of the sort that is; like. ☐ *Where can I get a haircut such as yours?* ☐ *I'd like to buy a vase such as the one in your display case.* **2.** for example. ☐ *Bill enjoys many kinds of fruit, such as apples, pears, and plums.* ☐ *Mary has many hobbies, such as swimming, bowling, and running.*

such as it is in the imperfect state that one sees it; in the less-than-perfect condition in which one finds it. ☐ *This is where I live. This is my glorious home—such as it is.* ☐ *I've worked for days on this report, and I've done the best that I can do. It's my supreme effort—such as it is.*

Such is life! That is the way things happen, even it isn't the way I want it to be! ☐ *Oh, well. Everything can't be perfect. Such is life!* ☐ *So I failed my test. Such is life! I can take it again some time.*

suck someone in AND **take someone in** to deceive someone. (The expression with *suck* is slang.) ☐ *I try to shop carefully so that no one can take me in.* ☐ *I think that someone sucked in both of them. I don't know why they bought this car.*

suggestive of something reminiscent of something; seeming to suggest something. ☐ *Bill's homemade soup is suggestive of his mother's.* ☐ *The new movie was suggestive of an old one I had seen on TV.*

suit oneself to do something one's own way; to do something to please oneself. ☐ *If he doesn't want to do it my way, he can suit himself.* ☐ *Take either of the books that you like. Suit yourself. I'll read the other one.*

suit someone to a T AND **fit someone to a T** to be very appropriate for someone. ☐ *This kind of job suits me to a T.* ☐ *This is Sally's kind of house. It fits her to a T.*

sum and substance a summary; the gist. (See also *form and substance*.) ☐ *Can you quickly tell me the sum and substance of your proposal?* ☐ *In trying to explain the sum and substance of the essay, Thomas failed to mention the middle name of the hero.*

sum something up to summarize something. (Literally, to figure out the total.) ☐ *At*

the end of the lecture, Dr. Williams summed up the important points. ☐ *He said when he finished, "Well, that about sums it up."*

Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes one's best clothes. (Folksy. See also in one's **Sunday best**.) ☐ *John was all dressed up in his Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes.* ☐ *I hate to be wearing my Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes when everyone else is casually dressed.*

supply and demand the availability of things or people as compared to the need to utilize the things or people; the availability of goods compared to the number of willing customers for the goods. ☐ *Sometimes you can find what you want by shopping around and other times almost no store carries the items you are looking for. It depends entirely on supply and demand.* ☐ *Sometimes customers ask for things we do not carry in stock and other times we have things in abundance that no one wants to buy. Whether or not we can make money off of a product depends entirely on supply and demand.*

supposed to do something expected or intended to do something; obliged or allowed to do something. ☐ *You're supposed to say "excuse me" when you burp.* ☐ *Mom says you're supposed to come inside for dinner now.*

sure as death Go to (as) sure as death.

surf and turf fish and beef; lobster and beef. (A type of meal incorporating both expensive seafood and an expensive cut of beef. Refers to the sea and to the pasture.) ☐ *Walter ordered the surf and turf, but Alice ordered only a tiny salad.* ☐ *No surf and turf for me. I want fish and fish alone.*

the **survival of the fittest** the idea that the most able or fit will survive (while the less able and less fit will perish). (This is used literally as a part of the theory of evolution.) ☐ *In college, it's the survival of the fittest. You have to keep working in order to survive and graduate.* ☐ *I don't give my houseplants very good care, but the*

ones I have are really flourishing. It's the survival of the fittest, I guess.

susceptible to something **1.** easily persuaded; easily influenced. □ *The students were susceptible to the allure of drugs.* □ *The young revolutionaries were susceptible to propaganda.* **2.** likely to contract a sickness; likely to become sick. □ *People with AIDS are susceptible to pneumonia.* □ *Infants and the elderly are more susceptible to illness than other people.*

swallow one's pride to forget one's pride and accept something humiliating. □ *I had to swallow my pride and admit that I was wrong.* □ *When you're a student, you find yourself swallowing your pride quite often.*

swallow something, hook, line, and sinker to believe something completely. (Slang. These terms refer to fishing and fooling a fish into being caught.) □ *I made up a story about why I was so late. The boss swallowed it, hook, line, and sinker.* □ *I feel like a fool. I swallowed it, hook, line, and sinker.*

[swan song] Go to someone's swan song.

swear by someone or something **1.** to take an oath on someone or something. □ *My uncle is sort of old-fashioned. He makes promises by swearing by his "sainted mother."* □ *He sometimes swears by his foot!* **2.** to have complete faith and confidence in someone or something. □ *I'm willing to swear by John. He's completely dependable.* □ *This is an excellent brand of detergent. My sister swears by it.*

swear on a stack of Bibles AND **swear on one's mother's grave** to state something very earnestly, pledging to tell the truth. (*Stack of Bibles* refers to swearing to tell the truth in court by placing one's hand on a Bible.) □ *I swear on a stack of Bibles that I am telling the truth.* □ *Of course, I'm telling the truth. I swear on my mother's grave!*

swear on one's mother's grave Go to swear on a stack of Bibles.

sweat blood to be very anxious and tense. (Slang.) □ *What a terrible test! I was really sweating blood at the last.* □ *Bob is*

such a bad driver. I sweat blood every time I ride with him.

sweat something out to endure or wait for something that causes tension or boredom. (Informal.) □ *I had to wait for her in the reception area. It was a long wait, but I managed to sweat it out.* □ *I took the test and then spent a week sweating out the results.*

sweep one off one's feet AND **knock one off one's feet** **1.** to knock someone down. □ *The wind swept me off my feet.* □ *Bill punched Bob playfully, and knocked him off his feet.* **2.** to overwhelm someone (figuratively). (Informal.) □ *Mary is madly in love with Bill. He swept her off her feet.* □ *The news was so exciting that it knocked me off my feet.*

sweep out of somewhere to move or leave in a flamboyant or theatrical way. □ *The insulted customer swept out of the store.* □ *The celebrity rose from his table and swept out of the restaurant.*

sweep something under the carpet AND **sweep something under the rug** to try to hide something unpleasant, shameful, etc., from the attention of others. □ *The boss said he couldn't sweep the theft under the carpet, that he'd have to call in the police.* □ *Roger had a tendency to sweep all the problems under the rug.*

sweep something under the rug Go to sweep something under the carpet.

sweet and low [of music] pleasing and quiet. □ *Play me something that is sweet and low.* □ *I like dance music that is sweet and low—not any of this rowdy, violent stuff.*

sweet and sour a combination of fruity sweet and sour, but not necessarily salty, flavors. (Often refers to certain Chinese-American foods.) □ *I prefer sweet and sour pork to anything else on the menu.* □ *Alice does not care for sweet and sour dishes, but she will usually eat whatever we serve her.*

sweet as honey Go to (as) sweet as honey.

sweet as sugar Go to (as) sweet as honey.

sweet nothings affectionate but unimportant or meaningless words spoken to a loved one. □ *Jack was whispering sweet nothings in Joan's ear when they were dancing.* □ *The two lovers sat in the cinema exchanging sweet nothings.*

sweet on someone fond of someone. (Folksy.) □ *Tom is sweet on Mary. He may ask her to marry him.* □ *Mary's sweet on him, too.*

sweet-talk someone to talk convincingly to someone with much flattery. (Folksy.) □ *I didn't want to help her, but she sweet-talked me into it.* □ *He sweet-talked her for a while, and she finally agreed to go to the dance with him.*

swift and sure fast and certain. (As with the flight of a well-aimed arrow.) □ *The response of the governor to the criticism by the opposing party was swift and sure.* □ *The boxer's punch was swift and sure and resulted in a quick knockout and a very short match.*

swift as an arrow Go to (as) swift as an arrow.

swift as the wind Go to (as) swift as the wind.

swift as thought Go to (as) swift as thought.

swim against the current Go to swim against the tide.

swim against the tide AND **swim against the current** to do the opposite of everyone else; to go against the trend. □ *Bob tends to do what everybody else does. He isn't likely to swim against the tide.* □ *Mary always swims against the current. She's a very contrary person.*

swing into action Go to go into action.

swing something to make something happen. (Slang.) □ *I hope I can swing a deal that will make us all a lot of money.* □ *We all hope you can swing it.*

T

table the motion to postpone the discussion of something during a meeting. ☐ *Mary suggested that they should table the motion.* ☒ *The motion for a new policy was tabled until the next meeting.*

tag along to go along with or follow someone, often when uninvited or unwanted. ☐ *Lisa always tags along when Tim and Sally go out on a date.* ☐ *I took my children to the zoo and the neighbor's children tagged along.*

the **tail wagging the dog** a situation where a small part is controlling the whole thing. ☐ *John was just hired yesterday, and today he's bossing everyone around. It's a case of the tail wagging the dog.* ☐ *Why is this small matter so important? Now we see the tail wagging the dog!*

take a backseat (to someone) to defer to someone; to give control to someone. ☐ *I decided to take a backseat to Mary and let her manage the project.* ☐ *I had done the best I could, but it was time to take a backseat and let someone else run things.*

take a bath Go to take a shower.

take a bath (on something) to have large financial losses on an investment. (Slang.) ☐ *I took a bath on all my oil stock. I should have sold it sooner.* ☐ *I don't mind losing a little money now and then, but I really took a bath this time.*

take a bow to bow and receive credit for a good performance. ☐ *At the end of the concerto, the pianist rose and took a bow.* ☐ *The audience applauded wildly and demanded that the conductor come out and take a bow again.*

take a break AND **take one's break** to have a short rest period in one's work. ☐ *It's*

ten o'clock—time to take a break. ☐ *I don't usually take my break until 10:30.*

take a chance AND **take a risk** to try something where failure or bad fortune is likely. ☐ *Come on, take a chance. You may lose, but it's worth trying.* ☐ *I'm not reckless, but I don't mind taking a risk now and then.*

take a course (in something) to enroll in a course and do the required work. ☐ *I decided to take a course in history.* ☐ *Bob drives into the city where he is taking a course.*

take a crack at something to have a try at something; to give something a try. (Informal.) ☐ *I don't think I can convince her to leave, but I'll take a crack at it.* ☐ *Someone had to try to rescue the child. Bill said he'd take a crack at it.*

take a dig at someone AND **take digs at** someone to insult someone; to say something that will irritate a person. (Slang.) ☐ *Jane took a dig at Bob for being late all the time.* ☐ *Jane is always taking digs at Bob, but she never really means any harm.*

take a dim view of something to regard something skeptically or pessimistically. ☐ *My aunt takes a dim view of most things that young people do.* ☐ *The manager took a dim view of my efforts on the project. I guess I didn't try hard enough.*

take advantage of someone or something **1.** [with someone] to cheat or deceive someone. ☐ *The store owner took advantage of me, and I'm angry.* ☐ *You must be alert when you shop to make sure that someone doesn't take advantage of you.* **2.** to utilize someone or something to one's own benefit. ☐ *Jane can be of great help to me, and I intend to take advantage of her.* ☐ *Try*

to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way.

take a fancy to someone or something **AND** **take a liking to** someone or something; **take a shine to** someone or something to develop a fondness or a preference for someone or something. (Folksy.) □ *John began to take a fancy to Sally late last August at the picnic.* □ *I've never taken a liking to cooked carrots.* □ *I think my teacher has taken a shine to me.*

take after someone to resemble a close, older relative. □ *Don't you think that Sally takes after her mother?* □ *No, Sally takes after her Aunt Ann.*

take a gander (at someone or something) to examine someone or something; to take a look (at someone or something). (Slang.) □ *Hey, will you take a gander at that fancy car!* □ *Drive it over here so I can take a gander.*

take a hand in something to help plan or do something. □ *I was glad to take a hand in planning the picnic.* □ *Jane refused to take a hand in any of the work.*

take a hard line (with someone) to be firm with someone; to have a firm policy for dealing with someone. □ *The manager takes a hard line with people who show up late.* □ *This is a serious matter. The police are likely to take a hard line.*

Take a hike! Go to Go climb a tree!

take a hint to understand a hint and behave accordingly. □ *I said I didn't want to see you anymore. Can't you take a hint? I don't like you.* □ *Sure I can take a hint, but I'd rather be told directly.*

take (a)hold of someone or something **AND** **get (a)hold of** someone or something to get in control of someone or something. (Also literal.) □ *Take hold of yourself! Calm down and relax.* □ *She took a few minutes to get hold of herself, and then she spoke.*

take aim (at someone or something) **1.** to aim (something) at someone or something. □ *The hunter took aim at the deer and pulled the trigger.* □ *You must take aim carefully before you shoot.* **2.** to prepare to deal with someone or something. □ *Now we*

have to take aim at the problem and try to get it solved. □ *He turned to me and took aim. I knew he was going to scold me severely.*

take a leaf out of someone's **book** to behave or to do something in the way that someone else would. □ *When you act like that, you're taking a leaf out of your sister's book, and I don't like it!* □ *You had better do it your way. Don't take a leaf out of my book. I don't do it well.*

take a licking Go to get a licking.

take a liking to someone or something Go to take a fancy to someone or something.

take a load off one's **feet** Go to get a load off one's feet.

Take a long walk off a short pier. **AND** **Go play in the traffic.** Get out of here!; Go do something that will get you permanently out of here! □ *Get out of here! Take a long walk off a short pier!* □ *You bother me. Go play in the traffic.*

take a look (at someone or something) to examine (briefly) someone or something. (Also with *have*, as in the example below.) □ *I asked the doctor to take a look at my ankle that has been hurting.* □ *"So your ankle's hurting," said the doctor. "Let's take a look."* □ *Please have a look at my car. It's not running well.*

take a look for someone or something **AND** **have a look for** someone or something to make a visual search for someone or something; to look for someone or something. □ *Please go to the library and have a look for a book about snakes.* □ *Take a look for a man in a black suit. He is your guide.*

take a nap to have a brief period of sleep. □ *I took a short nap just after lunch.* □ *The baby takes a long nap each afternoon.*

take a new turn [for something] to begin a new course or direction. □ *When I received the telegram with the exciting news, my life took a new turn.* □ *I began taking the medicine at noon, and by evening the disease had begun to take a new turn. I was getting better!*

take an interest (in something) to develop an interest in something. □ *I wish John would take an interest in his schoolwork.* □ *We hoped you'd take an interest and join our club.*

take an oath to make an oath; to swear to something. □ *You must take an oath that you will never tell anyone about this.* □ *When I was a witness in court, I had to take an oath that I would tell the truth.*

take a nosedive Go to go into a nosedive.

take a peep Go to have a peep.

take a potshot at someone or something to criticize someone or something; to include a criticism of someone or something in a broader or more general criticism. □ *Daily, the media took potshots at the foolish politician.* □ *John is taking potshots at me in his condemnation of office workers.*

take a powder to leave (a place); to sneak out or run out (of a place). (Slang.) □ *When the police came to the door, Tom decided it was time to take a powder. He left by the back door.* □ *When the party got a little dull, Bill and his friend took a powder.*

take a punch at someone to strike or strike at someone with one's fist. (Informal.) □ *Mary got so angry at Bob that she took a punch at him.* □ *She took a punch at him, but she missed.*

take a rain check (on something) Go to get a rain check (on something).

take a risk Go to take a chance.

take a shellacking Go to get a shellacking.

take a shine to someone or something Go to take a fancy to someone or something.

take a shot at something Go to give something a shot; take a try at something.

take a shower AND **take a bath** to bathe. □ *I take a shower every morning.* □ *John takes a hot bath to relax.*

take a spill to have a fall; to tip over. (Also with *bad*, *nasty*, *quite*, etc. Also with *have*.) □ *Ann tripped on the curb and took a nasty spill.* □ *John had quite a spill when he fell off his bicycle.*

take a stab at something Go to take a try at something.

take a stand (against someone or something) to take a position in opposition to someone or something; to oppose or resist someone or something. □ *The treasurer was forced to take a stand against the board because of its wasteful spending.* □ *The treasurer took a stand, and others agreed.*

take a toll the damage or wear that is caused by using something or by hard living. □ *Years of sunbathing took a toll on Mary's skin.* □ *Drug abuse takes a heavy toll on the lives of people.*

take a try at something AND **take a shot at something; take a stab at something; take a whack at something** to try to do something. (Also with *have*; see the variants at **have a try at something**. The second, third, and fourth entries can also be literal.) □ *I don't know if I can eat a whole pizza, but I'll be happy to take a shot at it.* □ *I can't seem to get this computer to work right. Would you like to take a try at it?* □ *Sure. Take a stab at it.* □ *I don't know if I can do it or not, but I'll take a whack at it.*

take attendance to make a record of persons attending something. □ *The teacher took attendance before starting the class.* □ *I will take attendance each day.*

take a turn for the better to start to improve; to start to get well. (The opposite of the following entry.) □ *She was very sick for a month; then suddenly she took a turn for the better.* □ *Things are taking a turn for the better at my store. I may make a profit this year.*

take a turn for the worse to start to get worse. (The opposite of the previous entry.) □ *It appeared that she was going to get well; then, unfortunately, she took a turn for the worse.* □ *My job was going quite well; then last week things took a turn for the worse.*

take a vacation to go somewhere for a vacation; to stop work to have a vacation. □ *Sue took a vacation at the Grand Canyon last year.* □ *I need to take a vacation and relax.*

Take a walk! Go to Go climb a tree!

take a whack at someone or something **1.** [with *someone*] (Slang. *Whack* is sometimes spelled *wack*. Also with *have*, as in the examples below.) to hit at someone; to hit someone. ☐ *He took a whack at me, so I punched him.* ☐ *Don't try to take a whack at me again!* ☐ *I'll have a wack at you!* **2.** [with *something*] Go to **take a try at** something.

take care of someone or something **1.** to deal with someone or something; to handle or manage someone or something. ☐ *Would you please take care of this little problem?* ☐ *This is an easy thing to take care of. I will fix it immediately.* **2.** to provide care for someone or something. ☐ *John and Mary took care of their aged grandmother.* ☐ *Please take care of my plants while I am on vacation.* **3.** [with *someone*] to tip someone. ☐ *I took care of the doorman as we left.* ☐ *Did you remember to take care of the waiter?* **4.** [with *someone*] to kill or dispose of someone. ☐ *Max said he was going to take care of Lefty once and for all.* ☐ *The crime king ordered Max to take care of a certain private detective.*

take charge (of someone or something) to take (over) control of someone or something. ☐ *The president came in late and took charge of the meeting.* ☐ *When the new manager took charge, things really began to happen.*

take cold Go to catch cold.

take digs at someone Go to take a dig at someone.

take effect Go to go into effect.

take exception (to something) to disagree with something (that someone has said). ☐ *I take exception to your remarks, and I would like to discuss them with you.* ☐ *I'm sorry you take exception. Let's discuss the matter.*

take five to take a five-minute rest period. (Slang.) ☐ *Okay, everybody. Take five!* ☐ *Hey, Bob. I'm tired. Can we take five?*

take forty winks Go to catch forty winks.

take (great) pains (to do something) to make a great effort to do something. ☐

Tom took pains to decorate the room exactly right. ☐ *We took pains to get there on time.*

take heart to be brave; to have courage. ☐ *Take heart, John. Things could be worse!* ☐ *I told her to take heart and try again next time.*

take heed to be cautious. ☐ *Take heed, and don't get involved with the wrong kind of people.* ☐ *Just take heed, and you'll be safe.*

take ill Go to take sick.

take inventory to make an inventory list. ☐ *They are taking inventory in the warehouse, counting each item and writing the number on a list.* ☐ *The hardware store closed once a year in order to take inventory.*

take issue (with someone) to argue with someone; to dispute a point with someone. ☐ *I hate to take issue with you on such a minor point, but I'm quite sure you're wrong.* ☐ *I don't mind if you take issue, but I'm sure I'm right.*

take it away to start up a performance. (Also literal. Typically a public announcement of the beginning of a musical performance. Slang.) ☐ *And now, here is the band playing "Song of Songs." Take it away!* ☐ *Sally will now sing us a song. Take it away, Sally!*

Take it easy. Good-bye and take care of yourself. (Informal.) ☐ *Bye, Tom. Take it easy.* ☐ *Take it easy. I'll see you later.*

take it easy (on someone or something) **1.** to be gentle (with someone or something). (See also **go easy (on someone or something)**.) ☐ *Take it easy on Mary. She's been sick.* ☐ *Please take it easy on the furniture. It has to last us many years.* ☐ *Take it easy! You will break the chair!* **2.** [with something] to use less of something (rather than more). (Informal.) ☐ *Take it easy on the soup. There's just enough for one serving for each person.* ☐ *Please take it easy! There are hardly any left.*

take it on the chin to experience and endure a direct blow or assault. ☐ *The bad news was a real shock, and John took it on*

the chin. □ *The worst luck comes my way, and I always end up taking it on the chin.*

take it or leave it to accept something (the way it is) or forget it. (Informal.) □ *This is my last offer. Take it or leave it.* □ *It's not much, but it's the only food we have. You can take it or leave it.*

take it slow to move or go slowly. (Informal.) □ *The road is rough, so take it slow.* □ *This book is very hard to read, and I have to take it slow.*

take it to one's grave to carry a secret with one until one dies. □ *I will never tell anyone. I'll take your secret to my grave.* □ *She took the answer to the mystery to her grave.*

take it (up)on oneself (to do something) to make something one's responsibility. □ *I took it upon myself to order more pencils since we were running out of them.* □ *I'm glad that you took it on yourself to do that.*

take kindly to something to be agreeable to something. □ *My father doesn't take kindly to anyone using his tools.* □ *I hope they'll take kindly to our request.*

take leave of one's senses to become irrational. (Often verbatim with one's.) □ *What are you doing? Have you taken leave of your senses?* □ *What a terrible situation! It's enough to make one take leave of one's senses.*

take liberties with someone or something AND **make free with** someone or something to use or abuse someone or something. □ *You are overly familiar with me, Mr. Jones. One might think you were taking liberties with me.* □ *I don't like it when you make free with my lawn mower. You should at least ask when you want to borrow it.*

take no stock in something AND **not take stock in** something to pay no attention to something; not to believe or accept something. □ *I take no stock in anything John has to say.* □ *He doesn't take stock in your opinions either.*

take note (of something) to observe and remember something. □ *Please take note of the point I'm about to make.* □ *Here is*

something else of which you should take note.

take notice (of something) to observe something. □ *I didn't take notice of when he came in.* □ *They say he came in late, but I didn't take notice.*

take off 1. to leave the ground and begin to fly. (As with a bird or an airplane.) □ *When do we take off?* □ *The eagle took off and headed toward the mountains.* **2.** to become popular and successful. □ *Her book really took off after her television appearance.* □ *The idea took off, and soon everyone was talking about it.*

take off (after someone or something) AND **take out (after someone or something)** to begin to chase someone or something. □ *The bank guard took off after the robber.* □ *Did you see that police car take off?* □ *It took out after the bank robber's car.*

take offense (at someone or something) to become resentful of someone or something. □ *Bill took offense at Mary for her thoughtless remarks.* □ *Almost everyone took offense at Bill's new book.* □ *I'm sorry you took offense. I meant no harm.*

take off (from work) not to go to work (for a period of time). □ *I had to take off from work in order to renew my driver's license.* □ *I hate to take off for something like that.*

take office to begin serving as an elected or appointed official. □ *When did the mayor take office?* □ *All the elected officials took office just after the election.*

take off one's hat (to someone) to offer praise for someone's good accomplishments. (Refers to taking off one's hat to show deference to someone.) □ *I have to take off my hat to Mayor Johnson. She has done an excellent job.* □ *Yes, we all ought to take off our hats. She is our best mayor ever.*

take off (on something) AND **launch forth (on something)** to start out a lecture on something; to begin a discussion of something. (See also **set forth (on something)**.) □ *My father took off on the subject of taxes and talked for an hour.* □ *My uncle is always launching forth on the state*

of the economy. □ *When he launches forth, I leave the room.*

take one at one's word to believe what someone says and act accordingly. □ *She told me to go jump in the lake, and I took her at her word.* □ *You shouldn't take her at her word. She frequently says things she doesn't really mean.*

take one's break Go to take a break.

take one's cue from someone to use someone else's behavior or reactions as a guide to one's own. (From the theatrical cue as a signal to speak, etc.) □ *If you don't know which spoons to use at the dinner, just take your cue from John.* □ *The other children took their cue from Tommy and ignored the new boy.*

take one's death of cold Go to catch one's death (of cold).

take (one's) leave (of someone) to say goodbye to someone and leave. □ *I took leave of the hostess at an early hour.* □ *One by one, the guests took their leave.*

take one's medicine to accept the punishment or the bad fortune that one deserves. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *I know I did wrong, and I know I have to take my medicine.* □ *Billy knew he was going to get spanked, and he didn't want to take his medicine.*

take one's own life to kill oneself; to commit suicide. □ *Bob tried to take his own life, but he was stopped in time.* □ *Later, he was sorry that he had tried to take his own life.*

take one's time to use as much time (to do something) as one wants. □ *There is no hurry. Please take your time.* □ *If you take your time, you'll be late.*

take out (after someone or something) Go to take off (after someone or something).

take out a loan to get a loan of money, especially from a bank. □ *Mary took out a loan to buy a car.* □ *We will have to take out a loan to pay the bills this month.*

take over to begin doing something that someone else was doing. □ *When you get tired of washing dishes, I'll take over.* □

You have been playing the drums long enough. Let me take over.

take part (in something) to participate in something. □ *They invited me to take part in their celebration.* □ *I was quite pleased to take part.*

take pity (on someone or something) to feel sorry for someone or something. □ *We took pity on the hungry people and gave them some warm food.* □ *She took pity on the little dog and brought it in to get warm.* □ *Please take pity! Please help us!*

take place to happen. □ *When will this party take place?* □ *It's taking place right now.*

take precedence over someone or something Go to have precedence over someone or something.

take pride in something to do something with pride; to have pride for or about something. □ *The union workers took pride in their work.* □ *The artist took pride in her paintings.*

take root to begin to take hold or have effect. (Refers to newly-planted plants.) □ *Things will begin to change when my new policies take root.* □ *My ideas began to take root and influence other people.*

take shape [for something, such as plans, writing, ideas, arguments, etc.] to begin to be organized and specific. □ *My plans are beginning to take shape.* □ *As my manuscript took shape, I started showing it to publishers.*

take sick AND **take ill** to become ill. (Folksy.) □ *I took sick with a bad cold last week.* □ *I hope I don't take ill before final exams.*

take sides to choose one side of an argument. □ *They were arguing, but I didn't want to take sides, so I left.* □ *I don't mind taking sides on important issues.*

take someone apart to beat someone up. (Slang.) □ *Don't talk to me that way, or I'll take you apart.* □ *He was so mad that I thought he was going to take apart all of us.*

take someone **by surprise** to startle someone; to surprise someone with something unexpected. □ *Oh! You took me by surprise because I didn't hear you come in.* □ *Bill took his mother by surprise by coming to the door and pretending to be a solicitor.*

take someone **down a notch (or two)** Go to **take** someone **down a peg (or two).**

take someone **down a peg (or two)** AND **take** someone **down a notch (or two)** to reprimand someone who is acting too arrogant. □ *The teacher's scolding took Bob down a notch or two.* □ *He was so rude that someone was bound to take him down a peg or two.*

take someone **down (to size)** Go to cut someone **down (to size).**

take someone **for a fool** Go to **take** someone for an idiot.

take someone **for an idiot** AND **take** someone **for a fool** to assume that someone is stupid. □ *I wouldn't do anything like that! Do you take me for an idiot?* □ *I don't take you for a fool. I think you're very clever.*

take someone **for a ride** to trick or deceive someone. (Informal.) □ *Old people are being taken for a ride by bogus workmen.* □ *Whoever sold Tom that car took him for a ride. It needs a new engine.*

take someone **for** someone or something to mistake someone for someone or something. □ *I took Bill for his brother, Bob. They look so much alike!* □ *I took Mr. Brown for the gardener, and he was a little bit insulted.*

take someone **hostage** to kidnap or seize someone to be a hostage. □ *The terrorists planned to take the ambassador hostage.* □ *The entire family was taken hostage by the robber.*

take someone **in** Go to suck someone **in.**

take someone **into** one's **confidence** to trust someone with confidential information; to tell a secret to someone and trust the person to keep the secret. □ *We are good friends, but I didn't feel I could take her into my confidence.* □ *I know something very important about Jean. Can I take you into my confidence?*

take someone or something **at face value** to take someone or something by its outward appearance; to take someone or something as it first appears to be. □ *Don't just accept her offer at face value. Think of the implications.* □ *Jane tends to take people at face value and so she is always getting hurt.*

take someone or something **away** to remove someone or something. □ *I don't want any more soup. Please take it away.* □ *Take away Bill and John. They are bothering me.*

take someone or something **by storm** to overwhelm someone or something; to attract a great deal of attention from someone or something. □ *Jane is madly in love with Tom. He took her by storm at the office party, and they've been together ever since.* □ *The singer took the world of opera by storm with her performance in La Boheme.*

take someone or something **by surprise** to startle or surprise someone or something. □ *She came into the room and took them by surprise.* □ *I took the little bird by surprise, and it flew away.*

take someone or something **for granted** to accept someone or something—without gratitude—as a matter of course. □ *We tend to take a lot of things for granted.* □ *Mrs. Franklin complained that Mr. Franklin takes her for granted.*

take someone or something **in** **1.** to observe someone or something. (See also suck someone **in.**) □ *The zoo is too big to take in the whole thing in one day.* □ *It takes two days to take in the museum.* **2.** to provide shelter for someone or something. □ *When I needed a place to live, my uncle took me in.* □ *Mrs. Wilson took in the lonely little dog and gave it a warm home.* **3.** [with something] to inhale, drink, or eat something. □ *I think I'll go for a walk and take in some fresh air.* □ *Jane was very ill, but she managed to take in a little broth.*

take someone or something **into account** to remember to consider someone or something. □ *I hope you'll take Bill and Bob*

into account when you plan the party. ☐ I'll try to take into account all the things that are important in a situation like this.

take someone or something on to undertake to deal with someone or something. ☐ Mrs. Smith is such a problem. I don't feel like taking her on just now. ☐ I'm too busy to take on any new problems.

take someone or something out 1. [with someone] to take someone out on the town on a date. (Also literal.) ☐ I hear that Tom has been taking Ann out. ☐ No, Tom has been taking out Mary. **2.** [with someone] to remove someone who is acting as a barrier, especially in football. (Informal.) ☐ Okay, Bill. Get in there and take the quarterback out. ☐ Our player ran fast and took out the opposing player before he could tackle our runner. **3.** [with someone] to kill someone. (Criminal slang.) ☐ The thief who drove the car was afraid that the other thieves were going to take him out, too. ☐ The crooks took out the witness to the crime.

take someone or something over to take charge (of someone or something); to assume control of someone or something. ☐ The new manager will take the office over next week. ☐ Will you please take over your children? I can't seem to control them.

take someone or something wrong to misunderstand someone or something. ☐ Please don't take me wrong, but I believe that your socks don't match. ☐ You'll probably take this wrong, but I have to say that I've never seen you looking better.

take someone's breath away 1. to cause someone to be out of breath due to a shock or hard exercise. ☐ Walking this fast takes my breath away. ☐ Mary frightened me and took my breath away. **2.** to overwhelm someone with beauty or grandeur. ☐ The magnificent painting took my breath away. ☐ Ann looked so beautiful that she took my breath away.

take someone's part to take a side in an argument; to support someone in an argument. ☐ My sister took my mother's part in the family argument. ☐ You are always taking the part of underdog!

take someone's pulse to measure the frequency of the beats of a person's pulse. ☐ I can take my own pulse. ☐ The nurse took my pulse and said I was fine.

take someone to task to scold or reprimand someone. ☐ The teacher took John to task for his bad behavior. ☐ I lost a big contract, and the boss took me to task in front of everyone.

take someone to the cleaners to abuse or damage someone. (Slang.) ☐ There was a real rough guy there who threatened to take me to the cleaners if I didn't cooperate. ☐ The crook said he'd take anybody who interfered to the cleaners.

take someone under one's wing(s) to take over and care for a person. ☐ John wasn't doing well in geometry until the teacher took him under her wing. ☐ I took the new workers under my wings, and they learned the job in no time.

take someone up on something to take advantage of someone's offer of something. (Informal.) ☐ I'd like to take you up on your offer to help. ☐ We took up the Browns on their invitation to come to dinner.

take something to endure something; to survive something. (Also literal.) ☐ I don't think I can take any more scolding today. I've been in trouble since I got up this morning. ☐ Mary was very insulting to Tom, but he can take it.

take something amiss AND **take something the wrong way** to understand something as wrong or insulting. (Compare this with **take someone or something wrong**.) ☐ Would you take it amiss if I told you I thought you look lovely? ☐ Why would anyone take such a nice compliment amiss? ☐ I was afraid you'd take it the wrong way.

take something at face value to accept something exactly the way it appears to be. ☐ I don't know whether I can take her story at face value, but I will assume that she is not lying. ☐ The committee took the report at face value and approved the suggested changes.

take something back to withdraw or cancel one's statement. (Also literal, meaning

“to return something.”) □ *I heard what you said, and I’m very insulted. Please take it back.* ☐ *Take back your words, or I’ll never speak to you again!*

take something home (with oneself) 1. to carry something to one’s home. □ *We took a lot of souvenirs home with us.* 2. to take a thought, idea, or concept away [to one’s home] from a meeting or conference. □ *Take this idea home with you. Think twice.*

take something in stride to accept something as natural or expected. □ *The argument surprised him, but he took it in stride.* □ *It was a very rude remark, but Mary took it in stride.*

take something lying down to endure something unpleasant without fighting back. □ *He insulted me publicly. You don’t expect me to take that lying down, do you?* □ *I’m not the kind of person who’ll take something like that lying down.*

take something on faith to accept or believe something on the basis of little or no evidence. □ *Please try to believe what I’m telling you. Just take it on faith.* □ *Surely you can’t expect me to take a story like that on faith.*

take something on the chin to experience and endure a direct (figurative or literal) blow or assault. □ *The bad news was a real shock, but John took it on the chin.* □ *The worst luck comes my way, and I always end up taking it on the chin.*

take something out on someone or something to direct (or redirect) one’s anger or fear onto someone or something. □ *I don’t care if you’re mad at your brother. Don’t take it out on me!* □ *John took his anger out on the wall by kicking it.*

take something personally to interpret a remark as if it were mean or critical about oneself. □ *Don’t take it personally, but you really need a haircut.* □ *I want to tell you something, but please don’t take it personally.*

take something the wrong way Go to take something amiss.

take something to heart to take something very seriously. □ *John took the criticism to heart and made an honest effort to improve.* □ *I know Bob said a lot of cruel things to you, but he was angry. You shouldn’t take those things to heart.*

take something up 1. to begin to deal with an issue. (See also **take something up (with someone)**.) □ *That’s too big a job for today. I’ll take it up tomorrow.* ☐ *Now we’ll take up the task of the election of officers.* 2. to make the bottom of a skirt or pants cuffs higher off the floor. □ *I’ll have to take this skirt up. It’s too long for me.* ☐ *Please take up my pants cuffs. They are an inch too long.*

take something up (with someone) to raise and discuss a matter with someone. □ *This is a very complicated problem. I’ll have to take it up with the office manager.* ☐ *She’ll take up this problem with the owner in the morning.*

take something with a grain of salt Go to take something with a pinch of salt.

take something with a pinch of salt AND **take something with a grain of salt** to listen to a story or an explanation with considerable doubt. □ *You must take anything she says with a grain of salt. She doesn’t always tell the truth.* □ *They took my explanation with a pinch of salt. I was sure they didn’t believe me.*

take steps (to prevent something) to do what is necessary to prevent something. □ *I took steps to prevent John from learning what we were talking about.* □ *I have to keep John from knowing what I’ve been doing. I can prevent it if I take steps.*

take stock (of something) to make an appraisal of resources and potentialities. □ *I spent some time yesterday taking stock of my good and bad qualities.* □ *We all need to take stock now and then.*

take the bit between the teeth Go to take the bit in one’s teeth.

take the bit in one’s teeth AND **take the bit between the teeth** to put oneself in charge. □ *Someone needed to direct the project, so I took the bit in my teeth.* □ *If you want to get something done, you’ve got*

to take the bit between your teeth and get to work.

take the bitter with the sweet to accept the bad things along with the good things. □ *We all have disappointments. You have to learn to take the bitter with the sweet.* □ *There are good days and bad days, but every day you take the bitter with the sweet. That's life.*

take the bull by the horns AND **seize the bull by the horns** to meet a challenge directly. □ *If we are going to solve this problem, someone is going to have to take the bull by the horns.* □ *This threat isn't going to go away by itself. We are going to seize the bull by the horns and settle this matter once and for all.*

take the cake to win the prize; to be the best or the worst. (Folksy.) □ *Look at those fireworks. If they don't take the cake, I don't know what does.* □ *Well, Jane, this dinner really takes the cake! It's delicious.* □ *Tom really messed it up. What he did really takes the cake.*

take the day off to choose not to go to work for one day. (Compare this with **get the day off**.) □ *The sun was shining, and it was warm, so I took the day off and went fishing.* □ *Jane wasn't feeling well, so she took the day off.*

take the edge off (something) to remove the essence, power, or "bite" of something. □ *I had to tell her some very sad things, so I spoke slowly and softly to take the edge off the news.* □ *I put sugar in my coffee to take the edge off.*

take the initiative (to do something) to activate oneself to do something even if one has not been asked to do it. (See also **make it one's business** to do something.) □ *The door hinges squeak because no one will take the initiative to oil them.* □ *Sometimes, in order to get things done, you have to take the initiative.*

take the law into one's own hands to attempt to administer the law; to act as a judge and jury for someone who has done something wrong. □ *Citizens don't have the right to take the law into their own hands.* □ *The shopkeeper took the law into*

his own hands when he tried to arrest the thief.

take the liberty of doing something to assume the right to do something. □ *Since I knew you were arriving late, I took the liberty of securing a hotel room for you.* □ *May I take the liberty of addressing you by your first name?*

take the rap (for someone or something) **1.** [with someone] to take the blame (for something) for someone else. (Slang, especially criminal slang.) □ *I don't want to take the rap for you.* □ *John robbed the bank, but Tom took the rap for him.* **2.** [with something] to take the blame for (doing) something. (Slang, especially criminal slang.) □ *I won't take the rap for the crime. I wasn't even in town.* □ *Who'll take the rap for it? Who did it?*

take (the) roll Go to call (the) roll.

take the stand to go to and sit in the witness chair in a courtroom. □ *I was in court all day, waiting to take the stand.* □ *The lawyer asked the witness to take the stand.*

take the starch out of someone **1.** to make someone less arrogant or stiff. (Informal.) □ *I told a joke that made Mr. Jones laugh very hard. It really took the starch out of him.* □ *John is so arrogant. I'd really like to take the starch out of him!* **2.** to make someone tired and weak. (Informal.) □ *This hot weather really takes the starch out of me.* □ *What a long day! It sure took the starch out of me.*

take the trouble (to do something) to make an effort to do something (that one might not otherwise do). □ *I wish I had taken the trouble to study this matter more carefully.* □ *I just didn't have enough time to take the trouble.*

take the wind out of someone's sails to challenge someone's boasting or arrogance. (Informal.) □ *John was bragging about how much money he earned until he learned that most of us make more. That took the wind out of his sails.* □ *Learning that one has been totally wrong about something can really take the wind out of one's sails.*

take the words out of one's mouth [for someone else] to say what you were going to say. (Informal. Also with *right*, as in the example.) □ *John said exactly what I was going to say. He took the words out of my mouth.* □ *I agree with you, and I wanted to say the same thing. You took the words right out of my mouth.*

take time off not to work for a period of time—a few minutes or a longer period. (Compare this with **get time off**.) □ *I had to take time off to go to the dentist.* □ *Mary took time off to have a cup of coffee.*

take too much on to undertake to do too much work or too many tasks. □ *Don't take too much on, or you won't be able to do any of it well.* □ *Ann tends to take on too much and get exhausted.*

take to one's heels to run away. □ *The little boy said hello and then took to his heels.* □ *The man took to his heels to try to get to the bus stop before the bus left.*

take to someone or something to become fond of or attracted to someone or something. (Informal.) □ *Mary didn't take to her new job, and she quit after two weeks.* □ *Mary seemed to take to John right away.*

take turns ((at) doing something) to do something, one (person) at a time (rather than everyone all at once). □ *Please take turns at reading the book.* □ *Everyone is taking turns looking at the picture.* □ *It's more orderly when everyone takes turns.*

take umbrage at something to feel that one has been insulted by something. □ *The employee took umbrage at not getting a raise.* □ *Mary took umbrage at the suggestion that she was being unreasonable.*

take up a collection to collect money for a specific project. □ *We wanted to send Bill some flowers, so we took up a collection.* □ *The office staff took up a collection to pay for the office party.*

take up arms (against someone or something) to prepare to fight against someone or something. □ *Everyone in the town took up arms against the enemy.* □ *They were all so angry that the leader convinced them to take up arms.*

take up one's abode somewhere to settle down and live somewhere. (Formal.) □ *I took up my abode downtown near my office.* □ *We decided to take up our abode in a warmer climate.*

take up room Go to take up space.

take up someone's time to require too much of someone else's time; to waste someone's time. (Also with *so much of* or *too much of*, as in the examples below.) □ *You're taking up my time. Please go away.* □ *I'm sorry. I didn't mean to take up so much of your time.* □ *This problem is taking up too much of my time.*

take up space AND **take up room** to fill or occupy space. (Note the variation in the examples.) □ *The piano is taking up too much room in our living room.* □ *John, you're not being any help at all. You're just taking up space.*

take up time to require or fill time. (Note the variation in the examples. Also without *up*.) □ *This project is taking up too much time.* □ *This kind of thing always takes up time.*

take up where one left off to start up again in the very place that one has stopped. □ *I had to leave the room for a minute, but when I got back, I took up where I left off.* □ *It's time to stop for lunch. After lunch, we will take up where we left off.*

take up with someone to become a friend or companion to someone. □ *Billy's mother was afraid that he was taking up with the wrong kind of people.* □ *John and Bob took up with each other and became close friends.*

taken aback surprised and confused. □ *When Mary told me the news, I was taken aback for a moment.* □ *When I told my parents I was married, they were completely taken aback.*

taken for dead appearing to be dead; assumed to be dead. □ *I was so ill with the flu that I was almost taken for dead.* □ *The accident victims were so seriously injured that they were taken for dead at first.*

talk a blue streak to talk very much and very rapidly. (Informal.) □ *Billy didn't talk until he was six, and then he started talking a blue streak.* □ *I can't understand anything Bob says. He talks a blue streak, and I can't follow his thinking.*

talk back (to someone) to respond (to a rebuke) rudely or impertinently. □ *John got in trouble for talking back to the teacher.* □ *A student never gains anything by talking back.*

talk big to brag or boast; to talk in an intimidating manner. (Slang.) □ *John is always talking big, but he hasn't really accomplished a lot in life.* □ *She talks big, but she's harmless.*

talk down to someone to speak to someone in a patronizing manner; to speak to someone in the simplest way. □ *The manager insulted everyone in the office by talking down to them.* □ *Please don't talk down to me. I can understand almost anything you have to say.*

talk in circles to talk in a confusing or roundabout manner. □ *I couldn't understand a thing he said. All he did was talk in circles.* □ *We argued for a long time and finally decided that we were talking in circles.*

the **talk of** somewhere someone or something who is the subject of a conversation somewhere, especially the town. □ *The handsome new teacher was the talk of the town.* □ *John's new car is the talk of the office.*

talk oneself out to talk until one can talk no more. □ *After nearly an hour, he had talked himself out. Then we began to ask questions.* □ *I talked myself out in the meeting, but no one would support my position.*

talk shop to talk about business matters at a social event (where business talk is out of place). (Informal.) □ *All right, everyone, we're not here to talk shop. Let's have a good time.* □ *Mary and Jane stood by the punch bowl, talking shop.*

talk someone down 1. to win out over someone in an argument; to convince someone by arguing. □ *She loves to argue. She*

takes pleasure in talking someone down. □ *She tried to talk me down, but I held my ground.* **2.** to convince someone to lower the price. □ *She wanted \$2,000 for the car, but I talked her down.* □ *This is my final offer. Don't try to talk me down.*

talk someone into (doing) something to overcome someone's objections to doing something; to convince someone to do something. □ *They talked me into going to the meeting, even though I didn't really have the time.* □ *No one can talk me into doing something illegal.*

talk someone or something up to promote or speak in support of someone or something. (Informal.) □ *I've been talking up the party all day, trying to get people to come.* □ *The mayor is running for reelection, and everyone at city hall is talking her up.*

talk someone out of (doing) something to convince someone not to do something. □ *I tried to talk her out of going, but she insisted.* □ *Don't try to talk me out of quitting school. My mind is made up.*

talk someone out of something to convince someone to give something up. □ *This is my candy, and you can't talk me out of it.* □ *I tried to talk her out of her property, but she didn't want to sell.*

talk someone's ear off Go to **talk someone's head off**.

talk someone's head off 1. [for someone] to speak too much. (Slang.) □ *Why does John always talk his head off? Doesn't he know he bores people?* □ *She talks her head off and doesn't seem to know what she's saying.* **2.** AND **talk someone's ear off** (Slang.) to talk to and bore someone. □ *John is very friendly, but watch out or he'll talk your head off.* □ *My uncle always talked my ear off whenever I went to visit him.*

talk something out to talk about all aspects of a problem or disagreement. □ *Ann and Sally had a problem, so they agreed to talk it out.* □ *It's better to talk out a disagreement than to stay mad.*

talk something over to discuss something. □ *Come into my office so we can talk this*

over. ☐ *We talked over the plans for nearly an hour.*

talk through one's hat to talk nonsense; to brag and boast. (Informal.) ☐ *John isn't really as good as he says. He's just talking through his hat.* ☐ *Stop talking through your hat and start being sincere!*

talk turkey to talk business; to talk frankly. (Slang.) ☐ *Okay, Bob, we have business to discuss. Let's talk turkey.* ☐ *John wanted to talk turkey, but Jane just wanted to joke around.*

talk until one is blue in the face to talk until one is exhausted. (Informal.) ☐ *I talked until I was blue in the face, but I couldn't change her mind.* ☐ *She had to talk until she was blue in the face in order to convince him.*

talked out tired of talking; unable to talk more. (Folksy. See also **talk oneself out**.) ☐ *I can't go on. I'm all talked out.* ☐ *She was talked out in the first hour of discussion.*

tamper with something to attempt to alter or change something; to meddle with or damage something. ☐ *Someone has tampered with my door lock.* ☐ *Please don't tamper with my stereo.*

tan someone's **hide** to spank someone. (Folksy.) ☐ *Billy's mother said she'd tan Billy's hide if he ever did that again.* ☐ *"I'll tan your hide if you're late!" said Tom's father.*

taper off (doing something) to stop doing something gradually. ☐ *My doctor told me to taper off smoking cigarettes.* ☐ *I have to taper off because I can't stop all at once.*

tar and feather someone to chastise someone severely. (Also literal.) ☐ *They threatened to tar and feather me if I ever came back into their town.* ☐ *I don't believe that they'd really tar and feather me, but they could be very unpleasant.*

tarred with the same brush sharing the same characteristic(s); having the same good or bad points as someone else. ☐ *Jack and his brother are tarred with the same brush. They're both crooks.* ☐ *The*

Smith children are tarred with the same brush. They're all lazy.

a **taste of** something an experience; an example. ☐ *Bill gave Sue a taste of her own rudeness.* ☐ *My friend used a parachute and got a taste of what it's like to be a bird.*

a **taste of things to come** Go to a har-binger of things to come.

tax-and-spend spending freely and taxing heavily. (Refers to a legislative body that repeatedly passes expensive new laws and keeps raising taxes to pay for the cost.) ☐ *I hope that people do not elect another tax-and-spend Congress this time.* ☐ *The only thing worse than a tax-and-spend legislature is one that spends and runs up a worsening deficit.*

tea and crumpets a fancy or fussy meeting or reception where refreshments, especially sweet and insubstantial refreshments, are served. (Alluding to a genteel appointment where tea and some light pastries are served.) ☐ *I don't have time to spend the afternoon having tea and crumpets with the office staff. I have work to do!* ☐ *Almost every one of my Sunday afternoons is taken up with tea and crumpets for this cause and tea and crumpets for that cause! My rest and relaxation is the only cause I am interested in this Sunday!*

teach one's **grandmother to suck eggs** to try to tell or show someone more knowledgeable or experienced than oneself how to do something. ☐ *Don't suggest showing Mary how to knit. It will be teaching your grandmother to suck eggs. She's an expert.* ☐ *Don't teach your grandmother to suck eggs. Bob has been playing tennis for years.*

teach someone **a lesson** to get even with someone for bad behavior. (Also literal.) ☐ *John tripped me, so I punched him. That ought to teach him a lesson.* ☐ *That taught me a lesson. I won't do it again.*

the **teacher's pet** the teacher's favorite student. (Preceded by *be*, *become*, *seem like*, or *act like*.) ☐ *Sally is the teacher's pet. She always gets special treatment.* ☐ *The other students don't like the teacher's pet.*

team up with someone to join with someone. □ *I teamed up with Jane to write the report.* □ *I had never teamed up with anyone else before. I had always worked alone.*

tear into someone or something **1.** [with someone] to criticize and scold someone. □ *Tom tore into John and yelled at him for an hour.* □ *Don't tear into me like that. You have no right to speak to me that way.* **2.** to attack or fight with someone or something. □ *The boxer tore into his opponent.* □ *The lion tore into the herd of zebras.*

tear off to leave or depart in a great hurry. (Informal.) □ *Well, excuse me. I have to tear off.* □ *Bob tore off down the street, chasing the fire engine.*

tear one's hair (out) to be anxious, frustrated, or angry. □ *I was so nervous, I was about to tear my hair.* □ *I had better get home. My parents will be tearing their hair out.*

tear someone or something down **1.** to criticize or degrade someone or something. □ *Tom is always tearing Jane down. I guess he doesn't like her.* □ *It's not nice to tear down the people who work in your office.* □ *Why are you always tearing my projects down?* **2.** [with something] to dismantle or destroy something. □ *They plan to tear the old building down and build a new one there.* □ *They'll tear down the building in about two weeks.*

tear someone up to cause someone much grief. (Also literal. Slang.) □ *The news of Tom's death really tore Bill up.* □ *Bad news tears up some people. Other people can take it calmly.*

tee someone off to make someone angry. (Slang.) □ *That kind of talk really tees me off!* □ *Don't let him tee you off. He doesn't mean any harm.*

teething troubles difficulties and problems experienced in the early stages of a project, activity, etc. □ *There have been a lot of teething troubles with the new computer system.* □ *We have finally gotten over the teething troubles connected with the new building complex.*

tell its own story AND **tell its own tale** [for the state of something] to indicate clearly what has happened. □ *The upturned boat told its own tale. The fisherman had drowned.* □ *The girl's tear-stained face told its own story.*

tell its own tale Go to tell its own story.

tell it to the marines I do not believe you (maybe the marines will). (Informal.) □ *That's silly. Tell it to the marines.* □ *I don't care how good you think your reason is. Tell it to the marines!*

tell one to one's face to tell (something) to someone directly. □ *I'm sorry that Sally feels that way about me. I wish she had told me to my face.* □ *I won't tell Tom that you're mad at him. You should tell him to his face.*

tell on someone to report someone's bad behavior; to tattle on someone. □ *If you do that again, I'll tell on you!* □ *Please don't tell on me. I'm in enough trouble as it is.*

tell people apart to distinguish one person or a group of people from another person or group of people. □ *Tom and John are brothers, and you can hardly tell them apart.* □ *Our team is wearing red, and the other team is wearing orange. I can't tell them apart.*

tell someone a thing or two AND **tell someone where to get off** to scold someone; to express one's anger to someone; to tell someone off. (Informal.) □ *Wait till I see Sally. I'll tell her a thing or two!* □ *She told me where to get off and then started in scolding Tom.*

tell someone off to scold someone; to attack someone verbally. (This has a sense of finality about it.) □ *I was so mad at Bob that I told him off.* □ *By the end of the day, I had told off everyone else, too.*

tell someone where to get off Go to tell someone a thing or two.

tell tales out of school to tell secrets or spread rumors. □ *I wish that John would keep quiet. He's telling tales out of school again.* □ *If you tell tales out of school a lot, people won't know when to believe you.*

tell things apart to distinguish one thing or a group of things from another thing or group of things. □ *This one is gold, and the others are brass. Can you tell them apart?* □ *Without their labels, I can't tell them apart.*

tell time 1. to keep or report the correct time. □ *This clock doesn't tell time very accurately.* □ *My watch stopped telling time, so I had to have it repaired.* **2.** to be able to read time from a clock or watch. □ *Billy is only four. He can't tell time yet.* □ *They are teaching the children to tell time at school.*

tell which is which Go to know which is which.

a **tempest in a teapot** an uproar about practically nothing. □ *This isn't a serious problem—just a tempest in a teapot.* □ *Even a tempest in a teapot can take a lot of time to get settled.*

thank one's lucky stars to be thankful for one's luck. □ *You can thank your lucky stars that I was there to help you.* □ *I thank my lucky stars that I studied the right things for the test.*

Thank you for sharing. <a sarcastic remark made when someone tells something that is unpleasant, overly personal, disgusting, or otherwise annoying.> □ *Thank you for sharing. I really needed to hear about your operation.* □ *Thank you for sharing, Bob. I hope your parents' divorce goes well.*

thankful for small blessings grateful for any small benefits or advantages one has, especially in a generally difficult situation. (Preceded by *be, become, or seem.*) □ *We have very little money, but we must be thankful for small blessings. At least we have enough food.* □ *Bob was badly injured in the accident, but at least he's still alive. Let's be thankful for small blessings.*

thanks to someone or something owing to someone or something; because of someone or something. (This does not refer to gratitude.) □ *Thanks to the storm, we have no electricity.* □ *Thanks to Mary, we have tickets to the game. She bought them early before they were sold out.*

That ain't hay. That is not a small amount of money. (Folksy.) □ *I paid forty dollars for it, and that ain't hay!* □ *Bob lost his wallet with \$200 in it—and that ain't hay.*

That does it! AND **That tears it!** That is the last thing that is needed to force me to take action! □ *That does it! I'm mad and I'm going home!* □ *Well, that tears it! I have never been so insulted!*

That makes two of us. The same is true for me. □ *So you're going to the football game? That makes two of us.* □ *BILL: I just passed my biology test. BOB: That makes two of us!*

That sucks. AND **It sucks.** That is worthless. (Slang. Use caution with *sucks.*) □ *Yuck! That sucks!* □ *This meat loaf is terrible. It sucks.*

That takes care of that. That is settled. □ *That takes care of that, and I'm glad it's over.* □ *I spent all morning dealing with this matter, and that takes care of that.*

That tears it! Go to **That does it!**

That'll be the day. I don't believe that the day will ever come (when something will happen). □ *Do you really think that John will pass geometry? That'll be the day.* □ *John graduate? That'll be the day!*

That's about the size of it. It is final and correct. (Slang.) □ *MARY: Do you mean that you aren't going? TOM: That's about the size of it.* □ *At the end of his speech Bob said, "That's about the size of it."*

That's all for someone. Someone will get no more chances to do things correctly. □ *That's all for you, Tom. I've had all I can take from you. One disappointment after another.* □ *You've gone too far, Mary. That's all for you. Good-bye!*

That's all she wrote. That is all. (Slang.) □ *At the end of his informal talk, Tom said, "That's all she wrote."* □ *Sally looked at the empty catsup bottle and said, "That's all she wrote."*

That's it! 1. That does it! That's the last straw! (Informal.) □ *That's it! I'm leaving! I've had enough!* □ *Ok. That's it! I'm going to report you to human resources!*

2. That is the answer! □ *That's it! You are right.* □ *That's it! You got the right answer.*

That's that. It is permanently settled and need not be dealt with again. □ *I said no, and that's that.* □ *You can't come back. I told you to leave, and that's that.*

That's the ticket. That is exactly what is needed. □ *That's the ticket, John. You're doing it just the way it should be done.* □ *That's the ticket! I knew you could do it.*

That's the way the ball bounces. **AND** **That's the way the cookie crumbles.** That is too bad.; Those things happen. (Slang.) □ *Sorry to hear about your problems. That's the way the ball bounces.* □ *John wrecked his car and then lost his job. That's the way the cookie crumbles.*

That's the way the cookie crumbles. Go to **That's the way the ball bounces.**

[the] <Entries beginning with *a*, *an*, or *the* are alphabetized under the *second* word in the entry. That means that *a bed of roses* will appear in the *Bs*.>

The jig is up. Go to **The game is up.**

Them's fighting words. Those are words that will start a fight. (Folksy. Note that *them* is permissible in this expression.) □ *Better not talk like that around here. Them's fighting words.* □ *Them's fighting words, and you'd better be quiet unless you want trouble.*

then and there right then. □ *I asked him right then and there exactly what he meant.* □ *I decided to settle the matter then and there and not wait until Monday.*

There aren't enough hours in the day. There are too many things to do and not enough time. □ *I am behind in all my work. There aren't enough hours in the day!* □ *We can't handle all the problems that come our way. There aren't enough hours in the day.*

There are plenty of other fish in the sea. There are other choices. (Proverb. Used to refer to persons.) □ *When John broke up with Ann, I told her not to worry. There are plenty of other fish in the sea.* □ *It's too bad that your secretary quit, but there are plenty of other fish in the sea.*

there is no doing something one is not permitted to do something. (Informal.) □ *There is no arguing with Bill.* □ *There is no cigarette smoking here.*

There is trouble brewing. Go to **Trouble** is brewing.

There, now. Go to **There, there.**

There, there. **AND** **There, now.** <an expression used to comfort someone.> □ *There, there. You'll feel better after you take a nap.* □ *There, now. Everything will be all right.*

There will be the devil to pay. There will be lots of trouble. (Informal. See also **have the devil to pay**.) □ *If you damage my car, there will be the devil to pay.* □ *Bill broke a window, and now there will be the devil to pay.*

There you go. Go to **Here you go.**

There's more than one way to skin a cat. There is more than one way to do something. (Proverb.) □ *If that way won't work, try another way. There's more than one way to skin a cat.* □ *Don't worry, I'll figure out a way to get it done. There's more than one way to skin a cat.*

There's no accounting for taste. There is no explanation for people's preferences. (Proverb.) □ *Look at that purple and orange car! There's no accounting for taste.* □ *Some people seemed to like the music, although I thought it was worse than noise. There's no accounting for taste.*

They don't make them like they used to. goods are not as well made now as they were in the past. (Often used as a catch phrase. *Them* is often 'em.) □ *Look at this flimsy door! They don't make 'em like they used to.* □ *Why don't cars last longer? They just don't make 'em like they used to.*

thick and fast in large numbers or amounts and at a rapid rate. □ *The enemy soldiers came thick and fast.* □ *New problems seem to come thick and fast.*

thick as pea soup Go to (as) **thick as pea soup**.

thick as thieves Go to (as) **thick as thieves**.

thick-skinned not easily upset or hurt; insensitive. (Also literal. The opposite of **thin-skinned**.) □ *Tom won't worry about your insults. He's completely thick-skinned.* □ *Jane's so thick-skinned she didn't realize Fred was being rude to her.*

thin on top balding. (Informal.) □ *James is wearing a hat because he's getting thin on top.* □ *Father got a little thin on top as he got older.*

thin-skinned easily upset or hurt; sensitive. (Also literal. The opposite of **thick-skinned**.) □ *You'll have to handle Mary's mother carefully. She's very thin-skinned.* □ *Jane weeps easily when people tease her. She's too thin-skinned.*

Things are looking up. Conditions are looking better. □ *Since I got a salary increase, things are looking up.* □ *Things are looking up at school. I'm doing better in all my classes.*

think a great deal of someone or something Go to think a lot of someone or something.

think a lot of someone or something **AND think a great deal of** someone or something; **think highly of** someone or something; **think much of** someone or something to think well of someone or something. (See also **speak highly of** someone or something.) □ *The teacher thinks a lot of Mary and her talents.* □ *No one really thinks a great deal of the new policies.* □ *I think highly of John.* □ *The manager doesn't think much of John and says so to everyone.*

think back (on) someone or something) to remember and think about someone or something in one's past. □ *When I think back on Sally and the good times we had together, I get very sad.* □ *I like to think back on my childhood and try to remember what it was like.*

think better of something to reconsider something; to think again and decide not to do something. □ *Jack was going to escape, but he thought better of it.* □ *Jill had planned to resign, but thought better of it.*

think highly of someone or something Go to think a lot of someone or something.

think inside the box to think in traditional fashion, bound by old, nonfunctional, or limiting structures, rules, or practices. (As if thinking or creativity were confined or limited by a figurative box. See also **inside the box**. Compare this with **think outside the box**.) □ *You won't come up with good ideas if you think only inside the box.* □ *You guys only think inside the box and will never find a better solution.*

think little of someone or something **AND think nothing of** someone or something to have a low opinion of someone or something. □ *Most experts think little of Jane's theory.* □ *People may think nothing of it now, but in a few years everyone will praise it.* □ *The critics thought little of her latest book.*

think much of someone or something Go to think a lot of someone or something.

think nothing of someone or something Go to think little of someone or something.

think on one's feet to think, reason, and plan while one is talking. □ *If you want to be a successful teacher, you must be able to think on your feet.* □ *I have to write out everything I'm going to say, because I can't think on my feet too well.*

think out loud to say one's thoughts aloud. □ *Excuse me. I didn't really mean to say that. I was just thinking out loud.* □ *Mr. Johnson didn't prepare a speech. He just stood there and thought out loud. It was a terrible presentation.*

think outside the box to think freely, not bound by old, nonfunctional, or limiting structures, rules, or practices. (As if thinking or creativity were confined in or limited by a figurative box. See also **outside the box**. Compare this with **think inside the box**.) □ *You won't come up with good ideas until you think outside the box.* □ *Let's think outside the box for a minute and try to find a better solution.*

think someone or something **fit for** something to believe that someone or something is suitable for something. □ *I don't think John fit for the job.* □ *Do you think this car fit for a long trip?*

think something out to think through something; to prepare a plan or scheme. □ *This is an interesting problem. I'll have to take some time and think it out.* □ *We spent all morning thinking out our plan.*

think something over to consider something; to think about something (before giving a decision). □ *Please think it over and give me your decision in the morning.* □ *I need more time to think over your offer.*

think something up to contrive or invent something. □ *Don't worry. I'll find a way to do it. I can think something up in time to get it done.* □ *John thought up a way to solve our problem.*

think the world of someone or something to be very fond of someone or something. □ *Mary thinks the world of her little sister.* □ *The old lady thinks the world of her cats.*

think twice (before doing something) to consider carefully whether one should do something; to be cautious about doing something. □ *You should think twice before quitting your job.* □ *That's a serious decision, and you should certainly think twice.*

thinking inside the box thinking traditionally, bound by old, nonfunctional, or limiting structures, rules, or practices. (Compare this with **thinking outside the box**.) □ *Thinking inside the box will seldom produce any creative solution for a serious problem.* □ *Thinking inside the box is what got us into this mess in the first place.*

thinking outside the box thinking freely, not being bound by old, nonfunctional, or limiting structures, rules, or practices. (Compare this with **thinking inside the box**.) □ *Thinking outside the box will often produce some creative solutions to a complex problem.* □ *Thinking outside the box is a popular way to encourage creative solutions, or it can waste a lot of valuable time.*

a **thirst for** something a craving or desire for something. (Also literal.) □ *The tyrant had an intense thirst for power.* □ *The ac-*

tor's thirst for fame caused him to become unscrupulous.

thirsty for something craving or desiring something. (Also literal.) □ *The students were thirsty for knowledge.* □ *That evil tyrant is thirsty for power.*

This is it. This is the time, place, or thing that we have been looking or waiting for. □ *This is it. This is the chance you've been waiting for!* □ *This is it. This is my stop. I have to get off the bus.*

thither and yon there and everywhere. (Archaic. See also **hither**, **thither**, and **yon**.) □ *I sent my résumé thither and yon, but no one responded.* □ *The children are all scattered thither and yon, and it is difficult for them to get home for the holidays.*

a **thorn in** someone's **side** a constant bother or annoyance to someone. (Preceded by *be*, *become*, *seem* like, or *act* like.) □ *This problem is a thorn in my side. I wish I had a solution to it.* □ *John was a thorn in my side for years before I finally got rid of him.*

Those were the days. The days we have been referring to were the greatest of times. □ *Ah, yes. The eighties. Those were the days!* □ *Those were the days. Back when people knew right from wrong.*

thrash something out to discuss something thoroughly and solve any problems. □ *The committee took hours to thrash the whole matter out.* □ *Fred and Anne thrashed out the reasons for their constant disagreements.*

thread (one's way) through something to make a path for oneself through a crowded area; to make one's way through a crowded area. □ *The spy threaded his way through the crowd.* □ *The joggers threaded through the shoppers on the sidewalks.*

three sheets to the wind drunk. (These sheets are the ropes on a sailing vessel.) □ *I think that guy is three sheets to the wind. He can hardly stand up.* □ *Bob and Bill are three sheets to the wind. You know, drunk.*

thrill someone to death Go to thrill someone to pieces.

thrill someone to pieces AND **thrill someone to death** to please or excite someone very much. (Informal.) ☐ *John sent flowers to Ann and thrilled her to pieces.* ☐ *Your wonderful comments thrilled me to death.*

thrilled to death AND **thrilled to pieces** very excited; very pleased. ☐ *She was thrilled to death to get the flowers.* ☐ *I'm just thrilled to pieces to have you visit me.*

thrilled to pieces Go to thrilled to death.

through and through thoroughly; completely. ☐ *I've studied this report through and through trying to find the facts you've mentioned.* ☐ *I was angry through and through, and I had to sit and recover before I could talk to anyone.*

through hell and high water through all sorts of severe difficulties. (Use caution with hell.) ☐ *I came through hell and high water to get to this meeting on time. Why don't you start on time?* ☐ *You'll have to go through hell and high water to accomplish your goal, but it'll be worth it.*

through thick and thin through good times and bad times. ☐ *We've been together through thick and thin, and we won't desert each other now.* ☐ *Over the years, we went through thick and thin and enjoyed every minute of it.*

throw a fit to become very angry; to put on a display of anger. (Folksy.) ☐ *Sally threw a fit when I showed up without the things she asked me to buy.* ☐ *My dad threw a fit when I got home three hours late.*

throw a monkey wrench into the works to cause problems for someone's plans. (Informal.) ☐ *I don't want to throw a monkey wrench into the works, but have you checked your plans with a lawyer?* ☐ *When John suddenly refused to help us, he really threw a monkey wrench into the works.*

throw a party (for someone) to give or hold a party (for someone). ☐ *Mary was leaving town, so we threw a party for her.* ☐ *Fred is having a birthday. Do you know a place where we could throw a party?*

throw caution to the wind to become very careless. ☐ *Jane, who is usually cautious, threw caution to the wind and went windsurfing.* ☐ *I don't mind taking a little chance now and then, but I'm not the type of person who throws caution to the wind.*

throw cold water on something Go to pour cold water on something.

throw down the gauntlet to challenge (someone) to an argument or to (figurative) combat. ☐ *When Bob challenged my conclusions, he threw down the gauntlet. I was ready for an argument.* ☐ *Frowning at Bob is the same as throwing down the gauntlet. He loves to get into a fight about something.*

throw good money after bad to waste additional money after wasting money once. ☐ *I bought a used car and then had to spend \$300 on repairs. That was throwing good money after bad.* ☐ *The Browns are always throwing good money after bad. They bought an acre of land that turned out to be swamp, and then had to pay to have it filled in.*

throw in the sponge Go to throw in the towel.

throw in the towel AND **throw in the sponge** to quit (doing something). (Informal.) ☐ *When John could stand no more of Mary's bad temper, he threw in the towel and left.* ☐ *Don't give up now! It's too soon to throw in the sponge.*

throw oneself at someone AND **fling oneself at** someone to give oneself willingly to someone else for romance. ☐ *I guess that Mary really likes John. She practically threw herself at him when he came into the room.* ☐ *Everyone could see by the way Tom flung himself at Jane that he was going to ask her for a date.*

throw oneself at someone's feet to behave in a very humble and contrite manner. (Refers to bowing down humbly at someone's feet.) ☐ *Do I have to throw myself at your feet in order to convince you that I'm sorry?* ☐ *I love you sincerely, Jane. I'll throw myself at your feet and await your command. I'm your slave!*

throw oneself at the mercy of the court

Go to **throw oneself on the mercy of the court**.

throw oneself on the mercy of the court

AND **throw oneself at the mercy of the court** to plead for mercy from a judge in a courtroom. □ *Your honor, please believe me, I didn't do it on purpose. I throw myself on the mercy of the court and beg for a light sentence.* □ *Jane threw herself at the mercy of the court and hoped for the best.*

throw one's hands up in despair

to give up; to raise one's hands making a sign of giving up. □ *John threw his hands up in despair because they wouldn't let him see his brother in the hospital.* □ *There was nothing I could do to help. I threw up my hands in despair and left.*

throw one's hands up in horror

to be shocked; to raise one's hands as if one had been frightened. □ *When Bill heard the bad news, he threw his hands up in horror.* □ *I could do no more. I had seen more than I could stand. I just threw up my hands in horror and screamed.*

throw one's voice

to project one's voice so that it seems to be coming from some other place. □ *The ventriloquist threw his voice.* □ *Jane can throw her voice, so I thought she was standing behind me.*

throw one's weight around

to attempt to boss people around; to give orders. (Informal.) □ *The district manager came to our office and tried to throw his weight around, but no one paid any attention to him.* □ *Don't try to throw your weight around in this office. We know who our boss is.*

throw (some) light on something

Go to **shed (some) light on something**.

throw someone to confuse someone slightly.

(See also **throw someone for a loop**.) □ *You threw me for a minute when you asked for my identification. I thought you recognized me.* □ *The question the teacher asked was so hard that it threw me, and I became very nervous.*

throw someone a curve 1.

to pitch a curve ball to someone in baseball. □ *The*

pitcher threw John a curve, and John swung wildly against thin air. □ *During that game, the pitcher threw everyone a curve at least once.* **2.** to confuse someone by doing something unexpected. □ *When you said "house" you threw me a curve. The password was supposed to be "home."* □ *John threw me a curve when we were making our presentation, and I forgot my speech.*

throw someone for a loop

AND **knock someone for a loop** to confuse or shock someone. (Informal. This is more severe and upsetting than **throw someone a curve** or **throw someone**.) □ *When Bill heard the news, it threw him for a loop.* □ *The manager knocked Bob for a loop by firing him on the spot.*

throw someone for a loss

to cause someone to be uncertain or confused. (Often passive.) □ *The stress of being in front of so many people threw Ann for a loss. She forgot her speech.* □ *It was a difficult problem. I was thrown for a loss for an answer.*

throw someone off the track 1.

to cause one to lose one's place in the sequence of things. □ *The interruption threw me off the track for a moment, but I soon got started again with my presentation.* □ *Don't let little things throw you off the track. Concentrate on what you're doing.*

2. AND throw someone off the trail

to cause someone to lose the trail (when following someone or something). □ *The raccoon threw us off the track by running through the creek.* □ *The robber threw the police off the trail by leaving town.*

throw someone off the trail

Go to **throw someone off the track**.

throw someone or something off 1.

[with someone] to confuse someone; to mislead someone. □ *The interruption threw me off, and I lost my place in the speech.* □ *Little noises throw me off. Please try to be quiet.* □ *Your comment threw me off.* **2.** [with something] to resist or recover from a disease. □ *It was a bad cold, but I managed to throw it off in a few days.* □ *I can't seem to throw off my cold. I've had it for weeks.* **3.** [with something] to emit or give off an odor. □ *The small animal threw a*

strong odor off. ☐ *The flowers threw off a heavy perfume.*

throw someone out (of something) to force a person to leave a place or an organization. (Also literal.) ☐ *John behaved so badly that they threw him out of the party.* ☐ *I was very loud, but they didn't throw me out.* ☐ *They threw Toni out of the club because she was so unpleasant.*

throw someone over to end a romance with someone. ☐ *Jane threw Bill over. I think she met someone she likes better.* ☐ *Bill was about ready to throw her over, so it's just as well.*

throw someone's name around to impress people by saying you know a famous or influential person. (Informal.) ☐ *You won't get anywhere around here by throwing the mayor's name around.* ☐ *When you get to the meeting, just throw my name around a bit, and people will pay attention to you.*

throw someone to the wolves to (figuratively) sacrifice someone. ☐ *The press was demanding an explanation, so the mayor blamed the mess on John and threw him to the wolves.* ☐ *I wouldn't let them throw me to the wolves! I did nothing wrong, and I won't take the blame for their errors.*

throw something into the bargain to include something in a deal. ☐ *To encourage me to buy a new car, the car dealer threw a free radio into the bargain.* ☐ *If you purchase three pounds of chocolates, I'll throw one pound of salted nuts into the bargain.*

throw something together AND **slap something together** to assemble or arrange something in haste. ☐ *Don't just slap something together! Use care and do it right.* ☐ *You assembled this device very badly. It seems that you just slapped it together.* ☐ *John went into the kitchen to throw together something for dinner.*

throw (something) up to vomit something. (Compare this with **spit (something) up**.) ☐ *The meat was bad, and I threw it up.* ☐ *I hate to throw up.* ☐ *Billy threw up his dinner.*

throw something up to someone to mention a shortcoming to someone repeatedly. ☐ *I know I'm thoughtless. Why do you keep throwing it up to me?* ☐ *Bill was always throwing Jane's faults up to her.*

throw the baby out with the bath(water) to dispose of the good while eagerly trying to get rid of the bad. ☐ *In her haste to talk down the idea containing a few disagreeable points, she has thrown the baby out with the bathwater.* ☐ *Hasty action will result in throwing out the baby with the bath.*

throw the book at someone to charge someone with, or convict someone of, as many crimes as is possible. (Slang.) ☐ *I made the police officer angry, so he took me to the station and threw the book at me.* ☐ *The judge threatened to throw the book at me if I didn't stop insulting the police officer.*

thrust and parry to enter into verbal combat [with someone]; to compete actively [with someone]. (Refers to movements in the sport of fencing.) ☐ *I spent the entire afternoon thrusting and parrying with a committee of so-called experts in the field of insurance.* ☐ *I do not intend to stand here and thrust and parry with you over a simple matter like this. Let's get someone else's opinion.*

thumb a ride AND **hitch a ride** to get a ride from a passing motorist; to make a sign with one's thumb that indicates to passing drivers that one is begging for a ride. ☐ *My car broke down on the highway, and I had to thumb a ride to get back to town.* ☐ *Sometimes it's dangerous to hitch a ride with a stranger.*

thumb one's nose at someone or something to (figuratively or literally) make a rude gesture of disgust with one's thumb and nose at someone or something. ☐ *The tramp thumbed his nose at the lady and walked away.* ☐ *You can't just thumb your nose at people who give you trouble. You've got to learn to get along.*

thumb through something AND **leaf through** something to look through a book, magazine, or newspaper, without reading it

carefully. ☐ *I've only thumbed through this book, but it looks very interesting.* ☐ *I leafed through a magazine while waiting to see the doctor.*

a **thumbnail sketch** a short or small picture or description. ☐ *The manager gave a thumbnail sketch of her plans.* ☐ *The student wrote a thumbnail sketch of his project.*

thumbs down on someone or something opposed to someone or something. (See also **turn thumbs down** (on someone or something).) ☐ *Bob is thumbs down on hiring anyone else.* ☐ *I had hoped that she'd agree with our plan, but she's thumbs down on it.*

thumbs up on someone or something in favor of someone or something. (See also **turn thumbs up** (on someone or something).) ☐ *Bob is thumbs up on hiring Claude.* ☐ *I never hoped she'd agree with our plan, but she's totally thumbs up on it.*

thunder thunderstorms; thundershowers. (Used in weather forecasting.) ☐ *The forecast is for breezy conditions tonight, perhaps with some thunder later in the evening.* ☐ *There was a lot of thunder across the Midwest today, causing flooding in low-lying areas.*

tickle someone pink AND **tickle someone to death** to please or entertain someone very much. (Informal.) ☐ *Bill told a joke that really tickled us all pink.* ☐ *I know that these flowers will tickle her to death.*

tickle someone's fancy to interest someone; to make someone curious. (See also **strike someone's fancy**.) ☐ *I have an interesting problem here that I think will tickle your fancy.* ☐ *This doesn't tickle my fancy at all. This is dull and boring.*

tickle someone to death Go to tickle someone pink.

tickled pink AND **tickled to death** very much pleased or entertained. (Informal.) ☐ *I was tickled to death to have you visit us.* ☐ *We were tickled pink when your flowers arrived.*

tickled to death Go to tickled pink.

tide someone over [for a portion of something] to last until someone can get some more. ☐ *I don't get paid until next Wednesday. Could you lend me thirty dollars to tide me over?* ☐ *Could I borrow some coffee to tide me over until I can get to the store tomorrow?*

tie into something to connect to something. ☐ *I'm trying to get my home computer to tie in with the big one at the university.* ☐ *Could I tie into your water line while I'm waiting for mine to be repaired?* ☐ *What you just told me ties into John's version of the event.*

tie someone down to restrict or encumber someone. (Also literal.) ☐ *I'd like to go fishing every weekend, but my family ties me down.* ☐ *I don't want to tie you down, but you do have responsibilities here at home.*

tie someone or something up 1. [with someone] to keep someone busy or occupied. (Also literal.) ☐ *Sorry, this matter will tie me up for about an hour.* ☐ *The same matter will tie up almost everyone in the office.* **2.** [with something] to conclude and finalize something. (Informal.) ☐ *Let's try to tie up this deal by Thursday.* ☐ *We'll manage to tie our business up by Wednesday at the latest.*

tie someone's hands to prevent someone from doing something. (Also literal. See also **have one's hands tied**.) ☐ *I'd like to help you, but my boss has tied my hands.* ☐ *Please don't tie my hands with unnecessary restrictions. I'd like the freedom to do whatever is necessary.*

tie someone (up) in knots to become anxious or upset. (Informal.) ☐ *John tied himself in knots worrying about his wife during the operation.* ☐ *This waiting and worrying really ties me up in knots.*

tie the knot to get married. (Informal.) ☐ *Well, I hear that you and John are going to tie the knot.* ☐ *My parents tied the knot almost forty years ago.*

tie traffic up to cause road traffic to stop. ☐ *If you tie traffic up for too long, you'll get a traffic ticket.* ☐ *Please don't stop on the roadway. It'll tie up traffic.*

tied down restricted by responsibilities. (Also literal.) ☐ *I love my home, but sometimes I don't like being tied down.* ☐ *I don't feel tied down, even though I have a lot of responsibility.*

tied to one's mother's apron strings dominated by one's mother; dependent on one's mother. ☐ *Tom is still tied to his mother's apron strings.* ☐ *Isn't he a little old to be tied to his mother's apron strings?*

tied up busy. (Also literal.) ☐ *How long will you be tied up?* ☐ *I will be tied up in a meeting for an hour.*

tight as a drum Go to (as) tight as a drum.

tight as a tick Go to (as) full as a tick.

tight as Dick's hatband Go to (as) tight as Dick's hatband.

tighten one's belt to manage to spend less money; to use less of something. ☐ *Things are beginning to cost more and more. It looks as if we'll all have to tighten our belts.* ☐ *Times are hard, and prices are high. I can tighten my belt for only so long.*

tightfisted (with money) AND close-fisted (with money) very stingy with money. ☐ *The manager is very closefisted with expenditures.* ☐ *My parents are very tightfisted with money.*

till all hours (of the day and night) Go to until all hours (of the day and night).

till the cows come home Go to (un)til the cows come home.

tilt at windmills to fight battles with imaginary enemies; to fight against unimportant enemies or issues. (As with the fictional character, Don Quixote, who attacked windmills.) ☐ *Aren't you too smart to go around tilting at windmills?* ☐ *I'm not going to fight this issue. I've wasted too much of my life tilting at windmills.*

time after time AND time and (time) again repeatedly; over and over (again). ☐ *You've made the same error time after time! Please try to be more careful!* ☐ *I've told you time and again not to do that.* ☐ *You keep saying the same thing over and over, time and time again. Stop it!* ☐ *I*

have told you time and again: don't put wet garbage in the trash can!

time and (time) again Go to time after time.

time flies time passes very quickly. (From the Latin *tempus fugit*.) ☐ *I didn't really think it was so late when the party ended. Doesn't time fly?* ☐ *Time simply flew while the old friends exchanged news.*

Time is money. (My) time is valuable, so don't waste it. ☐ *I can't afford to spend a lot of time standing here talking. Time is money, you know!* ☐ *People who keep saying that time is money may be working too hard.*

the **time is ripe** Exactly the right time has come. ☐ *I'll tell her the good news when the time is ripe.* ☐ *The time is ripe to ask the question again.*

Time is up. The allotted time has run out. ☐ *You must stop now. Your time is up.* ☐ *Time's up! Turn in your tests whether you're finished or not.*

time off a period of time during which one does not have to work; free time. ☐ *The next time I have some time off, I want to go to Miami.* ☐ *I don't have any time off until next week.*

time out 1. to record one's departure time. ☐ *Did you remember to time out when you left work?* ☐ *I timed out at the regular time. 2.* stopping the clock in a sporting event that is played in a fixed time period. ☐ *The coach made a sign for time out, and the clock stopped and a buzzer sounded.* ☐ *After someone called time out, the players gathered around the coach.*

time to catch one's breath to find enough time to relax or behave normally. ☐ *When things slow down around here, I'll get time to catch my breath.* ☐ *Sally was so busy she didn't even have time to catch her breath.*

time was (when) there was a time when; at a time in the past. ☐ *Time was when old people were taken care of at home.* ☐ *Time was when people didn't travel around so much.*

Time will tell. Something will become known in the course of time. (Proverb.)
 □ *I don't know if things will improve. Time will tell.* □ *Who knows what the future will bring? Only time will tell.*

tip someone off to give someone a hint; to warn someone. (Slang.) □ *I tipped John off that there would be a test in his algebra class.* □ *I didn't want to tip off everyone, so I only told John.*

tip the scales at something to weigh some amount. □ *Tom tips the scales at nearly 200 pounds.* □ *I'll be glad when I tip the scales at a few pounds less.*

tits and ass a public display of [the human female] breasts and buttocks. (Refers to television, film, and stage performances in which women exhibit prominent and well-formed breasts and buttocks or in which these body parts are emphasized or made prominent. Slang. Use caution with the expression.) □ *We have a really fine choice on television tonight. There is brutal violence on channel 2, bloody horror on channel 5, and tits and ass on channel 10.* □ *Without tits and ass, many Broadway musicals would flop.*

to a great extent mainly; largely. □ *To a great extent, Mary is the cause of her own problems.* □ *I've finished my work to a great extent. There is nothing important left to do.*

to and fro toward and away from (something). (Compare this with **back and forth**.) □ *The puppy was very active—running to and fro—wagging its tail.* □ *The lion in the cage moved to and fro, watching the people in front of the cage.*

to beat the band very much; very fast. (Folksy.) □ *The carpenter sawed and hammered to beat the band.* □ *They baked cookies and pies to beat the band.*

to be on the safe side to be safe; to be cautious; [to do something just] in case it is necessary; to be very well prepared. □ *To be on the safe side, carry some extra money in your shoe.* □ *I like to be on the safe side and stay in my hotel room at night.*

to be safe to be cautious; to be careful; [to do something just] in case it is necessary; to be very well prepared. □ *Just to be safe, you should take some clean water with you.* □ *Other people like to drive over the speed limit, but I prefer to be safe.*

to boot in addition; besides. (Informal.) □ *For breakfast I had my usual two eggs and a slice of ham to boot.* □ *When I left for school, my parents gave me an airplane ticket and fifty dollars to boot.*

to count heads to count people. □ *I'll tell you how many people are here after I count heads.* □ *Everyone is here. Let's count heads so we can order hamburgers.*

to date up to the present time. □ *How much have you accomplished to date?* □ *I've done everything I'm supposed to have done to date.*

to hell and gone very much gone; gone to hell. (Use caution with *hell*.) □ *All my hard work is to hell and gone.* □ *When you see everything you've planned to hell and gone, you get kind of angry.*

to no avail AND **of no avail** with no effect; unsuccessful. □ *All of my efforts were to no avail.* □ *Everything I did to help was of no avail. Nothing worked.*

to one's heart's content as much as one wants. □ *John wanted a week's vacation so he could go to the lake and fish to his heart's content.* □ *I just sat there, eating chocolate to my heart's content.*

to put it mildly to understate something; to say something politely. (Note the variation in the example below.) □ *She was angry at almost everyone—to put it mildly.* □ *To say she was angry is putting it mildly.* □ *To put it mildly, she was enraged.*

to say nothing of someone or something not to even mention the importance of someone or something. □ *John and Mary had to be taken care of, to say nothing of Bill, who would require even more attention.* □ *I'm having enough difficulty painting the house, to say nothing of the garage that is very much in need of paint.*

to say the least at the very least; without dwelling on the subject; to put it mildly.

□ We were not at all pleased with her work—to say the least. □ When they had an accident, they were upset to say the least.

to some extent to some degree; in some amount; partly. □ I've solved this problem to some extent. □ I can help you understand this to some extent.

to someone's liking in a way that pleases someone. □ I hope I've done the work to your liking. □ Sally didn't find the meal to her liking and didn't eat any of it.

to someone's way of thinking in someone's opinion. □ This isn't satisfactory to my way of thinking. □ To my way of thinking, this is the perfect kind of vacation.

to the best of one's ability as well as one is able. □ I did the work to the best of my ability. □ You should always work to the best of your ability.

to the best of one's knowledge as far as one knows; from one's knowledge. □ This is the true story to the best of my knowledge. □ To the best of my knowledge, John is the only person who can answer that question.

to the bitter end to the very end. (Originally nautical. This originally had nothing to do with bitterness.) □ I kept trying to the bitter end. □ It took me a long time to get through school, but I worked hard at it all the way to the bitter end.

to the contrary as the opposite of what has been stated; contrary to what has been stated. (Compare this with **on the contrary**.) □ The brown horse didn't beat the black horse. To the contrary, the black one won. □ Among spiders, the male is not the larger one. To the contrary, the female is larger.

to the core all the way through; basically and essentially. (Usually with some negative sense, such as *evil*, *rotten*, etc.) □ Bill said that John is evil to the core. □ This organization is rotten to the core.

to the ends of the earth to the remotest and most inaccessible points on the earth. □ I'll pursue him to the ends of the earth. □ We've explored almost the whole

world. We've traveled to the ends of the earth trying to learn about our world.

to the last to the end; to the conclusion.

□ All of us kept trying to the last. □ It was a very boring play, but I sat through it to the last.

to the letter exactly as instructed; exactly as written. □ I didn't make an error. I followed your instruction to the letter. □ We didn't prepare the recipe to the letter, but the cake still turned out very well.

to the nth degree to the maximum amount. (Informal.) □ Jane is a perfectionist and tries to be careful to the nth degree. □ This scientific instrument is accurate to the nth degree.

to the tune of some amount of money a certain amount of money. (Informal.) □ My checking account is overdrawn to the tune of \$340. □ My wallet was stolen, and I'm short of money to the tune of seventy dollars.

To the victors belong the spoils. **AND To the victor belongs the spoils.** The winners achieve power over people and property. (Proverb.) □ The mayor took office and immediately fired many workers and hired new ones. Everyone said, "To the victors belong the spoils." □ The office of president includes the right to live in the White House and at Camp David. To the victors belong the spoils.

to whom it may concern to the person to whom this applies. (A form of address used when you do not know the name of the person who handles the kind of business you are writing about.) □ The letter started out, "To whom it may concern." □ When you don't know who to write to, just say, "To whom it may concern."

to wit namely; that is; that is to say. □ The criminal was punished; to wit, he received a 20-year sentence. □ Many students, to wit Mary, Bill, Sue, and Anne, complained about their teacher.

toe the line Go to toe the mark.

toe the mark **AND toe the line** to do what one is expected to do; to follow the rules. □ You'll get ahead, Sally. Don't worry. Just

toe the mark, and everything will be okay.
☐ *John finally got fired. He just couldn't learn to toe the line.*

toing and froing (on something) moving back and forth on an issue, first deciding one way and then changing to another. ☐ *The boss spent most of the afternoon toing and froing on the question of who was to handle the Wilson account.* ☐ *I wish you would stop toing and froing and make up your mind.*

Tom, Dick, and Harry Go to (every) Tom, Dick, and Harry.

tone something down to make something less extreme. ☐ *That yellow is too bright. Please try to tone it down.* ☐ *Can you tone down your remarks? They seem quite strong for this situation.*

tongue-in-cheek mockingly; insincere; joking. ☐ *Ann made a tongue-in-cheek remark to John, and he got mad because he thought she was serious.* ☐ *The play seemed very serious at first, but then everyone saw that it was tongue-in-cheek, and they began laughing.*

too big for one's britches too haughty for one's status or age. (Also literal. Folksy or informal. *Britches* are trousers.) ☐ *Bill's getting a little too big for his britches, and somebody's going to straighten him out.* ☐ *You're too big for your britches, young man! You had better be more respectful.*

too close for comfort [for a misfortune or a threat] to be dangerously close. (See also *close to home*.) ☐ *That car nearly hit me! That was too close for comfort.* ☐ *When I was in the hospital, I nearly died from pneumonia. Believe me, that was too close for comfort.*

too good to be true almost unbelievable; so good as to be unbelievable. ☐ *The news was too good to be true.* ☐ *When I finally got a big raise, it was too good to be true.*

Too many cooks spoil the broth. Go to Too many cooks spoil the stew.

Too many cooks spoil the stew. AND **Too many cooks spoil the broth.** Too many people trying to manage something sim-

ply spoil it. (Proverb.) ☐ *Let's decide who is in charge around here. Too many cooks spoil the stew.* ☐ *Everyone is giving orders, but no one is following them! Too many cooks spoil the broth.*

too much of a good thing more of a good thing than is good or useful. ☐ *I usually take short vacations. I can't stand too much of a good thing.* ☐ *Too much of a good thing can make you sick, especially if the good thing is chocolate.*

toot one's own horn AND **blow one's own horn** to boast or praise oneself. ☐ *Tom is always tooting his own horn. Is he really as good as he says he is?* ☐ *I find it hard to blow my own horn, but I manage.*

top someone or something to do or be better than someone or something. (Informal.) ☐ *Ann has done very well, but I don't think she can top Jane.* ☐ *Do you think your car tops mine when it comes to gas mileage?*

top something off to add to the difficulty of something. ☐ *Jane lost her job, and to top that off, she caught the flu.* ☐ *I had a bad day, and to top it off, I have to go to a meeting tonight.*

top something off (with something) to end or terminate something with something; to put something on the top of something. ☐ *They topped the building off with a tall flagpole.* ☐ *He topped off each piece of pie with a heap of whipped cream.* ☐ *That's the way to top off a piece of pie!*

torn between bad choices Go to **torn between** choosing something or something else.

torn between choosing something or something else AND **torn between** bad choices troubled by a choice or dilemma. ☐ *Jane was torn between two bad choices.* ☐ *We were torn between telling our boss the bad news or keeping it a secret.*

toss a salad to mix the green of a salad together with dressing. ☐ *The chef tossed the salad.* ☐ *I tossed the salad just before my guests arrived.*

toss one's cookies to vomit. (Slang.) ☐ *Don't run too fast after you eat or you'll*

toss your cookies. □ *Oh, I feel terrible. I think I'm going to toss my cookies.*

toss one's hat into the ring to announce that one is running for an elective office. (Informal.) □ *Jane wanted to run for treasurer, so she tossed her hat into the ring.* □ *The mayor never tossed his hat into the ring. Instead he announced his retirement.*

toss something off AND **shake something off** **1.** to throw something off (of oneself). □ *Bob coughed so hard he shook his blanket off.* □ *Tom tossed off his jacket and sat down to watch television.* **2.** to ignore or resist the bad effects of something. □ *John insulted Bob, but Bob just tossed it off.* □ *If I couldn't shake off insults, I'd be miserable.*

touch and go very uncertain or critical. □ *Things were touch and go at the office until a new manager was hired.* □ *Jane had a serious operation, and everything was touch and go for two days after her surgery.*

touch a sore point Go to touch a sore spot.

touch a sore spot AND **touch a sore point** to refer to a sensitive matter that will upset someone. (Also literal.) □ *I seem to have touched a sore spot. I'm sorry. I didn't mean to upset you.* □ *When you talk to him, avoid talking about money. It's best not to touch a sore point if possible.*

touch base (with someone) to talk to someone; to confer with someone. (Slang.) □ *I need to touch base with John on this matter.* □ *John and I touched base on this question yesterday, and we are in agreement.*

touch on something to mention something; to talk about something briefly. □ *In tomorrow's lecture I'd like to touch on the matter of taxation.* □ *The teacher only touched on the subject. There wasn't time to do more than that.*

touch someone for something to ask someone for a loan of something, usually a sum of money. (Informal.) □ *Fred's always trying to touch people for money.* □ *Jack touched John for ten dollars.*

touch someone or something off **1.** [with someone] to make someone very angry. □ *Your rude comments touched Mary off. She's very angry at you.* □ *I didn't mean to touch off anyone. I was only being honest.* **2.** [with something] to ignite something; to start something. □ *A few sparks touched all the fireworks off at once.* □ *The argument touched off a serious fight.*

touch something up to repair a paint job on something. □ *We don't need to paint the whole room. We can just touch the walls up.* □ *You should touch up scratches on your car as soon as they occur.*

touched by someone or something emotionally affected or moved by someone or something. □ *Sally was very nice to me. I was very touched by her.* □ *I was really touched by your kind letter.*

touched (in the head) crazy. (Folksy or slang.) □ *Sometimes Bob acts like he's touched in the head.* □ *In fact, I thought he was touched.*

a tough act to follow a good presentation or performance that is difficult to follow with one's own performance. □ *Bill's speech was excellent. It was a tough act to follow, but my speech was good also.* □ *In spite of the fact that I had a tough act to follow, I did my best.*

tough as an old boot Go to (as) tough as an old boot.

tough break a bit of bad fortune. (Slang.) □ *I'm sorry to hear about your accident. Tough break.* □ *John had a lot of tough breaks when he was a kid, but he's doing okay now.*

tough it out to endure a difficult situation. (Slang.) □ *Geometry is very hard for John, but he managed to tough it out until the end of the year.* □ *This was a very bad day at the office. A few times, I was afraid I wouldn't be able to tough it out.*

tough nut to crack Go to hard nut to crack.

tough row to hoe a difficult task to undertake. □ *It was a tough row to hoe, but I finally got a college degree.* □ *Getting the contract signed is going to be a tough row to hoe, but I'm sure I can do it.*

a **tower of strength** Go to a pillar of strength.

town-and-gown the [poor] relations between a town and the university located within the town; the [poor] relations between university students and the non-students who live in a university town. □ *There is another town-and-gown dispute in Adamsville over the amount the university costs the city for police services.* □ *There was more town-and-gown strife reported at Larry's Bar and Grill last Saturday night.*

toy with someone or something **1.** [with someone] to tease someone; to deal lightly with someone's emotions. □ *Ann broke up with Tom because he was just toying with her. He was not serious at all.* □ *Don't toy with me! I won't have it!* **2.** [with something] to play or fiddle with something. □ *Stop toying with the radio, or you'll break it.* □ *John sat there toying with a pencil all through the meeting.*

trade on something to use a fact or a situation to one's advantage. □ *Tom was able to trade on the fact that he had once been in the Army.* □ *John traded on his poor eyesight to get a seat closer to the stage.*

[train of thought] Go to someone's train of thought.

train one's **sights on** something **AND** **have** one's **sights trained on** something to have something as a goal; to direct something or oneself toward a goal. □ *You should train your sights on getting a promotion in the next year.* □ *Lisa has her sights trained on a new car.*

a **travesty of justice** a miscarriage of justice; an act of the legal system that is an insult to the system of justice. □ *The jury's verdict was a travesty of justice.* □ *The lawyer complained that the judge's ruling was a travesty of justice.*

trial and error trying repeatedly for success. □ *I finally found the right key after lots of trial and error.* □ *Sometimes trial and error is the only way to get something done.*

trials and tribulations problems and tests of one's courage or perseverance. □ *I sup-*

pose I have the normal trials and tribulations for a person of my background, but some days are just a little too much for me. □ *I promise not to tell you of the trials and tribulations of my day if you promise not to tell me yours!*

Trick or treat! Give me a treat of some kind or I will play a trick on you! (The formulaic expression said by children after they ring someone's doorbell and the door is answered on Halloween. It is now understood to mean simply that the child is requesting a treat of some kind—candy, fruit, popcorn, etc.) □ *"Trick or treat!" cried Jimmy when the door opened.* □ *Mr. Franklin opened the door to find four very small children dressed like flowers standing silently on his doorstep. After a moment, he said, "Isn't anyone going to say, 'Trick or treat?'"*

trick someone **into** doing something to fool someone; to deceive someone; to cheat someone. □ *The thief tricked John into giving him \$10.* □ *Mary tricked her friends into paying for her dinner.*

tried-and-true tested by time and proven to be sound. □ *I have a tried-and-true remedy for poison ivy.* □ *All of her investment ideas are tried-and-true and you ought to be able to make money if you follow them.*

trip someone **up** **1.** to trip someone. □ *Bob tripped himself up on his own feet.* □ *The loose gravel beside the track tripped up Bob, and he fell.* **2.** to cause difficulty for someone; to cause someone to fail. □ *Bill tripped Tom up during the spelling contest, and Tom lost.* □ *I didn't mean to trip up anyone. I'm sorry I caused trouble.*

trot something **out** to mention something regularly or habitually, without giving it much thought. (Informal.) □ *Jack always trots the same excuses out for being late.* □ *When James disagreed with Mary, she simply trotted out her same old political arguments.*

Trouble is brewing. **AND** **There is trouble brewing.** Trouble is developing. □ *Trouble's brewing at the office. I have to get there early tomorrow.* □ *There is*

trouble brewing in the government. The prime minister may resign.

trouble oneself about someone or something to worry oneself about someone or something. (Usually in the negative.) ☐ *Please don't trouble yourself about me. I'm doing fine.* ☐ *I can't take time to trouble myself about this matter. Do it yourself.*

trouble oneself (to do something) to bother oneself to do something. ☐ *He didn't even trouble himself to turn off the light when he left.* ☐ *No, thank you. I don't need any help. Please don't trouble yourself.*

trouble one's head about someone or something to worry about someone or something; to **trouble oneself about** someone or something that is none of one's business. (Folksy. Usually in the negative. Also with *pretty*, as in the example. Usually in the negative, meaning "to mind one's own business.") ☐ *Now, now, don't trouble your pretty head about all these things.* ☐ *You needn't trouble your head about Sally.*

trouble someone for something to ask someone to pass something or give something. (Usually a question.) ☐ *Could I trouble you for the salt?* ☐ *Could I trouble you for some advice?*

trouble someone to do something to ask someone to do something. (Usually a question.) ☐ *Could I trouble you to pass the salt?* ☐ *Could I trouble you to give me some advice?*

true as steel Go to (as) true as steel.

true to form exactly as expected; following the usual pattern. (Often with *running*, as in the example.) ☐ *As usual, John is late. At least he's true to form.* ☐ *And true to form, Mary left before the meeting was adjourned.* ☐ *This winter season is running true to form—miserable!*

true to one's word keeping one's promise. ☐ *True to his word, Tom showed up at exactly eight o'clock.* ☐ *We'll soon know if Jane is true to her word. We'll see if she does what she promised.*

trumped-up false; fraudulently devised. ☐ *They tried to have Tom arrested on a*

trumped-up charge. ☐ *Bob gave some trumped-up excuse for not being at the meeting.*

The **truth will out**, eventually, the truth will become known; truth tends to become known, even when it is being concealed. ☐ *The truth will out! Some day my name will be cleared.* ☐ *We just found out about corruption in the mayor's office. Like they say, "The truth will out."*

try one's hand (at something) to take a try at something. ☐ *Someday I'd like to try my hand at flying a plane.* ☐ *Give me a chance. Let me try my hand!*

try one's luck (at something) to attempt to do something (where success requires luck). ☐ *My great-grandfather came to California to try his luck at finding gold.* ☐ *I went into a gambling casino to try my luck.*

try out (for something) to test one's fitness for a role in a play, a position on a sports team, etc. ☐ *I sing pretty well, so I thought I'd try out for the chorus.* ☐ *Hardly anyone else showed up to try out.*

try (out) one's wings to try to do something one has recently become qualified to do. (Like a young bird uses its wings to try to fly.) ☐ *John just got his driver's license and wants to borrow the car to try out his wings.* ☐ *I learned to skin-dive, and I want to go to the seaside to try my wings.* ☐ *She was eager to try out her wings.*

try someone's patience to do something annoying that may cause someone to lose patience; to cause someone to be annoyed. ☐ *Stop whistling. You're trying my patience. Very soon I'm going to lose my temper.* ☐ *Some students think it's fun to try the teacher's patience.*

try something out on someone to test something on someone (to see how it works or if it is liked). ☐ *I found a recipe for oyster stew and tried it out on my roommate.* ☐ *I'm glad you didn't try out that stuff on me!* ☐ *I have a tremendous idea! Let me try it out on you.* ☐ *I want to try out my plan on you. Please give me your honest opinion.*

tuck into something to eat something with hunger and enjoyment. (Informal.) ☐

The children really tucked into the ice cream. □ *Jean would like to have tucked into the chocolate cake, but she's on a strict diet.*

tuckered out Go to (all) tuckered out.

tune someone or something **out** to ignore someone or something; to become unaware of someone or something. □ *Sally annoys me sometimes, so I just tune her out.* □ *Your radio doesn't bother me. I just tune out the noise.*

tune (something) in to set a radio or television control so as to receive something. □ *Why don't you try to tune the ball game in?* □ *This is a cheap radio, and I can't tune in distant stations.* □ *Please try to tune in.*

turn a blind eye to someone or something to ignore someone or something troublesome and pretend not to see it. □ *The usher turned a blind eye to the little boy who sneaked into the theater.* □ *How can you turn a blind eye to all those starving children?*

turn a deaf ear (to) someone or something to ignore what someone requests; to ignore a cry for help. □ *How can you just turn a deaf ear to their cries for food and shelter?* □ *The government has turned a deaf ear.*

turn in to go to bed. □ *It's late. I think I'll turn in.* □ *We usually turn in at about midnight.*

turn of the century the end of one century and the beginning of another. □ *It's just a few years until the turn of the century.* □ *People like to celebrate the turn of the century.*

turn on a dime to turn in a very tight turn. (Informal.) □ *This car handles very well. It can turn on a dime.* □ *The speeding car turned on a dime and headed in the other direction.*

turn one's back (on) someone or something to abandon or ignore someone or something. (Also literal.) □ *Don't turn your back on your old friends.* □ *Bob has a tendency to turn his back on serious problems.*

□ *This matter needs your attention. Please don't just turn your back.*

turn one's nose up at someone or something to sneer at someone or something; to reject someone or something. □ *John turned his nose up at Ann, and that hurt her feelings.* □ *I never turn up my nose at dessert, no matter what it is.*

turn on the waterworks to begin to cry. (Slang.) □ *Every time Billy got homesick, he turned on the waterworks.* □ *Sally hurt her knee and turned on the waterworks for about twenty minutes.*

turn out (all right) AND **pan out; work out (all right)** to end satisfactorily. (Compare this with **work out for the best**.) □ *I hope everything turns out all right.* □ *Oh, yes. It'll all pan out.* □ *Things usually work out, no matter how bad they seem.*

turn out (that) something is so to happen that; to end up that. □ *After it was all over, it turned out that both of us were pleased with the bargain.* □ *Have you heard how the game turned out?*

turn over AND **kick over** [for an engine] to start or to rotate. □ *My car engine was so cold that it wouldn't even turn over.* □ *The engine turned over a few times and then stopped for good.*

turn over a new leaf to start again with the intention of doing better; to begin again, ignoring past errors. (*Leaf* is a page. This refers to starting a new page.) □ *Tom promised to turn over a new leaf and do better from now on.* □ *After a minor accident, Sally decided to turn over a new leaf and drive more carefully.*

turn (over) in one's grave AND **roll (over) in one's grave** [for a dead person] to be shocked or horrified. (Refers to something that would be so shocking to a person who is actually dead, that the dead person would quicken enough to turn over.) □ *If Beethoven heard Mary play one of his sonatas, he'd turn over in his grave.* □ *If Aunt Jane knew what you were doing with her favorite chair, she would roll over in her grave.*

turn someone off to discourage or disgust someone. (Informal.) □ *His manner really turns me off.* □ *That man has a way of turning off everyone he comes in contact with.*

turn someone on to excite someone; to excite someone sexually. (Informal. Often ambiguous.) □ *Sally said she preferred not to watch movies that attempted to turn people on.* □ *The lecture was very good. It turned on the whole class.*

turn someone or something down **1.** [with someone] to refuse or deny someone. □ *I applied for a job with the city, but they turned me down.* □ *They turned down Mary who also applied.* **2.** to deny someone's request. □ *I offered her some help, but she turned it down.* □ *She had turned down John's offer of help, too.* **3.** [with something] to fold part of something downward. □ *The hotel maid turned the bed down while I was at dinner.* □ *In the mail-order catalog, I always turn down a page that interests me.* **4.** [with something] to lower the volume or amount of something, such as heat, sound, water, air pressure, etc. □ *It's hot in here. Please turn down the heat.* □ *Turn the stereo down. It's too loud.*

turn someone or something out **1.** [with someone] to send someone out of somewhere. □ *I didn't pay my rent, so the manager turned me out.* □ *I'm glad it's not winter. I'd hate to turn out someone in the snow.* **2.** [with something] to manufacture something; to produce something. □ *John wasn't turning enough work out, so the manager had a talk with him.* □ *This machine can turn out two thousand items a day.*

turn someone or something up to search for and find someone or something. □ *Let me try to see if I can turn someone up who knows how to do the job.* □ *I turned up a number of interesting items when I went through Aunt Jane's attic.*

turn someone's head [for flattery or success] to distract someone; to cause someone not to be sensible. (Also literal.) □ *Don't let our praise turn your head. You're not*

perfect! □ *Her successes had turned her head. She was now quite arrogant.*

turn someone's stomach to disgust someone. (Refers to an attack of nausea.) □ *Your rude remarks simply turn my stomach.* □ *The play was so bad that it turned my stomach.*

turn something to good account to use something in such a way that it is to one's advantage; to make good use of a situation, experience, etc. □ *Pam turned her illness to good account and did a lot of reading.* □ *Many people turn their retirement time to good account and take up interesting hobbies.*

turn something to one's advantage to make an advantage for oneself out of something (which might otherwise be a disadvantage). □ *Sally found a way to turn the problem to her advantage.* □ *The ice cream store manager was able to turn the hot weather to her advantage.*

turn the clock back to try to return to the past. (Also literal.) □ *You are not facing up to the future. You are trying to turn the clock back to a time when you were more comfortable.* □ *Let us turn the clock back and pretend we are living at the turn of the century—the time that our story takes place.* □ *No, you can't turn back the clock.*

turn the heat up (on someone) to use force to persuade someone to do something; to increase the pressure on someone to do something. (Informal.) □ *Management is turning the heat up to increase production.* □ *The teacher really turned up the heat on the students by saying that everyone would be punished if the real culprit was not found.*

turn the other cheek to ignore abuse or an insult. □ *When Bob got mad at Mary and yelled at her, she just turned the other cheek.* □ *Usually I turn the other cheek when someone is rude to me.*

turn the tables (on someone) to cause a reversal in someone's plans; to make one's plans turn back on one. □ *I went to Jane's house to help get ready for a surprise party for Bob. It turned out that the surprise party was for me! Jane really turned the ta-*

bles on me! □ *Turning the tables like that requires a lot of planning and a lot of secrecy.*

turn the tide to cause a reversal in the direction of events; to cause a reversal in public opinion. □ *It looked as if the team was going to lose, but near the end of the game, our star player turned the tide.* □ *At first, people were opposed to our plan. After a lot of discussion, we were able to turn the tide.*

turn thumbs down (on someone or something) to veto someone or something; to reject someone or something. (See also **thumbs down on** someone or something.) □ *The board of directors turned thumbs down on my proposal.* □ *They turned thumbs down without even hearing my explanation.* □ *The committee turned thumbs down on Carl and we did not hire him after all.*

turn thumbs up (on someone or something) to accept someone or something; to approve someone or something. (See also **thumbs up on** someone or something.) □ *The board of directors turned thumbs up on my proposal and voted to fund the project.* □ *The committee turned thumbs up on Carl as the new manager.* □ *When the boss turned thumbs up, I knew everything was okay.*

turn to to begin to get busy. □ *Come on, you guys! Turn to! Let's get to work.* □ *If you people will turn to, we can finish this work in no time at all.*

turn to someone or something (**for something**) to seek something from someone or something. □ *I turned to Ann for help.* □ *Bill turned to aspirin for relief from his headache.*

turn turtle to turn upside down. (Slang.) □ *The sailboat turned turtle, but the sailors only got wet.* □ *The car ran off the road and turned turtle in the ditch.*

turn up to appear. □ *We'll send out invitations and see who turns up.* □ *Guess who turned up at my door last night?*

turn up one's toes to die. (Slang.) □ *When I turn up my toes, I want a big funeral with lots of flowers.* □ *Our cat turned up his*

toes during the night. He was nearly ten years old.

twiddle one's thumbs to fill up time by playing with one's fingers. □ *What am I supposed to do while waiting for you? Sit here and twiddle my thumbs?* □ *Don't sit around twiddling your thumbs. Get busy!*

twist someone around one's little finger to manipulate and control someone. □ *Bob really fell for Jane. She can twist him around her little finger.* □ *Billy's mother has twisted him around her little finger. He's very dependent on her.*

twist someone's arm to force or persuade someone. □ *At first she refused, but after I twisted her arm a little, she agreed to help.* □ *I didn't want to run for mayor, but everyone twisted my arm.*

twist someone's words (around) to restate someone's words inaccurately when quoting them or trying to understand them. □ *Stop twisting my words around! Listen to what I am telling you!* □ *You are twisting my words again. That is not what I said!*

two bricks shy of a load Go to a few cards shy of a full deck.

two of a kind people or things of the same type or that are similar in character, attitude, etc. □ *Jack and Tom are two of a kind. They're both ambitious.* □ *The companies are two of a kind. They both pay their employees badly.*

two-time someone to cheat on or betray one's spouse or lover by dating or seeing someone else. (Slang.) □ *When Mrs. Franklin learned that Mr. Franklin was two-timing her, she left him.* □ *Ann told Bob that if he ever two-timed her, she would cause him a lot of trouble.*

Two's company(, three's a crowd). Two people want to be alone and a third person will be in the way. (Proverb.) □ *Two's company. I'm sure Tom and Jill won't want his sister to go to the movies with them.* □ *John has been invited to join Jane and Peter on their picnic, but he says, "Two's company, three's a crowd."*

U

ugly as a toad Go to (as) ugly as a toad.

ugly as sin Go to (as) ugly as sin.

unaccustomed to someone or something not used to someone or something. ☐ *The poor family was unaccustomed to going to fancy restaurants.* ☐ *Bill was unaccustomed to typing his own letters.*

under a cloud (of suspicion) to be suspected of (doing) something. ☐ *Someone stole some money at work, and now everyone is under a cloud of suspicion.* ☐ *Even the manager is under a cloud.*

under arrest being or having been arrested and in the care of the police in preparation for the filing of a charge. ☐ *Stop where you are! You are under arrest.* ☐ *Am I under arrest, officer? What did I do?*

under certain circumstances AND **under certain conditions** depending on or influenced by something; because of something. ☐ *Under certain conditions, you can see across the lake.* ☐ *Under no circumstances are you to leave the house tonight.*

under certain conditions Go to **under certain circumstances**.

under (close) scrutiny being watched or examined closely. ☐ *Under close scrutiny, the jeweler found a flaw in the diamond.* ☐ *The suspect was kept under scrutiny throughout the investigation.*

under construction being built or repaired. ☐ *We cannot travel on this road because it's under construction.* ☐ *Our new home has been under construction all summer. We hope to move in next month.*

under control manageable; restrained and controlled; not out of control. ☐ *We finally got things under control and func-*

tioning smoothly. ☐ *The doctor felt she had the disease under control and that I would get well soon.*

under fire during an attack. ☐ *There was a scandal in city hall, and the mayor was forced to resign under fire.* ☐ *John is a good lawyer because he can think under fire.*

under oath bound by an oath; having taken an oath. ☐ *You must tell the truth because you are under oath.* ☐ *I was placed under oath before I could testify in the trial.*

under one's own steam by one's own power or effort. (Informal.) ☐ *I missed my ride to class, so I had to get there under my own steam.* ☐ *John will need some help with this project. He can't do it under his own steam.*

under someone's (very) nose Go to (right) under someone's (very) nose.

under (some) pressure experiencing something that causes an amount of stress or anxiety. ☐ *I have a headache because I'm under a lot of pressure at work.* ☐ *The professor's children were under pressure to do well in school.*

under the aegis of someone AND **under the auspices of** someone under the sponsorship of someone or some group; under the control or monitoring of someone or some group. ☐ *The entire project fell under the aegis of Thomas.* ☐ *The entire program is under the auspices of Acme-Global Paper Co., Inc.*

under the auspices of someone Go to **under the aegis of** someone.

under the circumstances in a particular situation; because of the circumstances.

□ *I'm sorry to hear that you're ill. Under the circumstances, you may take the day off.* □ *We won't expect you to come to work for a few days, under the circumstances.*

under the counter [bought or sold] in secret or illegally. (Also literal.) □ *The drugstore owner was arrested for selling liquor under the counter.* □ *The clerk sold dirty books under the counter.*

under the influence (of alcohol) drunk; nearly drunk; affected by alcohol. □ *She behaves quite rudely when under the influence of alcohol.* □ *Ed was stopped by a police officer for driving while under the influence.*

under the influence of something experiencing the effects of something such as alcohol, drugs, or any controlling power or person. (See also **under the influence (of alcohol)**.) □ *I think that guy is under the influence of drugs.* □ *Bill has lived under the influence of his mother for too long.*

under the sun anywhere on earth at all. □ *This is the largest cattle ranch under the sun.* □ *Isn't there anyone under the sun who can help me with this problem?*

under the table in secret, as with the giving of a bribe. (Also literal. Informal.) □ *The construction company had been paying money to the mayor under the table.* □ *Tom transferred the deed to the property to his wife under the table.*

under the weather ill. □ *I'm a bit under the weather today, so I can't go to the office.* □ *My head is aching, and I feel a little under the weather.*

under the wire just barely in time or on time. (Informal.) □ *I turned in my report just under the wire.* □ *Bill was the last person to get in the door. He got in under the wire.*

unfamiliar territory an area of knowledge unknown to the speaker. □ *We are in unfamiliar territory and I don't know the answer.* □ *Astronomy is unfamiliar territory, and I cannot answer any questions about the stars.*

an **unknown quantity** a person or thing about which no one is certain. (Preceded

by *be, become, seem like, or act like*.) □ *John is an unknown quantity. We don't know how he's going to act.* □ *The new clerk is an unknown quantity. Things may not turn out all right.*

until all hours (of the day and night) until very late. □ *Mary is out until all hours, night after night.* □ *If I'm up until all hours two nights in a row, I'm just exhausted.*

until hell freezes over Go to when hell freezes over.

(un)til the cows come home until the last; until very late. (Folksy or informal. Refers to the end of the day, when the cows come home to be fed and milked.) □ *We were having so much fun that we decided to stay at school until the cows came home.* □ *Where've you been? Who said you could stay out 'til the cows come home?*

up a blind alley at a dead end; on a route that leads nowhere. (Informal.) □ *I have been trying to find out something about my ancestors, but I'm up a blind alley. I can't find anything.* □ *The police are up a blind alley in their investigation of the crime.*

up against something having trouble with something. (The *something* is often it, meaning facing trouble in general.) □ *Jane is up against a serious problem.* □ *Yes, she really looks as if she's up against it.*

up and about healthy and moving about—not sick in bed. □ *Mary is getting better. She should be up and about in a few days.* □ *She can't wait until she's up and about. She's tired of being in bed.*

up and around out of bed and moving about or able to move about. (Refers to a person who has just arisen for the day or to someone who has been sick in bed.) □ *When Tom is up and around, ask him to call me.* □ *The flu put Alice into bed for three days, but she was up and around on the fourth.*

up and at them to get up and go at people or things; to get active and get busy. (Informal. Usually *them* is 'em.) □ *Come on, Bob—up and at 'em!* □ *There is a lot*

of work to be done around here. Up and at 'em, everybody!

up and away up into the air and into flight. (Said of a bird or an airplane.) ☐ *After a few seconds of speeding down the runway, our flight to Tucson was up and away.* ☐ *Just before the cat pounced on the sparrows, they were up and away and the cat was left with empty paws and jaws.*

up-and-coming new, but enterprising and alert. ☐ *Jane is a hard worker—really up-and-coming.* ☐ *Bob is also an up-and-coming youngster who is going to become well known.*

up a tree in a difficult situation and unable to get out; stymied and confused. (Slang.) ☐ *I'm really up a tree on this problem.* ☐ *Geometry is too hard for me. It's got me up a tree.*

up for grabs available to anyone. (Slang.) ☐ *Mary quit yesterday, and her job is up for grabs.* ☐ *Who's in charge around here? This whole organization is up for grabs.*

up for something enthusiastic about something. (Informal.) ☐ *Are you up for a hike through the woods?* ☐ *I'm really up for my job interview today.*

up-front **1.** sincere and open. ☐ *Ann is a very up-front kind of person. Everyone feels easy around her.* ☐ *It's hard to tell what Tom is really thinking. He's not very up-front.* **2.** in advance. ☐ *I ordered a new car, and they wanted 20 percent up-front.* ☐ *I couldn't afford to pay that much up-front. I'd have to make a smaller deposit.*

up in arms rising up in anger; very angry. (Also literal when actual weapons are involved.) ☐ *My father was really up in arms when he got his tax bill this year.* ☐ *The citizens were up in arms, pounding on the gates of the palace, demanding justice.*

up in the air (about someone or something) undecided about someone or something; uncertain about someone or something. ☐ *I don't know what Sally plans to do. Things were sort of up in the air the last time we talked.* ☐ *Let's leave this question up in the air until next week.*

up in years AND **advanced in years; along in years; on in years** old; elderly. ☐ *My uncle is up in years and can't hear too well.* ☐ *Many people lose their hearing somewhat when they are along in years.*

up North to or at the northern part of the country or the world. (See also **back East, down South, and out West.**) ☐ *I don't like living up North. I want to move down South where it's warm.* ☐ *When you say "up North," do you mean where the polar bears live, or just in the northern states?*

up the creek (without a paddle) in a bad situation. (Slang. Use with caution. There is a taboo version of this phrase.) ☐ *What a mess I'm in. I'm really up the creek without a paddle.* ☐ *I tried to prevent it, but I seem to be up the creek, too.*

up-to-date modern; up to the current standards of fashion; with the latest information. ☐ *I'd like to see a more up-to-date report on Mr. Smith.* ☐ *This is not an up-to-date record of the construction project.* ☐ *I'm having my living room redecorated to bring it up-to-date.* ☐ *I don't care if my rooms are up-to-date. I just want them to be comfortable.*

up to doing something able to do something. ☐ *Do you feel up to going back to work today?* ☐ *She just isn't up to staying up all night.*

up to no good doing something bad. (Informal.) ☐ *I could tell from the look on Tom's face that he was up to no good.* ☐ *There are three boys in the front yard. I don't know what they are doing, but I think they are up to no good.*

up to one's ears (in something) Go to up to one's neck (in something).

up to one's eyeballs (in something) Go to up to one's neck (in something).

up to one's neck (in something) AND **up to one's ears (in something); up to one's eyeballs (in something)** having a lot of something; very much involved in something. (Informal.) ☐ *I can't come to the meeting. I'm up to my neck in these reports.* ☐ *Mary is up to her ears in her work.* ☐ *I am up*

to my eyeballs in things to do! I can't do any more!

up to par as good as the standard or average; up to standard. □ *I'm just not feeling up to par today. I must be coming down with something.* □ *The manager said that the report was not up to par and gave it back to Mary to do over again.*

up to scratch Go to up to snuff.

up to snuff AND **up to scratch** as good as is required; meeting the minimum requirements. (Slang. Compare this with up to par.) □ *Sorry, Tom. Your performance isn't up to snuff. You'll have to improve or find another job.* □ *My paper wasn't up to scratch, so I got an F.*

up to someone [for a decision] to be someone's own choice. □ *She said I didn't have to go if I didn't want to. It's entirely up to me.* □ *It's up to Mary whether she takes the job or tries to find another one.*

up to something **1.** occupied in some activity, often something secret or wrong. □ *Those kids are up to something. They're too quiet.* □ *Goodness knows what that child will be up to next!* **2.** Go to up to doing something. **3.** to be as good as something; to be good enough for something. □ *This work's not up to the standard of the class.* □ *Your last essay was not up to your best.*

up-to-the-minute the very latest or most recent. □ *I want to hear some up-to-the-minute news on the hostage situation.* □ *I just got an up-to-the-minute report on Tom's health.*

(up)on impact at the place or time of making an impact. □ *The car crumpled upon impact with the brick wall.* □ *The man who fell from the top of the building died on impact.*

upper crust the higher levels of society; the upper class. (Informal. From the top, as opposed to the bottom, crust of a pie.) □ *Jane speaks like that because she pretends to be from the upper crust, but her father was a miner.* □ *James is from the upper crust, but he is penniless.*

ups and downs good fortune and bad fortune. □ *I've had my ups and downs, but in general life has been good to me.* □ *All people have their ups and downs.*

upset the apple cart to mess up or ruin something. □ *Tom really upset the apple cart by telling Mary the truth about Jane.* □ *I always knew he'd upset the apple cart.*

the **upshot of** something the result or outcome of something. □ *The upshot of my criticism was a change in policy.* □ *The upshot of the argument was an agreement to hire a new secretary.*

use every trick in the book to use every method possible. (Informal.) □ *I used every trick in the book, but I still couldn't manage to get a ticket to the game Saturday.* □ *Bob tried to use every trick in the book, but he still failed.*

use one's head AND **use one's noggin; use one's noodle** to use one's own intelligence. (Noggin and noodle are slang terms for "head.") □ *You can do better in math if you'll just use your head.* □ *Jane uses her noggin and gets things done correctly and on time.* □ *Yes, she sure knows how to use her noodle.*

use one's noggin Go to use one's head.

use one's noodle Go to use one's head.

use some elbow grease use some effort. (Slang. As if lubricating one's elbow would make one more efficient. Note the variation in the examples.) □ *Come on, Bill. You can do it. Just use some elbow grease.* □ *I tried elbow grease, but it doesn't help get the job done.*

use someone or something as an excuse to blame someone or something (for a failure). □ *John used his old car as an excuse for not going to the meeting.* □ *My husband was sick in bed, and I used him as an excuse.*

use strong language to swear, threaten, or use abusive language. □ *I wish you wouldn't use strong language in front of the children.* □ *If you feel that you have to use strong language with the manager, perhaps you had better let me do the talking.*

used to do something to have done something [customarily] in the past. □ *We used to go swimming in the lake before it became polluted.* □ *I used to eat nuts, but then I became allergic to them.*

used to someone or something accustomed to someone or something. □ *I'm not used to Jane yet. She's a bit hard to get along with.* □ *How long does it take to get used to this weather?*

V

vale of tears the earth; mortal life on earth. (A “valley” of tears.) ☐ *When it comes time for me to leave this vale of tears, I hope I can leave some worthwhile memories behind.* ☐ *Uncle Fred left this vale of tears early this morning.*

vanish into thin air to disappear without leaving a trace. ☐ *My money gets spent so fast. It seems to vanish into thin air.* ☐ *When I came back, my car was gone. I had locked it, and it couldn't have vanished into thin air!*

Variety is the spice of life. Differences and changes make life interesting. (Proverb.) ☐ *Mary reads all kinds of books. She says variety is the spice of life.* ☐ *The Franklins travel all over the world so they can learn how different people live. After all, variety is the spice of life.*

vent one's spleen to get rid of one's feelings of anger caused by someone or something by attacking someone or something else. ☐ *Jack vented his spleen at his wife whenever things went badly at work.* ☐ *Peter vented his spleen on his car by kicking it when he lost the race.*

verge on something to be almost something. ☐ *Your blouse is a lovely color. It seems to be blue verging on purple.* ☐ *Sally has a terrible case of the flu, and they are afraid it's verging on pneumonia.*

the **very last** the end; an absolute end of something. ☐ *At the very last of the movie, the hero gets killed.* ☐ *Bill stayed at the party until the very last.*

the **very thing** the exact thing that is required. ☐ *The vacuum cleaner is the very thing for cleaning the stairs.* ☐ *I have the very thing to remove that stain.*

the **villain of the piece** someone or something that is responsible for something bad or wrong. ☐ *I wondered who told the newspapers about the local scandal. I discovered that Joan was the villain of the piece.* ☐ *We couldn't think who had stolen the meat. The dog next door turned out to be the villain of the piece.*

vim and vigor energy and enthusiasm. ☐ *I just don't seem to have the vim and vigor that I had a few years ago.* ☐ *Alice appeared with all the vim and vigor of youth, and began to help carry in the packages.*

vote a split ticket to cast a ballot on which the votes are divided between two or more parties. ☐ *I always vote a split ticket since I detest both parties.* ☐ *Mary voted a split ticket for the first time in her life.*

vote a straight ticket to cast a ballot with all the votes for members of the same political party. ☐ *I'm not a member of any political party, so I never vote a straight ticket.* ☐ *I usually vote a straight ticket because I believe in the principles of one party and not in the other's.*

a **vote of confidence** a poll taken to discover whether or not a person, party, etc., still has the majority's support. ☐ *The government easily won the vote of confidence called for by the opposition.* ☐ *The president of the club resigned when one of the members called for a vote of confidence in his leadership.*

a **vote of thanks** a speech expressing appreciation and thanks to a speaker, lecturer, organizer, etc., and inviting the audience to applaud. ☐ *John gave a vote of thanks to Professor Jones for his talk.* ☐ *Mary was given a vote of thanks for organizing the dance.*

vote with one's feet to express one's dissatisfaction with something by leaving, especially by walking away. ☐ *I think that the play is a total flop. Most of the audi-*

ence voted with its feet during the second act. ☐ I am prepared to vote with my feet if the meeting appears to be a waste of time.

W

wade in(to something) to start in (doing) something immediately. (Also literal.) ☐ *I need some preparation. I can't just wade into the job and start doing things correctly.* ☐ *We don't expect you to wade in. We'll tell you what to do.*

wag one's chin to chatter or chat with someone. (Slang.) ☐ *We stood around and wagged our chins for almost an hour.* ☐ *Don't just wag your chin. Stop talking and get to work!*

wait-and-see attitude a skeptical attitude; an uncertain attitude where someone will just wait and see what happens. ☐ *John thought that Mary couldn't do it, but he took a wait-and-see attitude.* ☐ *His wait-and-see attitude didn't influence me at all.*

wait on someone hand and foot to serve someone very well, attending to all personal needs. ☐ *I don't mind bringing you your coffee, but I don't intend to wait on you hand and foot.* ☐ *I don't want anyone to wait on me hand and foot. I can take care of myself.*

wait up (for someone or something) 1. to stay up late waiting for someone to arrive or something to happen. ☐ *I'll be home late. Don't wait up for me.* ☐ *We waited up for the coming of the new year, and then we went to bed.* **2. AND hold up (for someone or something)** to wait for someone or something to catch up. ☐ *Hey! Don't go so fast. Wait up for me.* ☐ *Hold up! You're going too fast.*

waiting in the wings ready or prepared to do something, especially to take over someone else's job or position. (Refers to a performer waiting at the side of the stage to go on.) ☐ *Mr. Smith retires as manager next year, and Mr. Jones is just*

waiting in the wings. ☐ *Jane was waiting in the wings, hoping that a member of the hockey team would drop out and she would get a place on the team.*

wake the dead to be so loud as to wake those who are "sleeping" the most soundly: the dead. ☐ *You are making enough noise to wake the dead.* ☐ *Stop hollering! You'll wake the dead!*

walk all over someone to treat someone badly. (Also literal.) ☐ *She's so mean to her children. She walks all over them.* ☐ *The manager had walked all over Ann for months. Finally she quit.*

walk a tightrope to be in a situation where one must be very cautious. (Also literal.) ☐ *I've been walking a tightrope all day. I need to relax.* ☐ *Our business is about to fail. We've been walking a tightrope for three months.*

walk away with something AND walk off with something 1. to win something easily. (Informal.) ☐ *John won the tennis match with no difficulty. He walked away with it.* ☐ *Our team walked away with first place.* **2.** to take or steal something. ☐ *I think somebody just walked off with my purse!* ☐ *Somebody walked off with my daughter's bicycle.*

walk off with something Go to walk away with something.

walk on air to be very happy; to be euphoric. ☐ *Ann was walking on air when she got the job.* ☐ *On the last day of school, all the children are walking on air.*

walk on eggs to be very cautious. (Informal.) ☐ *The manager is very hard to deal with. You really have to walk on eggs.*

□ *I've been walking on eggs ever since I started working here.*

walk out (on someone or something) 1. [with someone] to abandon someone; to leave one's spouse. □ *Mr. Franklin walked out on Mrs. Franklin last week.* □ *Bob walked out on Jane without saying good-bye.* 2. to leave a performance (of something by someone). □ *We didn't like the play at all, so we walked out.* □ *John was giving a very dull speech, and a few people even walked out on him.*

walk the floor to pace nervously while waiting. □ *While Bill waited for news of the operation, he walked the floor for hours on end.* □ *Walking the floor won't help. You might as well sit down and relax.*

walk the plank to suffer punishment at the hand of someone. (From the image of pirates making their blindfolded captives commit suicide by walking off the end of a plank jutting out over the open sea.) □ *Fred may think he can make the members of my department walk the plank, but we will fight back.* □ *Tom thought he could make John walk the plank, but John fought back.*

wall-to-wall with something covered with something in all places. (From wall-to-wall carpeting.) □ *The hallway is wall-to-wall with Jimmy's toys.* □ *The beach was wall-to-wall with tourists.*

Walls have ears. We may be overheard. (Proverb.) □ *Let's not discuss this matter here. Walls have ears, you know.* □ *Shhh. Walls have ears. Someone may be listening.*

want for nothing to lack nothing; to have everything one needs or wishes. □ *The Smiths don't have much money, but their children seem to want for nothing.* □ *Jean's husband spoils her. She wants for nothing.*

warm as toast Go to (as) warm as toast.

warm the bench [for a player] to remain out of play during a game—seated on a bench. □ *John spent the whole game warming the bench.* □ *Mary never warms the bench. She plays from the beginning to the end.*

warm the cockles of someone's heart to make someone feel warm and happy. □ *It warms the cockles of my heart to hear you say that.* □ *Hearing that old song again warmed the cockles of her heart.*

warm up to someone to become friendly with someone; to get used to a person and become friends. □ *It took a while before John warmed up to me, but then we became good friends.* □ *It's hard to warm up to Sally. She's very quiet and shy.*

warts and all including all the faults and disadvantages. □ *Jim has many faults, but Jean loves him, warts and all.* □ *The place where we went on vacation had some dismal aspects, but we liked it, warts and all.*

wash a few things out to do a little bit of laundry, such as socks and underclothing. □ *I'm sorry I can't go out tonight. I've got to wash a few things out.* □ *I'll be ready to leave in just a minute. I've just got to wash out a few things.*

wash-and-wear referring to clothing made out of a kind of cloth that looks presentable after washing without ironing. □ *I always travel with wash-and-wear clothing.* □ *All his shirts are wash-and-wear, and this makes his life much easier since he used to burn them when he ironed them.*

wash one's dirty linen in public Go to air one's dirty linen in public.

wash one's hands of someone or something to end one's association with someone or something. □ *I washed my hands of Tom. I wanted no more to do with him.* □ *That car was a real headache. I washed my hands of it long ago.*

washed-out exhausted; lacking energy. (Informal.) □ *Pam was completely washed-out after the birth of the baby.* □ *I feel washed-out. I need a vacation.*

washed-up finished. (Informal.) □ *"You're through, Tom," said the manager, "fired—washed-up!"* □ *Max is washed-up as a bank teller.*

waste one's breath to waste one's time talking; to talk in vain. (Informal.) □ *Don't waste your breath talking to her. She won't*

listen. □ *You can't persuade me. You're just wasting your breath.*

waste someone to kill someone. (Slang, especially criminal slang.) □ *The thief tried to waste the bank guard after the bank robbery.* □ *The crook said, "Try that again, and I'll waste you!"*

watch one's step to act with care and caution so as not to make a mistake or offend someone. (Also literal.) □ *John had better watch his step with the new boss. He won't put up with his lateness.* □ *Mary was told by the lecturer to watch her step and stop missing classes.*

watch out Go to **watch out for** someone or something.

watch out for someone or something **AND look out for** someone or something **1.** [with someone] to watch over and care for someone. □ *When I was a kid, my older brother always watched out for me.* □ *I really needed someone to look out for me then.* **2.** to be on guard for someone or something; to be on watch for the arrival or approach of someone or something. □ *Watch out for someone wearing a white carnation.* □ *Look out for John and his friends. They'll be coming this way very soon.* **3. AND look out; watch out** to try to avoid a confrontation with someone or something. □ *Watch out! That car nearly hit you!* □ *Look out for John. He's looking for you, and he's really mad.* □ *Thanks. I'd better look out.*

watch over someone or something to monitor or guard someone or something. □ *Please watch over my apartment while I am on vacation.* □ *I am looking for someone to watch over my grandmother during the day.*

watch someone or something **like a hawk** to watch someone very carefully. □ *The teacher watched the students like a hawk to make sure they did not cheat on the quiz.* □ *We have to watch our dog like a hawk in case he runs away.*

water something **down 1.** to dilute a liquid, usually with water. □ *The punch was good until someone watered it down.* □ *This is too strong! Water it down.* **2.** to make

something milder or less intense. (Refers to diluting as in sense 1.) □ *The language in the script was rude but realistic until someone watered it down.* □ *Professor Jones sometimes waters down his lectures so people can understand them better.*

water under the bridge [something] past and forgotten. (Refers to water that has already flowed under a bridge and has gone downstream.) □ *Please don't worry about it anymore. It's all water under the bridge.* □ *I can't change the past. It's water under the bridge.*

wax and wane to increase and then decrease, especially with reference to the phases of the moon. □ *As the moon waxes and wanes, so does the height of the tide change.* □ *Voter sentiment about the tax proposal waxes and wanes with each passing day.*

[way of life] Go to one's way of life.

(way) over there in a place some distance away. □ *I see a house way over there in the field.* □ *My hat is over there on the table.*

ways and means referring to the raising of money to pay for something. (Typically refers to a government committee or a committee of some organization charged with raising money.) □ *The suggestion was referred to the ways and means committee for discussion at the next meeting.* □ *The proposed legislation is stalled in ways and means.*

We aim to please. We really try to make people happy. □ *We aim to please because we want you to be our customer.* □ *I'm glad you like our food. We aim to please.*

weak as a baby Go to (as) weak as a baby.

weak as a kitten Go to (as) weak as a kitten.

a **wealth of** something a large amount of something. □ *There's a wealth of information on parrots at the library.* □ *The junkyard had a wealth of used car parts.*

wear and tear (on something) the process of wearing down or breaking down something. □ *Driving in freezing weather means lots of wear and tear on your car.*

□ *I drive carefully and sensibly to avoid wear and tear.*

wear more than one hat to have more than one set of responsibilities; to hold more than one office. □ *The mayor is also the police chief. She wears more than one hat.* □ *I have too much to do to wear more than one hat.*

wear off to become less; to stop gradually. (Also literal.) □ *The effects of the pain-killer wore off and my tooth began to hurt.* □ *I was annoyed at first, but my anger wore off.*

wear one's heart on one's sleeve AND **have one's heart on one's sleeve** to display one's feelings openly and habitually, rather than keep them private. □ *John always has his heart on his sleeve so that everyone knows how he feels.* □ *Because she wears her heart on her sleeve, it's easy to hurt her feelings.*

wear on someone to bother or annoy someone. □ *We stayed with them only a short time because my children seemed to wear on them.* □ *Always being short of money wears on a person after a while.*

wear out one's **welcome** to stay too long (at an event to which one has been invited); to visit somewhere too often. □ *Tom visited the Smiths so often that he wore out his welcome.* □ *At about midnight, I decided that I had worn out my welcome, so I went home.*

wear someone down to overcome someone's objections; to persist until someone has been persuaded. □ *John didn't want to go, but we finally wore him down.* □ *We were unable to wear down John, and when we left, he was still insisting on running away from home.*

wear someone out to exhaust someone; to make someone tired. □ *The coach made the team practice until he wore them out.* □ *If he wears out everybody on the team, nobody will be left to play in the game.*

weasel out (of something) to get out or sneak out of something. (Refers to the ability of a weasel to move through tiny openings. Informal.) □ *I don't want to go to the meeting. I think I'll try to weasel out*

of it. □ *You had better be there! Don't try to weasel out!*

weather permitting if the weather allows it. □ *Weather permitting, we will be there on time.* □ *The plane lands at midnight, weather permitting.*

weave in and out (of something) to move, drive, or walk in and out of something, such as traffic, a line, etc. □ *The car was weaving in and out of traffic dangerously.* □ *The deer ran rapidly through the forest, weaving in and out of the trees.*

wed(ded) to someone married to someone. □ *The couple will have been wed to each other for fifty years next June.* □ *Anne is wed to one of my cousins.*

wedded to something mentally attached to something; firmly committed to something. □ *The manager was wedded to the idea of getting new computers.* □ *The mayor was wedded to the new budget plan.*

wee hours (of the night) Go to small hours (of the night).

weed someone or something **out** to remove someone or something unwanted or undesirable from a group or collection. □ *We had to weed them out one by one.* □ *The auditions were held to weed out the actors with the least ability.* □ *I'm going through my books to weed out those that I don't need anymore.*

week in, week out every week, week after week. (Informal.) □ *We have the same old food, week in, week out.* □ *I'm tired of this job. I've done the same thing—week in, week out—for three years.*

weeks running Go to days running.

weigh on someone's **mind** [for something] to be in a person's thoughts; [for something] to be bothering someone's thinking. □ *This problem has been weighing on my mind for many days now.* □ *I hate to have things weighing on my mind. I can't sleep when I'm worried.*

weigh someone down [for a thought or worry] to worry or depress someone. (Also literal.) □ *All these problems really weigh me down.* □ *Financial problems*

have been weighing down our entire family.

weigh someone's words **1.** to consider carefully what someone says. ☐ *I listened to what he said, and I weighed his words very carefully.* ☐ *Everyone was weighing his words. None of us knew exactly what he meant.* **2.** to consider one's own words carefully when speaking. ☐ *I always weigh my words when I speak in public.* ☐ *John was weighing his words with great care because he didn't want to be misunderstood.*

welcome someone with open arms Go to receive someone with open arms.

welcome to do something to be free to do something. ☐ *You're welcome to leave whenever you wish.* ☐ *He's welcome to join the club whenever he feels he's ready.*

well and good Go to (all) well and good.

well-disposed toward someone or something feeling positively toward someone or something; favorable toward someone or something. ☐ *I do not think I will get a raise since the boss is not well-disposed toward me.* ☐ *The senators are well-disposed toward giving themselves a raise.*

well-fixed Go to well-heeled.

well-heeled AND **well-fixed; well-off** wealthy; with sufficient money. ☐ *My uncle can afford a new car. He's well-heeled.* ☐ *Everyone in his family is well-off.*

well-off Go to well-heeled.

well-to-do wealthy and of good social position. (Often with *quite*, as in the examples below.) ☐ *The Jones family is quite well-to-do.* ☐ *There is a gentleman waiting for you at the door. He appears quite well-to-do.*

well up in years aged; old. ☐ *Jane's husband is well up in years. He is nearly 75.* ☐ *Joan's well up in years but healthy.*

wet behind the ears AND **not dry behind the ears** young and inexperienced. ☐ *John's too young to take on a job like this! He's still wet behind the ears!* ☐ *He may be wet behind the ears, but he's well*

trained and totally competent. ☐ *Tom is going into business by himself? Why, he's hardly dry behind the ears.* ☐ *That kid isn't dry behind the ears. He'll go broke in a month.*

wet blanket a dull or depressing person who spoils other people's enjoyment. ☐ *Jack's fun at parties, but his brother's a wet blanket.* ☐ *I was with Anne and she was being a real wet blanket.*

wet someone's whistle to take a drink of something. (Folksy.) ☐ *Wow, am I thirsty. I need something to wet my whistle.* ☐ *Hey, Sally! Give her something to wet her whistle.*

whale the tar out of someone Go to beat the living daylights out of someone.

What are you driving at? What are you implying?; What do you mean? (Informal.) ☐ *What are you driving at? What are you trying to say? Why are you asking me all these questions? What are you driving at?*

What can I say? I am at a loss for words. (Informal.) ☐ *I'm sorry. I'll pay for it. What can I say?* ☐ *What can I say? I never meant it to end like this.*

What do you want me to say? You caught me and I'm sorry, and I don't know what more to say. (Informal.) ☐ *What do you want me to say? I apologized. There is nothing more I can do.* ☐ *Okay, so I'm wrong. What do you want me to say?*

what for why?; for what reason? ☐ *"I want you to clean your room."* *"What for? It's clean enough."* ☐ *What did you do that for?*

What goes around, comes around. The results of things that one has done will someday have an effect on the person who started the events. (Proverb.) ☐ *So he finally gets to see the results of his activities. Whatever goes around, comes around.* ☐ *Now he is the victim of his own policies. Whatever goes around comes around.*

What have you been up to? I haven't seen you for a long time, so tell me what you have been doing? (Informal. In other

persons also.) ☐ *Hi, Tom. Where have you been? What have you been up to?* ☐ *What have you been up to? Busy, I am sure.*

what if what would be the result if something were true? ☐ *What if you had all the money you want?* ☐ *What if everyone thought you were great?*

what makes someone **tick** something that motivates someone; something that makes someone behave in a certain way. (Informal.) ☐ *William is sort of strange. I don't know what makes him tick.* ☐ *When you get to know people, you find out what makes them tick.*

what makes something **tick** to cause something to run or function. ☐ *I don't know what makes it tick.* ☐ *I took apart the radio to find out what made it tick.*

What one **doesn't know won't hurt** one. Unknown facts cannot worry or upset a person. (Proverb.) ☐ *Don't tell me that I have made a mistake. What I don't know won't hurt me.* ☐ *Don't tell him the truth about his missing dog. What he doesn't know won't hurt him.*

Whatever will be, will be. Whatever will happen will just happen and there is little we can do about it. (Proverb.) ☐ *There is little I can do at this stage. Whatever will be, will be.* ☐ *The doctors have done all they can. Whatever will be, will be.*

What's done is done. It is final and in the past. (Proverb.) ☐ *It's too late to change it now. What's done is done.* ☐ *What's done is done. The past cannot be altered.*

What's keeping you? What is taking you so long? Why are you still there and not here? ☐ *Dinner is ready, and you are still at work. I telephoned to ask what's keeping you.* ☐ *What's keeping you? I am ready to go and you are still in there dressing.*

What's new? How are you? Tell me what you have been doing. (Informal.) ☐ *Good to see you. What's new?* ☐ *What's new? How are things down your way?*

What's the good of something? What is the point of something? Why bother with something? ☐ *What's the good of my go-*

ing at all if I'll be late? ☐ *There is no need to get there early. What's the good of that?*

What's up? Hello. What is happening? (Informal.) ☐ *What's up? How're you doing?* ☐ *Hey, Chuck! What's up?*

What's with someone? What is bothering or affecting someone? (Slang.) ☐ *John seems upset. What's with him?* ☐ *There's nothing wrong with me. What's with you?*

wheel and deal to take part in clever (but sometimes dishonest or immoral) business deals. ☐ *John loves to wheel and deal in the money markets.* ☐ *Jack got tired of all the wheeling and dealing of big business and retired to run a pub in the country.*

when all is said and done when everything is finished and settled; when everything is considered. (See also **after all is said and done**.) ☐ *When all is said and done, this isn't such a bad part of the country to live in after all.* ☐ *When all is said and done, I believe I had a very enjoyable time on my vacation.*

when hell freezes over **AND** **until hell freezes over** never. (The first entry is always affirmative and the second is always negative.) ☐ *I'll say I'm sorry to you when hell freezes over!* ☐ *I won't apologize until hell freezes over.*

When in Rome, do as the Romans do. One should behave in the same way that the local people behave. (Proverb.) ☐ *I don't usually eat lamb, but I did when I went to Australia. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.* ☐ *I always carry an umbrella when I visit London. When in Rome, do as the Romans do.*

when it comes right down to it all things considered; when one really thinks about something. ☐ *When it comes right down to it, I'd like to find a new job.* ☐ *When it comes right down to it, he can't really afford a new car.*

when it comes to something as for something; speaking about something. (Informal.) ☐ *When it comes to fishing, John is an expert.* ☐ *When it comes to trouble, Mary really knows how to cause it.*

when least expected when one does not expect (something). □ *An old car is likely to give you trouble when least expected.* □ *My pencil usually breaks when least expected.*

when one is good and ready when one is completely ready. (Informal.) □ *I'll be there when I'm good and ready.* □ *Ann will finish the job when she's good and ready and not a minute sooner.*

when push comes to shove when the situation becomes more difficult; when matters escalate. (See also **if push comes to shove**.) □ *When push comes to shove, I will take a stronger position.* □ *When push comes to shove, I will come up with the money you need.*

When the cat's away, the mice will play. Some people will get into mischief when they are not being watched. (Proverb.) □ *The students behaved very badly for the substitute teacher. When the cat's away, the mice will play.* □ *John had a wild party at his house when his parents were out of town. When the cat's away, the mice will play.*

when the chips are down at the final, critical moment; when things really get difficult. □ *When the chips are down, I know that I can depend on Jean to help out.* □ *I knew you would come and help when the chips were down.*

when the going gets rough Go to when the going gets tough.

when the going gets tough AND **when the going gets rough** when things get extremely difficult; when it becomes difficult to proceed. (Also literal when referring to travel. A second line is sometimes added to the main entry phrase: When the going gets tough, the tough get going. This means that when things become difficult, strong people began to work or move faster and harder.) □ *When the going gets tough, I will be there to help you.* □ *I appreciate the kind words you sent to us when the going got a little rough last month.*

when the time is ripe at exactly the right time. □ *I'll tell her the good news when*

the time is ripe. □ *When the time is ripe, I'll bring up the subject again.*

where one is coming from one's point of view. (Slang.) □ *I think I know what you mean. I know where you're coming from.* □ *Man, you don't know where I'm coming from! You don't understand a single word I say.*

where one lives Go to close to home.

Where there's a will there's a way. One can do something if one really wants to. (Proverb.) □ *Don't give up, Ann. You can do it. Where there's a will there's a way.* □ *They told John he'd never walk again after his accident. He worked at it, and he was able to walk again! Where there's a will there's a way.*

Where there's smoke there's fire. Evidence of a problem probably indicates that there really is a problem. (Proverb.) □ *There is a lot of noise coming from the classroom. There is probably something wrong. Where there's smoke there's fire.* □ *I think there is something wrong at the old house on the corner. The police are there again. Where there's smoke there's fire.*

Where was I? Go to (Now), where was I?

Where've you been hiding yourself? Hello, I haven't seen you in a long time. (In other persons also.) □ *I haven't seen you in a long time. Where've you been hiding yourself?* □ *Where've you been hiding yourself? We missed you at the meeting.*

whet someone's appetite to cause someone to be interested in something and to be eager to have, know, learn, etc., more about it. □ *Seeing that film really whetted my sister's appetite for horror films. She now sees as many as possible.* □ *My appetite for theater was whetted when I was very young.*

whether or not either if something is the case or if something is not the case; one way or the other. □ *I'll drive to New York tomorrow whether or not it rains.* □ *I'm going to the mall whether you come with me or not.*

while away the time to spend or waste time. □ *I like to read to while away the*

time. ☐ Jane whiles the time away by daydreaming.

whip something into shape Go to lick something into shape.

whip something up to prepare, create, or put something together quickly. (Informal.) ☐ I haven't written my report yet, but I'll whip one up before the deadline. ☐ Come in and sit down. I'll go whip up something to eat.

white as a sheet Go to (as) white as a sheet.

white as the driven snow Go to (as) white as the driven snow.

white elephant something that is useless and which is either a nuisance or is expensive to keep up. (From the gift of a white elephant by the kings of Siam [Thailand] to courtiers who displeased them, knowing the cost of the upkeep would ruin them.) ☐ Bob's father-in-law has given him an old Rolls-Royce, but it's a real white elephant. He has no place to park it and can't afford the maintenance on it. ☐ Those antique vases Aunt Mary gave me are white elephants. They're ugly and take ages to clean.

Who do you think you're kidding? I don't believe you, and what makes you think you can deceive me? (In other persons also.) ☐ Who does he think he's kidding? Nobody believes him. ☐ A: You are the finest batter I've ever seen. B: Who do you think you're kidding?

Who do you think you're talking to? Do you know the importance of the person [me] you are talking to? (In other persons also.) ☐ Who do you think you're talking to? I'm the boss here, you know! ☐ Don't talk to me that way! Who do you think you are talking to?

Who would have thought? I would never have guessed that something so surprising could happen. ☐ So he's run off with the maid. Who would have thought? ☐ It turns out she robbed a bank when she was 18. Who would have thought?

the **whole ball of wax** AND the **whole shooting match** the whole thing; the

whole matter or affair; the entire affair or organization. ☐ John is not a good manager. Instead of delegating jobs to others, he runs the whole shooting match himself. ☐ There's not a hard worker in that whole shooting match. ☐ I will be glad to be finished with this project. I want to be done with the whole ball of wax. ☐ I am tired of this job. I am fed up with the whole ball of wax.

(whole) new ball game a new set of circumstances. (Slang. Originally from sports.) ☐ It's a whole new ball game since Jane took over the office. ☐ You can't do the things you used to do around here. It's a new ball game.

the **whole shooting match** Go to the whole ball of wax.

whoop it up to enjoy oneself in a lively and noisy manner. (Informal.) ☐ John's friends really whooped it up at his bachelor party. ☐ Jean wants to have a large party and whoop it up to celebrate her promotion.

the **whys and wherefores of** something the reason or causes relating to something. ☐ I refuse to discuss the whys and wherefores of my decision. It's final. ☐ Bob doesn't know the whys and wherefores of his contract. He just knows that it means he will get a lot of money when he finishes the work.

wide-awake completely awake. ☐ After the telephone rang, I was wide-awake for an hour. ☐ I'm not very wide-awake at six o'clock in the morning.

wide of the mark 1. far from the target. ☐ Tom's shot was wide of the mark. ☐ The pitch was quite fast, but wide of the mark. 2. inadequate; far from what is required or expected. ☐ Jane's efforts were sincere, but wide of the mark. ☐ He failed the course because everything he did was wide of the mark.

wild about someone or something enthusiastic about someone or something. ☐ Bill is wild about chocolate ice cream. ☐ Sally is wild about Tom and his new car.

a **wild-goose chase** a worthless hunt or chase; a futile pursuit. ☐ I wasted all af-

ternoon on a wild-goose chase. □ John was angry because he was sent out on a wild-goose chase.

Wild horses couldn't drag someone. nothing could force someone (to go somewhere). (Informal.) □ *I refuse to go to that meeting! Wild horses couldn't drag me.* □ *Wild horses couldn't drag her to that game.*

will not hear of something will not tolerate or permit something. □ *You mustn't drive home alone. I won't hear of it.* □ *My parents won't hear of my staying out that late.*

win by a nose to win by the slightest amount of difference. (Informal. As in a horse race where one horse wins with only its nose ahead of the horse that comes in second.) □ *I ran the fastest race I could, but I only won by a nose.* □ *Sally won the race, but she only won by a nose.*

win out (over someone or something) to beat someone or something in a race or a contest. □ *My horse won out over yours, so you lose your bet.* □ *I knew I could win out if I just kept trying.*

win someone **over** to succeed in gaining the support and sympathy of someone. □ *Jane's parents disapproved of her engagement at first, but she won them over.* □ *I'm trying to win the boss over and get him to give us the day off.*

win the day Go to carry the day.

wind down to decrease or diminish. □ *Things are very busy now, but they'll wind down in about an hour.* □ *I hope business winds down soon. I'm exhausted.*

wind something **up** to conclude something. (Also literal.) □ *Today we'll wind that deal up with the bank.* □ *I have a few items of business to wind up; then I'll be with you.*

wind up doing something Go to **end up** doing something.

wind up somewhere Go to **end up** somewhere.

window-shopping the habit or practice of looking at goods in shop windows or stores without actually buying anything. □ *Mary and Jane do a lot of window-*

shopping in their lunch hour, looking for things to buy when they get paid. □ *Jane said she was just window-shopping, but she bought a new coat.*

wine and dine someone to treat someone to an expensive meal of the type that includes fine wines; to entertain someone lavishly. □ *The lobbyists wined and dined the senators one by one in order to influence them.* □ *We were wined and dined every night and given the best hotel accommodations in town.*

wing it to do the best that one can in a situation, especially when one is not prepared. (Compare this with **play** something **by ear**.) □ *I lost my notes before my speech, and I had to wing it.* □ *The professor, it turned out, was winging it in every single lecture.*

wink at something to ignore something. (Informal.) □ *Billy caused me a little trouble, but I just winked at it.* □ *This is a serious matter, and you can't expect me just to wink at it.*

wipe someone or something **out** **1.** to cause someone to be broke. (Slang.) □ *They wiped me out in the poker game.* □ *The crop failure wiped out all the farmers.* **2.** to exterminate someone or something. (Slang.) □ *The hunters came and wiped all the deer out.* □ *The crooks wiped out the two witnesses.*

wipe someone's **slate clean** to erase someone's (bad) record. (Figurative.) □ *I'd like to wipe my slate clean and start all over again.* □ *Bob did badly in high school, but he wiped his slate clean and did a good job in college.*

wipe something **off** **1.** to remove something (from something else) by wiping or rubbing. □ *There is mud on your shirt. Please wipe it off.* □ *My shirt has catsup on it. I must wipe off the catsup.* **2.** to tidy or clean something by wiping (something else) off. □ *Please wipe the table off. There's water on it.* □ *Wipe off your shirt. There's catsup on it.*

wipe the floor up with someone to beat or physically abuse someone. (Slang. Usually said as a threat. See also **mop the**

floor up with someone.) □ *You say that to me one more time, and I'll wipe the floor up with you.* □ *Oh, yeah! You're not big enough to wipe up the floor with anybody!*

wise as an owl Go to (as) wise as an owl.

wise as Solomon Go to (as) wise as Solomon.

wise up (to someone or something) to begin to understand the truth about someone or something. (Slang.) □ *It was almost a week before I began to wise up to John. He's a total phony.* □ *You had better stay hidden for a while. The police are beginning to wise up.*

wish something off on someone to pass something off onto someone else. (Informal.) □ *I don't want to have to deal with your problems. Don't wish them off on me.* □ *The storekeeper wished off the defective watch on the very next customer who came in.*

wishful thinking believing that something is true or that something will happen just because one wishes that it were true or would happen. □ *Hoping for a car as a birthday present is just wishful thinking. Your parents can't afford it.* □ *Mary thinks that she is going to get a big rise, but that's wishful thinking. Her boss is so mean.*

with a heavy heart sadly. □ *With a heavy heart, she said good-bye.* □ *We left school on the last day with a heavy heart.*

with all one's heart and soul very sincerely. □ *Oh, Bill, I love you with all my heart and soul, and I always will!* □ *She thanked us with all her heart and soul for the gift.*

with all the fixings with all the condiments that accompany a certain kind of food. □ *For \$5.99 you get a turkey dinner with all the fixings.* □ *Max likes his hamburgers with all the fixings.*

with an eye to doing something Go to with a view to doing something.

with a vengeance with determination and eagerness, as if angry. □ *The angry soldier attacked the enemy with a vengeance.* □ *Bill ate all his dinner and gobbled up his dessert with a vengeance.*

with a view to doing something **AND** **with an eye to** doing something with the intention of doing something. □ *I came to this school with a view to getting a degree.* □ *The mayor took office with an eye to improving the town.*

with a will with determination and enthusiasm. □ *The children worked with a will to finish the project on time.* □ *The workers set about manufacturing the new products with a will.*

with bells on (one's toes) eagerly, willingly, and on time. □ *Oh, yes! I'll meet you at the restaurant. I'll be there with bells on.* □ *All the smiling children were there waiting for me with bells on their toes.*

with both hands tied behind one's back Go to with one hand tied behind one's back.

with each passing day as days pass, one by one; day by day. □ *Things grow more expensive with each passing day.* □ *We are all growing older with each passing day.*

with ease without effort. □ *The smart student passed the test with ease.* □ *The gymnast did a back flip with ease.*

with every (other) breath [saying something] repeatedly or continually. □ *Bob was out in the yard, raking leaves and cursing with every other breath.* □ *The child was so grateful that she was thanking me with every breath.*

with everything (on it) [of a sandwich] ordered with everything available on it, such as ketchup, mustard, onions, cheese, peppers, chili, lettuce, tomato, etc., as appropriate. □ *Do you want it with everything?* □ *Give me a cheeseburger with everything on it.*

with flying colors easily and excellently. (Flying colors refers to ships' pennants.) □ *John passed his geometry test with flying colors.* □ *Sally qualified for the race with flying colors.*

(with) hat in hand with humility. (Also literal.) □ *She stormed off but came back with hat in hand when she ran out of money.* □ *We had to go hat in hand to the committee to get a grant for our proposal.*

with impunity without risk of punishment; with immunity from the negative consequences of an act; while being exempt from punishment. □ *The diplomat parked in illegal parking spaces with impunity.* □ *Bob used his brother's property with impunity.*

with it 1. alert and knowledgeable. (Slang.) □ *Jane isn't making any sense. She's not really with it tonight.* □ *Jean's mother is not really with it anymore. She's going senile.* □ *Peter's not with it yet. He's only just come round from the anesthetic.* **2.** up-to-date. (Slang.) □ *My parents are so old-fashioned. I'm sure they were never with it.* □ *Why do you wear those baggy old clothes? Why aren't you with it?*

with no strings attached AND **without any strings attached** unconditionally; with no obligations attached. □ *My parents gave me a computer without any strings attached.* □ *I want this only if it comes with no strings attached.*

with one hand tied behind one's back AND **with both hands tied behind one's back** even under a severe handicap; easily. □ *I could put an end to this argument with one hand tied behind my back.* □ *John could do this job with both hands tied behind his back.*

with one's tail between one's legs appearing frightened or cowardly, like a frightened or defeated dog; appearing threatened or humiliated. □ *John seems to lack courage. When people criticize him unjustly, he just goes away with his tail between his legs and doesn't tell them that they're wrong.* □ *The frightened dog ran away with its tail between its legs when the bigger dog growled.*

with regard to someone or something concerning someone or something. □ *What shall we do with regard to planning dinner?* □ *With regard to Bill, I think he is working too hard.*

with relish with pleasure or enjoyment. □ *John ate his juicy hamburger with great relish.* □ *We sampled the excellent food with relish.*

with respect to someone or something of or about someone or something. □ *With respect to radiation, this power plant is very safe.* □ *This article examines experiments with respect to ethical issues.*

with something to spare Go to and something to spare.

with the best will in the world however much one wishes to do something or however hard one tries to do something. □ *With the best will in the world, Jack won't be able to help Mary get the job.* □ *With the best will in the world, they won't finish the job in time.*

wither on the vine AND **die on the vine** [for something] to decline or fade away at an early stage of development. (Also literal in reference to grapes or other fruit.) □ *You have a great plan, Tom. Let's keep it alive. Don't let it wither on the vine.* □ *The whole project died on the vine when the contract was canceled.*

within an inch of one's life very close to taking one's life; almost to death. □ *The accident frightened me within an inch of my life.* □ *When Mary was seriously ill in the hospital, she came within an inch of her life.*

within a stone's throw (of something) AND **(just) a stone's throw (away) (from something)** very close (to something). (Possibly as close as the distance one could throw a stone. It usually refers to a distance much greater than one could throw a stone.) □ *The police department was located within a stone's throw of our house.* □ *We live in Carbondale, and that's just a stone's throw from the Mississippi River.* □ *Come visit. We live just a stone's throw away.* □ *John saw Mary across the street, just a stone's throw away.* □ *Philadelphia is a stone's throw from New York City.*

within bounds Go to within limits.

within calling distance Go to within hailing distance.

within hailing distance AND **within calling distance; within shouting distance** close enough to hear someone call out. □ *When the boat came within hailing distance, I asked if I could borrow*

some gasoline. □ *We weren't within calling distance, so I couldn't hear what you said to me.*

within limits AND **within bounds** up to a certain point; with certain restrictions. □ *You're free to do what you want—within limits, of course.* □ *You must try to keep behavior at the party within bounds.*

within reason reasonable; reasonably. □ *You can do anything you want within reason.* □ *I'll pay any sum you ask—within reason.*

within shouting distance Go to **within hailing distance**.

within someone's **grasp** Go to **within** someone's **reach**.

within someone's **reach** AND **within** someone's **grasp** almost in the possession of someone. □ *My goals are almost within my reach, so I know I'll succeed.* □ *We almost had the contract within our grasp, but the deal fell through at the last minute.*

within walking distance close enough to walk to. □ *Is the train station within walking distance?* □ *My office is within walking distance from here.*

without a moment to spare Go to **not a moment to spare**.

without any strings attached Go to **with no strings attached**.

without batting an eye casually; without showing alarm or response. □ *I knew I had insulted her, but she turned to me and asked me to leave without batting an eye.* □ *Right in the middle of the speech—without batting an eye—the speaker walked off the stage.*

without fail for certain; absolutely. □ *I'll be there at noon without fail.* □ *The plane leaves on time every day without fail.*

without further ado without further talk. (An overworked phrase usually heard in public announcements.) □ *And without further ado, I would like to introduce Mr. Bill Franklin!* □ *The time has come to leave, so without further ado, good evening and good-bye.*

without question absolutely; certainly. □ *She agreed to help without question.* □ *She said, "I stand ready to support you without question."*

without rhyme or reason without purpose, order, or reason. □ *The teacher said my report was disorganized. My paragraphs seemed to be without rhyme or reason.* □ *Everything you do seems to be without rhyme or reason.* □ *This procedure is without rhyme or reason.*

without so much as doing something without even doing something. □ *Jane borrowed Bob's car without so much as asking his permission.* □ *Mary's husband walked out without so much as saying good-bye.*

Woe is me! I am unfortunate!; I am unhappy! (Usually humorous.) □ *Woe is me! I have to work when the rest of the office staff is off.* □ *Woe is me. I have the flu and my friends have gone to a party.*

a **wolf in sheep's clothing** someone or something threatening that is disguised as someone or something kind. □ *Beware of the police chief. He seems polite, but he's a wolf in sheep's clothing.* □ *This proposal seems harmless enough, but I think it's a wolf in sheep's clothing.*

woman to woman Go to **man to man**.

word by word one word at a time. □ *We examined the contract word by word to make sure everything was the way we wanted.* □ *We compared the stories word by word to see what made them different.*

word for word in the exact words; verbatim. □ *I memorized the speech, word for word.* □ *I can't recall word for word what she told us.*

a **word to the wise** a good piece of advice; a word of wisdom. □ *If I can give you a word to the wise, I would suggest going to the courthouse about an hour before your trial.* □ *Here is a word to the wise. Keep your eyes open and your mouth shut.*

words to that effect Go to **something to that effect**.

[work is cut out for one] Go to **one's work is cut out for one**.

work like a horse to work very hard. □ *I've been working like a horse all day, and I'm tired.* □ *I'm too old to work like a horse. I'd prefer to relax more.*

work one's fingers to the bone to work very hard. □ *I worked my fingers to the bone so you children could have everything you needed. Now look at the way you treat me!* □ *I spent the day working my fingers to the bone, and now I want to relax.*

work (one's way) into something to manage to join or become a member of something. (Refers to squeezing into something.) □ *Ann worked her way into the club, and now she's a member in good standing.* □ *Bob worked his way into the top management of the company.*

work one's way through college to hold a job that pays part of one's college expenses. □ *Tom couldn't get a loan, so he had to work his way through college.* □ *I worked my way through college, and that made college seem more valuable to me.*

work one's way up to advance in one's job or position, from the beginning level to a higher level. □ *I haven't always been president of this bank. I started as a teller and worked my way up.* □ *If I work my way up, can I be president of the bank?*

work on someone or something **1.** [with *someone*] to try to convince someone about something. (Informal.) □ *We worked on Tom for nearly an hour, but we couldn't get him to change his mind.* □ *I'll work on him for a while, and I'll change his mind.* **2.** [with *someone*] to give medical treatment to someone. □ *The dentist was working on Mary while I waited for her in the other room.* □ *The surgeon worked on the patient, trying to stop the bleeding.* **3.** [with *something*] to repair, build, or adjust something. □ *The carpenter worked on the fence for three hours.* □ *Bill is out working on his car engine.*

work out to do a program of exercise. □ *I have to work out every day in order to keep healthy.* □ *Working out a lot gives me a big appetite.*

work out (all right) Go to turn out (all right).

work out for the best to end up in the best possible way. □ *Don't worry. Things will work out for the best.* □ *It seems bad now, but it'll work out for the best.*

work someone or something in to insert someone or something (into a schedule or a line). □ *The doctor's schedule was very busy, but the nurse agreed to try to work me in.* □ *The mechanic had many cars to fix, but he said he'd work my car in.* □ *I'm glad he could work in my car.*

work someone or something up 1. [with *someone*] to get someone ready for something, especially medical treatment. □ *The coach worked up the whole team before the game.* □ *The doctor told the nurse to work Mr. Franklin up for surgery.* **2.** [with *something*] to create, cook, or arrange something. □ *Bob is in the kitchen working up dinner.* □ *Is there something planned for Friday night, or should we work something up?*

work someone over to threaten, intimidate, or beat someone. (Slang, especially criminal slang.) □ *I thought they were really going to work me over, but they only asked a few questions.* □ *The police worked over Bill until he told where the money was hidden.*

work something into something else to rub or knead something into something else. □ *You should work more butter into the dough before baking the bread.* □ *Work this lotion into your skin to make your sunburn stop hurting.*

work something off to get rid of something, such as fat, by doing physical exercise. □ *Bob put on weight on his vacation and is trying to work it off by swimming regularly.* □ *Jane tried to work off her depression by playing a game of tennis.*

work something out to settle a problem. (Also literal.) □ *It was a serious problem, but we managed to work it out.* □ *I'm glad we can work out our problems without fighting.*

work through channels to try to get something done by going through the proper procedures and persons. (See also go through channels.) □ *You can't ac-*

comply anything around here if you don't work through channels. □ I tried working through channels, but it takes too long. This is an emergency.

work wonders (with someone or something) to be surprisingly beneficial to someone or something; to be very helpful with someone or something. □ *This new medicine works wonders with my headaches. □ Jean was able to work wonders with the office staff. They improved their efficiency as soon as she took over.*

worked up (about something) Go to (all) worked up (over something).

worked up (over something) Go to (all) worked up (over something).

the **works** everything. (Informal.) □ *They gave me everything I could possibly want. They gave me the works! □ I want the works! Everything you have to offer!*

The **worm (has) turned**. Someone who is usually patient and humble has decided to stop being so. □ *Jane used to be treated badly by her husband and she just accepted it, but one day she hit him. The worm turned all right. □ Tom used to let the other boys bully him on the playground, but one day the worm turned and he's now leader of their gang.*

worm one's way out of something to squeeze or wiggle out of a problem or a responsibility. (Informal.) □ *This is your job, and you can't worm your way out of it! □ I'm not trying to worm my way out of anything!*

worm something out of someone to get some kind of information out of someone. (Informal.) □ *He didn't want to tell me the truth, but I finally wormed it out of him. □ She succeeded in worming the secret out of me. I didn't mean to tell it.*

worth its weight in gold very valuable. □ *This book is worth its weight in gold. □ Oh, Bill. You're wonderful. You're worth your weight in gold.*

worth one's salt worth one's salary. □ *Tom doesn't work very hard, and he's just barely worth his salt, but he's very easy to get*

along with. □ I think he's more than worth his salt. He's a good worker.

worth someone's while worth one's time and trouble. (See also **make it worth** someone's while.) □ *The job pays so badly it's not worth your while even going for an interview. □ It's not worth Mary's while going all that way just for a one-hour meeting.*

worthy of the name deserving to be so called; good enough to enjoy a specific name. □ *There was not an actor worthy of the name in that play. □ Any art critic worthy of the name would know that painting to be a fake.*

would (just) as soon do something Go to had (just) as soon do something.

would give one's right arm (for someone or something) would be willing to give something of great value in exchange for someone or something. □ *I'd give my right arm for a nice cool drink. □ I'd give my right arm to be there.*

would like (to have) someone or something to want someone or something; to prefer someone or something. □ *I would like to have three cookies. □ I would like a piece of cake.*

would rather would prefer [something] more willingly; would prefer [something] more readily. □ *I would rather have an apple than a pear. I don't like pears. □ I'd rather live in the north than the south, because I like snow.*

wouldn't dream of doing something would not even consider doing something. (Informal.) □ *I wouldn't dream of taking your money! □ I'm sure that John wouldn't dream of complaining to the manager.*

wouldn't touch someone or something **with a ten-foot pole** would not be involved with something under any circumstances. □ *I know about the piece of vacant land for sale on Maple Street. I wouldn't touch it with a ten-foot pole because there used to be a gas station there and the soil is polluted. □ I wouldn't touch that book with a ten-foot pole. It is nothing but gossip and scandal.*

wrap something up to terminate something; to bring something to an end. (Also literal. Informal. See also **get something sewed up**.) □ *It's time to wrap this project up and move on to something else.* □ *Let's wrap up this discussion. It's time to go home.*

wrapped up in someone or something concerned and involved with someone or something. □ *Sally is wrapped up in her work.* □ *Ann is all wrapped up in her children and their activities.*

wreak havoc with something to cause a lot of trouble with something; to ruin or damage something. □ *Your attitude will wreak havoc with my project.* □ *The weather wreaked havoc with our picnic plans.*

wreak vengeance (up)on someone or something to seek and get revenge on someone by harming someone or something. □ *The thief wreaked his vengeance by destroying his rival's house.* □ *The general wanted to wreak vengeance on the opposing army for their recent successful attack.*

write someone or something off 1. [with something] to absorb a debt or a loss in accounting. □ *The bill couldn't be collected, so we had to write it off.* □ *The bill was too large, and we couldn't write off the amount. We decided to sue.* **2.** to drop someone or something from consideration. □ *The manager wrote Tom off for a*

promotion. □ *I wrote off that piece of land as worthless. It can't be used for anything.*

write someone or something up 1. [with something] to prepare a bill, order, or statement. □ *Please write the order up and send me a copy.* □ *As soon as I finish writing up your check, I'll bring you some more coffee.* **2.** to write an article about someone or something. □ *A reporter wrote me up for the Sunday paper.* □ *I wrote up a local factory and sent the story to a magazine, but they didn't buy the story.*

write something down to write something; to make a note of something. (Also without down.) □ *If I write it down, I won't forget it.* □ *I wrote down everything she said.*

write something out to spell or write a number or an abbreviation. □ *Don't just write "7," write it out.* □ *Please write out all abbreviations, such as Doctor for Dr.*

the **wrong side of the tracks** the poor part of a town. (Often with *come from*, *be from*, or *live on*, as in the examples. Compare this with the **other side of the tracks**.) □ *They said that Bob was from the wrong side of the tracks, but that it didn't matter.* □ *We went to a school that was on the wrong side of the tracks, and we all got a fine education.*

[wrote the book on something] Go to someone wrote the book on something.



X marks the spot this is the exact spot.
(Can be used literally when someone
draws an X to mark an exact spot.) ☐
This is where the rock struck my car—X

marks the spot. ☐ *Now, please move that
table over here. Yes, right here—X marks
the spot.*

Y

year after year for many years, one after another. □ *We go to the same place for our vacation year after year.* □ *I seem to earn the same salary year after year.*

year in, year out year after year, all year long. □ *I seem to have hay fever year in, year out. I never get over it.* □ *John wears the same old suit, year in, year out.*

year round Go to (all) year round.

years running Go to days running.

yield the right-of-way to give the right to turn or move forward to another person or vehicle. (See also **have the right-of-way**.) □ *When you're driving, it's better to yield the right-of-way than to have a wreck.* □ *You must always yield the right-of-way when you're making a left turn.*

a **yoke around someone's neck** something that oppresses people; a burden. □ *John's greedy children are a yoke around his neck.* □ *The Smiths have a huge mortgage that has become a yoke around their neck.*

You bet (your boots)! AND **You can bet on it!** Surely!; Absolutely! (Informal.) □ *BILL: Coming to the meeting next Saturday? BOB: You bet! □ You bet your boots I'll be there!*

You can bet on it! Go to You bet (your boots)!

You can say that again! AND **You said it!** That is true!; You are correct! (Informal. The word *that* is emphasized.) □ *MARY: It sure is hot today. JANE: You can say that again! □ BILL: This cake is yummy! BOB: You said it!*

You can't please everyone. It is not possible to make everyone happy. (Said when dismissing a complaint or when someone has pointed out a flaw that cannot be

fixed.) □ *When Jean complained about the choices on the dinner menu, the waiter said, "Sorry. You can't please everyone."* □ *Jerry reported that many of his friends had noticed that the colors of the walls in the living room clashed. His mother said, "Oh, well. You can't please everyone."*

You can't take it with you. You should use your money now, because it is no good when you're dead. (Proverb.) □ *My uncle is a wealthy miser. I keep telling him, "You can't take it with you."* □ *If you have money, you should make out a will. You can't take it with you, you know!*

You can't teach an old dog new tricks. Old people cannot learn anything new. (Proverb. Also used literally of dogs.) □ *"Of course I can learn," bellowed Uncle John. "Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks?" □ I'm sorry. I can't seem to learn to do it right. Oh, well. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.*

You got me there. I do not know the answer to your question. (In other persons also.) □ *You got me there. I don't know.* □ *You got me there. I have no idea what the answer is.*

You just don't get it! You really don't see what people are trying to tell you! (In other persons also.) □ *Everyone says that you are a bore, but you just don't get it! □ You just don't get it! People avoid you because you offend them.*

you know as you are aware, or should be aware. (Informal. This should not be overused.) □ *This is a very valuable book, you know.* □ *Goldfish can be overfed, you know.*

You said it! Go to You can say that again!

You scared me out of my wits.

You scared me out of my wits. Go to You scared the hell out of me.

You scared the crap out of me. Go to You scared the hell out of me.

You scared the devil out of me. Go to You scared the hell out of me.

You scared the dickens out of me. Go to You scared the hell out of me.

You scared the hell out of me. AND You scared the crap out of me.; You scared the dickens out of me.; You scared the devil out of me.; You scared me out of my wits.; You scared the pants off (of) me. You frightened me very badly. (In other persons also.)
☐ *He scared the hell out of all of us.* ☐ *She really scared the pants off of me.*

You scared the pants off (of) me. Go to You scared the hell out of me.

You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours. You do a favor for me and I'll do a favor for you.; If you do something for me that I cannot do for myself, I will do something for you that you cannot do for yourself. (Also literal.) ☐ *I'll grab the box on the top shelf if you will creep under the table and pick up my pen. You scratch my*

back, and I'll scratch yours. ☐ *Politicians are always saying to one another, "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours."*

You think you're so smart! You act as if you knew far more than you do! (In other persons also.) ☐ *You think you're so smart! You don't know anything!* ☐ *Boy! He thinks he's so smart!*

Your guess is as good as mine. Your answer is likely to be as correct as mine. (Informal.) ☐ *I don't know where the scissors are. Your guess is as good as mine.* ☐ *Your guess is as good as mine as to when the train will arrive.*

Your secret is safe with me. I will not tell your secret to anyone. ☐ *Don't worry. I won't tell. Your secret's safe with me.* ☐ *Your secret is safe with me. I will carry it to my grave.*

yours truly 1. a polite closing phrase at the end of a letter, just before the signature.
☐ *Yours truly, Tom Jones* ☐ *Best wishes from yours truly, Bill Smith* **2.** oneself; I; me. (Informal.) ☐ *There's nobody here right now but yours truly.* ☐ *Everyone else got up and left the table leaving yours truly to pay the bill.*

Z

zero in on something to aim or focus directly on something. (Informal.) □ *“Now,” said Mr. Smith, “I would like to zero in on another important point.”* □ *Mary is very good about zeroing in on the most important and helpful ideas.*

zonk out to pass out; to fall asleep. (Slang.)

□ *I was so tired after playing football that I almost zonked out on the floor.* □ *I had a cup of coffee before the test to keep from zonking out in the middle of it.*

zoom in (on someone or something) **1.** to fly or move rapidly at someone or something. (Slang.) □ *The hawk zoomed in on the sparrow.* □ *The angry bees zoomed in on Jane and stung her.* □ *When the door opened, the cat zoomed in.* **2.** [for a photographer] to use a zoom lens to get a closer view of someone or something. □ *Bill zoomed in on Sally’s face just as she grinned.* □ *On the next shot I’ll zoom in for a close-up.*

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Phrase-Finder Index

Use this index to find the form of a phrase that you want to look up in the dictionary. To use this index, pick out any major word in the phrase you are seeking, then look up that word in this index to find the form of the phrase that appears in the dictionary. Finally, look up the phrase in the main body of the dictionary. Words such as *someone* or *something* that are variable words in the dictionary entries are not indexed here.

aback taken aback
ABC (as) easy as ABC
ABC easy as ABC
ABCs know one's ABCs
abet aid and abet someone
abeyance in abeyance
abide abide by something
ability to the best of one's ability
able able to breathe (easily) again
able able to breathe (freely) again
able able to do something blindfolded
able able to do something standing on one's head
able able to do something with one's eyes closed
able able to fog a mirror
able able to make something
able able to take a joke
able able to take just so much
able able to take something
able not able to call one's time one's own
able not able to go on
able not able to help something
able not able to make anything out of someone or something
able not able to see the forest for the trees
able not able to stomach someone or something
able not able to wait
able ready, willing, and able
abode take up one's abode somewhere
about (all) at sea (about something)
about (all) worked up (about something)
about at sea (about something)
about be about something
about beat about the bush
about bring something about
about carry on (about someone or something)
about cast about for someone or something
about come about
about crazy about someone or something
about create a stink (about something)
about do an about-face
about fall out (with someone about something)
about fiddle about (with someone or something)
about get a rough idea (about something)
about get a thing about someone or something

about get one's wits about one
about get second thoughts about someone or something
about get worked up (about something)
about give someone a rough idea (about something)
about go about one's business
about go into one's song and dance (about something)
about halfhearted (about someone or something)
about have a clean conscience (about someone or something)
about have a clear conscience (about someone or something)
about have a clue (about something)
about have a feeling about something
about have a hunch about something
about have mixed feelings (about someone or something)
about have second thoughts about someone or something
about in a stew (about someone or something)
about in the dark (about someone or something)
about It's about time!
about keen about someone or something
about keep one's mouth shut (about someone or something)
about keep one's wits about one
about keep quiet (about someone or something)
about keep still (about someone or something)
about knock about (somewhere)
about knock someone or something about
about know a thing or two (about someone or something)
about know one's way about
about let someone know (about something)
about mad about someone or something
about make a big deal about something
about make a stink (about something)
about make cracks (about someone or something)
about Make no bones about it.
about make no mistake (about it)
about man-about-town
about mess about (with someone or something)
about millstone about one's neck
about much ado about nothing
about no buts about it
about no ifs, ands, or buts about it
about nose about
about not breathe a word (about someone or something)

about not care two hoots (about someone or something)
about not give a hang (about someone or something)
about not give a hoot (about someone or something)
about not give two hoots (about someone or something)
about nothing to complain about
about nothing to write home about
about not know beans (about someone or something)
about not know the first thing about someone or something
about no two ways about it
about nuts about someone or something
about on the fence (about something)
about order someone about
about out and about
about play about (with someone or something)
about poke about
about put one's foot down (about something)
about put out (about someone or something)
about rail at someone (about something)
about raise a stink (about something)
about ramble on (about someone or something)
about rant and rave (about someone or something)
about rant (at someone) about someone or something
about religious about doing something
about see about something
about see a man about a dog
about see eye to eye (with someone) (about something)
about send one about one's business
about something about someone or something
about sound off (about something)
about spout off (about someone or something)
about That's about the size of it.
about trouble oneself about someone or something
about trouble one's head about someone or something
about up and about
about up in the air (about someone or something)
about wild about someone or something
about worked up (about something)
above above and beyond (something)
above (above and) beyond the call of duty
above above average
above above par
above above reproach
above above suspicion
above get one's head above water
above head and shoulders above someone or something
above keep one's head above water
above over and above something
above a cut above someone or something
aboveboard aboveboard
aboveboard honest and aboveboard
aboveboard open and aboveboard
abreast keep abreast (of something)
absence conspicuous by one's absence
absence in the absence of someone or something
absent absent without leave
accident have an accident
accord of one's own accord
accordance in accordance with something
according according to all accounts
according according to Hoyle
according according to one's own lights

according according to someone or something
according according to something
account blow-by-blow account
account give a good account of oneself
account not on any account
account on account
account on any account
account on no account
account on someone's account
account take someone or something into account
account turn something to good account
accounting There's no accounting for taste.
accounts according to all accounts
accounts balance the accounts
accounts by all accounts
accounts cook the accounts
accounts square accounts (with someone)
accustomed accustomed to someone or something
ace ace in the hole
ace (as) black as the ace of spades
ace black as the ace of spades
ace come within an ace of doing something
ace have an ace up one's sleeve
ace someone's ace in the hole
aces hold all the aces
aching an aching heart
acid acid test
acknowledge acknowledge receipt (of something)
acknowledge acknowledge someone to be right
acquire acquire a taste for something
across across the board
across come across someone or something
across cut across something
across get someone or something across
across get something across (to someone)
across put someone or something across
across run across someone or something
across stumble across someone or something
act act as someone
act act high-and-mighty
act act one's age
act act something out
act act up
act catch someone in the act (of doing something)
act caught in the act
act clean up one's act
act get into the act
act get one's act together
act in the act (of doing something)
act keep up an act
act keep up one's act
act put on an act
act read someone the riot act
act an act of faith
act an act of God
act an act of war
act a tough act to follow
action all talk (and no action)
action course of action
action go into action
action swing into action
action a piece of the action

Actions Actions speak louder than words.

active on active duty
activity a hive of activity
Adam not know someone from Adam
add add fuel to the fire
add add fuel to the flame
add add insult to injury
add add up (to something)
addition in addition (to something)
address address someone as something
adieu bid adieu to someone or something
adieu bid someone or something adieu
ado much ado about nothing
ado without further ado
advance in advance
advance pay in advance
advanced advanced in years
advantage get the advantage of someone
advantage get the advantage over someone
advantage show something to good advantage
advantage take advantage of someone or something
advantage turn something to one's advantage
advice sage advice
advise advise against something
advise advise someone against doing something
advocate play (the) devil's advocate
aegis under the aegis of someone
affairs settle someone's affairs
affairs a fine state of affairs
affairs a pretty state of affairs
affinity an affinity for someone or something
affirmative in the affirmative
afire like a house afire
afoul fall afoul of someone or something
afoul run afoul of someone or something
afraid afraid of one's own shadow
aft fore and aft
after after a fashion
after after all
after after hours
after after the fact
after after the fashion of someone or something
after day after day
after get after someone
after keep after someone
after live happily ever after
after much sought after
after name someone after someone else
after one thing or person after another
after run after someone
after stay after someone
after take after someone
after take off (after someone or something)
after take out (after someone or something)
after throw good money after bad
after time after time
after year after year
after the morning after (the night before)
again able to breathe (easily) again
again able to breathe (freely) again
again again and again
again (all) over again

again at it again
again Come again.
again do something over (again)
again (every) now and again
again now and again
again off again, on again
again on again, off again
again oneself again
again over again
again over and over (again)
again run that by (someone) again
again something else (again)
again time and (time) again
again You can say that again!
against advise against something
against advise someone against doing something
against against someone's will
against against the clock
against assemble a case (against someone)
against bang one's head against a brick wall
against bear a grudge (against someone)
against beat one's head against the wall
against build a case (against someone)
against dead set against someone or something
against fight against time
against for the odds to be against one
against gather a case (against someone)
against get two strikes against one
against go against the grain
against guard against someone or something
against have a case (against someone)
against have a grudge (against someone)
against have one's heart set against something
against have something against someone or something
against have the cards stacked against one
against have the deck stacked against one
against have two strikes against one
against hold a grudge (against someone)
against hold something against someone
against hope against (all) hope
against lift a hand (against someone or something)
against nurse a grudge (against someone)
against one's heart is (dead) set against something
against pit someone or something against someone or something
against play both ends (against the middle)
against play someone off against someone else
against race against time
against raise a hand (against someone or something)
against security against something
against set one's heart against something
against side against someone
against smear campaign (against someone)
against stack the cards (against someone or something)
against stack the deck (against someone or something)
against swim against the current
against swim against the tide
against take a stand (against someone or something)
against take up arms (against someone or something)
against up against something
against the cards are stacked against one
age act one's age

age come of age
age in a coon's age
age in this day and age
age of age
age a ripe old age
agree not agree with someone
agreement in agreement
agreement reach an agreement
ahead ahead of one's time
ahead ahead of schedule
ahead ahead of the game
ahead ahead of time
ahead come out ahead
ahead dead ahead
ahead full steam ahead
ahead get ahead of oneself
ahead get the go-ahead
ahead give someone the go-ahead
ahead one jump ahead (of someone or something)
ahead one move ahead (of someone or something)
ahold get (a)hold of someone or something
ahold take (a)hold of someone or something
aid aid and abet someone
aim aim to do something
aim take aim (at someone or something)
aim We aim to please.
Ain't Ain't it the truth?
ain't That ain't hay.
air air one's dirty linen in public
air air one's grievances
air air something out
air (as) free as (the) air
air build castles in the air
air clear the air
air free as (the) air
air full of hot air
air get the air
air give someone the air
air gulp for air
air have one's nose in the air
air in the air
air off the air
air one's nose is in the air
air on the air
air out of thin air
air pull something out of thin air
air up in the air (about someone or something)
air vanish into thin air
air walk on air
air a breath of fresh air
airs put on airs
aisles have them rolling in the aisles
alcohol under the influence (of alcohol)
alert on the alert (for someone or something)
alike as alike as (two) peas in a pod
alike share and share alike
alive alive and kicking
alive alive and well
alive alive with someone or something
alive more dead than alive
alive skin someone alive
all according to all accounts

all after all
all (a little) new to (all) this
all all and sundry
all all around Robin Hood's barn
all all at once
all (all) at sea (about something)
all (all) balled up
all (all) beer and skittles
all all better now
all all day long
all all dressed up
all all for something
all (all) for the best
all all gone
all all in
all (all) in one breath
all (all) in the family
all (all) joking aside
all (all) kidding aside
all all kinds of someone or something
all all manner of someone or something
all all night long
all all of a sudden
all all or nothing
all all-out war
all all over
all (all) over again
all (all) over with
all all right
all all set
all (all) set to do something
all (all) shot to hell
all (all) skin and bones
all all sweetness and light
all all systems (are) go
all all talk (and no action)
All All that glitters is not gold.
all all the livelong day
all all the rage
all all the same
all all the time
all all the way
all all thumbs
all all told
all all to the good
all (all) tucked out
all all walks of life
all (all) well and good
all all wet
all all wool and a yard wide
All All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
all (all) worked up (about something)
all (all) worked up (over something)
all (all) year round
all (as) bad as all that
all (as) big as all outdoors
all at all
all bad as all that
all be-all and (the) end-all
all be all ears
all be all eyes (and ears)
all be all things to all men

all be all things to all people
all big as all outdoors
all blow something out of all proportion
all by all accounts
all by all appearances
all by all means
all do not have all one's marbles
all downhill all the way
all fall (all) over oneself
all fall all over someone
all firing on all cylinders
all first of all
all for all I care
all for all I know
all for all intents and purposes
all for all it's worth
all for all practical purposes
all for all something
all for all the world
all free-for-all
all get (all) dolled up
all get away (from it all)
all get it (all) together
all go all out
all go all the way (with someone)
all have it all over someone or something
all hitting on all cylinders
all hold all the aces
all hope against (all) hope
all in (all) good conscience
all in all one's born days
all in all probability
all in no time (at all)
all it's (all) Greek to me.
all jump all over someone
all know (all) the tricks of the trade
all know where all the bodies are buried
all laugh all the way to the bank
all least of all
all let it all hang out
all make an all-out effort
all Money is the root of all evil.
all new to (all) this
all not all something is cracked up to be
all not all there
all not at all
all of all the nerve
all of all things
all on all fours
all once and for all
all one and all
all out of (all) proportion
all pull out all the stops
all put all one's eggs in one basket
all ride off in all directions
all That's all for someone.
all That's all she wrote.
all till all hours (of the day and night)
all turn out (all right)
all until all hours
all walk all over someone
all warts and all

all when all is said and done
all with all one's heart and soul
all with all the fixings
all work out (all right)
all an all-out effort
all a jack-of-all-trades
all the be-all and (the) end-all
alley right down someone's alley
alley right up someone's alley
alley up a blind alley
allow allow for someone or something
allowances make allowance(s) (for someone or something)
All's All's well that ends well.
almighty the almighty dollar
almost almost lost it
alone go it alone
alone leave well enough alone
alone let alone someone or something
alone let well enough alone
along along in years
along along with someone or something
along get along (in years)
along get along (on a shoestring)
along get along (without (someone or something))
along get along (with someone or something)
along go along for the ride
along go along (with someone or something)
along inch along (something)
along play along with someone or something
along string along (with someone)
along tag along
alongside alongside (of) someone or something
alpha alpha and omega
altogether in the altogether
amends make amends (for something)
amiss take something amiss
amount amount to something
amount amount to the same thing
amount down by some amount
amount run to an amount of money
amount set someone back (some amount of money)
amount (somewhere) in the neighborhood of an amount
amount to the tune of some amount of money
an give (an) ear to someone or something
an raise (an) objection (to someone or something)
an read someone like a(n open) book
analysis in the final analysis
analysis in the last analysis
and (above and) beyond the call of duty
and all talk (and no action)
and and change
and and so forth
and and something to spare
and and so on
and and the like
and and then some
and and what have you
and be all eyes (and ears)
and cross one's heart (and hope to die)
and pitch in (and help)

ands no ifs, ands, or buts about it
angels fools rush in (where angels fear to tread)
anger express one's anger
angry angry enough to chew nails
anon ever and anon
another another country heard from
another (another) nail in someone's or something's coffin
another dance to another tune
another get another guess coming
another get another think coming
another not give it another thought
another One good turn deserves another.
another One man's meat is another man's poison.
another One man's trash is another man's treasure.
another One thing leads to another.
another one thing or person after another
another one way or another
another sing another tune
another a horse of another color
answer answer for someone or something
answer answer someone's purpose
answer answer the door
answer answer to someone
answer not take no for an answer
ants get ants in one's pants
any any number of someone or something
Any Any port in a storm.
any at any cost
any at any rate
any by any means
any Don't let it go any further.
any go to any length
any in any case
any in any event
any not on any account
any not see any objection (to something)
any on any account
any without any strings attached
anyone (as) far as anyone knows
anyone far as anyone knows
anyone so far as anyone knows
anyone A little (hard) work never hurt anyone.
anyone A little (hard) work never killed anyone.
anything can't do anything with someone or something
anything not able to make anything out of someone or something
anything not for (anything in) the world
apart come apart at the seams
apart fall apart at the seams
apart poles apart
apart take someone apart
apart tell people apart
apart tell things apart
ape go ape (over someone or something)
appear appear as something
appear appear out of nowhere
appearance make an appearance
appearance put in an appearance
appearances by all appearances
appearances keep up appearances
appetite whet someone's appetite
apple (as) easy as (apple) pie

apple easy as (apple) pie
apple in apple-pie order
apple upset the apple cart
apple the apple of someone's eye
apples apples and oranges
appointed at the appointed time
appointment make an appointment (with someone)
approval on approval
apron tied to one's mother's apron strings
are all systems (are) go
are know where all the bodies are buried
are one's days are numbered
are one's ears are red
are one's ears are ringing
are One's eyes are bigger than one's stomach.
are There are plenty of other fish in the sea.
are Things are looking up.
are What are you driving at?
are when the chips are down
are Who do you think you're kidding?
are Who do you think you're talking to?
are You think you're so smart!
are A fool and his money are soon parted.
are the cards are stacked against one
area gray area
aren't There aren't enough hours in the day.
arguing arguing for the sake of arguing
arguing arguing for the sake of argument
argument arguing for the sake of argument
argument get into an argument (with someone)
arm arm in arm
arm cost an arm and a leg
arm pay an arm and a leg (for something)
arm put the arm on someone
arm twist someone's arm
arm would give one's right arm (for someone or something)
arm a shot in the arm
armed armed and dangerous
armed armed to the teeth
armed (as) busy as a one-armed paperhanger
armed busy as a one-armed paperhanger
armor chink in one's armor
arms receive someone with open arms
arms take up arms (against someone or something)
arms up in arms
arms welcome someone with open arms
around all around Robin Hood's barn
around (a)round the clock
around (a)round-the-clock
around beat around the bush
around blue around the gills
around boss someone around
around bring someone around
around bring something crashing down (around one)
around cast around for someone or something
around come (a)round
around drop around (sometime)
around enough to go (a)round
around every time one turns around
around fiddle around (with someone or something)
around find one's way (around)
around fool around (with someone or something)

around	get around	as	as alike as (two) peas in a pod
around	get (around) to something	as	as a matter of course
around	go (a)round in circles	as	as a matter of fact
around	go (a)round the bend	as	as an aside
around	go around with someone	as	as a result of something
around	green around the gills	as	as a token (of something)
around	hang around (with someone)	as	(as) awkward as a cow on a crutch
around	have been around	as	(as) awkward as a cow on roller skates
around	hem and haw (around)	as	(as) bad as all that
around	horse around	as	(as) bald as a baby's backside
around	kick someone or something around	as	(as) bald as a coot
around	kid around (with someone)	as	(as) baleful as death
around	knock someone or something around	as	(as) big as all outdoors
around	know one's way around	as	(as) big as life
around	mess around (with someone or something)	as	(as) black as a skillet
around	monkey around (with someone or something)	as	(as) black as a stack of black cats
around	mope around	as	(as) black as a sweep
around	nose around	as	(as) black as coal
around	order someone around	as	(as) black as night
around	pal around (with someone)	as	(as) black as one is painted
around	pale around the gills	as	(as) black as pitch
around	play around (with someone or something)	as	(as) black as the ace of spades
around	poke around	as	(as) blind as a bat
around	rally (a)round someone or something	as	(as) bold as brass
around	run (around) in circles	as	(as) bright as a button
around	run around like a chicken with its head cut off	as	(as) bright as a new pin
around	run around with someone	as	(as) broad as a barn door
around	run circles around someone	as	(as) busy as a beaver
around	run rings around someone	as	(as) busy as a bee
around	scout around for someone or something	as	(as) busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
around	scratch around (for something)	as	(as) busy as a hibernating bear
around	screw around (with someone or something)	as	(as) busy as a one-armed paperhanger
around	shop around (for something)	as	(as) busy as Grand Central Station
around	sit around (somewhere)	as	(as) busy as popcorn on a skillet
around	stick around	as	(as) calm as a toad in the sun
around	throw one's weight around	as	(as) clean as a hound's tooth
around	throw someone's name around	as	(as) clean as a whistle
around	twist someone's words (around)	as	(as) clear as a bell
around	twist someone around one's little finger	as	(as) clear as crystal
around	up and around	as	(as) clear as mud
around	What goes around, comes around.	as	(as) clear as vodka
around	a yoke around someone's neck	as	(as) close as two coats of paint
arrange	arrange something with someone	as	(as) cocky as the king of spades
arrange	arrange to do something with someone	as	(as) cold as a witch's caress
arrangements	make arrangements (for someone or something)	as	(as) cold as a witch's tit
arrears	in arrears	as	(as) cold as marble
arrest	under arrest	as	(as) comfortable as an old shoe
arrive	arrive in a body	as	(as) common as an old shoe
arrive	arrive on the scene	as	(as) common as dirt
arrived	have arrived	as	(as) conceited as a barber's cat
arrow	(as) straight as an arrow	as	(as) cool as a cucumber
arrow	(as) swift as an arrow	as	(as) crazy as a betsy bug
arrow	straight as an arrow	as	(as) crazy as a loon
arrow	swift as an arrow	as	(as) crazy as a peach-orchard boar
as	act as someone	as	(as) crooked as a barrel of fishhooks
as	address someone as something	as	(as) crooked as a dog's hind leg
as	appear as something	as	(as) crooked as a fishhook
as	as a duck takes to water	as	(as) dead as a dodo
as	as a (general) rule	as	(as) dead as a doornail
as	as a last resort	as	(as) deaf as a post
		as	(as) different as night and day
		as	(as) drunk as a lord

- as (as) drunk as a skunk
- as (as) dry as a bone
- as (as) dry as dust
- as (as) dull as dishwater
- as (as) dull as ditchwater
- as (as) easy as ABC
- as (as) easy as (apple) pie
- as (as) easy as duck soup
- as (as) easy as falling off a log
- as (as) easy as rolling off a log
- as (as) exciting as watching (the) paint dry
- as (as) far as anyone knows
- as as far as it goes
- as as far as possible
- as (as) far as someone or something is concerned
- as (as) fat as a pig
- as (as) fit as a fiddle
- as (as) flat as a board
- as (as) flat as a pancake
- as as for someone or something
- as (as) free as a bird
- as (as) free as (the) air
- as (as) fresh as a daisy
- as (as) full as a tick
- as (as) funny as a barrel of monkeys
- as (as) funny as a crutch
- as (as) gaudy as a butterfly
- as (as) gentle as a lamb
- as (as) good as done
- as (as) good as gold
- as as good as one's word
- as (as) graceful as a swan
- as (as) gruff as a bear
- as (as) happy as a clam
- as (as) happy as a lark
- as (as) happy as can be
- as (as) hard as a rock
- as (as) hard as nails
- as (as) hard as stone
- as (as) high as a kite
- as (as) high as the sky
- as (as) hoarse as a crow
- as (as) hot as fire
- as (as) hot as hell
- as (as) hungry as a bear
- as (as) hungry as a hunter
- as as I expected
- as (as) innocent as a lamb
- as as it were
- as (as) large as life
- as (as) light as a feather
- as (as) likely as not
- as as long as
- as as luck would have it
- as (as) mad as a hatter
- as (as) mad as a hornet
- as (as) mad as a March hare
- as (as) mad as a wet hen
- as (as) mad as hell
- as (as) meek as a lamb
- as (as) merry as a cricket
- as (as) merry as the day is long
- as as much fun as a barrel of monkeys
- as (as) naked as a jaybird
- as (as) neat as a pin
- as (as) nutty as a fruitcake
- as (as) old as the hills
- as as one
- as as pale as a ghost
- as (as) pale as death
- as (as) patient as Job
- as (as) phony as a three-dollar bill
- as (as) plain as a pikestaff
- as (as) plain as day
- as (as) plain as the nose on one's face
- as (as) pleased as punch
- as (as) poor as a church mouse
- as (as) pretty as a picture
- as (as) proud as a peacock
- as (as) pure as the driven snow
- as (as) queer as a three-dollar bill
- as (as) quick as a flash
- as (as) quick as a wink
- as (as) quick as greased lightning
- as (as) quiet as a mouse
- as (as) quiet as the grave
- as (as) red as a cherry
- as (as) red as a poppy
- as (as) red as a rose
- as (as) red as a ruby
- as (as) red as blood
- as (as) regular as clockwork
- as (as) right as rain
- as (as) scarce as hens' teeth
- as (as) sharp as a razor
- as (as) sharp as a tack
- as (as) sick as a dog
- as (as) silent as the dead
- as (as) silent as the grave
- as (as) silly as a goose
- as (as) slick as a whistle
- as (as) slippery as an eel
- as (as) slow as molasses in January
- as (as) sly as a fox
- as (as) smooth as glass
- as (as) smooth as silk
- as (as) snug as a bug in a rug
- as (as) sober as a judge
- as (as) soft as a baby's bottom
- as (as) soft as down
- as (as) soft as silk
- as (as) soft as velvet
- as (as) solid as a rock
- as as soon as
- as (as) soon as possible
- as (as) sound as a dollar
- as (as) sour as vinegar
- as (as) steady as a rock
- as (as) stiff as a poker
- as (as) still as death
- as (as) straight as an arrow
- as (as) strong as a horse
- as (as) strong as a lion
- as (as) strong as an ox

as (as) stubborn as a mule	as clean as a whistle
as as such	as clear as a bell
as (as) sure as death	as clear as crystal
as (as) sweet as honey	as clear as mud
as (as) sweet as sugar	as clear as vodka
as (as) swift as an arrow	as close as two coats of paint
as (as) swift as the wind	as cocky as the king of spades
as (as) swift as thought	as cold as a witch's caress
as as the crow flies	as cold as a witch's tit
as (as) thick as pea soup	as cold as marble
as (as) thick as thieves	as come as no surprise
as (as) tight as a drum	as comfortable as an old shoe
as (as) tight as a tick	as common as an old shoe
as (as) tight as Dick's hatband	as common as dirt
as as to someone or something	as conceited as a barber's cat
as (as) tough as an old boot	as cool as a cucumber
as (as) true as steel	as crazy as a betsy bug
as (as) ugly as a toad	as crazy as a loon
as (as) ugly as sin	as crazy as a peach-orchard boar
as as usual	as crooked as a barrel of fishhooks
as (as) warm as toast	as crooked as a dog's hind leg
as (as) weak as a baby	as crooked as a fishhook
as (as) weak as a kitten	as dead as a dodo
as as well	as dead as a doornail
as (as) white as a ghost	as deaf as a post
as (as) white as a sheet	as different as night and day
as (as) white as the driven snow	as drunk as a lord
as (as) wise as an owl	as drunk as a skunk
as (as) wise as Solomon	as dry as a bone
as awkward as a cow on a crutch	as dry as dust
as awkward as a cow on roller skates	as dull as dishwater
as bad as all that	as dull as ditchwater
as bald as a baby's backside	as easy as ABC
as bald as a coot	as easy as (apple) pie
as baleful as death	as easy as duck soup
as be that as it may	as easy as falling off a log
as big as all outdoors	as easy as rolling off a log
as big as life	as exciting as watching (the) paint dry
as black as a skillet	as far as anyone knows
as black as a stack of black cats	as far as something is concerned
as black as a sweep	as fat as a pig
as black as coal	as fit as a fiddle
as black as night	as flat as a board
as black as one is painted	as flat as a pancake
as black as pitch	as free as a bird
as black as the ace of spades	as free as (the) air
as blind as a bat	as fresh as a daisy
as bold as brass	as full as a tick
as bright as a button	as funny as a barrel of monkeys
as bright as a new pin	as funny as a crutch
as broad as a barn door	as gaudy as a butterfly
as business as usual	as gentle as a lamb
as busy as a beaver	as get a reputation (as a something)
as busy as a bee	as give as good as one gets
as busy as a cat on a hot tin roof	as give someone a reputation (as a something)
as busy as a hibernating bear	as good as done
as busy as a one-armed paperhanger	as good as gold
as busy as Grand Central Station	as go so far as to say something
as busy as popcorn on a skillet	as graceful as a swan
as calm as a toad in the sun	as gruff as a bear
as catch-as-catch-can	as had (just) as soon do something
as clean as a hound's tooth	as happy as a clam

as happy as a lark
 as happy as can be
 as hard as a rock
 as hard as nails
 as hard as stone
 as have someone pegged as something
 as high as a kite
 as hoarse as a crow
 as hold someone or something up (as an example)
 as hot as fire
 as hot as hell
 as hungry as a bear
 as hungry as a hunter
 as innocent as a lamb
 as in the same boat (as someone)
 as (just) as I expected
 as large as life
 as light as a feather
 as likely as not
 as look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
 as look on someone as something
 as mad as a hatter
 as mad as a hornet
 as mad as a March hare
 as mad as a wet hen
 as mad as hell
 as make as if to do something
 as make good as something
 as make it as far as something
 as meek as a lamb
 as merry as a cricket
 as merry as the day is long
 as naked as a jaybird
 as neat as a pin
 as nutty as a fruitcake
 as old as the hills
 as pale as death
 as pass as someone or something
 as patient as Job
 as pay as you go
 as peg someone as something
 as phony as a three-dollar bill
 as plain as a pikestaff
 as plain as day
 as plain as the nose on one's face
 as pleased as punch
 as poor as a church mouse
 as pose as someone
 as pretty as a picture
 as Pretty is as pretty does.
 as proud as a peacock
 as pure as the driven snow
 as put someone down as something bad
 as queer as a three-dollar bill
 as quick as a flash
 as quick as a wink
 as quick as greased lightning
 as quiet as a mouse
 as quiet as the grave
 as red as a cherry
 as red as a poppy
 as red as a rose

as red as a ruby
 as red as blood
 as regular as clockwork
 as right as rain
 as see someone as something
 as serve as a guinea pig
 as set someone up (as something)
 as sharp as a razor
 as sharp as a tack
 as show someone up as something
 as sick as a dog
 as silent as the dead
 as silent as the grave
 as silly as a goose
 as slick as a whistle
 as slippery as an eel
 as slow as molasses in January
 as sly as a fox
 as smooth as glass
 as smooth as silk
 as snug as a bug in a rug
 as sober as a judge
 as so far as anyone knows
 as so far as possible
 as so far as someone or something is concerned
 as so far as something is concerned
 as soft as a baby's bottom
 as soft as down
 as soft as silk
 as soft as velvet
 as solid as a rock
 as so long as
 as soon as possible
 as sound as a dollar
 as sound as if
 as sour as vinegar
 as start someone in (as something)
 as start someone out (as something)
 as steady as a rock
 as stiff as a poker
 as still as death
 as straight as an arrow
 as strike someone as something
 as strong as a horse
 as strong as a lion
 as strong as an ox
 as stubborn as a mule
 as such as
 as sure as death
 as sweet as honey
 as sweet as sugar
 as swift as an arrow
 as swift as the wind
 as swift as thought
 as thick as pea soup
 as thick as thieves
 as tight as a drum
 as tight as a tick
 as tight as Dick's hatband
 as tough as an old boot
 as true as steel
 as ugly as a toad

- as ugly as sin
 as use someone or something as an excuse
 as warm as toast
 as weak as a baby
 as weak as a kitten
 as When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
 as white as a sheet
 as white as the driven snow
 as wise as an owl
 as wise as Solomon
 as without so much as doing something
 as would as soon do something
 as Your guess is as good as mine.
 as the same as someone or something
 aside (all) joking aside
 aside (all) kidding aside
 aside as an aside
 aside aside from someone or something
 aside joking aside
 aside kidding aside
 ask ask for something
 ask ask for the moon
 ask ask for trouble
 ask ask someone out
 asking one's for the asking
 asleep asleep at the switch
 asleep fall asleep
 aspersions cast aspersions on someone
 ass tits and ass
 assault assault and battery
 assault assault the ears
 assemble assemble a case (against someone)
 assume assume liability
 assured rest assured
 astray go astray
 at all at once
 at (all) at sea (about something)
 at asleep at the switch
 at at all
 at at a loss (for words)
 at at an early date
 at at any cost
 at at any rate
 at at a premium
 at at a set time
 at at a sitting
 at at a snail's pace
 at at a stretch
 at at bay
 at at best
 at at close range
 at at cross-purposes
 at at death's door
 at at ease
 at at every turn
 at at face value
 at at first
 at (at) full blast
 at at full speed
 at at full tilt
 at at half-mast
 at at hand
 at at hazard
 at at home
 at at it again
 at at large
 at at last
 at at least
 at at leisure
 at at length
 at at liberty
 at at loggerheads (with someone)
 at at (long) last
 at at loose ends
 at at most
 at at night
 at at odds (with someone)
 at at once
 at at one fell swoop
 at at one's best
 at at one's leisure
 at at one's wit's end
 at at peace
 at at play
 at at present
 at at random
 at at regular intervals
 at at rest
 at at risk
 at at sea
 at at sixes and sevens
 at at some length
 at at someone's beck and call
 at at someone's doorstep
 at at someone's earliest convenience
 at at someone's mercy
 at at someone's request
 at at someone's service
 at at some time sharp
 at at stake
 at at that rate
 at at the appointed time
 at at the bottom of the hour
 at at the bottom of the ladder
 at at the break of dawn
 at at the crack of dawn
 at at the drop of a hat
 at at the eleventh hour
 at at the end of nowhere
 at at the end of one's rope
 at at the end of one's tether
 at at the end of the day
 at at the expense of someone or something
 at at the forefront (of something)
 at at the height of something
 at at the helm (of something)
 at at the last gasp
 at at the last minute
 at at the latest
 at at the mercy of someone
 at at the outset
 at at the point of doing something
 at at the present time
 at at the rear of something

at at the same time
 at at the top of one's lungs
 at at the top of one's voice
 at at the top of the hour
 at at the (very) outside
 at at (the) worst
 at at the zenith of something
 at at this juncture
 at at this point (in time)
 at at this rate
 at at this stage
 at at times
 at at will
 at at work
 at at worst
 at blow up (at someone)
 at burn someone at the stake
 at burn the candle at both ends
 at burst at the seams
 at champ at the bit
 at chomp at the bit
 at close at hand
 at clutch at straws
 at come apart at the seams
 at down-at-the-heels
 at draw the line (at something)
 at drive at something
 at eat away at someone or something
 at fall apart at the seams
 at feel at home
 at fire away at someone or something
 at fling oneself at someone
 at foam at the mouth
 at get at someone or something
 at get at the heart of the matter
 at get back (at someone)
 at get mad (at someone or something)
 at go at it hammer and tongs
 at go at it tooth and nail
 at go at someone or something
 at grasp at straws
 at hammer away (at someone or something)
 at have a crack at something
 at have a go (at something)
 at have a shot at something
 at have a try at something
 at have at someone or something
 at have back at someone
 at have something at hand
 at have something at one's fingertips
 at Here's looking at you.
 at hold the line (at someone or something)
 at hopeless at doing something
 at hurl an insult (at someone)
 at ill at ease
 at I'm awful at names.
 at I'm terrible at names.
 at in at the kill
 at in no time (at all)
 at in the right place at the right time
 at in the wrong place at the wrong time
 at jump at something

at jump at the chance
 at jump at the opportunity
 at Keep at it!
 at keep at someone or something
 at leap at the opportunity
 at level something at someone
 at look at someone cross-eyed
 at look daggers at someone
 at look down one's nose at someone or something
 at love at first sight
 at make a face (at someone)
 at make a pass at someone
 at make eyes (at someone)
 at make good (at something)
 at make oneself at home
 at more someone or something than one can shake a stick at
 at near at hand
 at not at all
 at nothing to sneeze at
 at one at a time
 at peg away (at something)
 at pick at someone or something
 at plug away (at something)
 at point the finger at someone
 at poke fun (at someone)
 at rail at someone (about something)
 at rant (at someone) about someone or something
 at right at a specific time
 at run off at the mouth
 at see the light (at the end of the tunnel)
 at sit at someone's feet
 at snap at someone
 at stop at nothing
 at strike out at someone or something
 at take a crack at something
 at take a dig at someone
 at take a gander (at someone or something)
 at take aim (at someone or something)
 at take a look (at someone or something)
 at take a potshot at someone or something
 at take a punch at someone
 at take a shot at something
 at take a stab at something
 at take a try at something
 at take a whack at someone or something
 at take digs at someone
 at take offense (at someone or something)
 at take one at one's word
 at take someone or something at face value
 at take something at face value
 at take turns ((at) doing something)
 at take umbrage at something
 at throw oneself at someone's feet
 at throw oneself at someone
 at throw oneself at the mercy of the court
 at throw the book at someone
 at thumb one's nose at someone or something
 at tilt at windmills
 at tip the scales at something
 at try one's hand (at something)

- at** try one's luck (at something)
at turn one's nose up at someone or something
at up and at them
at What are you driving at?
at wink at something
at an old hand at doing something
at a past master at something
attached attached to someone or something
attached with no strings attached
attached without any strings attached
attendance take attendance
attention attract someone's attention
attention bring something to someone's attention
attention grip someone's attention
attention hold someone's attention
attention pay attention (to someone or something)
attention rivet someone's attention
attitude devil-may-care attitude
attitude wait-and-see attitude
attract attract someone's attention
auction Dutch auction
augur augur well for someone or something
auspices under the auspices of someone
avail avail oneself of something
avail of no avail
avail to no avail
available make someone or something available to someone
avenue avenue of escape
average above average
average below average
average on the average
avoid avoid someone or something like the plague
awagging set tongues (a)wagging
awake wide-awake
away away from one's desk
away be a heartbeat away from something
away be a million miles away
away blow someone or something away
away carried away
away come away empty-handed
away do away with someone or something
away draw (someone's) fire (away from someone or something)
away eat away at someone or something
away explain something away
away far and away the best
away fire away at someone or something
away fritter something away
away get away (from it all)
away get away with something
away get carried away
away give the bride away
away give the game away
away go away empty-handed
away hammer away (at someone or something)
away (just) a stone's throw away (from something)
away lay someone away
away make away with someone or something
away pass away
away peg away (at something)
away plug away (at something)
away put someone away
away right away
away salt something away
away shy away (from someone or something)
away slip away
away sock something away
away squared away
away square someone or something away
away squirrel something away
away take it away
away take someone or something away
away take someone's breath away
away up and away
away walk away with something
away When the cat's away, the mice will play.
away while away the time
away a faraway look
away a stone's throw (away) (from something)
awe in awe (of someone or something)
awe stand in awe (of someone or something)
awful I'm awful at names.
awkward (as) awkward as a cow on a crutch
awkward (as) awkward as a cow on roller skates
awkward awkward as a cow on a crutch
awkward awkward as a cow on roller skates
awkwardness main strength and awkwardness
AWOL AWOL
AWOL go AWOL
ax get the ax
ax give someone the ax
ax have an ax to grind (with someone)
babe a babe in the woods
baby (as) weak as a baby
baby sleep like a baby
baby throw the baby out with the bath(water)
baby weak as a baby
baby's (as) bald as a baby's backside
baby's (as) soft as a baby's bottom
baby's bald as a baby's backside
baby's soft as a baby's bottom
back back and fill
back back and forth
back back down (from someone or something)
back back East
back back in circulation
back back off (from someone or something)
back back of the beyond
back back order something
back back out (of something)
back back someone or something up
back back the wrong horse
back back-to-back
back back to square one
back back to the drawing board
back back to the salt mines
back behind someone's back
back be the straw that broke the camel's back
back break one's back (to do something)
back break the back of something
back cut back (on something)
back date back (to sometime)
back double back (on someone or something)
back fall back on someone or something

back from way back
back get back (at someone)
back get back into circulation
back get back into harness
back get back on one's feet
back get back (to someone)
back Get off someone's back!
back get someone's back up
back give someone a pat on the back
back give someone the shirt off one's back
back go back on one's word
back hang back
back hark(en) back to something
back have back at someone
back have been to hell and back
back have eyes in the back of one's head
back have one's back to the wall
back knock something back
back know someone or something like the back of one's hand
back laid-back
back like water off a duck's back
back nurse someone back to health
back on someone's back
back pat someone on the back
back pay someone a back-handed compliment
back pin someone's ears back
back put one's back (in)to something
back put something on the back burner
back roll something back
back scratch someone's back
back set one back on one's heels
back set someone back (some amount of money)
back sit back and let something happen
back stab someone in the back
back stand (in) back of someone or something
back take something back
back talk back (to someone)
back think back (on someone or something)
back turn one's back (on someone or something)
back turn the clock back
back with both hands tied behind one's back
back with one hand tied behind one's back
back You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
back a crick in one's back
backseat take a backseat (to someone)
backside (as) bald as a baby's backside
backside bald as a baby's backside
backwards bend over backwards (to do something)
backwards fall over backwards (to do something)
backwards know something backwards and forwards
backwards know something forwards and backwards
backwards lean over backwards (to do something)
backyard in one's (own) backyard
bacon bring home the bacon
bad (as) bad as all that
bad bad as all that
bad bad blood (between people)
bad bad-mouth someone or something
bad be off to a bad start
bad come to a bad end
bad get off to a bad start

bad go bad
bad go from bad to worse
bad good riddance (to bad rubbish)
bad have a bad effect (on someone or something)
bad have a run of bad luck
bad in a bad mood
bad in a bad way
bad in bad faith
bad in bad sorts
bad in bad taste
bad in bad (with someone)
bad leave a bad taste in someone's mouth
bad not half bad
bad put someone down as something bad
bad throw good money after bad
bag bag and baggage
bag bag of tricks
bag leave someone holding the bag
bag let the cat out of the bag
bag put on the feed bag
bag a mixed bag
baggage bag and baggage
bail bail out (of something)
bail bail someone or something out
bail jump bail
bail out on bail
bail skip bail
bait bait and switch
bait fish or cut bait
bait rise to the bait
balance balance the accounts
balance balance the books
balance catch someone off-balance
balance hang in the balance
balance in the balance
balance strike a balance (between two or more things)
balances checks and balances
bald (as) bald as a baby's backside
bald (as) bald as a coot
bald bald as a baby's backside
bald bald as a coot
baleful (as) baleful as death
baleful baleful as death
ball ball and chain
ball ball of fire
ball behind the eight ball
ball carry the ball
ball drop the ball
ball get the ball rolling
ball have a ball
ball have something on the ball
ball have the ball in one's court
ball keep one's eye on the ball
ball keep the ball rolling
ball new ball game
ball on the ball
ball pitch someone a curve (ball)
ball play ball (with someone)
ball set the ball rolling
ball start the ball rolling
ball That's the way the ball bounces.
ball (whole) new ball game

ball the whole ball of wax
balled (all) balled up
balled balled up
balloon go over like a lead balloon
balloon send up a trial balloon
ballot stuff the ballot box
balls the balls of one's feet
bananas go bananas
band to beat the band
bandwagon climb on the bandwagon
bandwagon get on the bandwagon
bandwagon jump on the bandwagon
bang bang one's head against a brick wall
bang get a bang out of someone or something
bang give someone a bang
bang go over with a bang
bank bank on something
bank break the bank
bank can take it to the bank.
bank laugh all the way to the bank
baptism baptism of fire
barber's (as) conceited as a barber's cat
barber's conceited as a barber's cat
bare the bare something
bargain bargain for something
bargain bargain on something
bargain drive a hard bargain
bargain hold one's end (of the bargain) up
bargain in the bargain
bargain live up to one's end of the bargain
bargain strike a bargain
bargain throw something into the bargain
bargained more than someone bargained for
barge barge in (on someone or something)
bark bark up the wrong tree
bark One's bark is worse than one's bite.
barn all around Robin Hood's barn
barn (as) broad as a barn door
barn broad as a barn door
barn raised in a barn
barred no holds barred
barrel (as) crooked as a barrel of fishhooks
barrel (as) funny as a barrel of monkeys
barrel as much fun as a barrel of monkeys
barrel crooked as a barrel of fishhooks
barrel funny as a barrel of monkeys
barrel get someone over a barrel
barrel lock, stock, and barrel
barrel more fun than a barrel of monkeys
barrel scrape the bottom of the barrel
barrelhead cash on the barrelhead
barrels let someone have it (with both barrels)
base base one's opinion on something
base get to first base (with someone or something)
base off base
base reach first base (with someone or something)
base steal a base
base touch base (with someone)
basis on a first-name basis (with someone)
basket put all one's eggs in one basket
bat (as) blind as a bat
bat blind as a bat

bat go to bat for someone
bat like a bat out of hell
bat not bat an eyelid
bat right off the bat
bath take a bath
bathroom go to the bathroom
bathwater throw the baby out with the bath(water)
bats have bats in one's belfry
batten batten down the hatches
battery assault and battery
batting without batting an eye
battle battle something out
bawl bawl someone out
bay at bay
be acknowledge someone to be right
be (as) happy as can be
be be about something
be be a heartbeat away from something
be be-all and (the) end-all
be be all ears
be be all eyes (and ears)
be be all things to all men
be be all things to all people
be be a million miles away
be be a new one on someone
be be curtains for someone or something
be be death on something
be (be) easier said than done
be be flying high
be be friends with someone
be be from Missouri
be be game
be Beggars can't be choosers.
be be into something
be be off
be be of service (to someone)
be be of the persuasion that something is so
be be reluctant to do something
be be sick
be be so
be be swimming in something
be be that as it may
be be the case
be be the death of me (yet)
be be the last straw
be be the spit and image of someone
be be the spitting image of someone
be be the straw that broke the camel's back
be be to do something
be be too
be be used to doing something
be be used to something
be be with someone
be Boys will be boys.
be Could be better.
be Could be worse.
be couldn't be better
be couldn't be happier
be cut out to be something
be deem it (to be) necessary
be far be it from me to do something
be fit to be tied

- be** for the odds to be against one
be happy as can be
be leave a lot to be desired
be Let bygones be bygones.
be meant to be
be not all something is cracked up to be
be not what something is cracked up to be
be old enough to be someone's father
be old enough to be someone's mother
be prove to be something
be So be it.
be stand up and be counted
be That'll be the day.
be There will be the devil to pay.
be to be on the safe side
be to be safe
be too good to be true
be Whatever will be, will be.
be a force to be reckoned with
be the be-all and (the) end-all
be the powers that be
bead draw a bead on someone or something
beam broad in the beam
beam on the beam
beans full of beans
beans not know beans (about someone or something)
beans not worth a hill of beans
beans spill the beans
bear (as) busy as a hibernating bear
bear (as) gruff as a bear
bear (as) hungry as a bear
bear bear a grudge (against someone)
bear bear fruit
bear bear in mind that something is so
bear bear one's cross
bear bear someone or something in mind
bear bear something out
bear bear the brunt (of something)
bear bear watching
bear bear with someone or something
bear busy as a hibernating bear
bear grin and bear it
bear gruff as a bear
bear hungry as a bear
bear loaded for bear
bear more than one can bear
beard beard the lion in his den
bearing have bearing on something
bearings get one's bearings
beat beat about the bush
beat beat a dead horse
beat beat a (hasty) retreat
beat beat a path to someone's door
beat beat around the bush
beat beat one's brains out (to do something)
beat beat one's head against the wall
beat beat someone down (to size)
beat beat someone to the draw
beat beat someone to the punch
beat beat someone up
beat beat something into someone's head
beat beat the clock
beat beat the gun
beat beat the living daylights out of someone
beat beat the pants off someone
beat beat the rap
beat beat the stuffing out of someone
beat beat the tar out of someone
beat march to (the beat of) a different drummer
beat one's heart misses a beat
beat one's heart skips a beat
beat pound a beat
beat to beat the band
beaten off the (beaten) track
Beauty Beauty is only skin-deep.
beaver (as) busy as a beaver
beaver busy as a beaver
beaver an eager beaver
beck at someone's beck and call
becoming becoming on someone
becoming becoming to someone
bed Early to bed, early to rise(, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.)
bed get out of the wrong side of the bed
bed get up on the wrong side of the bed
bed go to bed
bed make a bed
bed make someone's bed
bed make the bed
bed put someone or something to bed
bed put someone to bed with a shovel
bed should have stood in bed
bed sick in bed
bed a bed of roses
bee (as) busy as a bee
bee busy as a bee
bee get a bee in one's bonnet
bee have a bee in one's bonnet
bee put a bee in someone's bonnet
beef beef something up
beeline make a beeline for someone or something
been have been around
been have been had
been have been through the mill
been have been to hell and back
been Have you been keeping busy?
been How's the world (been) treating you?
been Life's been good (to me).
been What have you been up to?
been Where've you been hiding yourself?
been the moment everyone has been waiting for
beer (all) beer and skittles
beer beer and skittles
bees the birds and the bees
beeswax none of someone's beeswax
before before long
before before you can say Jack Robinson
before before you know it
before cast (one's) pearls before swine
before count one's chickens before they hatch
before cross a bridge before one comes to it
before cry before one is hurt
before Pride goes before a fall.
before put the cart before the horse

- before** think twice (before doing something)
before the calm before the storm
before the lull before the storm
before the morning after (the night before)
beg beg off (on something)
beg beg the question
beg beg to differ (with someone)
beggar beggar description
Beggars Beggars can't be choosers.
begging go begging
begin begin to see daylight
begin begin to see the light
beginning beginning of the end
behalf in behalf of someone
behalf in someone's behalf
behalf on behalf of someone
behalf on someone's behalf
behavior get time off for good behavior
behavior on one's best behavior
behind behind closed doors
behind behind in something
behind behind on something
behind behind schedule
behind behind someone's back
behind behind the eight ball
behind behind the scenes
behind behind the times
Behind Behind you!
behind burn one's bridges (behind one)
behind close ranks (behind someone or something)
behind driving force (behind someone or something)
behind not dry behind the ears
behind stand behind someone or something
behind wet behind the ears
behind with both hands tied behind one's back
behind with one hand tied behind one's back
behind the power behind the throne
behold a marvel to behold
behooves It behooves one to do something.
being for the time being
being into being
being other things being equal
belabor belabor the point
belfry have bats in one's belfry
believe believe it or not
believe lead someone to believe something
believe not believe one's eyes
believing seeing is believing
bell (as) clear as a bell
bell bell, book, and candle
bell clear as a bell
bell ring a bell
bell saved by the bell
bells with bells on (one's toes)
belong To the victors belong the spoils.
below below average
below below par
below hit (someone) below the belt
belt belt something out
belt get something under one's belt
belt hit (someone) below the belt
belt tighten one's belt
bench on the bench
bench warm the bench
bend bend over backwards (to do something)
bend bend someone's ear
bend go (a)round the bend
bended on bended knee
beneath feel it beneath one (to do something)
benefit get the benefit of the doubt
benefit give someone the benefit of the doubt
benefit of benefit (to someone)
bent bent on doing something
bent hell-bent for leather
berth give someone or something a wide berth
beside beside oneself (with something)
beside beside the point
beside beside the question
best (all) for the best
best at best
best at one's best
best best bib and tucker
best come off second-best
best do one's (level) best
best even in the best of times
best far and away the best
best for the best
best get the best of someone
best give something one's best shot
best had best do something
best have the best of both worlds
best He laughs best who laughs last.
best in one's (own) (best) interest(s)
best in one's Sunday best
best in the best of health
best make the best of something
best on one's best behavior
best put one's best foot forward
best to the best of one's ability
best to the best of one's knowledge
best with the best will in the world
best work out for the best
best the best-laid plans of mice and men
best the best-laid schemes of mice and men
best the best part of something
bet bet one's bottom dollar
bet bet one's life
bet You bet (your boots)!
bet You can bet on it!
bets hedge one's bets
betsy (as) crazy as a betsy bug
betsy crazy as a betsy bug
better all better now
better better late than never
better better off (doing something)
better better off (if one were somewhere else)
better better off (if something were done)
better better off (somewhere)
better Could be better.
better couldn't be better
better do someone one better
better for better or for worse
better for the better
better get better

better get the better of someone
better go on to a better land
better go someone one better
better had better do something
better Half a loaf is better than none.
better have seen better days
better know better (than to do something)
better one's better half
better so much the better
better take a turn for the better
better think better of something
between bad blood (between people)
between between a rock and a hard place
between between life and death
between between the devil and the deep blue sea
between between you, me, and the lamppost
between betwixt and between
between draw a line between something and something else
between fall between two stools
between few and far between
between hit someone (right) between the eyes
between in between
between in the interim (between things)
between no love lost (between someone and someone else)
between read between the lines
between strike a balance (between two or more things)
between take the bit between the teeth
between torn between bad choices
between torn between choosing something or something else
between with one's tail between one's legs
betwixt betwixt and between
beware Let the buyer beware.
beyond above and beyond (something)
beyond (above and) beyond the call of duty
beyond back of the beyond
beyond beyond a reasonable doubt
beyond beyond measure
beyond beyond one's depth
beyond beyond one's means
beyond beyond the call of duty
beyond beyond the pale
beyond beyond the shadow of a doubt
beyond beyond words
beyond can't see beyond the end of one's nose
beyond live beyond one's means
bias on a bias
bias on the bias
bib best bib and tucker
Bibles swear on a stack of Bibles
bid bid adieu to someone or something
bid bid someone or something adieu
bidding do someone's bidding
bide bide one's time
big (as) big as all outdoors
big (as) big as life
big big and bold
big big as all outdoors
big big as life
big big of someone
big cut a big swath

big get a big send-off
big give someone a big send-off
big go over big with someone
big have a big mouth
big Like it's such a big deal!
big make a big deal about something
big No big deal!
big talk big
big too big for one's britches
big a big frog in a small pond
big the big moment
bigger have bigger fish to fry
bigger have eyes bigger than one's stomach
bigger One's eyes are bigger than one's stomach.
bill (as) phony as a three-dollar bill
bill (as) queer as a three-dollar bill
bill fill the bill
bill fit the bill
bill foot the bill
bill get a clean bill of health
bill give someone a clean bill of health
bill pad the bill
bill phony as a three-dollar bill
bill queer as a three-dollar bill
bill sell someone a bill of goods
bind in a bind
binge binge and purge
binge go on a binge
bird (as) free as a bird
bird early bird
bird eat like a bird
bird free as a bird
bird A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
bird A little bird told me.
bird The early bird gets the worm.
Birds Birds of a feather flock together.
birds for the birds
birds kill two birds with one stone
bird's a bird's-eye view
birds the birds and the bees
birth give birth to someone or some creature
birth give birth to something
birthday in one's birthday suit
biscuit son of a sea biscuit
bit champ at the bit
bit chomp at the bit
bit do one's bit
bit in a little bit
bit not a bit
bit one little bit
bit quite a bit
bit take the bit between the teeth
bit take the bit in one's teeth
bit a little bit
bit the hair of the dog that bit one
bitch son of a bitch
bite bite off more than one can chew
bite bite one's nails
bite bite one's tongue
bite bite someone's head off
bite bite the bullet
bite bite the dust

- bite** bite the hand that feeds one
bite grab a bite (to eat)
bite One's bark is worse than one's bite.
bite put the bite on someone
bitter take the bitter with the sweet
bitter to the bitter end
bitter a bitter pill to swallow
black (as) black as a skillet
black (as) black as a stack of black cats
black (as) black as a sweep
black (as) black as coal
black (as) black as night
black (as) black as one is painted
black (as) black as pitch
black (as) black as the ace of spades
black black-and-blue
black black as a skillet
black black as a stack of black cats
black black as a sweep
black black as coal
black black as night
black black as one is painted
black black as pitch
black black as the ace of spades
black black out
black get a black eye
black give someone a black eye
black in black and white
black in the black
black pitch-black
black put something down in black and white
black the black sheep of the family
black the pot calling the kettle black
blame lay the blame on someone or something
blame place the blame on someone or something
blame put the blame on someone or something
blanche give carte blanche to someone
blanche give someone carte blanche
blank draw a blank
blank give a blank check to someone
blank give someone a blank check
blanket wet blanket
blast (at) full blast
blast blast off
blast full blast
blaze blaze a trail (in something)
bleep bleep something out
blessing a blessing in disguise
blessings thankful for small blessings
blind (as) blind as a bat
blind blind as a bat
blind turn a blind eye to someone or something
blind up a blind alley
blind the blind leading the blind
blindfolded able to do something blindfolded
blink on the blink
block knock someone's block off
block on the block
block put one's head on the block (for someone or something)
block stumbling block
block a chip off the old block
blood (as) red as blood
blood bad blood (between people)
Blood Blood is thicker than water.
Blood Blood runs thicker than water.
blood blood, sweat, and tears
blood blue blood
blood curdle someone's blood
blood draw blood
blood flesh and blood
blood have someone's blood on one's hands
blood in cold blood
blood in one's blood
blood in the blood
blood make someone's blood boil
blood make someone's blood run cold
blood new blood
blood red as blood
blood (some) new blood
blood sweat blood
bloody bloody but unbowed
bloody cry bloody murder
bloody scream bloody murder
bloom in bloom
blossom in blossom
blow blow a fuse
blow blow a gasket
blow blow-by-blow account
blow blow-by-blow description
blow blow hot and cold
blow blow off steam
blow blow one's cookies
blow blow one's cool
blow blow one's cork
blow blow one's lines
blow blow one's lunch
blow blow one's nose
blow blow one's own horn
blow blow one's stack
blow blow one's top
blow blow over
blow blow someone or something away
blow blow someone or something off
blow blow someone or something to smithereens
blow blow someone's cover
blow blow someone's mind
blow blow something
blow blow the lid off (something)
blow blow the whistle (on someone)
blow blow up
blowing see which way the wind is blowing
blowout have a blowout
blows come to blows (over something)
blue between the devil and the deep blue sea
blue black-and-blue
blue blue around the gills
blue blue blood
blue burn with a low blue flame
blue come out of the blue
blue like a bolt out of the blue
blue once in a blue moon
blue out of a clear blue sky
blue out of the blue

- blue** talk a blue streak
blue talk until one is blue in the face
blues get the blues
bluff call someone's bluff
blush at first blush
boar (as) crazy as a peach-orchard boar
boar crazy as a peach-orchard boar
board across the board
board (as) flat as a board
board back to the drawing board
board flat as a board
board go by the board
board on board
board room and board
boat in the same boat (as someone)
boat miss the boat
boat rock the boat
bodies know where all the bodies are buried
body arrive in a body
body come in a body
body go in a body
body keep body and soul together
body over my dead body
bog bog down
boggle boggle someone's mind
boil boil down to something
boil boil something down
boil make someone's blood boil
boiling have a low boiling point
bold (as) bold as brass
bold big and bold
bold bold as brass
bolt like a bolt out of the blue
bolt sit bolt upright
bolts the nuts and bolts (of something)
bombshell drop a bomb(shell)
bombshell explode a bombshell
bone (as) dry as a bone
bone bone of contention
bone bone up (on something)
bone chilled to the bone
bone cut someone or something to the bone
bone dry as a bone
bone have a bone to pick (with someone)
bone work one's fingers to the bone
boner pull a boner
bones (all) skin and bones
bones feel something in one's bones
bones know something in one's bones
bones Make no bones about it.
bones nothing but skin and bones
bones skin and bones
bonnet get a bee in one's bonnet
bonnet have a bee in one's bonnet
bonnet put a bee in someone's bonnet
book bell, book, and candle
book by the book
book coffee-table book
book crack a book
book go by the book
book have one's nose in a book
book in one's book
book know someone or something like a book
book (like) an open book
book make book on something
book read someone like a(n open) book
book someone wrote the book on something
book take a leaf out of someone's book
book throw the book at someone
book use every trick in the book
book an open book
books balance the books
books close the books (on someone or something)
books hit the books
books one for the (record) books
boom lower the boom on someone
boot (as) tough as an old boot
boot boot someone out
boot get the boot
boot give someone the boot
boot to boot
boot tough as an old boot
boots die in one's boots
boots die with one's boots on
boots quake in one's boots
boots shake in one's boots
boots You bet (your boots)!
bootstraps pull oneself up (by one's own bootstraps)
borderline on the borderline
bore bore someone stiff
bore bore someone to death
bored bored silly
bored bored stiff
bored bored to death
bored bored to distraction
bored bored to tears
boredom die of boredom
born born and bred
born born and raised
born born out of wedlock
born born with a silver spoon in one's mouth
born in all one's born days
born not born yesterday
borrow borrow trouble
borrowed live on borrowed time
boss boss someone around
both burn the candle at both ends
both cut both ways
both have a foot in both camps
both have it both ways
both have the best of both worlds
both land on both feet
both let someone have it (with both barrels)
both make (both) ends meet
both play both ends (against the middle)
both with both hands tied behind one's back
bothered hot and bothered
bottle bottle something up
bottle crack open a bottle
bottle hit the bottle
bottom (as) soft as a baby's bottom
bottom at the bottom of the hour
bottom at the bottom of the ladder
bottom bet one's bottom dollar

- bottom** bottom out
bottom from the bottom of one's heart
bottom from top to bottom
bottom get to the bottom of something
bottom hit bottom
bottom learn something from the bottom up
bottom scrape the bottom of the barrel
bottom soft as a baby's bottom
bottom the bottom line
Bottoms Bottoms up!
bounces That's the way the ball bounces.
bound bound and determined
bound bound for somewhere
bound bound hand and foot
bound bound to (do something)
bound duty bound (to do something)
bounds by leaps and bounds
bounds out of bounds
bounds within bounds
bow bow and scrape
bow bow out
bow take a bow
bowl bowl someone over
box inside the box
box open Pandora's box
box outside the box
box stuff the ballot box
box thinking inside the box
box thinking outside the box
box think inside the box
box think outside the box
boy All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
boy fair-haired boy
Boys Boys will be boys.
boys separate the men from the boys
brain brain someone
brain have something on the brain
brains beat one's brains out (to do something)
brains pick someone's brain(s)
brains rack one's brain(s)
branch hold out the olive branch
brass (as) bold as brass
brass bold as brass
brass double in brass
brass get down to brass tacks
brave put on a brave face
brave put on a (brave) front
brave put up a (brave) front
breach step in(to the breach)
bread bread-and-butter letter
bread bread and water
bread know which side one's bread is buttered on
bread someone's bread and butter
bread the greatest thing since sliced bread
breadth by a hair('s breadth)
break at the break of dawn
break break a code
break break a habit
break break a law
Break Break a leg!
break break a record
break break camp
break break down
break break even
break break ground (for something)
Break Break it up!
break break loose (from someone or something)
break break new ground
break break off (with someone)
break break one's back (to do something)
break break one's habit
break break one's neck (to do something)
break break one's word
break break out
break break (out) in(to) tears
break break someone or something down
break break someone or something in
break break someone or something up
break break someone's fall
break break someone's heart
break break something down (for someone)
break break something down (into something)
break break something to pieces
break break something to someone
break break the back of something
break break the bank
break break the habit
break break the ice
break break the law
break break the news (to someone)
break break through (something)
break break up (with someone)
break get a break
break give someone a break
break make a break for something or somewhere
break make or break someone
break take a break
break take one's break
break tough break
breaking breaking and entering
breast make a clean breast of something
breath (all) in one breath
breath catch one's breath
breath Don't hold your breath.
breath get time to catch one's breath
breath hold one's breath
breath in one breath
breath in the same breath
breath out of breath
breath save one's breath
breath say something under one's breath
breath take someone's breath away
breath time to catch one's breath
breath waste one's breath
breath with every (other) breath
breath a breath of fresh air
breathe able to breathe (easily) again
breathe able to breathe (freely) again
breathe breathe down someone's neck
breathe breathe easy
breathe breathe one's last
breathe hardly have time to breathe
breathe not breathe a word (about someone or something)

breathe not breathe a word of it
breathe scarcely have time to breathe
bred born and bred
breeds Familiarity breeds contempt.
breeze shoot the breeze
brew brew a plot
brewing There is trouble brewing.
brewing Trouble is brewing.
brewing A storm is brewing.
brick bang one's head against a brick wall
brick drop a brick
bricks bricks and mortar
bricks hit (someone) like a ton of bricks
bricks hit the bricks
bricks two bricks shy of a load
bride give the bride away
bridge cross a bridge before one comes to it
bridge cross a bridge when one comes to it
bridge water under the bridge
bridges burn one's bridges (behind one)
bridges burn one's bridges in front of one
brief hold no brief for someone or something
brief in brief
bright (as) bright as a button
bright (as) bright as a new pin
bright bright and early
bright bright as a button
bright bright as a new pin
bright bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
bright get a bright idea
bright give someone a bright idea
brim filled to the brim
brimming brimming with something
bring bring down the curtain (on something)
bring bring down the house
bring bring home the bacon
bring bring people or other creatures out in droves
bring bring someone or something up
bring bring someone around
bring bring someone to
bring bring someone up-to-date (on someone or something)
bring bring someone or something up-to-date
bring bring something about
bring bring something crashing down (around one)
bring bring something home to someone
bring bring something into question
bring bring something off
bring bring something to a head
bring bring something to light
bring bring something to someone's attention
bring bring up the rear
britches too big for one's britches
broad (as) broad as a barn door
broad broad as a barn door
broad broad in the beam
broad have broad shoulders
broad in broad daylight
Broadway on Broadway
broke be the straw that broke the camel's back
broke flat broke
broke go broke
broke go for broke

broken die of a broken heart
broken sound like a broken record
broth Too many cooks spoil the broth.
brother's one's brother's keeper
brow by the sweat of one's brow
brow knit one's brow
brown do something up brown
brunt bear the brunt (of something)
brush brush up (on something)
brush get the brush-off
brush give someone the brush-off
brush have a brush with something
brush tarred with the same brush
bubble burst someone's bubble
buck buck for something
buck buck up
buck make a fast buck
buck make a quick buck
buck pass the buck
bucket kick the bucket
bucket a drop in the bucket
buckle buckle down (to something)
bud nip something in the bud
buff in the buff
bug (as) crazy as a betsy bug
bug (as) snug as a bug in a rug
bug bug out
bug bug someone
bug crazy as a betsy bug
bug snug as a bug in a rug
buggy horse and buggy
build build a case (against someone)
build build a fire under someone
build build castles in Spain
build build castles in the air
build build (someone or something) up
build build something to order
build build up to something
building busy as a beaver (building a new dam)
built Rome wasn't built in a day.
bulk in bulk
bull cock-and-bull story
bull full of bull
bull seize the bull by the horns
bull shoot the bull
bull take the bull by the horns
bull a bull in a china shop
bullet bite the bullet
bullpen in the bullpen
bull's hit the bull's-eye
bum give someone a bum steer
bump bump into someone
bump bump someone off
bump like a bump on a log
bumps get goose bumps
bumps give someone goose bumps
bum's give someone the bum's rush
bundle make a bundle
bundle a bundle of nerves
burden groan under the burden of something
buried dead and buried
buried know where all the bodies are buried

- burn** burn (oneself) out
burn burn one's bridges (behind one)
burn burn one's bridges in front of one
burn burn out
burn burn someone or something to a crisp
burn burn someone at the stake
burn burn someone in effigy
burn burn someone up
burn burn the candle at both ends
burn burn the midnight oil
burn burn with a low blue flame
burn crash and burn
burn have money to burn
burned burned to a cinder
burned burned up
burned get one's fingers burned
burner put something on the back burner
burning keep the home fires burning
burns fiddle while Rome burns
burns Money burns a hole in someone's pocket.
burst burst at the seams
burst burst in on someone or something
burst burst into flames
burst burst into tears
burst burst onto the scene
burst burst out crying
burst burst out laughing
burst burst someone's bubble
burst burst with joy
burst burst with pride
bury bury one's head in the sand
bury bury the hatchet
bush beat about the bush
bush beat around the bush
bush A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
bushel hide one's light under a bushel
bushy bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
business business as usual
business do a land-office business
business drum some business up
business funny business
business get down to business
business get one's nose out of someone's business
business give someone the business
business go about one's business
business have no business doing something
business keep one's nose out of someone's business
business make it one's business to do something
business mean business
business mind one's own business
business monkey business
business none of someone's business
business open for business
business send one about one's business
business set someone up (in business)
business someone's place of business
business the business end of something
busman's a busman's holiday
bust bust a gut (to do something)
bustle hustle and bustle
busy (as) busy as a beaver
busy (as) busy as a bee
busy (as) busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
busy (as) busy as a hibernating bear
busy (as) busy as a one-armed paperhanger
busy (as) busy as Grand Central Station
busy (as) busy as popcorn on a skillet
busy busy as a beaver
busy busy as a bee
busy busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
busy busy as a hibernating bear
busy busy as a one-armed paperhanger
busy busy as Grand Central Station
busy busy as popcorn on a skillet
busy get busy
busy Have you been keeping busy?
but all over but the shouting
but bloody but unbowed
but but for someone or something
but can't help but do something
but everything but the kitchen sink
but gone but not forgotten
but It never rains but it pours.
but last but not least
but nothing but skin and bones
but nothing but something
but poor but clean
but sadder but wiser
but separate but equal
but slow(ly) but sure(ly)
but no buts about it
but no ifs, ands, or buts about it
butt butt in (on someone or something)
butter bread-and-butter letter
butter butter someone up
butter look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
butter someone's bread and butter
buttered know which side one's bread is buttered on
butterflies get butterflies in one's stomach
butterflies give one butterflies in one's stomach
butterfly (as) gaudy as a butterfly
butterfly gaudy as a butterfly
button (as) bright as a button
button bright as a button
button button one's lip
button on the button
button press the panic button
button push the panic button
buy buy a pig in a poke
buy buy someone off
buy buy something
buy not buy something
buyer Let the buyer beware.
buzz give someone a buzz
by abide by something
by blow-by-blow account
by blow-by-blow description
by by a hair's breadth)
by by all accounts
by by all appearances
by by all means
by by a mile
by by and by
by by and large

by by any means
 by by a show of hands
 by by a whisker
 by by chance
 by by check
 by by choice
 by by coincidence
 by by day
 by by dint of something
 by by fits and starts
 by by guess and by golly
 by by herself
 by by himself
 by by hook or (by) crook
 by by itself
 by by leaps and bounds
 by by means of something
 by by mistake
 by by myself
 by by night
 by by no means
 by by oneself
 by by ourselves
 by by return mail
 by by shank's mare
 by by the
 by by virtue of something
 by by way of something
 by by word of mouth
 by by yourself
 by by yourselves
 by cheek by jowl
 by come by something
 by conspicuous by one's absence
 by crushed by something
 by do somehow by someone
 by do something by hand
 by down by some amount
 by drop by (sometime)
 by drop by the wayside
 by easy to come by
 by end up by doing something
 by fall by the wayside
 by fly-by-night
 by get by (on something)
 by get by (with something)
 by get the go-by
 by give someone the go-by
 by go by the board
 by go by the book
 by go (somewhere) by shank's mare
 by hang by a hair
 by hang by a thread
 by hoist by one's own petard
 by inch by inch
 by judging by something
 by know someone by sight
 by know something by heart
 by lay something by
 by lead someone by the nose
 by learn something by heart
 by learn something by rote

by let something slide by
 by let something slip by
 by let the chance slip by
 by little by little
 by live by one's wits
 by miss (something) by a mile
 by not by a long shot
 by one by one
 by play by ear
 by play something by ear
 by possessed by something
 by pull oneself up (by one's own bootstraps)
 by put off by someone or something
 by put something by
 by put upon by someone
 by run that by (someone) again
 by saved by the bell
 by seize the bull by the horns
 by set great store by someone or something
 by sit (idly) by
 by squeak by (someone or something)
 by stand by
 by step-by-step
 by stick by someone or something
 by stop by (somewhere)
 by swear by someone or something
 by take someone or something by storm
 by take someone or something by surprise
 by take someone by surprise
 by take the bull by the horns
 by touched by someone or something
 by win by a nose
 by word by word
 by a play-by-play description
 bye kiss something good-bye
 bygones Let bygones be bygones.
 byways highways and byways
 caboodle kit and caboodle
 cahoots in cahoots (with someone)
 cain raise cain (with someone or something)
 cake eat one's cake and have it too
 cake have one's cake and eat it too
 cake piece of cake
 cake take the cake
 cake a slice of the cake
 calf kill the fatted calf
 call (above and) beyond the call of duty
 call at someone's beck and call
 call beyond the call of duty
 call call a meeting
 call call a spade a spade
 call call for someone or something
 call call it a day
 call call it a night
 call call it quits
 call call of nature
 call call on someone
 call call out (to someone)
 call call someone or something in
 call call someone or something off
 call call someone or something up
 call call someone's bluff

- call** call someone down
call call someone names
call call someone on the carpet
call call the dogs off
call call the meeting to order
call call (the) roll
call call the shots
call call the tune
call have a close call
call issue a call for something
call not able to call one's time one's own
call on call
call pay a call on someone
call a place to call one's own
calling within calling distance
calling the pot calling the kettle black
calls He who pays the piper calls the tune.
calm (as) calm as a toad in the sun
calm calm as a toad in the sun
calm the calm before the storm
camel's be the straw that broke the camel's back
camp break camp
camp pitch camp
campaign smear campaign (against someone)
camps have a foot in both camps
campus off campus
campus on campus
can (as) happy as can be
can before you can say Jack Robinson
can bite off more than one can chew
can can take it to the bank.
Can Can you imagine?
can catch-as-catch-can
can happy as can be
can more someone or something than one can shake a stick at
can more than one can bear
can more than one can stand
can more than one can take
can No can do.
can open (up) a can of worms
can What can I say?
can You can bet on it!
can You can say that again!
can a game that two can play
canary look like the cat that swallowed the canary
cancel cancel something out
candle bell, book, and candle
candle burn the candle at both ends
candle can't hold a candle to someone
candle not hold a candle to someone or something
cannot cannot help doing something
cannot cannot stomach someone or something
canoe paddle one's own canoe
can't Beggars can't be choosers.
can't can't carry a tune
can't can't do anything with someone or something
can't can't help but do something
can't can't hold a candle to someone
can't can't make heads or tails (out) of someone or something
can't can't see beyond the end of one's nose
can't can't see one's hand in front of one's face
can't can't stand (the sight of) someone or something
can't can't stomach someone or something
can't can't wait (for something to happen)
can't can't wait (to do something)
can't You can't please everyone.
can't You can't take it with you.
can't You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
cap cap and gown
cap put a cap on something
cap put one's thinking cap on
cap a feather in one's cap
capable capable of doing something
card play one's trump card
card a card
cards have the cards stacked against one
cards in the cards
cards keep one's cards close to one's chest
cards keep one's cards close to one's vest
cards lay one's cards on the table
cards play one's cards close to one's vest
cards play one's cards close to the chest
cards play one's cards right
cards play one's cards well
cards put one's cards on the table
cards stack the cards (against someone or something)
cards a few cards short of a deck
cards a few cards shy of a full deck
cards the cards are stacked against one
care could(n't) care less
care devil-may-care attitude
care devil-may-care manner
care do not have a care in the world
care for all I care
care in care of someone
care in the care of someone
care not care two hoots (about someone or something)
care take care of someone or something
care That takes care of that.
caress (as) cold as a witch's caress
caress cold as a witch's caress
carpet call someone on the carpet
carpet get the red-carpet treatment
carpet give someone the red-carpet treatment
carpet roll out the red carpet for someone
carpet sweep something under the carpet
carriage horse and carriage
carried carried away
carried get carried away
carry can't carry a tune
carry carry (a lot of) weight (with someone or something)
carry carry a secret to one's grave
carry carry a secret to the grave
carry carry a torch (for someone)
carry carry coals to Newcastle
carry carry on (about someone or something)
carry carry one's cross
carry carry one's (own) weight
carry carry on somehow
carry carry on without someone or something
carry carry on (with someone or something)
carry carry over

carry carry something off
carry carry something out
carry carry something over
carry carry the ball
carry carry the day
carry carry the torch
carry carry the weight of the world on one's shoulders
carry carry through (on something)
carry cash-and-carry
cart put the cart before the horse
cart upset the apple cart
carte give carte blanche to someone
carte give someone carte blanche
case assemble a case (against someone)
case be the case
case build a case (against someone)
case gather a case (against someone)
case Get off someone's case!
case have a case (against someone)
case in any case
case in case
case in the case of someone or something
case just in case (something happens)
case make a federal case out of something
case on someone's case
case an open-and-shut case
case a case in point
case a case of mistaken identity
cases get down to cases
cash cash-and-carry
cash cash in one's chips
cash cash in (on something)
cash cash on the barrelhead
cash cash or credit
cash cash something in
cash cold, hard cash
cast cast about for someone or something
cast cast around for someone or something
cast cast aspersions on someone
cast cast doubt(s) (on someone or something)
cast cast in the same mold
cast cast one's lot in with someone
cast cast (one's) pearls before swine
cast cast one's vote
cast cast the first stone
cast The die is cast.
castles build castles in Spain
castles build castles in the air
cat (as) busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
cat (as) conceited as a barber's cat
cat busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
Cat Cat got your tongue?
cat conceited as a barber's cat
cat Curiosity killed the cat.
cat let the cat out of the bag
cat look like something the cat dragged in
cat look like the cat that swallowed the canary
cat not enough room to swing a cat
cat play cat and mouse (with someone)
cat There's more than one way to skin a cat.
catch catch-as-catch-can
catch catch a whiff of something

catch catch cold
catch catch fire
catch catch forty winks
catch catch hell
catch catch it
catch catch one's breath
catch catch one's death (of cold)
catch catch one off one's guard
catch catch one with one's pants down
catch catch (on) fire
catch catch on (to someone or something)
catch catch sight of someone or something
catch catch someone's eye
catch catch someone in the act (of doing something)
catch catch someone napping
catch catch someone off-balance
catch catch someone off guard
catch catch someone red-handed
catch catch some Zs
catch catch the devil
catch catch up (to someone or something)
catch catch up (with someone or something)
catch get time to catch one's breath
catch I didn't catch your name.
catch I'll (try to) catch you later.
catch not let someone catch someone doing something
catch not want to catch someone doing something
catch time to catch one's breath
cats (as) black as a stack of black cats
cats black as a stack of black cats
cats rain cats and dogs
cat's When the cat's away, the mice will play.
caught caught in the act
caught caught in the cross fire
caught caught in the middle
caught caught red-handed
caught caught short
caught caught unaware(s)
cause cause a commotion
cause cause a stir
cause cause (some) eyebrows to raise
cause cause (some) tongues to wag
cause a lost cause
caution throw caution to the wind
cave cave in (to someone or something)
cease cease and desist
ceiling hit the ceiling
cent not worth a red cent
center off-center
center on dead center
Central (as) busy as Grand Central Station
Central busy as Grand Central Station
cents' put one's two cents' (worth) in
century turn of the century
ceremony stand on ceremony
chain ball and chain
chair play first chair
chalk chalk something up to something
champ champ at the bit
chance by chance
chance chance something
chance chance (up)on someone or something

- chance** fat chance
chance have a snowball's chance in hell
chance jump at the chance
chance let the chance slip by
chance off chance
chance once-in-a-lifetime chance
chance on the off-chance
chance stand a chance
chance take a chance
chance a fighting chance
chance a ghost of a chance
chance a sporting chance
change and change
change change hands
change change horses in the middle of the stream
change change someone's mind
change change someone's tune
change change the subject
change have a change of heart
change a change of pace
change a change of scenery
changes go through the changes
channels go through channels
channels work through channels
chapter chapter and verse
character in character
character out of character
charge charge someone or something up
charge get a charge out of someone or something
charge give someone a charge
charge in the charge of someone
charge take charge (of someone or something)
charged charged up
charley get a charley horse
charm charm the pants off (of) someone
chase cut to the chase
chase give chase (to someone or something)
chase go chase oneself
chase lead someone on a merry chase
chase a wild-geese chase
cheap dirt cheap
cheat cheat on someone
check by check
check check in (on someone or something)
check check into something
check check out
check cut (someone) a check
check get a rain check (on something)
check give a blank check to someone
check give someone a blank check
check give someone a rain check (on something)
check hold someone or something in check
check honor someone's check
check keep someone or something in check
check make a check out (to someone)
check pick up the check
check take a rain check (on something)
checks checks and balances
checks someone or something checks out
checkup get a checkup
cheek cheek by jowl
cheek tongue-in-cheek
cheek turn the other cheek
cheer cheer someone on
cheer cheer someone up
cheer cheer up
cheesed cheesed off
cherry (as) red as a cherry
cherry red as a cherry
chest get something off one's chest
chest keep one's cards close to one's chest
chest play one's cards close to the chest
chew angry enough to chew nails
chew bite off more than one can chew
chew chew someone out
chew chew the fat
chew chew the rag
chew mad enough to chew nails
chicken chicken out (of something)
chicken for chicken feed
chicken no spring chicken
chicken run around like a chicken with its head cut off
chickens count one's chickens before they hatch
chickens go to bed with the chickens
chickens The chickens have come home to roost.
child expecting (a child)
childhood in one's second childhood
child's child's play
chilled chilled to the bone
chime chime in (with something)
chin keep one's chin up
chin make chin music
chin take it on the chin
chin take something on the chin
chin wag one's chin
china a bull in a china shop
chink chink in one's armor
chip chip in (on something)
chip chip in something on something
chip chip something in (on something)
chip have a chip on one's shoulder
chip a chip off the old block
chips cash in one's chips
chips chips and dip
chips in the chips
chips when the chips are down
chisel chisel someone out of something
choice by choice
choice Hobson's choice
choices torn between bad choices
choke choke someone up
choke choke something off
chomp chomp at the bit
choose choose up sides
choose nothing to choose from
choose pick and choose
choosers Beggars can't be choosers.
chops lick one's chops
chord strike a chord (with someone)
church (as) poor as a church mouse
church poor as a church mouse
church the separation of church and state
cinder burned to a cinder

circle come full circle
circle in a vicious circle
circles go (a)round in circles
circles run (a)round in circles
circles run circles around someone
circles talk in circles
circulation back in circulation
circulation get back into circulation
circulation out of circulation
circumstances extenuating circumstances
circumstances under certain circumstances
circumstances under the circumstances
circus like a three-ring circus
civil keep a civil tongue (in one's head)
claim claim a life
claim stake a claim (to something)
clam (as) happy as a clam
clam clam up
clam happy as a clam
clamp clamp down (on someone or something)
clamps put the clamps on (someone)
clap clap eyes on someone or something
class cut class
clay have feet of clay
clean (as) clean as a hound's tooth
clean (as) clean as a whistle
clean clean as a hound's tooth
clean clean as a whistle
clean clean out (of something)
clean clean up
clean come clean (with someone)
clean get a clean bill of health
clean give someone a clean bill of health
clean have a clean conscience (about someone or something)
clean have clean hands
clean keep one's nose clean
clean make a clean breast of something
clean make a clean sweep
clean poor but clean
clean so clean you could eat off the floor
clean start (off) with a clean slate
clean start (over) with a clean slate
clean wipe someone's slate clean
cleaners take someone to the cleaners
clear (as) clear as a bell
clear (as) clear as crystal
clear (as) clear as mud
clear (as) clear as vodka
clear clear as a bell
clear clear as crystal
clear clear as mud
clear clear as vodka
clear clear of something
clear clear out
clear clear sailing
clear clear someone's name
clear clear something up
clear clear the air
clear clear the decks
clear clear the table
clear clear up

clear free and clear
clear have a clear conscience (about someone or something)
clear Have I made myself clear?
clear in the clear
clear loud and clear
clear make someone's position clear
clear out of a clear blue sky
clear see one's way clear (to do something)
clear steer clear (of someone or something)
clear The coast is clear.
climb climb on the bandwagon
climb climb the wall(s)
climb Go climb a tree!
clip clip someone's wings
cloak cloak-and-dagger
clock against the clock
clock (a)round the clock
clock (a)round-the-clock
clock beat the clock
clock round the clock
clock turn the clock back
clockwork (as) regular as clockwork
clockwork go like clockwork
clockwork regular as clockwork
clockwork run like clockwork
close (as) close as two coats of paint
close at close range
close close as two coats of paint
close close at hand
close close enough for government work
close close in (on someone or something)
close close one's eyes to something
close close ranks
close close something down
close close the books (on someone or something)
close close the door on someone or something
close close to home
close close to someone
close close up shop
close draw something to a close
close draw to a close
close get close (to someone or something)
close have a close call
close have a close shave
close hit one close to home
close keep a close rein on someone or something
close keep (close) watch (on someone or something)
close keep (close) watch (over someone or something)
close keep one's cards close to one's chest
close keep one's cards close to one's vest
close play one's cards close to one's vest
close play one's cards close to the chest
close too close for comfort
close under (close) scrutiny
closed able to do something with one's eyes closed
closed behind closed doors
closefisted closefisted (with money)
closet come out (of the closet)
closet a skeleton in the closet
cloth cut from the same cloth
cloth make something up out of whole cloth

clothes Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes
clothing a wolf in sheep's clothing
cloud cloud up
cloud Every cloud has a silver lining.
cloud on cloud nine
cloud under a cloud (of suspicion)
clouds have one's head in the clouds
clover in clover
club Join the club!
clue clue someone in (on something)
clue have a clue (about something)
clutch clutch at straws
clutches in(to) someone's clutches
coal (as) black as coal
coal black as coal
coals carry coals to Newcastle
coals haul someone over the coals
coals rake someone over the coals
coast coast-to-coast
coast The coast is clear.
coat coat and tie
coats (as) close as two coats of paint
coats close as two coats of paint
coattails hang on someone's coattails
coattails ride on someone's coattails
cock cock-and-bull story
cock cock of the walk
cocked go off half-cocked
cockles warm the cockles of someone's heart
cocky (as) cocky as the king of spades
cocky cocky as the king of spades
COD send something C.O.D.
code break a code
coffee coffee and Danish
coffee coffee-table book
coffee coffee, tea, or milk
coffin (another) nail in someone's or something's coffin
coffin nail in someone's or something's coffin
coil shuffle off this mortal coil
coincidence by coincidence
cold (as) cold as a witch's caress
cold (as) cold as a witch's tit
cold (as) cold as marble
cold blow hot and cold
cold break out in a cold sweat
cold catch cold
cold catch one's death (of cold)
cold cold as a witch's caress
cold cold as a witch's tit
cold cold as marble
cold cold comfort
cold cold, hard cash
cold dash cold water on something
cold get cold feet
cold get the cold shoulder
cold give someone the cold shoulder
cold go cold turkey
cold have cold feet
cold in cold blood
cold in cold storage
cold keep someone out in the cold
cold knock someone out (cold)

cold leave someone out in the cold
cold make someone's blood run cold
cold out cold
cold pour cold water on something
cold take cold
cold take one's death of cold
cold throw cold water on something
cold a cold fish
collar hot under the collar
collection take up a collection
college work one's way through college
color lend color to something
color off-color
color see the color of someone's money
color a horse of a different color
color a horse of another color
colors come through something with flying colors
colors sail under false colors
colors show one's (true) colors
colors with flying colors
coma lapse into a coma
comb go over something with a fine-tooth comb
comb search something with a fine-tooth comb
come come about
come come a cropper
come come across someone or something
Come Come again.
Come Come and get it!
come come and gone
come come apart at the seams
come come (a)round
come come as no surprise
come come away empty-handed
come come by something
come come clean (with someone)
come come down
come come from far and wide
come come from nowhere
come come full circle
come come hell or high water
come come home (to roost)
come come home to someone
come come in a body
come come in for something
come come in handy
come come in out of the rain
come come into its own
come come into one's own
come come into something
come come of age
come come off
come come on
come come out
come come over
come come someone's way
come come through
come come to
come come true
come come unglued
come come up
come come what may
come come within an ace of doing something

come come within an inch of doing something
come come with the territory
come easy come, easy go
come easy to come by
come First come, first served.
come have come a long way
come Johnny-come-lately
come not know enough to come in out of the rain
come till the cows come home
come (un)til the cows come home
come a dream come true
come a harbinger of things to come
come a portent of things to come
come a sign of things to come
come a taste of things to come
come The chickens have come home to roost.
comeback make a comeback
comes cross a bridge before one comes to it
comes cross a bridge when one comes to it
comes if push comes to shove
comes if worst comes to worst
comes What goes around, comes around.
comes when it comes right down to it
comes when it comes to something
comes when push comes to shove
comeuppance get one's comeuppance
comfort cold comfort
comfort too close for comfort
comfortable (as) comfortable as an old shoe
comfortable comfortable as an old shoe
comforts creature comforts
coming Everything's coming up roses.
coming get another guess coming
coming get another think coming
coming get what's coming to one
coming give one what's coming to one
coming (had) known it was coming
coming have something coming (to one)
coming knew it was coming
coming known it was coming
coming not know if one is coming or going
coming not know whether one is coming or going
coming up-and-coming
coming where one is coming from
command have a good command of something
comment No comment.
commission out of commission
commit commit something to memory
common (as) common as an old shoe
common (as) common as dirt
common common as an old shoe
common common as dirt
common have something in common (with someone or something)
commotion cause a commotion
company keep company (with someone)
company keep someone company
company part company (with someone)
company Two's company(, three's a crowd).
complain nothing to complain about
compliment fish for a compliment
compliment pay someone a back-handed compliment

compliment pay someone a compliment
compliment pay someone a left-handed compliment
compliment return someone's compliment
compliment return the compliment
composure regain one's composure
compromise reach a compromise
con con someone out of something
conceited (as) conceited as a barber's rat
conceited conceited as a barber's cat
concern to whom it may concern
concerned (as) far as someone or something is concerned
concerned far as something is concerned
concerned so far as someone or something is concerned
concerned so far as something is concerned
concert in concert (with someone)
conclusion a foregone conclusion
conclusions jump to conclusions
conclusions leap to conclusions
condition in condition
condition in good condition
condition in mint condition
condition in the pink (of condition)
condition out of condition
conditions under certain conditions
confide confide in someone
confidence take someone into one's confidence
confidence a vote of confidence
conk conk out
conniption have a conniption (fit)
conquer divide and conquer
conscience have a clean conscience (about someone or something)
conscience have a clear conscience (about someone or something)
conscience in (all) good conscience
consequence in consequence (of something)
consideration in consideration of something
consideration out of consideration (for someone or something)
consignment on consignment
conspicuous conspicuous by one's absence
conspicuous make oneself conspicuous
constant in a (constant) state of flux
construction under construction
contact have contact with someone
contempt Familiarity breeds contempt.
contempt in contempt (of court)
content to one's heart's content
contention bone of contention
context in the context of something
contradiction contradiction in terms
contrary contrary to something
contrary on the contrary
contrary to the contrary
control control the purse strings
control out of control
control under control
convenience at someone's earliest convenience
conversation open a conversation
conversation strike up a conversation
converted preach to the converted
convictions have the courage of one's convictions

cook cook someone's goose
cook cook something to perfection
cook cook something up
cook cook the accounts
cooked someone's goose is cooked
cookie That's the way the cookie crumbles.
cookies blow one's cookies
cookies juice and cookies
cookies toss one's cookies
cooking cooking with gas
cooks Too many cooks spoil the broth.
cooks Too many cooks spoil the stew.
cool (as) cool as a cucumber
cool blow one's cool
cool cool as a cucumber
cool cool down
Cool Cool it!
cool cool off
cool cool one's heels
cool cool someone down
cool cool someone off
cool keep cool
cool keep one's cool
cool lose one's cool
cool play it cool
coon's in a coon's age
coop fly the coop
coot (as) bald as a coot
coot bald as a coot
cop cop a plea
cop cop out
copycat a copycat
core rotten to the core
core to the core
cork blow one's cork
cork pop one's cork
corner have turned the corner
corner out of the corner of one's eye
corners cut corners
corrected stand corrected
cost at any cost
cost cost an arm and a leg
cost cost a pretty penny
costs at all costs
cough cough something up
Could Could be better.
Could Could be worse.
could could(n't) care less
could could do with someone or something
could if looks could kill
could so clean you could eat off the floor
could so mad I could scream
could so quiet you could hear a pin drop
could so still you could hear a pin drop
couldn't couldn't be better
couldn't couldn't be happier
couldn't could(n't) care less
couldn't Wild horses couldn't drag someone.
counsel keep one's own counsel
count count noses
count count one's chickens before they hatch
count count on someone or something

count count someone in (on something)
count count someone out (for something)
count down for the count
count to count heads
counted stand up and be counted
counter run counter to something
counter under the counter
country another country heard from
counts every minute counts
counts every moment counts
couple a couple of
courage Dutch courage
courage have the courage of one's convictions
courage muster (up) one's courage
courage pluck up one's courage
courage screw up one's courage
course as a matter of course
course course of action
course in due course
course in the course of time
course par for the course
course take a course (in something)
court have the ball in one's court
court in contempt (of court)
court laugh something out of court
court settle (something) (out of court)
court throw oneself at the mercy of the court
court throw oneself on the mercy of the court
courtesy out of courtesy (to someone)
cover blow someone's cover
cover cover a lot of ground
cover cover a lot of territory
cover cover for someone
cover cover someone's tracks (up)
cover cover something up
cover cover the territory
cover cover the waterfront
cover duck and cover
cow (as) awkward as a cow on a crutch
cow (as) awkward as a cow on roller skates
cow awkward as a cow on a crutch
cow awkward as a cow on roller skates
cow sacred cow
cows till the cows come home
cows (un)til the cows come home
cozy cozy up (to someone)
crack at the crack of dawn
crack crack a book
crack crack a joke
crack crack a smile
crack crack down (on someone or something)
crack crack open a bottle
crack crack someone or something up
crack crack something wide open
crack crack up
crack have a crack at something
crack take a crack at something
crack tough nut to crack
crack a hard nut to crack
cracked not all something is cracked up to be
cracked not what something is cracked up to be
cracking get cracking

cracks make cracks (about someone or something)
cracks paper over the cracks (in something)
cradle from the cradle to the grave
cradle rob the cradle
cramp cramp someone's style
crank crank something out
cranny every nook and cranny
crap You scared the crap out of me.
crash crash and burn
crashing bring something crashing down (around one)
craw have something stick in one's craw
crawl make someone's flesh crawl
crazy (as) crazy as a betsy bug
crazy (as) crazy as a loon
crazy (as) crazy as a peach-orchard boar
crazy crazy about someone or something
crazy crazy as a betsy bug
crazy crazy as a loon
crazy crazy as a peach-orchard boar
crazy crazy for someone or something
crazy drive someone crazy
crazy go crazy
crazy go stir-crazy
crazy like crazy
cream the cream of the crop
create create an uproar
create create a scene
create create a stink (about something)
creation in creation
creature creature comforts
creature give birth to someone or some creature
creature a match for someone, something, or some creature
creatures bring people or other creatures out in droves
credence give credence to something
credit buy something on credit
credit cash or credit
credit do credit to someone
credit do someone credit
credit extend credit (to someone)
credit extend someone credit
credit get credit (for something)
credit give credit where credit is due
credit give someone credit (for something)
credit on credit
credit sell something on credit
credit a credit to someone or something
creek up the creek (without a paddle)
creeps get the creeps
creeps give someone the creeps
crick a crick in one's back
crick a crick in one's neck
cricket (as) merry as a cricket
cricket merry as a cricket
crisp burn someone or something to a crisp
crocodile cry crocodile tears
crocodile shed crocodile tears
crook by hook or (by) crook
crooked (as) crooked as a barrel of fishhooks
crooked (as) crooked as a dog's hind leg
crooked (as) crooked as a fishhook
crooked crooked as a barrel of fishhooks

crooked crooked as a dog's hind leg
crooked crooked as a fishhook
crop the cream of the crop
cropper come a cropper
cross at cross-purposes
cross bear one's cross
cross carry one's cross
cross caught in the cross fire
cross cross a bridge before one comes to it
cross cross a bridge when one comes to it
cross cross-examine someone
cross cross one's fingers
cross cross one's heart (and hope to die)
cross cross someone's mind
cross cross someone's palm with silver
cross cross someone up
cross cross swords (with someone) (on something)
cross cross the Rubicon
cross double-cross someone
cross look at someone cross-eyed
crossed get one's wires crossed
crossed keep one's fingers crossed (for someone or something)
crow (as) hoarse as a crow
crow as the crow flies
crow hoarse as a crow
crow make someone eat crow
crowd follow the crowd
crowd Two's company(, three's a crowd).
crumbles That's the way the cookie crumbles.
crumpets tea and crumpets
crush get a crush on someone
crushed crushed by something
crust upper crust
crutch (as) awkward as a cow on a crutch
crutch (as) funny as a crutch
crutch awkward as a cow on a crutch
crutch funny as a crutch
crux the crux of the matter
cry cry before one is hurt
cry cry bloody murder
cry cry crocodile tears
cry cry one's eyes out
cry cry over spilled milk
cry cry wolf
cry a far cry from something
cry a hue and cry
crying burst out crying
crying crying need for someone or something
crying For crying out loud!
crying a crying shame
crystal (as) clear as crystal
crystal clear as crystal
cucumber (as) cool as a cucumber
cucumber cool as a cucumber
cue cue someone in
cue take one's cue from someone
cuff off-the-cuff
cuff put something on the cuff
cuff speak off the cuff
cup not someone's cup of tea
cups in one's cups

curdle curdle someone's blood
cure An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
Curiosity Curiosity killed the cat.
curiosity pique someone's curiosity
curl curl someone's hair
curl curl up and die
curl make someone's hair curl
current swim against the current
curry curry favor (with someone)
curtain bring down the curtain (on something)
curtain ring down the curtain (on something)
curtains be curtains for someone or something
curve pitch someone a curve (ball)
curve throw someone a curve
custody in custody of someone or something
custody in someone's or something's custody
customer one to a customer
cut cut a big swath
cut cut across something
cut cut a fine figure
cut cut-and-dried
cut cut and paste
cut cut and run
cut cut a wide swath
cut cut back (on something)
cut cut both ways
cut cut class
cut cut corners
cut cut from the same cloth
Cut Cut it out!
cut cut loose (from someone or something)
cut cut loose (with something)
cut cut no ice (with someone)
cut cut off
cut cut one's eyeteeth on something
cut cut one's losses
cut cut one's (own) throat
cut cut out for something
cut cut out the deadwood
cut cut out to be something
cut cut someone or something to the bone
cut cut someone or something up
cut cut (someone) a check
cut cut someone dead
cut cut someone down (to size)
cut cut someone in
cut cut someone off without a penny
cut cut someone to the quick
cut cut teeth
cut cut the ground out from under someone
cut cut to the chase
cut cut up
cut fish or cut bait
cut have one's work cut out for one
cut one's work is cut out for one
cut run around like a chicken with its head cut off
cut a cut above someone or something
cylinders firing on all cylinders
cylinders hitting on all cylinders
dab smack-dab in the middle
dagger cloak-and-dagger

daggers look daggers at someone
daily one's daily dozen
daily the daily grind
daisies pushing up daisies
daisy (as) fresh as a daisy
daisy fresh as a daisy
dam busy as a beaver (building a new dam)
damage do someone damage
damn damn someone or something with faint praise
damned I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't.
dance dance to another tune
dance dance with death
dance go into one's song and dance (about something)
dander get someone's dander up
dandy fine and dandy
danger fly into the face of danger
danger fraught with danger
dangerous armed and dangerous
dangerous A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.
Danish coffee and Danish
dare dare someone (to do something)
dark dark horse
dark in the dark (about someone or something)
dark pitch-dark
dark a shot in the dark
darken darken someone's door
dart dart in and out
dash dash cold water on something
dash dash something off
date at an early date
date bring someone or something up to date
date bring someone up to date (on someone or something)
date date back (to sometime)
date out-of-date
date to date
date up-to-date
Davy Davy Jones's locker
Davy go to Davy Jones's locker
dawn at the break of dawn
dawn at the crack of dawn
dawn dawn on someone
dawn from dawn to dusk
day all day long
day all the livelong day
day (as) different as night and day
day (as) merry as the day is long
day (as) plain as day
day at the end of the day
day by day
day by the day
day call it a day
day carry the day
day day after day
day day and night
day day in and day out
day day in, day out
day day-to-day
day different as night and day
day Don't quit your day job.
day Every dog has his day.
day Every dog has its day.
day forever and a day

- day** from day to day
day from this day forward
day from this day on
day get the day off
day have a field day
day have had its day
day in this day and age
day late in the day
day make a day of doing something
day make a day of it
day merry as the day is long
day night and day
day not give someone the time of day
day pass the time of day (with someone)
day plain as day
day Rome wasn't built in a day.
day save something for a rainy day
day save the day
day see the light (of day)
day take the day off
day That'll be the day.
day There aren't enough hours in the day.
day till all hours (of the day and night)
day win the day
day with each passing day
day the order of the day
daylight begin to see daylight
daylight daylight robbery
daylight in broad daylight
daylights beat the living daylights out of someone
daylights frighten the (living) daylights out of someone
daylights scare the living daylights out of someone
day's all in a day's work
days days running
days for days on end
days have seen better days
days in all one's born days
days in one's salad days
days one of these days
days one's days are numbered
days Those were the days.
days' a nine days' wonder
days the good old days
de a fine how-de-do
dead (as) dead as a dodo
dead (as) dead as a doornail
dead (as) silent as the dead
dead beat a dead horse
dead come to a dead end
dead cut someone dead
dead dead ahead
dead dead and buried
dead dead and gone
dead dead as a dodo
dead dead as a doornail
dead dead in someone's or something's tracks
dead dead letter
dead dead on its feet
dead dead on one's feet
dead dead set against someone or something
dead dead to the world
dead drop dead
dead have someone dead to rights
dead in a dead heat
dead knock someone dead
dead leave someone for dead
dead more dead than alive
dead on dead center
dead one's heart is (dead) set against something
dead over my dead body
dead silent as the dead
dead taken for dead
dead wake the dead
dead a dead duck
dead a dead loss
deadwood cut out the deadwood
deaf (as) deaf as a post
deaf deaf and dumb
deaf deaf as a post
deaf fall on deaf ears
deaf turn a deaf ear (to someone or something)
deal deal in something
deal get a raw deal
deal give someone a raw deal
deal Like it's such a big deal!
deal make a big deal about something
deal No big deal!
deal square deal
deal think a great deal of someone or something
deal wheel and deal
deal a great deal
death (as) baleful as death
death (as) pale as death
death (as) still as death
death (as) sure as death
death baleful as death
death be death on something
death be the death of me (yet)
death between life and death
death bored to death
death bore someone to death
death catch one's death (of cold)
death dance with death
death death and taxes
death death on someone or something
death die a natural death
death frightened to death
death frighten someone to death
death look like death warmed over
death meet one's death
death pale as death
death scared to death
death scare someone to death
death sign one's own death warrant
death still as death
death sure as death
death take one's death of cold
death thrilled to death
death thrill someone to death
death tickled to death
death tickle someone to death
death a matter of life and death
death a struggle to the death
death the kiss of death

- death's at death's door
 debt head over heels in debt
 debt in debt
 debt pay one's debt (to society)
 decide decide in favor of someone or something
 decision eleventh-hour decision
 deck have the deck stacked against one
 deck on deck
 deck stack the deck (against someone or something)
 deck a few cards short of a deck
 deck a few cards shy of a full deck
 decks clear the decks
 deem deem it (to be) necessary
 deem deem that it is necessary
 deep Beauty is only skin-deep.
 deep between the devil and the deep blue sea
 deep deep-six someone or something
 deep go off the deep end
 deep in deep
 deep jump off the deep end
 deepest one's deepest sympathy
 defensive on the defensive
 defiance in defiance (of someone or something)
 degree get the third degree
 degree give someone the third degree
 degree to the nth degree
 delight ravished with delight
 deliver stand and deliver
 delivered signed, sealed, and delivered
 demand in great demand
 demand supply and demand
 den beard the lion in his den
 den a den of iniquity
 denial in denial
 dent make a dent in something
 depth beyond one's depth
 description beggar description
 description blow-by-blow description
 description a play-by-play description
 desert desert a sinking ship
 deserts get one's just deserts
 deserves One good turn deserves another.
 designs have designs on someone or something
 desired leave a lot to be desired
 desist cease and desist
 desk away from one's desk
 despair sink into despair
 despair throw one's hands up in despair
 detail down to the last detail
 detail go into detail
 detail in detail
 determined bound and determined
 devil between the devil and the deep blue sea
 devil catch the devil
 devil devil-may-care attitude
 devil devil-may-care manner
 devil for the devil of it
 devil full of the devil
 devil get the devil
 devil give someone the devil
 devil give the devil her due
 devil give the devil his due
 devil go to (the devil)
 devil have the devil to pay
 devil raise the devil (with someone or something)
 devil speak of the devil
 devil There will be the devil to pay.
 devil You scared the devil out of me.
 devil a devil of a job
 devil's play (the) devil's advocate
 devil's the devil's own job
 diamond a diamond in the rough
 diapers soil one's diaper(s)
 dibs have dibs on something
 dibs put (one's) dibs on something
 Dick (every) Tom, Dick, and Harry
 Dick Tom, Dick, and Harry
 dickens raise the dickens (with someone or something)
 dickens You scared the dickens out of me.
 Dick's (as) tight as Dick's hatband
 Dick's tight as Dick's hatband
 didn't I didn't catch your name.
 die cross one's heart (and hope to die)
 die curl up and die
 die die a natural death
 die die in one's boots
 die die laughing
 die die of a broken heart
 die die of boredom
 die die on someone
 die die on the vine
 die die with one's boots on
 die do or die
 die Old habits die hard.
 die The die is cast.
 diet on a diet
 differ beg to differ (with someone)
 difference make no difference (to someone)
 difference split the difference
 different (as) different as night and day
 different different as night and day
 different march to (the beat of) a different drummer
 different sing a different tune
 different a horse of a different color
 dig dig in
 dig dig one's heels in
 dig dig one's own grave
 dig dig some dirt up on someone
 dig dig someone or something
 dig dig something out
 dig take a dig at someone
 digs take digs at someone
 dilemma on the horns of a dilemma
 dim take a dim view of something
 dime nickel and dime someone
 dime not worth a dime
 dime turn on a dime
 dime a dime a dozen
 dine dine out
 dine wine and dine someone
 dint by dint of something
 dip chips and dip
 dip dip in(to something)
 directions ride off in all directions

- dirt** (as) common as dirt
dirt common as dirt
dirt dig some dirt up on someone
dirt dirt cheap
dirt hit pay dirt
dirty air one's dirty linen in public
dirty dirty old man
dirty dirty one's hands
dirty dirty work
dirty down-and-dirty
dirty get a dirty look from someone
dirty get one's hands dirty
dirty give someone a dirty look
dirty quick and dirty
dirty wash one's dirty linen in public
disease down with some disease
disease have foot-in-mouth disease
disguise in disguise
disguise a blessing in disguise
dishes do the dishes
dishwater (as) dull as dishwater
dishwater dull as dishwater
disorderly drunk and disorderly
disposal put someone or something at someone's disposal
disposed ill-disposed to doing something
disposed well-disposed toward someone or something
distance go the distance
distance keep one's distance (from someone or something)
distance within calling distance
distance within hailing distance
distance within shouting distance
distance within walking distance
distraction bored to distraction
ditch a last-ditch effort
ditchwater (as) dull as ditchwater
ditchwater dull as ditchwater
divide divide and conquer
divide divide something fifty-fifty
do can't do anything with someone or something
do could do with someone or something
do do a double take
do do a flip-flop (on something)
do do a job on someone or something
do do a land-office business
do do an about-face
do do an errand
do do a number on someone or something
do do a snow job on someone
do do away with someone or something
do do credit to someone
Do Do I need to paint you a picture?
do do justice to something
do do not have a care in the world
do do not have a leg to stand on
do do not have all one's marbles
do do oneself proud
do do one's bit
do do one's duty
do do one's (level) best
do do one's (own) thing
do do one's part
do do or die
do do so
do do somehow by someone
do do someone or something in
do do someone or something over
do do someone's bidding
do do someone's heart good
do do someone a good turn
do do someone a kindness
do do someone credit
do do someone damage
do do someone good
do do someone one better
do do someone out of something
do do something by hand
do do something fair and square
do do something for a living
do do something hands down
do do something in a heartbeat
do do something in person
do do something in public
do do something in secret
do do something in vain
do do something on the fly
do do something on the run
do do something on the sly
do do something over (again)
do do something the hard way
do do something to excess
do do something up
do do the dishes
do do the honors
do do the trick
do do too
do do without (someone or something)
Do Do you read me?
do have nothing to do with someone or something
do have something to do with something
do have to do with someone or something
do I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't.
do Let's do lunch.
do make do (with someone or something)
do No can do.
do well-to-do
do What do you want me to say?
do When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
do Who do you think you're kidding?
do Who do you think you're talking to?
do a fine how-de-do
do a fine how-do-you-do
do the in thing (to do)
doctor just what the doctor ordered
dodo (as) dead as a dodo
dodo dead as a dodo
does Easy does it.
does Pretty is as pretty does.
does That does it!
doesn't What one doesn't know won't hurt one.
dog (as) sick as a dog
dog dog and pony show
dog dog-eat-dog
dog dog in the manger
dog Every dog has his day.

dog Every dog has its day.
dog put on the dog
dog see a man about a dog
dog sick as a dog
dog You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
dog the hair of the dog that bit one
dog the tail wagging the dog
doghouse in the doghouse
dog's (as) crooked as a dog's hind leg
dogs call the dogs off
dog's crooked as a dog's hind leg
dogs go to the dogs
dog's lead a dog's life
dogs Let sleeping dogs lie.
dog's live a dog's life
dogs rain cats and dogs
doing have something doing
doing nothing doing
doldrums in the doldrums
dollar (as) phony as a three-dollar bill
dollar (as) queer as a three-dollar bill
dollar (as) sound as a dollar
dollar bet one's bottom dollar
dollar dollar for dollar
dollar phony as a three-dollar bill
dollar queer as a three-dollar bill
dollar sound as a dollar
dollar the almighty dollar
dollars feel like a million (dollars)
dollars look like a million dollars
dolled get (all) dolled up
done after all is said and done
done (as) good as done
done (be) easier said than done
done better off (if something were done)
done done in
done done to a T
done easier said than done
done good as done
done No harm done.
done no sooner said than done
done over and done with
done see (to it) that something is done
done What's done is done.
done when all is said and done
Don't Don't hold your breath.
Don't Don't let it go any further.
Don't Don't let it out of this room.
Don't Don't let someone or something get you down.
Don't Don't quit your day job.
don't I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't.
don't They don't make them like they used to.
don't You just don't get it!
doomed doomed to failure
door answer the door
door (as) broad as a barn door
door at death's door
door beat a path to someone's door
door broad as a barn door
door close the door on someone or something
door darken someone's door
door door-to-door

door from door to door
door get one's foot in the door
door keep the wolf from the door
door next-door neighbor
door open the door to something
door see someone to the door
door show someone (to) the door
door shut the door on someone or something
doornail (as) dead as a doornail
doornail dead as a doornail
doors behind closed doors
doorstep at someone's doorstep
doorstep on someone's doorstep
dose a dose of one's own medicine
dot on the dot
dotted sign on the dotted line
double do a double take
double double back (on someone or something)
double double-cross someone
double double in brass
double double up (with someone)
double on the double
double see double
doubt beyond a reasonable doubt
doubt beyond the shadow of a doubt
doubt get the benefit of the doubt
doubt give someone the benefit of the doubt
doubt no doubt
doubting doubting Thomas
doubts cast doubt(s) (on someone or something)
down (as) soft as down
down back down (from someone or something)
down batten down the hatches
down beat someone down (to size)
down bog down
down boil down to something
down boil something down
down break down
down break someone or something down
down break something down (for someone)
down break something down (into something)
down breathe down someone's neck
down bring down the curtain (on something)
down bring down the house
down bring something crashing down (around one)
down buckle down (to something)
down call someone down
down catch one with one's pants down
down clamp down (on someone or something)
down close something down
down come down
down cool down
down cool someone down
down crack down (on someone or something)
down cut someone down (to size)
down Don't let someone or something get you down.
down do something hands down
down down-and-dirty
down down-and-out
down down-at-the-heels
down down by some amount
down down for the count

- down** down in the dumps
down down in the mouth
down down on one's luck
down down on someone or something
down down South
down down the drain
down down the hatch
down down the street
down down the tubes
down down-to-earth
down down to the last detail
down down to the wire
down down with some disease
down dress someone down
down face someone down
down fall down on the job
down force someone or something down someone's throat
down get down to brass tacks
down get down to business
down get down to cases
down get down to something
down get down to the facts
down get down to the nitty-gritty
down get down to work
down get someone or something down
down get someone down
down get the low-down (on someone or something)
down give someone a (good) dressing-down
down give someone the low-down (on someone or something)
down go down fighting
down go down in history
down hand-me-down
down hands down
down hand something down (to someone)
down have something down pat
down hold someone down
down jump down someone's throat
down keep something down
down knock-down-drag-out fight
down knock someone down (to size)
down knock something down
down knuckle down (to something)
down lay down one's life (for someone or something)
down lay down on the job
down lay down the law
down lead someone down the garden path
down let one's hair down
down let someone down
down lie down on the job
down live something down
down look down one's nose at someone or something
down look down on someone or something
down mark someone or something down
down nail someone or something down
down nothing down
down pin someone down
down pipe down
down play someone or something down
down pour money down the drain
down pull someone or something down
down put one's foot down (about something)
down put someone or something down
down put someone down as something bad
down put someone down (for something)
down put something down in black and white
down put something down to something
down ram someone or something down someone's throat
down right down someone's alley
down ring down the curtain (on something)
down run someone or something down
down scale something down
down sell someone down the river
down set something down to something
down settle down
down shake someone or something down
down shove someone or something down someone's throat
down shut something down
down simmer down
down slap someone down
down slow someone or something down
down soft as down
down step down (from something)
down take someone down a notch (or two)
down take someone down a peg (or two)
down take someone down (to size)
down take something lying down
down talk down to someone
down talk someone down
down tear someone or something down
down throw down the gauntlet
down thumbs down on someone or something
down tied down
down tie someone down
down tone something down
down turn someone or something down
down turn thumbs down (on someone or something)
down water something down
down wear someone down
down weigh someone down
down when it comes right down to it
down when the chips are down
down wind down
down write something down
downhill downhill all the way
downhill downhill from here on
downhill go downhill
downs ups and downs
dozen by the dozen
dozen one's daily dozen
dozen six of one and half a dozen of the other
dozen a dime a dozen
dozens by the dozens
drabs drabs and drabs
drag drag one's feet
drag in drag
drag knock-down-drag-out fight
drag Wild horses couldn't drag someone.
drag a drag (on someone)
dragged feel dragged out
dragged look like something the cat dragged in
drain down the drain
drain pour money down the drain
draw beat someone to the draw

- draw** draw a bead on someone or something
draw draw a blank
draw draw a line between something and something else
draw draw blood
draw draw interest
draw draw lots
draw draw someone or something out
draw draw (someone's) fire (away from someone or something)
draw draw something to a close
draw draw something up
draw draw straws
draw draw the line (at something)
draw draw the line between something and something else
draw draw to a close
draw quick on the draw
draw slow on the draw
drawing back to the drawing board
drawn drawn and quartered
Dream Dream on.
dream wouldn't dream of doing something
dream a dream come true
dream a pipe dream
dredge dredge something up
dress dress someone down
dressed all dressed up
dressed dressed to kill
dressed dressed to the nines
dressing give someone a (good) dressing-down
dribs dribs and drabs
dried cut-and-dried
drift get the drift of something
drink drink to excess
drink I'll drink to that!
drive drive a hard bargain
drive drive at something
drive drive someone crazy
drive drive someone mad
drive drive someone out (of office)
drive drive someone to the wall
drive drive someone up the wall
drive drive something home
drive drive something into the ground
driven (as) pure as the driven snow
driven (as) white as the driven snow
driven pure as the driven snow
driven white as the driven snow
driver's in the driver's seat
driving driving force (behind someone or something)
driving What are you driving at?
drop at the drop of a hat
drop drop a bomb(shell)
drop drop a brick
drop drop around (sometime)
drop drop by (sometime)
drop drop by the wayside
drop drop dead
drop drop everything
drop drop in one's tracks
drop drop in (on someone)
drop drop in (to say hello)
drop drop names
drop drop off (to sleep)
drop drop out (of something)
drop drop someone
drop drop the ball
drop drop the other shoe
drop drop the subject
drop so quiet you could hear a pin drop
drop so still you could hear a pin drop
drop a drop in the bucket
drop a drop in the ocean
droves bring people or other creatures out in droves
drown drown one's sorrows
drown drown one's troubles
drown drown someone or something out
drug drug on the market
drum (as) tight as a drum
drum drum some business up
drum drum someone out of something
drum drum something into someone('s head)
drum tight as a drum
drummer march to (the beat of) a different drummer
drunk (as) drunk as a lord
drunk (as) drunk as a skunk
drunk drunk and disorderly
drunk drunk as a lord
drunk drunk as a skunk
druthers have one's druthers
dry (as) dry as a bone
dry (as) dry as dust
dry (as) exciting as watching (the) paint dry
dry dry as a bone
dry dry as dust
dry dry run
dry dry someone out
dry dry up
dry exciting as watching (the) paint dry
dry high and dry
dry leave someone high and dry
dry not dry behind the ears
duck as a duck takes to water
duck (as) easy as duck soup
duck duck and cover
duck easy as duck soup
duck like a sitting duck
duck a dead duck
duck a sitting duck
ducks get one's ducks in a row
ducks like sitting ducks
duck's like water off a duck's back
ducks lovely weather for ducks
dudgeon in high dudgeon
due give credit where credit is due
due give the devil her due
due give the devil his due
due in due course
due in due time
dues pay one's dues
dull All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
dull (as) dull as dishwater
dull (as) dull as ditchwater

- dull** dull as dishwater
dull dull as ditchwater
dumb deaf and dumb
dumb play dumb
dumps down in the dumps
duration for the duration
dusk from dawn to dusk
dust (as) dry as dust
dust bite the dust
dust dry as dust
Dutch Dutch auction
Dutch Dutch courage
Dutch Dutch treat
Dutch Dutch uncle
Dutch go Dutch
Dutch in Dutch (with someone)
duty (above and) beyond the call of duty
duty beyond the call of duty
duty do one's duty
duty duty bound (to do something)
duty in the line of duty
duty off duty
duty on active duty
duty on duty
duty shirk one's duty
dyed dyed-in-the-wool
dying dying to do something
each made for each other
each with each passing day
eager an eager beaver
eagle an eagle eye
ear bend someone's ear
ear get someone's ear
ear give (an) ear to someone or something
ear give one's ear to someone or something
ear go in one ear and out the other
ear have an ear for something
ear have one's ear to the ground
ear in one ear and out (of) the other
ear keep one's ear to the ground
ear lend an ear (to someone)
ear make a silk purse out of a sow's ear
ear play by ear
ear play something by ear
ear talk someone's ear off
ear turn a deaf ear (to someone or something)
earful get an earful
earful give someone an earful
earliest at someone's earliest convenience
early at an early date
early bright and early
early early bird
early early on
Early Early to bed, early to rise(, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.)
early The early bird gets the worm.
earn earn one's keep
earned A penny saved is a penny earned.
earnest in earnest
ears assault the ears
ears be all ears
ears be all eyes (and ears)
ears fall on deaf ears
ears not dry behind the ears
ears one's ears are red
ears one's ears are ringing
ears pin someone's ears back
ears prick up one's ears
ears up to one's ears (in something)
ears Walls have ears.
ears wet behind the ears
earshot out of earshot
earth all over the earth
earth come down to earth
earth down-to-earth
earth hell on earth
earth like nothing on earth
earth move heaven and earth to do something
earth on earth
earth run someone or something to earth
earth to the ends of the earth
earth a paradise (on earth)
earth the salt of the earth
ease at ease
ease ease off (on someone or something)
ease ease up (on someone or something)
ease ill at ease
ease with ease
easier (be) easier said than done
easier easier said than done
easily able to breathe (easily) again
East back East
easy (as) easy as ABC
easy (as) easy as (apple) pie
easy (as) easy as duck soup
easy (as) easy as falling off a log
easy (as) easy as rolling off a log
easy breathe easy
easy easy as ABC
easy easy as (apple) pie
easy easy as duck soup
easy easy as falling off a log
easy easy as rolling off a log
easy easy come, easy go
Easy Easy does it.
easy easy to come by
easy free and easy
easy get off easy
easy go easy (on someone or something)
easy let someone off easy
easy on easy street
easy Take it easy.
easy take it easy (on someone or something)
eat dog-eat-dog
eat eat (a meal) out
eat eat and run
eat eat away at someone or something
eat eat high on the hog
eat eat humble pie
eat eat like a bird
eat eat like a horse
eat eat one's cake and have it too
eat eat one's hat
eat eat one's heart out

- eat eat one's words
eat eat out of someone's hands
eat eat someone out
eat eat something up
eat grab a bite (to eat)
eat have one's cake and eat it too
eat make someone eat crow
eat so clean you could eat off the floor
ebb ebb and flow
edge edge someone out
edge get the edge on someone
edge get the edge over someone
edge on edge
edge set someone's teeth on edge
edge take the edge off (something)
edgewise get a word in edgewise
edgewise get a word in edgewise
eel (as) slippery as an eel
eel slippery as an eel
effect go into effect
effect have a bad effect (on someone or something)
effect in effect
effect or words to that effect
effect something to that effect
effect take effect
effect words to that effect
effigy burn someone in effigy
effigy hang someone in effigy
effort make an all-out effort
effort an A for effort
effort an all-out effort
effort a last-ditch effort
egg egg someone on
egg Go fry an egg!
egg have egg on one's face
egg lay an egg
eggs put all one's eggs in one basket
eggs teach one's grandmother to suck eggs
eggs walk on eggs
eight behind the eight ball
either either feast or famine
elbow elbow someone out (of something)
elbow use some elbow grease
elbows rub elbows (with someone)
element in one's element
element out of one's element
elephant white elephant
eleventh at the eleventh hour
eleventh eleventh-hour decision
else better off (if one were somewhere else)
else draw a line between something and something else
else mistake someone for someone else
else mix someone up with someone else
else name someone after someone else
else name someone for someone else
else no love lost (between someone and someone else)
else or else
else play someone off against someone else
else something else
else torn between choosing something or something else
else work something into something else
else's in someone else's place
else's in someone else's shoes
else's put oneself in someone else's place
else's put oneself in someone else's shoes
'em Stick 'em up!
emotions let one's emotions show
empty come away empty-handed
empty go away empty-handed
end at one's wit's end
end at the end of nowhere
end at the end of one's rope
end at the end of one's tether
end at the end of the day
end be-all and (the) end-all
end beginning of the end
end can't see beyond the end of one's nose
end come to a bad end
end come to a dead end
end come to an end
end come to an untimely end
end end something up
end end up by doing something
end end up doing something
end end up (somehow)
end end up somewhere
end end up with the short end of the stick
end for days on end
end for hours on end
end get the short end of the stick
end go off the deep end
end hold one's end (of the bargain) up
end jump off the deep end
end live up to one's end of the bargain
end make someone's hair stand on end
end meet one's end
end no end of something
end not see farther than the end of one's nose
end not see past the end of one's nose
end put an end to something
end see the light (at the end of the tunnel)
end to the bitter end
end an end in itself
end the be-all and (the) end-all
end the business end of something
end the end of the line
end the end of the road
ends All's well that ends well.
ends at loose ends
ends burn the candle at both ends
ends make (both) ends meet
ends odds and ends
ends play both ends (against the middle)
ends to the ends of the earth
engage engage in small talk
English in plain English
Enjoy Enjoy your meal.
enough angry enough to chew nails
enough close enough for government work
Enough Enough is enough.
enough enough to go (a)round
enough get up enough nerve (to do something)
enough good enough for someone or something
enough have had enough

enough leave well enough alone
enough let well enough alone
enough mad enough to chew nails
enough not enough room to swing a cat
enough not know enough to come in out of the rain
enough old enough to be someone's father
enough old enough to be someone's mother
enough There aren't enough hours in the day.
enter enter one's mind
enter enter the fray
entering breaking and entering
entirety in its entirety
entirety in their entirety
envy green with envy
equal equal to someone or something
equal other things being equal
equal separate but equal
errand do an errand
errand go on an errand
errand on a fool's errand
errand run an errand
errand send someone (out) on an errand
error trial and error
escape avenue of escape
escape escape someone's notice
essence in essence
eve on the eve of something
even break even
even even in the best of times
even even steven
even get even (with someone)
even keep on an even keel
even keep something on an even keel
event in any event
event in the event of something
event in the unlikely event of something
event in the unlikely event that something happens
ever ever and anon
ever forever and ever
ever live happily ever after
every at every turn
Every Every cloud has a silver lining.
Every Every dog has his day.
Every Every dog has its day.
every every inch a something
every every inch the something
every every last one
every every living soul
every every minute counts
every every moment counts
every every nook and cranny
every (every) now and again
every (every) now and then
every (every) once in a while
every every other person or thing
every every time one turns around
every (every) Tom, Dick, and Harry
every every which way
every hang on someone's every word
every use every trick in the book
every with every (other) breath
everyone You can't please everyone.

everyone the moment everyone has been waiting for
everything drop everything
everything everything but the kitchen sink
everything everything from A to Z
everything everything from soup to nuts
everything everything humanly possible
everything with everything (on it)
Everything's Everything's coming up roses.
everywhere here, there, and everywhere
evidence much in evidence
evil Money is the root of all evil.
evils the lesser of two evils
examine cross-examine someone
example hold someone or something up (as an example)
example make an example of someone
exception make an exception (for someone)
exception take exception (to something)
exception the exception that proves the rule
excess do something to excess
excess drink to excess
exchange exchange more than some number of words
 with someone
exchange in exchange (for someone or something)
excitement a ripple of excitement
exciting (as) exciting as watching (the) paint dry
exciting exciting as watching (the) paint dry
excuse excuse oneself
excuse excuse someone
excuse use someone or something as an excuse
exhibition make an exhibition of oneself
existence in existence
expectations measure up (to someone's expectations)
expected as I expected
expected (just) as I expected
expected when least expected
expecting expecting (a child)
expedition go on a fishing expedition
expense at the expense of someone or something
expense expense is no object
expense go to the expense (of doing something)
expenses out-of-pocket expenses
explain explain oneself
explain explain something away
explode explode a bombshell
express express one's anger
extend extend credit (to someone)
extend extend one's sympathy (to someone)
extend extend someone credit
extent to a great extent
extent to some extent
extenuating extenuating circumstances
extra go the extra mile
eye catch someone's eye
eye get a black eye
eye get someone's eye
eye give someone a black eye
eye give someone the eye
eye have an eye for someone or something
eye have an eye on someone or something
eye have an eye out (for someone or something)
eye Here's mud in your eye.
eye hit the bull's-eye

- eye in one's mind's eye
 eye in the public eye
 eye in the twinkling of an eye
 eye keep an eye on someone or something
 eye keep an eye out (for someone or something)
 eye keep one's eye on the ball
 eye keep one's weather eye open
 eye look someone in the eye
 eye more (to something) than meets the eye
 eye out of the corner of one's eye
 eye put someone's eye out
 eye see eye to eye (with someone) (about something)
 eye see eye to eye (with someone) (on something)
 eye turn a blind eye to someone or something
 eye with an eye to doing something
 eye without batting an eye
 eye an eagle eye
 eye a bird's-eye view
 eye the apple of someone's eye
 eye the eye of the storm
 eye the naked eye
 eyeball eyeball-to-eyeball
 eyeballs up to one's eyeballs (in something)
 eyebrows cause (some) eyebrows to raise
 eyebrows raise some eyebrows
 eyed bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
 eyed look at someone cross-eyed
 eyeiful get an eyeiful (of someone or something)
 eyelid not bat an eyelid
 eyes able to do something with one's eyes closed
 eyes be all eyes (and ears)
 eyes clap eyes on someone or something
 eyes close one's eyes to something
 eyes cry one's eyes out
 eyes feast one's eyes (on someone or something)
 eyes get stars in one's eyes
 eyes have eyes bigger than one's stomach
 eyes have eyes in the back of one's head
 eyes hit someone (right) between the eyes
 eyes keep one's eyes open (for someone or something)
 eyes keep one's eyes peeled (for someone or something)
 eyes lay eyes on someone or something
 eyes make eyes (at someone)
 eyes not believe one's eyes
 eyes One's eyes are bigger than one's stomach.
 eyes only have eyes for someone
 eyes open someone's eyes (to something)
 eyes pull the wool over someone's eyes
 eyes set eyes on someone or something
 eyes sight for sore eyes
 eyeteeth cut one's eyeteeth on something
 face (as) plain as the nose on one's face
 face at face value
 face blow up in someone's face
 face can't see one's hand in front of one's face
 face cut off one's nose to spite one's face
 face do an about-face
 face face someone down
 face face the music
 face face-to-face
 face fall flat (on its face)
 face fall flat (on one's face)
 face feed one's face
 face fly in the face of someone or something
 face fly into the face of danger
 face have egg on one's face
 face hide one's face in shame
 face keep a straight face
 face look someone in the face
 face lose face
 face make a face
 face not show one's face
 face on the face of it
 face plain as the nose on one's face
 face put on a brave face
 face red in the face
 face save (one's) face
 face say something (right) to someone's face
 face stare someone in the face
 face take someone or something at face value
 face take something at face value
 face talk until one is blue in the face
 face tell one to one's face
 face a slap in the face
 fact after the fact
 fact as a matter of fact
 fact grounded in fact
 fact in fact
 fact matter-of-fact
 fact a known fact
 facts get down to the facts
 facts get the facts straight
 facts the facts of life
 fail without fail
 failure doomed to failure
 faint damn someone or something with faint praise
 fair do something fair and square
 fair fair and impartial
 fair fair and square
 fair fair game
 fair fair-haired boy
 fair fair to middling
 fair fair-weather friend
 fair give someone a fair shake
 fair one's fair share
 fair play fair
 faith in bad faith
 faith in good faith
 faith pin one's faith on someone or something
 faith show good faith
 faith take something on faith
 faith an act of faith
 fall break someone's fall
 fall fall afoul of someone or something
 fall fall (all) over oneself
 fall fall all over someone
 fall fall apart at the seams
 fall fall asleep
 fall fall back on someone or something
 fall fall between two stools
 fall fall by the wayside
 fall fall down on the job
 fall fall flat (on its face)
 fall fall flat (on one's face)

fall fall for someone or something
fall fall from grace
fall fall head over heels
fall fall ill
fall fall in
fall fall off
fall fall on deaf ears
fall fall out
fall fall over backwards (to do something)
fall fall short (of something)
fall fall through
fall fall to
fall fall (up)on someone or something
fall Pride goes before a fall.
fall riding for a fall
falling (as) easy as falling off a log
falling easy as falling off a log
fallow lie fallow
false lull someone into a false sense of security
false sail under false colors
familiar familiar with someone or something
familiar have a familiar ring
Familiarity Familiarity breeds contempt.
family (all) in the family
family in a family way
family in the family
family like one of the family
family run in the family
family the black sheep of the family
famine either feast or famine
fan fan the flames (of something)
fan a fan of someone
fancy flight of fancy
fancy footloose and fancy-free
fancy strike someone's fancy
fancy take a fancy to someone or something
fancy tickle someone's fancy
far (as) far as anyone knows
far as far as it goes
far as far as possible
far (as) far as someone or something is concerned
far come from far and wide
far far and away the best
far far as anyone knows
far far as something is concerned
far far be it from me to do something
far far from it
far far into the night
far far out
far few and far between
far from far and near
far from near and far
far go so far as to say something
far go too far
far make it as far as something
far so far as anyone knows
far so far as possible
far so far as someone or something is concerned
far so far as something is concerned
far So far, so good.
far a far-away look
far a far cry from something

far a far-off look
farm farm someone or something out
farther not see farther than the end of one's nose
fashion after a fashion
fashion after the fashion of someone or something
fashion go out of fashion
fashion in fashion
fashion out of fashion
fast fast and furious
fast get nowhere fast
fast hard-and-fast
fast make a fast buck
fast make fast work of someone or something
fast play fast and loose (with someone or something)
fast pull a fast one
fast thick and fast
faster faster and faster
fat (as) fat as a pig
fat chew the fat
fat fat and happy
fat fat as a pig
fat fat chance
fat live off the fat of the land
fate leave one to one's fate
father old enough to be someone's father
fatted kill the fatted calf
fault find fault (with someone or something)
fault generous to a fault
fauna flora and fauna
favor curry favor (with someone)
favor decide in favor of someone or something
favor favor someone or something with something
favor in favor of someone
favor in favor (of someone or something)
favor in someone's favor
favor out of favor (with someone)
favor return the favor
fear fools rush in (where angels fear to tread)
fear for fear of something
fear in fear and trembling
fear never fear
feast either feast or famine
feast feast one's eyes (on someone or something)
feather (as) light as a feather
feather Birds of a feather flock together.
feather feather one's (own) nest
feather in fine feather
feather knock someone over with a feather
feather light as a feather
feather tar and feather someone
feather a feather in one's cap
feathers make the feathers fly
feathers ruffle its feathers
feathers ruffle someone's feathers
fed fed up (to somewhere) (with someone or something)
federal make a federal case out of something
feed feed one's face
feed feed someone a line
feed feed the kitty
feed for chicken feed
feed put on the feed bag
feed spoon-feed someone

- feeds** bite the hand that feeds one
feel feel a glow of something
feel feel at home
feel feel dragged out
feel feel fit
feel feel free (to do something)
feel feel it beneath one (to do something)
feel feel like a million (dollars)
feel feel like a new person
feel feel like doing something
feel feel like (having) something
feel feel one's gorge rise
feel feel on top of the world
feel feel out of place
feel feel put-upon
feel feel someone out
feel feel something in one's bones
feel feel the pinch
feel feel up to something
feel get a feel for something
feel get the feel of something
feel have the feel of something
feelers put out (some) feelers
feeling feeling no pain
feeling gut feeling
feeling have a feeling about something
feeling have a feeling (that)
feeling I just have this feeling
feelings have mixed feelings (about someone or something)
feelings no hard feelings
feet dead on its feet
feet dead on one's feet
feet drag one's feet
feet find one's feet
feet get a load off one's feet
feet get back on one's feet
feet get cold feet
feet get one's feet on the ground
feet get one's feet wet
feet get to one's feet
feet have cold feet
feet have feet of clay
feet have one's feet on the ground
feet keep one's feet on the ground
feet knock one off one's feet
feet land on both feet
feet land on one's feet
feet let grass grow under one's feet
feet on one's feet
feet regain one's feet
feet sit at someone's feet
feet stand on one's own two feet
feet sweep one off one's feet
feet take a load off one's feet
feet think on one's feet
feet throw oneself at someone's feet
feet vote with one's feet
feet the balls of one's feet
fell at one fell swoop
fell in one fell swoop
fell a hush fell over someone or something
fellow hail-fellow-well-met
fence fence someone in
fence on the fence (about something)
fence sit on the fence
fences mend (one's) fences
fend fend for oneself
ferret ferret something out of someone or something
fever run a fever
few drop someone a few lines
few few and far between
few precious few
few quite a few
few wash a few things out
few a few cards short of a deck
few a few cards shy of a full deck
fiddle (as) fit as a fiddle
fiddle fiddle about (with someone or something)
fiddle fiddle around (with someone or something)
fiddle fiddle while Rome burns
fiddle fit as a fiddle
fiddle play second fiddle (to someone)
field come out of left field
field field questions
field have a field day
field out in left field
field play the field
fifty divide something fifty-fifty
fifty go fifty-fifty (on something)
fifty split something fifty-fifty
fight fight against time
fight fight someone or something hammer and tongs
fight fight someone or something tooth and nail
fight knock-down-drag-out fight
fight pick a fight with someone
fighting go down fighting
fighting Them's fighting words.
fighting a fighting chance
figure cut a fine figure
figure figure in something
figure figure on something
figure figure someone or something out
figures in round figures
file have something on file
file (in) single file
file rank and file
file single file
fill back and fill
fill fill someone's shoes
fill fill someone in (on someone or something)
fill fill the bill
fill get one's fill of someone or something
filled filled to the brim
final get the final word
final in the final analysis
final a final fling
find find a happy medium
find find fault (with someone or something)
find find it in one's heart (to do something)
find find it's way somewhere
find find oneself
find find one's feet
find find one's own level

find find one's tongue
find find one's way (around)
find find one's way somewhere
find find someone or something out
find find someone guilty
find find someone innocent
find find (something) out the hard way
Finders Finders keepers, losers weepers).
fine cut a fine figure
fine fine and dandy
fine go over something with a fine-tooth comb
fine in fine feather
fine search something with a fine-tooth comb
fine a fine how-de-do
fine a fine how-do-you-do
fine a fine kettle of fish
fine a fine state of affairs
fine the fine print
finger have a finger in the pie
finger have one's finger in the pie
finger have one's finger in too many pies
finger lay a finger on someone or something
finger lay the finger on someone
finger not lift a finger (to help someone)
finger point the finger at someone
finger put one's finger on something
finger put the finger on someone
finger twist someone around one's little finger
fingers cross one's fingers
fingers get one's fingers burned
fingers have sticky fingers
fingers keep one's fingers crossed (for someone or something)
fingers slip through someone's fingers
fingers work one's fingers to the bone
fingerprints have something at one's fingertips
finish from start to finish
fire add fuel to the fire
fire (as) hot as fire
fire ball of fire
fire baptism of fire
fire build a fire under someone
fire catch fire
fire catch (on) fire
fire caught in the cross fire
fire draw (someone's) fire (away from someone or something)
fire fire a gun
fire fire away at someone or something
fire hang fire
fire have too many irons in the fire
fire hold one's fire
fire hot as fire
fire like a house on fire
fire on fire
fire open fire (on someone)
fire out of the frying pan into the fire
fire play with fire
fire set fire to someone or something
fire set someone or something on fire
fire set the world on fire
fire under fire

fire Where there's smoke there's fire.
fires keep the home fires burning
firing firing on all cylinders
first at first
first cast the first stone
first first and foremost
first first and ten
First First come, first served.
first first of all
first first off
first first thing (in the morning)
first first things first
first get to first base (with someone or something)
first in the first instance
first in the first place
first love at first sight
first not know the first thing about someone or something
first of the first water
first on a first-name basis (with someone)
first play first chair
first reach first base (with someone or something)
fish (as) crooked as a barrel of fishhooks
fish (as) crooked as a fishhook
fish crooked as a barrel of fishhooks
fish crooked as a fishhook
fish fish for a compliment
fish fish for something
fish fish in troubled waters
fish fish or cut bait
fish have bigger fish to fry
fish have more important fish to fry
fish have other fish to fry
fish like a fish out of water
fish neither fish nor fowl
fish There are plenty of other fish in the sea.
fish a cold fish
fish a fine kettle of fish
fishing go on a fishing expedition
fist hand over fist
fit (as) fit as a fiddle
fit feel fit
fit fit and trim
fit fit as a fiddle
fit fit for a king
fit fit in someone
fit fit in (with someone or something)
fit fit like a glove
fit fit someone or something out (with something)
fit fit someone in(to something)
fit fit someone to a T
fit fit the bill
fit fit to be tied
fit fit to kill
fit have a conniption (fit)
fit have a fit
fit see fit (to do something)
fit think someone or something fit for something
fit throw a fit
fits by fits and starts
fits If the shoe fits, wear it.
fittest the survival of the fittest
five take five

- five** a nine-to-five job
fix fix someone's wagon
fix fix someone up (with someone or something)
fix get a fix on something
fix give someone a fix on something
fix in a fix
fixed well-fixed
fixings with all the fixings
fizzle fizzle out
flame add fuel to the flame
flame burn with a low blue flame
flames burst into flames
flames fan the flames (of something)
flames go up in flames
flare flare up
flash (as) quick as a flash
flash in a flash
flash quick as a flash
flash a flash in the pan
flat (as) flat as a board
flat (as) flat as a pancake
flat fall flat (on its face)
flat fall flat (on one's face)
flat flat as a board
flat flat as a pancake
flat flat broke
flat flat out
flat in nothing flat
flat leave someone flat
Flattery Flattery will get you nowhere.
flea not hurt a flea
flesh flesh and blood
flesh flesh something out
flesh in the flesh
flesh make someone's flesh crawl
flies as the crow flies
flies no flies on someone
flies time flies
flight flight of fancy
flight in flight
fling fling oneself at someone
fling a final fling
flip do a flip-flop (on something)
flip flip one's lid
flip flip one's wig
flirt flirt with the idea of doing something
float float a loan
flock Birds of a feather flock together.
floor get in (on the ground floor)
floor get the floor
floor mop the floor up with someone
floor so clean you could eat off the floor
floor walk the floor
floor wipe the floor up with someone
flop do a flip-flop (on something)
flora flora and fauna
flotsam flotsam and jetsam
flow ebb and flow
flow go with the flow
fluff fluff one's lines
flunk flunk out
flunk flunk someone out
flush flush with something
flux in a (constant) state of flux
flux in flux
fly do something on the fly
fly fly-by-night
fly fly in the face of someone or something
fly fly in the teeth of someone or something
fly fly into the face of danger
fly fly off the handle
fly fly the coop
fly Go fly a kite!
fly it'll never fly.
fly make the feathers fly
fly make the fur fly
fly a fly in the ointment
flying be flying high
flying come through something with flying colors
flying get off to a flying start
flying with flying colors
foam foam at the mouth
fob fob something off (on someone)
foe friend or foe
fog able to fog a mirror
fog in a fog
foist foist something (off) on someone
fold fold one's hands
fold fold something up
fold fold, spindle, or mutilate
fold fold up
follow follow in someone's footsteps
follow follow in someone's tracks
follow follow one's heart
follow follow one's nose
follow follow orders
follow follow someone or something up
follow follow someone's lead
follow follow suit
follow follow the crowd
follow follow through (on something)
follow follow up (on someone or something)
follow follow up (on something)
follow a tough act to follow
fond fond of someone or something
food food for thought
fool fool around (with someone or something)
fool make a fool out of someone
fool nobody's fool
fool play the fool
fool take someone for a fool
fool A fool and his money are soon parted.
foolish penny-wise and pound-foolish
fools fools rush in (where angels fear to tread)
fool's in a fool's paradise
fool's on a fool's errand
foot be off on the wrong foot
foot bound hand and foot
foot foot the bill
foot get off on the wrong foot
foot get one's foot in the door
foot have a foot in both camps
foot have foot-in-mouth disease
foot have one foot in the grave

- foot** have the shoe on the other foot
foot not set foot somewhere
foot on foot
foot put one's best foot forward
foot put one's foot down (about something)
foot put one's foot in it
foot put one's foot in one's mouth
foot set foot somewhere
foot start off on the wrong foot
foot stick one's foot in one's mouth
foot wait on someone hand and foot
foot wouldn't touch something with a ten-foot pole
foot The shoe is on the other foot.
foothold get a foothold (somewhere)
footloose footloose and fancy-free
footsie play footsie (with someone)
footsteps follow in someone's footsteps
for acquire a taste for something
for all for something
for (all) for the best
for allow for someone or something
for All right for you!
for answer for someone or something
for arguing for the sake of arguing
for arguing for the sake of argument
for as for someone or something
for ask for something
for ask for the moon
for ask for trouble
for at a loss (for words)
for augur well for someone or something
for bargain for something
for be curtains for someone or something
for bound for somewhere
for break ground (for something)
for break something down (for someone)
for buck for something
for but for someone or something
for buy something for a song
for call for someone or something
for can't wait (for something to happen)
for carry a torch (for someone)
for cast about for someone or something
for cast around for someone or something
for close enough for government work
for come in for something
for come out for someone or something
for count someone out (for something)
for cover for someone
for crazy for someone or something
for crying need for someone or something
for cut out for something
for dollar for dollar
for do something for a living
for down for the count
for fall for someone or something
for fall in for something
for fend for oneself
for fish for a compliment
for fish for something
for fit for a king
for food for thought
for for a lark
for for all I care
for for all I know
for for all intents and purposes
for for all it's worth
for for all practical purposes
for for all something
for for all the world
for for better or for worse
for for chicken feed
For For crying out loud!
for for days on end
for for fear of something
for for free
for for good
for for hours on end
for for instance
for for keeps
for for kicks
for fork money out (for something)
for for life
for for one's (own) part
for for one's (own) sake
for for openers
for for peanuts
for for real
for for safekeeping
for for sale
for for short
for for starters
for for sure
for for that matter
for for the best
for for the better
for for the birds
for for the devil of it
for for the duration
for for the good of someone or something
for for the heck of it
for for the hell of it
for for the life of one
for for the moment
for for the most part
for for the odds to be against one
for for the record
for for the sake of someone or something
for for the time being
for for what(ever) it's worth
for free-for-all
for gear (oneself) up (for something)
for get a feel for something
for get a reputation (for doing something)
for get a run for one's money
for get credit (for something)
for get time off for good behavior
for give one a run for one's money
for give someone a hand (for something)
for give someone a reputation (for doing something)
for give someone credit (for something)
for give someone tit for tat
for give someone what for
for glutton for punishment

- for go along for the ride
 for go for broke
 for go for it
 for go for someone or something
 for go in for something
 for good enough for someone or something
 for good-for-nothing
 for go out (for something)
 for go to bat for someone
 for grist for someone's mill
 for grounds for something
 for gulp for air
 for gun for someone
 for hard up (for something)
 for have a head for something
 for have a look for someone or something
 for have a lot going (for one)
 for have an ear for something
 for have an eye for someone or something
 for have an eye out (for someone or something)
 for have an itch for something
 for have a nose for something
 for have a passion for someone or something
 for have a penchant for doing something
 for have a soft spot in one's heart for someone or something
 for have a taste for something
 for have a weakness for someone or something
 for Have I got something for you!
 for have it in for someone
 for have one for the road
 for have one's work cut out for one
 for have something going (for oneself)
 for have something in store (for someone)
 for head for someone or something
 for head for the last roundup
 for hell-bent for leather
 for hit someone up (for something)
 for hold no brief for someone or something
 for hold out for something
 for hold still for something
 for hold up (for someone or something)
 for hunger for something
 for hungry for something
 for hunt high and low (for someone or something)
 for in exchange (for someone or something)
 for in for something
 for in return for (someone or something)
 for in the market (for something)
 for in the mood for something
 for issue a call for something
 for jockey for position
 for keep an eye out (for someone or something)
 for keep one's eyes open (for someone or something)
 for keep one's eyes peeled (for someone or something)
 for keep one's fingers crossed (for someone or something)
 for kick oneself (for doing something)
 for knock someone for a loop
 for lay down one's life (for someone or something)
 for leave oneself wide open for something
 for leave someone for dead
 for lie in wait for someone or something
 for light out (for somewhere)
 for like looking for a needle in a haystack
 for line someone up (for something)
 for live for the moment
 for loaded for bear
 for look for trouble
 for look high and low (for someone or something)
 for look out for someone or something
 for look to someone or something (for something)
 for lovely weather for ducks
 for made for each other
 for mad for someone or something
 for make a beeline for someone or something
 for make a break for something or somewhere
 for make allowance(s) (for someone or something)
 for make amends (for something)
 for make a name (for oneself)
 for make an exception (for someone)
 for make a pitch (for someone or something)
 for make a play (for someone)
 for make arrangements (for someone or something)
 for make a run for it
 for make for somewhere
 for make it hot for someone
 for make life miserable for someone
 for make someone the scapegoat for something
 for make time (for someone or something)
 for make up for lost time
 for make up for someone or something
 for make way (for someone or something)
 for mean for someone to do something
 for meet the requirements (for something)
 for milk someone for something
 for mistake someone for someone else
 for more than someone bargained for
 for name someone for someone else
 for none the worse for wear
 for not able to see the forest for the trees
 for not for a moment
 for not for (anything in) the world
 for not for hire
 for not for love nor money
 for not for publication
 for not long for this world
 for not take no for an answer
 for once and for all
 for one for the (record) books
 for one's for the asking
 for one's work is cut out for one
 for only have eyes for someone
 for on the alert (for someone or something)
 for on the lookout (for someone or something)
 for open for business
 for out of consideration (for someone or something)
 for par for the course
 for pass for someone or something
 for pave the way (for someone or something)
 for pay a king's ransom (for something)
 for pay an arm and a leg (for something)
 for pay for something
 for pay through the nose (for something)
 for pinch-hit (for someone)

for play for keeps
for play someone for something
for poised for something
for pressed for time
for psyched up (for something)
for put in a good word (for someone)
for put one's head on the block (for someone or something)
for put someone down (for something)
for reach for the sky
for recognize one for what one is
for recognize something for what it is
for riding for a fall
for roll out the red carpet for someone
for root for someone or something
for run for it
for run for one's life
for save something for a rainy day
for save up (for something)
for scout around for someone or something
for scratch around (for something)
for search high and low (for someone or something)
for sell something for a song
for set sail (for somewhere)
for set the stage for something
for settle for something
for shift for oneself
for shoot for something
for shop around (for something)
for short for something
for sight for sore eyes
for sit in for someone
for slated for something
for so much for someone or something
for speak for itself
for speak for themselves
for speak up for someone or something
for spoken for
for spring for something
for square off (for something)
for stand for something
for stand in (for someone)
for stand still for something
for stick one's neck out (for someone or something)
for stick up for someone or something
for strapped (for something)
for take a look for someone or something
for take a turn for the better
for take a turn for the worse
for taken for dead
for take someone or something for granted
for take someone for a fool
for take someone for an idiot
for take someone for a ride
for take someone for someone or something
for take the rap (for someone or something)
for thankful for small blessings
for Thank you for sharing.
for That's all for someone.
for There's no accounting for taste.
for think someone or something fit for something
for thirsty for something

for throw a party (for someone)
for throw someone for a loop
for throw someone for a loss
for too big for one's britches
for too close for comfort
for touch someone for something
for trouble someone for something
for try out (for something)
for turn to someone or something (for something)
for up for grabs
for up for something
for wait up (for someone or something)
for want for nothing
for watch out for someone or something
for what for
for word for word
for work out for the best
for would give one's right arm (for someone or something)
for an affinity for someone or something
for an A for effort
for a match for someone, something, or some creature
for a Mecca for someone
for a thirst for something
for the moment everyone has been waiting for
forbidden forbidden fruit
force driving force (behind someone or something)
force force someone or something down someone's throat
force force someone's hand
force force someone out (of office)
force force someone to the wall
force in force
force out in force
force a force to be reckoned with
forces join forces (with someone)
fore come to the fore
fore fore and aft
forefront at the forefront (of something)
forefront in the forefront (of something)
foregone a foregone conclusion
foremost first and foremost
forest not able to see the forest for the trees
forever forever and a day
forever forever and ever
forever lost and gone forever
forget forget oneself
forget forgive and forget
forgive forgive and forget
forgotten gone but not forgotten
fork fork money out (for something)
fork fork something over
forked speak with a forked tongue
form form and substance
form form an opinion
form in top form
form true to form
fort hold the fort
forth and so forth
forth back and forth
forth hold forth (on something)
forth launch forth (on something)
forth set forth (on something)
forty catch forty winks

- forty** forty winks
forty take forty winks
forward from this day forward
forward look forward to something
forward put one's best foot forward
forward put something forward
forwards know something backwards and forwards
forwards know something forwards and backwards
foul foul one's own nest
foul foul play
foul foul someone or something up
foul foul up
fouled fouled up
found lost-and-found
fours on all fours
fowl neither fish nor fowl
fox (as) sly as a fox
fox sly as a fox
fraught fraught with danger
fray enter the fray
fray join the fray
fray jump into the fray
free (as) free as a bird
free (as) free as (the) air
free feel free (to do something)
free footloose and fancy-free
free for free
free free and clear
free free and easy
free free as a bird
free free as (the) air
free free-for-all
free free translation
free get a free hand (with someone or something)
free get off scot-free
free give free rein to someone
free give someone a free hand (with something)
free give someone free rein
free go scot-free
free make free with someone or something
free of one's own free will
free set someone or something free
freedom give one one's freedom
freely able to breathe (freely) again
freezes until hell freezes over
freezes when hell freezes over
French Pardon my French.
fresh (as) fresh as a daisy
fresh fresh as a daisy
fresh fresh out (of something)
fresh get fresh (with someone)
fresh a breath of fresh air
friend fair-weather friend
friend friend or foe
friend make a friend
friend A friend in need is a friend indeed.
friends be friends with someone
friends make friends
friendship strike up a friendship
frighten frighten one out of one's wits
frighten frighten someone to death
frighten frighten the (living) daylights out of someone
frighten frighten the wits out of someone
frightened frightened to death
fringe the lunatic fringe
fritter fritter something away
fritz on the fritz
fro to and fro
frog get a frog in one's throat
frog have a frog in one's throat
frog a big frog in a small pond
froing toing and froing (on something)
from another country heard from
from aside from someone or something
from away from one's desk
from back down (from someone or something)
from back off (from someone or something)
from be a heartbeat away from something
from be from Missouri
from break loose (from someone or something)
from come from far and wide
from come from nowhere
from cut from the same cloth
from cut loose (from someone or something)
from cut the ground out from under someone
from downhill from here on
from draw (someone's) fire (away from someone or something)
from everything from A to Z
from everything from soup to nuts
from fall from grace
from far be it from me to do something
from far from it
from from dawn to dusk
from from day to day
from from door to door
from from far and near
from from hand to hand
from from head to toe
from from near and far
from from overseas
from from pillar to post
from from rags to riches
from from side to side
from from start to finish
from from stem to stern
from from the bottom of one's heart
from from the cradle to the grave
from from the ground up
from from the heart
from from the horse's mouth
from from the old school
from from the outset
from from the top
from from the word *go*
from from this day forward
from from this day on
from from time to time
from from tip to toe
from from top to bottom
from from way back
from get a dirty look from someone
from get away (from it all)
from get out from under someone or something

- from** go from bad to worse
from hail from somewhere
from (just) a stone's throw away (from something)
from keep from doing something
from keep one's distance (from someone or something)
from keep someone from doing something
from keep the wolf from the door
from knock the props out from under someone
from know something from memory
from learn something from the bottom up
from live from hand to mouth
from made from the same mold
from make something from scratch
from nothing to choose from
from not know from nothing
from not know someone from Adam
from out from under (something)
from pull the rug out (from under someone)
from separate the men from the boys
from separate the sheep from the goats
from shoot from the hip
from shuttle someone or something from person to person
from shuttle someone or something from place to place
from shy away (from someone or something)
from start from scratch
from step down (from something)
from (straight) from the horse's mouth
from straight from the shoulder
from take off (from work)
from take one's cue from someone
from where one is coming from
from a far cry from something
from a stone's throw (away) (from something)
front burn one's bridges in front of one
front can't see one's hand in front of one's face
front out front
front put on a (brave) front
front put up a (brave) front
front up-front
fruit bear fruit
fruit forbidden fruit
fruitcake (as) nutty as a fruitcake
fruitcake nutty as a fruitcake
fruits fruit(s) of one's labor(s)
fry Go fry an egg!
fry have bigger fish to fry
fry have more important fish to fry
fry have other fish to fry
fry small fry
frying out of the frying pan into the fire
fuel add fuel to the fire
fuel add fuel to the flame
full (as) full as a tick
full (at) full blast
full at full speed
full at full tilt
full come full circle
full full as a tick
full full blast
full full of beans
full full of bull
full full of hot air
full full of it
full full of Old Nick
full full of oneself
full full of prunes
full full of the devil
full full steam ahead
full get into full swing
full have one's hands full (with someone or something)
full in full swing
full a few cards shy of a full deck
fun as much fun as a barrel of monkeys
fun fun and games
fun make fun (of someone or something)
fun more fun than a barrel of monkeys
fun poke fun (at someone)
funny (as) funny as a barrel of monkeys
funny (as) funny as a crutch
funny funny as a barrel of monkeys
funny funny as a crutch
funny funny business
funny funny ha-ha
funny funny peculiar
funny strike someone funny
fur make the fur fly
fur rub someone's fur the wrong way
furious fast and furious
further Don't let it go any further.
further without further ado
fuse blow a fuse
fuss kick up a fuss
fuss make a fuss (over someone or something)
future in the near future
gab have the gift of gab
gained Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
gains ill-gotten gains
gall have the gall to do something
gallery play to the gallery
gambit opening gambit
game ahead of the game
game at this stage of the game
game be game
game fair game
game give the game away
game new ball game
game (whole) new ball game
game a game that two can play
game The game is up.
game the name of the game
games fun and games
gamut run the gamut
gander take a gander (at someone or something)
gang gang up (on someone)
gangbusters come on like gangbusters
garden lead someone down the garden path
gas cooking with gas
gas gas up
gas out of gas
gas run out of gas
gas step on the gas
gas a gas
gasket blow a gasket

- p
-
- gasp at the last gasp
-
- gate get the gate
-
- gate give someone the gate
-
- gather gather a case (against someone)
-
- gathers A rolling stone gathers no moss.
-
- gaudy (as) gaudy as a butterfly
-
- gaudy gaudy as a butterfly
-
- gauntlet throw down the gauntlet
-
- gear gear (oneself) up (for something)
-
- gear gear something to someone or something
-
- gear get into high gear
-
- gear in high gear
-
- general as a (general) rule
-
- general in general
-
- generous generous to a fault
-
- gentle (as) gentle as a lamb
-
- gentle gentle as a lamb
-
- get Come and get it!
-
- get Don't let someone or something get you down.
-
- get Flattery will get you nowhere.
-
- get get a bang out of someone or something
-
- get get a bee in one's bonnet
-
- get get a big send-off
-
- get get a black eye
-
- get get a break
-
- get get a bright idea
-
- get get a charge out of someone or something
-
- get get a charley horse
-
- get get a checkup
-
- get get a clean bill of health
-
- get get a crush on someone
-
- get get a dirty look from someone
-
- get get a feel for something
-
- get get a fix on something
-
- get get a foothold (somewhere)
-
- get get a free hand (with someone or something)
-
- get get a frog in one's throat
-
- get get after someone
-
- get get a grasp of something
-
- get get a handle on something
-
- get get a hand with something
-
- get get ahead of oneself
-
- get get a head start (on someone or something)
-
- get get (a)hold of someone or something
-
- get get a hurry on
-
- get get a jump(start)
-
- get get a kick out of someone or something
-
- get get a licking
-
- Get Get a life!
-
- get get a line on someone or something
-
- get get (all) dolled up
-
- get get a load off one's feet
-
- get get a load off one's mind
-
- get get a load of someone or something
-
- get get along (in years)
-
- get get along (on a shoestring)
-
- get get along (without (someone or something))
-
- get get along (with someone or something)
-
- get get a lot of mileage out of something
-
- get get a lump in one's throat
-
- get get an earful
-
- get get an eyeful (of someone or something)
-
- get get an in (with someone)
-
- get get another guess coming
-
- get get another think coming
-
- get get ants in one's pants
-
- get get a rain check (on something)
-
- get get a raw deal
-
- get get a reputation (as a something)
-
- get get a reputation (for doing something)
-
- get get a rise out of someone
-
- get get a rough idea (about something)
-
- get get a rough idea (of something)
-
- get get around
-
- get get (around) to something
-
- get get a run for one's money
-
- get get a shellacking
-
- get get a slap on the wrist
-
- get get a start
-
- get get a taste of one's own medicine
-
- get get a thing about someone or something
-
- get get a toehold (somewhere)
-
- get get a tongue-lashing
-
- get get at someone or something
-
- get get at the heart of the matter
-
- get get away (from it all)
-
- get get away with something
-
- get get a whiff of something
-
- get get a word in edgeways
-
- get get a word in edgewise
-
- get get back (at someone)
-
- get get back into circulation
-
- get get back into harness
-
- get get back on one's feet
-
- get get back (to someone)
-
- get get better
-
- get get busy
-
- get get butterflies in one's stomach
-
- get get by (on something)
-
- get get by (with something)
-
- get get carried away
-
- get get close (to someone or something)
-
- get get cold feet
-
- get get cracking
-
- get get credit (for something)
-
- get get down to brass tacks
-
- get get down to business
-
- get get down to cases
-
- get get down to something
-
- get get down to the facts
-
- get get down to the nitty-gritty
-
- get get down to work
-
- get get even (with someone)
-
- get get fresh (with someone)
-
- get get goose bumps
-
- get get goose pimples
-
- get get gray hair(s)
-
- get get hell
-
- get get in on something
-
- get get in (on the ground floor)
-
- get get in someone's hair
-
- get get into a jam
-
- get get into a mess
-
- get get into an argument (with someone)

get get into full swing
 get get into high gear
 get get in(to) hot water
 get get into the act
 get get into the swing of things
 get get in touch (with someone)
 get get involved (with someone)
 get get it
 get get lost
 get get mad (at someone or something)
 get get married
 get get mixed-up
 get get nowhere fast
 get get off
 get get (oneself) into a stew (over someone or something)
 get get one's act together
 get get one's bearings
 get get one's comeuppance
 get get one's ducks in a row
 get get one's feet on the ground
 get get one's feet wet
 get get one's fill of someone or something
 get get one's fingers burned
 get get one's foot in the door
 get get one's hands dirty
 get get one's hands on someone or something
 get get one's head above water
 get get one's hooks into someone or something
 get get one's just deserts
 get get one's just reward(s)
 get get one's knuckles rapped
 get get one's money's worth
 get get one's nose out of someone's business
 get get one's (own) way (with someone or something)
 get get one's say
 get get one's sea legs
 get get one's second wind
 get get one's start
 get get one's teeth into something
 get get one's walking papers
 get get one's wires crossed
 get get one's wits about one
 get get on someone
 get get on the bandwagon
 get get on the good side of someone
 get get on (with someone or something)
 get get out from under someone or something
 get get out of a jam
 get get out of a mess
 get get out of someone's way
 get get out of the way
 get get out of the wrong side of the bed
 get get out while the getting is good
 get get over someone or something
 get get physical (with someone)
 get get ready (to do something)
 get get religion
 get get rid of someone or something
 get get right on something
 get get rolling
 get get second thoughts about someone or something
 get get set

get get sick
 get get sidetracked
 get get someone or something across
 get get someone or something down
 get get someone or something out of one's head
 get get someone or something out of one's mind
 get get someone or something out of the way
 get get someone's back up
 get get someone's dander up
 get get someone's ear
 get get someone's eye
 get get someone's goat
 get get someone's hackles up
 get get someone's Irish up
 get get someone's number
 get get someone down
 get get (someone) off the hook
 get get someone out of a jam
 get get someone over a barrel
 get get someone under one's thumb
 get get something
 get get stars in one's eyes
 get get the advantage of someone
 get get the advantage over someone
 get get the air
 get get the ax
 get get the ball rolling
 get get the benefit of the doubt
 get get the best of someone
 get get the better of someone
 get get the blues
 get get the boot
 get get the brush-off
 get get the cold shoulder
 get get the creeps
 get get the day off
 get get the devil
 get get the drift of something
 get get the edge on someone
 get get the edge over someone
 get get the facts straight
 get get the feel of something
 get get the final word
 get get the floor
 get get the gate
 get get the glad hand
 get get the go-ahead
 get get the go-by
 get get the goods on someone
 get get the green light
 get get the hang of something
 get get the hard sell
 get get the high sign
 get get the inside track
 get get the jump on someone
 get get the last laugh
 get get the last word
 get get the lead out
 get get the low-down (on someone or something)
 get get the message
 get get the nod
 get get the (old) heave-ho

get get the once-over
 get get the picture
 get get the red-carpet treatment
 get get the runaround
 get get the sack
 get get the shock of one's life
 get get the short end of the stick
 get get the show on the road
 get get the slip
 get get the third degree
 get get the upper hand (on someone)
 get get the willies
 get get the word
 get get the works
 get get the worst of something
 get get through something
 get get through (to someone)
 get get through with something
 get get time off
 get get time to catch one's breath
 get get to first base (with someone or something)
 get get to one's feet
 get get to someone
 get get to the bottom of something
 get get to the heart of the matter
 get get to the point
 get get to the root of the problem
 get get tough (with someone)
 get get two strikes against one
 get get under someone's skin
 get get under way
 get get-up-and-go
 get get up enough nerve (to do something)
 get get up on the wrong side of the bed
 get get used to someone or something
 get get well
 get get wet
 get get what's coming to one
 get get wind of something
 get get wise (to someone or something)
 get get with something
 get get worked up (about something)
 get get worked up (over something)
 get let something (get) out
 get play hard to get
 get tell someone where to get off
 get You just don't get it!
 gets give as good as one gets
 gets when the going gets rough
 gets when the going gets tough
 gets The early bird gets the worm.
 getting get out while the getting is good
 getting It takes (some) getting used to.
 ghost as pale as a ghost
 ghost (as) white as a ghost
 ghost give up the ghost
 ghost a ghost of a chance
 gift have the gift of gab
 gild gild the lily
 gills blue around the gills
 gills green around the gills
 gills pale around the gills

gird gird (up) one's loins
 give give a blank check to someone
 give give a good account of oneself
 give give-and-take
 give give (an) ear to someone or something
 give give as good as one gets
 give give birth to someone or some creature
 give give birth to something
 give give carte blanche to someone
 give give chase (to someone or something)
 give give credence to something
 give give credit where credit is due
 give give free rein to someone
 give give ground
 give give her the gun
 give give in (to someone or something)
 Give Give it a rest.
 give give it the gun
 Give Give it time.
 give give it to someone (straight)
 Give Give it up.
 give give of oneself
 give give one's ear to someone or something
 Give Give one an inch, and one will take a mile.
 give give one a run for one's money
 give give one butterflies in one's stomach
 give give one one's freedom
 give give one one's walking papers
 give give one what's coming to one
 give give out
 give give rise to something
 give give someone or something a wide berth
 give give someone or something the (old) heave-ho
 give give someone a bang
 give give someone a big send-off
 give give someone a black eye
 give give someone a blank check
 give give someone a break
 give give someone a bright idea
 give give someone a bum steer
 give give someone a buzz
 give give someone a charge
 give give someone a clean bill of health
 give give someone a dirty look
 give give someone a fair shake
 give give someone a fix on something
 give give someone a free hand (with something)
 give give someone a (good) dressing-down
 give give someone a hand (for something)
 give give someone a hand (with someone or something)
 give give someone a hard time
 give give someone a head start (on someone or something)
 give give someone a kick
 give give someone a licking
 give give someone a line
 give give someone an earful
 give give someone a pain
 give give someone a pat on the back
 give give someone a piece of one's mind
 give give someone a rain check (on something)
 give give someone a raw deal
 give give someone a reputation (as a something)

give give someone a reputation (for doing something)
give give someone a ring
give give someone a rough idea (about something)
give give someone a rough idea (of something)
give give someone a shellacking
give give someone a slap on the wrist
give give someone a start
give give someone a swelled head
give give someone a tongue-lashing
give give someone carte blanche
give give someone credit (for something)
give give someone free rein
give give someone goose bumps
give give someone goose pimples
give give someone gray hair(s)
give give someone hell
give give someone pause
give give someone some skin
give give someone the air
give give someone the ax
give give someone the benefit of the doubt
give give someone the boot
give give someone the brush-off
give give someone the bum's rush
give give someone the business
give give someone the cold shoulder
give give someone the creeps
give give someone the devil
give give someone the eye
give give someone the gate
give give someone the glad hand
give give someone the go-ahead
give give someone the go-by
give give someone the green light
give give someone the hard sell
give give someone the high sign
give give someone the low-down (on someone or something)
give give someone the once-over
give give someone the red-carpet treatment
give give someone the runaround
give give someone the sack
give give someone the shirt off one's back
give give someone the slip
give give someone the third degree
give give someone the willies
give give someone the works
give give someone tit for tat
give give someone to understand something
give give someone what for
give give something a lick and a promise
give give something a shot
give give something a whirl
give give something one's best shot
give give the bride away
give give the devil her due
give give the devil his due
give give the game away
give give up the ghost
give give vent to something
give give voice to something
give not give a hang (about someone or something)

give not give a hoot (about someone or something)
give not give it another thought
give not give someone the time of day
give not give two hoots (about someone or something)
give would give one's right arm (for someone or something)
given given to doing something
given given to understand
given a given
glad get the glad hand
glad give someone the glad hand
glance at first glance
glass (as) smooth as glass
glass have a glass jaw
glass smooth as glass
glitters All that glitters is not gold.
glory in one's glory
gloss gloss something over
glove fit like a glove
glove hand in glove (with someone)
gloves handle someone with kid gloves
glow feel a glow of something
glutton glutton for punishment
gnash gnash one's teeth
go all systems (are) go
go buy something to go
go Don't let it go any further.
go easy come, easy go
go enough to go (a)round
go from the word go
go get something to go
go get the go-ahead
go get the go-by
go get-up-and-go
go give someone the go-ahead
go give someone the go-by
go go about one's business
go go against the grain
go go all out
go go all the way (with someone)
go go along for the ride
go go a long way in doing something
go go a long way toward doing something
go go along (with someone or something)
go go ape (over someone or something)
go go (a)round in circles
go go (a)round the bend
go go around with someone
go go astray
go go at it hammer and tongs
go go at it tooth and nail
go go at someone or something
go go away empty-handed
go go AWOL
go go back on one's word
go go bad
go go bananas
go go begging
go go broke
go go by the board
go go by the book
go go chase oneself
Go Go climb a tree!

go go cold turkey
 go go crazy
 go go down fighting
 go go downhill
 go go down in history
 go go Dutch
 go go easy (on someone or something)
 go go fifty-fifty (on something)
 Go Go fly a kite!
 go go for broke
 go go for it
 go go for someone or something
 go go from bad to worse
 Go Go fry an egg!
 go go great guns
 go go haywire
 go go hog-wild
 go go in a body
 go go in for something
 go go in one ear and out the other
 go go into action
 go go into a nosedive
 go go into a tailspin
 go go into detail
 go go into effect
 go go into hiding
 go go into hock
 go go into one's song and dance (about something)
 go go into orbit
 go go into something
 go go it alone
 Go Go jump in the lake!
 go go like clockwork
 go good to go
 go go off
 go go on
 go go out (for something)
 go go out of fashion
 go go out of one's way (to do something)
 go go out of style
 go go (out) on strike
 go go out (with someone)
 go go over
 go go places
 Go Go play in the traffic
 go go right through someone
 go go scot-free
 go go sky-high
 go go so far as to say something
 go go someone one better
 go go (somewhere) by shank's mare
 go go stag
 go go steady (with someone)
 go go stir-crazy
 go go straight
 go go the distance
 go go the extra mile
 go go the limit
 go go through
 go go to any length
 go go to bat for someone
 go go to bed
 go go to Davy Jones's locker
 go go together
 go go to (hell)
 go go to hell in a handbasket
 go go too far
 go go to pieces
 go go to pot
 go go to rack and ruin
 go go to seed
 go go to someone's head
 go go to the bathroom
 go go to (the devil)
 go go to the dogs
 go go to the expense (of doing something)
 go go to the lavatory
 go go to the limit
 go go to the toilet
 go go to the trouble (of doing something)
 go go to the trouble (to do something)
 go go to the wall
 go go to town
 go go to waste
 go go to wrack and ruin
 go go under
 go go up in flames
 go go up in smoke
 go go whole hog
 go go window-shopping
 go go without (something)
 go go with something
 go go with the flow
 go go wrong
 go have a go (at something)
 go have one's heart go out to someone
 go have something to go
 go Here you go.
 go let go of someone or something
 go let go (with something)
 go Let it go.
 go let oneself go
 go let someone go
 go make a go of it
 go not able to go on
 go on the go
 go order something to go
 go pay as you go
 go rar in' to go
 go stop-and-go
 go Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes
 go There you go.
 go touch and go
 goat get someone's goat
 goats separate the sheep from the goats
 God Honest to God.
 God an act of God
 goes as far as it goes
 goes goes to show you
 goes goes without saying
 goes Here goes nothing.
 goes Here (it) goes.
 goes How goes it (with you)?
 goes off someone or something goes

- goes** one's heart goes out to someone
goes Pride goes before a fall.
goes So it goes.
goes What goes around, comes around.
going have a good thing going
going have a lot going (for one)
going have a thing going (with someone)
going have something going (for oneself)
going have something going (with someone)
going heavy going
going How's it going?
going not know if one is coming or going
going not know whether one is coming or going
going slow going
going when the going gets rough
going when the going gets tough
going the going
gold All that glitters is not gold.
gold (as) good as gold
gold good as gold
gold have a heart of gold
gold worth its weight in gold
gold a gold mine of information
golly by guess and by golly
gone all gone
gone come and gone
gone dead and gone
gone gone but not forgotten
gone gone goose
gone gone on
gone gone to meet one's Maker.
gone gone with the wind
gone lost and gone forever
gone to hell and gone
goner a goner
good all in good time
good all to the good
good (all) well and good
good (as) good as done
good (as) good as gold
good as good as one's word
good do someone's heart good
good do someone a good turn
good do someone good
good for good
good for the good of someone or something
good get on the good side of someone
good get out while the getting is good
good get time off for good behavior
good give a good account of oneself
good give as good as one gets
good give someone a (good) dressing-down
good good and something
good good as done
good good as gold
good good enough for someone or something
good good-for-nothing
good good riddance (to bad rubbish)
good good to go
good have a good command of something
good have a good head on one's shoulders
good have a (good) mind to do something
good have a good thing going
good (have) never had it so good
good in (all) good conscience
good in good condition
good in good faith
good in good hands
good in good repair
good in good shape
good in good spirits
good in good time
good in good (with someone)
good keep good time
good kiss something good-bye
good Life's been good (to me).
good look good on paper
good make good as something
good make good (at something)
good make good money
good make good on something
good make good time
good make someone look good
good make something good
good never had it so good
good No news is good news.
good One good turn deserves another.
good on good terms (with someone)
good put in a good word (for someone)
good put something to (good) use
good run the good race
good show good faith
good show something to good advantage
good So far, so good.
good stand someone in good stead
good throw good money after bad
good too good to be true
good too much of a good thing
good turn something to good account
good up to no good
good well and good
good What's the good of something?
good when one is good and ready
good Your guess is as good as mine.
good the good old days
goodness Honest to goodness.
goods get the goods on someone
goods sell someone a bill of goods
goof goof off
goose (as) silly as a goose
goose cook someone's goose
goose get goose bumps
goose get goose pimples
goose give someone goose bumps
goose give someone goose pimples
goose gone goose
goose silly as a goose
goose someone's goose is cooked
goose a wild-goose chase
gorge feel one's gorge rise
gorge make someone's gorge rise
gospel the gospel truth
got Cat got your tongue?
got Have I got something for you!

- got You got me there.
 gotten ill-gotten gains
 government close enough for government work
 gown cap and gown
 gown town-and-gown
 grab grab a bite (to eat)
 grabs up for grabs
 grace fall from grace
 grace grace someone or something with one's presence
 grace saving grace
 grace say grace
 graced graced with something
 graceful (as) graceful as a swan
 graceful graceful as a swan
 grade make the grade
 grain go against the grain
 grain take something with a grain of salt
 grain a grain of truth
 Grand (as) busy as Grand Central Station
 Grand busy as Grand Central Station
 grandmother teach one's grandmother to suck eggs
 granted take someone or something for granted
 grasp get a grasp of something
 grasp grasp at straws
 grasp within someone's grasp
 grass let grass grow under one's feet
 grass a snake in the grass
 grasshopper knee-high to a grasshopper
 grate grate on someone's nerves)
 grave (as) quiet as the grave
 grave (as) silent as the grave
 grave carry a secret to one's grave
 grave carry a secret to the grave
 grave dig one's own grave
 grave from the cradle to the grave
 grave have one foot in the grave
 grave quiet as the grave
 grave roll (over) in one's grave
 grave silent as the grave
 grave swear on one's mother's grave
 grave take it to one's grave
 grave turn (over) in one's grave
 gravy ride the gravy train
 gray get gray hair(s)
 gray give someone gray hair(s)
 gray gray area
 gray gray matter
 grease grease someone's palm
 grease use some elbow grease
 greased (as) quick as greased lightning
 greased like greased lightning
 greased quick as greased lightning
 great go great guns
 great in great demand
 great in great haste
 great make a great show of something
 great no great shakes
 great set great store by someone or something
 great take (great) pains (to do something)
 great think a great deal of someone or something
 great to a great extent
 great a great deal
 greatest the greatest thing since sliced bread
 Greek Greek to me
 Greek It's (all) Greek to me.
 green get the green light
 green give someone the green light
 green green around the gills
 green green with envy
 green have a green thumb
 grief come to grief
 grievances air one's grievances
 grin grin and bear it
 grind grind to a halt
 grind have an ax to grind (with someone)
 grind the daily grind
 grindstone keep one's nose to the grindstone
 grindstone put one's nose to the grindstone
 grip grip someone's attention
 grip lose one's grip
 grips come to grips with something
 grist grist for someone's mill
 grit grit one's teeth
 gritty get down to the nitty-gritty
 groan groan under the burden of something
 gross gross someone out
 ground break ground (for something)
 ground break new ground
 ground cover a lot of ground
 ground cut the ground out from under someone
 ground drive something into the ground
 ground from the ground up
 ground get in (on the ground floor)
 ground get one's feet on the ground
 ground get something off (the ground)
 ground give ground
 ground ground someone
 ground have one's ear to the ground
 ground have one's feet on the ground
 ground hold one's ground
 ground keep one's ear to the ground
 ground keep one's feet on the ground
 ground lose ground
 ground one's old stamping ground
 ground run something into the ground
 ground stand one's ground
 grounded grounded in fact
 grounds grounds for something
 grow grow on someone
 grow grow out of something
 grow grow to do something
 grow let grass grow under one's feet
 growing have growing pains
 grudge bear a grudge (against someone)
 grudge have a grudge (against someone)
 grudge hold a grudge (against someone)
 grudge nurse a grudge (against someone)
 gruff (as) gruff as a bear
 gruff gruff as a bear
 grunt grunt work
 guard catch one off one's guard
 guard catch someone off guard
 guard guard against someone or something
 guard on (one's) guard

guess by guess and by golly
guess get another guess coming
guess hazard a guess
guess Your guess is as good as mine.
guessed never would have guessed
guest guest of honor
guilty find someone guilty
guinea serve as a guinea pig
gulp gulp for air
gum gum something up
gum gum up the works
gun beat the gun
gun fire a gun
gun give her the gun
gun give it the gun
gun gun for someone
gun jump the gun
gun pull a gun (on someone)
gun son of a gun
guns go great guns
guns stick to one's guns
gut bust a gut (to do something)
gut gut feeling
gut gut reaction
gut gut response
gut my gut tells me (that) something is so
guts hate someone's guts
gutter in the gutter
gyp gyp someone out of something
ha funny ha-ha
habit break a habit
habit break one's habit
habit break the habit
habit kick a habit
habit kick the habit
habits Old habits die hard.
hack hack something
hackles get someone's hackles up
had had best do something
had had better do something
had had (just) as soon do something
had (had) known it was coming
had had rather do something
had had sooner do something
had have been had
had have had enough
had have had its day
had have had it (up to here)
had (have) never had it so good
had never had it so good
hail hail-fellow-well-met
hail hail from somewhere
hailing within hailing distance
hair curl someone's hair
hair get in someone's hair
hair hang by a hair
hair let one's hair down
hair make someone's hair curl
hair make someone's hair stand on end
hair neither hide nor hair
hair part someone's hair
hair tear one's hair (out)

hair the hair of the dog that bit one
haired fair-haired boy
hair's by a hair(s) breadth)
hairs get gray hair(s)
hairs give someone gray hair(s)
hairs split hairs
hale hale and hearty
half at half-mast
half go off half-cocked
Half Half a loaf is better than none.
half half-and-half
half have half a mind to do something
half have half a notion to do something
half not half bad
half one's better half
half six of one and half a dozen of the other
halfhearted halfhearted (about someone or something)
halfway meet someone halfway
halt grind to a halt
ham ham something up
hamburger make hamburger out of someone or something
hammer fight someone or something
hammer hammer and tongs
hammer go at it hammer and tongs
hammer hammer away (at someone or something)
hammer hammer something home
hammer hammer something out
hand at hand
hand bite the hand that feeds one
hand bound hand and foot
hand can't see one's hand in front of one's face
hand close at hand
hand do something by hand
hand force someone's hand
hand from hand to hand
hand get a free hand (with someone or something)
hand get a hand with something
hand get the glad hand
hand get the upper hand (on someone)
hand give someone a free hand (with something)
hand give someone a hand (for something)
hand give someone a hand (with someone or something)
hand give someone the glad hand
hand hand in glove (with someone)
hand hand in hand
Hand Hand it over.
hand hand it to someone
hand hand-me-down
hand hand over fist
hand hand over hand
hand hand something down (to someone)
hand hat in hand
hand have a hand in something
hand have one's hand in the till
hand have something at hand
hand have something in hand
hand in hand
hand keep one's hand in (something)
hand know someone or something like the back of one's hand
hand know someone or something like the palm of one's hand

hand lend a hand (to someone)
hand lend (someone) a hand
hand lift a hand (against someone or something)
hand live from hand to mouth
hand near at hand
hand not lift a hand (to help someone)
hand on (the) one hand
hand on the other hand
hand out of hand
hand put one's hand to the plow
hand raise a hand (against someone or something)
hand show one's hand
hand take a hand in something
hand try one's hand (at something)
hand wait on someone hand and foot
hand (with) hat in hand
hand with one hand tied behind one's back
hand an old hand at doing something
hand A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
handbasket go to hell in a handbasket
handed catch someone red-handed
handed caught red-handed
handed come away empty-handed
handed go away empty-handed
handed pay someone a back-handed compliment
handed pay someone a left-handed compliment
handful by the handful
handle fly off the handle
handle get a handle on something
handle handle someone with kid gloves
handle have a handle on something
handling postage and handling
handling shipping and handling
hands by a show of hands
hands change hands
hands dirty one's hands
hands do something hands down
hands eat out of someone's hands
hands fold one's hands
hands get one's hands dirty
hands get one's hands on someone or something
hands hands down
Hands Hands off!
Hands Hands up!
hands have clean hands
hands have one's hands full (with someone or something)
hands have one's hands tied
hands have someone or something in one's hands
hands have someone or something on one's hands
hands have someone's blood on one's hands
hands in good hands
hands join hands
hands keep one's hands off (someone or something)
hands lay one's hands on someone or something
hands leave someone or something in one's hands
hands Many hands make light work.
hands play into someone's hands
hands put one's hand(s) on something
hands putty in someone's hands
hands shake (hands) on something
hands shake hands (with someone)
hands sit on its hands

hands sit on one's hands
hands soil one's hands
hands take the law into one's own hands
hands throw one's hands up in despair
hands throw one's hands up in horror
hands tie someone's hands
hands wash one's hands of someone or something
hands with both hands tied behind one's back
hands a show of hands
handwriting read the handwriting on the wall
handwriting see the (hand)writing on the wall
handy come in handy
hang get the hang of something
hang hang a left
hang hang a right
hang hang around (with someone)
hang hang back
hang hang by a hair
hang hang by a thread
hang hang fire
hang hang in the balance
hang hang in there
hang hang loose
hang hang one's hat (up) somewhere
hang hang on someone's coattails
hang hang on someone's every word
hang hang on (to someone or something)
hang hang out (somewhere)
hang hang out (with someone)
hang hang someone in effigy
hang hang tough
hang hang up
hang let it all hang out
hang not give a hang (about someone or something)
hang somewhere to hang (up) one's hat
hang a place to hang one's hat
hanging have something hanging over one's head
hanging keep someone or something hanging in midair
hanging leave someone or something hanging in midair
happen can't wait (for something to happen)
happen happen (up)on someone or something
happen have a hunch (that) something will happen
happen sit back and let something happen
happens in case something happens
happens in the unlikely event that something happens
happens just in case (something happens)
happens no matter what happens
happens the minute something happens
happier couldn't be happier
happily live happily ever after
happy (as) happy as a clam
happy (as) happy as a lark
happy (as) happy as can be
happy fat and happy
happy find a happy medium
happy happy as a clam
happy happy as a lark
happy happy as can be
happy hit a happy medium
happy strike a happy medium
harbinger a harbinger of things to come
hard (as) hard as a rock

hard (as) hard as nails
hard (as) hard as stone
hard between a rock and a hard place
hard cold, hard cash
hard come down hard on someone or something
hard do something the hard way
hard drive a hard bargain
hard find (something) out the hard way
hard get the hard sell
hard give someone a hard time
hard give someone the hard sell
hard hard-and-fast
hard hard as a rock
hard hard as nails
hard hard as stone
hard hard of hearing
hard hard on someone's heels
hard hard pressed (to do something)
hard hard put (to do something)
hard hard up (for something)
hard have a hard time
hard hit someone hard
hard learn (something) the hard way
hard no hard feelings
hard Old habits die hard.
hard play hard to get
hard take a hard line (with someone)
hard a hard nut to crack
hard A little (hard) work never hurt anyone.
hard A little (hard) work never killed anyone.
hardly hardly have time to breathe
hardly hardly have time to think
hare (as) mad as a March hare
hare mad as a March hare
harken hark(en) back to something
harm No harm done.
harness get back into harness
harp harp on something
harping keep harping on something
Harry (every) Tom, Dick, and Harry
Harry Tom, Dick, and Harry
has Every cloud has a silver lining.
has Every dog has his day.
has Every dog has its day.
has the moment everyone has been waiting for
has The worm (has) turned.
hash hash something over
Haste Haste makes waste.
haste in great haste
hasty beat a (hasty) retreat
hat at the drop of a hat
hat eat one's hat
hat hang one's hat (up) somewhere
hat hat in hand
hat keep something under one's hat
hat old hat
hat pass the hat
hat pull something out of a hat
hat somewhere to hang (up) one's hat
hat take off one's hat (to someone)
hat talk through one's hat
hat toss one's hat into the ring

hat wear more than one hat
hat (with) hat in hand
hat a place to hang one's hat
hatband (as) tight as Dick's hatband
hatband tight as Dick's hatband
hatch count one's chickens before they hatch
hatch down the hatch
hatches batten down the hatches
hatchet bury the hatchet
hate hate someone's guts
hate someone's pet hate
hatter (as) mad as a hatter
hatter mad as a hatter
haul haul someone in
haul haul someone over the coals
haul haul up (somewhere)
haul over the long haul
haul over the short haul
have and what have you
have as luck would have it
have do not have a care in the world
have do not have a leg to stand on
have do not have all one's marbles
have eat one's cake and have it too
have hardly have time to breathe
have hardly have time to think
have have a bad effect (on someone or something)
have have a ball
have have a bee in one's bonnet
have have a big mouth
have have a blowout
have have a bone to pick (with someone)
have have a brush with something
have have a case (against someone)
have have a change of heart
have have a chip on one's shoulder
have have a clean conscience (about someone or something)
have have a clear conscience (about someone or something)
have have a close call
have have a close shave
have have a clue (about something)
have have a conniption (fit)
have have a crack at something
have have a familiar ring
have have a feeling about something
have have a feeling (that)
have have a field day
have have a finger in the pie
have have a fit
have have a foot in both camps
have have a frog in one's throat
have have a glass jaw
have have a go (at something)
have have a good command of something
have have a good head on one's shoulders
have have a (good) mind to do something
have have a good thing going
have have a green thumb
have have a grudge (against someone)
have have a hand in something

- have have a handle on something
 have have a hard time
 have have a head for something
 have have a heart
 have have a hold on someone
 have have a hunch about something
 have have a hunch (that) something will happen
 have have a keen interest in something
 have have a look for someone or something
 have have a lot going (for one)
 have have a lot of promise
 have have a lot on one's mind
 have have a low boiling point
 have have a mind like a steel trap
 have have an accident
 have have an ace up one's sleeve
 have have an ax to grind (with someone)
 have have an ear for something
 have have a near miss
 have have an eye for someone or something
 have have an eye on someone or something
 have have an eye out (for someone or something)
 have have an in (with someone)
 have have an itch for something
 have have an itching palm
 have have an itch to do something
 have have an itchy palm
 have have a nose for something
 have have an out
 have have a one-track mind
 have have a passion for someone or something
 have have a peep
 have have a penchant for doing something
 have have a pick-me-up
 have have a price on one's head
 have have a right to do something
 have have a rough time (of it)
 have have arrived
 have have a run-in with someone
 have have a run of bad luck
 have have a run of something
 have have a say (in something)
 have have a score to settle (with someone)
 have have a scrape (with someone or something)
 have have a screw loose
 have have a shot at something
 have have a smoke
 have have a snowball's chance in hell
 have have a soft spot in one's heart for someone or something
 have have a spaz
 have have a stroke
 have have a sweet tooth
 have have a taste for something
 have have a thing going (with someone)
 have have a try at something
 have have at someone or something
 have have a vested interest in something
 have have a voice (in something)
 have have a way with someone or something
 have have a weakness for someone or something
 have have a whale of a time
 have have a word with someone
 have have back at someone
 have have bats in one's belfry
 have have bearing on something
 have have been around
 have have been had
 have have been through the mill
 have have been to hell and back
 have have bigger fish to fry
 have have broad shoulders
 have have clean hands
 have have cold feet
 have have come a long way
 have have contact with someone
 have have designs on someone or something
 have have dibs on something
 have have egg on one's face
 have have eyes bigger than one's stomach
 have have eyes in the back of one's head
 have have feet of clay
 have have foot-in-mouth disease
 have have growing pains
 have have had enough
 have have had its day
 have have had it (up to here)
 have have half a mind to do something
 have have half a notion to do something
 have have hell to pay
 Have Have I got something for you!
 Have Have I made myself clear?
 have have it all over someone or something
 have have it both ways
 have have it in for someone
 have have method in one's madness
 have have mixed feelings (about someone or something)
 have have money to burn
 have have more important fish to fry
 have (have) never had it so good
 have have no business doing something
 have have none of something
 have have no staying power
 have have nothing on someone or something
 have have nothing to do with someone or something
 have have one foot in the grave
 have have one for the road
 have have oneself something
 have have one's back to the wall
 have have one's cake and eat it too
 have have one's druthers
 have have one's ear to the ground
 have have one's feet on the ground
 have have one's finger in the pie
 have have one's finger in too many pies
 have have one's hand in the till
 have have one's hands full (with someone or something)
 have have one's hands tied
 have have one's head in the clouds
 have have one's heart go out to someone
 have have one's heart in the right place
 have have one's heart on one's sleeve
 have have one's heart set against something
 have have one's heart set on something

have have one's heart stand still
have have one's luck run out
have have one's nose in a book
have have one's nose in the air
have have one's sights trained on something
have have one's words stick in one's throat
have have one's work cut out for one
have have other fish to fry
have have precedence over someone or something;
have have pull with someone
have have rocks in one's head
have have second thoughts about someone or something
have have seen better days
have have so
have have someone or something in one's hands
have have someone or something in tow
have have someone or something on one's hands
have have someone or something on one's mind
have have someone's blood on one's hands
have have someone's hide
have have someone dead to rights
have have someone in one's pocket
have have someone on the string
have have someone over
have have someone pegged as something
have have something at hand
have have something at one's fingertips
have have something coming (to one)
have have something doing
have have something down pat
have have something going (for oneself)
have have something going (with someone)
have have something hanging over one's head
have have something in common (with someone or something)
have have something in hand
have have something in stock
have have something in store (for someone)
have have something made
have have something on
have have something out (with someone)
have have something stick in one's craw
have have something to go
have have something to spare
have have sticky fingers
have have the ball in one's court
have have the best of both worlds
have have the cards stacked against one
have have the courage of one's convictions
have have the deck stacked against one
have have the devil to pay
have have the feel of something
have have the gall to do something
have have the gift of gab
have have the makings of something
have have the Midas touch
have have them rolling in the aisles
have have the patience of a saint
have have the presence of mind to do something
have have the right-of-way
have have the right to do something
have have the shoe on the other foot

have have the time of one's life
have have the wherewithal (to do something)
have have to do with someone or something
have have to live with something
have have too
have have turned the corner
have have two strikes against one
have have what it takes
Have Have you been keeping busy?
have I just have this feeling
have let someone have it (with both barrels)
have never would have guessed
have only have eyes for someone
have scarcely have time to breathe
have should have stood in bed
have Walls have ears.
have What have you been up to?
have Who would have thought?
have would like (to have) someone or something
have The chickens have come home to roost.
having feel like (having) something
havoc play havoc with someone or something
havoc raise havoc with someone or something
havoc wreak havoc with something
haw hem and haw (around)
hawk watch someone or something like a hawk
hay hit the hay
hay That ain't hay.
haystack like looking for a needle in a haystack
haywire go haywire
hazard at hazard
hazard hazard a guess
hazard hazard an opinion
haze in a haze
He He laughs best who laughs last.
He He who laughs last, laughs longest.
He He who pays the piper calls the tune.
head able to do something standing on one's head
head bang one's head against a brick wall
head beat one's head against the wall
head beat something into someone's head
head bite someone's head off
head bring something to a head
head bury one's head in the sand
head come to a head
head drum something into someone's head
head fall head over heels
head from head to toe
head get a head start (on someone or something)
head get one's head above water
head get someone or something out of one's head
head get something into someone's thick head
head give someone a head start (on someone or something)
head give someone a swelled head
head go over someone's head
head go to someone's head
head have a good head on one's shoulders
head have a head for something
head have a price on one's head
head have eyes in the back of one's head
head have one's head in the clouds
head have rocks in one's head

- head** have something hanging over one's head
head head and shoulders above someone or something
head head for someone or something
head head for the last roundup
head head over heels in debt
head head over heels in love (with someone)
head head someone or something off
head head something up
head hide one's head in the sand
head hit the nail (right) on the head
head hold one's head up
head in over one's head
head keep a civil tongue (in one's head)
head keep one's head
head lose one's head (over someone or something)
head make someone's head spin
head make someone's head swim
head need something like a hole in the head
head off the top of one's head
head on someone's head
head out of one's head
head over someone's head
head per head
head put ideas into someone's head
head put one's head on the block (for someone or something)
head rear its ugly head
head run around like a chicken with its head cut off
head talk someone's head off
head touched (in the head)
head trouble one's head about someone or something
head turn someone's head
head use one's head
head a head
heads can't make heads or tails (out) of someone or something
heads heads or tails
Heads Heads up!
heads heads will roll
heads knock some heads together
heads to count heads
health get a clean bill of health
health give someone a clean bill of health
health in the best of health
health nurse someone back to health
healthy Early to bed, early to rise(, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.)
hear hear a peep out of someone
hear hear of something
hear hear someone out
hear like to hear oneself talk
hear Now hear this!
hear so quiet you could hear a pin drop
hear so still you could hear a pin drop
hear will not hear of something
heard another country heard from
heard make oneself heard
hearing hard of hearing
heart break someone's heart
heart cross one's heart (and hope to die)
heart die of a broken heart
heart do someone's heart good
heart eat one's heart out
heart find it in one's heart (to do something)
heart follow one's heart
heart from the bottom of one's heart
heart from the heart
heart get at the heart of the matter
heart get to the heart of the matter
heart have a change of heart
heart have a heart
heart have a soft spot in one's heart for someone or something
heart have one's heart go out to someone
heart have one's heart in the right place
heart have one's heart on one's sleeve
heart have one's heart set against something
heart have one's heart set on something
heart have one's heart stand still
heart heart and soul
heart know something by heart
heart learn something by heart
heart lose heart
heart one's heart goes out to someone
heart one's heart is (dead) set against something
heart one's heart is in one's mouth
heart one's heart is in the right place
heart one's heart is set on something
heart one's heart misses a beat
heart one's heart skips a beat
heart one's heart stands still
heart open one's heart (to someone)
heart pour one's heart (out to someone)
heart set one's heart against something
heart set one's heart on something
heart take heart
heart take something to heart
heart warm the cockles of someone's heart
heart wear one's heart on one's sleeve
heart with a heavy heart
heart with all one's heart and soul
heart an aching heart
heartbeat be a heartbeat away from something
heartbeat do something in a heartbeat
heart's to one's heart's content
heartly hale and hearty
heat in a dead heat
heat in heat
heat put the heat on (someone)
heat turn the heat up (on someone)
heave get the (old) heave-ho
heave give someone or something the (old) heave-ho
heaven in heaven
heaven in seventh heaven
heaven move heaven and earth to do something
heaven smell to high heaven
heaven stink to high heaven
heavy heavy going
heavy hot and heavy
heavy with a heavy heart
heck for the heck of it
hedge hedge one's bets
heed take heed
heeled well-heeled

heels cool one's heels
heels dig one's heels in
heels down-at-the-heels
heels fall head over heels
heels hard on someone's heels
heels head over heels in debt
heels head over heels in love (with someone)
heels kick up one's heels
heels on the heels of something
heels set one back on one's heels
heels take to one's heels
height at the height of something
hell (all) shot to hell
hell (as) hot as hell
hell (as) mad as hell
hell catch hell
hell come hell or high water
hell for the hell of it
hell get hell
hell give someone hell
hell go to (hell)
hell go to hell in a handbasket
hell have a snowball's chance in hell
hell have been to hell and back
hell have hell to pay
hell hell-bent for leather
hell hell on earth
hell hot as hell
hell like a bat out of hell
hell mad as hell
hell raise hell (with someone or something)
hell shot to hell
hell through hell and high water
hell to hell and gone
hell until hell freezes over
hell when hell freezes over
hell You scared the hell out of me.
hello drop in (to say hello)
helm at the helm (of something)
help cannot help doing something
help can't help but do something
help help do something
help help oneself
help help (someone or something) out (with someone or something)
help not able to help something
help not lift a finger (to help someone)
help not lift a hand (to help someone)
help pitch in (and help)
hem hem and haw (around)
hem hem someone or something in
hen (as) mad as a wet hen
hen mad as a wet hen
hens' (as) scarce as hens' teeth
hens' scarcer than hens' teeth
her give her the gun
her give the devil her due
her let her rip
herd ride herd on someone or something
here downhill from here on
here have had it (up to here)
here here and there

Here Here goes nothing.
Here Here (it) goes.
here here, there, and everywhere
Here Here you go.
here neither here nor there
here same here
here the here and now
Here's Here's looking at you.
Here's Here's mud in your eye.
Here's Here's to someone or something.
herring red herring
herself by herself
hibernating (as) busy as a hibernating bear
hibernating busy as a hibernating bear
hide have someone's hide
hide hide-and-seek
hide hide one's face in shame
hide hide one's head in the sand
hide hide one's light under a bushel
hide neither hide nor hair
hide tan someone's hide
hiding go into hiding
hiding Where've you been hiding yourself?
high act high-and-mighty
high (as) high as a kite
high (as) high as the sky
high be flying high
high come hell or high water
high eat high on the hog
high get into high gear
high get off your high horse
high get the high sign
high give someone the high sign
high go sky-high
high high and dry
high high-and-mighty
high high as a kite
high high man on the totem pole
high high on something
high hit the high spots
high hold someone in high regard
high hunt high and low (for someone or something)
high in high dudgeon
high in high gear
high It's high time!
high knee-high to a grasshopper
high leave someone high and dry
high live high off the hog
high live high on the hog
high look high and low (for someone or something)
high running high
high search high and low (for someone or something)
high smell to high heaven
high stink to high heaven
high through hell and high water
highflier highflier
highly speak highly of someone or something
highly think highly of someone or something
hightail hightail it out of somewhere
highways highways and byways
hike Take a hike!
hill not worth a hill of beans

- hill** over the hill
hills (as) old as the hills
hills old as the hills
himself by himself
hind (as) crooked as a dog's hind leg
hind crooked as a dog's hind leg
hindsight in hindsight
hinge hinge on something
hint take a hint
hip shoot from the hip
hire new hire
hire not for hire
his beard the lion in his den
his Every dog has his day.
his give the devil his due
his A fool and his money are soon parted.
history go down in history
hit hit a happy medium
hit hit-and-miss
hit hit-and-run
hit hit a plateau
hit hit a snag
hit hit a sour note
hit hit bottom
hit hit home
hit hit it off (with someone)
hit hit one's stride
hit hit one close to home
hit hit one where one lives
hit hit-or-miss
hit hit pay dirt
hit hit (someone) below the belt
hit hit someone hard
hit hit (someone) like a ton of bricks
hit hit someone (right) between the eyes
hit hit someone up (for something)
hit hit the books
hit hit the bottle
hit hit the bricks
hit hit the bull's-eye
hit hit the ceiling
hit hit the hay
hit hit the high spots
hit hit the jackpot
hit hit the nail (right) on the head
hit hit the road
hit hit the sack
hit hit the skids
hit hit the spot
hit hit (up)on something
hit make a hit (with someone or something)
hit pinch-hit (for someone)
hitch hitch a ride
hither hither and thither
hither hither, thither, and yon
hitting hitting on all cylinders
hive a hive of activity
ho get the (old) heave-ho
ho give someone or something the (old) heave-ho
hoarse (as) hoarse as a crow
hoarse hoarse as a crow
hob play hob with someone or something
hob raise hob with someone or something
Hobson's Hobson's choice
hock go into hock
hock in hock
hoe tough row to hoe
hog eat high on the hog
hog go hog-wild
hog go whole hog
hog live high off the hog
hog live high on the hog
hog road-hog
hoist hoist by one's own petard
hoist hoist with one's own petard
hold can't hold a candle to someone
hold Don't hold your breath.
hold have a hold on someone
hold hold a grudge (against someone)
hold hold all the aces
hold hold a meeting
hold hold forth (on something)
hold hold no brief for someone or something
hold hold one's breath
hold hold one's end (of the bargain) up
hold hold one's fire
hold hold one's ground
hold hold one's head up
hold hold one's own
hold hold one's peace
hold hold one's temper
hold hold one's tongue
hold hold on (to someone or something)
hold hold out for something
hold hold out the olive branch
hold hold someone or something in check
hold hold someone or something over
hold hold someone or something still
hold hold someone or something up
hold hold someone's attention
hold hold someone down
hold hold someone hostage
hold hold someone in high regard
hold hold something against someone
hold hold still
hold hold the fort
hold hold the line (at someone or something)
hold hold true
hold hold up
hold hold with something
Hold Hold your horses!
Hold Hold your tongue!
hold lay hold of someone or something
hold not hold a candle to someone or something
hold not hold a stick to someone or something
hold not hold water
hold on hold
hold put a hold on something
hold put someone or something on hold
holding leave someone holding the bag
holds no holds barred
hole ace in the hole
hole hole up (somewhere)
hole in the hole

hole Money burns a hole in someone's pocket.
hole need something like a hole in the head
hole out of the hole
hole punch a hole in something
hole someone's ace in the hole
hole a hole in one
hole a square peg in a round hole
holes pick holes in something
holiday a busman's holiday
holier holier-than-thou
holler hoot and holler
homage pay homage to someone
home at home
home bring home the bacon
home bring something home to someone
home close to home
home come home (to roost)
home come home to someone
home drive something home
home eat someone out of house and home
home feel at home
home hammer something home
home hit home
home hit one close to home
home home in (on someone or something)
home keep the home fires burning
home make oneself at home
home nothing to write home about
home see someone home
home strike home
home take something home (with oneself)
home till the cows come home
home (un)til the cows come home
home The chickens have come home to roost.
honest honest and aboveboard
Honest Honest to God.
Honest Honest to goodness.
Honest Honest to Pete.
honestly come by something honestly
honey (as) sweet as honey
honey sweet as honey
honeymoon The honeymoon is over.
honor guest of honor
honor honor someone's check
honor in honor of someone or something
honor on one's honor
honors do the honors
hood look under the hood
Hood's all around Robin Hood's barn
hook (as) crooked as a fish hook
hook by hook or (by) crook
hook crooked as a fish hook
hook get off the hook
hook get (someone) off the hook
hook let someone off (the hook)
hook swallow something, hook, line, and sinker
hooked hooked (on something)
hooks (as) crooked as a barrel of fish hooks
hooks crooked as a barrel of fish hooks
hooks get one's hooks into someone or something
hooky play hooky
hoop jump through a hoop

hoops jump through hoops
hoot hoot and holler
hoot not give a hoot (about someone or something)
hoots not care two hoots (about someone or something)
hoots not give two hoots (about someone or something)
Hop Hop to it!
hop a hop, skip, and a jump
hope cross one's heart (and hope to die)
hope hope against (all) hope
hopeless hopeless at doing something
hopes in hopes of something
hopes pin one's hope(s) on someone or something
hopped hopped up
horizon loom large (on the horizon)
horizon on the horizon
horn blow one's own horn
horn horn in (on someone or something)
horn toot one's own horn
hornet (as) mad as a hornet
hornet mad as a hornet
hornet's stir up a hornet's nest
horns lock horns (with someone)
horns on the horns of a dilemma
horns seize the bull by the horns
horns take the bull by the horns
horror in horror
horror throw one's hands up in horror
horse (as) strong as a horse
horse back the wrong horse
horse beat a dead horse
horse dark horse
horse eat like a horse
horse get a charley horse
horse get off your high horse
horse horse and buggy
horse horse and carriage
horse horse around
horse horse sense
horse put the cart before the horse
horse strong as a horse
horse work like a horse
horse a horse of a different color
horse a horse of another color
horseback on horseback
horses change horses in the middle of the stream
horse's from the horse's mouth
horses Hold your horses!
horse's (straight) from the horse's mouth
horses Wild horses couldn't drag someone.
hostage hold someone hostage
hostage take someone hostage
hot (as) busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
hot (as) hot as fire
hot (as) hot as hell
hot blow hot and cold
hot busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
hot full of hot air
hot get in(to) hot water
hot hot and bothered
hot hot and heavy
hot hot as fire
hot hot as hell

hot hot on something
hot hot under the collar
hot in hot water
hot in the hot seat
hot make it hot for someone
hot on the hot seat
hot piping hot
hot strike while the iron is hot
hotcakes sell like hotcakes
hotfoot hotfoot it out of somewhere
hound's (as) clean as a hound's tooth
hound's clean as a hound's tooth
hour at the bottom of the hour
hour at the eleventh hour
hour at the top of the hour
hour by the hour
hour eleventh-hour decision
hour on the hour
hours after hours
hours for hours on end
hours keep late hours
hours small hours (of the night)
hours There aren't enough hours in the day.
hours till all hours (of the day and night)
hours until all hours
hours wee hours (of the night)
house bring down the house
house eat someone out of house and home
house keep house
house like a house afire
house like a house on fire
house on the house
house put one's house in order
How How goes it (with you)?
how know-how
how a fine how-de-do
how a fine how-do-you-do
How's How's it going?
How's How's the world (been) treating you?
Hoyle according to Hoyle
hue a hue and cry
huff huff and puff
huff in a huff
human milk of human kindness
humanly everything humanly possible
humble eat humble pie
hump over the hump
hunch have a hunch about something
hunch have a hunch (that) something will happen
hundred one in a hundred
hung hung up (on someone or something)
hunger hunger for something
hungry (as) hungry as a bear
hungry (as) hungry as a hunter
hungry hungry as a bear
hungry hungry as a hunter
hungry hungry for something
hunt hunt-and-peck
hunt hunt high and low (for someone or something)
hunt hunt someone or something up
hunter (as) hungry as a hunter
hunter hungry as a hunter

hurl hurl an insult (at someone)
hurry get a hurry on
hurt cry before one is hurt
hurt not hurt a flea
hurt What one doesn't know won't hurt one.
hurt A little (hard) work never hurt anyone.
hush hush money
Hush Hush your mouth!
hush a hush fell over someone or something
hustle hustle and bustle
Hyde Jekyll and Hyde
I as I expected
I Do I need to paint you a picture?
I for all I care
I for all I know
I Have I got something for you!
I Have I made myself clear?
I I didn't catch your name.
I I just have this feeling
I I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't.
I (just) as I expected
I (Now), where was I?
I so mad I could scream
I What can I say?
I Where was I?
ice break the ice
ice cut no ice (with someone)
ice on thin ice
ice put something on ice
ice skate on thin ice
idea flirt with the idea of doing something
idea get a bright idea
idea get a rough idea (about something)
idea get a rough idea (of something)
idea give someone a bright idea
idea give someone a rough idea (about something)
idea give someone a rough idea (of something)
idea sell someone on a plan or idea
ideas put ideas into someone's head
identity a case of mistaken identity
idiot take someone for an idiot
idly sit (idly) by
if better off (if one were somewhere else)
if better off (if something were done)
if if looks could kill
if if not
if if push comes to shove
if if so
If If the shoe fits, wear it.
if if worst comes to worst
if I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't.
if look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
if make as if to do something
if not know if one is coming or going
if sound as if
if what if
ifs no ifs, ands, or buts about it
ignorant play ignorant
ill fall ill
ill ill at ease
ill ill-disposed to doing something
I'll I'll drink to that!

ill ill-gotten gains
I'll I'll (try to) catch you later.
ill ill will
ill speak ill of someone
ill take ill
I'll You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
I'm I'm awful at names.
I'm I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't.
I'm (I'm) sorry.
I'm I'm terrible at names.
image be the spit and image of someone
image be the spitting image of someone
imagine Can you imagine?
Imagine Imagine that!
immediate immediate occupancy
immemorial since time immemorial
impact on impact
impact (up)on impact
impartial fair and impartial
impasse reach an impasse
implicate implicate someone (in something)
important have more important fish to fry
impression make an impression (on someone)
impulse on impulse
impunity with impunity
in ace in the hole
in advanced in years
in air one's dirty linen in public
in all in
in (all) in one breath
in (all) in the family
in along in years
in (another) nail in someone's or something's coffin
in Any port in a storm.
in arm in arm
in arrive in a body
in as alike as (two) peas in a pod
in (as) calm as a toad in the sun
in (as) slow as molasses in January
in (as) snug as a bug in a rug
in at this point (in time)
in back in circulation
in barge in (on someone or something)
in beard the lion in his den
in bear in mind that something is so
in bear someone or something in mind
in behind in something
in be swimming in something
in blaze a trail (in something)
in blow up in someone's face
in born with a silver spoon in one's mouth
in break out in a cold sweat
in break out (in something)
in break someone or something in
in bring people or other creatures out in droves
in broad in the beam
in build castles in Spain
in build castles in the air
in burn one's bridges in front of one
in burn someone in effigy
in burst in on someone or something
in bury one's head in the sand

in butt in (on someone or something)
in buy a pig in a poke
in call someone or something in
in calm as a toad in the sun
in can't see one's hand in front of one's face
in cash in one's chips
in cash in (on something)
in cash something in
in cast in the same mold
in cast one's lot in with someone
in catch someone in the act (of doing something)
in caught in the act
in caught in the cross fire
in caught in the middle
in cave in (to someone or something)
in change horses in the middle of the stream
in check in (on someone or something)
in chime in (with something)
in chink in one's armor
in chip in (on something)
in chip in something on something
in chip something in (on something)
in close in (on someone or something)
in clue someone in (on something)
in come down in the world
in come in a body
in come in for something
in come in handy
in come in out of the rain
in come out in the wash
in come up in the world
in confide in someone
in contradiction in terms
in count someone in (on something)
in cue someone in
in cut someone in
in dart in and out
in day in and day out
in day in, day out
in dead in someone's or something's tracks
in deal in something
in decide in favor of someone or something
in die in one's boots
in dig in
in dig one's heels in
in dog in the manger
in done in
in do not have a care in the world
in do someone or something in
in do something in a heartbeat
in do something in person
in do something in public
in do something in secret
in do something in vain
in double in brass
in down in the dumps
in down in the mouth
in drop in one's tracks
in drop in (on someone)
in drop in (to say hello)
in dyed-in-the-wool
in engage in small talk

- in** even in the best of times
in (every) once in a while
in fall head over heels in love (with someone)
in fall in
in feel something in one's bones
in fence someone in
in figure in something
in fill someone in (on someone or something)
in find it in one's heart (to do something)
in first thing (in the morning)
in fish in troubled waters
in fit in someone
in fit in (with someone or something)
in fly in the face of someone or something
in fly in the teeth of someone or something
in follow in someone's footsteps
in follow in someone's tracks
in fools rush in (where angels fear to tread)
in get a bee in one's bonnet
in get a frog in one's throat
in get along (in years)
in get a lump in one's throat
in get an in (with someone)
in get ants in one's pants
in get a word in edgeways
in get a word in edgewise
in get butterflies in one's stomach
in get in on something
in get in (on the ground floor)
in get in someone's hair
in get in touch (with someone)
in get it in the neck
in get one's ducks in a row
in get one's foot in the door
in get something out in the open
in get stars in one's eyes
in give in (to someone or something)
in give one butterflies in one's stomach
in go a long way in doing something
in go (a)round in circles
in go down in history
in go in a body
in go in for something
in go in one ear and out the other
in Go jump in the lake!
in Go play in the traffic!
in go to hell in a handbasket!
in go up in flames
in go up in smoke
in grounded in fact
in hand in glove (with someone)
in hand in hand
in hang in the balance
in hang in there
in hang someone in effigy
in hat in hand
in haul someone in
in have a bee in one's bonnet
in have a finger in the pie
in have a foot in both camps
in have a frog in one's throat
in have a hand in something
in have a keen interest in something
in have an in (with someone)
in have a run-in with someone
in have a say (in something)
in have a snowball's chance in hell
in have a soft spot in one's heart for someone or something
in have a vested interest in something
in have a voice (in something)
in have bats in one's belfry
in have eyes in the back of one's head
in have foot-in-mouth disease
in have it in for someone
in have method in one's madness
in have one foot in the grave
in have one's finger in the pie
in have one's finger in too many pies
in have one's hand in the till
in have one's head in the clouds
in have one's heart in the right place
in have one's nose in a book
in have one's nose in the air
in have one's words stick in one's throat
in have rocks in one's head
in have someone or something in one's hands
in have someone or something in tow
in have someone in one's pocket
in have something in mind
in have something in common (with someone or something)
in have something in hand
in have something in stock
in have something in store (for someone)
in have something stick in one's craw
in have the ball in one's court
in have them rolling in the aisles
in have too many irons in the fire
in head over heels in debt
in head over heels in love (with someone)
in hem someone or something in
in Here's mud in your eye.
in hide one's face in shame
in hide one's head in the sand
in hold someone or something in check
in hold someone in high regard
in home in (on someone or something)
in horn in (on someone or something)
in implicate someone (in something)
in in a bad mood
in in a bad way
in in abeyance
in in a bind
in in accordance with something
in in a (constant) state of flux
in in a coon's age
in in addition (to something)
in in a dead heat
in in advance
in in a family way
in in a fix
in in a flash
in in a fog
in in a fool's paradise
in in agreement

in in a haze
in in a huff
in in a jam
in in a jiffy
in in a lather
in in a little bit
in in (all) good conscience
in in all one's born days
in in all probability
in in a mad rush
in in a month of Sundays
in in and of itself
in in a nutshell
in in any case
in in any event
in in a pinch
in in apple-pie order
in in a (pretty) pickle
in in a quandary
in in a real pickle
in in arrears
in in a rut
in in a sense
in in a snit
in in a split second
in in a stage whisper
in in a stew (about someone or something)
in in a stupor
in in a (tight) spot
in in a tizzy
in in at the kill
in in a vicious circle
in in awe (of someone or something)
in in a word
in in a world of one's own
in in bad faith
in in bad sorts
in in bad taste
in in bad (with someone)
in in behalf of someone
in in between
in in black and white
in in bloom
in in blossom
in in brief
in in broad daylight
in in bulk
in in cahoots (with someone)
in in care of someone
in in case
in in character
in in clover
in in cold blood
in in cold storage
in in concert (with someone)
in in condition
in in consequence (of something)
in in consideration of something
in in contempt (of court)
in in creation
in in custody of someone or something
in in debt

in in deep
in in defiance (of someone or something)
in in denial
in in detail
in in disguise
in in drag
in in due course
in in due time
in in Dutch (with someone)
in in earnest
in in effect
in in essence
in in exchange (for someone or something)
in in existence
in in fact
in in fashion
in in favor of someone
in in favor (of someone or something)
in in fear and trembling
in in fine feather
in in flight
in in flux
in in force
in in for something
in in full swing
in in general
in in good condition
in in good faith
in in good hands
in in good repair
in in good shape
in in good spirits
in in good time
in in good (with someone)
in in great demand
in in great haste
in in hand
in in heat
in in heaven
in in high dudgeon
in in high gear
in in hindsight
in in hock
in in honor of someone or something
in in hopes of something
in in horror
in in hot water
in in ink
in in its entirety
in in its prime
in in jeopardy
in in (just) a minute
in in (just) a second
in in keeping (with something)
in in kind
in in labor
in in league (with someone)
in in less than no time
in in lieu of something
in in light of something
in in limbo
in in line

- in** in love (with someone or something)
in in luck
in in many respects
in in memory of someone
in in midair
in in mint condition
in in name only
in in need
in in neutral
in in no mood to do something
in in nothing flat
in in no time (at all)
in in no uncertain terms
in in one breath
in in one ear and out (of) the other
in in one fell swoop
in in one's birthday suit
in in one's blood
in in one's book
in in one's cups
in in one's element
in in one's glory
in in one's mind's eye
in in one's opinion
in in one's (own) backyard
in in one's (own) (best) interest(s)
in in one's prime
in in one's right mind
in in one's salad days
in in one's second childhood
in in one's spare time
in in one's Sunday best
in in on the kill
in in orbit
in in order to do something
in in other words
in in over one's head
in in park
in in part
in in passing
in in pencil
in in perpetuity
in in person
in in place
in in plain English
in in plain language
in in poor taste
in in practice
in in print
in in private
in in progress
in in proportion
in in public
in in pursuit of something
in in quest of someone or something
in in rags
in in reality
in in receipt of something
in in recent memory
in in rehearsal
in in remission
in in retrospect
in in return for (someone or something)
in in round figures
in in round numbers
in in ruin
in in search of someone or something
in in season
in in secret
in in session
in in seventh heaven
in in shambles
in in shape
in in short
in in sight
in (in) single file
in in so many words
in in someone else's place
in in someone else's shoes
in in someone's or something's custody
in in someone's behalf
in in someone's favor
in in someone's name
in in someone's prayers
in in some respects
in in some neck of the woods
in in spite of someone or something
in in step (with someone or something)
in in stock
in in storage
in instrumental in doing something
in in style
in in surgery
in in tandem
in in tatters
in in terms of something
in in the absence of someone or something
in in the act (of doing something)
in in the affirmative
in in the air
in in the altogether
in in the balance
in in the bargain
in in the best of health
in in the black
in in the blood
in in the buff
in in the bullpen
in in the cards
in in the care of someone
in in the case of someone or something
in in the charge of someone
in in the chips
in in the clear
in in the context of something
in in the course of time
in in the dark (about someone or something)
in in the doghouse
in in the doldrums
in in the driver's seat
in in the event of something
in in the family
in in the final analysis
in in the first instance

in in the first place
in in the flesh
in in the forefront (of something)
in in the gutter
in in the hole
in in the hot seat
in in the interest of someone or something
in in the interim (between things)
in in their entirety
in in the know
in in the lap of luxury
in in the last analysis
in in the laundry
in in the limelight
in in the line of duty
in in the long run
in in the mainstream (of something)
in in the market (for something)
in in the meantime
in in the middle of nowhere
in in the money
in in the mood for something
in in the mood to do something
in in the near future
in in the neighborhood of something
in in the nick of time
in in the nude
in in the offing
in in the open
in in theory
in in the pink (of condition)
in in the prime of life
in in the public eye
in in the raw
in in the rear
in in the red
in in there pitching
in in the right
in in the running
in in the same boat (as someone)
in in the same breath
in in the second place
in in the short run
in in the soup
in in the spotlight
in in the swim of things
in in the trust of someone
in in the twinkling of an eye
in in the unlikely event of something
in in the unlikely event that something happens
in in the (very) nick of time
in in the wake of something
in in the way of something
in in the wind
in in the works
in in the world
in in the worst way
in in the wrong
in in this day and age
in in time
in in top form
in in tow

in in transit
in in triplicate
in in trouble
in in tune
in in turn
in in two shakes of a lamb's tail
in in unison
in invest someone's time in something
in invest something in someone or something
in in view of something
in in with someone
in just in case (something happens)
in keep a civil tongue (in one's head)
in keep in touch (with someone)
in keep one's hand in (something)
in keep someone or something hanging in midair
in keep someone or something in check
in keep someone or something in mind
in keep someone in line
in keep someone in stitches
in keep someone out in the cold
in kick something in
in know something in one's bones
in late in life
in late in the day
in lay something in
in leave a bad taste in someone's mouth
in leave someone or something hanging in midair
in leave someone or something in one's hands
in leave someone in peace
in leave someone in the lurch
in leave someone out in the cold
in let someone in on something
in lie in state
in lie in wait for someone or something
in Lightning never strikes twice (in the same place).
in like looking for a needle in a haystack
in like (two) peas in a pod
in live in
in lock something in
in look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
in look in (on someone or something)
in look like something the cat dragged in
in look someone in the eye
in look someone in the face
in lose oneself (in something)
in lost in thought
in make a dent in something
in melt in one's mouth
in mention someone or something in passing
in milestone in someone's life
in misplace one's trust (in someone)
in Money burns a hole in someone's pocket.
in move in (on someone or something)
in move up (in the world)
in much in evidence
in muscle in (on someone or something)
in nail in someone's or something's coffin
in need something like a hole in the head
in never in one's life
in nip something in the bud
in no point in something

- in** not for (anything in) the world
in not in the same league with someone or something
in not know enough to come in out of the rain
in not take stock in something
in once in a blue moon
in once-in-a-lifetime chance
in once in a while
in one in a hundred
in one in a million
in one in a thousand
in one's heart is in one's mouth
in one's heart is in the right place
in one's nose is in the air
in on in years
in out in force
in out in left field
in packed (in) like sardines
in pack them in
in paper over the cracks (in something)
in pay in advance
in persist in doing something
in pick holes in something
in pie in the sky
in pitch in (and help)
in plug something in
in pride oneself in something
in punch a hole in something
in put a bee in someone's bonnet
in put all one's eggs in one basket
in put in a good word (for someone)
in put in an appearance
in put oneself in someone else's place
in put oneself in someone else's shoes
in put one's foot in it
in put one's foot in one's mouth
in put one's house in order
in put one's oar in
in put one's two cents(' worth) in
in put one in one's place
in put someone in the picture
in put something down in black and white
in put something in
in Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
in putty in someone's hands
in quake in one's boots
in raised in a barn
in red in the face
in rest in peace
in result in something
in rich in something
in ride off in all directions
in ring in the New Year
in roll in
in rolling in something
in roll (over) in one's grave
in Rome wasn't built in a day.
in rooted in something
in rub salt in the wound
in rub someone's nose in it
in rub something in
in run (around) in circles
in run in the family
in run someone in
in safety in numbers
in say something in a roundabout way
in set in
in set someone up (in business)
in shake in one's boots
in ships that pass in the night
in should have stood in bed
in sick in bed
in sink in
in sit in for someone
in sit in (on something)
in sleep in
in slow as molasses in January
in slower than molasses in January
in smack-dab in the middle
in snug as a bug in a rug
in someone's ace in the hole
in someone's mission in life
in (somewhere) in the neighborhood of an amount
in stab someone in the back
in stand in awe (of someone or something)
in stand (in) back of someone or something
in stand in (for someone)
in stand in someone's way
in stand someone in good stead
in stare someone in the face
in start someone in (as something)
in stay in touch (with someone)
in stew in one's own juice
in stick-in-the-mud
in stick one's foot in one's mouth
in stop in (somewhere)
in (stuck) in a rut
in stuck in traffic
in suck someone in
in take a course (in something)
in take a hand in something
in take an interest (in something)
in take no stock in something
in take part (in something)
in take pride in something
in take someone or something in
in take someone in
in take something in stride
in take the bit in one's teeth
in talk in circles
in talk until one is blue in the face
in There aren't enough hours in the day.
in There are plenty of other fish in the sea.
in throw in the sponge
in throw in the towel
in throw one's hands up in despair
in throw one's hands up in horror
in tie someone (up) in knots
in tongue-in-cheek
in touched (in the head)
in tune (something) in
in turn in
in turn (over) in one's grave
in up in arms
in up in the air (about someone or something)

in up in years
in up to one's ears (in something)
in up to one's eyeballs (in something)
in up to one's neck (in something)
in use every trick in the book
in waiting in the wings
in wash one's dirty linen in public
in weave in and out (of something)
in week in, week out
in well up in years
in When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
in (with) hat in hand
in with the best will in the world
in work someone or something in
in worth its weight in gold
in wrapped up in someone or something
in year in, year out
in zero in on something
in zoom in (on someone or something)
in an end in itself
in a babe in the woods
in a big frog in a small pond
in A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
in a blessing in disguise
in a bull in a china shop
in a case in point
in a crick in one's back
in a crick in one's neck
in a diamond in the rough
in a drop in the bucket
in a drop in the ocean
in a feather in one's cap
in a flash in the pan
in a fly in the ointment
in A friend in need is a friend indeed.
in a hole in one
in a kink in my neck
in a pain in the neck
in a shot in the arm
in a shot in the dark
in a skeleton in the closet
in a slap in the face
in a snake in the grass
in a square peg in a round hole
in a tempest in a teapot
in a thorn in someone's side
in a wolf in sheep's clothing
in the in thing (to do)
in the man in the street
inch come within an inch of doing something
inch every inch a something
inch every inch the something
inch Give one an inch, and one will take a mile.
inch inch along (something)
inch inch by inch
inch within an inch of one's life
inclined inclined to do something
incumbent incumbent upon someone to do something
indeed A friend in need is a friend indeed.
influence under the influence (of alcohol)
influence under the influence of something
information a gold mine of information

information a mine of information
iniquity a den of iniquity
initiative take the initiative (to do something)
injury add insult to injury
ink in ink
innocent (as) innocent as a lamb
innocent find someone innocent
innocent innocent as a lamb
innocent play innocent
ins ins and outs of something
inside get the inside track
inside inside the box
inside know something inside out
inside thinking inside the box
inside think inside the box
instance for instance
instance in the first instance
instrumental instrumental in doing something
insult add insult to injury
insult hurl an insult (at someone)
intent intent on doing something
intents for all intents and purposes
interest draw interest
interest have a keen interest in something
interest have a vested interest in something
interest in the interest of someone or something
interest of interest (to someone)
interest pique someone's interest
interest take an interest (in something)
interests in one's (own) (best) interest(s)
interim in the interim (between things)
intervals at regular intervals
into beat something into someone's head
into be into something
into break (out) in(to) tears
into break something down (into something)
into bring something into question
into bump into someone
into burst into flames
into burst into tears
into call someone or something into question
into check into something
into come into its own
into come into one's own
into come into something
into dip in(to) something
into drive something into the ground
into drum something into someone's head
into fall into a trap
into fall in(to) line
into fall in(to) place
into fall into someone's trap
into fall into the trap
into far into the night
into fit someone in(to) something
into fly into the face of danger
into get back into circulation
into get back into harness
into get into a jam
into get into a mess
into get into an argument (with someone)
into get into full swing

- into** get into high gear
into get in(to) hot water
into get into the act
into get into the swing of things
into get (oneself) into a stew (over someone or something)
into get one's hooks into someone or something
into get one's teeth into something
into get something into someone's thick head
into go into action
into go into a nosedive
into go into a tailspin
into go into detail
into go into effect
into go into hiding
into go into hock
into go into one's song and dance (about something)
into go into orbit
into go into something
into in(to) a jam
into into being
into in(to) someone's clutches
into jump into the fray
into lace into someone or something
into lapse into a coma
into lay into someone or something
into lick something into shape
into light into someone or something
into look into something
into lull someone into a false sense of security
into move into something
into nose in(to something)
into out of the frying pan into the fire
into pile in(to something)
into play into someone's hands
into plow into someone or something
into poke one's nose in(to something)
into put ideas into someone's head
into put one's back (in)to something
into put some teeth into something
into put something into practice
into put something into print
into put something into words
into put words into someone's mouth
into read something into something
into rip into someone or something
into rope someone into doing something
into run into a stone wall
into run into someone
into run something into the ground
into see into something
into send someone into something
into sink into despair
into sink one's teeth into something
into step into someone's shoes
into step in(to the breach)
into stick one's nose in(to something)
into stumble into someone or something
into swing into action
into take someone or something into account
into take someone into one's confidence
into take the law into one's own hands
into talk someone into (doing) something
into tear into someone or something
into throw a monkey wrench into the works
into throw something into the bargain
into tie into something
into toss one's hat into the ring
into trick someone into doing something
into tuck into something
into vanish into thin air
into wade in(to something)
into whip something into shape
into work (one's way) into something
into work something into something else
invasion invasion of (someone's) privacy
inventory take inventory
invest invest someone's time in something
invest invest someone with something
invest invest something in someone or something
involved get involved (with someone)
iota not one iota
Irish get someone's Irish up
iron iron something out
iron strike while the iron is hot
irons have too many irons in the fire
is after all is said and done
is All that glitters is not gold.
is (as) black as one is painted
is (as) far as someone or something is concerned
is (as) merry as the day is long
is bear in mind that something is so
is Beauty is only skin-deep.
is be of the persuasion that something is so
is black as one is painted
is Blood is thicker than water.
is cry before one is hurt
is deem that it is necessary
is Enough is enough.
is expense is no object
is far as something is concerned
is get out while the getting is good
is give credit where credit is due
is Half a loaf is better than none.
is know when one is not wanted
is know which is which
is know which side one's bread is buttered on
is life is too short
is many is the time
is merry as the day is long
is Money is no object.
is Money is the root of all evil.
is my gut tells me (that) something is so
is No news is good news.
is not all something is cracked up to be
is not know if one is coming or going
is not know whether one is coming or going
is not what something is cracked up to be
is One man's meat is another man's poison.
is One man's trash is another man's treasure.
is One's bark is worse than one's bite.
is one's heart is (dead) set against something
is one's heart is in one's mouth
is one's heart is in the right place
is one's heart is set on something

- is one's name is mud
- is one's nose is in the air
- is one's number is up
- is one's work is cut out for one
- is Pretty is as pretty does.
- is provided that something is so
- is Put your money where your mouth is!
- is recognize one for what one is
- is recognize something for what it is
- is say that something is so
- is seeing is believing
- is see (to it) that something is done
- is see which way the wind is blowing
- is so far as someone or something is concerned
- is so far as something is concerned
- is someone's goose is cooked
- is strike while the iron is hot
- is such as it is
- is Such is life!
- is talk until one is blue in the face
- is tell which is which
- is The jig is up.
- is there is no doing something
- is There is trouble brewing.
- is This is it.
- is Time is money.
- is Time is up.
- is Trouble is brewing.
- is turn out (that) something is so
- is Variety is the spice of life.
- is What's done is done.
- is when all is said and done
- is when one is good and ready
- is when the time is ripe
- is where one is coming from
- is Woe is me!
- is Your guess is as good as mine.
- is Your secret is safe with me.
- is An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
- is A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
- is A friend in need is a friend indeed.
- is A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.
- is A penny saved is a penny earned.
- is A storm is brewing.
- is The coast is clear.
- is The die is cast.
- is The game is up.
- is The honeymoon is over.
- is The jig is up.
- is The jury is still out (on someone or something).
- is The shoe is on the other foot.
- is the time is ripe
- issue issue a call for something
- issue make an issue of someone or something
- issue take issue (with someone)
- it Ain't it the truth?
- it almost lost it
- it as far as it goes
- it as it were
- it as luck would have it
- it at it again
- it before you know it
- it believe it or not
- it be that as it may
- it Break it up!
- it call it a day
- it call it a night
- it call it quits
- it can take it to the bank.
- it catch it
- it Come and get it!
- it Come off it!
- it come to think of it
- it Cool it!
- it cross a bridge before one comes to it
- it cross a bridge when one comes to it
- it Cut it out!
- it deem it (to be) necessary
- it deem that it is necessary
- it Don't let it go any further.
- it Don't let it out of this room
- it Easy does it.
- it eat one's cake and have it too
- it far be it from me to do something
- it far from it
- it feel it beneath one (to do something)
- it find it in one's heart (to do something)
- it for the devil of it
- it for the heck of it
- it for the hell of it
- it full of it
- it get away (from it all)
- it get it
- it Get off it!
- it Give it a rest.
- it give it the gun
- it Give it time.
- it give it to someone (straight)
- it Give it up.
- it go at it hammer and tongs
- it go at it tooth and nail
- it go for it
- it go it alone
- it grin and bear it
- it (had) known it was coming
- it Hand it over.
- it hand it to someone
- it have a rough time (of it)
- it have had it (up to here)
- it have it all over someone or something
- it have it both ways
- it have it in for someone
- it (have) never had it so good
- it have one's cake and eat it too
- it have what it takes
- it Here (it) goes.
- it hightail it out of somewhere
- it hit it off (with someone)
- it Hop to it!
- it hotfoot it out of somewhere
- it How goes it (with you)?
- it How's it going?
- it If the shoe fits, wear it.
- It It behooves one to do something.

- It It never rains but it pours.
 It It (only) stands to reason.
 It It sucks.
 It It takes (some) getting used to.
 it Keep at it!
 it knew it was coming
 it knock it off
 it known it was coming
 it lay it on thick
 it lay it on with a trowel
 it let it all hang out
 it Let it go.
 it let it roll
 it let someone have it (with both barrels)
 it like it or lump it
 it live it up
 it long and (the) short of it
 it lord it over someone
 it make a day of it
 it make a go of it
 it make a run for it
 it make it
 it Make no bones about it.
 it make no mistake (about it)
 it mix it up
 it never had it so good
 it no buts about it
 it no ifs, ands, or buts about it
 it not breathe a word of it
 it not give it another thought
 it nothing to it
 it not with it
 it no two ways about it
 it on the face of it
 it out of it
 it play it cool
 it play it safe
 it pour it on thick
 it put one's foot in it
 it Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
 it put to it
 it recognize something for what it is
 it rough it
 it rub someone's nose in it
 it run for it
 it Save it.
 it see (to it) that something is done
 it So be it.
 it So it goes.
 it spread it on thick
 it step on it
 it strike it rich
 it such as it is
 it take it away
 it Take it easy.
 it take it easy (on someone or something)
 it take it on the chin
 it take it or leave it
 it take it slow
 it take it to one's grave
 it take it upon oneself to do something
 it take it (up)on oneself (to do something)
 it tell it to the marines
 it That does it!
 it That's about the size of it.
 it That's it!
 it That tears it!
 it This is it.
 it to put it mildly
 it tough it out
 it to whom it may concern
 it when it comes right down to it
 it when it comes to something
 it whoop it up
 it wing it
 it with everything (on it)
 it with it
 it You can bet on it!
 it You can't take it with you.
 it You just don't get it!
 it You said it!
 itch have an itch for something
 itch have an itch to do something
 itching have an itching palm
 itchy have an itchy palm
 It'll It'll never fly.
 its come into its own
 its dead on its feet
 its Every dog has its day.
 its fall flat (on its face)
 it's for all it's worth
 it's for what(ever) it's worth
 its have had its day
 its in its entirety
 its in its prime
 It's It's about time!
 It's It's (all) Greek to me.
 It's It's high time!
 It's It's not over 'til it's over.
 It's It's no use (doing something).
 its judge something on its own merit(s)
 it's Like it's such a big deal!
 its put something through its paces
 its rear its ugly head
 its ruffle its feathers
 its run around like a chicken with its head cut off
 its sit on its hands
 its tell its own story
 its tell its own tale
 its worth its weight in gold
 itself by itself
 itself in and of itself
 itself lend oneself or itself to something
 itself shadow of itself
 itself speak for itself
 itself an end in itself
 ivory live in an ivory tower
 Jack All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
 Jack before you can say Jack Robinson
 jack jack someone up
 jack jack something up
 jack a jack-of-all-trades
 jackpot hit the jackpot
 jam get into a jam

- jam** get out of a jam
jam get someone out of a jam
jam in a jam
jam in(to) a jam
January (as) slow as molasses in January
January slow as molasses in January
January slower than molasses in January
jaw have a glass jaw
jaybird (as) naked as a jaybird
jaybird naked as a jaybird
jazz jazz something up
Jekyll Jekyll and Hyde
jeopardy in jeopardy
jetsam flotsam and jetsam
jiffy in a jiffy
jig The jig is up.
jig The jig is up.
Job (as) patient as Job
job do a job on someone or something
job do a snow job on someone
job Don't quit your day job.
job fall down on the job
job lay down on the job
job lie down on the job
job on the job
Job patient as Job
job a devil of a job
job a nine-to-five job
job the devil's own job
jockey jockey for position
jog jog someone's memory
Johnny Johnny-come-lately
Johnny Johnny-on-the-spot
join join forces (with someone)
join join hands
Join Join the club!
join join the fray
joint put someone's nose out of joint
joke able to take a joke
joke crack a joke
joke no joke
joke play a joke on someone
joke a standing joke
joking (all) joking aside
joking joking aside
jolt jolt to a start
jolt jolt to a stop
Joneses keep up (with the Joneses)
Jones's Davy Jones's locker
Jones's go to Davy Jones's locker
jowl cheek by jowl
joy burst with joy
joy pride and joy
judge (as) sober as a judge
judge judge one on one's own merit(s)
judge judge something on its own merit(s)
judge sober as a judge
judging judging by something
juice juice and cookies
juice stew in one's own juice
jump get the jump on someone
jump Go jump in the lake!
jump jump all over someone
jump jump at something
jump jump at the chance
jump jump at the opportunity
jump jump bail
jump jump down someone's throat
jump jump into the fray
jump jump off the deep end
jump jump on someone
jump jump on the bandwagon
jump jump out of one's skin
jump jump the gun
jump jump the track
jump jump through a hoop
jump jump through hoops
jump jump to conclusions
jump one jump ahead (of someone or something)
jump a hop, skip, and a jump
jumping jumping-off place
jumping jumping-off point
jumpstart get a jump(start)
juncture at this juncture
jury The jury is still out (on someone or something).
just able to take just so much
just get one's just deserts
just get one's just reward(s)
just had (just) as soon do something
just I just have this feeling
just in (just) a minute
just in (just) a second
just (just) as I expected
just (just) a stone's throw away (from something)
just just in case (something happens)
just just one of those things
just just so
just just the same
just just what the doctor ordered
just You just don't get it!
justice do justice to something
justice poetic justice
justice a miscarriage of justice
justice a travesty of justice
keel keel over
keel keep on an even keel
keel keep something on an even keel
keen have a keen interest in something
keen keen about someone or something
keen keen on doing something
keen keen on someone or something
keep earn one's keep
keep keep abreast (of something)
keep keep a civil tongue (in one's head)
keep keep a close rein on someone or something
keep keep after someone
keep keep an eye on someone or something
keep keep an eye out (for someone or something)
keep keep a secret
keep keep a stiff upper lip
keep keep a straight face
keep keep a tight rein on someone or something
Keep Keep at it!
keep keep at someone or something

- keep** keep body and soul together
keep keep (close) watch (on someone or something)
keep keep (close) watch (over someone or something)
keep keep company (with someone)
keep keep cool
keep keep from doing something
keep keep good time
keep keep harping on something
keep keep house
keep keep in touch (with someone)
keep keep late hours
keep keep off (something)
keep keep on an even keel
keep keep one's cards close to one's chest
keep keep one's cards close to one's vest
keep keep one's chin up
keep keep one's cool
keep keep one's distance (from someone or something)
keep keep one's ear to the ground
keep keep one's eye on the ball
keep keep one's eyes open (for someone or something)
keep keep one's eyes peeled (for someone or something)
keep keep one's feet on the ground
keep keep one's fingers crossed (for someone or something)
keep keep one's hand in (something)
keep keep one's hands off (someone or something)
keep keep one's head
keep keep one's mouth shut (about someone or something)
keep keep one's nose clean
keep keep one's nose out of someone's business
keep keep one's nose to the grindstone
keep keep one's opinions to oneself
keep keep one's own counsel
keep keep one's place
keep keep one's temper
keep keep one's weather eye open
keep keep one's wits about one
keep keep one's word
keep keep on one's toes
keep keep on someone
keep keep pace (with someone or something)
keep keep quiet (about someone or something)
keep keep someone or something hanging in midair
keep keep someone or something in check
keep keep someone or something in mind
keep keep someone or something quiet
keep keep someone or something still
keep keep someone or something up
keep keep someone company
keep keep someone from doing something
keep keep someone in line
keep keep someone in stitches
keep keep someone on tenterhooks
keep keep someone out in the cold
keep keep someone posted
keep keep something down
keep keep something on an even keel
keep keep something quiet
keep keep something to oneself
keep keep something under one's hat
keep keep something under wraps
keep keep still
keep keep tab(s) (on someone or something)
keep keep the ball rolling
keep keep the home fires burning
keep keep the lid on something
keep keep the wolf from the door
keep keep time
keep keep to oneself
keep keep track (of someone or something)
keep keep up an act
keep keep up appearances
keep keep up one's act
keep keep up (with someone or something)
keep keep up (with the Joneses)
keep keep up (with the times)
Keep Keep your shirt on!
keepers one's brother's keeper
keepers Finders keepers(, losers weepers).
keeping Have you been keeping busy?
keeping in keeping (with something)
keeping out of keeping (with something)
keeping What's keeping you?
keeps for keeps
keeps play for keeps
keg sitting on a powder keg
kettle a fine kettle of fish
kettle the pot calling the kettle black
keyed keyed up
kibosh put the kibosh on something
kick get a kick out of someone or something
kick give someone a kick
kick kick a habit
kick kick off
kick kick oneself (for doing something)
kick kick over
kick kick someone or something around
kick kick someone out
kick kick something in
kick kick something off
kick kick the bucket
kick kick the habit
kick kick up
kicking alive and kicking
kicks for kicks
kid handle someone with kid gloves
kid kid around (with someone)
kidding (all) kidding aside
kidding kidding aside
kidding no kidding
kidding Who do you think you're kidding?
kid's kid('s) stuff
kill dressed to kill
kill fit to kill
kill if looks could kill
kill in at the kill
kill in on the kill
kill kill the fatted calf
kill kill time
kill kill two birds with one stone
killed Curiosity killed the cat.
killed killed outright
killed A little (hard) work never killed anyone.

killing make a killing
kilter out of kilter
kin kith and kin
kin next of kin
kind in kind
kind kind of something
kind let out some kind of sound
kind nothing of the kind
kind two of a kind
kind a kind of (a) something
kindly take kindly to something
kindness do someone a kindness
kindness milk of human kindness
kinds all kinds of someone or something
king (as) cocky as the king of spades
king cocky as the king of spades
king fit for a king
king's pay a king's ransom (for something)
kink a kink in my neck
kiss kiss and make up
kiss kiss and tell
kiss kiss something good-bye
kiss the kiss of death
kit kit and caboodle
kitchen everything but the kitchen sink
kite (as) high as a kite
kite Go fly a kite!
kite high as a kite
kith kith and kin
kitten (as) weak as a kitten
kitten weak as a kitten
kitty feed the kitty
knee knee-high to a grasshopper
knee on bended knee
knew knew it was coming
knife go under the knife
knife pull a knife (on someone)
knit knit one's brow
knock knock about (somewhere)
knock knock-down-drag-out fight
knock knock it off
knock knock off work
knock knock oneself out (to do something)
knock knock one off one's feet
knock knock on wood
knock knock some heads together
knock knock someone or something about
knock knock someone or something around
knock knock someone's block off
knock knock someone dead
knock knock someone down (to size)
knock knock someone for a loop
knock knock someone off
knock knock someone out (cold)
knock knock someone over with a feather
knock knock something back
knock knock something down
knock knock something off
knock knock the props out from under someone
knot tie the knot
knots tie someone (up) in knots
know before you know it

know for all I know
know in the know
know know (all) the tricks of the trade
know know a thing or two (about someone or something)
know know a trick or two
know know better (than to do something)
know know-how
know know one's ABCs
know know one's onions
know know one's place
know know one's stuff
know know one's way about
know know one's way around
know know someone or something like a book
know know someone or something like the back of one's hand
know know someone or something like the palm of one's hand
know know someone by sight
know know something backwards and forwards
know know something by heart
know know something forwards and backwards
know know something from memory
know know something in one's bones
know know something inside out
know know something only too well
know know the ropes
know know the score
know know what's what
know know when one is not wanted
know know where all the bodies are buried
know know whereof one speaks
know know where someone stands (on someone or something)
know know which is which
know know which side one's bread is buttered on
know let someone know (about something)
know not know beans (about someone or something)
know not know enough to come in out of the rain
know not know from nothing
know not know if one is coming or going
know not know one's own strength
know not know someone from Adam
know not know the first thing about someone or something
know not know where to turn
know not know whether one is coming or going
know not know which way to turn
know What one doesn't know won't hurt one.
know you know
knowledge to the best of one's knowledge
knowledge A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.
known (had) known it was coming
known known it was coming
known a known fact
known a known quantity
knows (as) far as anyone knows
knows far as anyone knows
knows so far as anyone knows
knuckle knuckle down (to something)
knuckle knuckle under (to someone or something)
knuckles get one's knuckles rapped

- knuckles** rap someone's knuckles
labor in labor
labor a labor of love
labors fruit(s) of one's labor(s)
lace lace into someone or something
ladder at the bottom of the ladder
laid laid-back
laid laid up
laid the best-laid plans of mice and men
laid the best-laid schemes of mice and men
lake Go jump in the lake!
lamb (as) gentle as a lamb
lamb (as) innocent as a lamb
lamb (as) meek as a lamb
lamb gentle as a lamb
lamb innocent as a lamb
lamb meek as a lamb
lamb's in two shakes of a lamb's tail
lambs like lambs to the slaughter
lamppost between you, me, and the lamppost
land do a land-office business
land go on to a better land
land land on both feet
land land on one's feet
land land up somehow or somewhere
land live off the fat of the land
land on land
land the land of Nod
land the lay of the land
landslide a landslide victory
language in plain language
language speak the same language
language use strong language
lap in the lap of luxury
lap lap something up
lapse lapse into a coma
large (as) large as life
large at large
large by and large
large large as life
large loom large (on the horizon)
lark (as) happy as a lark
lark for a lark
lark happy as a lark
lark on a lark
lashing get a tongue-lashing
lashing give someone a tongue-lashing
last as a last resort
last at last
last at (long) last
last at the last gasp
last at the last minute
last be the last straw
last breathe one's last
last down to the last detail
last every last one
last get the last laugh
last get the last word
last head for the last roundup
last He laughs best who laughs last.
last He who laughs last, laughs longest.
last in the last analysis
last last but not least
last last will and testament
last on someone's or something's last legs
last pay one's last respects
last see the last of someone or something
last someone's last will and testament
last to the last
last a last-ditch effort
last the last person
last the very last
late better late than never
late keep late hours
late late in life
late late in the day
late of late
lately Johnny-come-lately
later I'll (try to) catch you later.
later sooner or later
latest at the latest
lather in a lather
laugh get the last laugh
laugh laugh all the way to the bank
laugh laugh out of the other side of one's mouth
laugh laugh something off
laugh laugh something out of court
laugh laugh up one's sleeve
laughing burst out laughing
laughing die laughing
laughing no laughing matter
laughingstock make a laughingstock of oneself or something
laughingstock make oneself or something a laughingstock
laughs He laughs best who laughs last.
laughs He who laughs last, laughs longest.
laughter split one's sides (with laughter)
launch launch forth (on something)
laundry in the laundry
laurels look to one's laurels
laurels rest on one's laurels
lavatory go to the lavatory
law break a law
law break the law
law law unto oneself
law lay down the law
law take the law into one's own hands
lay lay a finger on someone or something
lay lay an egg
lay lay down one's life (for someone or something)
lay lay down on the job
lay lay down the law
lay lay eyes on someone or something
lay lay hold of someone or something
lay lay into someone or something
lay lay it on thick
lay lay it on with a trowel
lay lay low
lay lay off (someone or something)
lay lay one's cards on the table
lay lay one's hands on someone or something
lay lay over (somewhere)
lay lay someone away

lay lay someone off
lay lay someone up
lay lay something by
lay lay something in
lay lay something on someone
lay lay something on the line
lay lay something to rest
lay lay something to waste
lay lay the blame on someone or something
lay lay the finger on someone
lay lay waste to something
lay the lay of the land
lead follow someone's lead
lead get the lead out
lead go over like a lead balloon
lead lead a dog's life
lead lead off
lead lead someone by the nose
lead lead someone down the garden path
lead lead someone on a merry chase
lead lead someone to believe something
lead lead someone to do something
lead lead the life of Riley
lead lead up to something
lead shake the lead out
leading a leading question
leading the blind leading the blind
leads One thing leads to another.
leaf leaf through something
leaf take a leaf out of someone's book
leaf turn over a new leaf
league in league (with someone)
league not in the same league with someone or something
leak leak something (out)
lean lean on someone
lean lean over backwards (to do something)
lean lean toward doing something
leap leap at the opportunity
leap leap to conclusions
leaps by leaps and bounds
learn learn something by heart
learn learn something by rote
learn learn something from the bottom up
learn learn (something) the hard way
learn learn the ropes
learn learn to live with something
learn live and learn
lease a new lease on life
least at least
least last but not least
least least of all
least to say the least
least when least expected
least the line of least resistance
least the path of least resistance
leather hell-bent for leather
leave absent without leave
leave leave a bad taste in someone's mouth
leave leave a lot to be desired
leave leave a sinking ship
leave leave no stone unturned
leave leave oneself wide open for something

leave leave oneself wide open to something
leave leave one's mark on someone
leave leave one to one's fate
leave leave someone or something hanging in midair
leave leave someone or something in one's hands
leave leave someone flat
leave leave someone for dead
leave leave someone high and dry
leave leave someone holding the bag
leave leave someone in peace
leave leave someone in the lurch
leave leave someone out in the cold
leave leave something on
leave leave something open
leave leave well enough alone
leave leave word (with someone)
leave take it or leave it
leave take leave of one's senses
leave take (one's) leave (of someone)
left come out of left field
left hang a left
left left and right
left out in left field
left pay someone a left-handed compliment
left right and left
left take up where one left off
leg (as) crooked as a dog's hind leg
leg Break a leg!
leg cost an arm and a leg
leg crooked as a dog's hind leg
leg do not have a leg to stand on
leg pay an arm and a leg (for something)
leg pull someone's leg
legs get one's sea legs
legs on someone's or something's last legs
legs stretch one's legs
legs with one's tail between one's legs
leisure at leisure
leisure at one's leisure
lend lend a hand (to someone)
lend lend an ear (to someone)
lend lend color to something
lend lend oneself or itself to something
lend lend (someone) a hand
length at length
length at some length
length go to any length
less could(n't) care less
less in less than no time
less less than pleased
less more or less
lesser the lesser (of the two)
lesser the lesser of two evils
lesson teach someone a lesson
let Don't let it go any further.
let Don't let it out of this room.
let Don't let someone or something get you down.
let let alone someone or something
Let Let bygones be bygones.
let let go of someone or something
let let go (with something)
let let grass grow under one's feet

- let** let her rip
let let it all hang out
Let Let it go.
let let it roll
let let loose (with something)
let let off steam
let let oneself go
let let one's emotions show
let let one's hair down
let let out some kind of sound
Let Let sleeping dogs lie.
let let someone or something off
let let someone down
let let someone go
let let someone have it (with both barrels)
let let someone in on something
let let someone know (about something)
let let someone off easy
let let someone off (the hook)
let let something (get) out
let let something pass
let let something ride
let let something slide
let let something slip by
let let something slip (out)
Let Let the buyer beware.
let let the cat out of the bag
let let the chance slip by
let let things slide
let let up (on someone or something)
let let us do something
let let well enough alone
let live and let live
let not let someone catch someone doing something
let sit back and let something happen
Let's Let's do lunch.
letter bread-and-butter letter
letter dead letter
letter to the letter
level at sea level
level do one's (level) best
level find one's own level
level level something at someone
level level with someone
level lower oneself to some level
level on the level
level (strictly) on the level
liability assume liability
liberties take liberties with someone or something
liberty at liberty
liberty take the liberty of doing something
license license to do something
lick give something a lick and a promise
lick lick one's chops
lick lick one's lips
lick lick something into shape
lick a lick of work
licking get a licking
licking give someone a licking
licking take a licking
lid blow the lid off (something)
lid flip one's lid
lid keep the lid on something
lie Let sleeping dogs lie.
lie lie down on the job
lie lie fallow
lie lie in state
lie lie in wait for someone or something
lie lie low
lie lie through one's teeth
lies a pack of lies
lieu in lieu of something
life all walks of life
life (as) big as life
life (as) large as life
life bet one's life
life between life and death
life big as life
life claim a life
life come to life
life for life
life for the life of one
life Get a life!
life get the shock of one's life
life have the time of one's life
life in the prime of life
life large as life
life late in life
life lay down one's life (for someone or something)
life lead a dog's life
life lead the life of Riley
life life is too short
life live a dog's life
life live a life of something
life make life miserable for someone
life milestone in someone's life
life never in one's life
life not on your life
life one's way of life
life run for one's life
life someone's mission in life
life Such is life!
life take one's own life
life Variety is the spice of life.
life within an inch of one's life
life a matter of life and death
life a new lease on life
life the facts of life
life the life of the party
life the seamy side of life
Life's Life's been good (to me).
lifetime once-in-a-lifetime chance
lift lift a hand (against someone or something)
lift not lift a finger (to help someone)
lift not lift a hand (to help someone)
light all sweetness and light
light (as) light as a feather
light begin to see the light
light bring something to light
light come to light
light get the green light
light give someone the green light
light hide one's light under a bushel
light in light of something

- light** light as a feather
light light into someone or something
light light out (for somewhere)
light light out (of somewhere)
light make light of something
light Many hands make light work.
light out like a light
light see the light
light shed (some) light on something
light throw (some) light on something
lightly get off lightly
lightly once-over-lightly
lightning (as) quick as greased lightning
Lightning Lightning never strikes twice (in the same place).
lightning like greased lightning
lightning quick as greased lightning
lights according to one's own lights
like and the like
like avoid someone or something like the plague
like come on like gangbusters
like come up smelling like roses
like eat like a bird
like eat like a horse
like feel like a million (dollars)
like feel like a new person
like feel like doing something
like feel like (having) something
like fit like a glove
like go like clockwork
like go over like a lead balloon
like have a mind like a steel trap
like hit (someone) like a ton of bricks
like know someone or something like a book
like know someone or something like the back of one's hand
like know someone or something like the palm of one's hand
like like a bat out of hell
like like a bolt out of the blue
like like a bump on a log
like like a fish out of water
like like a house afire
like like a house on fire
like (like) an open book
like like a sitting duck
like like a three-ring circus
like like crazy
like like greased lightning
like like it or lump it
Like Like it's such a big deal!
like like lambs to the slaughter
like like looking for a needle in a haystack
like like mad
like like nothing on earth
like like one of the family
like like sitting ducks
like like to hear oneself talk
like like (two) peas in a pod
like like water off a duck's back
like look like a million dollars
like look like death warmed over
like look like something
like look like the cat that swallowed the canary
like need something like a hole in the head
like off like a shot
like out like a light
like packed (in) like sardines
like read someone like a(n open) book
like run around like a chicken with its head cut off
like run like clockwork
like sell like hotcakes
like sleep like a baby
like sleep like a log
like sound like
like spread like wildfire
like stick out like a sore thumb
like They don't make them like they used to.
like watch someone or something like a hawk
like work like a horse
like would like (to have) someone or something
likely (as) likely as not
likely likely as not
likes the likes of someone
liking take a liking to someone or something
liking to someone's liking
lily gild the lily
limb out on a limb
limbo in limbo
limelight in the limelight
limit go the limit
limit go to the limit
limit The sky's the limit.
limits off limits
limits within limits
line draw a line between something and something else
line draw the line (at something)
line drop someone a line
line fall in(to) line
line feed someone a line
line get a line on someone or something
line give someone a line
line hold the line (at someone or something)
line in line
line in the line of duty
line keep someone in line
line lay something on the line
line line one's own pockets
line line someone or something up with something
line line someone up (for something)
line line someone up with someone
line on line
line out of line
line put something on the line
line sign on the dotted line
line step out of line
line swallow something, hook, line, and sinker
line take a hard line (with someone)
line toe the line
line the bottom line
line the end of the line
line the line of least resistance
line the party line
linen air one's dirty linen in public

linen wash one's dirty linen in public
lines blow one's lines
lines drop someone a few lines
lines fluff one's lines
lines muff one's lines
lines read between the lines
lining Every cloud has a silver lining.
lion (as) strong as a lion
lion beard the lion in his den
lion strong as a lion
lion's the lion's share (of something)
lip button one's lip
lip keep a stiff upper lip
lip pay lip service (to something)
lips lick one's lips
list on a waiting list
listen listen to reason
listen stop, look, and listen
litmus litmus test
little (a little) new to (all) this
little in a little bit
little little by little
little make little of someone or something
little one little bit
little precious little
little quite a little
little think little of someone or something
little twist someone around one's little finger
little A little bird told me.
little a little bit
little A little (hard) work never hurt anyone.
little A little (hard) work never killed anyone.
little A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.
live have to live with something
live learn to live with something
live live a dog's life
live live a life of something
live live and learn
live live and let live
live live beyond one's means
live live by one's wits
live live for the moment
live live from hand to mouth
live live happily ever after
live live high off the hog
live live high on the hog
live live in
live live it up
live live off the fat of the land
live live on borrowed time
live live out of a suitcase
live live something down
live live through something
live live up to one's end of the bargain
live live up to something
live live within one's means
livelong all the livelong day
lives hit one where one lives
lives where one lives
living beat the living daylights out of someone
living do something for a living
living every living soul

living frighten the (living) daylights out of someone
living make a living
living not a living soul
living not tell a (living) soul
living scare the living daylights out of someone
load get a load off one's feet
load get a load off one's mind
load get a load of someone or something
load take a load off one's feet
load two bricks shy of a load
loaded loaded for bear
loaf Half a loaf is better than none.
loan float a loan
loan take out a loan
location on location
lock lock horns (with someone)
lock lock something in
lock lock, stock, and barrel
lock pick a lock
locker Davy Jones's locker
locker go to Davy Jones's locker
loco plumb loco
log (as) easy as falling off a log
log (as) easy as rolling off a log
log easy as falling off a log
log easy as rolling off a log
log like a bump on a log
log sleep like a log
loggerheads at loggerheads (with someone)
loins gird (up) one's loins
long all day long
long all night long
long as long as
long (as) merry as the day is long
long at (long) last
long before long
long go a long way in doing something
long go a long way toward doing something
long have come a long way
long in the long run
long long and (the) short of it
Long Long time no see.
long make a long story short
long merry as the day is long
long not by a long shot
long not long for this world
long over the long haul
long so long
long Take a long walk off a short pier.
longest He who laughs last, laughs longest.
look get a dirty look from someone
look give someone a dirty look
look have a look for someone or something
look look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
look look at someone cross-eyed
look look daggers at someone
look look down one's nose at someone or something
look look down on someone or something
look look for trouble
look look forward to something
look look good on paper
look look high and low (for someone or something)

look look in (on someone or something)
look look into something
look look like a million dollars
look look like death warmed over
look look like something
look look like the cat that swallowed the canary
look look on someone as something
look look out
look look someone or something over
look look someone or something up
look look someone in the eye
look look someone in the face
look look the other way
look look to one's laurels
look look to someone or something (for something)
look look under the hood
look look up to someone
look make someone look good
look make someone look ridiculous
look stop, look, and listen
look take a look (at someone or something)
look take a look for someone or something
look a faraway look
look a far-off look
looking Here's looking at you.
looking like looking for a needle in a haystack
looking Things are looking up.
lookout on the lookout (for someone or something)
looks if looks could kill
loom loom large (on the horizon)
loon (as) crazy as a loon
loon crazy as a loon
loop knock someone for a loop
loop throw someone for a loop
loose at loose ends
loose break loose (from someone or something)
loose cut loose (from someone or something)
loose cut loose (with something)
loose hang loose
loose have a screw loose
loose let loose (with something)
loose on the loose
loose play fast and loose (with someone or something)
lord (as) drunk as a lord
lord drunk as a lord
lord lord it over someone
lose lose face
lose lose ground
lose lose heart
lose lose oneself (in something)
lose lose one's cool
lose lose one's grip
lose lose one's head (over someone or something)
lose lose one's marbles
lose lose one's mind
lose lose one's reason
lose lose one's shirt
lose lose one's temper
lose lose one's touch (with someone or something)
lose lose one's train of thought
lose lose out (on something)
lose lose out to someone or something

lose lose sleep (over someone or something)
lose lose touch (with someone or something)
lose lose track (of someone or something)
losers Finders keepers(, losers weepers).
loss at a loss (for words)
loss throw someone for a loss
loss a dead loss
losses cut one's losses
lost almost lost it
lost get lost
lost lost-and-found
lost lost and gone forever
lost lost in thought
lost lost on someone
lost make up for lost time
lost no love lost (between someone and someone else)
lost a lost cause
lot carry (a lot of) weight (with someone or something)
lot cast one's lot in with someone
lot cover a lot of ground
lot cover a lot of territory
lot get a lot of mileage out of something
lot have a lot going (for one)
lot have a lot of promise
lot have a lot on one's mind
lot leave a lot to be desired
lot quite a lot
lot think a lot of someone or something
lot a lot of someone or something
lots draw lots
lots lots of people or things
loud For crying out loud!
loud loud and clear
loud think out loud
louder Actions speak louder than words.
louse louse something up
lousy lousy with something
love fall head over heels in love (with someone)
love fall in love (with someone)
love head over heels in love (with someone)
love in love (with someone or something)
love love at first sight
love make love (to someone)
love no love lost (between someone and someone else)
love not for love nor money
love a labor of love
lovely lovely weather for ducks
low burn with a low blue flame
low get the low-down (on someone or something)
low give someone the low-down (on someone or something)
low have a low boiling point
low hunt high and low (for someone or something)
low lay low
low lie low
low look high and low (for someone or something)
low low man on the totem pole
low run low (on something)
low search high and low (for someone or something)
low sweet and low
lower lower oneself to some level
lower lower one's sights

lower lower one's voice
lower lower the boom on someone
luck as luck would have it
luck down on one's luck
luck have a run of bad luck
luck have one's luck run out
luck in luck
luck luck out
luck one's luck runs out
luck out of luck
luck press one's luck
luck push one's luck
luck try one's luck (at something)
luck a stroke of luck
lucky thank one's lucky stars
lull lull someone into a false sense of security
lull lull someone to sleep
lull the lull before the storm
lump get a lump in one's throat
lump like it or lump it
lunatic the lunatic fringe
lunch blow one's lunch
lunch Let's do lunch.
lunch out to lunch
lungs at the top of one's lungs
lurch leave someone in the lurch
luxury in the lap of luxury
lying take something lying down
mad (as) mad as a hatter
mad (as) mad as a hornet
mad (as) mad as a March hare
mad (as) mad as a wet hen
mad (as) mad as hell
mad drive someone mad
mad get mad (at someone or something)
mad in a mad rush
mad like mad
mad mad about someone or something
mad mad as a hatter
mad mad as a hornet
mad mad as a March hare
mad mad as a wet hen
mad mad as hell
mad mad enough to chew nails
mad mad for someone or something
mad so mad I could scream
mad stark raving mad
mad steaming (mad)
made Have I made myself clear?
made have something made
made made for each other
made made from the same mold
made made to measure
made made to order
made not made of money
madness have method in one's madness
maiden maiden voyage
mail by return mail
main main strength and awkwardness
main might and main
mainstream in the mainstream (of something)
make able to make something

make can't make heads or tails (out) of someone or something
make kiss and make up
make make a bed
make make a beeline for someone or something
make make a big deal about something
make make a break for something or somewhere
make make a bundle
make make a check out (to someone)
make make a clean breast of something
make make a clean sweep
make make a comeback
make make a day of doing something
make make a day of it
make make a dent in something
make make a face
make make a fast buck
make make a federal case out of something
make make a fool out of someone
make make a friend
make make a fuss (over someone or something)
make make a go of it
make make a great show of something
make make a hit (with someone or something)
make make a killing
make make a laughingstock of oneself or something
make make a living
make make allowance(s) (for someone or something)
make make a long story short
make make a meal of something
make make amends (for something)
make make a monkey out of someone
make make a mountain out of a molehill
make make an all-out effort
make make a name (for oneself)
make make an appearance
make make an appointment (with someone)
make make an example of someone
make make an exception (for someone)
make make an exhibition of oneself
make make a night of doing something
make make an impression (on someone)
make make an issue of someone or something
make make a note of something
make make a nuisance of oneself
make make an uproar
make make a pass at someone
make make a pile
make make a pitch (for someone or something)
make make a play (for someone)
make make a point
make make a practice of something
make make a quick buck
make make a reservation
make make arrangements (for someone or something)
make make a run for it
make make a scene
make make as if to do something
make make a silk purse out of a sow's ear
make make a stink (about something)
make make away with someone or something
make make book on something

make **make** (both) ends meet
make **make** chin music
make **make** cracks (about someone or something)
make **make** do (with someone or something)
make **make** eyes (at someone)
make **make** fast work of someone or something
make **make** for somewhere
make **make** free with someone or something
make **make** friends
make **make** fun (of someone or something)
make **make** good as something
make **make** good (at something)
make **make** good money
make **make** good on something
make **make** good time
make **make** hamburger out of someone or something
make **make** it
make **make** life miserable for someone
make **make** light of something
make **make** little of someone or something
make **make** love (to someone)
make **make** merry
make **make** mincemeat out of someone or something
make **make** mischief
Make **Make** no bones about it.
make **make** no difference (to someone)
make **make** no mistake (about it)
make **make** nothing of something
make **make** off with someone or something
make **make** oneself at home
make **make** oneself conspicuous
make **make** oneself heard
make **make** oneself or something a laughingstock
make **make** oneself scarce
make **make** (oneself) up
make **make** one's mind up
make **make** one's way through something
make **make** or break someone
make **make** out (with someone or something)
make **make** over someone or something
make **make** overtures
make **make** peace (with someone)
make **make** points (with someone)
make **make** reservations
make **make** sense
make **make** short work of someone or something
make **make** someone or something available to someone
make **make** someone or something over
make **make** someone sick
make **make** someone's bed
make **make** someone's blood boil
make **make** someone's blood run cold
make **make** someone's flesh crawl
make **make** someone's gorge rise
make **make** someone's hair curl
make **make** someone's hair stand on end
make **make** someone's head spin
make **make** someone's head swim
make **make** someone's mouth water
make **make** someone's position clear
make **make** someone eat crow
make **make** someone look good

make **make** someone look ridiculous
make **make** someone the scapegoat for something
make **make** someone up
make **make** something
make **make** the bed
make **make** the best of something
make **make** the feathers fly
make **make** the fur fly
make **make** the grade
make **make** the most of something
make **make** the scene
make **make** time (for someone or something)
make **make** time (with someone)
make **make** up for lost time
make **make** up for someone or something
make **make** up (with someone)
make **make** use of someone or something
make **make** waves
make **make** way
make **Many** hands **make** light work.
make **not** able to **make** anything out of someone or something
make **on** the **make**
make **They** don't **make** them like they used to.
Maker **gone** to meet one's **Maker**.
makes **All** work and **no** play **makes** Jack a dull boy.
makes **Early** to bed, **early** to rise(, **makes** a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.)
makes **Haste** **makes** waste.
makes **That** **makes** two of us.
makes **what** **makes** someone tick
makes **what** **makes** something tick
makings **have** the **makings** of something
man **dirty** old man
man **Early** to bed, **early** to rise(, **makes** a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.)
man **high** man on the totem pole
man **low** man on the totem pole
man **man**-about-town
man **man** to man
man **odd** man out
man **see** a man about a dog
man **the** man in the street
manger **dog** in the manger
manner **all** manner of someone or something
manner **devil**-may-care manner
manners **mind** your manners
man's **One** man's meat is another man's poison.
man's **One** man's trash is another man's treasure.
many **have** too many irons in the fire
many **in** many respects
many **in** so many words
Many **Many** hands **make** light work.
many **many** is the time
many **Too** many cooks **spoil** the broth.
many **Too** many cooks **spoil** the stew.
marble (as) cold as marble
marble **cold** as marble
marbles **do** not have all one's marbles
marbles **lose** one's marbles
March (as) mad as a March hare
March **mad** as a March hare

march march to (the beat of) a different drummer
march steal a march (on someone)
mare by shank's mare
mare go (somewhere) by shank's mare
marines tell it to the marines
mark leave one's mark on someone
mark mark my word(s)
mark mark someone or something down
mark mark something up
mark off the mark
mark toe the mark
mark wide of the mark
market drug on the market
market in the market (for something)
market on the market
market play the market
marks X marks the spot
married get married
marvel a marvel to behold
mast at half-mast
master a past master at something
match meet one's match
match mix and match
match strike a match
match a match for someone, something, or some creature
match the whole shooting match
matter as a matter of course
matter as a matter of fact
matter for that matter
matter get at the heart of the matter
matter get to the heart of the matter
matter gray matter
matter matter-of-fact
matter no laughing matter
matter no matter what happens
matter a matter of life and death
matter a matter of opinion
matter the crux of the matter
may be that as it may
may come what may
may devil-may-care attitude
may devil-may-care manner
may have one's finger in too many pies
may to whom it may concern
me be the death of me (yet)
me between you, me, and the lamppost
me Do you read me?
me far be it from me to do something
me Greek to me
me hand-me-down
me have a pick-me-up
me It's (all) Greek to me.
me Life's been good (to me).
me my gut tells me (that) something is so
me What do you want me to say?
me Woe is me!
me You got me there.
me Your secret is safe with me.
me You scared me out of my wits.
me You scared the crap out of me.
me You scared the devil out of me.
me You scared the dickens out of me.

me You scared the hell out of me.
me You scared the pants off (of) me.
me A little bird told me.
meal eat (a meal) out
meal Enjoy your meal.
meal make a meal of something
meal square meal
mean mean business
mean mean for someone to do something
mean mean nothing (to someone)
mean mean something (to someone)
mean mean to (do something)
means beyond one's means
means by all means
means by any means
means by means of something
means by no means
means live beyond one's means
means live within one's means
means ways and means
meant meant to be
meantime in the meantime
measure beyond measure
measure for good measure
measure made to measure
measure measure up (to someone or something)
measure measure up (to someone's expectations)
meat measure up to someone's standards
meat meat-and-potatoes
meat One man's meat is another man's poison.
Mecca a Mecca for someone
medication on medication
medicine get a taste of one's own medicine
medicine take one's medicine
medicine a dose of one's own medicine
medium find a happy medium
medium hit a happy medium
medium strike a happy medium
meek (as) meek as a lamb
meek meek as a lamb
meet gone to meet one's Maker.
meet make (both) ends meet
meet meet one's death
meet meet one's end
meet meet one's match
meet meet one's Waterloo
meet meet someone halfway
meet meet the requirements (for something)
meeting call a meeting
meeting call the meeting to order
meeting hold a meeting
meeting Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes
meeting a meeting of minds
meets more (to something) than meets the eye
melt look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
melt melt in one's mouth
memory commit something to memory
memory in memory of someone
memory in recent memory
memory jog someone's memory
memory know something from memory
men be all things to all men

men separate the men from the boys
men the best-laid plans of mice and men
men the best-laid schemes of mice and men
mend mend (one's) fences
mend mend one's ways
mend on the mend
mention mention someone or something in passing
mentioning not worth mentioning
mercy at someone's mercy
mercy at the mercy of someone
mercy throw oneself at the mercy of the court
mercy throw oneself on the mercy of the court
merits judge one on one's own merit(s)
merits judge something on its own merit(s)
merrier the more the merrier
merry (as) merry as a cricket
merry (as) merry as the day is long
merry lead someone on a merry chase
merry make merry
merry merry as a cricket
merry merry as the day is long
mess get into a mess
mess get out of a mess
mess mess about (with someone or something)
mess mess around (with someone or something)
mess mess someone or something up
message get the message
met hail-fellow-well-met
method have method in one's madness
mice When the cat's away, the mice will play.
mice the best-laid plans of mice and men
mice the best-laid schemes of mice and men
midair in midair
midair keep someone or something hanging in midair
midair leave someone or something hanging in midair
Midas have the Midas touch
middle caught in the middle
middle change horses in the middle of the stream
middle in the middle of nowhere
middle middle-of-the-road
middle play both ends (against the middle)
middle smack-dab in the middle
middling fair to middling
midnight burn the midnight oil
might might and main
mighty act high-and-mighty
mighty high-and-mighty
mildly to put it mildly
mile by a mile
mile Give one an inch, and one will take a mile.
mile go the extra mile
mile miss (something) by a mile
mileage get a lot of mileage out of something
miles be a million miles away
milestone milestone in someone's life
milk coffee, tea, or milk
milk cry over spilled milk
milk milk of human kindness
milk milk someone for something
mill grist for someone's mill
mill have been through the mill
mill run-of-the-mill

million be a million miles away
million feel like a million (dollars)
million look like a million dollars
million one in a million
millstone millstone about one's neck
mince mince (one's) words
mincemeat make mincemeat out of someone or something
mind bear in mind that something is so
mind bear someone or something in mind
mind blow someone's mind
mind boggle someone's mind
mind change someone's mind
mind come to mind
mind cross someone's mind
mind enter one's mind
mind get a load off one's mind
mind get someone or something out of one's mind
mind give someone a piece of one's mind
mind have a (good) mind to do something
mind have a lot on one's mind
mind have a mind like a steel trap
mind have a one-track mind
mind have half a mind to do something
mind have someone or something on one's mind
mind have something in mind
mind have the presence of mind to do something
mind in one's right mind
mind keep someone or something in mind
mind lose one's mind
mind make one's mind up
mind mind one's own business
mind mind one's p's and q's
mind mind the store
mind mind you
mind never mind
mind on one's mind
mind out of one's mind
mind Out of sight, out of mind.
mind pass through someone's mind
mind put one's mind to something
mind put someone or something out of one's mind
mind read someone's mind
mind slip one's mind
mind speak one's mind
mind weigh on someone's mind
mind's in one's mind's eye
minds a meeting of minds
mine Your guess is as good as mine.
mine a gold mine of information
mine a mine of information
mines back to the salt mines
mint in mint condition
minute at the last minute
minute every minute counts
minute in (just) a minute
minute up-to-the-minute
minute the minute something happens
mirror able to fog a mirror
mirrors smoke and mirrors
miscarriage a miscarriage of justice
mischief make mischief

- miserable** make life miserable for someone
misplace misplace one's trust (in someone)
miss have a near miss
miss hit-and-miss
miss hit-or-miss
miss miss out (on something)
miss miss (something) by a mile
miss miss the boat
miss miss the point
miss not miss a thing
miss not miss much
misses one's heart misses a beat
mission someone's mission in life
Missouri be from Missouri
mistake by mistake
mistake make no mistake (about it)
mistake mistake someone for someone else
mistaken a case of mistaken identity
mix mix and match
mix mix it up
mix mix someone or something up
mix mix someone up with someone else
mixed get mixed-up
mixed have mixed feelings (about someone or something)
mixed a mixed bag
molasses (as) slow as molasses in January
molasses slow as molasses in January
molasses slower than molasses in January
mold cast in the same mold
mold made from the same mold
molehill make a mountain out of a molehill
moment every moment counts
moment for the moment
moment live for the moment
moment not a moment to spare
moment not for a moment
moment on the spur of the moment
moment without a moment to spare
moment the big moment
moment the moment everyone has been waiting for
moment the moment of truth
money closefisted (with money)
money fork money out (for something)
money get a run for one's money
money give one a run for one's money
money have money to burn
money hush money
money in the money
money make good money
Money Money burns a hole in someone's pocket.
Money Money is no object.
Money Money is the root of all evil.
money money talks
money not for love nor money
money not made of money
money on the money
money pour money down the drain
money Put your money where your mouth is!
money run to an amount of money
money see the color of someone's money
money set someone back (some amount of money)
money throw good money after bad
money tightfisted (with money)
money Time is money.
money to the tune of some amount of money
money A fool and his money are soon parted.
money's get one's money's worth
monkey make a monkey out of someone
monkey monkey around (with someone or something)
monkey monkey business
monkey monkey suit
monkey throw a monkey wrench into the works
monkeys (as) funny as a barrel of monkeys
monkeys as much fun as a barrel of monkeys
monkeys funny as a barrel of monkeys
monkeys more fun than a barrel of monkeys
month by the month
month in a month of Sundays
months months running
mood in a bad mood
mood in no mood to do something
mood in the mood for something
mood in the mood to do something
moon ask for the moon
moon once in a blue moon
moon promise someone the moon
moon promise the moon (to someone)
mop mop the floor up with someone
mope mope around
more bite off more than one can chew
more exchange more than some number of words with someone
more have more important fish to fry
more more and more
more more dead than alive
more more fun than a barrel of monkeys
more more often than not
more more or less
more more someone or something than one can shake a stick at
more more than one can bear
more more than one can stand
more more than one can take
more more than someone bargained for
more more (to something) than meets the eye
more strike a balance (between two or more things)
more There's more than one way to skin a cat.
more wear more than one hat
more the more the merrier
morning first thing (in the morning)
morning the morning after (the night before)
mortal shuffle off this mortal coil
mortar bricks and mortar
moss A rolling stone gathers no moss.
most at most
most for the most part
most make the most of something
mothballs put something in mothballs
mother old enough to be someone's mother
mother's swear on one's mother's grave
mother's tied to one's mother's apron strings
motion table a motion
motions go through the motions
mountain make a mountain out of a molehill

mouse (as) poor as a church mouse
mouse (as) quiet as a mouse
mouse play cat and mouse (with someone)
mouse poor as a church mouse
mouse quiet as a mouse
mouth bad-mouth someone or something
mouth born with a silver spoon in one's mouth
mouth by word of mouth
mouth down in the mouth
mouth foam at the mouth
mouth from the horse's mouth
mouth have a big mouth
mouth have foot-in-mouth disease
mouth Hush your mouth!
mouth keep one's mouth shut (about someone or something)
mouth laugh out of the other side of one's mouth
mouth leave a bad taste in someone's mouth
mouth live from hand to mouth
mouth look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
mouth make someone's mouth water
mouth melt in one's mouth
mouth not open one's mouth
mouth one's heart is in one's mouth
mouth put one's foot in one's mouth
mouth put words into someone's mouth
mouth Put your money where your mouth is!
mouth run off at the mouth
mouth shoot one's mouth off
mouth stick one's foot in one's mouth
mouth (straight) from the horse's mouth
mouth take the words out of one's mouth
mouthful say a mouthful
move move heaven and earth to do something
move move in (on someone or something)
move move into something
move move up (in the world)
move not move a muscle
move one move ahead (of someone or something)
move on the move
mover prime mover
movers movers and shakers
much able to take just so much
much as much fun as a barrel of monkeys
much much ado about nothing
much much in evidence
much much sought after
much not miss much
much so much for someone or something
much so much the better
much take too much on
much think much of someone or something
much too much of a good thing
much without so much as doing something
mud (as) clear as mud
mud clear as mud
mud Here's mud in your eye.
mud one's name is mud
mud stick-in-the-mud
muddy muddy the water
muff muff one's lines
mule (as) stubborn as a mule

mule stubborn as a mule
mull mull something over
mum's mum's the word
murder cry bloody murder
murder murder on something
murder scream bloody murder
muscle muscle in (on someone or something)
muscle not move a muscle
music face the music
music make chin music
music set something to music
must a must
muster muster (up) one's courage
muster pass muster
mutilate fold, spindle, or mutilate
my mark my word(s)
my my gut tells me (that) something is so
my my one and only
my over my dead body
my Pardon my French.
my You scared me out of my wits.
my You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
my a kink in my neck
myself by myself
myself Have I made myself clear?
nail (another) nail in someone's or something's coffin
nail fight someone or something tooth and nail
nail go at it tooth and nail
nail hit the nail (right) on the head
nail nail in someone's or something's coffin
nail nail someone or something down
nails angry enough to chew nails
nails (as) hard as nails
nails bite one's nails
nails hard as nails
nails mad enough to chew nails
naked (as) naked as a jaybird
naked naked as a jaybird
naked the naked eye
name clear someone's name
name drop someone's name
name I didn't catch your name.
name in name only
name in someone's name
name make a name (for oneself)
name name someone after someone else
name name someone for someone else
name on a first-name basis (with someone)
name one's name is mud
name throw someone's name around
name worthy of the name
name the name of the game
names call someone names
names drop names
names I'm awful at names.
names I'm terrible at names.
nap take a nap
nape by the nape of the neck
napping catch someone napping
narrow the straight and narrow
natural die a natural death
nature call of nature

nature second nature to someone
naught come to naught
near from far and near
near from near and far
near have a near miss
near in the near future
near near at hand
near nowhere near
neat (as) neat as a pin
neat neat as a pin
necessary deem it (to be) necessary
necessary deem that it is necessary
necessity out of necessity
neck break one's neck (to do something)
neck breathe down someone's neck
neck by the nape of the neck
neck get it in the neck
neck in some neck of the woods
neck millstone about one's neck
neck neck and neck
neck risk one's neck (to do something)
neck save someone's neck
neck stick one's neck out (for someone or something)
neck up to one's neck (in something)
neck a crick in one's neck
neck a kink in my neck
neck a pain in the neck
neck a yoke around someone's neck
need crying need for someone or something
need Do I need to paint you a picture?
need in need
need need something like a hole in the head
need need something yesterday
need A friend in need is a friend indeed.
needle like looking for a needle in a haystack
needles on pins and needles
needles pins and needles
neighbor next-door neighbor
neighborhood in the neighborhood of something
neighborhood (somewhere) in the neighborhood of
 an amount
neither neither fish nor fowl
neither neither here nor there
neither neither hide nor hair
nerve get up enough nerve (to do something)
nerve of all the nerve
nerves get on someone's nerves
nerves grate on someone's (nerves)
nerves a bundle of nerves
nest feather one's (own) nest
nest foul one's own nest
nest stir up a hornet's nest
neutral in neutral
never better late than never
never (have) never had it so good
never It'll never fly.
never It never rains but it pours.
never Lightning never strikes twice (in the same
 place).
never never fear
never never had it so good
never never in one's life

never never mind
never never would have guessed
never now or never
never A little (hard) work never hurt anyone.
never A little (hard) work never killed anyone.
new (a little) new to (all) this
new (as) bright as a new pin
new be a new one on someone
new break new ground
new bright as a new pin
new busy as a beaver (building a new dam)
new feel like a new person
new new ball game
new new blood
new new hire
new new to (all) this
New ring in the New Year
new (some) new blood
new take a new turn
new turn over a new leaf
new What's new?
new (whole) new ball game
new You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
new a new lease on life
Newcastle carry coals to Newcastle
news break the news (to someone)
news No news is good news.
next next-door neighbor
next next of kin
next next to nothing
next next to someone or something
nice nice and some quality
Nick full of Old Nick
nick in the nick of time
nick in the (very) nick of time
nickel nickel and dime someone
nickel not worth a plugged nickel
night all night long
night (as) black as night
night (as) different as night and day
night at night
night black as night
night by night
night call it a night
night day and night
night different as night and day
night far into the night
night fly-by-night
night make a night of doing something
night night and day
night night owl
night one-night stand
night ships that pass in the night
night small hours (of the night)
night till all hours (of the day and night)
night wee hours (of the night)
night a night on the town
night the morning after (the night before)
nine on cloud nine
nine a nine days' wonder
nine a nine-to-five job
nines dressed to the nines

nip nip and tuck
nip nip something in the bud
nitty get down to the nitty-gritty
no all talk (and no action)
no All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
no by no means
no come as no surprise
no cut no ice (with someone)
no expense is no object
no feeling no pain
no have no business doing something
no have no staying power
no hold no brief for someone or something
no in less than no time
no in no mood to do something
no in no time (at all)
no in no uncertain terms
no It's no use (doing something).
no leave no stone unturned
no Long time no see.
no Make no bones about it.
no make no difference (to someone)
no make no mistake (about it)
no Money is no object.
No No big deal!
no no buts about it
No No can do.
No No comment.
no no doubt
no no end of something
no no flies on someone
no no great shakes
no no hard feelings
No No harm done.
no no holds barred
no no ifs, ands, or buts about it
no no joke
no no kidding
no no laughing matter
no no love lost (between someone and someone else)
no no matter what happens
No No news is good news.
no no point in something
no no problem
no no skin off someone's nose
no no skin off someone's teeth
no no sooner said than done
no no spring chicken
no no sweat
no no trespassing
no not take no for an answer
no no two ways about it
no no-win situation
no no wonder
no of no avail
no on no account
no see no objection (to something)
no take no stock in something
no there is no doing something
no There's no accounting for taste.
no to no avail
no up to no good

no with no strings attached
no A rolling stone gathers no moss.
no the point of no return
nobody's nobody's fool
nod get the nod
nod nod off
Nod the land of Nod
noggin use one's noggin
none Half a loaf is better than none.
none have none of something
none none of someone's beeswax
none none of someone's business
none none other than someone
none none the wiser
none none the worse for wear
none none too something
none second to none
nonsense stuff and nonsense
noodle use one's noodle
nook every nook and cranny
nor neither fish nor fowl
nor neither here nor there
nor neither hide nor hair
nor not for love nor money
North up North
nose (as) plain as the nose on one's face
nose blow one's nose
nose can't see beyond the end of one's nose
nose cut off one's nose to spite one's face
nose follow one's nose
nose get one's nose out of someone's business
nose have a nose for something
nose have one's nose in a book
nose have one's nose in the air
nose keep one's nose clean
nose keep one's nose out of someone's business
nose keep one's nose to the grindstone
nose lead someone by the nose
nose look down one's nose at someone or something
nose nose about
nose nose around
nose nose in(to something)
nose nose someone out
nose no skin off someone's nose
nose not see farther than the end of one's nose
nose not see past the end of one's nose
nose one's nose is in the air
nose on the nose
nose pay through the nose (for something)
nose plain as the nose on one's face
nose poke one's nose in(to something)
nose put one's nose to the grindstone
nose put someone's nose out of joint
nose (right) under someone's (very) nose
nose rub someone's nose in it
nose stick one's nose in(to something)
nose thumb one's nose at someone or something
nose turn one's nose up at someone or something
nose under someone's (very) nose
nose win by a nose
nosedive go into a nosedive
nosedive take a nosedive

- noses count noses
not All that glitters is not gold.
not (as) likely as not
not believe it or not
not do not have a care in the world
not do not have a leg to stand on
not do not have all one's marbles
not gone but not forgotten
not if not
not It's not over 'til it's over.
not know when one is not wanted
not last but not least
not likely as not
not more often than not
not not a bit
not not able to call one's time one's own
not not able to go on
not not able to help something
not not able to make anything out of someone or something
not not able to see the forest for the trees
not not able to stomach someone or something
not not able to wait
not not agree with someone
not not a living soul
not not all something is cracked up to be
not not all there
not not a moment to spare
not not at all
not not bat an eyelid
not not believe one's eyes
not not born yesterday
not not breathe a word (about someone or something)
not not breathe a word of it
not not buy something
not not by a long shot
not not care two hoots (about someone or something)
not not dry behind the ears
not not enough room to swing a cat
not not for a moment
not not for (anything in) the world
not not for hire
not not for love nor money
not not for publication
not not give a hang (about someone or something)
not not give a hoot (about someone or something)
not not give it another thought
not not give someone the time of day
not not give two hoots (about someone or something)
not not half bad
not not hold a candle to someone or something
not not hold a stick to someone or something
not not hold water
not not hurt a flea
not not in the same league with someone or something
not not know beans (about someone or something)
not not know enough to come in out of the rain
not not know from nothing
not not know if one is coming or going
not not know one's own strength
not not know someone from Adam
not not know the first thing about someone or something
not not know where to turn
not not know whether one is coming or going
not not know which way to turn
not not let someone catch someone doing something
not not lift a finger (to help someone)
not not lift a hand (to help someone)
not not long for this world
not not made of money
not not miss a thing
not not miss much
not not move a muscle
not not on any account
not not one iota
not not one's place
not not on your life
not not open one's mouth
not not see any objection (to something)
not not see farther than the end of one's nose
not not see past the end of one's nose
not not set foot somewhere
not not show one's face
not not sleep a wink
not not someone's cup of tea
not not take no for an answer
not not take stock in something
not not tell a (living) soul
not not up to scratch
not not up to snuff
not not utter a word
not not want to catch someone doing something
not not what something is cracked up to be
not not with it
not not worth a dime
not not worth a hill of beans
not not worth a plugged nickel
not not worth a red cent
not not worth mentioning
not not worth one's while
not not worth the trouble
not whether or not
not will not hear of something
notch take someone down a notch (or two)
note hit a sour note
note make a note of something
note someone of note
note strike a sour note
note strike the right note
note take note (of something)
nothing all or nothing
nothing come to nothing
nothing good-for-nothing
nothing have nothing on someone or something
nothing have nothing to do with someone or something
nothing Here goes nothing.
nothing in nothing flat
nothing like nothing on earth
nothing make nothing of something
nothing make something out of nothing
nothing mean nothing (to someone)
nothing much ado about nothing
nothing next to nothing
nothing nothing but skin and bones

nothing nothing but something
nothing nothing doing
nothing nothing down
nothing nothing of the kind
nothing nothing short of something
nothing nothing to choose from
nothing nothing to complain about
nothing nothing to it
nothing nothing to sneeze at
nothing nothing to speak of
nothing nothing to write home about
Nothing Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
nothing not know from nothing
nothing stop at nothing
nothing think nothing of someone or something
nothing to say nothing of someone or something
nothing want for nothing
nothings sweet nothings
notice escape someone's notice
notice serve notice (on someone)
notice sit up and take notice
notice take notice (of something)
notion have half a notion to do something
now all better now
now (every) now and again
now (every) now and then
now now and again
now now and then
Now Now hear this!
now now or never
Now (Now), where was I?
now There, now.
now the here and now
nowhere appear out of nowhere
nowhere at the end of nowhere
nowhere come from nowhere
nowhere come out of nowhere
nowhere Flattery will get you nowhere.
nowhere get nowhere fast
nowhere in the middle of nowhere
nowhere nowhere near
nth to the nth degree
nude in the nude
nuisance make a nuisance of oneself
null null and void
number any number of someone or something
number do a number on someone or something
number exchange more than some number of words with someone
number get someone's number
number one's number is up
number quite a number
number a number of things or people
numbered one's days are numbered
numbers by the numbers
numbers in round numbers
numbers safety in numbers
nurse nurse a grudge (against someone)
nurse nurse someone back to health
nut off one's nut
nut tough nut to crack
nut a hard nut to crack

nuts everything from soup to nuts
nuts nuts about someone or something
nuts the nuts and bolts (of something)
nutshell in a nutshell
nutty (as) nutty as a fruitcake
nutty nutty as a fruitcake
nuzzle nuzzle up to someone or something
oar put one's oar in
oath take an oath
oath under oath
oats sow one's wild oats
object expense is no object
object Money is no object.
objection not see any objection (to something)
objection raise (an) objection (to someone or something)
objection see no objection (to something)
occasion on occasion
occasion rise to the occasion
occupancy immediate occupancy
occur occur to someone
ocean an ocean of someone or something
ocean a drop in the ocean
oceans oceans of someone or something
odd odd man out
odd the odd something
odds at odds (with someone)
odds for the odds to be against one
odds odds and ends
odor odor of sanctity
of (above and) beyond the call of duty
of acknowledge receipt (of something)
of afraid of one's own shadow
of after the fashion of someone or something
of ahead of one's time
of ahead of schedule
of ahead of the game
of ahead of time
of all kinds of someone or something
of all manner of someone or something
of all of a sudden
of all walks of life
of alongside (of) someone or something
of any number of someone or something
of appear out of nowhere
of arguing for the sake of arguing
of arguing for the sake of argument
of as a matter of course
of as a matter of fact
of as a result of something
of as a token (of something)
of (as) black as a stack of black cats
of (as) black as the ace of spades
of (as) close as two coats of paint
of (as) cocky as the king of spades
of (as) crooked as a barrel of fish hooks
of (as) funny as a barrel of monkeys
of as much fun as a barrel of monkeys
of at the bottom of the hour
of at the bottom of the ladder
of at the break of dawn
of at the crack of dawn
of at the drop of a hat

- of at the end of nowhere
- of at the end of one's rope
- of at the end of one's tether
- of at the end of the day
- of at the expense of someone or something
- of at the forefront (of something)
- of at the height of something
- of at the helm (of something)
- of at the mercy of someone
- of at the point of doing something
- of at the rear of something
- of at the top of one's lungs
- of at the top of one's voice
- of at the top of the hour
- of at the zenith of something
- of at this stage of the game
- of avail oneself of something
- of avenue of escape
- of back of the beyond
- of back out (of something)
- of bag of tricks
- of bail out (of something)
- of ball of fire
- of baptism of fire
- of bear the brunt (of something)
- of beat the living daylights out of someone
- of beat the stuffing out of someone
- of beat the tar out of someone
- of beginning of the end
- of be of service (to someone)
- of be of the persuasion that something is so
- of be the death of me (yet)
- of be the spit and image of someone
- of be the spitting image of someone
- of beyond the call of duty
- of beyond the shadow of a doubt
- of big of someone
- of Birds of a feather flock together.
- of black as a stack of black cats
- of black as the ace of spades
- of blow something out of all proportion
- of bone of contention
- of born out of wedlock
- of break out (of something)
- of break the back of something
- of burn one's bridges in front of one
- of by all means of something
- of by a show of hands
- of by dint of something
- of by means of something
- of by the nape of the neck
- of by the seat of one's pants
- of by the skin of one's teeth
- of by the sweat of one's brow
- of by virtue of something
- of by way of something
- of by word of mouth
- of call of nature
- of can't make heads or tails (out) of someone or something
- of can't see beyond the end of one's nose
- of can't see one's hand in front of one's face
- of can't stand (the sight of) someone or something
- of capable of doing something
- of carry (a lot of) weight (with someone or something)
- of carry the weight of the world on one's shoulders
- of catch a whiff of something
- of catch one's death (of cold)
- of catch sight of someone or something
- of catch someone in the act (of doing something)
- of change horses in the middle of the stream
- of charm the pants off (of) someone
- of chicken out (of something)
- of chisel someone out of something
- of clean out (of something)
- of clear of something
- of close as two coats of paint
- of cock of the walk
- of cocky as the king of spades
- of come in out of the rain
- of come of age
- of come out of left field
- of come out of nowhere
- of come out of one's shell
- of come out of the blue
- of come out (of the closet)
- of come to think of it
- of come within an ace of doing something
- of come within an inch of doing something
- of con someone out of something
- of course of action
- of cover a lot of ground
- of cover a lot of territory
- of crooked as a barrel of fish hooks
- of decide in favor of someone or something
- of die of a broken heart
- of die of boredom
- of Don't let it out of this room.
- of do someone out of something
- of drive someone out (of office)
- of drop out (of something)
- of drum someone out of something
- of eat out of someone's hands
- of eat someone out of house and home
- of elbow someone out (of something)
- of end up with the short end of the stick
- of even in the best of times
- of exchange more than some number of words with someone
- of fall afoul of someone or something
- of fall short (of something)
- of fan the flames (of something)
- of feel a glow of something
- of feel on top of the world
- of feel out of place
- of ferret something out of someone or something
- of first of all
- of flight of fancy
- of flirt with the idea of doing something
- of fly in the face of someone or something
- of fly in the teeth of someone or something
- of fly into the face of danger
- of fond of someone or something
- of force someone out (of office)

of for fear of something
of for the devil of it
of for the good of someone or something
of for the heck of it
of for the hell of it
of for the life of one
of for the sake of someone or something
of fresh out (of something)
of frighten one out of one's wits
of frighten the (living) daylight out of someone
of frighten the wits out of someone
of from the bottom of one's heart
of fruit(s) of one's labor(s)
of full of beans
of full of bull
of full of hot air
of full of it
of full of Old Nick
of full of oneself
of full of prunes
of full of the devil
of funny as a barrel of monkeys
of get a bang out of someone or something
of get a charge out of someone or something
of get a clean bill of health
of get a grasp of something
of get ahead of oneself
of get (a)hold of someone or something
of get a kick out of someone or something
of get a load of someone or something
of get a lot of mileage out of something
of get an eyeful (of someone or something)
of get a rise out of someone
of get a rough idea (of something)
of get a taste of one's own medicine
of get at the heart of the matter
of get a whiff of something
of get into the swing of things
of get one's fill of someone or something
of get one's nose out of someone's business
of get on the good side of someone
of get out of a jam
of get out of a mess
of get out of someone's way
of get out of the way
of get out of the wrong side of the bed
of get rid of someone or something
of get someone or something out of one's head
of get someone or something out of one's mind
of get someone or something out of the way
of get someone out of a jam
of get something out of one's system
of get something out of something
of get the advantage of someone
of get the benefit of the doubt
of get the best of someone
of get the better of someone
of get the drift of something
of get the feel of something
of get the hang of something
of get the shock of one's life
of get the short end of the stick

of get the worst of something
of get to the bottom of something
of get to the heart of the matter
of get to the root of the problem
of get up on the wrong side of the bed
of get wind of something
of give a good account of oneself
of give of oneself
of give someone a clean bill of health
of give someone a piece of one's mind
of give someone a rough idea (of something)
of give someone the benefit of the doubt
of go out of fashion
of go out of one's way (to do something)
of go out of style
of go to the expense (of doing something)
of go to the trouble (of doing something)
of groan under the burden of something
of grow out of something
of guest of honor
of gyp someone out of something
of hard of hearing
of have a change of heart
of have a good command of something
of have a heart of gold
of have a heart of stone
of have a lot of promise
of have a rough time (of it)
of have a run of bad luck
of have a run of something
of have a whale of a time
of have eyes in the back of one's head
of have feet of clay
of have none of something
of have something on the tip of one's tongue
of have the best of both worlds
of have the courage of one's convictions
of have the feel of something
of have the gift of gab
of have the makings of something
of have the patience of a saint
of have the presence of mind to do something
of have the right-of-way
of have the time of one's life
of hear a peep out of someone
of hear of something
of hightail it out of somewhere
of hit (someone) like a ton of bricks
of hold one's end (of the bargain) up
of hotfoot it out of somewhere
of in a (constant) state of flux
of in a month of Sundays
of in and of itself
of in awe (of someone or something)
of in a world of one's own
of in behalf of someone
of in care of someone
of in case of something
of in consequence (of something)
of in consideration of something
of in contempt (of court)
of in custody of someone or something

- of in defiance (of someone or something)
- of in favor of someone
- of in favor (of someone or something)
- of in honor of someone or something
- of in hopes of something
- of in lieu of something
- of in light of something
- of in memory of someone
- of in need of something
- of in one ear and out (of) the other
- of in place of someone or something
- of in pursuit of something
- of in quest of someone or something
- of in receipt of something
- of ins and outs of something
- of in search of someone or something
- of in some neck of the woods
- of in spite of someone or something
- of in terms of something
- of in the absence of someone or something
- of in the act (of doing something)
- of in the best of health
- of in the care of someone
- of in the case of someone or something
- of in the charge of someone
- of in the context of something
- of in the course of time
- of in the event of something
- of in the forefront (of something)
- of in the interest of someone or something
- of in the lap of luxury
- of in the line of duty
- of in the mainstream (of something)
- of in the middle of nowhere
- of in the neighborhood of something
- of in the nick of time
- of in the pink (of condition)
- of in the prime of life
- of in the swim of things
- of in the trust of someone
- of in the twinkling of an eye
- of in the unlikely event of something
- of in the (very) nick of time
- of in the wake of something
- of in the way of something
- of in two shakes of a lamb's tail
- of invasion of (someone's) privacy
- of in view of something
- of jump out of one's skin
- of just one of those things
- of keep abreast (of something)
- of keep one's nose out of someone's business
- of keep track (of someone or something)
- of kind of something
- of know (all) the tricks of the trade
- of know someone or something like the back of one's hand
- of know someone or something like the palm of one's hand
- of laugh out of the other side of one's mouth
- of laugh something out of court
- of lay hold of someone or something
- of lead the life of Riley
- of least of all
- of let go of someone or something
- of let out some kind of sound
- of let the cat out of the bag
- of light out (of somewhere)
- of like a bat out of hell
- of like a bolt out of the blue
- of like a fish out of water
- of like one of the family
- of live a life of something
- of live off the fat of the land
- of live out of a suitcase
- of live up to one's end of the bargain
- of long and (the) short of it
- of lose one's train of thought
- of lose track (of someone or something)
- of lots of people or things
- of lull someone into a false sense of security
- of make a clean breast of something
- of make a day of doing something
- of make a day of it
- of make a federal case out of something
- of make a fool out of someone
- of make a go of it
- of make a great show of something
- of make a laughingstock of oneself or something
- of make a meal of something
- of make a monkey out of someone
- of make a mountain out of a molehill
- of make an example of someone
- of make an exhibition of oneself
- of make a night of doing something
- of make an issue of someone or something
- of make a note of something
- of make a nuisance of oneself
- of make a point of doing something
- of make a point of someone or something
- of make a practice of something
- of make a silk purse out of a sow's ear
- of make fast work of someone or something
- of make fun (of someone or something)
- of make hamburger out of someone or something
- of make light of something
- of make little of someone or something
- of make mincemeat out of someone or something
- of make nothing of something
- of make sense out of someone or something
- of make short work of someone or something
- of make something out of nothing
- of make something (out) of something
- of make something up out of whole cloth
- of make the best of something
- of make the most of something
- of make use of someone or something
- of march to (the beat of) a different drummer
- of matter-of-fact
- of middle-of-the-road
- of milk of human kindness
- of Money is the root of all evil.
- of more fun than a barrel of monkeys
- of next of kin
- of no end of something
- of none of someone's beeswax

- of none of someone's business
- of not able to make anything out of someone or something
- of not breathe a word of it
- of not give someone the time of day
- of nothing of the kind
- of nothing short of something
- of nothing to speak of
- of not know enough to come in out of the rain
- of not made of money
- of not see farther than the end of one's nose
- of not see past the end of one's nose
- of not someone's cup of tea
- of not worth a hill of beans
- of oceans of someone or something
- of odor of sanctity
- of of age
- of of all the nerve
- of of all things
- of of benefit (to someone)
- of off the top of one's head
- of of interest (to someone)
- of of late
- of of no avail
- of of one's own accord
- of of one's own free will
- of of the first water
- of of the old school
- of on behalf of someone
- of one jump ahead (of someone or something)
- of one move ahead (of someone or something)
- of one of these days
- of one sandwich short of a picnic
- of one's way of life
- of on the eve of something
- of on the face of it
- of on the heels of something
- of on the horns of a dilemma
- of on the point of doing something
- of on the spur of the moment
- of on the strength of something
- of on the tip of one's tongue
- of on the track of someone or something
- of on the trail of someone or something
- of on the verge (of doing something)
- of on top of something
- of on top of the world
- of open (up) a can of worms
- of out of a clear blue sky
- of out of (all) proportion
- of out of bounds
- of out of breath
- of out of character
- of out of circulation
- of out of commission
- of out of condition
- of out of consideration (for someone or something)
- of out of control
- of out of courtesy (to someone)
- of out-of-date
- of out of earshot
- of out of fashion
- of out of favor (with someone)
- of out of gas
- of out of hand
- of out of it
- of out of keeping (with something)
- of out of kilter
- of out of line
- of out of luck
- of out of necessity
- of out of one's element
- of out of one's head
- of out of one's mind
- of out of one's senses
- of out of one's way
- of out of order
- of out of place
- of out-of-pocket expenses
- of out of practice
- of out of print
- of out of proportion
- of out of reach
- of out of season
- of out of service
- of out of shape
- of out of sight
- of out of sorts
- of out of spite
- of out of step (with someone or something)
- of out of stock
- of out of style
- of out of the blue
- of out of the corner of one's eye
- of out of the frying pan into the fire
- of out of the hole
- of out of the ordinary
- of out of the question
- of out of the red
- of out of the running
- of out of the swim of things
- of out-of-the-way
- of out of the woods
- of out of thin air
- of out of this world
- of out of time (with someone or something)
- of out of touch (with someone or something)
- of out of town
- of out of tune (with someone or something)
- of out of turn
- of out of w(h)ack
- of out of work
- of outside of something
- of partake of something
- of part and parcel (of something)
- of parting of the ways
- of pass the time of day (with someone)
- of piece of cake
- of pile out (of something)
- of plenty of something
- of point of view
- of possessed of something
- of pull something out of a hat
- of pull something out of thin air
- of put someone or something out of one's mind

- of put someone's nose out of joint
- of read someone out of something
- of regardless of something
- of reminiscent of someone or something
- of risk of rain
- of risk of showers
- of risk of thunder(storms)
- of run afoul of someone or something
- of run a risk (of something)
- of run-of-the-mill
- of run out of gas
- of run out of patience
- of run out of something
- of run out of time
- of run short (of something)
- of run the risk (of something)
- of run to an amount of money
- of scare one out of one's wits
- of scare the living daylights out of someone
- of scare the wits out of someone
- of school of thought
- of scrape the bottom of the barrel
- of see the color of someone's money
- of see the last of someone or something
- of see the light (at the end of the tunnel)
- of see the light (of day)
- of sell someone a bill of goods
- of set someone back (some amount of money)
- of settle (something) (out of court)
- of shades of someone or something
- of shadow of itself
- of shadow of oneself
- of short of something
- of show signs of something
- of sick and tired of someone or something
- of (sitting) on top of the world
- of six of one and half a dozen of the other
- of small hours (of the night)
- of snap out of something
- of someone's place of business
- of someone's train of thought
- of someone of note
- of something of the sort
- of (somewhere) in the neighborhood of an amount
- of son of a bitch
- of son of a gun
- of son of a sea biscuit
- of sort of something
- of speak highly of someone or something
- of speak ill of someone
- of speak of the devil
- of speak out of turn
- of stand in awe (of someone or something)
- of stand (in) back of someone or something
- of steer clear (of someone or something)
- of step out of line
- of stop short of doing something
- of suggestive of something
- of swear on a stack of Bibles
- of sweep out of somewhere
- of take a dim view of something
- of take advantage of someone or something
- of take (a)hold of someone or something
- of take a leaf out of someone's book
- of take care of someone or something
- of take charge (of someone or something)
- of take leave of one's senses
- of take note (of something)
- of take notice (of something)
- of take one's death of cold
- of take (one's) leave (of someone)
- of take something with a grain of salt
- of take something with a pinch of salt
- of take stock (of something)
- of take the liberty of doing something
- of take the starch out of someone
- of take the wind out of someone's sails
- of take the words out of one's mouth
- of talk someone out of (doing) something
- of talk someone out of something
- of tell tales out of school
- of That makes two of us.
- of That's about the size of it.
- of That takes care of that.
- of There are plenty of other fish in the sea.
- of think a great deal of someone or something
- of think a lot of someone or something
- of think better of something
- of think highly of someone or something
- of think little of someone or something
- of think much of someone or something
- of think nothing of someone or something
- of think the world of someone or something
- of throw oneself at the mercy of the court
- of throw oneself on the mercy of the court
- of throw someone out (of something)
- of till all hours (of the day and night)
- of too much of a good thing
- of to say nothing of someone or something
- of to someone's way of thinking
- of to the best of one's ability
- of to the best of one's knowledge
- of to the ends of the earth
- of to the tune of some amount of money
- of turn of the century
- of two bricks shy of a load
- of two of a kind
- of under a cloud (of suspicion)
- of under the aegis of someone
- of under the auspices of someone
- of under the influence (of alcohol)
- of under the influence of something
- of vale of tears
- of Variety is the spice of life.
- of warm the cockles of someone's heart
- of wash one's hands of someone or something
- of weasel out (of something)
- of weave in and out (of something)
- of wee hours (of the night)
- of whale the tar out of someone
- of What's the good of something?
- of wide of the mark
- of will not hear of something
- of within an inch of one's life

of within a stone's throw (of something)
 of worm one's way out of something
 of worm something out of someone
 of worthy of the name
 of wouldn't dream of doing something
 of yield the right-of-way
 of You scared me out of my wits.
 of You scared the crap out of me.
 of You scared the devil out of me.
 of You scared the dickens out of me.
 of You scared the hell out of me.
 of You scared the pants off (of) me.
 of an act of faith
 of an act of God
 of an act of war
 of an ocean of someone or something
 of An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
 of a bed of roses
 of a breath of fresh air
 of a bundle of nerves
 of a case of mistaken identity
 of a change of pace
 of a change of scenery
 of a couple of
 of a den of iniquity
 of a devil of a job
 of a dose of one's own medicine
 of a fan of someone
 of a few cards short of a deck
 of a few cards shy of a full deck
 of a fine kettle of fish
 of a fine state of affairs
 of a ghost of a chance
 of a gold mine of information
 of a grain of truth
 of a harbinger of things to come
 of a hive of activity
 of a horse of a different color
 of a horse of another color
 of a jack-of-all-trades
 of a kind of (a) something
 of a labor of love
 of a lick of work
 of a lot of someone or something
 of a matter of life and death
 of a matter of opinion
 of a meeting of minds
 of a mine of information
 of a miscarriage of justice
 of a number of things or people
 of a pack of lies
 of a piece of the action
 of a pillar of strength
 of a pillar of support
 of a portent of things to come
 of a pretty state of affairs
 of a ripple of excitement
 of a ripple of protest
 of a rule of thumb
 of a show of hands
 of a sign of things to come
 of a slice of the cake

of a slip of the tongue
 of a stroke of luck
 of a taste of something
 of a taste of things to come
 of a tower of strength
 of a travesty of justice
 of a vote of confidence
 of a vote of thanks
 of a wealth of something
 of the apple of someone's eye
 of the balls of one's feet
 of the best-laid plans of mice and men
 of the best-laid schemes of mice and men
 of the best part of something
 of the black sheep of the family
 of the business end of something
 of the cream of the crop
 of the crux of the matter
 of the end of the line
 of the end of the road
 of the eye of the storm
 of the facts of life
 of the hair of the dog that bit one
 of the kiss of death
 of the land of Nod
 of the lay of the land
 of the lesser (of the two)
 of the lesser of two evils
 of the life of the party
 of the likes of someone
 of the line of least resistance
 of the lion's share (of something)
 of the moment of truth
 of the name of the game
 of the nuts and bolts (of something)
 of the order of the day
 of the other side of the tracks
 of the particulars of something
 of the path of least resistance
 of the pick of something
 of the picture of something
 of the point of no return
 of the reality of the situation
 of the ruin of someone or something
 of the salt of the earth
 of the sands of time
 of the seamy side of life
 of the separation of church and state
 of the survival of the fittest
 of the talk of somewhere
 of the upshot of something
 of the villain of the piece
 of the whole ball of wax
 of the whys and wherefores of something
 of the wrong side of the tracks
 off (as) easy as falling off a log
 off (as) easy as rolling off a log
 off back off (from someone or something)
 off beat the pants off someone
 off beg off (on something)
 off be off
 off better off (doing something)

off better off (if one were somewhere else)
off better off (if something were done)
off better off (somewhere)
off bite off more than one can chew
off bite someone's head off
off blast off
off blow off steam
off blow someone or something off
off blow the lid off (something)
off break off (with someone)
off bring something off
off bump someone off
off buy someone off
off call someone or something off
off call the dogs off
off carry something off
off catch one off one's guard
off catch someone off balance
off catch someone off guard
off charm the pants off (of) someone
off cheesed off
off choke something off
off come off
off cool off
off cool someone off
off cut off
off cut someone off without a penny
off dash something off
off drop off (to sleep)
off ease off (on someone or something)
off easy as falling off a log
off easy as rolling off a log
off fall off
off first off
off fly off the handle
off fob something off (on someone)
off foist something (off) on someone
off get a big send-off
off get a load off one's feet
off get a load off one's mind
off get off
off get (someone) off the hook
off get something off one's chest
off get something off (the ground)
off get the brush-off
off get the day off
off get time off
off give someone a big send-off
off give someone the brush-off
off give someone the shirt off one's back
off go off
off goof off
off Hands off!
off head someone or something off
off hit it off (with someone)
off jumping-off place
off jumping-off point
off jump off the deep end
off keep off (something)
off keep one's hands off (someone or something)
off kick off
off kick something off

off knock it off
off knock off work
off knock one off one's feet
off knock someone's block off
off knock someone off
off knock something off
off laugh something off
off lay off (someone or something)
off lay someone off
off lead off
off let off steam
off let someone or something off
off let someone off easy
off let someone off (the hook)
off like water off a duck's back
off live high off the hog
off live off the fat of the land
off make off with someone or something
off nod off
off no skin off someone's nose
off no skin off someone's teeth
off off again, on again
off off and on
off off and running
off off base
off off campus
off off-center
off off chance
off off-color
off off duty
off off like a shot
off off limits
off off one's nut
off off one's rocker
off off one's trolley
off off season
off off someone or something goes
off off the air
off off the (beaten) track
off off-the-cuff
off off the mark
off off the record
off off the subject
off off the top of one's head
off off the track
off off-the-wall
off off to a running start
off off to one side
off on again, off again
off on and off
off on the off-chance
off palm something off (on someone)
off pay someone or something off
off pick someone or something off
off play someone off against someone else
off polish something off
off pop off
off pull something off
off push off
off put off by someone or something
off put someone or something off
off put someone off

off put something off
off rake something off
off rattle something off
off reel something off
off ride off in all directions
off right off the bat
off rip someone or something off
off round something off
off rub off (on someone)
off run around like a chicken with its head cut off
off run off at the mouth
off run off with someone or something
off sell something off
off send someone off
off set someone or something off
off shake someone or something off
off shake something off
off shoot one's mouth off
off show off
off show someone or something off
off shuffle off this mortal coil
off slack off
off sleep something off
off slip off
off so clean you could eat off the floor
off sound off (about something)
off speak off the cuff
off spin something off
off spout off (about someone or something)
off square off (for something)
off stall someone or something off
off start off on the wrong foot
off start (off) with a clean slate
off stop off (somewhere)
off sweep one off one's feet
off take a load off one's feet
off Take a long walk off a short pier.
off take off
off take the day off
off take the edge off (something)
off take time off
off take up where one left off
off talk someone's ear off
off talk someone's head off
off taper off (doing something)
off tear off
off tee someone off
off tell someone off
off tell someone where to get off
off throw someone or something off
off throw someone off the track
off throw someone off the trail
off time off
off tip someone off
off top something off
off toss something off
off touch someone or something off
off turn someone off
off walk off with something
off wear off
off well-off
off wipe something off

off wish something off on someone
off work something off
off write someone or something off
off You scared the pants off (of) me.
off a chip off the old block
off a far-off look
offense take offense (at someone or something)
office do a land-office business
office drive someone out (of office)
office force someone out (of office)
office take office
offing in the offing
often more often than not
oil burn the midnight oil
oil oil someone's palm
oil pour oil on troubled water(s)
ointment a fly in the ointment
old (as) comfortable as an old shoe
old (as) common as an old shoe
old (as) old as the hills
old (as) tough as an old boot
old comfortable as an old shoe
old common as an old shoe
old dirty old man
old from the old school
Old full of Old Nick
old get the (old) heave-ho
old give someone or something the (old) heave-ho
old of the old school
old old as the hills
old old enough to be someone's father
old old enough to be someone's mother
Old Old habits die hard.
old old hat
old one's old stamping ground
old tough as an old boot
old You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
old an old hand at doing something
old a chip off the old block
old a ripe old age
old the good old days
old the same old story
olive hold out the olive branch
omega alpha and omega
on able to do something standing on one's head
on and so on
on arrive on the scene
on (as) awkward as a cow on a crutch
on (as) awkward as a cow on roller skates
on (as) busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
on (as) busy as popcorn on a skillet
on (as) plain as the nose on one's face
on awkward as a cow on a crutch
on awkward as a cow on roller skates
on bank on something
on bargain on something
on barge in (on someone or something)
on base one's opinion on something
on be a new one on someone
on becoming on someone
on be death on something
on beg off (on something)

- on** behind **on** something
- on** bent **on** doing something
- on** be off **on** the wrong foot
- on** blow the whistle (on someone)
- on** bone up (on something)
- on** bring down the curtain (on something)
- on** bring someone up to date (on someone or something)
- on** brush up (on something)
- on** burst in on someone or something
- on** busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
- on** busy as popcorn on a skillet
- on** butt in (on someone or something)
- on** buy something on credit
- on** call on someone
- on** call someone on the carpet
- on** carry on (about someone or something)
- on** carry on somehow
- on** carry on without someone or something
- on** carry on (with someone or something)
- on** carry the weight of the world on one's shoulders
- on** carry through (on something)
- on** cash in (on something)
- on** cash on the barrelhead
- on** cast aspersions on someone
- on** cast doubt(s) (on someone or something)
- on** catch (on) fire
- on** catch on (to someone or something)
- on** cheat on someone
- on** check in (on someone or something)
- on** cheer someone on
- on** chip in (on something)
- on** chip in something on something
- on** chip something in (on something)
- on** clamp down (on someone or something)
- on** clap eyes on someone or something
- on** climb on the bandwagon
- on** close in (on someone or something)
- on** close the books (on someone or something)
- on** close the door on someone or something
- on** clue someone in (on something)
- on** come down hard on someone or something
- on** come on
- on** count on someone or something
- on** count someone in (on something)
- on** crack down (on someone or something)
- on** cross swords (with someone) (on something)
- on** cut back (on something)
- on** cut one's eyeteeth on something
- on** dash cold water on something
- on** dawn on someone
- on** dead on its feet
- on** dead on one's feet
- on** death on someone or something
- on** die on someone
- on** die on the vine
- on** die with one's boots on
- on** dig some dirt up on someone
- on** do a flip-flop (on something)
- on** do a job on someone or something
- on** do a number on someone or something
- on** do a snow job on someone
- on** do not have a leg to stand on
- on** do something on the fly
- on** do something on the run
- on** do something on the sly
- on** double back (on someone or something)
- on** downhill from here on
- on** down on one's luck
- on** down on someone or something
- on** draw a bead on someone or something
- on** Dream on.
- on** drop in (on someone)
- on** drug on the market
- on** early on
- on** ease off (on someone or something)
- on** ease up (on someone or something)
- on** eat high on the hog
- on** egg someone on
- on** fall back on someone or something
- on** fall down on the job
- on** fall flat (on its face)
- on** fall flat (on one's face)
- on** fall on deaf ears
- on** feast one's eyes (on someone or something)
- on** feel on top of the world
- on** figure on something
- on** fill someone in (on someone or something)
- on** firing on all cylinders
- on** fob something off (on someone)
- on** foist something (off) on someone
- on** follow through (on something)
- on** follow up (on someone or something)
- on** follow up (on something)
- on** for days on end
- on** for hours on end
- on** from this day on
- on** gang up (on someone)
- on** get a crush on someone
- on** get a fix on something
- on** get a handle on something
- on** get a head start (on someone or something)
- on** get a hurry on
- on** get a line on someone or something
- on** get along (on a shoestring)
- on** get a rain check (on something)
- on** get a slap on the wrist
- on** get back on one's feet
- on** get by (on something)
- on** get in on something
- on** get in (on the ground floor)
- on** get off on the wrong foot
- on** get one's feet on the ground
- on** get one's hands on someone or something
- on** get on someone
- on** get on the bandwagon
- on** get on the good side of someone
- on** get on (with someone or something)
- on** get right on something
- on** get something on someone
- on** get the edge on someone
- on** get the goods on someone
- on** get the jump on someone
- on** get the low-down (on someone or something)
- on** get the show on the road

- on** get the upper hand (on someone)
- on** get up on the wrong side of the bed
- on** give someone a fix on something
- on** give someone a head start (on someone or something)
- on** give someone a pat on the back
- on** give someone a rain check (on something)
- on** give someone a slap on the wrist
- on** give someone the low-down (on someone or something)
- on** go back on one's word
- on** go easy (on someone or something)
- on** go fifty-fifty (on something)
- on** gone on
- on** go off on a tangent
- on** go on
- on** go (out) on strike
- on** grate on someone's nerves)
- on** grow on someone
- on** hang on someone's coattails
- on** hang on someone's every word
- on** hang on (to someone or something)
- on** hard on someone's heels
- on** harp on something
- on** have a bad effect (on someone or something)
- on** have a chip on one's shoulder
- on** have a good head on one's shoulders
- on** have a handle on something
- on** have a hold on someone
- on** have a lot on one's mind
- on** have an eye on someone or something
- on** have a price on one's head
- on** have bearing on something
- on** have designs on someone or something
- on** have dibs on something
- on** have egg on one's face
- on** have nothing on someone or something
- on** have one's feet on the ground
- on** have one's heart on one's sleeve
- on** have one's heart set on something
- on** have one's sights trained on something
- on** have someone or something on one's hands
- on** have someone or something on one's mind
- on** have someone's blood on one's hands
- on** have someone on the string
- on** have something on
- on** have the shoe on the other foot
- on** hell on earth
- on** high man on the totem pole
- on** high on something
- on** hinge on something
- on** hit the nail (right) on the head
- on** hitting on all cylinders
- on** hold forth (on something)
- on** hold on (to someone or something)
- on** hold up on something
- on** home in (on someone or something)
- on** hooked (on something)
- on** horn in (on someone or something)
- on** hot on something
- on** hung up (on someone or something)
- on** in on the kill
- on** intent on doing something
- on** Johnny-on-the-spot
- on** judge one on one's own merit(s)
- on** judge something on its own merit(s)
- on** jump on someone
- on** jump on the bandwagon
- on** keen on doing something
- on** keen on someone or something
- on** keep a close rein on someone or something
- on** keep an eye on someone or something
- on** keep a tight rein on someone or something
- on** keep (close) watch (on someone or something)
- on** keep harping on something
- on** keep on an even keel
- on** keep one's eye on the ball
- on** keep one's feet on the ground
- on** keep on one's toes
- on** keep on someone
- on** keep someone on tenterhooks
- on** keep something on an even keel
- on** keep tab(s) (on someone or something)
- on** keep the lid on something
- on** Keep your shirt on!
- on** knock on wood
- on** know where someone stands (on someone or something)
- on** know which side one's bread is buttered on
- on** land on both feet
- on** land on one's feet
- on** launch forth (on something)
- on** lay a finger on someone or something
- on** lay down on the job
- on** lay eyes on someone or something
- on** lay it on thick
- on** lay it on with a trowel
- on** lay one's cards on the table
- on** lay one's hands on someone or something
- on** lay something on someone
- on** lay something on the line
- on** lay the blame on someone or something
- on** lay the finger on someone
- on** lead someone on a merry chase
- on** lean on someone
- on** leave one's mark on someone
- on** leave something on
- on** let someone in on something
- on** let up (on someone or something)
- on** lie down on the job
- on** like a bump on a log
- on** like a house on fire
- on** like nothing on earth
- on** live high on the hog
- on** live on borrowed time
- on** look down on someone or something
- on** look good on paper
- on** look in (on someone or something)
- on** look on someone as something
- on** loom large (on the horizon)
- on** lose out (on something)
- on** lost on someone
- on** lower the boom on someone
- on** low man on the totem pole
- on** make an impression (on someone)
- on** make book on something
- on** make good on something

- on** make someone's hair stand on end
- on** miss out (on something)
- on** move in (on someone or something)
- on** murder on something
- on** muscle in (on someone or something)
- on** no flies on someone
- on** not able to go on
- on** not on any account
- on** not on your life
- on** off again, on again
- on** off and on
- on** on a bias
- on** on account
- on** on active duty
- on** on a diet
- on** on a first-name basis (with someone)
- on** on a fool's errand
- on** on again, off again
- on** on a lark
- on** on all fours
- on** on and off
- on** on any account
- on** on approval
- on** on a shoestring
- on** on a splurge
- on** on a waiting list
- on** on behalf of someone
- on** on bended knee
- on** on board
- on** on Broadway
- on** on call
- on** on campus
- on** on cloud nine
- on** on consignment
- on** on credit
- on** on dead center
- on** on deck
- on** on duty
- on** on earth
- on** on easy street
- on** on edge
- on** one's heart is set on something
- on** one up (on someone)
- on** on fire
- on** on foot
- on** on good terms (with someone)
- on** on hold
- on** on horseback
- on** on impact
- on** on impulse
- on** on in years
- on** on land
- on** on line
- on** on location
- on** on medication
- on** on no account
- on** on occasion
- on** on one's best behavior
- on** on one's feet
- on** on (one's) guard
- on** on one's honor
- on** on one's mind
- on** on one's own
- on** on one's person
- on** on one's toes
- on** on one's way to doing something
- on** on order
- on** on par (with someone or something)
- on** on patrol
- on** on pins and needles
- on** on probation
- on** on purpose
- on** on sale
- on** on schedule
- on** on second thought
- on** on someone's or something's last legs
- on** on someone's account
- on** on someone's back
- on** on someone's behalf
- on** on someone's case
- on** on someone's doorstep
- on** on someone's head
- on** on someone's say-so
- on** on someone's shoulders
- on** on someone's way (somewhere)
- on** on speaking terms (with someone)
- on** on standby
- on** on target
- on** on the air
- on** on the alert (for someone or something)
- on** on the average
- on** on the ball
- on** on the beam
- on** on the bench
- on** on the bias
- on** on the blink
- on** on the block
- on** on the borderline
- on** on the button
- on** on the contrary
- on** on the defensive
- on** on the dot
- on** on the double
- on** on the eve of something
- on** on the face of it
- on** on the fence (about something)
- on** on the fritz
- on** on the go
- on** on the heels of something
- on** on the horizon
- on** on the horns of a dilemma
- on** on the hot seat
- on** on the hour
- on** on the house
- on** on the job
- on** on the level
- on** on the lookout (for someone or something)
- on** on the loose
- on** on the make
- on** on the market
- on** on the mend
- on** on the money
- on** on the move
- on** on the nose

on on the off-chance
on on (the) one hand
on on the other hand
on on the point of doing something
on on the QT
on on the right track
on on the rocks
on on the spot
on on the spur of the moment
on on the strength of something
on on the take
on on the tip of one's tongue
on on the track of someone or something
on on the trail of someone or something
on on the up-and-up
on on the verge (of doing something)
on on the wagon
on on the warpath
on on the way (somewhere)
on on the way to doing something
on on the whole
on on the wing
on on the wrong track
on on thin ice
on on time
on on tiptoe
on on top
on on trial
on on vacation
on on view
on open fire (on someone)
on open season (on someone or something)
on open up (on someone or something)
on out on a limb
on out on bail
on out on parole
on (out) on patrol
on out on the town
on palm something off (on someone)
on pass on
on pat someone on the back
on pay a call on someone
on perspective on something
on pick on somebody your own size
on pick on someone or something
on pick on someone your own size
on pin one's faith on someone or something
on pin one's hope(s) on someone or something
on pin someone down (on something)
on pin something on someone
on place the blame on someone or something
on plain as the nose on one's face
on play a joke on someone
on play a trick on someone
on play on something
on play tricks (on someone)
on pour cold water on something
on pour it on thick
on pour oil on troubled water(s)
on pride oneself on something
on pull a gun (on someone)
on pull a knife (on someone)

on pull a stunt (on someone)
on pull a trick (on someone)
on pull rank (on someone)
on pull something on someone
on pull the plug (on someone or something)
on put a cap on something
on put a hold on something
on put a spin on something
on put on
on put one's cards on the table
on put (one's) dibs on something
on put one's finger on something
on put one's hand(s) on something
on put one's head on the block (for someone or something)
on put one's thinking cap on
on put someone or something on hold
on put someone on
on put something on
on put something over (on someone)
on put the arm on someone
on put the bite on someone
on put the blame on someone or something
on put the clamps on (someone)
on put the finger on someone
on put the heat on (someone)
on put the kibosh on something
on put the screws on (someone)
on put the skids on (something)
on put the squeeze on (someone)
on put the touch on someone
on put weight on
on quick on the draw
on quick on the trigger
on quick on the uptake
on rain on someone's parade
on ramble on (about someone or something)
on rat on someone
on read the handwriting on the wall
on read up (on someone or something)
on reliance on someone or something
on rest on one's laurels
on ride herd on someone or something
on ride on someone's coattails
on right on time
on ring down the curtain (on something)
on rub off (on someone)
on run low (on something)
on see eye to eye (with someone) (on something)
on see the (hand)writing on the wall
on sell someone on a plan or idea
on sell something on credit
on send someone (out) on an errand
on serve notice (on someone)
on set eyes on someone or something
on set forth (on something)
on set one's heart on something
on set one's sights on something
on set one back on one's heels
on set someone or something on fire
on set someone's teeth on edge
on set the world on fire
on settle on something

- on** shake (hands) **on** something
- on** Shame **on** someone.
- on** shed (some) light **on** something
- on** shut the door **on** someone or something
- on** sign **on** the dotted line
- on** sign **on** (with someone)
- on** sit **in** (on something)
- on** sit **on** its hands
- on** sit **on** one's hands
- on** sit **on** someone or something
- on** sit **on** the fence
- on** sitting **on** a powder keg
- on** (sitting) **on** top of the world
- on** skate **on** thin ice
- on** skip out (on someone or something)
- on** slap someone **on** the wrist
- on** sleep **on** something
- on** slow **on** the draw
- on** slow **on** the uptake
- on** smile **on** someone or something
- on** someone wrote the book **on** something
- on** speak out (on something)
- on** spread it **on** thick
- on** spring something **on** someone
- on** stand **on** ceremony
- on** stand **on** one's own two feet
- on** start off **on** the wrong foot
- on** steal a march (on someone)
- on** step **on** it
- on** step **on** someone's toes
- on** step **on** the gas
- on** stock up (on something)
- on** (strictly) **on** the level
- on** (strictly) **on** the up-and-up
- on** stuck **on** someone or something
- on** swear **on** a stack of Bibles
- on** swear **on** one's mother's grave
- on** sweet **on** someone
- on** take a bath (on something)
- on** take a rain check (on something)
- on** take it easy (on someone or something)
- on** take it **on** the chin
- on** take off (on something)
- on** take pity (on someone or something)
- on** take someone or something **on**
- on** take someone up **on** something
- on** take something **on** faith
- on** take something **on** the chin
- on** take something out **on** someone or something
- on** take too much **on**
- on** tell **on** someone
- on** think back (on someone or something)
- on** think **on** one's feet
- on** thin **on** top
- on** throw cold water **on** something
- on** throw oneself **on** the mercy of the court
- on** throw (some) light **on** something
- on** thumbs down **on** someone or something
- on** thumbs up **on** someone or something
- on** to be **on** the safe side
- on** toing and froing (on something)
- on** touch **on** something
- on** trade **on** something
- on** train one's sights **on** something
- on** try something out **on** someone
- on** turn **on** a dime
- on** turn one's back (on someone or something)
- on** turn **on** the waterworks
- on** turn someone **on**
- on** turn the heat up (on someone)
- on** turn the tables (on someone)
- on** turn thumbs down (on someone or something)
- on** turn thumbs up (on someone or something)
- on** verge **on** something
- on** wait **on** someone hand and foot
- on** walk **on** air
- on** walk **on** eggs
- on** walk out (on someone or something)
- on** wear and tear (on something)
- on** wear one's heart **on** one's sleeve
- on** wear **on** someone
- on** weigh **on** someone's mind
- on** wish something off **on** someone
- on** with bells **on** (one's toes)
- on** wither **on** the vine
- on** with everything (on it)
- on** work **on** someone or something
- on** You can bet **on** it!
- on** zero **in** **on** something
- on** zoom **in** (on someone or something)
- on** a drag (on someone)
- on** a new lease **on** life
- on** a night **on** the town
- on** a paradise (on earth)
- on** a rush **on** something
- on** The jury is still out (on someone or something).
- on** The shoe is **on** the other foot.
- once** all at once
- once** at once
- once** (every) once in a while
- once** get the once-over
- once** give someone the once-over
- once** once and for all
- once** once in a blue moon
- once** once-in-a-lifetime chance
- once** once in a while
- once** once-over-lightly
- once** once upon a time
- one** (all) in one breath
- one** all in one piece
- one** (as) busy as a one-armed paperhanger
- one** as one
- one** at one fell swoop
- one** back to square one
- one** be a new one **on** someone
- one** busy as a one-armed paperhanger
- one** do someone one better
- one** every last one
- one** go in one ear and out the other
- one** go someone one better
- one** have a lot going (for one)
- one** have a one-track mind
- one** have one foot in the grave
- one** have one for the road

one in one breath
one in one ear and out (of) the other
one in one fell swoop
one just one of those things
one kill two birds with one stone
one like one of the family
one my one and only
one not one iota
one off to one side
one one and all
one one and the same
one one at a time
one one by one
one one for the (record) books
One One good turn deserves another.
one one in a hundred
one one in a million
one one in a thousand
one one jump ahead (of someone or something)
one one little bit
One One man's meat is another man's poison.
One One man's trash is another man's treasure.
one one move ahead (of someone or something)
one one-night stand
one one of these days
one one sandwich short of a picnic
One One thing leads to another.
one one to a customer
one one up (on someone)
one one way or another
one on (the) one hand
one pull a fast one
one put all one's eggs in one basket
one six of one and half a dozen of the other
one There's more than one way to skin a cat.
one wear more than one hat
one with one hand tied behind one's back
one a hole in one
one the one and only
oneself suit oneself
onions know one's onions
only Beauty is only skin-deep.
only in name only
only It (only) stands to reason.
only know something only too well
only my one and only
only only have eyes for someone
only the one and only
onto burst onto the scene
onto onto someone or something
open crack open a bottle
open crack something wide open
open get something out in the open
open in the open
open keep one's eyes open (for someone or something)
open keep one's weather eye open
open leave oneself wide open for something
open leave oneself wide open to something
open leave something open
open (like) an open book
open not open one's mouth
open open a conversation

open open and aboveboard
open open fire (on someone)
open open for business
open open one's heart (to someone)
open open Pandora's box
open open season (on someone or something)
open open secret
open open someone's eyes (to something)
open open something up
open open the door to something
open open to something
open open up
open open (up) a can of worms
open open with something
open read someone like a(n open) book
open receive someone with open arms
open welcome someone with open arms
open an open-and-shut case
open an open book
openers for openers
opening opening gambit
opinion base one's opinion on something
opinion form an opinion
opinion hazard an opinion
opinion in one's opinion
opinion a matter of opinion
opinions keep one's opinions to oneself
opportunity jump at the opportunity
opportunity leap at the opportunity
opportunity seize the opportunity
opposite the opposite sex
or all or nothing
or believe it or not
or by hook or (by) crook
or cash or credit
or coffee, tea, or milk
or come hell or high water
or do or die
or either feast or famine
or fish or cut bait
or fold, spindle, or mutilate
or for better or for worse
or friend or foe
or heads or tails
or hit-or-miss
or know a trick or two
or land up somehow or somewhere
or lend oneself or itself to something
or like it or lump it
or lots of people or things
or make oneself or something a laughingstock
or make or break someone
or more or less
or no ifs, ands, or buts about it
or not know if one is coming or going
or not know whether one is coming or going
or now or never
or one way or another
or or else
or or words to that effect
or publish or perish
or Put up or shut up!

- or** rain or shine
- or** sell someone on a plan or idea
- or** Shape up or ship out.
- or** sink or swim
- or** something or other
- or** sooner or later
- or** take it or leave it
- or** take someone down a notch (or two)
- or** take someone down a peg (or two)
- or** tell someone a thing or two
- or** Trick or treat!
- or** whether or not
- or** without rhyme or reason
- or** a number of things or people
- oranges** apples and oranges
- orbit** go into orbit
- orbit** in orbit
- orchard** (as) crazy as a peach-orchard boar
- orchard** crazy as a peach-orchard boar
- order** back order something
- order** build something to order
- order** call the meeting to order
- order** in apple-pie order
- order** in order to do something
- order** in short order
- order** made to order
- order** make something to order
- order** on order
- order** order someone about
- order** order someone around
- order** order something to go
- order** out of order
- order** place an order
- order** put one's house in order
- order** the order of the day
- ordered** just what the doctor ordered
- orders** follow orders
- ordinary** out of the ordinary
- other** bring people or other creatures out in droves
- other** drop the other shoe
- other** every other person or thing
- other** go in one ear and out the other
- other** have other fish to fry
- other** have the shoe on the other foot
- other** in one ear and out (of) the other
- other** in other words
- other** laugh out of the other side of one's mouth
- other** look the other way
- other** made for each other
- other** none other than someone
- other** on the other hand
- other** other things being equal
- other** six of one and half a dozen of the other
- other** something or other
- other** There are plenty of other fish in the sea.
- other** turn the other cheek
- other** with every (other) breath
- other** the other side of the tracks
- other** the other way round
- other** The shoe is on the other foot.
- ounce** An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
- ourselves** by ourselves
- out** act something out
- out** air something out
- out** all-out war
- out** (all) tuckered out
- out** appear out of nowhere
- out** ask someone out
- out** back out (of something)
- out** bail out (of something)
- out** bail someone or something out
- out** battle something out
- out** bawl someone out
- out** bear something out
- out** beat one's brains out (to do something)
- out** beat the living daylights out of someone
- out** beat the stuffing out of someone
- out** beat the tar out of someone
- out** belt something out
- out** black out
- out** bleep something out
- out** blow something out of all proportion
- out** boot someone out
- out** born out of wedlock
- out** bottom out
- out** bow out
- out** break out
- out** break (out) in(to) tears
- out** bring people or other creatures out in droves
- out** bug out
- out** burn (oneself) out
- out** burn out
- out** burst out crying
- out** burst out laughing
- out** call out (to someone)
- out** cancel something out
- out** can't make heads or tails (out) of someone or something
- out** carry something out
- out** check out
- out** chew someone out
- out** chicken out (of something)
- out** chisel someone out of something
- out** clean out (of something)
- out** clear out
- out** come in out of the rain
- out** come out
- out** conk out
- out** con someone out of something
- out** cop out
- out** count someone out (for something)
- out** crank something out
- out** cry one's eyes out
- out** Cut it out!
- out** cut out for something
- out** cut out the deadwood
- out** cut out to be something
- out** cut the ground out from under someone
- out** dart in and out
- out** day in and day out
- out** day in, day out
- out** dig something out
- out** dine out

- out** Don't let it out of this room.
- out** do someone out of something
- out** down-and-out
- out** draw someone or something out
- out** drive someone out (of office)
- out** drop out (of something)
- out** drown someone or something out
- out** drum someone out of something
- out** dry someone out
- out** eat (a meal) out
- out** eat one's heart out
- out** eat out of someone's hands
- out** eat someone out
- out** edge someone out
- out** elbow someone out (of something)
- out** fall out
- out** farm someone or something out
- out** far out
- out** feel dragged out
- out** feel out of place
- out** feel someone out
- out** ferret something out of someone or something
- out** figure someone or something out
- out** find someone or something out
- out** find (something) out the hard way
- out** fit someone or something out (with something)
- out** fizzle out
- out** flat out
- out** flesh something out
- out** flunk out
- out** flunk someone out
- out** force someone out (of office)
- out** For crying out loud!
- out** fork money out (for something)
- out** fresh out (of something)
- out** frighten one out of one's wits
- out** frighten the (living) daylights out of someone
- out** frighten the wits out of someone
- out** get a bang out of someone or something
- out** get a charge out of someone or something
- out** get a kick out of someone or something
- out** get a lot of mileage out of something
- out** get a rise out of someone
- out** get one's nose out of someone's business
- out** get out from under someone or something
- out** get out of a jam
- out** get out of a mess
- out** get out of someone's way
- out** get out of the way
- out** get out of the wrong side of the bed
- out** get out while the getting is good
- out** get someone or something out of one's head
- out** get someone or something out of one's mind
- out** get someone or something out of the way
- out** get someone out of a jam
- out** get something out in the open
- out** get something out of one's system
- out** get something out of something
- out** get the lead out
- out** give out
- out** go all out
- out** go in one ear and out the other
- out** go out (for something)
- out** go out of fashion
- out** go out of one's way (to do something)
- out** go out of style
- out** go (out) on strike
- out** go out (with someone)
- out** gross someone out
- out** grow out of something
- out** gyp someone out of something
- out** hammer something out
- out** hang out (somewhere)
- out** hang out (with someone)
- out** have an eye out (for someone or something)
- out** have an out
- out** have one's heart go out to someone
- out** have one's luck run out
- out** have one's work cut out for one
- out** have something out (with someone)
- out** hear a peep out of someone
- out** hear someone out
- out** help (someone or something) out (with someone or something)
- out** hightail it out of somewhere
- out** hold out for something
- out** hold out the olive branch
- out** hotfoot it out of somewhere
- out** in one ear and out (of) the other
- out** iron something out
- out** jump out of one's skin
- out** keep an eye out (for someone or something)
- out** keep one's nose out of someone's business
- out** keep someone out in the cold
- out** kick someone out
- out** knock-down-drag-out fight
- out** knock oneself out (to do something)
- out** knock someone out (cold)
- out** knock the props out from under someone
- out** know something inside out
- out** laugh out of the other side of one's mouth
- out** laugh something out of court
- out** leak something (out)
- out** leave someone out in the cold
- out** let it all hang out
- out** let out some kind of sound
- out** let something (get) out
- out** let something slip (out)
- out** let the cat out of the bag
- out** light out (for somewhere)
- out** light out (of somewhere)
- out** like a bat out of hell
- out** like a bolt out of the blue
- out** like a fish out of water
- out** live out of a suitcase
- out** look out
- out** lose out (on something)
- out** lose out to someone or something
- out** luck out
- out** make a check out (to someone)
- out** make a federal case out of something
- out** make a fool out of someone
- out** make a monkey out of someone
- out** make a mountain out of a molehill

- out** make an all-out effort
- out** make a silk purse out of a sow's ear
- out** make hamburger out of someone or something
- out** make mincemeat out of someone or something
- out** make out (with someone or something)
- out** make sense out of someone or something
- out** make something out of nothing
- out** make something (out) of something
- out** make something up out of whole cloth
- out** miss out (on something)
- out** nose someone out
- out** not able to make anything out of someone or something
- out** not know enough to come in out of the rain
- out** odd man out
- out** one's heart goes out to someone
- out** one's luck runs out
- out** one's work is cut out for one
- out** out and about
- out** out cold
- out** out from under (something)
- out** out front
- out** out in force
- out** out in left field
- out** out like a light
- out** out of a clear blue sky
- out** out of (all) proportion
- out** out of bounds
- out** out of breath
- out** out of character
- out** out of circulation
- out** out of commission
- out** out of condition
- out** out of consideration (for someone or something)
- out** out of control
- out** out of courtesy (to someone)
- out** out-of-date
- out** out of earshot
- out** out of fashion
- out** out of favor (with someone)
- out** out of gas
- out** out of hand
- out** out of it
- out** out of keeping (with something)
- out** out of kilter
- out** out of line
- out** out of luck
- out** out of necessity
- out** out of one's element
- out** out of one's head
- out** out of one's mind
- out** out of one's senses
- out** out of order
- out** out of place
- out** out-of-pocket expenses
- out** out of practice
- out** out of print
- out** out of proportion
- out** out of reach
- out** out of season
- out** out of service
- out** out of shape
- out** out of sight
- out** out of sorts
- out** out of spite
- out** out of step (with someone or something)
- out** out of stock
- out** out of style
- out** out of the blue
- out** out of the corner of one's eye
- out** out of the frying pan into the fire
- out** out of the hole
- out** out of the ordinary
- out** out of the question
- out** out of the red
- out** out of the running
- out** out of the swim of things
- out** out-of-the-way
- out** out of the woods
- out** out of thin air
- out** out of this world
- out** out of time (with someone or something)
- out** out of touch (with someone or something)
- out** out of town
- out** out of tune (with someone or something)
- out** out of turn
- out** out of w(h)ack
- out** out of work
- out** out on a limb
- out** out on bail
- out** out on parole
- out** (out) on patrol
- out** out on the town
- out** out to lunch
- out** out West
- out** pan out
- out** pass out
- out** peter out
- out** pile out (of something)
- out** played out
- out** point someone or something out
- out** pooped out
- out** poop out
- out** pound something out
- out** pour one's heart (out to someone)
- out** psyched out
- out** psyche out
- out** psyche someone out
- out** pull out all the stops
- out** pull something out of a hat
- out** pull something out of thin air
- out** pull the rug out (from under someone)
- out** put out (about someone or something)
- out** put out (some) feelers
- out** put someone or something out
- out** put someone's eye out
- out** put someone's nose out of joint
- out** puzzle something out
- out** rain something out
- out** read someone out of something
- out** ride something out
- out** roll out the red carpet for someone
- out** root something out
- out** round out something

out rub someone out
out rule someone or something out
out run out of gas
out run out of patience
out run out of something
out run out of time
out sack out
out scare one out of one's wits
out scare the living daylights out of someone
out scare the wits out of someone
out sell (someone or something) out
out send someone (out) on an errand
out settle (something) (out of court)
out shake the lead out
out Shape up or ship out.
out shell something out
out shoot something out
out sit something out
out skip out (on someone or something)
out slip out
out smoke someone or something out
out smooth something out
out snap out of something
out sniff someone or something out
out sold out
out someone or something checks out
out sort something out
out sound someone out
out spaced-out
out speak out of turn
out speak out (on something)
out spell something out
out stamp someone or something out
out stand out
out start someone out (as something)
out step out of line
out stick one's neck out (for someone or something)
out stick out like a sore thumb
out stick something out
out straighten someone or something out
out strike out
out strike someone out
out string something out
out strung out
out sweat something out
out sweep out of somewhere
out take a leaf out of someone's book
out take out (after someone or something)
out take out a loan
out take someone or something out
out take something out on someone or something
out take the starch out of someone
out take the wind out of someone's sails
out take the words out of one's mouth
out talked out
out talk oneself out
out talk someone out of (doing) something
out talk someone out of something
out talk something out
out tear one's hair (out)
out tell tales out of school
out think out loud

out think something out
out thrash something out
out throw someone out (of something)
out throw the baby out with the bath(water)
out time out
out tough it out
out trot something out
out try out (for something)
out try (out) one's wings
out try something out on someone
out tucked out
out tune someone or something out
out turn out (all right)
out turn out (that) something is so
out turn someone or something out
out walk out (on someone or something)
out wash a few things out
out washed-out
out watch out
out wear out one's welcome
out wear someone out
out weasel out (of something)
out weave in and out (of something)
out weed someone or something out
out week in, week out
out whale the tar out of someone
out win out (over someone or something)
out wipe someone or something out
out work out
out work something out
out worm one's way out of something
out worm something out of someone
out write something out
out year in, year out
out You scared me out of my wits.
out You scared the crap out of me.
out You scared the devil out of me.
out You scared the dickens out of me.
out You scared the hell out of me.
out zonk out
out an all-out effort
out an out-and-out something
out The jury is still out (on someone or something).
out The truth will out.
outdoors (as) big as all outdoors
outdoors big as all outdoors
outgrow outgrow something
outguess outguess someone
outright killed outright
outs ins and outs of something
outset at the outset
outset from the outset
outside at the (very) outside
outside outside of something
outside outside the box
outside thinking outside the box
outside think outside the box
over all over
over (all) over again
over (all) over with
over (all) worked up (over something)
over bend over backwards (to do something)

over blow over
 over bowl someone over
 over carry over
 over carry something over
 over come over
 over come to blows (over something)
 over cry over spilled milk
 over do someone or something over
 over do something over (again)
 over fall (all) over oneself
 over fall all over someone
 over fall head over heels
 over fall out (with someone over something)
 over fall over backwards (to do something)
 over fork something over
 over get (oneself) into a stew (over someone or something)
 over get over someone or something
 over get someone over a barrel
 over get something over (with)
 over get the advantage over someone
 over get the once-over
 over get worked up (over something)
 over give someone the once-over
 over gloss something over
 over go ape (over someone or something)
 over go over
 over Hand it over.
 over hand over fist
 over hand over hand
 over hash something over
 over haul someone over the coals
 over have it all over someone or something
 over have precedence over someone or something;
 over have someone over
 over have something hanging over one's head
 over head over heels in debt
 over head over heels in love (with someone)
 over hold someone or something over
 over in over one's head
 over It's not over 'til it's over.
 over jump all over someone
 over keel over
 over keep (close) watch (over someone or something)
 over kick over
 over knock someone over with a feather
 over lay over (somewhere)
 over lean over backwards (to do something)
 over look like death warmed over
 over look someone or something over
 over lord it over someone
 over lose one's head (over someone or something)
 over lose sleep (over someone or something)
 over make a fuss (over someone or something)
 over make over someone or something
 over make someone or something over
 over mull something over
 over once-over-lightly
 over over again
 over over and above something
 over over and done with
 over over and over (again)
 over over my dead body
 over over someone's head
 over over the hill
 over over the hump
 over over the long haul
 over over there
 over over the short haul
 over over the top
 over over with
 over paper over the cracks (in something)
 over picked over
 over pick something over
 over pull the wool over someone's eyes
 over put something over
 over rake someone over the coals
 over read something over
 over ride roughshod over someone or something
 over roll (over) in one's grave
 over smooth something over
 over stand over someone
 over start (over) with a clean slate
 over stop over (somewhere)
 over take over
 over take someone or something over
 over talk something over
 over think something over
 over throw someone over
 over tide someone over
 over turn over
 over turn (over) in one's grave
 over until hell freezes over
 over walk all over someone
 over watch over someone or something
 over (way) over there
 over when hell freezes over
 over win out (over someone or something)
 over win someone over
 over worked up (over something)
 over work someone over
 over a hush fell over someone or something
 over take precedence over someone or something
 over The honeymoon is over.
 over The party's over.
 overboard go overboard
 overseas from overseas
 overtures make overtures
 owing owing to
 owl (as) wise as an owl
 owl night owl
 owl wise as an owl
 own according to one's own lights
 own afraid of one's own shadow
 own blow one's own horn
 own carry one's (own) weight
 own come into its own
 own come into one's own
 own cut one's (own) throat
 own dig one's own grave
 own do one's (own) thing
 own feather one's (own) nest
 own find one's own level
 own for one's (own) part
 own for one's (own) sake

own foul one's own nest
own get a taste of one's own medicine
own get one's (own) way (with someone or something)
own hoist by one's own petard
own hoist with one's own petard
own hold one's own
own in a world of one's own
own in one's (own) backyard
own in one's (own) (best) interest(s)
own judge one on one's own merit(s)
own judge something on its own merit(s)
own keep one's own counsel
own line one's own pockets
own mind one's own business
own not able to call one's time one's own
own not know one's own strength
own of one's own accord
own of one's own free will
own on one's own
own own up (to something)
own paddle one's own canoe
own pay someone's (own) way
own pick on somebody your own size
own pick on someone your own size
own pull oneself up (by one's own bootstraps)
own pull one's (own) weight
own sign one's own death warrant
own stand on one's own two feet
own stew in one's own juice
own take one's own life
own take the law into one's own hands
own tell its own story
own tell its own tale
own toot one's own horn
own under one's own steam
own a dose of one's own medicine
own a place to call one's own
own the devil's own job
ox (as) strong as an ox
ox strong as an ox
pace at a snail's pace
pace keep pace (with someone or something)
pace a change of pace
paces put one through one's paces
paces put something through its paces
pack pack a punch
pack pack a wallop
pack pack them in
pack a pack of lies
packed packed (in) like sardines
packing send someone packing
pad pad the bill
paddle paddle one's own canoe
paddle up the creek (without a paddle)
pain feeling no pain
pain give someone a pain
pain racked with pain
pain share someone's pain
pain a pain in the neck
pains have growing pains
pains take (great) pains (to do something)
paint (as) close as two coats of paint

paint (as) exciting as watching (the) paint dry
paint close as two coats of paint
paint Do I need to paint you a picture?
paint exciting as watching (the) paint dry
paint paint the town red
painted (as) black as one is painted
painted black as one is painted
pal pal around (with someone)
pale as pale as a ghost
pale (as) pale as death
pale beyond the pale
pale pale around the gills
pale pale as death
palm cross someone's palm with silver
palm grease someone's palm
palm have an itching palm
palm have an itchy palm
palm know someone or something like the palm of one's hand
palm oil someone's palm
palm palm something off (on someone)
pan out of the frying pan into the fire
pan pan out
pan a flash in the pan
pancake (as) flat as a pancake
pancake flat as a pancake
Pandora's open Pandora's box
panic press the panic button
panic push the panic button
pants beat the pants off someone
pants by the seat of one's pants
pants catch one with one's pants down
pants charm the pants off (of) someone
pants get ants in one's pants
pants You scared the pants off (of) me.
paper look good on paper
paper paper over the cracks (in something)
paper put something on paper
paperhanger (as) busy as a one-armed paperhanger
paperhanger busy as a one-armed paperhanger
papers get one's walking papers
papers give one one's walking papers
par above par
par below par
par on par (with someone or something)
par par for the course
par up to par
parade rain on someone's parade
paradise in a fool's paradise
paradise a paradise (on earth)
parcel part and parcel (of something)
Pardon Pardon my French.
park in park
parole out on parole
parry thrust and parry
part do one's part
part for one's (own) part
part for the most part
part in part
part part and parcel (of something)
part part company (with someone)
part part someone's hair

- part** take part (in something)
part take someone's part
part the best part of something
partake partake of something
parted A fool and his money are soon parted.
partial partial to someone or something
particular in particular
particulars the particulars of something
parting parting of the ways
party throw a party (for someone)
party the life of the party
party the party line
party the responsible party
party's The party's over.
pass come to a pretty pass
pass come to pass
pass let something pass
pass make a pass at someone
pass pass as someone or something
pass pass away
pass pass for someone or something
pass pass muster
pass pass on
pass pass out
pass pass the buck
pass pass the hat
pass pass the time
pass pass through someone's mind
pass ships that pass in the night
passing in passing
passing mention someone or something in passing
passing with each passing day
passion have a passion for someone or something
passport passport to something
past in times past
past not see past the end of one's nose
past past someone's or something's prime
past a past master at something
paste cut and paste
pasture put someone or something out to pasture
pat give someone a pat on the back
pat have something down pat
pat pat someone on the back
pat stand pat
patch patch someone or something up
path beat a path to someone's door
path lead someone down the garden path
path the path of least resistance
patience have the patience of a saint
patience run out of patience
patience try someone's patience
patient (as) patient as Job
patient patient as Job
patrol on patrol
patrol (out) on patrol
Paul rob Peter to pay Paul
pause give someone pause
pave pave the way (for someone or something)
pavement pound the pavement
pay have hell to pay
pay have the devil to pay
pay hit pay dirt
pay pay a call on someone
pay pay a king's ransom (for something)
pay pay an arm and a leg (for something)
pay pay as you go
pay pay attention (to someone or something)
pay pay a visit to someone or something
pay pay for something
pay pay homage to someone
pay pay in advance
pay pay lip service (to something)
pay pay one's debt (to society)
pay pay one's dues
pay pay one's last respects
pay pay (someone or something) a visit
pay pay someone or something off
pay pay someone's (own) way
pay pay someone a back-handed compliment
pay pay someone a compliment
pay pay someone a left-handed compliment
pay pay someone respect
pay pay the piper
pay pay through the nose (for something)
pay pay to do something
pay pay up
pay rob Peter to pay Paul
pay There will be the devil to pay.
pays He who pays the piper calls the tune.
pea (as) thick as pea soup
pea thick as pea soup
peace at peace
peace hold one's peace
peace leave someone in peace
peace make peace (with someone)
peace rest in peace
peach (as) crazy as a peach-orchard boar
peach crazy as a peach-orchard boar
peacock (as) proud as a peacock
peacock proud as a peacock
peanuts for peanuts
pearls cast (one's) pearls before swine
peas as alike as (two) peas in a pod
peas like (two) peas in a pod
peck hunt-and-peck
peculiar funny peculiar
pedestal put someone on a pedestal
peeled keep one's eyes peeled (for someone or something)
peep have a peep
peep hear a peep out of someone
peep take a peep
peeve someone's pet peeve
peg peg away (at something)
peg peg someone as something
peg take someone down a peg (or two)
peg a square peg in a round hole
pegged have someone pegged as something
pendant have a penchant for doing something
pencil in pencil
penny cost a pretty penny
penny cut someone off without a penny
penny penny-wise and pound-foolish
penny A penny saved is a penny earned.
people be all things to all people

- people** split people up
people a number of things or people
pep pep someone or something up
per per head
perfection cook something to perfection
Perish Perish the thought.
perish publish or perish
perk perk someone or something up
permitting weather permitting
perpetuity in perpetuity
persist persist in doing something
persist persist with something
person do something in person
person feel like a new person
person in person
person on one's person
person shuttle someone or something from person to person
person the last person
personally take something personally
perspective perspective on something
persuasion be of the persuasion that something is so
pet someone's pet hate
pet someone's pet peeve
pet the teacher's pet
petard hoist by one's own petard
petard hoist with one's own petard
Pete Honest to Pete.
peter peter out
Peter rob Peter to pay Paul
phony (as) phony as a three-dollar bill
phony phony as a three-dollar bill
physical get physical (with someone)
pick have a bone to pick (with someone)
pick have a pick-me-up
pick pick a fight with someone
pick pick a lock
pick pick and choose
pick pick a quarrel (with someone)
pick pick at someone or something
pick pick holes in something
pick pick one's way through something
pick pick on somebody your own size
pick pick on someone or something
pick pick on someone your own size
pick pick someone or something off
pick pick someone or something up
pick pick someone's brain(s)
pick pick something over
pick pick something to pieces
pick pick up
pick the pick of something
picked picked over
pickle in a (pretty) pickle
pickle in a real pickle
picnic one sandwich short of a picnic
picture (as) pretty as a picture
picture Do I need to paint you a picture?
picture get the picture
picture pretty as a picture
picture put someone in the picture
picture the picture of something
pie (as) easy as (apple) pie
pie easy as (apple) pie
pie eat humble pie
pie have a finger in the pie
pie have one's finger in the pie
pie in apple-pie order
pie pie in the sky
piece all in one piece
piece give someone a piece of one's mind
piece piece of cake
piece a piece of the action
piece the villain of the piece
pieces break something to pieces
pieces go to pieces
pieces pick something to pieces
pieces thrilled to pieces
pieces thrill someone to pieces
pier Take a long walk off a short pier.
piercing a piercing scream
pies have one's finger in too may pies
pig (as) fat as a pig
pig buy a pig in a poke
pig fat as a pig
pig serve as a guinea pig
pikestaff (as) plain as a pikestaff
pikestaff plain as a pikestaff
pile make a pile
pile pile in(to something)
pile pile out (of something)
pile pile something up
pile pile up
pill a bitter pill to swallow
pillar from pillar to post
pillar a pillar of strength
pillar a pillar of support
pimples get goose pimples
pimples give someone goose pimples
pin (as) bright as a new pin
pin (as) neat as a pin
pin bright as a new pin
pin neat as a pin
pin pin one's faith on someone or something
pin pin one's hope(s) on someone or something
pin pin someone's ears back
pin pin someone down
pin pin something on someone
pin so quiet you could hear a pin drop
pin so still you could hear a pin drop
pinch feel the pinch
pinch in a pinch
pinch pinch-hit (for someone)
pinch take something with a pinch of salt
pink in the pink (of condition)
pink tickled pink
pink tickle someone pink
pins on pins and needles
pins pins and needles
pipe pipe down
pipe pipe up with something
pipe Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
pipe a pipe dream
piper He who pays the piper calls the tune.

- piper** pay the piper
piping piping hot
pique pique someone's curiosity
pique pique someone's interest
pit pit someone or something against someone or something
pitch (as) black as pitch
pitch black as pitch
pitch make a pitch (for someone or something)
pitch pitch a tent
pitch pitch-black
pitch pitch camp
pitch pitch-dark
pitch pitch in (and help)
pitch pitch someone a curve (ball)
pitching in there pitching
pits the pits
pity take pity (on someone or something)
place all over the place
place between a rock and a hard place
place fall in(to) place
place feel out of place
place have one's heart in the right place
place in place
place in someone else's place
place in the first place
place in the right place at the right time
place in the second place
place in the wrong place at the wrong time
place jumping-off place
place keep one's place
place know one's place
place Lightning never strikes twice (in the same place).
place not one's place
place one's heart is in the right place
place out of place
place place an order
place place someone
place place the blame on someone or something
place put oneself in someone else's place
place put one in one's place
place shuttle someone or something from place to place
place someone's place of business
place take place
place a place to call one's own
place a place to hang one's hat
places go places
plague avoid someone or something like the plague
plain (as) plain as a pikestaff
plain (as) plain as day
plain (as) plain as the nose on one's face
plain in plain English
plain in plain language
plain plain and simple
plain plain as a pikestaff
plain plain as day
plain plain as the nose on one's face
plainly put something plainly
plan sell someone on a plan or idea
plank walk the plank
plans the best-laid plans of mice and men
plateau hit a plateau
play All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
play at play
play child's play
play foul play
play Go play in the traffic
play make a play (for someone)
play play about (with someone or something)
play play a joke on someone
play play along with someone or something
play play around (with someone or something)
play play a trick on someone
play play ball (with someone)
play play both ends (against the middle)
play play by ear
play play cat and mouse (with someone)
play play dumb
play play fair
play play fast and loose (with someone or something)
play play first chair
play play footsie (with someone)
play play for keeps
play play hard to get
play play havoc with someone or something
play play hob with someone or something
play play hooky
play play ignorant
play play innocent
play play into someone's hands
play play it cool
play play it safe
play play one's cards close to one's vest
play play one's cards close to the chest
play play one's cards right
play play one's cards well
play play one's trump card
play play on something
play play politics
play play possum
play play second fiddle (to someone)
play play someone or something down
play play someone or something up
play play someone for something
play play someone off against someone else
play play something by ear
play play (the) devil's advocate
play play the field
play play the fool
play play the market
play play to the gallery
play play tricks (on someone)
play play up to someone
play play with fire
play When the cat's away, the mice will play.
play a game that two can play
play a play-by-play description
played played out
plea cop a plea
please We aim to please.
please You can't please everyone.
pleased (as) pleased as punch
pleased less than pleased
pleased pleased as punch

- p
- lenty**
- plenty of something
-
- p
- lenty**
- There are plenty of other fish in the sea.
-
- p
- lot**
- brew a plot
-
- p
- lot**
- The plot thickens.
-
- p
- low**
- plow into someone or something
-
- p
- low**
- plow through something
-
- p
- low**
- put one's hand to the plow
-
- p
- luck**
- pluck up one's courage
-
- p
- lug**
- plug away (at something)
-
- p
- lug**
- plug something in
-
- p
- lug**
- plug something up
-
- p
- lug**
- pull the plug (on someone or something)
-
- p
- lugged**
- not worth a plugged nickel
-
- p
- lumb**
- plumb loco
-
- p
- ocket**
- have someone in one's pocket
-
- p
- ocket**
- Money burns a hole in someone's pocket.
-
- p
- ocket**
- out-of-pocket expenses
-
- p
- ockets**
- line one's own pockets
-
- p
- od**
- as alike as (two) peas in a pod
-
- p
- od**
- like (two) peas in a pod
-
- p
- oetic**
- poetic justice
-
- p
- oint**
- at the point of doing something
-
- p
- oint**
- at this point (in time)
-
- p
- oint**
- belabor the point
-
- p
- oint**
- beside the point
-
- p
- oint**
- come to the point
-
- p
- oint**
- get to the point
-
- p
- oint**
- have a low boiling point
-
- p
- oint**
- jumping-off point
-
- p
- oint**
- make a point
-
- p
- oint**
- miss the point
-
- p
- oint**
- no point in something
-
- p
- oint**
- on the point of doing something
-
- p
- oint**
- point of view
-
- p
- oint**
- point someone or something out
-
- p
- oint**
- point something up
-
- p
- oint**
- point the finger at someone
-
- p
- oint**
- stretch a point
-
- p
- oint**
- stretch the point
-
- p
- oint**
- touch a sore point
-
- p
- oint**
- a case in point
-
- p
- oint**
- the point of no return
-
- p
- oints**
- make points (with someone)
-
- p
- oised**
- poised for something
-
- p
- oised**
- poised to do something
-
- p
- oison**
- One man's meat is another man's poison.
-
- p
- oke**
- buy a pig in a poke
-
- p
- oke**
- poke about
-
- p
- oke**
- poke around
-
- p
- oke**
- poke fun (at someone)
-
- p
- oke**
- poke one's nose in (to something)
-
- p
- oker**
- (as) stiff as a poker
-
- p
- oker**
- stiff as a poker
-
- p
- ole**
- high man on the totem pole
-
- p
- ole**
- low man on the totem pole
-
- p
- ole**
- wouldn't touch something with a ten-foot pole
-
- p
- oles**
- poles apart
-
- p
- olish**
- polish something off
-
- p
- olitics**
- play politics
-
- p
- ond**
- a big frog in a small pond
-
- p
- ony**
- dog and pony show
-
- p
- oop**
- poop out
-
- p
- ooped**
- pooped out
-
- p
- oor**
- (as) poor as a church mouse
-
- p
- oor**
- in poor taste
-
- p
- oor**
- poor as a church mouse
-
- p
- oor**
- poor but clean
-
- p
- op**
- pop off
-
- p
- op**
- pop one's cork
-
- p
- op**
- pop the question
-
- p
- op**
- pop up
-
- p
- opcorn**
- (as) busy as popcorn on a skillet
-
- p
- opcorn**
- busy as popcorn on a skillet
-
- p
- oppy**
- (as) red as a poppy
-
- p
- oppy**
- red as a poppy
-
- p
- ort**
- Any port in a storm.
-
- p
- ortent**
- a portent of things to come
-
- p
- ose**
- pose a question
-
- p
- ose**
- pose as someone
-
- p
- ose**
- strike a pose
-
- p
- osition**
- jockey for position
-
- p
- osition**
- make someone's position clear
-
- p
- ossessed**
- possessed by something
-
- p
- ossessed**
- possessed of something
-
- p
- ossible**
- as far as possible
-
- p
- ossible**
- (as) soon as possible
-
- p
- ossible**
- everything humanly possible
-
- p
- ossible**
- so far as possible
-
- p
- ossible**
- soon as possible
-
- p
- ossum**
- play possum
-
- p
- ost**
- (as) deaf as a post
-
- p
- ost**
- deaf as a post
-
- p
- ost**
- from pillar to post
-
- p
- ostage**
- postage and handling
-
- p
- osted**
- keep someone posted
-
- p
- ot**
- go to pot
-
- p
- ot**
- the pot calling the kettle black
-
- p
- otatoes**
- meat-and-potatoes
-
- p
- otshot**
- take a potshot at someone or something
-
- p
- ound**
- penny-wise and pound-foolish
-
- p
- ound**
- pound a beat
-
- p
- ound**
- pound something out
-
- p
- ound**
- pound the pavement
-
- p
- ound**
- An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
-
- p
- our**
- pour cold water on something
-
- p
- our**
- pour it on thick
-
- p
- our**
- pour money down the drain
-
- p
- our**
- pour oil on troubled water(s)
-
- p
- our**
- pour one's heart (out to someone)
-
- p
- ouring**
- pouring rain
-
- p
- ours**
- It never rains but it pours.
-
- p
- owder**
- sitting on a powder keg
-
- p
- owder**
- take a powder
-
- p
- ower**
- have no staying power
-
- p
- ower**
- the power behind the throne
-
- p
- owers**
- the powers that be
-
- p
- actical**
- for all practical purposes
-
- p
- actice**
- in practice
-
- p
- actice**
- make a practice of something
-
- p
- actice**
- make something a practice
-
- p
- actice**
- out of practice
-
- p
- actice**
- put something into practice
-
- p
- raise**
- damn someone or something with faint praise

praise praise someone or something to the skies
praises sing someone's praises
prayers in someone's prayers
preach preach to the converted
precedence have precedence over someone or something
precedence take precedence over someone or something
precedent set a precedent
precious precious few
precious precious little
prelude a prelude to something
premium at a premium
prescription refill a prescription
presence grace someone or something with one's presence
presence have the presence of mind to do something
present at present
present at the present time
press press one's luck
press press someone to the wall
press press the panic button
pressed hard pressed (to do something)
pressed pressed for time
pressure under (some) pressure
pretty (as) pretty as a picture
pretty come to a pretty pass
pretty cost a pretty penny
pretty in a (pretty) pickle
pretty pretty as a picture
Pretty Pretty is as pretty does.
pretty sitting pretty
pretty a pretty state of affairs
prevail prevail (up)on someone
prevent take steps (to prevent something)
prevention An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
price have a price on one's head
price quote a price
prick prick up one's ears
pride burst with pride
pride pride and joy
Pride Pride goes before a fall.
pride pride oneself in something
pride pride oneself on something
pride swallow one's pride
pride take pride in something
prime in its prime
prime in one's prime
prime in the prime of life
prime past someone's or something's prime
prime prime mover
print in print
print out of print
print put something into print
print the fine print
print the small print
privacy invasion of (someone's) privacy
private in private
privy privy to something
probability in all probability
probation on probation
problem get to the root of the problem
problem no problem
progress in progress

promise give something a lick and a promise
promise have a lot of promise
promise promise someone the moon
promise promise the moon (to someone)
prone prone to something
proportion blow something out of all proportion
proportion in proportion
proportion out of (all) proportion
proportion out of proportion
propose propose a toast
props knock the props out from under someone
protest a ripple of protest
proud (as) proud as a peacock
proud do oneself proud
proud proud as a peacock
prove prove to be something
proves the exception that proves the rule
provided provided that something is so
prunes full of prunes
p's mind one's p's and q's
psyche psyche out
psyche psyche someone out
psyche psyche someone up
psyched psyched out
psyched psyched up (for something)
public air one's dirty linen in public
public do something in public
public in public
public in the public eye
public wash one's dirty linen in public
publication not for publication
publish publish or perish
puff huff and puff
pull have pull with someone
pull pull a boner
pull pull a fast one
pull pull a gun (on someone)
pull pull a knife (on someone)
pull pull a stunt (on someone)
pull pull a trick (on someone)
pull pull oneself together
pull pull oneself up (by one's own bootstraps)
pull pull one's (own) weight
pull pull one's punches
pull pull out all the stops
pull pull rank (on someone)
pull pull someone or something down
pull pull someone's or something's teeth
pull pull someone's leg
pull pull someone through (something)
pull pull something on someone
pull pull something off
pull pull something out of a hat
pull pull something out of thin air
pull pull something together
pull pull strings
pull pull the plug (on someone or something)
pull pull the rug out (from under someone)
pull pull the wool over someone's eyes
pull pull through
pull pull up (somewhere)
pull pull up stakes

- pulse** take someone's pulse
punch (as) pleased as punch
punch beat someone to the punch
punch pack a punch
punch pleased as punch
punch punch a hole in something
punch take a punch at someone
punches pull one's punches
punishment glutton for punishment
pure (as) pure as the driven snow
pure pure and simple
pure pure as the driven snow
purge binge and purge
purpose answer someone's purpose
purpose on purpose
purpose serve someone's purpose
purposes at cross-purposes
purposes for all intents and purposes
purposes for all practical purposes
purse control the purse strings
purse make a silk purse out of a sow's ear
pursuit in pursuit of something
push if push comes to shove
push push off
push push one's luck
push push someone to the wall
push push the panic button
push when push comes to shove
pushing pushing up daisies
put feel put-upon
put hard put (to do something)
put put a bee in someone's bonnet
put put a cap on something
put put a hold on something
put put all one's eggs in one basket
put put an end to something
put put a spin on something
put put a stop to something
put put ideas into someone's head
put put in a good word (for someone)
put put in an appearance
put put off by someone or something
put put on
put put oneself in someone else's place
put put oneself in someone else's shoes
put put one's back (in)to something
put put one's best foot forward
put put one's cards on the table
put put (one's) dibs on something
put put one's finger on something
put put one's foot down (about something)
put put one's foot in it
put put one's foot in one's mouth
put put one's hand(s) on something
put put one's hand to the plow
put put one's head on the block (for someone or something)
put put one's house in order
put put one's mind to something
put put one's nose to the grindstone
put put one's oar in
put put one's shoulder to the wheel
put put one's thinking cap on
put put one's two cents(worth) in
put put one in one's place
put put one through one's paces
put put out (about someone or something)
put put out (some) feelers
put put someone or something across
put put someone or something at someone's disposal
put put someone or something down
put put someone or something off
put put someone or something on hold
put put someone or something out
put put someone or something to bed
put put someone or something to sleep
put put someone or something to the test
put put someone or something up
put put someone's eye out
put put someone's nose out of joint
put put someone away
put put someone down as something bad
put put someone down (for something)
put put someone in the picture
put put someone off
put put someone on
put put someone through the wringer
put put someone to bed with a shovel
put put someone to shame
put put someone up to something
put put someone wise to someone or something
put put some teeth into something
put put something by
put put something down in black and white
put put something down to something
put put something forward
put put something in
put put something off
put put something on
put put something over
put put something plainly
put put something right
put put something straight
put put something through its paces
put put something together
put put something to (good) use
put put something to rest
Put Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
put put the arm on someone
put put the bite on someone
put put the blame on someone or something
put put the cart before the horse
put put the clamps on (someone)
put put the finger on someone
put put the heat on (someone)
put put the kibosh on something
put put the screws on (someone)
put put the skids on (something)
put put the squeeze on (someone)
put put the touch on someone
put put to it
put put two and two together
put put up a (brave) front
put put upon by someone

Put Put up or shut up!
put put up with someone or something
put put weight on
put put words into someone's mouth
Put Put your money where your mouth is!
put stay put
put to put it mildly
putty putty in someone's hands
puzzle puzzle something out
q's mind one's p's and q's
QT on the QT
quake quake in one's boots
quality nice and some quality
quandary in a quandary
quantity an unknown quantity
quantity a known quantity
quarrel pick a quarrel (with someone)
quartered drawn and quartered
queer (as) queer as a three-dollar bill
queer queer as a three-dollar bill
quest in quest of someone or something
question beg the question
question beside the question
question bring something into question
question call someone or something into question
question out of the question
question pop the question
question pose a question
question without question
question a leading question
questions field questions
quick (as) quick as a flash
quick (as) quick as a wink
quick (as) quick as greased lightning
quick cut someone to the quick
quick make a quick buck
quick quick and dirty
quick quick as a flash
quick quick as a wink
quick quick as greased lightning
quick quick on the draw
quick quick on the trigger
quick quick on the uptake
quiet (as) quiet as a mouse
quiet (as) quiet as the grave
quiet keep quiet (about someone or something)
quiet keep someone or something quiet
quiet keep something quiet
quiet quiet as a mouse
quiet quiet as the grave
quiet so quiet you could hear a pin drop
quit Don't quit your day job.
quite quite a bit
quite quite a few
quite quite a little
quite quite a lot
quite quite a number
quite quite a something
quits call it quits
quote quote a price
race race against time
race rat race

race run the good race
race Slow and steady wins the race.
rack go to rack and ruin
rack rack one's brain(s)
racked racked with pain
rag chew the rag
rage all the rage
ragged run someone ragged
rags from rags to riches
rags in rags
rail rail at someone (about something)
rain (as) right as rain
rain come in out of the rain
rain get a rain check (on something)
rain give someone a rain check (on something)
rain not know enough to come in out of the rain
rain pouring rain
rain rain cats and dogs
rain rain on someone's parade
rain rain or shine
rain rain something out
rain right as rain
rain risk of rain
rain take a rain check (on something)
rains It never rains but it pours.
rainy save something for a rainy day
raise cause (some) eyebrows to raise
raise raise a hand (against someone or something)
raise raise (an) objection (to someone or something)
raise raise a stink (about something)
raise raise Cain (with someone or something)
raise raise havoc with someone or something
raise raise hell (with someone or something)
raise raise hob with someone or something
raise raise one's sights
raise raise one's voice (to someone)
raise raise some eyebrows
raise raise the devil (with someone or something)
raise raise the dickens (with someone or something)
raised born and raised
raised raised in a barn
rake rake someone over the coals
rake rake something off
rake rake something up
rally rally (a)round someone or something
ram ram someone or something down someone's throat
ramble ramble on (about someone or something)
rampage go on a rampage
rampant run rampant
random at random
range at close range
rank pull rank (on someone)
rank rank and file
ranks close ranks
ransom pay a king's ransom (for something)
rant rant and rave (about someone or something)
rant rant (at someone) about someone or something
rap beat the rap
rap rap someone's knuckles
rap rap with someone
rap take the rap (for someone or something)
rapped get one's knuckles rapped

rarin' **rarin'** to go
rat **rat** on someone
rat **rat** race
rat **smell** a rat
rate **at** any rate
rate **at** that rate
rate **at** this rate
rate **rate** with someone
rate **second-rate**
rate **the** going rate
rather **had** rather do something
rather **would** rather
rattle **rattle** something off
rave **rant** and **rave** (about someone or something)
raving **stark** raving mad
ravished **ravished** with delight
raw **get** a raw deal
raw **give** someone a raw deal
raw **in** the raw
razor (as) **sharp** as a razor
razor **sharp** as a razor
reach **out** of reach
reach **reach** a compromise
reach **reach** an agreement
reach **reach** an impasse
reach **reach** first base (with someone or something)
reach **reach** for the sky
reach **reach** one's stride
reach **within** someone's reach
reaction **gut** reaction
read **Do** you read me?
read **read** between the lines
read **read** one one's rights
read **read** someone's mind
read **read** someone like a(n open) book
read **read** someone out of something
read **read** someone the riot act
read **read** something into something
read **read** something over
read **read** something through
read **read** the handwriting on the wall
read **read** up (on someone or something)
ready **get** ready (to do something)
ready **ready** to do something
ready **ready**, willing, and able
ready **rough-and-ready**
ready **when** one is good and ready
real **for** real
real **in** a real pickle
real **the** real thing
reality **in** reality
reality **the** reality of the situation
rear **at** the rear of something
rear **bring** up the rear
rear **in** the rear
rear **rear** its ugly head
reason **It** (only) stands to reason.
reason **listen** to reason
reason **lose** one's reason
reason **stand** to reason
reason **within** reason
reason **without** rhyme or reason

reasonable **beyond** a reasonable doubt
receipt **acknowledge** receipt (of something)
receipt **in** receipt of something
receive **receive** someone with open arms
recent **in** recent memory
reckon **reckon** with someone or something
reckoned a force to be reckoned with
recognize **recognize** one for what one is
recognize **recognize** something for what it is
reconcile **reconcile** oneself to something
record **break** a record
record **for** the record
record **off** the record
record **one** for the (record) books
record **sound** like a broken record
red (as) **red** as a cherry
red (as) **red** as a poppy
red (as) **red** as a rose
red (as) **red** as a ruby
red (as) **red** as blood
red **catch** someone red-handed
red **caught** red-handed
red **get** the red-carpet treatment
red **give** someone the red-carpet treatment
red **in** the red
red **not** worth a red cent
red **one's** ears are red
red **out** of the red
red **paint** the town red
red **red** as a cherry
red **red** as a poppy
red **red** as a rose
red **red** as a ruby
red **red** as blood
red **red** herring
red **red** in the face
red **red** tape
red **roll** out the red carpet for someone
red **see** red
reduced **reduced** to something
reel **reel** something off
refill **refill** a prescription
regain **regain** one's composure
regain **regain** one's feet
regard **hold** someone in high regard
regard **with** regard to someone or something
regardless **regardless** of something
regular (as) **regular** as clockwork
regular **at** regular intervals
regular **regular** as clockwork
rehearsal **in** rehearsal
rein **give** free rein to someone
rein **give** someone free rein
rein **keep** a close rein on someone or something
rein **keep** a tight rein on someone or something
relative **relative** to someone or something
reliance **reliance** on someone or something
religion **get** religion
religious **religious** about doing something
relish **with** relish
reluctance **reluctance** to do something
reluctant **be** reluctant to do something

- reminiscent** reminiscent of someone or something
remission in remission
repair in good repair
reproach above reproach
reputation get a reputation (as a something)
reputation get a reputation (for doing something)
reputation give someone a reputation (as a something)
reputation give someone a reputation (for doing something)
reputed reputed to do something
reputed reputed to have something
request at someone's request
requirements meet the requirements (for something)
reservation make a reservation
reservations make reservations
resign resign oneself to something
resistance the line of least resistance
resistance the path of least resistance
resonate resonate with someone
resort as a last resort
respect pay someone respect
respect with respect to someone or something
respects in many respects
respects in some respects
respects pay one's last respects
response gut response
responsible the responsible party
rest at rest
rest come to rest
rest Give it a rest.
rest lay something to rest
rest put something to rest
rest rest assured
rest rest in peace
rest rest on one's laurels
result as a result of something
result result in something
retreat beat a (hasty) retreat
retrospect in retrospect
return by return mail
return in return for (someone or something)
return return someone's compliment
return return the compliment
return return the favor
return the point of no return
rev rev something up
rewards get one's just reward(s)
rhyme without rhyme or reason
ribs stick to one's ribs
rich rich in something
rich rich with something
rich strike it rich
riches from rags to riches
rid get rid of someone or something
riddance good riddance (to bad rubbish)
ride go along for the ride
ride hitch a ride
ride let something ride
ride herd on someone or something
ride ride off in all directions
ride ride on someone's coattails
ride ride roughshod over someone or something
ride ride something out
ride ride the gravy train
ride take someone for a ride
ride thumb a ride
ridiculous make someone look ridiculous
riding riding for a fall
right acknowledge someone to be right
right all right
right (as) right as rain
right get right on something
right go right through someone
right hang a right
right have a right to do something
right have one's heart in the right place
right have the right-of-way
right have the right to do something
right hit someone (right) between the eyes
right hit the nail (right) on the head
right in one's right mind
right in the right
right left and right
right make something right
right one's heart is in the right place
right on the right track
right play one's cards right
right put something right
right right and left
right right as rain
right right at a specific time
right right away
right right down someone's alley
right right off the bat
right right on time
right right side up
right (right) under someone's (very) nose
right right up someone's alley
right sail (right) through something
right say something (right) to someone's face
right serve someone right
right set something right
right step (right) up
right strike the right note
right turn out (all right)
right when it comes right down to it
right work out (all right)
right would give one's right arm (for someone or something)
right yield the right-of-way
rights have someone dead to rights
rights read one one's rights
Riley lead the life of Riley
ring give someone a ring
ring have a familiar ring
ring like a three-ring circus
ring ring a bell
ring ring down the curtain (on something)
ring ring in the New Year
ring ring something up
ring ring true
ring toss one's hat into the ring
ringing one's ears are ringing
rings run rings around someone

riot read someone the riot act
riot run riot
rip let her rip
rip rip into someone or something
rip rip someone or something off
ripe when the time is ripe
ripe a ripe old age
ripe the time is ripe
ripple a ripple of excitement
ripple a ripple of protest
rise Early to bed, early to rise(, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.)
rise feel one's gorge rise
rise get a rise out of someone
rise give rise to something
rise make someone's gorge rise
Rise Rise and shine!
rise rise to the bait
rise rise to the occasion
risk at risk
risk risk of rain
risk risk of showers
risk risk of thunder(storms)
risk risk one's neck (to do something)
risk run a risk (of something)
risk run the risk (of something)
risk take a risk
river sell someone down the river
river send someone up the river
rivet rivet someone's attention
road get the show on the road
road have one for the road
road hit the road
road middle-of-the-road
road road-hog
road the end of the road
rob rob Peter to pay Paul
rob rob the cradle
robbery daylight robbery
Robin all around Robin Hood's barn
Robinson before you can say Jack Robinson
rock (as) hard as a rock
rock (as) solid as a rock
rock (as) steady as a rock
rock between a rock and a hard place
rock hard as a rock
rock rock the boat
rock solid as a rock
rock steady as a rock
rocker off one's rocker
rocks have rocks in one's head
rocks on the rocks
roll call (the) roll
roll heads will roll
roll let it roll
roll roll in
roll roll one's sleeves up
roll roll out the red carpet for someone
roll roll (over) in one's grave
roll roll something back
roll take (the) roll
roller (as) awkward as a cow on roller skates

roller awkward as a cow on roller skates
rolling (as) easy as rolling off a log
rolling easy as rolling off a log
rolling get rolling
rolling get the ball rolling
rolling have them rolling in the aisles
rolling keep the ball rolling
rolling rolling in something
rolling set the ball rolling
rolling start the ball rolling
rolling A rolling stone gathers no moss.
Romans When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
Rome fiddle while Rome burns
Rome Rome wasn't built in a day.
Rome When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
roof (as) busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
roof busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
roof go through the roof
room Don't let it out of this room.
room not enough room to swing a cat
room room and board
room take up room
roost come home (to roost)
roost rule the roost
roost The chickens have come home to roost.
root get to the root of the problem
root Money is the root of all evil.
root root for someone or something
root root something out
root take root
rooted rooted in something
rooted rooted to the spot
rope at the end of one's rope
rope rope someone into doing something
rope skip rope
ropes know the ropes
ropes learn the ropes
ropes show someone the ropes
rose (as) red as a rose
rose red as a rose
roses come up smelling like roses
roses Everything's coming up roses.
roses a bed of roses
rote learn something by rote
rotten rotten to the core
rough get a rough idea (about something)
rough get a rough idea (of something)
rough give someone a rough idea (about something)
rough give someone a rough idea (of something)
rough have a rough time (of it)
rough rough-and-ready
rough rough-and-tumble
rough rough it
rough rough someone up
rough when the going gets rough
rough a diamond in the rough
roughshod ride roughshod over someone or something
round (all) year round
round in round figures
round in round numbers
round round out something
round round something off

- round** round something up to something
round round the clock
round round-trip ticket
round year round
round a square peg in a round hole
round the other way round
roundabout say something in a roundabout way
roundup head for the last roundup
row get one's ducks in a row
row kick up a row
row tough row to hoe
royal the royal treatment
rub rub elbows (with someone)
rub rub off (on someone)
rub rub salt in the wound
rub rub shoulders with someone
rub rub someone's nose in it
rub rub someone out
rub rub someone's fur the wrong way
rub rub something in
rubbish good riddance (to bad rubbish)
Rubicon cross the Rubicon
ruby (as) red as a ruby
ruby red as a ruby
ruffle ruffle its feathers
ruffle ruffle someone's feathers
rug (as) snug as a bug in a rug
rug pull the rug out (from under someone)
rug snug as a bug in a rug
rug sweep something under the rug
ruin go to rack and ruin
ruin go to wrack and ruin
ruin in ruin
ruin the ruin of someone or something
rule as a (general) rule
rule rule someone or something out
rule rule the roost
rule a rule of thumb
rule the exception that proves the rule
rump rump session
run cut and run
run do something on the run
run dry run
run eat and run
run get a run for one's money
run give one a run for one's money
run have a run-in with someone
run have a run of bad luck
run have a run of something
run have one's luck run out
run hit-and-run
run in the long run
run in the short run
run make a run for it
run make someone's blood run cold
run run across someone or something
run run a fever
run run afoul of someone or something
run run after someone
run run an errand
run run a risk (of something)
run run (around) in circles
run run around like a chicken with its head cut off
run run around with someone
run run a taut ship
run run a temperature
run run a tight ship
run run circles around someone
run run counter to something
run run for it
run run for one's life
run run in the family
run run into a stone wall
run run into someone
run run like clockwork
run run low (on something)
run run off at the mouth
run run off with someone or something
run run-of-the-mill
run run out of gas
run run out of patience
run run out of something
run run out of time
run run rampant
run run rings around someone
run run riot
run run scared
run run short (of something)
run run someone or something down
run run someone or something to earth
run run someone in
run run someone ragged
run run something into the ground
run run something up
run run that by (someone) again
run run the gamut
run run the good race
run run the risk (of something)
run run through something
run run to an amount of money
run run to seed
run run wild
runaround get the runaround
runaround give someone the runaround
running days running
running in the running
running months running
running off and running
running off to a running start
running out of the running
running running high
running weeks running
running years running
runs Blood runs thicker than water.
runs one's luck runs out
rush fools rush in (where angels fear to tread)
rush give someone the bum's rush
rush in a mad rush
rush a rush on something
rustle rustle something up
rut in a rut
rut (stuck) in a rut
sack get the sack
sack give someone the sack

sack hit the sack
sack sack out
sacred sacred cow
sadder sadder but wiser
saddle saddle someone with something
safe play it safe
safe safe and sound
safe to be on the safe side
safe to be safe
safe Your secret is safe with me.
safekeeping for safekeeping
safety safety in numbers
sage sage advice
said after all is said and done
said (be) easier said than done
said easier said than done
said no sooner said than done
said when all is said and done
said You said it!
sail sail (right) through something
sail sail under false colors
sail set sail (for somewhere)
sailing clear sailing
sails take the wind out of someone's sails
saint have the patience of a saint
sake arguing for the sake of arguing
sake arguing for the sake of argument
sake for one's (own) sake
sake for the sake of someone or something
salad in one's salad days
salad toss a salad
sale for sale
sale on sale
salt back to the salt mines
salt rub salt in the wound
salt salt something away
salt take something with a grain of salt
salt take something with a pinch of salt
salt worth one's salt
salt the salt of the earth
same all the same
same amount to the same thing
same at the same time
same by the same token
same cast in the same mold
same come to the same thing
same cut from the same cloth
same in the same boat (as someone)
same in the same breath
same just the same
same Lightning never strikes twice (in the same place).
same made from the same mold
same not in the same league with someone or something
same one and the same
same same here
same speak the same language
same tarred with the same brush
same the same as someone or something
same the same old story
same the same to you
sanctity odor of sanctity

sand bury one's head in the sand
sand hide one's head in the sand
sands the sands of time
sandwich one sandwich short of a picnic
sardines packed (in) like sardines
Save Save it.
save save one's breath
save save (one's) face
save save someone's neck
save save someone's skin
save save something for a rainy day
save save the day
save save up (for something)
save scrimp and save
saved saved by the bell
saved A penny saved is a penny earned.
saving saving grace
say before you can say Jack Robinson
say drop in (to say hello)
say get one's say
say go so far as to say something
say have a say (in something)
say on someone's say-so
say say a mouthful
say say grace
say say something in a roundabout way
say say something (right) to someone's face
say say something under one's breath
say say that something is so
say say the word
say say uncle
say to say nothing of someone or something
say to say the least
say What can I say?
say What do you want me to say?
say You can say that again!
saying goes without saying
scale scale something down
scales tip the scales at something
scapegoat make someone the scapegoat for something
scarce (as) scarce as hens' teeth
scarce make oneself scarce
scarcely scarcely have time to breathe
scarcer scarcer than hens' teeth
scare scare one out of one's wits
scare scare someone or something up
scare scare someone stiff
scare scare someone to death
scare scare the living daylight out of someone
scare scare the wits out of someone
scared run scared
scared scared silly
scared scared stiff
scared scared to death
scared You scared me out of my wits.
scared You scared the crap out of me.
scared You scared the devil out of me.
scared You scared the dickens out of me.
scared You scared the hell out of me.
scared You scared the pants off (of) me.
scene arrive on the scene
scene burst onto the scene

- scene** come on the scene
scene create a scene
scene make a scene
scene make the scene
scenery a change of scenery
scenes behind the scenes
schedule ahead of schedule
schedule behind schedule
schedule on schedule
schemes the best-laid schemes of mice and men
school from the old school
school of the old school
school school of thought
school tell tales out of school
score have a score to settle (with someone)
score know the score
score settle a score with someone
score settle the score (with someone)
scot get off scot-free
scot go scot-free
scout scout around for someone or something
scrape bow and scrape
scrape have a scrape (with someone or something)
scrape scrape something together
scrape scrape the bottom of the barrel
scratch make something from scratch
scratch not up to scratch
scratch scratch around (for something)
scratch scratch someone's back
scratch scratch the surface
scratch start from scratch
scratch up to scratch
scratch You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
scream scream bloody murder
scream so mad I could scream
scream a piercing scream
screw have a screw loose
screw screw around (with someone or something)
screw screw someone or something up
screw screw up one's courage
screws put the screws on (someone)
scrimp scrimp and save
scrutiny under (close) scrutiny
sea (all) at sea (about something)
sea at sea
sea between the devil and the deep blue sea
sea get one's sea legs
sea son of a sea biscuit
sea There are plenty of other fish in the sea.
sealed signed, sealed, and delivered
seams burst at the seams
seams come apart at the seams
seams fall apart at the seams
seamy the seamy side of life
search in search of someone or something
search search high and low (for someone or something)
search search something with a fine-tooth comb
season in season
season off season
season open season (on someone or something)
season out of season
season silly season
seat by the seat of one's pants
seat in the driver's seat
seat in the hot seat
seat on the hot seat
seat show one to one's seat
seat show someone to a seat
second come off second-best
second get one's second wind
second get second thoughts about someone or something
second have second thoughts about someone or something
second in a split second
second in (just) a second
second in one's second childhood
second in the second place
second on second thought
second play second fiddle (to someone)
second second nature to someone
second second-rate
second second to none
secret carry a secret to one's grave
secret carry a secret to the grave
secret do something in secret
secret in secret
secret keep a secret
secret open secret
secret Your secret is safe with me.
security lull someone into a false sense of security
security security against something
see begin to see daylight
see begin to see the light
see can't see beyond the end of one's nose
see can't see one's hand in front of one's face
see Long time no see.
see not able to see the forest for the trees
see not see any objection (to something)
see not see farther than the end of one's nose
see not see past the end of one's nose
see see about something
see see a man about a dog
see see double
see see eye to eye (with someone) (about something)
see see eye to eye (with someone) (on something)
see see fit (to do something)
see see into something
see see no objection (to something)
see see one's way clear (to do something)
see see red
see see someone as something
see see someone home
see see someone to somewhere
see see someone to the door
see see something through
see see stars
see see the color of someone's money
see see the (hand)writing on the wall
see see the last of someone or something
see see the light
see see the sights
see see through someone or something
see see (to it) that something is done
see see to someone or something

see see which way the wind is blowing
see wait-and-see attitude
seed go to seed
seed run to seed
seeing seeing is believing
seeing seeing things
seek hide-and-seek
seen have seen better days
seize seize the bull by the horns
seize seize the opportunity
seize seize (up)on something
sell get the hard sell
sell give someone the hard sell
sell sell like hotcakes
sell sell (someone or something) out
sell sell someone or something short
sell sell someone a bill of goods
sell sell someone down the river
sell sell someone on a plan or idea
sell sell something for a song
sell sell something off
sell sell something on credit
send get a big send-off
send give someone a big send-off
send send one about one's business
send send someone or something up
send send someone into something
send send someone off
send send someone (out) on an errand
send send someone packing
send send someone to the showers
send send someone up the river
send send something C.O.D.
send send up a trial balloon
sense horse sense
sense in a sense
sense lull someone into a false sense of security
sense make sense
sense sixth sense
senses come to one's senses
senses out of one's senses
senses take leave of one's senses
separate separate but equal
separate separate the men from the boys
separate separate the sheep from the goats
separation the separation of church and state
serve serve as a guinea pig
serve serve notice (on someone)
serve serve someone's purpose
serve serve someone right
serve serve time
served First come, first served.
service at someone's service
service be of service (to someone)
service out of service
service pay lip service (to something)
session in session
session rump session
set all set
set (all) set to do something
set at a set time
set dead set against someone or something

set get set
set have one's heart set against something
set have one's heart set on something
set not set foot somewhere
set one's heart is (dead) set against something
set one's heart is set on something
set set a precedent
set set a trap
set set eyes on someone or something
set set fire to someone or something
set set foot somewhere
set set forth (on something)
set set great store by someone or something
set set in
set set one's heart against something
set set one's heart on something
set set one's sights on something
set set one back on one's heels
set set sail (for somewhere)
set set someone or something free
set set someone or something off
set set someone or something on fire
set set someone or something straight
set set someone or something up
set set someone's teeth on edge
set set someone back (some amount of money)
set set someone up (as something)
set set someone up (in business)
set set something down to something
set set something right
set set something straight
set set something to music
set set the ball rolling
set set the stage for something
set set the table
set set the world on fire
set set to do something
set set tongues (a)wagging
set set type
set set upon someone or something
set set up shop somewhere
settle have a score to settle (with someone)
settle settle a score with someone
settle settle down
settle settle for something
settle settle on something
settle settle someone's affairs
settle settle (something) (out of court)
settle settle the score (with someone)
settle settle up with someone
sevens at sixes and sevens
seventh in seventh heaven
sever sever ties with someone
sew sew something up
sewed get something sewed up
sex the opposite sex
shack shack up (with someone)
shades shades of someone or something
shadow afraid of one's own shadow
shadow beyond the shadow of a doubt
shadow shadow of itself
shadow shadow of oneself

- shake** give someone a fair shake
shake more someone or something than one can shake a stick at
shake shake (hands) on something
shake shake hands (with someone)
shake shake in one's boots
shake shake someone or something down
shake shake someone or something off
shake shake someone or something up
shake shake something off
shake shake the lead out
shakers movers and shakers
shakes in two shakes of a lamb's tail
shakes no great shakes
shambles in shambles
shame hide one's face in shame
shame put someone to shame
Shame Shame on someone.
shame a crying shame
shank's by shank's mare
shank's go (somewhere) by shank's mare
shape in good shape
shape in shape
shape lick something into shape
shape out of shape
shape shape someone up
shape shape up
shape take shape
shape whip something into shape
share one's fair share
share share and share alike
share share someone's pain
share share someone's sorrow
share the lion's share (of something)
sharing Thank you for sharing.
sharp (as) sharp as a razor
sharp (as) sharp as a tack
sharp at some time sharp
sharp sharp as a razor
sharp sharp as a tack
shave have a close shave
she That's all she wrote.
shed shed crocodile tears
shed shed (some) light on something
sheep separate the sheep from the goats
sheep the black sheep of the family
sheep's a wolf in sheep's clothing
sheet (as) white as a sheet
sheet white as a sheet
sheets three sheets to the wind
shell come out of one's shell
shell shell something out
shellacking get a shellacking
shellacking give someone a shellacking
shellacking take a shellacking
shift shift for oneself
shine rain or shine
shine Rise and shine!
shine shine up to someone
shine take a shine to someone or something
ship desert a sinking ship
ship leave a sinking ship
ship run a taut ship
ship run a tight ship
ship Shape up or ship out.
shipping shipping and handling
ships ships that pass in the night
shirk shirk one's duty
shirt give someone the shirt off one's back
shirt Keep your shirt on!
shirt lose one's shirt
shock get the shock of one's life
shoe (as) comfortable as an old shoe
shoe (as) common as an old shoe
shoe comfortable as an old shoe
shoe common as an old shoe
shoe drop the other shoe
shoe have the shoe on the other foot
shoe If the shoe fits, wear it.
shoe The shoe is on the other foot.
shoes fill someone's shoes
shoes in someone else's shoes
shoes put oneself in someone else's shoes
shoes step into someone's shoes
shoestring get along (on a shoestring)
shoestring on a shoestring
shook shook up
shoot shoot for something
shoot shoot from the hip
shoot shoot one's mouth off
shoot shoot something out
shoot shoot the breeze
shoot shoot the bull
shoot shoot the works
shooting the whole shooting match
shop close up shop
shop set up shop somewhere
shop shop around (for something)
shop talk shop
shop a bull in a china shop
shopping go window-shopping
shopping window-shopping
short caught short
short end up with the short end of the stick
short fall short (of something)
short for short
short get the short end of the stick
short in short
short in the short run
short life is too short
short long and (the) short of it
short make a long story short
short make short work of someone or something
short nothing short of something
short one sandwich short of a picnic
short over the short haul
short run short (of something)
short sell someone or something short
short short and sweet
short short for something
short short of something
short stop short of doing something
short Take a long walk off a short pier.
short a few cards short of a deck

shot (all) shot to hell
shot give something a shot
shot give something one's best shot
shot have a shot at something
shot not by a long shot
shot off like a shot
shot shot through with something
shot shot to hell
shot take a shot at something
shot a shot in the arm
shot a shot in the dark
shotgun a shotgun wedding
shots call the shots
should should have stood in bed
shoulder get the cold shoulder
shoulder give someone the cold shoulder
shoulder have a chip on one's shoulder
shoulder put one's shoulder to the wheel
shoulder shoulder to shoulder
shoulder straight from the shoulder
shoulders carry the weight of the world on one's shoulders
shoulders have a good head on one's shoulders
shoulders have broad shoulders
shoulders head and shoulders above someone or something
shoulders on someone's shoulders
shoulders rub shoulders with someone
shouting all over but the shouting
shouting within shouting distance
shove if push comes to shove
shove shove one's way somewhere
shove shove someone or something down someone's throat
shove when push comes to shove
shovel put someone to bed with a shovel
show by a show of hands
show dog and pony show
show get the show on the road
show goes to show you
show let one's emotions show
show make a great show of something
show not show one's face
show show-and-tell
show show good faith
show show off
show show one's hand
show show one's (true) colors
show show one to one's seat
show show signs of something
show show someone or something off
show show someone the ropes
show show someone to a seat
show show someone (to) the door
show show someone up
show show something to good advantage
show steal the show
show a show of hands
shower take a shower
showers risk of showers
showers send someone to the showers
shuffle shuffle off this mortal coil
shut keep one's mouth shut (about someone or something)

shut Put up or shut up!
shut shut someone up
shut shut something down
shut shut the door on someone or something
shut an open-and-shut case
shuttle shuttle someone or something from person to person
shuttle shuttle someone or something from place to place
shy shy away (from someone or something)
shy two bricks shy of a load
shy a few cards shy of a full deck
sick (as) sick as a dog
sick be sick
sick get sick
sick make someone sick
sick sick and tired of someone or something
sick sick as a dog
sick sick in bed
sick take sick
side from side to side
side get on the good side of someone
side get out of the wrong side of the bed
side get up on the wrong side of the bed
side know which side one's bread is buttered on
side laugh out of the other side of one's mouth
side off to one side
side right side up
side side against someone
side side with someone
side to be on the safe side
side a thorn in someone's side
side the other side of the tracks
side the seamy side of life
side the wrong side of the tracks
sides choose up sides
sides split one's sides (with laughter)
sides take sides
sidetracked get sidetracked
sight buy something sight unseen
sight can't stand (the sight of) someone or something
sight catch sight of someone or something
sight in sight
sight know someone by sight
sight love at first sight
sight out of sight
sight sight for sore eyes
sights have one's sights trained on something
sights lower one's sights
sights raise one's sights
sights see the sights
sights set one's sights on something
sights train one's sights on something
sign get the high sign
sign give someone the high sign
sign sign one's own death warrant
sign sign on the dotted line
sign sign on (with someone)
sign a sign of things to come
signal signal (to) someone to do something
signed signed, sealed, and delivered
signs show signs of something
silent (as) silent as the dead

- silent** (as) silent as the grave
silent silent as the dead
silent silent as the grave
silk (as) smooth as silk
silk (as) soft as silk
silk make a silk purse out of a sow's ear
silk smooth as silk
silk soft as silk
silly (as) silly as a goose
silly bored silly
silly scared silly
silly silly as a goose
silly silly season
silver born with a silver spoon in one's mouth
silver cross someone's palm with silver
silver Every cloud has a silver lining.
simmer simmer down
simple plain and simple
simple pure and simple
sin (as) ugly as sin
sin ugly as sin
since since time immemorial
since the greatest thing since sliced bread
sing sing a different tune
sing sing another tune
sing sing someone's praises
single (in) single file
single single file
sink everything but the kitchen sink
sink sink in
sink sink one's teeth into something
sink sink or swim
sinker swallow something, hook, line, and sinker
sinking desert a sinking ship
sinking leave a sinking ship
sit sit around (somewhere)
sit sit at someone's feet
sit sit back and let something happen
sit sit bolt upright
sit sit (idly) by
sit sit in for someone
sit sit in (on something)
sit sit on its hands
sit sit on one's hands
sit sit on someone or something
sit sit on the fence
sit sit something out
sit sit through something
sit sit tight
sit sit up and take notice
sit sit up with someone
sit sit with someone
sitting at a sitting
sitting like a sitting duck
sitting like sitting ducks
sitting sitting on a powder keg
sitting (sitting) on top of the world
sitting sitting pretty
sitting a sitting duck
sitting a sitting target
situation no-win situation
situation the reality of the situation
six deep-six someone or something
six six of one and half a dozen of the other
sixes at sixes and sevens
sixth sixth sense
size beat someone down (to size)
size cut someone down (to size)
size knock someone down (to size)
size pick on somebody your own size
size pick on someone your own size
size size someone or something up
size take someone down (to size)
size That's about the size of it.
skate skate on thin ice
skates (as) awkward as a cow on roller skates
skates awkward as a cow on roller skates
skeleton a skeleton in the closet
sketch a thumbnail sketch
skids hit the skids
skids put the skids on (something)
skies praise someone or something to the skies
skillet (as) black as a skillet
skillet (as) busy as popcorn on a skillet
skillet black as a skillet
skillet busy as popcorn on a skillet
skin (all) skin and bones
skin Beauty is only skin-deep.
skin by the skin of one's teeth
skin get under someone's skin
skin give someone some skin
skin jump out of one's skin
skin no skin off someone's nose
skin no skin off someone's teeth
skin nothing but skin and bones
skin save someone's skin
skin skin and bones
skin skin someone alive
skin soaked to the skin
skin There's more than one way to skin a cat.
skinned thick-skinned
skinned thin-skinned
skip skip bail
skip skip out (on someone or something)
skip skip rope
skip a hop, skip, and a jump
skips one's heart skips a beat
skittles (all) beer and skittles
skittles beer and skittles
skull get something through someone's thick skull
skunk (as) drunk as a skunk
skunk drunk as a skunk
sky (as) high as the sky
sky go sky-high
sky out of a clear blue sky
sky pie in the sky
sky reach for the sky
sky's The sky's the limit.
slack slack off
slap get a slap on the wrist
slap give someone a slap on the wrist
slap slap someone's wrist
slap slap someone down
slap slap someone on the wrist

slap slap something together
slap a slap in the face
slate start (off) with a clean slate
slate start (over) with a clean slate
slate wipe someone's slate clean
slated slated for something
slated slated to do something
slaughter like lambs to the slaughter
slave a slave to something
sleep drop off (to sleep)
sleep lose sleep (over someone or something)
sleep lull someone to sleep
sleep not sleep a wink
sleep put someone or something to sleep
sleep sleep in
sleep sleep like a baby
sleep sleep like a log
sleep sleep on something
sleep sleep something off
sleep sleep with someone
sleeping Let sleeping dogs lie.
sleeve have an ace up one's sleeve
sleeve have one's heart on one's sleeve
sleeve have something up one's sleeve
sleeve laugh up one's sleeve
sleeve wear one's heart on one's sleeve
sleeves roll one's sleeves up
slice a slice of the cake
sliced the greatest thing since sliced bread
slick (as) slick as a whistle
slick slick as a whistle
slide let something slide
slide let things slide
slip get the slip
slip give someone the slip
slip let something slip by
slip let something slip (out)
slip let the chance slip by
slip slip away
slip slip off
slip slip one's mind
slip slip out
slip slip through someone's fingers
slip slip up
slip a slip of the tongue
slippery (as) slippery as an eel
slippery slippery as an eel
slow (as) slow as molasses in January
Slow Slow and steady wins the race.
slow slow as molasses in January
slow slow going
slow slow on the draw
slow slow on the uptake
slow slow someone or something down
slow slow someone or something up
slow take it slow
slower slower and slower
slower slower than molasses in January
slowly slow(ly) but sure(ly)
sly (as) sly as a fox
sly do something on the sly
sly sly as a fox

smack smack-dab in the middle
small engage in small talk
small small fry
small small hours (of the night)
small small-time
small thankful for small blessings
small a big frog in a small pond
small the small print
smart You think you're so smart!
smear smear campaign (against someone)
smell smell a rat
smell smell to high heaven
smelling come up smelling like roses
smile crack a smile
smile smile on someone or something
smithereens blow someone or something to smithereens
smoke go up in smoke
smoke have a smoke
smoke Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
smoke smoke and mirrors
smoke smoke someone or something out
smoke Where there's smoke there's fire.
smooth (as) smooth as glass
smooth (as) smooth as silk
smooth smooth as glass
smooth smooth as silk
smooth smooth something out
smooth smooth something over
snag hit a snag
snail's at a snail's pace
snake a snake in the grass
snap snap at someone
snap snap out of something
snap snap something up
sneeze nothing to sneeze at
sniff sniff someone or something out
snit in a snit
snow (as) pure as the driven snow
snow (as) white as the driven snow
snow do a snow job on someone
snow pure as the driven snow
snow white as the driven snow
snowball's have a snowball's chance in hell
snuff not up to snuff
snuff up to snuff
snug (as) snug as a bug in a rug
snug snug as a bug in a rug
so able to take just so much
so and so forth
so and so on
so bear in mind that something is so
so be of the persuasion that something is so
so be so
so do so
so go so far as to say something
so (have) never had it so good
so have so
so if so
so in so many words
so just so
so my gut tells me (that) something is so
so never had it so good

so on someone's say-so
so provided that something is so
so say that something is so
so so-and-so
So So be it.
so so clean you could eat off the floor
so so far as anyone knows
so so far as possible
so so far as someone or something is concerned
so so far as something is concerned
So So far, so good.
So So it goes.
so so long
so so mad I could scream
so so much for someone or something
so so much the better
so so quiet you could hear a pin drop
so so-so
so so soon
so so still you could hear a pin drop
so so to speak
so turn out (that) something is so
so without so much as doing something
so You think you're so smart!
soaked soaked to the skin
sober (as) sober as a judge
sober sober as a judge
society pay one's debt (to society)
sock sock something away
soft (as) soft as a baby's bottom
soft (as) soft as down
soft (as) soft as silk
soft (as) soft as velvet
soft have a soft spot in one's heart for someone or something
soft soft as a baby's bottom
soft soft as down
soft soft as silk
soft soft as velvet
soil soil one's diaper(s)
soil soil one's hands
sold sold out
solid (as) solid as a rock
solid solid as a rock
Solomon (as) wise as Solomon
Solomon wise as Solomon
some and then some
some at some length
some catch some Zs
some cause (some) eyebrows to raise
some cause (some) tongues to wag
some dig some dirt up on someone
some drum some business up
some give birth to someone or some creature
some give someone some skin
some in some respects
some It takes (some) getting used to.
some knock some heads together
some put out (some) feelers
some put some teeth into something
some raise some eyebrows
some shed (some) light on something

some (some) new blood
some throw (some) light on something
some to some extent
some use some elbow grease
some a match for someone, something, or some creature
somebody pick on somebody your own size
somehow carry on somehow
someone make someone sick
someone pick on someone your own size
someone's get out of someone's way
something have something in mind
something have something to do with something
something have something up one's sleeve
something pull something on someone
something something else
something something of the sort
something something or other
something something to that effect
something's something's up
sometime date back (to sometime)
somewhere (somewhere) in the neighborhood of an amount
somewhere somewhere to hang (up) one's hat
somewhere stranger to something or somewhere
son son of a bitch
son son of a gun
son son of a sea biscuit
song buy something for a song
song go into one's song and dance (about something)
song sell something for a song
song someone's swan song
soon as soon as
soon (as) soon as possible
soon had (just) as soon do something
soon soon as possible
soon so soon
soon would as soon do something
soon A fool and his money are soon parted.
sooner had sooner do something
sooner no sooner said than done
sooner sooner or later
sore sight for sore eyes
sore stick out like a sore thumb
sore touch a sore point
sore touch a sore spot
sorrow share someone's sorrow
sorrows drown one's sorrows
sorry (I'm) sorry.
sorry sorry
sort something of the sort
sort sort of something
sort sort something out
sorts in bad sorts
sorts out of sorts
sought much sought after
soul every living soul
soul heart and soul
soul keep body and soul together
soul not a living soul
soul not tell a (living) soul
soul with all one's heart and soul
sound (as) sound as a dollar

sound let out some kind of sound
sound safe and sound
sound sound as a dollar
sound sound as if
sound sound like
sound sound off (about something)
sound sound someone out
soup (as) easy as duck soup
soup (as) thick as pea soup
soup easy as duck soup
soup everything from soup to nuts
soup in the soup
soup soup something up
soup thick as pea soup
sour (as) sour as vinegar
sour hit a sour note
sour sour as vinegar
sour strike a sour note
sour sweet and sour
South down South
sow sow one's wild oats
sow's make a silk purse out of a sow's ear
space take up space
spaced spaced-out
spade call a spade a spade
spades (as) black as the ace of spades
spades (as) cocky as the king of spades
spades black as the ace of spades
spades cocky as the king of spades
Spain build castles in Spain
span spick-and-span
spare and something to spare
spare have something to spare
spare in one's spare time
spare not a moment to spare
spare spare someone something
spare without a moment to spare
spare with something to spare
spaz have a spaz
speak Actions speak louder than words.
speak nothing to speak of
speak so to speak
speak speak for itself
speak speak for themselves
speak speak highly of someone or something
speak speak ill of someone
speak speak off the cuff
speak speak of the devil
speak speak one's mind
speak speak out of turn
speak speak out (on something)
speak speak the same language
speak speak up
speak speak with a forked tongue
speaking on speaking terms (with someone)
speaks know whereof one speaks
specific right at a specific time
speed at full speed
spell spell something out
spell spell trouble
spend tax-and-spend
spice Variety is the spice of life.

spick spick-and-span
spill spill the beans
spill take a spill
spilled cry over spilled milk
spin make someone's head spin
spin put a spin on something
spin spin a yarn
spin spin one's wheels
spin spin something off
spindle fold, spindle, or mutilate
spirits in good spirits
spit be the spit and image of someone
spit spit (something) up
spite cut off one's nose to spite one's face
spite in spite of someone or something
spite out of spite
spitting be the spitting image of someone
spleen vent one's spleen
split in a split second
split split hairs
split split one's sides (with laughter)
split split people up
split split something fifty-fifty
split split the difference
split split up
split vote a split ticket
splurge on a splurge
spoil Too many cooks spoil the broth.
spoil Too many cooks spoil the stew.
spoils To the victors belong the spoils.
spoken spoken for
sponge throw in the sponge
spook spook someone or something
spoon born with a silver spoon in one's mouth
spoon spoon-feed someone
sporting a sporting chance
spot have a soft spot in one's heart for someone or something
spot hit the spot
spot in a (tight) spot
spot Johnny-on-the-spot
spot on the spot
spot put someone on the spot
spot rooted to the spot
spot touch a sore spot
spot X marks the spot
spotlight in the spotlight
spotlight steal the spotlight
spots hit the high spots
spout spout off (about someone or something)
spread spread it on thick
spread spread like wildfire
spread spread oneself too thin
spring no spring chicken
spring spring for something
spring spring something on someone
spruce spruce someone or something up
spur on the spur of the moment
square back to square one
square do something fair and square
square fair and square
square square accounts (with someone)

square square deal
square square meal
square square off (for something)
square square someone or something away
square square up to someone or something
square square up with someone
square a square peg in a round hole
squared squared away
squeak squeak by (someone or something)
squeeze put the squeeze on (someone)
squirrel squirrel something away
stab stab someone in the back
stab take a stab at something
stack (as) black as a stack of black cats
stack black as a stack of black cats
stack blow one's stack
stack stack something up
stack stack the cards (against someone or something)
stack stack the deck (against someone or something)
stack swear on a stack of Bibles
stacked have the cards stacked against one
stacked have the deck stacked against one
stacked the cards are stacked against one
stag go stag
stage at this stage
stage in a stage whisper
stage set the stage for something
stake at stake
stake burn someone at the stake
stake stake a claim (to something)
stakes pull up stakes
stall stall someone or something off
stamp stamp someone or something out
stamping one's old stamping ground
stand can't stand (the sight of) someone or something
stand do not have a leg to stand on
stand have one's heart stand still
stand make someone's hair stand on end
stand more than one can stand
stand one-night stand
stand stand a chance
stand stand and deliver
stand stand behind someone or something
stand stand by
stand stand corrected
stand stand for something
stand stand in awe (of someone or something)
stand stand (in) back of someone or something
stand stand in (for someone)
stand stand in someone's way
stand stand on ceremony
stand stand one's ground
stand stand on one's own two feet
stand stand out
stand stand over someone
stand stand pat
stand stand someone in good stead
stand stand someone to a treat
stand stand someone up
stand stand still for something
stand stand to reason
stand stand up and be counted

stand take a stand (against someone or something)
stand take the stand
standards measure up to someone's standards
standby on standby
standing able to do something standing on one's head
standing a standing joke
stands It (only) stands to reason.
stands know where someone stands (on someone or something)
stands one's heart stands still
standstill come to a standstill
starch take the starch out of someone
stare stare someone in the face
stark stark raving mad
stars get stars in one's eyes
stars see stars
stars thank one's lucky stars
start be off to a bad start
start from start to finish
start get a head start (on someone or something)
start get a start
start get off to a bad start
start get off to a flying start
start get one's start
start give someone a head start (on someone or something)
start give someone a start
start jolt to a start
start off to a running start
start start from scratch
start start off on the wrong foot
start start (off) with a clean slate
start start (over) with a clean slate
start start someone in (as something)
start start someone out (as something)
start start something
start start the ball rolling
starters for starters
starts by fits and starts
state in a (constant) state of flux
state lie in state
state a fine state of affairs
state a pretty state of affairs
state the separation of church and state
Station (as) busy as Grand Central Station
Station busy as Grand Central Station
stay stay after someone
stay stay in touch (with someone)
stay stay put
staying have no staying power
stead stand someone in good stead
steady (as) steady as a rock
steady go steady (with someone)
steady Slow and steady wins the race.
steady steady as a rock
steal steal a base
steal steal a march (on someone)
steal steal someone's thunder
steal steal the show
steal steal the spotlight
steam blow off steam
steam full steam ahead
steam let off steam

steam under one's own steam
steamed steamed up
steaming steaming (mad)
steel (as) true as steel
steel have a mind like a steel trap
steel true as steel
steer give someone a bum steer
steer steer clear (of someone or something)
stem from stem to stern
step in step (with someone or something)
step out of step (with someone or something)
step step-by-step
step step down (from something)
step step into someone's shoes
step step in(to the breach)
step step on it
step step on someone's toes
step step on the gas
step step out of line
step step (right) up
step step something up
step watch one's step
steps take steps (to prevent something)
stern from stem to stern
steven even steven
stew get (oneself) into a stew (over someone or something)
stew in a stew (about someone or something)
stew stew in one's own juice
stew Too many cooks spoil the stew.
stick end up with the short end of the stick
stick get the short end of the stick
stick have one's words stick in one's throat
stick have something stick in one's craw
stick more someone or something than one can shake a stick at
stick not hold a stick to someone or something
stick stick around
stick stick by someone or something
Stick Stick 'em up!
stick stick-in-the-mud
stick stick one's foot in one's mouth
stick stick one's neck out (for someone or something)
stick stick one's nose in(to something)
stick stick out like a sore thumb
stick stick someone or something up
stick stick someone with someone or something
stick stick something out
stick stick together
stick stick to one's guns
stick stick to one's ribs
stick stick up for someone or something
stick stick with someone or something
sticks sticks and stones
sticky have sticky fingers
stiff (as) stiff as a poker
stiff bored stiff
stiff bore someone stiff
stiff keep a stiff upper lip
stiff scared stiff
stiff scare someone stiff
stiff stiff as a poker
still (as) still as death

still have one's heart stand still
still hold someone or something still
still hold still
still keep someone or something still
still keep still
still one's heart stands still
still so still you could hear a pin drop
still stand still for something
still still as death
still The jury is still out (on someone or something).
stink create a stink (about something)
stink make a stink (about something)
stink raise a stink (about something)
stink stink to high heaven
stir cause a stir
stir go stir-crazy
stir stir someone or something up
stir stir up a hornet's nest
stitches keep someone in stitches
stock have something in stock
stock in stock
stock lock, stock, and barrel
stock not take stock in something
stock out of stock
stock stock up (on something)
stock take no stock in something
stock take stock (of something)
stomach cannot stomach someone or something
stomach can't stomach someone or something
stomach get butterflies in one's stomach
stomach give one butterflies in one's stomach
stomach have eyes bigger than one's stomach
stomach not able to stomach someone or something
stomach One's eyes are bigger than one's stomach.
stomach turn someone's stomach
stone (as) hard as stone
stone cast the first stone
stone hard as stone
stone have a heart of stone
stone kill two birds with one stone
stone leave no stone unturned
stone run into a stone wall
stone A rolling stone gathers no moss.
stone's (just) a stone's throw away (from something)
stones sticks and stones
stone's within a stone's throw (of something)
stone's a stone's throw (away) (from something)
stood should have stood in bed
stools fall between two stools
stoop stoop to doing something
stop come to a stop
stop jolt to a stop
stop put a stop to something
stop stop-and-go
stop stop at nothing
stop stop by (somewhere)
stop stop in (somewhere)
stop stop, look, and listen
stop stop off (somewhere)
stop stop over (somewhere)
stop stop short of doing something
stops pull out all the stops

- storage** in cold storage
storage in storage
store have something in store (for someone)
store mind the store
store set great store by someone or something
storm Any port in a storm.
storm kick up a storm
storm take someone or something by storm
storm A storm is brewing.
storm the calm before the storm
storm the eye of the storm
storm the lull before the storm
story cock-and-bull story
story make a long story short
story tell its own story
story the same old story
straight (as) straight as an arrow
straight get something straight
straight get the facts straight
straight give it to someone (straight)
straight go straight
straight keep a straight face
straight put something straight
straight set someone or something straight
straight set something straight
straight straight as an arrow
straight (straight) from the horse's mouth
straight straight from the shoulder
straight vote a straight ticket
straight the straight and narrow
straighten straighten someone or something out
straighten straighten someone or something up
straighten straighten up
stranger stranger to something or somewhere
strapped strapped (for something)
straw be the last straw
straw be the straw that broke the camel's back
straws clutch at straws
straws draw straws
straws grasp at straws
streak talk a blue streak
stream change horses in the middle of the stream
street down the street
street on easy street
street the man in the street
strength main strength and awkwardness
strength not know one's own strength
strength on the strength of something
strength a pillar of strength
strength a tower of strength
stretch at a stretch
stretch stretch a point
stretch stretch one's legs
stretch stretch the point
stretch stretch the truth
strictly (strictly) on the level
strictly (strictly) on the up-and-up
stride hit one's stride
stride reach one's stride
stride take something in stride
strike go (out) on strike
strike strike a balance (between two or more things)
strike strike a bargain
strike strike a chord (with someone)
strike strike a happy medium
strike strike a match
strike strike a pose
strike strike a sour note
strike strike home
strike strike it rich
strike strike out
strike strike someone's fancy
strike strike someone as something
strike strike someone funny
strike strike someone out
strike strike the right note
strike strike up a conversation
strike strike up a friendship
strike strike while the iron is hot
strikes get two strikes against one
strikes have two strikes against one
strikes Lightning never strikes twice (in the same place).
string have someone on the string
string string along (with someone)
string string something out
strings control the purse strings
strings pull strings
strings tied to one's mother's apron strings
strings with no strings attached
strings without any strings attached
stroke have a stroke
stroke a stroke of luck
strong (as) strong as a horse
strong (as) strong as a lion
strong (as) strong as an ox
strong strong as a horse
strong strong as a lion
strong strong as an ox
strong use strong language
struggle a struggle to the death
strung strung out
stubborn (as) stubborn as a mule
stubborn stubborn as a mule
stuck (stuck) in a rut
stuck stuck in traffic
stuck stuck on someone or something
stuck stuck with someone or something
stuff kid('s) stuff
stuff know one's stuff
stuff stuff and nonsense
stuff stuff the ballot box
stuffing beat the stuffing out of someone
stumble stumble across someone or something
stumble stumble into someone or something
stumble stumble (up)on someone or something
stumbling stumbling block
stunt pull a stunt (on someone)
stupor in a stupor
style cramp someone's style
style go out of style
style in style
style out of style
subject change the subject

subject drop the subject
subject off the subject
subject subject to something
subscribe subscribe to something
substance form and substance
substance sum and substance
such as such
such Like it's such a big deal!
such such and such
such such as
Such Such is life!
suck suck someone in
suck teach one's grandmother to suck eggs
sucks It sucks.
sucks That sucks.
sudden all of a sudden
sugar (as) sweet as sugar
sugar sweet as sugar
suggestive suggestive of something
suit follow suit
suit in one's birthday suit
suit monkey suit
suit suit oneself
suit suit someone to a T
suitcase live out of a suitcase
sum sum and substance
sum sum something up
sun (as) calm as a toad in the sun
sun calm as a toad in the sun
sun under the sun
Sunday in one's Sunday best
Sunday Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes
Sundays in a month of Sundays
sundry all and sundry
supply in short supply
supply supply and demand
support a pillar of support
supposed supposed to do something
sure (as) sure as death
sure for sure
sure sure as death
sure swift and sure
surely slow(ly) but sure(ly)
surf surf and turf
surface scratch the surface
surgery in surgery
surprise come as no surprise
surprise take someone or something by surprise
surprise take someone by surprise
survival the survival of the fittest
susceptible susceptible to something
suspicion above suspicion
suspicion under a cloud (of suspicion)
swallow swallow one's pride
swallow swallow something, hook, line, and sinker
swallow a bitter pill to swallow
swallowed look like the cat that swallowed the canary
swan (as) graceful as a swan
swan graceful as a swan
swan someone's swan song
swath cut a big swath

swath cut a wide swath
swear swear by someone or something
swear swear on a stack of Bibles
swear swear on one's mother's grave
sweat blood, sweat, and tears
sweat break out in a cold sweat
sweat by the sweat of one's brow
sweat no sweat
sweat sweat blood
sweat sweat something out
sweep (as) black as a sweep
sweep black as a sweep
sweep make a clean sweep
sweep sweep one off one's feet
sweep sweep out of somewhere
sweep sweep something under the carpet
sweep sweep something under the rug
sweet (as) sweet as honey
sweet (as) sweet as sugar
sweet have a sweet tooth
sweet short and sweet
sweet sweet and low
sweet sweet and sour
sweet sweet as honey
sweet sweet as sugar
sweet sweet nothings
sweet sweet on someone
sweet sweet-talk someone
sweet take the bitter with the sweet
sweetness all sweetness and light
swelled give someone a swelled head
swift (as) swift as an arrow
swift (as) swift as the wind
swift (as) swift as thought
swift swift and sure
swift swift as an arrow
swift swift as the wind
swift swift as thought
swim in the swim of things
swim make someone's head swim
swim out of the swim of things
swim sink or swim
swim swim against the current
swim swim against the tide
swimming be swimming in something
swine cast (one's) pearls before swine
swing get into full swing
swing get into the swing of things
swing in full swing
swing not enough room to swing a cat
swing swing into action
swing swing something
switch asleep at the switch
switch bait and switch
swoop at one fell swoop
swoop in one fell swoop
swords cross swords (with someone) (on something)
sympathy extend one's sympathy (to someone)
sympathy one's deepest sympathy
system get something out of one's system
systems all systems (are) go
T done to a T

- T** fit someone to a T
T suit someone to a T
tab pick up the tab
table clear the table
table coffee-table book
table lay one's cards on the table
table put one's cards on the table
table set the table
table table a motion
table under the table
tables turn the tables (on someone)
tabs keep tab(s) (on someone or something)
tack (as) sharp as a tack
tack sharp as a tack
tacks get down to brass tacks
tag tag along
tail Get off someone's tail!
tail in two shakes of a lamb's tail
tail with one's tail between one's legs
tail the tail wagging the dog
tailed bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
tails can't make heads or tails (out) of someone or something
tails heads or tails
tailspin go into a tailspin
take able to take a joke
take able to take just so much
take able to take something
take can take it to the bank.
take do a double take
take give-and-take
take Give one an inch, and one will take a mile.
take more than one can take
take not take no for an answer
take not take stock in something
take on the take
take sit up and take notice
take take a backseat (to someone)
take take a bath
take take a bow
take take a break
take take a chance
take take a course (in something)
take take a crack at something
take take a dig at someone
take take a dim view of something
take take advantage of someone or something
take take a fancy to someone or something
take take after someone
take take a gander (at someone or something)
take take a hand in something
take take a hard line (with someone)
Take Take a hike!
take take a hint
take take (a)hold of someone or something
take take aim (at someone or something)
take take a leaf out of someone's book
take take a licking
take take a liking to someone or something
take take a load off one's feet
Take Take a long walk off a short pier.
take take a look (at someone or something)
take take a look for someone or something
take take a nap
take take a new turn
take take an interest (in something)
take take an oath
take take a nosedive
take take a peep
take take a potshot at someone or something
take take a powder
take take a punch at someone
take take a rain check (on something)
take take a risk
take take a shellacking
take take a shine to someone or something
take take a shot at something
take take a shower
take take a spill
take take a stab at something
take take a stand (against someone or something)
take take a toll
take take a try at something
take take attendance
take take a turn for the better
take take a turn for the worse
take take a vacation
Take Take a walk!
take take a whack at someone or something
take take care of someone or something
take take charge (of someone or something)
take take cold
take take digs at someone
take take effect
take take exception (to something)
take take five
take take forty winks
take take (great) pains (to do something)
take take heart
take take heed
take take ill
take take inventory
take take issue (with someone)
take take it away
Take Take it easy.
take take it easy (on someone or something)
take take it on the chin
take take it or leave it
take take it slow
take take it to one's grave
take take it upon oneself to do something
take take it (up)on oneself (to do something)
take take kindly to something
take take leave of one's senses
take take liberties with someone or something
take take no stock in something
take take note (of something)
take take notice (of something)
take take off
take take one's break
take take one's cue from someone
take take one's death of cold
take take (one's) leave (of someone)
take take one's medicine

- take** take one's own life
take take one's time
take take one at one's word
take take out (after someone or something)
take take out a loan
take take over
take take part (in something)
take take pity (on someone or something)
take take place
take take precedence over someone or something
take take pride in something
take take root
take take shape
take take sick
take take sides
take take someone or something at face value
take take someone or something away
take take someone or something by storm
take take someone or something by surprise
take take someone or something for granted
take take someone or something in
take take someone or something on
take take someone or something out
take take someone or something over
take take someone or something wrong
take take someone's breath away
take take someone's part
take take someone's pulse
take take someone apart
take take someone by surprise
take take someone down a notch (or two)
take take someone down a peg (or two)
take take someone down (to size)
take take someone for a fool
take take someone for an idiot
take take someone for a ride
take take someone for someone or something
take take someone hostage
take take someone in
take take someone to task
take take someone to the cleaners
take take someone under one's wing(s)
take take someone up on something
take take something
take take steps (to prevent something)
take take stock (of something)
take take the bit between the teeth
take take the bit in one's teeth
take take the bitter with the sweet
take take the bull by the horns
take take the cake
take take the day off
take take the edge off (something)
take take the initiative (to do something)
take take the law into one's own hands
take take the liberty of doing something
take take the rap (for someone or something)
take take (the) roll
take take the stand
take take the starch out of someone
take take the trouble (to do something)
take take the wind out of someone's sails
take take the words out of one's mouth
take take time off
take take too much on
take take to one's heels
take take to someone or something
take take turns ((at) doing something)
take take umbrage at something
take take up a collection
take take up arms (against someone or something)
take take up one's abode somewhere
take take up room
take take up someone's time
take take up space
take take up time
take take up where one left off
take take up with someone
take You can't take it with you.
taken taken aback
taken taken for dead
takes as a duck takes to water
takes have what it takes
takes It takes (some) getting used to.
takes That takes care of that.
tale tell its own tale
tales tell tales out of school
talk all talk (and no action)
talk engage in small talk
talk have a heart-to-heart (talk)
talk like to hear oneself talk
talk sweet-talk someone
talk talk a blue streak
talk talk back (to someone)
talk talk big
talk talk down to someone
talk talk in circles
talk talk oneself out
talk talk shop
talk talk someone or something up
talk talk someone's ear off
talk talk someone's head off
talk talk someone down
talk talk someone into (doing) something
talk talk someone out of (doing) something
talk talk someone out of something
talk talk something out
talk talk something over
talk talk through one's hat
talk talk turkey
talk talk until one is blue in the face
talk the talk of somewhere
talked talked out
talking Who do you think you're talking to?
talks money talks
tamper tamper with something
tan tan someone's hide
tandem in tandem
tangent go off on a tangent
tape red tape
taper taper off (doing something)
tar beat the tar out of someone
tar tar and feather someone
tar whale the tar out of someone

- target** on target
target a sitting target
tarred tarred with the same brush
task take someone to task
taste acquire a taste for something
taste get a taste of one's own medicine
taste have a taste for something
taste in bad taste
taste in poor taste
taste leave a bad taste in someone's mouth
taste There's no accounting for taste.
taste a taste of something
taste a taste of things to come
tat give someone tit for tat
tatters in tatters
taut run a taut ship
tax tax-and-spend
taxes death and taxes
tea coffee, tea, or milk
tea not someone's cup of tea
tea tea and crumpets
teach teach one's grandmother to suck eggs
teach teach someone a lesson
teach You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
teacher's the teacher's pet
team team up with someone
teapot a tempest in a teapot
tear tear into someone or something
tear tear off
tear tear one's hair (out)
tear tear someone or something down
tear tear someone up
tear wear and tear (on something)
tears blood, sweat, and tears
tears bored to tears
tears break (out) in(to) tears
tears burst into tears
tears cry crocodile tears
tears shed crocodile tears
tears That tears it!
tears vale of tears
tee tee someone off
teeth armed to the teeth
teeth (as) scarce as hens' teeth
teeth by the skin of one's teeth
teeth cut teeth
teeth fly in the teeth of someone or something
teeth get one's teeth into something
teeth gnash one's teeth
teeth grit one's teeth
teeth lie through one's teeth
teeth no skin off someone's teeth
teeth pull someone's or something's teeth
teeth put some teeth into something
teeth scarcer than hens' teeth
teeth set someone's teeth on edge
teeth sink one's teeth into something
teeth take the bit between the teeth
teeth take the bit in one's teeth
teething teething troubles
tell kiss and tell
tell not tell a (living) soul
tell show-and-tell
tell tell its own story
tell tell its own tale
tell tell it to the marines
tell tell one to one's face
tell tell on someone
tell tell people apart
tell tell someone a thing or two
tell tell someone off
tell tell someone where to get off
tell tell tales out of school
tell tell things apart
tell tell time
tell tell which is which
tell Time will tell.
tells my gut tells me (that) something is so
temper hold one's temper
temper keep one's temper
temper lose one's temper
temperature run a temperature
tempest a tempest in a teapot
ten first and ten
ten wouldn't touch something with a ten-foot pole
tent pitch a tent
tenterhooks keep someone on tenterhooks
terms come to terms with someone or something
terms contradiction in terms
terms in no uncertain terms
terms in terms of something
terms on good terms (with someone)
terms on speaking terms (with someone)
terrible I'm terrible at names.
territory come with the territory
territory cover a lot of territory
territory cover the territory
territory unfamiliar territory
test acid test
test litmus test
test put someone or something to the test
testament last will and testament
testament someone's last will and testament
tether at the end of one's tether
than Actions speak louder than words.
than (be) easier said than done
than better late than never
than bite off more than one can chew
than Blood is thicker than water.
than Blood runs thicker than water.
than easier said than done
than exchange more than some number of words with someone
than Half a loaf is better than none.
than have eyes bigger than one's stomach
than holier-than-thou
than in less than no time
than know better (than to do something)
than less than pleased
than more dead than alive
than more fun than a barrel of monkeys
than more often than not
than more someone or something than one can shake a stick at

than more than one can bear
than more than one can stand
than more than one can take
than more than someone bargained for
than more (to something) than meets the eye
than none other than someone
than no sooner said than done
than not see farther than the end of one's nose
than One's bark is worse than one's bite.
than One's eyes are bigger than one's stomach.
than scarcer than hens' teeth
than slower than molasses in January
than There's more than one way to skin a cat.
than wear more than one hat
thank thank one's lucky stars
Thank Thank you for sharing.
thankful thankful for small blessings
thanks thanks to someone or something
thanks a vote of thanks
that All's well that ends well.
that All that glitters is not gold.
that (as) bad as all that
that at that rate
that bad as all that
that bear in mind that something is so
that be of the persuasion that something is so
that be that as it may
that be the straw that broke the camel's back
that bite the hand that feeds one
that deem that it is necessary
that for that matter
that have a feeling (that)
that have a hunch (that) something will happen
that I'll drink to that!
that Imagine that!
that in the unlikely event that something happens
that look like the cat that swallowed the canary
that my gut tells me (that) something is so
that or words to that effect
that provided that something is so
that Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
that run that by (someone) again
that say that something is so
that see (to it) that something is done
that ships that pass in the night
that something to that effect
That That ain't hay.
That That does it!
That That makes two of us.
that That's that.
That That sucks.
That That takes care of that.
That That tears it!
that turn out (that) something is so
that words to that effect
that You can say that again!
that a game that two can play
that the exception that proves the rule
that the hair of the dog that bit one
that the powers that be
That'll That'll be the day.
That's That's about the size of it.

That's That's all for someone.
That's That's all she wrote.
That's That's it!
That's That's that.
That's That's the ticket.
That's That's the way the ball bounces.
That's That's the way the cookie crumbles.
the (as) exciting as watching (the) paint dry
the (as) free as (the) air
the at (the) worst
the be-all and (the) end-all
the call (the) roll
the can't stand (the sight of) someone or something
the exciting as watching (the) paint dry
the free as (the) air
the get something off (the ground)
the go to (the devil)
the let someone off (the hook)
the long and (the) short of it
the march to (the beat of) a different drummer
the on (the) one hand
the play (the) devil's advocate
the take (the) roll
The The jig is up.
the the be-all and (the) end-all
the the morning after (the night before)
their in their entirety
them have them rolling in the aisles
them pack them in
them They don't make them like they used to.
them up and at them
Them's Them's fighting words.
themselves by themselves
themselves speak for themselves
then and then some
then (every) now and then
then now and then
then then and there
theory in theory
there hang in there
there here and there
there here, there, and everywhere
there in there pitching
there neither here nor there
there not all there
there over there
there then and there
There There aren't enough hours in the day.
There There are plenty of other fish in the sea.
there there is no doing something
There There is trouble brewing.
There There, now.
There There, there.
There There will be the devil to pay.
There There you go.
there (way) over there
there You got me there.
There's There's more than one way to skin a cat.
There's There's no accounting for taste.
there's Where there's a will there's a way.
there's Where there's smoke there's fire.
these one of these days

they count one's chickens before they hatch
They They don't make them like they used to.
thick (as) thick as pea soup
thick (as) thick as thieves
thick get something into someone's thick head
thick get something through someone's thick skull
thick lay it on thick
thick pour it on thick
thick spread it on thick
thick thick and fast
thick thick as pea soup
thick thick as thieves
thick thick-skinned
thick through thick and thin
thickens The plot thickens.
thicker Blood is thicker than water.
thicker Blood runs thicker than water.
thieves (as) thick as thieves
thieves thick as thieves
thin on thin ice
thin out of thin air
thin pull something out of thin air
thin skate on thin ice
thin spread oneself too thin
thin thin on top
thin thin-skinned
thin through thick and thin
thin vanish into thin air
thing amount to the same thing
thing come to the same thing
thing do one's (own) thing
thing every other person or thing
thing first thing (in the morning)
thing get a thing about someone or something
thing have a good thing going
thing have a thing going (with someone)
thing know a thing or two (about someone or something)
thing not know the first thing about someone or something
thing not miss a thing
thing One thing leads to another.
thing one thing or person after another
thing tell someone a thing or two
thing too much of a good thing
thing A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.
thing the greatest thing since sliced bread
thing the in thing (to do)
thing the real thing
thing the very thing
things be all things to all men
things be all things to all people
things first things first
things get into the swing of things
things in the swim of things
things just one of those things
things let things slide
things lots of people or things
things of all things
things other things being equal
things out of the swim of things
things seeing things
Things Things are looking up.

things wash a few things out
things a harbinger of things to come
things a number of things or people
things a portent of things to come
things a sign of things to come
things a taste of things to come
think come to think of it
think get another think coming
think hardly have time to think
think think a great deal of someone or something
think think a lot of someone or something
think think back (on someone or something)
think think better of something
think think highly of someone or something
think think inside the box
think think little of someone or something
think think much of someone or something
think think nothing of someone or something
think think on one's feet
think think out loud
think think outside the box
think think someone or something fit for something
think think something out
think think something over
think think something up
think think the world of someone or something
think think twice (before doing something)
think Who do you think you're kidding?
think Who do you think you're talking to?
think You think you're so smart!
thinking put one's thinking cap on
thinking thinking inside the box
thinking thinking outside the box
thinking to someone's way of thinking
thinking wishful thinking
third get the third degree
third give someone the third degree
thirst a thirst for something
thirsty thirsty for something
this (a little) new to (all) this
this at this juncture
this at this point (in time)
this at this rate
this at this stage
this Don't let it out of this room.
this from this day forward
this from this day on
this I just have this feeling
this in this day and age
this new to (all) this
this not long for this world
this Now hear this!
this out of this world
this shuffle off this mortal coil
This This is it.
thither hither and thither
thither hither, thither, and yon
thither thither and yon
Thomas doubting Thomas
thorn a thorn in someone's side
those just one of those things
Those Those were the days.

- thou** holier-than-thou
- thought** (as) swift as thought
- thought** food for thought
- thought** lose one's train of thought
- thought** lost in thought
- thought** not give it another thought
- thought** on second thought
- thought** Perish the thought.
- thought** school of thought
- thought** someone's train of thought
- thought** swift as thought
- thought** Who would have thought?
- thoughts** get second thoughts about someone or something
- thoughts** have second thoughts about someone or something
- thousand** one in a thousand
- thrash** thrash something out
- thread** hang by a thread
- thread** thread (one's way) through something
- three** (as) phony as a three-dollar bill
- three** (as) queer as a three-dollar bill
- three** like a three-ring circus
- three** phony as a three-dollar bill
- three** queer as a three-dollar bill
- three** three sheets to the wind
- three's** Two's company(, three's a crowd).
- thrill** thrill someone to death
- thrill** thrill someone to pieces
- thrilled** thrilled to death
- thrilled** thrilled to pieces
- throat** cut one's (own) throat
- throat** force someone or something down someone's throat
- throat** get a frog in one's throat
- throat** get a lump in one's throat
- throat** have a frog in one's throat
- throat** have one's words stick in one's throat
- throat** jump down someone's throat
- throat** ram someone or something down someone's throat
- throat** shove someone or something down someone's throat
- throne** the power behind the throne
- through** break through (something)
- through** carry through (on something)
- through** come through
- through** fall through
- through** follow through (on something)
- through** get something through someone's thick skull
- through** get through something
- through** get through (to someone)
- through** get through with something
- through** go right through someone
- through** go through
- through** have been through the mill
- through** jump through a hoop
- through** jump through hoops
- through** leaf through something
- through** lie through one's teeth
- through** live through something
- through** make one's way through something
- through** pass through someone's mind
- through** pay through the nose (for something)
- through** pick one's way through something
- through** plow through something
- through** pull someone through (something)
- through** pull through
- through** put one through one's paces
- through** put someone through the wringer
- through** put something through its paces
- through** read something through
- through** run through something
- through** sail (right) through something
- through** see something through
- through** see through someone or something
- through** shot through with something
- through** sit through something
- through** slip through someone's fingers
- through** talk through one's hat
- through** thread (one's way) through something
- through** through and through
- through** through hell and high water
- through** through thick and thin
- through** thumb through something
- through** work one's way through college
- through** work through channels
- throw** (just) a stone's throw away (from something)
- throw** throw a fit
- throw** throw a monkey wrench into the works
- throw** throw a party (for someone)
- throw** throw caution to the wind
- throw** throw cold water on something
- throw** throw down the gauntlet
- throw** throw good money after bad
- throw** throw in the sponge
- throw** throw in the towel
- throw** throw oneself at someone's feet
- throw** throw oneself at someone
- throw** throw oneself at the mercy of the court
- throw** throw oneself on the mercy of the court
- throw** throw one's hands up in despair
- throw** throw one's hands up in horror
- throw** throw one's voice
- throw** throw one's weight around
- throw** throw (some) light on something
- throw** throw someone
- throw** throw something into the bargain
- throw** throw something together
- throw** throw (something) up
- throw** throw something up to someone
- throw** throw the baby out with the bath(water)
- throw** throw the book at someone
- throw** within a stone's throw (of something)
- throw** a stone's throw (away) (from something)
- thrust** thrust and parry
- thumb** get someone under one's thumb
- thumb** have a green thumb
- thumb** stick out like a sore thumb
- thumb** thumb a ride
- thumb** thumb one's nose at someone or something
- thumb** thumb through something
- thumb** a rule of thumb
- thumbnail** a thumbnail sketch
- thumbs** all thumbs
- thumbs** thumbs down on someone or something
- thumbs** thumbs up on someone or something

- thumbs** turn thumbs down (on someone or something)
thumbs turn thumbs up (on someone or something)
thumbs twiddle one's thumbs
thunder steal someone's thunder
thunder thunder
thunderstorms risk of thunder(storms)
tick (as) full as a tick
tick (as) tight as a tick
tick full as a tick
tick tight as a tick
tick what makes someone tick
tick what makes something tick
ticket round-trip ticket
ticket That's the ticket.
ticket vote a split ticket
ticket vote a straight ticket
tickle tickle someone's fancy
tickle tickle someone pink
tickle tickle someone to death
tickled tickled pink
tickled tickled to death
tide swim against the tide
tide tide someone over
tide turn the tide
tie coat and tie
tie tie into something
tie tie someone or something up
tie tie someone's hands
tie tie someone down
tie tie someone (up) in knots
tie tie the knot
tie tie traffic up
tied fit to be tied
tied have one's hands tied
tied tied down
tied tied to one's mother's apron strings
tied tied up
tied with both hands tied behind one's back
tied with one hand tied behind one's back
ties sever ties with someone
tight (as) tight as a drum
tight (as) tight as a tick
tight (as) tight as Dick's hatband
tight in a (tight) spot
tight keep a tight rein on someone or something
tight run a tight ship
tight sit tight
tight tight as a drum
tight tight as a tick
tight tight as Dick's hatband
tighten tighten one's belt
tightfisted tightfisted (with money)
tightrope walk a tightrope
till have one's hand in the till
till It's not over till it's over.
till till all hours (of the day and night)
till till the cows come home
tilt at full tilt
tilt tilt at windmills
time ahead of one's time
time ahead of time
time all in good time
time all the time
time at a set time
time at the appointed time
time at the present time
time at the same time
time at this point (in time)
time bide one's time
time every time one turns around
time fight against time
time for the time being
time from time to time
time get time off
time get time to catch one's breath
time Give it time.
time give someone a hard time
time hardly have time to breathe
time hardly have time to think
time have a hard time
time have a rough time (of it)
time have a whale of a time
time have the time of one's life
time in due time
time in good time
time in less than no time
time in no time (at all)
time in one's spare time
time in the course of time
time in the nick of time
time in the right place at the right time
time in the (very) nick of time
time in the wrong place at the wrong time
time in time
time invest someone's time in something
time It's about time!
time It's high time!
time keep good time
time keep time
time kill time
time live on borrowed time
time Long time no see.
time make good time
time make time (for someone or something)
time make time (with someone)
time make up for lost time
time many is the time
time not able to call one's time one's own
time not give someone the time of day
time once upon a time
time one at a time
time on one's own time
time on time
time out of time (with someone or something)
time pass the time
time pressed for time
time race against time
time right at a specific time
time right on time
time run out of time
time scarcely have time to breathe
time serve time
time since time immemorial
time small-time

- time** take one's time
time take time off
time take up someone's time
time take up time
time tell time
time time after time
time time and (time) again
time time flies
Time Time is money.
Time Time is up.
time time off
time time out
time time to catch one's breath
time time was (when)
Time Time will tell.
time two-time someone
time when the time is ripe
time while away the time
time the sands of time
time the time is ripe
times at all times
times at times
times behind the times
times even in the best of times
times in times past
times keep up (with the times)
tin (as) busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
tin busy as a cat on a hot tin roof
tip from tip to toe
tip have something on the tip of one's tongue
tip on the tip of one's tongue
tip tip someone off
tip tip the scales at something
tiptoe on tiptoe
tired sick and tired of someone or something
tit (as) cold as a witch's tit
tit cold as a witch's tit
tit give someone tit for tat
tits tits and ass
tizzy in a tizzy
to able to breathe (easily) again
to able to breathe (freely) again
to able to do something blindfolded
to able to do something standing on one's head
to able to do something with one's eyes closed
to able to fog a mirror
to able to make something
to able to take a joke
to able to take just so much
to able to take something
to according to all accounts
to according to Hoyle
to according to one's own lights
to according to someone or something
to according to something
to accustomed to someone or something
to acknowledge someone to be right
to add fuel to the fire
to add fuel to the flame
to add insult to injury
to add up (to something)
to aim to do something
to (a little) new to (all) this
to (all) set to do something
to (all) shot to hell
to all the same (to someone)
to all to the good
to amount to something
to amount to the same thing
to and something to spare
to angry enough to chew nails
to answer to someone
to armed to the teeth
to arrange to do something with someone
to as a duck takes to water
to as to someone or something
to attached to someone or something
to back-to-back
to back to square one
to back to the drawing board
to back to the salt mines
to be all things to all men
to be all things to all people
to beat a path to someone's door
to beat one's brains out (to do something)
to beat someone down (to size)
to beat someone to the draw
to beat someone to the punch
to becoming to someone
to begin to see daylight
to begin to see the light
to beg to differ (with someone)
to bend over backwards (to do something)
to be off to a bad start
to be of service (to someone)
to be reluctant to do something
to be to do something
to be used to doing something
to be used to something
to bid adieu to someone or something
to blow someone or something to smithereens
to boil down to something
to bored to death
to bored to distraction
to bored to tears
to bore someone to death
to bound to (do something)
to break one's back (to do something)
to break one's neck (to do something)
to break something to pieces
to break something to someone
to break the news (to someone)
to bring someone or something up to date
to bring someone to
to bring someone up to date (on someone or something)
to bring something home to someone
to bring something to a head
to bring something to light
to bring something to someone's attention
to buckle down (to something)
to build something to order
to build up to something
to burned to a cinder
to burn someone or something to a crisp

- to bust a gut (to do something)
- to buy something to go
- to call out (to someone)
- to call the meeting to order
- to can take it to the bank.
- to can't hold a candle to someone
- to can't wait (for something to happen)
- to can't wait (to do something)
- to carry a secret to one's grave
- to carry a secret to the grave
- to carry coals to Newcastle
- to catch on (to someone or something)
- to catch up (to someone or something)
- to cause (some) eyebrows to raise
- to cause (some) tongues to wag
- to cave in (to someone or something)
- to chalk something up to something
- to chilled to the bone
- to close one's eyes to something
- to close to home
- to close to someone
- to coast-to-coast
- to come down to earth
- to come down to something
- to come home (to roost)
- to come home to someone
- to come to
- to commit something to memory
- to contrary to something
- to cook something to perfection
- to cozy up (to someone)
- to cross a bridge before one comes to it
- to cross a bridge when one comes to it
- to cross one's heart (and hope to die)
- to cut off one's nose to spite one's face
- to cut out to be something
- to cut someone or something to the bone
- to cut someone down (to size)
- to cut someone to the quick
- to cut to the chase
- to dance to another tune
- to dare someone (to do something)
- to date back (to sometime)
- to day-to-day
- to dead to the world
- to deem it (to be) necessary
- to do credit to someone
- to Do I need to paint you a picture?
- to do justice to something
- to done to a T
- to do not have a leg to stand on
- to doomed to failure
- to door-to-door
- to do something to excess
- to down-to-earth
- to down to the last detail
- to down to the wire
- to draw something to a close
- to draw to a close
- to dressed to kill
- to dressed to the nines
- to drink to excess
- to drive someone to the wall
- to drop in (to say hello)
- to drop off (to sleep)
- to duty bound (to do something)
- to dying to do something
- to Early to bed, early to rise(, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.)
- to easy to come by
- to enough to go (a)round
- to equal to someone or something
- to everything from A to Z
- to everything from soup to nuts
- to extend credit (to someone)
- to extend one's sympathy (to someone)
- to eyeball-to-eyeball
- to face-to-face
- to fair to middling
- to fall over backwards (to do something)
- to fall to
- to far be it from me to do something
- to fed up (to somewhere) (with someone or something)
- to feel free (to do something)
- to feel it beneath one (to do something)
- to feel up to something
- to filled to the brim
- to find it in one's heart (to do something)
- to fit someone to a T
- to fit to be tied
- to fit to kill
- to fools rush in (where angels fear to tread)
- to force someone to the wall
- to for the odds to be against one
- to frightened to death
- to frighten someone to death
- to from dawn to dusk
- to from day to day
- to from door to door
- to from hand to hand
- to from head to toe
- to from pillar to post
- to from rags to riches
- to from side to side
- to from start to finish
- to from stem to stern
- to from the cradle to the grave
- to from time to time
- to from tip to toe
- to from top to bottom
- to gear something to someone or something
- to generous to a fault
- to get around to doing something
- to get (around) to something
- to get back (to someone)
- to get close (to someone or something)
- to get down to brass tacks
- to get down to business
- to get down to cases
- to get down to something
- to get down to the facts
- to get down to the nitty-gritty
- to get down to work
- to get off to a bad start

- to get off to a flying start
- to get ready (to do something)
- to get something across (to someone)
- to get something to go
- to get through (to someone)
- to get time to catch one's breath
- to get to first base (with someone or something)
- to get to one's feet
- to get to someone
- to get to the bottom of something
- to get to the heart of the matter
- to get to the point
- to get to the root of the problem
- to get up enough nerve (to do something)
- to get used to someone or something
- to get what's coming to one
- to get wise (to someone or something)
- to give a blank check to someone
- to give (an) ear to someone or something
- to give birth to someone or some creature
- to give birth to something
- to give carte blanche to someone
- to give chase (to someone or something)
- to give credence to something
- to give free rein to someone
- to give in (to someone or something)
- to give it to someone (straight)
- to given to doing something
- to given to understand
- to give one's ear to someone or something
- to give one what's coming to one
- to give rise to something
- to give someone to understand something
- to give vent to something
- to give voice to something
- to goes to show you
- to go from bad to worse
- to gone to meet one's Maker
- to good riddance (to bad rubbish)
- to good to go
- to go on to a better land
- to go out of one's way (to do something)
- to go so far as to say something
- to go to any length
- to go to bat for someone
- to go to bed
- to go to Davy Jones's locker
- to go to (hell)
- to go to hell in a handbasket
- to go to pieces
- to go to pot
- to go to rack and ruin
- to go to seed
- to go to someone's head
- to go to the bathroom
- to go to (the devil)
- to go to the dogs
- to go to the expense (of doing something)
- to go to the lavatory
- to go to the limit
- to go to the toilet
- to go to the trouble (of doing something)
- to go to the trouble (to do something)
- to go to the wall
- to go to town
- to go to waste
- to go to wrack and ruin
- to grab a bite (to eat)
- to Greek to me
- to grind to a halt
- to grow to do something
- to hand it to someone
- to hand something down (to someone)
- to hang on (to someone or something)
- to hardly have time to breathe
- to hardly have time to think
- to hard-pressed (to do something)
- to hard put (to do something)
- to hark(en) back to something
- to have a bone to pick (with someone)
- to have a (good) mind to do something
- to have a heart-to-heart (talk)
- to have an ax to grind (with someone)
- to have an itch to do something
- to have a right to do something
- to have a score to settle (with someone)
- to have been to hell and back
- to have bigger fish to fry
- to have had it (up to here)
- to have half a mind to do something
- to have half a notion to do something
- to have hell to pay
- to have money to burn
- to have more important fish to fry
- to have nothing to do with someone or something
- to have one's back to the wall
- to have one's ear to the ground
- to have one's heart go out to someone
- to have other fish to fry
- to have someone dead to rights
- to have something to do with something
- to have something coming (to one)
- to have something to go
- to have something to spare
- to have the devil to pay
- to have the gall to do something
- to have the presence of mind to do something
- to have the right to do something
- to have the wherewithal (to do something)
- to have to do with someone or something
- to have to live with something
- to Here's to someone or something.
- to hit one close to home
- to hold on (to someone or something)
- to Honest to God.
- to Honest to goodness.
- to Honest to Pete.
- to Hop to it!
- to if push comes to shove
- to if worst comes to worst
- to ill-disposed to doing something
- to I'll drink to that!
- to I'll (try to) catch you later.
- to in addition (to something)

- to inclined to do something
- to incumbent upon someone to do something
- to in no mood to do something
- to in order to do something
- to in the mood to do something
- to It behooves one to do something.
- to It (only) stands to reason.
- to It's (all) Greek to me.
- to It takes (some) getting used to.
- to jolt to a start
- to jolt to a stop
- to jump to conclusions
- to just the same (to someone)
- to keep one's cards close to one's chest
- to keep one's cards close to one's vest
- to keep one's ear to the ground
- to keep one's nose to the grindstone
- to keep one's opinions to oneself
- to keep something to oneself
- to keep to oneself
- to knee-high to a grasshopper
- to knock oneself out (to do something)
- to knock someone down (to size)
- to know better (than to do something)
- to knuckle down (to something)
- to knuckle under (to someone or something)
- to laugh all the way to the bank
- to lay something to rest
- to lay something to waste
- to lay waste to something
- to lead someone to believe something
- to lead someone to do something
- to lead up to something
- to lean over backwards (to do something)
- to leap to conclusions
- to learn to live with something
- to leave a lot to be desired
- to leave oneself wide open to something
- to leave one to one's fate
- to lend a hand (to someone)
- to lend an ear (to someone)
- to lend color to something
- to lend oneself or itself to something
- to license to do something
- to Life's been good (to me).
- to like lambs to the slaughter
- to like to hear oneself talk
- to listen to reason
- to live from hand to mouth
- to live up to one's end of the bargain
- to live up to something
- to look forward to something
- to look to one's laurels
- to look to someone or something (for something)
- to look up to someone
- to lose out to someone or something
- to lower oneself to some level
- to lull someone to sleep
- to mad enough to chew nails
- to made to measure
- to made to order
- to make a check out (to someone)
- to make as if to do something
- to make it one's business to do something
- to make it to something
- to make love (to someone)
- to make no difference (to someone)
- to make someone or something available to someone
- to make something to order
- to make something up to someone
- to man to man
- to march to (the beat of) a different drummer
- to mean for someone to do something
- to mean nothing (to someone)
- to mean something (to someone)
- to mean to (do something)
- to meant to be
- to measure up (to someone or something)
- to measure up (to someone's expectations)
- to more (to something) than meets the eye
- to move heaven and earth to do something
- to new to (all) this
- to next to nothing
- to next to someone or something
- to not able to call one's time one's own
- to not able to go on
- to not able to help something
- to not able to make anything out of someone or something
- to not able to see the forest for the trees
- to not able to stomach someone or something
- to not able to wait
- to not all something is cracked up to be
- to not a moment to spare
- to not enough room to swing a cat
- to nothing to choose from
- to nothing to complain about
- to nothing to it
- to nothing to sneeze at
- to nothing to speak of
- to nothing to write home about
- to not hold a candle to someone or something
- to not hold a stick to someone or something
- to not know enough to come in out of the rain
- to not know where to turn
- to not know which way to turn
- to not lift a finger (to help someone)
- to not lift a hand (to help someone)
- to not see any objection (to something)
- to not up to scratch
- to not up to snuff
- to not want to catch someone doing something
- to not what something is cracked up to be
- to nurse someone back to health
- to nuzzle up to someone or something
- to occur to someone
- to of benefit (to someone)
- to off to a running start
- to off to one side
- to of interest (to someone)
- to old enough to be someone's father
- to old enough to be someone's mother
- to one's heart goes out to someone
- to One thing leads to another.
- to one to a customer

- to on one's way to** doing something
- to on the way to** doing something
- to open one's heart (to someone)**
- to open someone's eyes (to something)**
- to open the door to** something
- to open to** something
- to open up (to someone)**
- to order something to go**
- to or words to that effect**
- to out of courtesy (to someone)**
- to out to lunch**
- to owing to**
- to own up (to something)**
- to partial to** someone or something
- to passport to** something
- to pay attention (to someone or something)**
- to pay a visit to** someone or something
- to pay homage to** someone
- to pay lip service (to something)**
- to pay one's debt (to society)**
- to pay to** do something
- to pick something to pieces**
- to play hard to get**
- to play one's cards close to one's vest**
- to play one's cards close to the chest**
- to play second fiddle (to someone)**
- to play to the gallery**
- to play up to** someone
- to poised to** do something
- to pour one's heart (out to someone)**
- to praise someone or something to the skies**
- to preach to the converted**
- to press someone to the wall**
- to privy to** something
- to promise the moon (to someone)**
- to prone to** something
- to prove to be** something
- to push someone to the wall**
- to put an end to** something
- to put a stop to** something
- to put one's hand to the plow**
- to put one's mind to** something
- to put one's nose to the grindstone**
- to put one's shoulder to the wheel**
- to put someone or something out to pasture**
- to put someone or something to bed**
- to put someone or something to sleep**
- to put someone or something to the test**
- to put someone to bed with a shovel**
- to put someone to shame**
- to put someone up to** something
- to put someone wise to** someone or something
- to put something down to** something
- to put something to (good) use**
- to put something to rest**
- to put to it**
- to raise (an) objection (to someone or something)**
- to raise one's voice (to someone)**
- to rarin' to go**
- to ready to** do something
- to reconcile oneself to** something
- to reduced to** something
- to relative to** someone or something
- to reluctance to** do something
- to reputed to** do something
- to reputed to have** something
- to resign oneself to** something
- to rise to the bait**
- to rise to the occasion**
- to risk one's neck (to do something)**
- to rob Peter to pay Paul**
- to rooted to the spot**
- to rotten to the core**
- to round something off to** something
- to round something up to** something
- to run counter to** something
- to run someone or something to earth**
- to run to** an amount of money
- to run to seed**
- to say something (right) to** someone's face
- to scarcely have time to breathe**
- to scared to death**
- to scare someone to death**
- to second nature to** someone
- to second to none**
- to see eye to eye (with someone) (about something)**
- to see eye to eye (with someone) (on something)**
- to see fit (to do something)**
- to see no objection (to something)**
- to see one's way clear (to do something)**
- to see someone to** somewhere
- to see someone to the door**
- to see (to it) that something is done**
- to see to** someone or something
- to send someone to the showers**
- to set fire to** someone or something
- to set something down to** something
- to set something to music**
- to set to** do something
- to shine up to** someone
- to shot to hell**
- to shoulder to shoulder**
- to show one to one's seat**
- to show someone to a seat**
- to show someone (to) the door**
- to show something to good advantage**
- to shuttle someone or something from person to person**
- to shuttle someone or something from place to place**
- to signal (to) someone to** do something
- to slated to** do something
- to smell to high heaven**
- to soaked to the skin**
- to something to that effect**
- to somewhere to hang (up) one's hat**
- to so to speak**
- to square up to** someone or something
- to stake a claim (to something)**
- to stand someone to a treat**
- to stand to reason**
- to stick to one's guns**
- to stick to one's ribs**
- to stink to high heaven**
- to stoop to** doing something
- to stranger to** something or somewhere

- to subject to something
- to subscribe to something
- to suit someone to a T
- to Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes
- to supposed to do something
- to susceptible to something
- to take a backseat (to someone)
- to take a fancy to someone or something
- to take a liking to someone or something
- to take a shine to someone or something
- to take exception (to something)
- to take (great) pains (to do something)
- to take it to one's grave
- to take it upon oneself to do something
- to take it (up)on oneself (to do something)
- to take kindly to something
- to take off one's hat (to someone)
- to take someone down (to size)
- to take someone to task
- to take someone to the cleaners
- to take something to heart
- to take steps (to prevent something)
- to take the initiative (to do something)
- to take the trouble (to do something)
- to take to one's heels
- to take to someone or something
- to talk back (to someone)
- to talk down to someone
- to teach one's grandmother to suck eggs
- to tell it to the marines
- to tell one to one's face
- to tell someone where to get off
- to thanks to someone or something
- to There's more than one way to skin a cat.
- to There will be the devil to pay.
- to They don't make them like they used to.
- to three sheets to the wind
- to thrilled to death
- to thrilled to pieces
- to thrill someone to death
- to thrill someone to pieces
- to throw caution to the wind
- to throw someone to the wolves
- to throw something up to someone
- to tickled to death
- to tickle someone to death
- to tied to one's mother's apron strings
- to time to catch one's breath
- to to a great extent
- to to and fro
- to to beat the band
- to to be on the safe side
- to to be safe
- to to boot
- to to count heads
- to to date
- to to hell and gone
- to to no avail
- to too good to be true
- to to one's heart's content
- to to put it mildly
- to to say nothing of someone or something
- to to say the least
- to to some extent
- to to someone's liking
- to to someone's way of thinking
- to to the best of one's ability
- to to the best of one's knowledge
- to to the bitter end
- to to the contrary
- to to the core
- to to the ends of the earth
- to to the last
- to to the letter
- to to the nth degree
- to to the tune of some amount of money
- To To the victors belong the spoils.
- to tough nut to crack
- to tough row to hoe
- to to whom it may concern
- to to wit
- to trouble oneself (to do something)
- to trouble someone to do something
- to true to form
- to true to one's word
- to turn a blind eye to someone or something
- to turn a deaf ear (to someone or something)
- to turn something to good account
- to turn something to one's advantage
- to turn to
- to unaccustomed to someone or something
- to up-to-date
- to up to doing something
- to up to no good
- to up to one's ears (in something)
- to up to one's eyeballs (in something)
- to up to one's neck (in something)
- to up to par
- to up to scratch
- to up to snuff
- to up to someone
- to up to something
- to up-to-the-minute
- to used to do something
- to used to someone or something
- to wall-to-wall with something
- to warm up to someone
- to We aim to please.
- to wed(ded) to someone
- to wedded to something
- to welcome to do something
- to well-to-do
- to What do you want me to say?
- to What have you been up to?
- to when it comes right down to it
- to when it comes to something
- to when push comes to shove
- to Who do you think you're talking to?
- to wise up (to someone or something)
- to with an eye to doing something
- to with a view to doing something
- to without a moment to spare
- to with regard to someone or something
- to with respect to someone or something

to with something to spare
to woman to woman
to words to that effect
to work one's fingers to the bone
to would like (to have) someone or something
to a bitter pill to swallow
to a credit to someone or something
to a force to be reckoned with
to a harbinger of things to come
to a hard nut to crack
to a marvel to behold
to a nine-to-five job
to a place to call one's own
to a place to hang one's hat
to a portent of things to come
to a prelude to something
to a sign of things to come
to a slave to something
to a struggle to the death
to a taste of things to come
to a tough act to follow
to a word to the wise
to The chickens have come home to roost.
to the in thing (to do)
to the same to you
toad (as) calm as a toad in the sun
toad (as) ugly as a toad
toad calm as a toad in the sun
toad ugly as a toad
toast (as) warm as toast
toast propose a toast
toast warm as toast
toe from head to toe
toe from tip to toe
toe toe the line
toe toe the mark
toehold get a toehold (somewhere)
toes keep on one's toes
toes on one's toes
toes step on someone's toes
toes turn up one's toes
toes with bells on (one's toes)
together Birds of a feather flock together.
together get it (all) together
together get one's act together
together go together
together keep body and soul together
together knock some heads together
together pull oneself together
together pull something together
together put something together
together put two and two together
together scrape something together
together slap something together
together stick together
together throw something together
toilet go to the toilet
toing toing and froing (on something)
token as a token (of something)
token by the same token
told all told
told A little bird told me.

toll take a toll
Tom (every) Tom, Dick, and Harry
Tom Tom, Dick, and Harry
ton hit (someone) like a ton of bricks
tone tone something down
tongs fight someone or something hammer and tongs
tongs go at it hammer and tongs
tongue bite one's tongue
tongue Cat got your tongue?
tongue find one's tongue
tongue get a tongue-lashing
tongue give someone a tongue-lashing
tongue have something on the tip of one's tongue
tongue hold one's tongue
tongue Hold your tongue!
tongue keep a civil tongue (in one's head)
tongue on the tip of one's tongue
tongue speak with a forked tongue
tongue tongue-in-cheek
tongue a slip of the tongue
tongues cause (some) tongues to wag
tongues set tongues (a)wagging
too be too
too do too
too eat one's cake and have it too
too go too far
too have one's cake and eat it too
too have one's finger in too many pies
too have too
too know something only too well
too life is too short
too none too something
too spread oneself too thin
too take too much on
too too big for one's britches
too too close for comfort
too too good to be true
Too Too many cooks spoil the broth.
Too Too many cooks spoil the stew.
too too much of a good thing
toot toot one's own horn
tooth (as) clean as a hound's tooth
tooth clean as a hound's tooth
tooth fight someone or something tooth and nail
tooth go at it tooth and nail
tooth go over something with a fine-tooth comb
tooth have a sweet tooth
tooth search something with a fine-tooth comb
top at the top of one's lungs
top at the top of one's voice
top at the top of the hour
top blow one's top
top feel on top of the world
top from the top
top from top to bottom
top in top form
top off the top of one's head
top on top
top over the top
top (sitting) on top of the world
top thin on top
top top someone or something

- top** top something off
torch carry a torch (for someone)
torch carry the torch
torn torn between bad choices
torn torn between choosing something or something else
toss toss a salad
toss toss one's cookies
toss toss one's hat into the ring
toss toss something off
totem high man on the totem pole
totem low man on the totem pole
touch get in touch (with someone)
touch have the Midas touch
touch keep in touch (with someone)
touch lose one's touch (with someone or something)
touch lose touch (with someone or something)
touch out of touch (with someone or something)
touch put the touch on someone
touch stay in touch (with someone)
touch touch and go
touch touch a sore point
touch touch a sore spot
touch touch base (with someone)
touch touch on something
touch touch someone or something off
touch touch someone for something
touch touch something up
touch wouldn't touch something with a ten-foot pole
touched touched by someone or something
touched touched (in the head)
tough (as) tough as an old boot
tough get tough (with someone)
tough hang tough
tough tough as an old boot
tough tough break
tough tough it out
tough tough nut to crack
tough tough row to hoe
tough when the going gets tough
tough a tough act to follow
tow have someone or something in tow
tow in tow
toward go a long way toward doing something
toward lean toward doing something
toward well-disposed toward someone or something
towel throw in the towel
tower live in an ivory tower
tower a tower of strength
town all over town
town go to town
town man-about-town
town out of town
town out on the town
town paint the town red
town town-and-gown
town a night on the town
toy toy with someone or something
track get the inside track
track have a one-track mind
track jump the track
track keep track (of someone or something)
track lose track (of someone or something)
track off the (beaten) track
track off the track
track on the right track
track on the track of someone or something
track on the wrong track
track throw someone off the track
tracks cover someone's tracks (up)
tracks dead in someone's or something's tracks
tracks drop in one's tracks
tracks follow in someone's tracks
tracks the other side of the tracks
tracks the wrong side of the tracks
trade know (all) the tricks of the trade
trade trade on something
trades a jack-of-all-trades
traffic Go play in the traffic
traffic stuck in traffic
traffic tie traffic up
trail blaze a trail (in something)
trail on the trail of someone or something
trail throw someone off the trail
train lose one's train of thought
train ride the gravy train
train someone's train of thought
train train one's sights on something
trained have one's sights trained on something
transit in transit
translation free translation
trap fall into a trap
trap fall into someone's trap
trap fall into the trap
trap have a mind like a steel trap
trap set a trap
trash One man's trash is another man's treasure.
travesty a travesty of justice
tread fools rush in (where angels fear to tread)
treasure One man's trash is another man's treasure.
treat Dutch treat
treat stand someone to a treat
treat Trick or treat!
treating How's the world (been) treating you?
treatment get the red-carpet treatment
treatment give someone the red-carpet treatment
treatment the royal treatment
tree bark up the wrong tree
tree Go climb a tree!
tree up a tree
trees not able to see the forest for the trees
trembling in fear and trembling
trespassing no trespassing
trial on trial
trial send up a trial balloon
trial trial and error
trials trials and tribulations
tribulations trials and tribulations
trick do the trick
trick know a trick or two
trick play a trick on someone
trick pull a trick (on someone)
Trick Trick or treat!
trick trick someone into doing something
trick use every trick in the book

tricks bag of tricks
tricks know (all) the tricks of the trade
tricks play tricks (on someone)
tricks You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
tried tried-and-true
trigger quick on the trigger
trim fit and trim
trip round-trip ticket
trip trip someone up
triplicate in triplicate
trolley off one's trolley
trot trot something out
trouble ask for trouble
trouble borrow trouble
trouble go to the trouble (of doing something)
trouble go to the trouble (to do something)
trouble in trouble
trouble look for trouble
trouble not worth the trouble
trouble spell trouble
trouble take the trouble (to do something)
trouble There is trouble brewing.
Trouble Trouble is brewing.
trouble trouble oneself about someone or something
trouble trouble oneself (to do something)
trouble trouble one's head about someone or something
trouble trouble someone for something
trouble trouble someone to do something
troubled fish in troubled waters
troubled pour oil on troubled water(s)
troubles drown one's troubles
troubles teething troubles
trowel lay it on with a trowel
true (as) true as steel
true come true
true hold true
true ring true
true show one's (true) colors
true too good to be true
true tried-and-true
true true as steel
true true to form
true true to one's word
true a dream come true
truly yours truly
trump play one's trump card
trumped trumped-up
trust in the trust of someone
trust misplace one's trust (in someone)
truth Ain't it the truth?
truth stretch the truth
truth a grain of truth
truth the gospel truth
truth the moment of truth
truth The truth will out.
try have a try at something
try I'll (try to) catch you later.
try take a try at something
try try one's hand (at something)
try try one's luck (at something)
try try out (for something)
try try (out) one's winks

try try someone's patience
try try something out on someone
tubes down the tubes
tuck nip and tuck
tuck tuck into something
tucker best bib and tucker
tuckered (all) tuckered out
tuckered tuckered out
tumble rough-and-tumble
tune call the tune
tune can't carry a tune
tune change someone's tune
tune dance to another tune
tune He who pays the piper calls the tune.
tune in tune
tune out of tune (with someone or something)
tune sing a different tune
tune sing another tune
tune to the tune of some amount of money
tune tune someone or something out
tune tune (something) in
tunnel see the light (at the end of the tunnel)
turf surf and turf
turkey go cold turkey
turkey talk turkey
turn at every turn
turn done to a turn
turn do someone a good turn
turn in turn
turn not know where to turn
turn not know which way to turn
turn One good turn deserves another.
turn out of turn
turn speak out of turn
turn take a new turn
turn take a turn for the better
turn take a turn for the worse
turn turn a blind eye to someone or something
turn turn a deaf ear (to someone or something)
turn turn in
turn turn of the century
turn turn on a dime
turn turn one's back (on someone or something)
turn turn one's nose up at someone or something
turn turn on the waterworks
turn turn out (all right)
turn turn out (that) something is so
turn turn over
turn turn (over) in one's grave
turn turn someone or something down
turn turn someone or something out
turn turn someone or something up
turn turn someone's head
turn turn someone's stomach
turn turn someone off
turn turn someone on
turn turn something to good account
turn turn something to one's advantage
turn turn the clock back
turn turn the heat up (on someone)
turn turn the other cheek
turn turn the tables (on someone)

- turn** turn the tide
turn turn thumbs down (on someone or something)
turn turn thumbs up (on someone or something)
turn turn to
turn turn turtle
turn turn up
turned have turned the corner
turned The worm (has) turned.
turns every time one turns around
turns take turns ((at) doing something)
turtle turn turtle
twice (as) big as life and twice as ugly
twice big as life and twice as ugly
twice Lightning never strikes twice (in the same place).
twice think twice (before doing something)
twiddle twiddle one's thumbs
twinkling in the twinkling of an eye
twist twist someone's arm
twist twist someone's words (around)
twist twist someone around one's little finger
two as alike as (two) peas in a pod
two (as) close as two coats of paint
two close as two coats of paint
two fall between two stools
two get two strikes against one
two have two strikes against one
two in two shakes of a lamb's tail
two kill two birds with one stone
two know a thing or two (about someone or something)
two know a trick or two
two like (two) peas in a pod
two not care two hoots (about someone or something)
two not give two hoots (about someone or something)
two no two ways about it
two put one's two cents(' worth) in
two put two and two together
two stand on one's own two feet
two take someone down a notch (or two)
two take someone down a peg (or two)
two tell someone a thing or two
two That makes two of us.
two two bricks shy of a load
two two of a kind
two two-time someone
two A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
two a game that two can play
two the lesser (of the two)
two the lesser of two evils
Two's Two's company(, three's a crowd).
type set type
ugly (as) big as life and twice as ugly
ugly (as) ugly as a toad
ugly (as) ugly as sin
ugly big as life and twice as ugly
ugly rear its ugly head
ugly ugly as a toad
ugly ugly as sin
umbrage take umbrage at something
unaccustomed unaccustomed to someone or something
unawares caught unaware(s)
unbowed bloody but unbowed
uncertain in no uncertain terms
uncle Dutch uncle
uncle say uncle
under build a fire under someone
under cut the ground out from under someone
under get out from under someone or something
under get someone under one's thumb
under get something under one's belt
under get something under way
under get under someone's skin
under get under way
under go under
under groan under the burden of something
under hide one's light under a bushel
under hot under the collar
under keep something under one's hat
under keep something under wraps
under knock the props out from under someone
under knuckle under (to someone or something)
under let grass grow under one's feet
under look under the hood
under out from under (something)
under pull the rug out (from under someone)
under (right) under someone's (very) nose
under sail under false colors
under say something under one's breath
under sweep something under the carpet
under sweep something under the rug
under take someone under one's wing(s)
under under a cloud (of suspicion)
under under arrest
under under certain circumstances
under under certain conditions
under under (close) scrutiny
under under construction
under under control
under under fire
under under oath
under under one's own steam
under under someone's (very) nose
under under (some) pressure
under under the aegis of someone
under under the auspices of someone
under under the circumstances
under under the counter
under under the influence (of alcohol)
under under the influence of something
under under the sun
under under the table
under under the weather
under under the wire
under water under the bridge
understand given to understand
understand give someone to understand something
unfamiliar unfamiliar territory
unglued come unglued
unison in unison
unknown an unknown quantity
unlikely in the unlikely event of something
unlikely in the unlikely event that something happens
unseen buy something sight unseen
until make it (until something)

until talk until one is blue in the face
until until all hours
until until hell freezes over
until (un)til the cows come home
untimely come to an untimely end
unto law unto oneself
unturned leave no stone unturned
up act up
up add up (to something)
up (all) balled up
up all dressed up
up (all) worked up (about something)
up (all) worked up (over something)
up back someone or something up
up balled up
up bark up the wrong tree
up beat someone up
up beef something up
up blow up
up bone up (on something)
up bottle something up
up Bottoms up!
up Break it up!
up break someone or something up
up break up (with someone)
up bring someone or something up
up bring someone up to date (on someone or something)
up bring up the rear
up brush up (on something)
up buck up
up build (someone or something) up
up build up to something
up burned up
up burn someone up
up butter someone up
up call someone or something up
up catch up (to someone or something)
up catch up (with someone or something)
up chalk something up to something
up charged up
up charge someone or something up
up cheer someone up
up cheer up
up choke someone up
up choose up sides
up clam up
up clean up
up clear something up
up clear up
up close up shop
up cloud up
up come up
up cook something up
up cough something up
up cover someone's tracks (up)
up cover something up
up cozy up (to someone)
up crack someone or something up
up crack up
up cross someone up
up curl up and die
up cut someone or something up

up cut up
up dig some dirt up on someone
up dig someone or something up
up do something up
up double up (with someone)
up draw something up
up dredge something up
up drive someone up the wall
up drum some business up
up dry up
up ease up (on someone or something)
up eat something up
up end something up
up end up by doing something
up end up doing something
up end up (somehow)
up end up somewhere
up end up with the short end of the stick
up Everything's coming up roses.
up fed up (to somewhere) (with someone or something)
up feel up to something
up fix someone up (with someone or something)
up flare up
up fold something up
up fold up
up follow someone or something up
up follow up (on someone or something)
up follow up (on something)
up fouled up
up foul someone or something up
up foul up
up from the ground up
up gang up (on someone)
up gas up
up gear (oneself) up (for something)
up get (all) dolled up
up get mixed-up
up get someone's back up
up get someone's dander up
up get someone's hackles up
up get someone's Irish up
up get something sewed up
up get something wrapped up
up get-up-and-go
up get up enough nerve (to do something)
up get up on the wrong side of the bed
up get worked up (about something)
up get worked up (over something)
up gird (up) one's loins
up Give it up.
up give up the ghost
up go up in flames
up go up in smoke
up gum something up
up gum up the works
up ham something up
up Hands up!
up hang one's hat (up) somewhere
up hang up
up hard up (for something)
up haul up (somewhere)
up have an ace up one's sleeve

- up have a pick-me-up
- up have had it (up to here)
- up have something up one's sleeve
- up head something up
- up Heads up!
- up hit someone up (for something)
- up hold one's end (of the bargain) up
- up hold one's head up
- up hold someone or something up
- up hold up
- up hole up (somewhere)
- up hopped up
- up hung up (on someone or something)
- up hunt someone or something up
- up jack someone up
- up jack something up
- up jazz something up
- up keep one's chin up
- up keep someone or something up
- up keep up an act
- up keep up appearances
- up keep up one's act
- up keep up (with someone or something)
- up keep up (with the Joneses)
- up keep up (with the times)
- up keyed up
- up kick up
- up kiss and make up
- up laid up
- up land up somehow or somewhere
- up lap something up
- up laugh up one's sleeve
- up lay someone up
- up lead up to something
- up learn something from the bottom up
- up let up (on someone or something)
- up line someone or something up with something
- up line someone up (for something)
- up line someone up with someone
- up live it up
- up live up to one's end of the bargain
- up live up to something
- up look someone or something up
- up look up to someone
- up louse something up
- up make (oneself) up
- up make one's mind up
- up make someone up
- up make something up
- up make up for lost time
- up make up for someone or something
- up make up (with someone)
- up mark something up
- up measure up (to someone or something)
- up measure up (to someone's expectations)
- up mess someone or something up
- up mix it up
- up mix someone or something up
- up mix someone up with someone else
- up mop the floor up with someone
- up move up (in the world)
- up muster (up) one's courage
- up not all something is cracked up to be
- up not up to scratch
- up not up to snuff
- up not what something is cracked up to be
- up nuzzle up to someone or something
- up one's number is up
- up one up (on someone)
- up on the up-and-up
- up open something up
- up open up
- up open (up) a can of worms
- up own up (to something)
- up patch someone or something up
- up pay up
- up pep someone or something up
- up perk someone or something up
- up pick someone or something up
- up pick up
- up pile something up
- up pile up
- up pipe up with something
- up play someone or something up
- up play up to someone
- up pluck up one's courage
- up plug something up
- up point something up
- up pop up
- up prick up one's ears
- up psyched up (for something)
- up psyche someone up
- up pull oneself up (by one's own bootstraps)
- up pull up (somewhere)
- up pull up stakes
- up pushing up daisies
- up put someone or something up
- up put someone up to something
- up put up a (brave) front
- up Put up or shut up!
- up put up with someone or something
- up rake something up
- up read up (on someone or something)
- up rev something up
- up right side up
- up right up someone's alley
- up ring something up
- up roll one's sleeves up
- up rough someone up
- up round something up to something
- up run something up
- up rustle something up
- up save up (for something)
- up scare someone or something up
- up screw someone or something up
- up screw up one's courage
- up send someone or something up
- up send someone up the river
- up send up a trial balloon
- up set someone or something up
- up set someone up (as something)
- up set someone up (in business)
- up settle up with someone
- up set up shop somewhere

up sew something up
 up shack up (with someone)
 up shake someone or something up
 up shape someone up
 up shape up
 up shine up to someone
 up shook up
 up show someone up
 up shut someone up
 up sit up and take notice
 up sit up with someone
 up size someone or something up
 up slip up
 up slow someone or something up
 up snap something up
 up something's up
 up somewhere to hang (up) one's hat
 up soup something up
 up speak up
 up spit (something) up
 up split people up
 up split up
 up spruce someone or something up
 up square up to someone or something
 up square up with someone
 up stack something up
 up stand someone up
 up stand up and be counted
 up start something up
 up steamed up
 up step (right) up
 up step something up
 up Stick 'em up!
 up stick someone or something up
 up stick up for someone or something
 up stir someone or something up
 up stir up a hornet's nest
 up stock up (on something)
 up straighten someone or something up
 up straighten up
 up (strictly) on the up-and-up
 up strike up a conversation
 up strike up a friendship
 up sum something up
 up take someone up on something
 up take something up
 up take up a collection
 up take up arms (against someone or something)
 up take up one's abode somewhere
 up take up room
 up take up someone's time
 up take up space
 up take up time
 up take up where one left off
 up take up with someone
 up talk someone or something up
 up team up with someone
 up tear someone up
 up The jig is up.
 up Things are looking up.
 up think something up
 up throw one's hands up in despair

up throw one's hands up in horror
 up throw (something) up
 up throw something up to someone
 up thumbs up on someone or something
 up tied up
 up tie someone or something up
 up tie someone (up) in knots
 up tie traffic up
 up Time is up.
 up touch something up
 up trip someone up
 up trumped-up
 up turn one's nose up at someone or something
 up turn someone or something up
 up turn the heat up (on someone)
 up turn thumbs up (on someone or something)
 up turn up
 up up a blind alley
 up up against something
 up up and about
 up up and around
 up up and at them
 up up and away
 up up-and-coming
 up up a tree
 up up for grabs
 up up for something
 up up-front
 up up in arms
 up up in the air (about someone or something)
 up up in years
 up up North
 up up the creek (without a paddle)
 up up-to-date
 up up to doing something
 up up to no good
 up up to one's ears (in something)
 up up to one's eyeballs (in something)
 up up to one's neck (in something)
 up up to par
 up up to scratch
 up up to snuff
 up up to someone
 up up to something
 up up-to-the-minute
 up wait up (for someone or something)
 up warm up to someone
 up washed-up
 up well up in years
 up What have you been up to?
 up What's up?
 up whip something up
 up whoop it up
 up wind something up
 up wind up doing something
 up wind up somewhere
 up wipe the floor up with someone
 up wise up (to someone or something)
 up worked up (about something)
 up worked up (over something)
 up work one's way up
 up work someone or something up

up wrapped up in someone or something
up wrap something up
up write someone or something up
up The game is up.
up The jig is up.
upon chance (up)on someone or something
upon fall (up)on someone or something
upon feel put-upon
upon happen (up)on someone or something
upon hit (up)on something
upon incumbent upon someone to do something
upon once upon a time
upon prevail (up)on someone
upon put upon by someone
upon seize (up)on something
upon set upon someone or something
upon stumble (up)on someone or something
upon take it upon oneself to do something
upon take it (up)on oneself (to do something)
upon (up)on impact
upon wreak vengeance (up)on someone or something
upper get the upper hand (on someone)
upper keep a stiff upper lip
upper upper crust
upright sit bolt upright
uproar create an uproar
uproar make an uproar
ups ups and downs
upset upset the apple cart
upshot the upshot of something
uptake quick on the uptake
uptake slow on the uptake
us let us do something
us That makes two of us.
use It's no use (doing something).
use make use of someone or something
use put something to (good) use
use use every trick in the book
use use one's head
use use one's noggin
use use one's noodle
use use some elbow grease
use use someone or something as an excuse
use use strong language
used be used to doing something
used be used to something
used get used to someone or something
used It takes (some) getting used to.
used They don't make them like they used to.
used used to do something
used used to someone or something
usual as usual
usual business as usual
utter not utter a word
vacation on vacation
vacation take a vacation
vain do something in vain
vale vale of tears
value at face value
value take someone or something at face value
value take something at face value
vanish vanish into thin air

Variety Variety is the spice of life.
velvet (as) soft as velvet
velvet soft as velvet
vengeance do something with a vengeance
vengeance with a vengeance
vengeance wreak vengeance (up)on someone or something
vent give vent to something
vent vent one's spleen
ventured Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
verge on the verge (of doing something)
verge verge on something
verse chapter and verse
very at the (very) outside
very in the (very) nick of time
very (right) under someone's (very) nose
very under someone's (very) nose
very the very last
very the very thing
vest keep one's cards close to one's vest
vest play one's cards close to one's vest
vested have a vested interest in something
vicious in a vicious circle
victors To the victors belong the spoils.
victory a landslide victory
view in view of something
view on view
view point of view
view take a dim view of something
view with a view to doing something
view a bird's-eye view
vigor vim and vigor
villain the villain of the piece
vim vim and vigor
vine die on the vine
vine wither on the vine
vinegar (as) sour as vinegar
vinegar sour as vinegar
virtue by virtue of something
visit pay a visit to someone or something
visit pay (someone or something) a visit
vodka (as) clear as vodka
vodka clear as vodka
voice at the top of one's voice
voice give voice to something
voice have a voice (in something)
voice lower one's voice
voice raise one's voice (to someone)
voice throw one's voice
void null and void
vote cast one's vote
vote vote a split ticket
vote vote a straight ticket
vote vote with one's feet
vote a vote of confidence
vote a vote of thanks
voyage maiden voyage
wade wade in(to something)
wag cause (some) tongues to wag
wag wag one's chin
wagging the tail wagging the dog
wagon fix someone's wagon

wagon on the wagon
wait can't wait (for something to happen)
wait can't wait (to do something)
wait lie in wait for someone or something
wait not able to wait
wait wait-and-see attitude
wait wait on someone hand and foot
wait wait up (for someone or something)
waiting on a waiting list
waiting waiting in the wings
waiting the moment everyone has been waiting for
wake in the wake of something
wake wake the dead
walk cock of the walk
walk Take a long walk off a short pier.
walk Take a walk!
walk walk all over someone
walk walk a tightrope
walk walk away with something
walk walk off with something
walk walk on air
walk walk on eggs
walk walk out (on someone or something)
walk walk the floor
walk walk the plank
walking get one's walking papers
walking give one one's walking papers
walking within walking distance
walks all walks of life
wall bang one's head against a brick wall
wall beat one's head against the wall
wall drive someone to the wall
wall drive someone up the wall
wall force someone to the wall
wall go to the wall
wall have one's back to the wall
wall off-the-wall
wall press someone to the wall
wall push someone to the wall
wall read the handwriting on the wall
wall run into a stone wall
wall see the (hand)writing on the wall
wall wall-to-wall with something
wallop pack a wallop
walls climb the wall(s)
Walls Walls have ears.
wane wax and wane
want not want to catch someone doing something
want want for nothing
want What do you want me to say?
wanted know when one is not wanted
war all-out war
war an act of war
warm (as) warm as toast
warm warm as toast
warm warm the bench
warm warm the cockles of someone's heart
warm warm up to someone
warmed look like death warmed over
warpath on the warpath
warrant sign one's own death warrant
warts warts and all

was (had) known it was coming
was knew it was coming
was known it was coming
was (Now), where was I?
was time was (when)
was Where was I?
wash come out in the wash
wash wash a few things out
wash wash-and-wear
wash wash one's dirty linen in public
wash wash one's hands of someone or something
washed washed-out
washed washed-up
wasn't Rome wasn't built in a day.
waste go to waste
waste Haste makes waste.
waste lay something to waste
waste lay waste to something
waste waste one's breath
waste waste someone
watch keep (close) watch (on someone or something)
watch keep (close) watch (over someone or something)
watch watch one's step
watch watch out
watch watch over someone or something
watch watch someone or something like a hawk
watching (as) exciting as watching (the) paint dry
watching bear watching
watching exciting as watching (the) paint dry
water as a duck takes to water
water Blood is thicker than water.
water Bread runs thicker than water.
water bread and water
water come hell or high water
water dash cold water on something
water get in(to) hot water
water get one's head above water
water in deep water
water in hot water
water keep one's head above water
water like a fish out of water
water like water off a duck's back
water make someone's mouth water
water muddy the water
water not hold water
water of the first water
water pour cold water on something
water through hell and high water
water throw cold water on something
water water something down
water water under the bridge
waterfront cover the waterfront
Waterloo meet one's Waterloo
waters fish in troubled waters
waters pour oil on troubled water(s)
waterworks turn on the waterworks
waves make waves
wax wax and wane
wax the whole ball of wax
way all the way
way by the way
way by way of something

- way** come someone's way
way do something the hard way
way downhill all the way
way every which way
way find it's way somewhere
way find one's way (around)
way find one's way somewhere
way find (something) out the hard way
way from way back
way get one's (own) way (with someone or something)
way get out of someone's way
way get out of the way
way get someone or something out of the way
way get something under way
way get under way
way go all the way (with someone)
way go a long way in doing something
way go a long way toward doing something
way go out of one's way (to do something)
way have a way with someone or something
way have come a long way
way have the right-of-way
way in a bad way
way in a family way
way in the family way
way in the way of something
way in the worst way
way know one's way about
way know one's way around
way laugh all the way to the bank
way learn (something) the hard way
way look the other way
way make one's way through something
way make way
way not know which way to turn
way one's way of life
way one way or another
way on one's way to doing something
way on someone's way (somewhere)
way on the way (somewhere)
way on the way to doing something
way out of one's way
way out-of-the-way
way pave the way (for someone or something)
way pay someone's (own) way
way pick one's way through something
way rub someone's fur the wrong way
way say something in a roundabout way
way see one's way clear (to do something)
way see which way the wind is blowing
way shove one's way somewhere
way stand in someone's way
way take something the wrong way
way That's the way the ball bounces.
way That's the way the cookie crumbles.
way There's more than one way to skin a cat.
way thread (one's way) through something
way to someone's way of thinking
way (way) over there
way Where there's a will there's a way.
way work (one's way) into something
way work one's way through college
way work one's way up
way worm one's way out of something
way yield the right-of-way
way the other way round
ways cut both ways
ways have it both ways
ways mend one's ways
ways no two ways about it
ways parting of the ways
ways set in one's ways
ways ways and means
wayside drop by the wayside
wayside fall by the wayside
We We aim to please.
weak (as) weak as a baby
weak (as) weak as a kitten
weak weak as a baby
weak weak as a kitten
weakness have a weakness for someone or something
wealth a wealth of something
wealthy Early to bed, early to rise(, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.)
wear If the shoe fits, wear it.
wear none the worse for wear
wear wash-and-wear
wear wear and tear (on something)
wear wear more than one hat
wear wear off
wear wear one's heart on one's sleeve
wear wear on someone
wear wear out one's welcome
wear wear someone down
wear wear someone out
weasel weasel out (of something)
weather fair-weather friend
weather keep one's weather eye open
weather lovely weather for ducks
weather under the weather
weather weather permitting
weave weave in and out (of something)
wedded wed(ded) to someone
wedded wedded to something
wedding a shotgun wedding
wedlock born out of wedlock
wee wee hours (of the night)
weed weed someone or something out
week by the week
week week in, week out
weeks weeks running
weepers Finders keepers(, losers weepers).
weigh weigh on someone's mind
weigh weigh someone's words
weigh weigh someone down
weight carry (a lot of) weight (with someone or something)
weight carry one's (own) weight
weight carry the weight of the world on one's shoulders
weight pull one's (own) weight
weight put weight on
weight throw one's weight around
weight worth its weight in gold

welcome wear out one's welcome

welcome welcome someone with open arms

welcome welcome to do something

well alive and well

well All's well that ends well.

well (all) well and good

well as well

well augur well for someone or something

well get well

well hail-fellow-well-met

well know something only too well

well leave well enough alone

well let well enough alone

well play one's cards well

well well and good

well well-disposed toward someone or something

well well-fixed

well well-heeled

well well-off

well well-to-do

well well up in years

were as it were

were better off (if one were somewhere else)

were better off (if something were done)

were Those were the days.

West out West

wet all wet

wet (as) mad as a wet hen

wet get one's feet wet

wet get wet

wet mad as a wet hen

wet wet behind the ears

wet wet blanket

wet wet someone's whistle

whack out of w(h)ack

whack take a whack at someone or something

whale have a whale of a time

whale whale the tar out of someone

what and what have you

what come what may

what give someone what for

what have what it takes

what just what the doctor ordered

what know what's what

what no matter what happens

what not what something is cracked up to be

what recognize one for what one is

what recognize something for what it is

What What are you driving at?

What What can I say?

What What do you want me to say?

what what for

What What goes around, comes around.

What What have you been up to?

what what if

what what makes someone tick

what what makes something tick

What What one doesn't know won't hurt one.

whatever for what(ever) it's worth

Whatever Whatever will be, will be.

what's get what's coming to one

what's give one what's coming to one

what's know what's what

What's What's done is done.

What's What's keeping you?

What's What's new?

What's What's the good of something?

What's What's up?

What's What's with someone?

wheel put one's shoulder to the wheel

wheel wheel and deal

wheels spin one's wheels

when cross a bridge when one comes to it

when know when one is not wanted

when time was (when)

when when all is said and done

when when hell freezes over

When When in Rome, do as the Romans do.

when when it comes right down to it

when when it comes to something

when when least expected

when when one is good and ready

when when push comes to shove

When When the cat's away, the mice will play.

when when the chips are down

when when the going gets rough

when when the going gets tough

when when the time is ripe

where fools rush in (where angels fear to tread)

where give credit where credit is due

where hit one where one lives

where know where all the bodies are buried

where know where someone stands (on someone or something)

where not know where to turn

where (Now), where was I?

where Put your money where your mouth is!

where take up where one left off

where tell someone where to get off

where where one is coming from

where where one lives

Where Where there's a will there's a way.

Where Where there's smoke there's fire.

Where Where was I?

wherefores the whys and wherefores of something

whereof know whereof one speaks

Where've Where've you been hiding yourself?

wherewithal have the wherewithal (to do something)

whet whet someone's appetite

whether not know whether one is coming or going

whether whether or not

which every which way

which know which is which

which know which side one's bread is buttered on

which not know which way to turn

which see which way the wind is blowing

which tell which is which

whiff catch a whiff of something

whiff get a whiff of something

while (every) once in a while

while fiddle while Rome burns

while get out while the getting is good

while make it worth someone's while

while make something worth someone's while

- while** not worth one's while
while once in a while
while strike while the iron is hot
while while away the time
while worth someone's while
whip whip something into shape
whip whip something up
whirl give something a whirl
whisker by a whisker
whisper in a stage whisper
whistle (as) clean as a whistle
whistle (as) slick as a whistle
whistle blow the whistle (on someone)
whistle clean as a whistle
whistle slick as a whistle
whistle wet someone's whistle
white (as) white as a ghost
white (as) white as a sheet
white (as) white as the driven snow
white in black and white
white put something down in black and white
white white as a sheet
white white as the driven snow
white white elephant
who He laughs best who laughs last.
who He who laughs last, laughs longest.
who He who pays the piper calls the tune.
Who Who do you think you're kidding?
Who Who do you think you're talking to?
Who Who would have thought?
whole go whole hog
whole make something up out of whole cloth
whole on the whole
whole (whole) new ball game
whole the whole ball of wax
whole the whole shooting match
whom to whom it may concern
whoop whoop it up
whys the whys and wherefores of something
wide all wool and a yard wide
wide come from far and wide
wide crack something wide open
wide cut a wide swath
wide give someone or something a wide berth
wide leave oneself wide open for something
wide leave oneself wide open to something
wide wide-awake
wide wide of the mark
wig flip one's wig
wild go hog-wild
wild run wild
wild sow one's wild oats
wild wild about someone or something
Wild Wild horses couldn't drag someone.
wild a wild-geese chase
wildfire spread like wildfire
will against someone's will
will at will
will Boys will be boys.
will Flattery will get you nowhere.
will Give one an inch, and one will take a mile.
will have a hunch (that) something will happen
will heads will roll
will ill will
will last will and testament
will of one's own free will
will someone's last will and testament
will There will be the devil to pay.
will Time will tell.
will Whatever will be, will be.
will When the cat's away, the mice will play.
will Where there's a will there's a way.
will will not hear of something
will with a will
will with the best will in the world
will The truth will out.
willies get the willies
willies give someone the willies
willing ready, willing, and able
win no-win situation
win win by a nose
win win out (over someone or something)
win win someone over
win win the day
wind (as) swift as the wind
wind get one's second wind
wind get wind of something
wind gone with the wind
wind in the wind
wind see which way the wind is blowing
wind swift as the wind
wind take the wind out of someone's sails
wind three sheets to the wind
wind throw caution to the wind
wind wind down
wind wind something up
wind wind up doing something
wind wind up somewhere
windmills tilt at windmills
window go window-shopping
window window-shopping
wine wine and dine someone
wing on the wing
wing wing it
wings clip someone's wings
wings take someone under one's wing(s)
wings try (out) one's wings
wings waiting in the wings
wink (as) quick as a wink
wink not sleep a wink
wink quick as a wink
wink wink at something
winks catch forty winks
winks forty winks
winks take forty winks
wins Slow and steady wins the race.
wipe wipe someone or something out
wipe wipe someone's slate clean
wipe wipe something off
wipe wipe the floor up with someone
wire down to the wire
wire under the wire
wires get one's wires crossed
wise (as) wise as an owl

wise (as) wise as Solomon
wise Early to bed, early to rise(, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise.)
wise get wise (to someone or something)
wise penny-wise and pound-foolish
wise put someone wise to someone or something
wise wise as an owl
wise wise as Solomon
wise wise up (to someone or something)
wise a word to the wise
wiser none the wiser
wiser sadder but wiser
wish wish something off on someone
wishful wishful thinking
wit to wit
witch's (as) cold as a witch's caress
witch's (as) cold as a witch's tit
witch's cold as a witch's caress
witch's cold as a witch's tit
with able to do something with one's eyes closed
with alive with someone or something
with (all) over with
with all right with someone
with along with someone or something
with arrange something with someone
with arrange to do something with someone
with at home with someone or something
with at loggerheads (with someone)
with at odds (with someone)
with bear with someone or something
with be friends with someone
with beg to differ (with someone)
with beside oneself (with something)
with be with someone
with born with a silver spoon in one's mouth
with break off (with someone)
with break up (with someone)
with brimming with something
with burn with a low blue flame
with burst with joy
with burst with pride
with can't do anything with someone or something
with carry (a lot of) weight (with someone or something)
with carry on (with someone or something)
with cast one's lot in with someone
with catch one with one's pants down
with catch up (with someone or something)
with chime in (with something)
with closefisted (with money)
with close ranks (with someone)
with come clean (with someone)
with come down with something
with come out with something
with come through something with flying colors
with come to grips with something
with come to terms with someone or something
with come up with someone or something
with come with the territory
with cooking with gas
with could do with someone or something
with cross someone's palm with silver
with cross swords (with someone) (on something)

with curry favor (with someone)
with cut loose (with something)
with cut no ice (with someone)
with damn someone or something with faint praise
with dance with death
with die with one's boots on
with do away with someone or something
with do something with a vengeance
with double up (with someone)
with down with some disease
with end up with the short end of the stick
with exchange more than some number of words with someone
with fall head over heels in love (with someone)
with fall in love (with someone)
with fall in with someone or something
with fall out (with someone about something)
with fall out (with someone over something)
with familiar with someone or something
with favor someone or something with something
with fed up (to somewhere) (with someone or something)
with fiddle about (with someone or something)
with fiddle around (with someone or something)
with find fault (with someone or something)
with fit in (with someone or something)
with fit someone or something out (with something)
with fix someone up (with someone or something)
with flirt with the idea of doing something
with flush with something
with fool around (with someone or something)
with fraught with danger
with get a free hand (with someone or something)
with get a hand with something
with get along (with someone or something)
with get an in (with someone)
with get away with something
with get by (with something)
with get even (with someone)
with get fresh (with someone)
with get into an argument (with someone)
with get into touch (with someone)
with get involved (with someone)
with get one's (own) way (with someone or something)
with get on (with someone or something)
with get physical (with someone)
with get something over (with)
with get through with something
with get to first base (with someone or something)
with get tough (with someone)
with get with something
with give out with something
with give someone a free hand (with something)
with give someone a hand (with someone or something)
with go all the way (with someone)
with go along (with someone or something)
with go around with someone
with gone with the wind
with go out (with someone)
with go over big with someone
with go over something with a fine-tooth comb
with go over with a bang
with go steady (with someone)

- with go through with something
- with go to bed (with someone)
- with go to bed with the chickens
- with go with something
- with go with the flow
- with graced with something
- with grace someone or something with one's presence
- with green with envy
- with hand in glove (with someone)
- with handle someone with kid gloves
- with hang around (with someone)
- with hang out (with someone)
- with have a bone to pick (with someone)
- with have a brush with something
- with have an ax to grind (with someone)
- with have an in (with someone)
- with have a run-in with someone
- with have a score to settle (with someone)
- with have a scrape (with someone or something)
- with have a thing going (with someone)
- with have a way with someone or something
- with have a word with someone
- with have contact with someone
- with have nothing to do with someone or something
- with have one's hands full (with someone or something)
- with have pull with someone
- with have something to do with something
- with have something going (with someone)
- with have something in common (with someone or something)
- with have something out (with someone)
- with have to do with someone or something
- with have to live with something
- with head over heels in love (with someone)
- with help (someone or something) out (with someone or something)
- with hit it off (with someone)
- with hoist with one's own petard
- with hold with something
- with How goes it (with you)?
- with in accordance with something
- with in bad (with someone)
- with in cahoots (with someone)
- with in concert (with someone)
- with in Dutch (with someone)
- with in good (with someone)
- with in keeping (with something)
- with in league (with someone)
- with in line with something
- with in love (with someone or something)
- with in step (with someone or something)
- with in tune with someone or something
- with invest someone with something
- with in with someone
- with join forces (with someone)
- with keep company (with someone)
- with keep in touch (with someone)
- with keep pace (with someone or something)
- with keep up (with someone or something)
- with keep up (with the Joneses)
- with keep up (with the times)
- with kid around (with someone)
- with kill two birds with one stone
- with knock someone over with a feather
- with lay it on with a trowel
- with learn to live with something
- with leave word (with someone)
- with let go (with something)
- with let loose (with something)
- with let someone have it (with both barrels)
- with level with someone
- with line someone or something up with something
- with line someone up with someone
- with lock horns (with someone)
- with lose one's touch (with someone or something)
- with lose touch (with someone or something)
- with lousy with something
- with make a hit (with someone or something)
- with make an appointment (with someone)
- with make away with someone or something
- with make do (with someone or something)
- with make free with someone or something
- with make off with someone or something
- with make out (with someone or something)
- with make peace (with someone)
- with make points (with someone)
- with make time (with someone)
- with make up (with someone)
- with mess about (with someone or something)
- with mess around (with someone or something)
- with mix someone up with someone else
- with monkey around (with someone or something)
- with mop the floor up with someone
- with not agree with someone
- with not in the same league with someone or something
- with not with it
- with on a first-name basis (with someone)
- with on good terms (with someone)
- with on par (with someone or something)
- with on speaking terms (with someone)
- with open up (with someone)
- with open with something
- with out of favor (with someone)
- with out of keeping (with something)
- with out of line (with something)
- with out of step (with someone or something)
- with out of time (with someone or something)
- with out of touch (with someone or something)
- with out of tune (with someone or something)
- with over and done with
- with over with
- with pal around (with someone)
- with part company (with someone)
- with pass the time of day (with someone)
- with persist with something
- with pick a fight with someone
- with pick a quarrel (with someone)
- with pipe up with something
- with play about (with someone or something)
- with play along with someone or something
- with play around (with someone or something)
- with play ball (with someone)
- with play cat and mouse (with someone)
- with play fast and loose (with someone or something)

with play footsie (with someone)
 with play havoc with someone or something
 with play hob with someone or something
 with play with fire
 with put someone to bed with a shovel
 with put up with someone or something
 with racked with pain
 with raise Cain (with someone or something)
 with raise havoc with someone or something
 with raise hell (with someone or something)
 with raise hob with someone or something
 with raise the devil (with someone or something)
 with raise the dickens (with someone or something)
 with rap with someone
 with rate with someone
 with ravished with delight
 with reach first base (with someone or something)
 with receive someone with open arms
 with reckon with someone or something
 with resonate with someone
 with rich with something
 with rub elbows (with someone)
 with rub shoulders with someone
 with run around like a chicken with its head cut off
 with run around with someone
 with run off with someone or something
 with saddle someone with something
 with screw around (with someone or something)
 with search something with a fine-tooth comb
 with see eye to eye (with someone) (about something)
 with see eye to eye (with someone) (on something)
 with settle a score with someone
 with settle the score (with someone)
 with settle up with someone
 with sever ties with someone
 with shack up (with someone)
 with shake hands (with someone)
 with shot through with something
 with side with someone
 with sign on (with someone)
 with sit up with someone
 with sit with someone
 with sleep with someone
 with speak with a forked tongue
 with split one's sides (with laughter)
 with square accounts (with someone)
 with square up with someone
 with start (off) with a clean slate
 with start (over) with a clean slate
 with stay in touch (with someone)
 with stick someone with someone or something
 with stick with someone or something
 with strike a chord (with someone)
 with string along (with someone)
 with stuck with someone or something
 with take a hard line (with someone)
 with take issue (with someone)
 with take liberties with someone or something
 with take something home (with oneself)
 with take something up (with someone)
 with take something with a grain of salt
 with take something with a pinch of salt

with take the bitter with the sweet
 with take up with someone
 with tamper with something
 with tarred with the same brush
 with team up with someone
 with throw the baby out with the bath(water)
 with tightfisted (with money)
 with top something off (with something)
 with touch base (with someone)
 with toy with someone or something
 with vote with one's feet
 with walk away with something
 with walk off with something
 with wall-to-wall with something
 with welcome someone with open arms
 with What's with someone?
 with wipe the floor up with someone
 with with a heavy heart
 with with all one's heart and soul
 with with all the fixings
 with with an eye to doing something
 with with a vengeance
 with with a view to doing something
 with with a will
 with with bells on (one's toes)
 with with both hands tied behind one's back
 with with each passing day
 with with ease
 with with every (other) breath
 with with everything (on it)
 with with flying colors
 with (with) hat in hand
 with with impunity
 with with it
 with with no strings attached
 with with one hand tied behind one's back
 with with one's tail between one's legs
 with with regard to someone or something
 with with relish
 with with respect to someone or something
 with with something to spare
 with with the best will in the world
 with work wonders (with someone or something)
 with wouldn't touch something with a ten-foot pole
 with wreak havoc with something
 with You can't take it with you.
 with Your secret is safe with me.
 with a force to be reckoned with
 wither wither on the vine
 within come within an ace of doing something
 within come within an inch of doing something
 within live within one's means
 within within an inch of one's life
 within within a stone's throw (of something)
 within within bounds
 within within calling distance
 within within hailing distance
 within within limits
 within within reason
 within within shouting distance
 within within someone's grasp
 within within someone's reach

- within** within walking distance
without absent without leave
without carry on without someone or something
without cut someone off without a penny
without do without (someone or something)
without get along (without (someone or something))
without goes without saying
without go without (something)
without up the creek (without a paddle)
without without a moment to spare
without without any strings attached
without without batting an eye
without without fail
without without further ado
without without question
without without rhyme or reason
without without so much as doing something
wit's at one's wit's end
wits frighten one out of one's wits
wits frighten the wits out of someone
wits get one's wits about one
wits keep one's wits about one
wits live by one's wits
wits scare one out of one's wits
wits scare the wits out of someone
wits You scared me out of my wits.
Woe Woe is me!
wolf cry wolf
wolf keep the wolf from the door
wolf a wolf in sheep's clothing
wolves throw someone to the wolves
woman woman to woman
wonder no wonder
wonder a nine days' wonder
wonders work wonders (with someone or something)
won't What one doesn't know won't hurt one.
wood knock on wood
woods in some neck of the woods
woods out of the woods
woods a babe in the woods
wool all wool and a yard wide
wool dyed-in-the-wool
wool pull the wool over someone's eyes
word as good as one's word
word break one's word
word by word of mouth
word from the word go
word get a word in edgeways
word get a word in edgewise
word get the final word
word get the last word
word get the word
word go back on one's word
word hang on someone's every word
word have a word with someone
word in a word
word keep one's word
word leave word (with someone)
word mum's the word
word not breathe a word (about someone or something)
word not breathe a word of it
word not utter a word
word put in a good word (for someone)
word say the word
word take one at one's word
word true to one's word
word word by word
word word for word
word a word to the wise
words Actions speak louder than words.
words at a loss (for words)
words beyond words
words eat one's words
words exchange more than some number of words with someone
words have one's words stick in one's throat
words in other words
words in so many words
words mark my word(s)
words mince (one's) words
words or words to that effect
words put something into words
words put words into someone's mouth
words take the words out of one's mouth
words Them's fighting words.
words twist someone's words (around)
words weigh someone's words
words words to that effect
work all in a day's work
work All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.
work at work
work close enough for government work
work dirty work
work get down to work
work grunt work
work have one's work cut out for one
work knock off work
work make fast work of someone or something
work make short work of someone or something
work Many hands make light work.
work one's work is cut out for one
work out of work
work take off (from work)
work work like a horse
work work one's fingers to the bone
work work (one's way) into something
work work one's way through college
work work one's way up
work work on someone or something
work work out
work work someone or something in
work work someone or something up
work work someone over
work work something into something else
work work something off
work work something out
work work through channels
work work wonders (with someone or something)
work a lick of work
work A little (hard) work never hurt anyone.
work A little (hard) work never killed anyone.
worked (all) worked up (about something)
worked (all) worked up (over something)
worked get worked up (about something)

worked get worked up (over something)
worked worked up (about something)
worked worked up (over something)
works get the works
works give someone the works
works gum up the works
works in the works
works shoot the works
works throw a monkey wrench into the works
works the works
world all over the world
world carry the weight of the world on one's shoulders
world come down in the world
world come up in the world
world dead to the world
world do not have a care in the world
world feel on top of the world
world for all the world
world How's the world (been) treating you?
world in a world of one's own
world in the world
world move up (in the world)
world not for (anything in) the world
world not long for this world
world on top of the world
world out of this world
world set the world on fire
world (sitting) on top of the world
world think the world of someone or something
world with the best will in the world
worlds have the best of both worlds
worm worm one's way out of something
worm worm something out of someone
worm The early bird gets the worm.
worm The worm (has) turned.
worms open (up) a can of worms
worse Could be worse.
worse for better or for worse
worse go from bad to worse
worse none the worse for wear
worse One's bark is worse than one's bite.
worse take a turn for the worse
worst at (the) worst
worst at worst
worst get the worst of something
worst if worst comes to worst
worst in the worst way
worth for all it's worth
worth for what(ever) it's worth
worth get one's money's worth
worth make it worth someone's while
worth make something worth someone's while
worth not worth a dime
worth not worth a hill of beans
worth not worth a plugged nickel
worth not worth a red cent
worth not worth mentioning
worth not worth one's while
worth not worth the trouble
worth put one's two cents(worth) in
worth worth its weight in gold

worth worth one's salt
worth worth someone's while
worth An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
worth A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
worthy worthy of the name
would as luck would have it
would never would have guessed
would Who would have thought?
would would as soon do something
would would give one's right arm (for someone or something)
would would like (to have) someone or something
would would rather
wouldn't look as if butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
wouldn't wouldn't dream of doing something
wouldn't wouldn't touch something with a ten-foot pole
wound rub salt in the wound
wrack go to wrack and ruin
wrap wrap something up
wrapped get something wrapped up
wrapped wrapped up in someone or something
wraps keep something under wraps
wreak wreak havoc with something
wreak wreak vengeance (up)on someone or something
wrench throw a monkey wrench into the works
wringer put someone through the wringer
wrist get a slap on the wrist
wrist give someone a slap on the wrist
wrist slap someone's wrist
wrist slap someone on the wrist
write nothing to write home about
write write someone or something off
write write someone or something up
write write something down
write write something out
wrong back the wrong horse
wrong bark up the wrong tree
wrong be off on the wrong foot
wrong get off on the wrong foot
wrong get out of the wrong side of the bed
wrong get up on the wrong side of the bed
wrong go wrong
wrong in the wrong
wrong on the wrong track
wrong rub someone's fur the wrong way
wrong start off on the wrong foot
wrong take someone or something wrong
wrong take something the wrong way
wrong the wrong side of the tracks
wrote someone wrote the book on something
wrote That's all she wrote.
X X marks the spot
yard all wool and a yard wide
yarn spin a yarn
year (all) year round
year by the year
Year ring in the New Year
year year after year
year year in, year out

year year round
years advanced in years
years along in years
years get along (in years)
years on in years
years up in years
years well up in years
years years running
yesterday need something yesterday
yesterday not born yesterday
yet be the death of me (yet)
yield yield the right-of-way
yoke a yoke around someone's neck
yon hither, thither, and yon
yon thither and yon
you All right for you!
you and what have you
you before you can say Jack Robinson
you before you know it
you Behind you!
you between you, me, and the lamppost
you Can you imagine?
you Do I need to paint you a picture?
you Don't let someone or something get you down.
you Do you read me?
you Flattery will get you nowhere.
you goes to show you
you Have I got something for you!
you Have you been keeping busy?
you Here's looking at you.
you Here you go.
you How goes it (with you)?
you How's the world (been) treating you?
you I'll (try to) catch you later.
you mind you
you pay as you go
you so clean you could eat off the floor
you so quiet you could hear a pin drop
you so still you could hear a pin drop
you Thank you for sharing.
you There you go.
you What are you driving at?
you What do you want me to say?
you What have you been up to?
you What's keeping you?
you Where've you been hiding yourself?
you Who do you think you're kidding?
you Who do you think you're talking to?
You You bet (your boots)!
You You can bet on it!
You You can say that again!

You You can't please everyone.
You You can't take it with you.
You You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
You You got me there.
You You just don't get it!
you you know
You You said it!
You You scared me out of my wits.
You You scared the crap out of me.
You You scared the devil out of me.
You You scared the dickens out of me.
You You scared the hell out of me.
You You scared the pants off (of) me.
You You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
You You think you're so smart!
you a fine how-do-you-do
you the same to you
your Cat got your tongue?
your Don't hold your breath.
your Don't quit your day job.
your Enjoy your meal.
your get off your high horse
your Here's mud in your eye.
your Hold your horses!
your Hold your tongue!
your Hush your mouth!
your I didn't catch your name.
your Keep your shirt on!
your mind your manners
your not on your life
your pick on somebody your own size
your pick on someone your own size
your Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
your Put your money where your mouth is!
your You bet (your boots)!
Your Your guess is as good as mine.
Your Your secret is safe with me.
you're Who do you think you're kidding?
you're Who do you think you're talking to?
you're You think you're so smart!
yours yours truly
yours You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours.
yourself by yourself
yourself Where've you been hiding yourself?
yourselves by yourselves
Z everything from A to Z
zenith at the zenith of something
zero zero in on something
zonk zonk out
zoom zoom in (on someone or something)
Zs catch some Zs

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Appendix

Irreversible Binomials and Trinomials

Irreversible binomials and trinomials are sequences of two or three words that are in a fixed order, such as *fast and furious*, but not *furious and fast*. The following sequences of words are joined by *and*, *or*, *but*, or some type of implied conjunction. The words are found only in the sequences shown here and cannot be reordered. Those marked with an asterisk (*) are entries in this dictionary.

above and beyond* See above and beyond something.

Adam and Eve

alive and kicking*

again and again

aid and abet* See aid and abet someone.

alive and well*

all and sundry*

all or nothing*

all work and no play* See All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.

alpha and omega*

apples and oranges*

arm and a leg* See cost an arm and a leg.

armed and dangerous*

arts and letters

(a division of a university)

arts and sciences

(a division of a university)

assault and battery*

back and fill*

back and forth*

backwards and forwards* See know something backwards and forwards.

bacon and eggs

bacon, lettuce, and tomato [sandwich]

bag and baggage*

bait and switch*

ball and chain*

bar and grill

beck and call* See at someone's beck and call.

bed-and-breakfast

beer and pretzels

beer and skittles* See (all) beer and skittles.

before and after

bell, book, and candle*

betwixt and between*

bib and tucker* See best bib and tucker.

big and bold*

binge and purge*

birds and the bees*

biscuits and gravy

black and blue

black and white* See in black and white.

blood and gore

blood and guts

blood, sweat, and tears*

bloody but unbowed*

body and soul* See keep body and soul together.

born and bred*

born and raised*

bound and determined*

bound and gagged

bourbon and water

bow and scrape*

bread and butter*

bread and water

breaking and entering*

bricks and mortar*

bride and groom

bright and early*

bright-eyed and bushy-tailed*

business or pleasure

by and by*

by and large*
 by guess and by golly*
 cap and gown*
 cash-and-carry*
 cash or credit*
 cat and mouse* See play cat and mouse (with someone).
 cats and dogs* See rain cats and dogs.
 cause and effect
 cease and desist*
 chapter and verse*
 checks and balances*
 cheese and crackers
 chips and dip*
 church and state*
 clip and save
 cloak-and-dagger*
 coat and tie*
 cock and bull* See cock-and-bull story.
 coffee and Danish*
 coffee and doughnuts
 coffee, tea, or milk*
 come and gone*
 coming or going* See not know if one is coming or going.
 country and western [music]
 crash and burn*
 cream and sugar
 crime and punishment
 cup and saucer
 curds and whey
 cut-and-dried*
 cut and paste*
 cut and run*
 cute and cuddly
 dark and stormy
 day and age* See in this day and age.
 day in and day out*
 dead and buried*
 dead and gone*
 dead or alive
 deaf and dumb*
 death and destruction
 death and taxes*
 decline and fall
 dilation and curettage
 divide and conquer*
 do or die*
 dog and pony show*
 doom and gloom
 down-and-dirty*
 down-and-out*
 drawn and quartered*
 dribs and drabs*
 drum and bugle
 drunk and disorderly*
 duck and cover*
 duck and drake
 easy come, easy go*
 eat and run*
 ebb and flow*
 ever and anon*

fad and fashion
 fair and impartial*
 fair and square*
 faith, hope, and charity
 far and away* See far and away the best.
 far and wide* See come from far and wide.
 fast and furious*
 fast and loose* See play fast and loose (with someone or something).
 fat and happy*
 Father, Son, and Holy Ghost
 fear and loathing
 fear and trembling* See in fear and trembling.
 feast or famine* See either feast or famine.
 fin and feather
 few and far between*
 field and stream
 fight or flight
 Finders keepers(, losers weepers).*
 fine and dandy*
 first and foremost*
 first and last
 first and ten*
 first come, first served*
 first, last, and always
 fish and chips
 fish or fowl* See neither fish nor fowl.
 fish or cut bait*
 fit and trim*
 fits and starts* See by fits and starts.
 flesh and blood*
 flora and fauna*
 flotsam and jetsam*
 fold, spindle, or mutilate*
 food and drink
 food and water
 footloose and fancy-free*
 for better or for worse*
 fore and aft*
 forever and a day*
 forever and always
 forgive and forget*
 form and substance*
 franks and beans (frankfurters and beans)
 free and clear*
 free and easy*
 friend or foe*
 fries and a shake (French fries and a milkshake)
 front and center
 fun and games*
 give-and-take*
 God and country
 gone but not forgotten*
 good and ready* See when one is good and ready.
 goose and gander
 grin and bear it*
 hale and hearty*
 half-and-half*
 ham and eggs
 hammer and nails
 hammer and sickle

- hammer and tongs*** See go at it hammer and tongs.
hand and foot* See bound hand and foot.
hard-and-fast*
hat and gloves
have and to hold
haves and have-nots
head and shoulders* See head and shoulders above someone or something.
head over heels* See head over heels in debt; head over heels in love (with someone).
head to toe* See from head to toe.
heads or tails*
health and welfare
heart and soul*
heating and air-conditioning
heaven and earth* See move heaven and earth to do something.
hellfire and damnation
hell or high water* See come hell or high water.
hem and haw* See hem and haw (around).
hen and chicken
here and there*
here, there, and everywhere
hide-and-seek*
hide nor hair* See neither hide nor hair.
high and dry* See leave someone high and dry.
high-and-mighty*
highways and byways*
hill and dale
hit-and-miss*
hit-and-run*
hit-or-miss*
hither and thither*
hither, thither, and yon*
honest and aboveboard*
hook, line, and sinker* See swallow something hook, line, and sinker.
hook or crook* See by hook or (by) crook.
hoot and holler*
hop, skip, and a jump*
horse and buggy*
horse and carriage*
hot and bothered*
hot and cold* See blow hot and cold.
hot and heavy*
hot and humid
house and home* See eat someone out of house and home.
hue and cry*
hunt-and-peck*
husband and wife
hustle and bustle*
ice-cream and cake
in and of itself*
in and out
in sickness and in health
ins and outs* See ins and outs of something.
intents and purposes* See for all intents and purposes.
jack and jill
Jekyll and Hyde*
Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
joint and several
jot and tittle
juice and cookies*
king and queen
kiss and tell*
kit and caboodle*
kith and kin*
knife and fork
knife, fork, and spoon
ladies and gentlemen
last but not least*
last will and testament*
law and order
leaps and bounds* See by leaps and bounds.
lick and a promise* See give something a lick and a promise.
lie, cheat, and steal
life and death* See matter of life and death.
life or death
like it or lump it*
live and learn*
live and let live*
liver and onions
lock and key
lock, stock, and barrel*
long and (the) short it*
lost-and-found*
lost and gone forever*
loud and clear*
love and marriage
love nor money* See not for love nor money.
make or break* See make or break someone.
main strength and awkwardness*
man and wife
master and servant
meat and drink
meat-and-potatoes*
meek and mild
mergers and acquisitions
mice and men* See best-laid plans of mice and men.
might and main*
milk and honey
mind and body
mix and match*
more or less*
mortar and pestle
mother and child
motherhood and apple pie
movers and shakers*
Mr. and Mrs.
name and address
needle and thread
new and improved
nice and easy
nickel and dime* See nickel and dime (someone)
nip and tuck*
nook and cranny*
nothing ventured, nothing gained*
now and again*
now and then*

now or never*
 null and void*
 nuts and bolts* See nuts and bolts (of something).
 odds and ends*
 off and running*
 old and gray
 once and for all*
 one and all*
 one and only*
 one and the same*
 open-and-shut case*
 out and about*
 Out of sight, out of mind.*
 over and above* See over and above something.
 over and done with*
 over and over* See over and over (again).
 over and under
 pain and suffering
 part and parcel* See part and parcel (of something).
 past and present
 peaches and cream
 peanut butter and jelly
 pen and ink
 pen and pencil
 penny-wise and pound-foolish*
 pick and choose*
 pickles and onions
 pins and needles* See on pins and needles.
 plain and simple*
 pomp and circumstance
 poor but clean*
 pork and beans
 postage and handling*
 potatoes and gravy
 pots and pans
 power and might
 pride and joy*
 pride and prejudice
 principal and interest
 profit and loss
 pros and cons
 p's and q's* See mind one's p's and q's.
 publish or perish*
 pure and simple*
 Put up or shut up!*
 question and answer
 quick and dirty*
 rack and pinion
 rain or shine*
 rank and file*
 rant and rave* See rant and rave (about someone or something).
 rape and pillage
 read and write
 reading and writing
 ready and able
 ready and willing
 ready, get set, go
 ready, willing, and able*
 red, white, and blue
 research and development

rest and recreation
 rest and relaxation
 rhyme or reason* See without rhyme or reason.
 rice and beans
 rice and peas
 right and wrong
 right or wrong
 rise and fall
 Rise and shine!*
 rock and a hard place* See between a rock and a hard place.
 rock and roll
 rocks and rills
 rod and reel
 rod and staff
 room and board*
 root and branch
 rough-and-ready*
 rough-and-tumble*
 rum and coke
 rhythm and blues
 sackcloth and ashes
 sadder but wiser*
 sadism and masochism
 safe and sound*
 said and done* See after all is said and done.
 salt and pepper
 sand and sea
 sane and sober
 sausage and eggs
 savings and loan
 scotch and soda
 scotch and water
 search and destroy
 seek and destroy
 separate but equal*
 sex and violence
 Shape up or ship out.*
 shave and shower
 shipping and handling*
 shirt and tie
 shoes and socks
 short and fat
 short and sassy
 short and stout
 short and sweet
 show-and-tell*
 sick and tired* See sick and tired of someone or something.
 signed, sealed, and delivered*
 sink or swim*
 sir or madam
 six of one and half a dozen of another*
 sixes and sevens* See at sixes and sevens.
 skin and bones* See (all) skin and bones.
 skull and crossbones
 slim and trim
 slings and arrows “. . . of outrageous fortune.”
 (Shakespeare)
 slip and slide
 slow and sure
 slow(ly) but sure(ly)*

NTC's
DICTIONARY OF
AMERICAN SLANG
AND
COLLOQUIAL
EXPRESSIONS

THE MOST PRACTICAL REFERENCE FOR
THE INFORMAL EXPRESSIONS OF
CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN ENGLISH



THIRD EDITION

RICHARD A. SPEARS, PH.D.

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About This Dictionary

The third edition of this dictionary contains more than 800 new expressions. These comprise the expressions that have appeared in the last few years—including many new expressions used in everyday talk on the streets and the college campus. The “Phrase-Finder Index” has been completely revised to make finding the location of new phrasal entries in the dictionary easier. What do we expect of slang in the year 2000 and beyond? Much of the same: sex, scatology, rudeness, and clever wordplay.

This dictionary is a collection of slang and colloquial expressions in frequent use in the United States in the twentieth century. It contains expressions that are familiar to many Americans and other expressions that are used primarily within small groups of people. The entries represent the language of the underworld, the nursery, the college campus, California beaches, urban back streets, and Wall Street. We hear from prisoners, surfers, junkies, Valley Girls, blacks, weight lifters, and just plain folks. Fad words, metaphors, wordplay, and various figures of speech make up the body of the dictionary.

There is no standard test that will decide what is slang or colloquial and what is not. Expressions that are identified as slang are often some type of entertaining wordplay, and they are almost always an alternative way of saying something. Colloquial expressions are usually spoken and are often thought of as being direct, earthy, or quaint. Slang and colloquial expressions come in different forms: single words, compound words, simple phrases, idioms, and complete sentences. Slang is rarely the first choice of careful writers or speakers or anyone attempting to use language for formal, persuasive, or business purposes. Nonetheless, expressions that can be called slang or colloquial make up a major part of American communication in movies, television, radio, newspapers, magazines, and informal conversation.

Localized fad words are usually thought to have a short life, but other kinds of slang expressions may spread and last for a long time. The farther they spread, the longer they will last. If they last long

enough, they may become so well known that they become standard English unavoidably. Most such slangy expressions simply join an enormous pool of similar expressions, and they are used until displaced by newer terms. At some point the old ones are put on hold until they are forgotten by everyone or revived by a new generation. Many expressions that hang around for decades will pop up again and again in novels and movies or in sporadic use in the speech of older generations.

For more than two hundred years, the jargon of criminals has been a major source of everyday slang words. Alcohol, drugs, and crime have been firmly fixed in the public consciousness since the time of prohibition in the United States. The entertainment value of crime and law enforcement has brought a constant stream of criminal slang into novels, movies, and radio and television shows over the last half century. This dictionary contains many of the expressions from these areas that have made public appearances through the years. Even more remain hidden behind closed doors. Matters of social taboo have also provided many slang expressions. Although strictly speaking taboo words are not slang, many taboo expressions have been included in this edition. Young people are responsible for a high proportion of the fad expressions and collegiate wordplay found here. Clever or insulting nicknames for types of people are the major linguistic product of this subgroup.

Whereas many of the entries are humorous or clever, others simply represent the everyday turns of phrase common to informal speech in the United States. Where possible, the examples are given in natural slangy language, even if it is ungrammatical in formal writing. The examples are to be taken as representative of slang usage, not of standard, formal English usage.

Most slang words that deal with personal type, race, sex, ethnic origins, and so forth, are quite rude—often hateful—and considered by some people taboo. No apology is made for those that are included. They are rude or they wouldn't be considered slang or colloquial. On the other hand, no attempt is made to include all of them, and many of the worst have been omitted. Slang is slang and anyone looking for an issue will find many of them in nonstandard vocabulary. It is worthwhile to include rude words and identify them as such for the sake of

innocents who encounter these words on television, in the theater, in novels, in newspapers, in the workplace, in shops, and on the street.

The grammar and syntax of each expression are best determined from the examples that accompany each entry. The notion of “part of speech” is relevant to the function of individual words. The words within the clauses and phrases that are entries in the dictionary can be given part-of-speech labels, but it is the grammar and syntax of the entire phrase that is important. Each expression in the dictionary is assigned a “function code” that serves to indicate the functional potential of the entry expression. These codes represent *function* independently from *form*. That is to say, expressions that function the same get the same label. For instance, nouns, noun compounds, noun phrases, and noun clauses are all marked *n.* for “nominal.” The codes are described in the following section, “Guide to the Use of the Dictionary.”

Unlike standard English, few slang or colloquial expressions are standardized in spelling or punctuation. Standard dictionaries differ considerably as to whether a standard English compound is printed as one word, two words, or a hyphenated word. The spelling of slang entries is even more variable. This dictionary usually represents slang expressions in the form in which they were found in print, except for rhyming compounds, e.g., *fat-cat* or *funny-money*, which are always hyphenated in this book.

The entries come from many sources. Many have been collected and submitted by college students and other individuals. Much of the latest material has come directly from television and a lesser amount from contemporary radio. The Internet has become the newest major source of slang for the collector and reader. Standard reference works have been used to verify the meanings and spellings of older material. A surprising amount of old material has been verified in reruns of old movies. Many attestations have come from contemporary journalism, especially human interest and Sunday supplement material. A few of the examples are verbatim quotes of the original. Some are concocted, and many more have been edited to exemplify an expression’s meaning more concisely than the original quote. The examples exist to illus-

trate meaning, not to prove the earliest date of print or broadcast dissemination.

Guide to the Use of the Dictionary

1. Entries are alphabetized according to an absolute alphabetical order that ignores all punctuation. The hyphen is treated the same as a space. Entries beginning with numerals precede the alphabetic entries.
2. The first step in finding an expression is to try looking it up in the body of the dictionary. Entries that consist of two or more words are entered in their normal order, such as **chill someone's action**. Phrases are never inverted or reordered like **action, chill someone's** or **track, off the**.
3. If you do not find the expression you want or if you cannot decide on the exact form of the expression, look up any major word in the expression in the "Phrase-Finder Index," which begins on page 485. There you will find all the multiword expressions that contain the word you have looked up. Pick out the expression you want, and look it up in the body of the dictionary.
4. Entry expressions appear in **boldface type**. When words or expressions that are not entries in this dictionary are cited, they appear in *italics*. Function codes and examples appear in *italics*.
5. A main entry may have one or more alternative forms. The alternatives are printed in **boldface type** and are preceded by "AND."
6. Definitions are in roman type. Alternative or closely related definitions are separated by semicolons.
7. Some definitions contain restrictive comments in parentheses that help to make the definition clearer. These comments limit the context in which the expression can be used.
8. Comments in parentheses after a definition give additional information about the expression, including any cautions, comments on origins, or indications of cross-referencing. Each numbered sense can have its own comments.
9. Every expression is followed by a function code that indicates the grammatical or syntactic function of the expression. These codes are

in *italics*. The function codes provide a way of determining the grammatical or syntactic function of a particular expression as it occurs in its examples. Expressions functioning as nominals (nouns, noun phrases, etc.) are marked *n*. Expressions serving to modify, restrict, or qualify (adjectives, adjective phrases, adverbs, adverb phrases, etc.) are marked *mod*. Expressions that are transitive verbs or transitive verb phrases (a transitive verb, its object(s), modifier(s), and auxiliaries) are marked *tv*. Expressions that are intransitive verbs or intransitive verb phrases (an intransitive verb, its auxiliaries, and modifiers) are marked *in*. Other abbreviations are explained in the section titled “Terms and Symbols.”

10. Some expressions that are modifiers (marked *mod*.) can occur only before or after the things they modify. Other modifiers can occur both before and after the things they modify. The distribution of modifiers is illustrated in the examples.
11. Many expressions have more than one major sense or meaning. These meanings are numbered with boldface numerals.
12. Sometimes a numbered sense will have an alternative form that does not apply to the other senses. In such cases the “AND” plus the alternative forms follow the numeral.
13. Entries that contain unfamiliar words and entries whose spelling is misleading have an indication of pronunciation in International Phonetic Alphabet symbols. See the symbols and their values in the “Pronunciation Guide.”
14. In some entries, comments direct the user to other entries for additional information through the use of the terms “Go to” or “See also.” The expressions mentioned are in **special type**.
15. If an entry has a grammatical structure that requires a nominal to serve as a subject or object, the nominal is represented by **someone** for human nominals or **something** for nonhuman nominals. When both human and nonhuman nominals are possible, **someone or something** is used.

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Terms and Symbols

□ marks the beginning of an example.

▮ marks the beginning of an example in which two elements of the phrase, usually a particle and an object, are transposed.

acronym an abbreviation consisting of a set of initials pronounced as a single word, as with *UNESCO*, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

advertising used in advertisements or marketing jargon.

Amerindian related to American Indian languages or cultures.

AND indicates an alternative element, either an alternative entry form or an alternative pronunciation.

baby talk used by infants or children or, more typically, by adults when talking to infants or children.

black typically used by or originated by African Americans.

blend made up of sounds from two other words, such as *smoke* + *fog* = *smog*.

California originating among the young people of California.

catchphrase an expression that is meant to catch attention because of its cleverness or aptness.

collegiate typically heard on college campuses.

combining form a sense of a word used only in combination with another word, as with **bug** in *camera bug*.

deliberate spoonerism a deliberate interchanging of initial consonants in a pair of words, such as *queer old dean* for *dear old queen*.

drugs having to do with illegal drugs and the sale and use of drugs.

euphemistic relatively refined and having no negative connotations.

exclam. exclamation.

eye-dialect a type of respelling of a word so that it appears to have been spoken with a regional accent, as with *sez* for *says*.

folksy in the manner of country people; rustic and quaint.

function code an indication of the grammatical or syntactic potential of a particular sense of an expression. Go to *exclam.*, *in.*, *interj.*, *interrog.*, *mod.*, *n.*, *phr.*, *pro.*, *sent.*, and *tv.* in this section.

Go to Go to the entry indicated.

in. intransitive. Expressions that are intransitive verbs or intransitive verb phrases (an intransitive verb, its auxiliaries, and modifiers) are marked *in.*

interj. interjection.

interrog. interrogative.

initialism an abbreviation consisting of the initial letters of the words being shortened. The letters are pronounced one by one, as with *IBM*.

jargon the specialized terminology of an occupation; shoptalk.

journalistic as used in popular journalism—newspapers and magazines.

juvenile as might be said by a child.

mod. modifier. Expressions serving to modify, restrict, or qualify (adjectives, adjective phrases, adverbs, adverb phrases, etc.) are marked *mod.*

n. nominal. Expressions functioning as nominals (nouns, noun phrases, etc.) are marked *n.*

onomatopoetic having to do with a word with a sound suggesting the meaning of the word, as with *vroom*, the sound of an engine.

phr. phrase.

Pig Latin a form of wordplay where the second part of a word is placed before the initial sound, which then ends in *ay*, as with *unk-jay* for *junk*.

play on referring to wordplay that is based on a particular expression.
For instance, **eagle freak** is a play on **eco freak**.

police from the speech of law-enforcement officers.

pro. pronoun.

prohibition indicates an expression that came into use during the prohibition of alcohol in the United States during the 1920s and early 1930s.

securities market(s) having to do with the stock markets, the bond markets, or the sale of other financial instruments.

See also Find additional or related information at the entry indicated.
sent. sentence.

standard English widely known English, not usually considered slang or colloquial.

streets originating in the streets of urban America.

taboo indicates an expression that is regarded as out of place in public use.

term of address an expression that can be used to address someone directly.

tv. transitive. Expressions that are transitive verbs or transitive verb phrases (a transitive verb and its object(s), modifier(s), and auxiliaries) are marked *tv.*

underworld from criminal speech or law enforcement.

verbal weapon an expression that is typically used to insult or malign someone.

Western speech typical of Western movies or other stereotypes of the Old West.

Pronunciation Guide

Some expressions in the dictionary are followed by a phonetic transcription in International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols. These expressions include words whose pronunciations are not predictable from their spellings, difficult or unfamiliar words, and words where the stress placement is contrastive or unique. The style of pronunciation reflected here is informal and tends to fit the register in which the expression would normally be used. A [d] is used for the alveolar flap typical in American pronunciations such as [wɒdɜː] ‘water’ and [əˈnɑɪələdɛd] ‘annihilated.’ The transcriptions distinguish between [ɑ] and [ɔ] and between [w] and [ʍ] even though not all Americans do so. In strict IPA fashion, [j] rather than the [y] substitute is used for the initial sound in ‘yellow.’ The most prominent syllable in a multisyllabic word is *preceded* by a [ˈ]. The use of AND or OR in a phonetic transcription echoes the use of AND or OR in the preceding entry phrase. The use of “...” in a transcription indicates that easy-to-pronounce words have been omitted. Parentheses used in a transcription either correspond to parentheses in the preceding entry phrase or indicate optional elements in the transcription. For instance, in [ˈɑːtsiˈkræf(t)si] ‘artsy-craftsy,’ the “t” may or may not be pronounced. The following chart shows the American English values for each of the IPA symbols used in the phonetic transcriptions. To use the chart, first find the large phonetic symbol whose value you want to determine. The two English words to the right of the symbol contain examples of the sound for which the phonetic symbol stands. The letters in **boldface** type indicate where the sound in question is found in the English word.

[ɑ]	{ stop top	[ɜː]	{ bird turtle	[n]	{ new funny	[tʃ]	{ cheese pitcher
[æ]	{ sat track	[f]	{ feel if	[ŋ]	{ button kitten	[θ]	{ thin faith
[aʊ]	{ cow now	[g]	{ get frog	[ŋ]	{ bring thing	[u]	{ food blue
[aɪ]	{ bite my	[h]	{ hat who	[o]	{ coat wrote	[ʊ]	{ put look
[b]	{ beet bubble	[i]	{ feet leak	[ɔɪ]	{ spoil boy	[v]	{ save van
[d]	{ dead body	[ɪ]	{ bit hiss	[ɔ]	{ caught yawn	[w]	{ well wind
[ð]	{ that those	[j]	{ yellow you	[p]	{ tip pat	[ʌ]	{ wheel while
[dʒ]	{ jail judge	[k]	{ can keep	[r]	{ rat berry	[z]	{ fuzzy zoo
[e]	{ date sail	[l]	{ lawn yellow	[s]	{ sun fast	[ʒ]	{ pleasure treasure
[ɛ]	{ get set	[l̩]	{ bottle puddle	[ʃ]	{ fish sure	[ʰ]	{ 'water ho'tel
[ə]	{ but nut	[m]	{ family slam	[t]	{ top pot		

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Numerical Entries

10-4 Go to ten-four.

20/20 hindsight Go to twenty-twenty hindsight.

24-7 Go to twenty-four, seven.

404 Go to four-oh-four.

411 Go to four-one-one.

4 real *mod. for real.* ☐ *This is a big problem, 4 real.* ☐ *R U 4 real?*

5-0 Go to five-oh.

773H Go to seven-seven-three-aitch.

86 Go to eighty-six.

A

A-1 AND **A number 1** *mod.* of the highest rating. □ *This steak is really A-1!* □ *I would like to get an A number 1 secretary for a change.*

abbreviated piece of nothing *n.* an insignificant person or thing. □ *Tell that abbreviated piece of nothing to get his tail over here, but fast.* □ *Why don't you drive your abbreviated piece of nothing over to the service station and have a new muffler put on?*

abe *n.* a five-dollar bill. (From the picture of Abraham Lincoln on the bill.) □ *She tipped him an abe for his help.* □ *This wine cost three abes. It had better be good.*

able to cut something *tv.* able to manage or execute something. (Often negative.) □ *Do you think you're able to cut it? He's just not able to cut it.*

(a)bout it *mod.* ready; knowledgeable; cool. (Streets.) □ *Sam is smart. He's really about it.*

abs [æbz] *n.* the abdominal muscles. (Bodybuilding.) □ *Look at the abs on that guy. Like a crossword puzzle.* □ *I do sit-ups to harden my abs.*

absolutely-lutely ['æbsəblədi'lutli] *mod.* absolutely; emphatically. □ *We are absolutely-lutely sick to death of your wishy-washy attitude.*

absotively (posilutely) ['æbsə'tivli 'pəzə'lutli] *mod.* absolutely; decidedly. □ *I will be there at ten, absotively posilutely.* □ *I am absotively exhausted!*

accidentally-on-purpose *mod.* deliberate, but meant to look like an accident. □ *Then I accidentally-on-purpose spilled water on him.* □ *I knew it was done acci-*

dentially-on-purpose. That kind of thing doesn't just happen.

AC-DC AND **AC/DC** *mod.* bisexual. (Initialism.) □ *I didn't realize at first that we were in an AC-DC bar!* □ *Clare said Tom is AC/DC, but I don't believe it.*

ace 1. *mod.* [of persons] best; top-rated. □ *She is an ace reporter with the newspaper.* □ *Frank is an ace swimmer.* **2.** *n.* one dollar. □ *Give me an ace. I have to get some telephone change.* □ *It only costs an ace. Buy two.* **3.** *tv.* to pass a test easily, with an A grade. (See also **ace out**.) □ *Man, I really aced that test.* □ *I knew I wouldn't ace it, but I never thought I'd flunk it!* **4.** *n.* <a nickname for a foolish and ineffectual person.> (Sarcastic. Usually a term of address.) □ *Hey, ace, hand me that monkey wrench—if you know what one is.* □ *Look, ace, you can't expect to fix an engine without getting dirty.* **5.** *tv.* to surpass someone or something; to beat someone or something; to **ace someone out**. □ *The Japanese firm aced the Americans by getting the device onto the shelves first.* □ *Fred aced Tom in the contest for the best beard.*

ace boom-boom AND **ace boon-coon** *n.* one's good and loyal friend. (Black. **Ace boom-coon** is not as common as the first entry and is objected to because of *coon*.) □ *Hey girlfriend, you are my ace boom-boom.* □ *We're ace boon-coons. The best friends there is.*

ace boon-coon Go to **ace boom-boom**

aced 1. *mod.* outmaneuvered; outscored. □ *Rebecca really got aced in the track meet.* □ *"You are aced, sucker!" shouted Rebecca as she passed Martha in the 100-yard sprint.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □

How can anybody be so aced on three beers? □ *I've never seen anybody that aced in my life.*

ace in the hole *n.* something important held in reserve. □ *The twenty-dollar bill I keep in my shoe is my ace in the hole.* □ *Mary's beautiful singing voice was her ace in the hole in case everything else failed.*

ace in(to something) *in.* to happen onto something good; to manage to get into something. □ *I hope I can ace into the afternoon physics class.* □ *I don't know how I aced in. I guess I was just lucky.*

ace out *in.* to be fortunate or lucky. □ *I really aced out on that test in English.*

ace someone out *tv.* to maneuver someone out; to win out over someone. (See also **aced**; **ace**.) □ *I plan to ace you out in the first lap.* □ *Martha aced out Rebecca to win the first place trophy.*

acid *n.* lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). (Drugs.) □ *Acid and pot! That's all you think about.* □ *Freddy got hold of some bad acid and freaked out.*

acid test *n.* a very thorough test. (From a test for determining true gold using acid.) □ *We put your invention through the acid test, and—I am extremely sorry to tell you—it failed miserably.* □ *I'll take this home to my kids and let them give it the acid test. If it survives them, it's a winner.*

action 1. *n.* excitement; activity in general; whatever is happening. □ *This place is dull. I want some action.* □ *How do I find out where the action is in this town?* **2.** *n.* winnings or the booty. (See also **piece (of the action)**.) □ *I did my share of the work, and I want my share of the action.* □ *Just what did you do to earn any of the action?* **3.** *n.* sex; copulation. □ *Paul is over at Martha's house looking for some action.* □ *All those guys are just trying for a little action.* **4.** *n.* illegal activity; commerce in drugs; acts of crime. (Underworld.) □ *You want a fast buck, you get in on that action over on Fourth Street.* □ *Things have been a little slow here, but there's some action on the East Coast.*

activated *mod.* tipsy; alcohol intoxicated. □ *All four of them went out and got a little activated.* □ *Will this stuff get me seriously activated?*

Adam Henry *n.* an AH = asshole, a 'jerk.' (Treated as a name.) □ *Why don't you get some smarts, Adam Henry?*

addict *n.* someone showing a strong preference for something or someone. (A combining form not related to drug addiction.) □ *Sam is a real opera addict. He just loves the stuff.* □ *My uncle is a mystery addict.*

adios muchachos [adi'os mu'tʃatʃos] *tv.* the end; good-bye everyone. (Spanish.) □ *If you step out in front of a car like that again, it's adios muchachos.* □ *I've got a gun aimed at your navel. If you move so much as one muscle, you can just say adios muchachos.*

adobe dollar [ə'dobi 'dələ] *n.* a Mexican peso. □ *How many of these adobe dollars does it take to buy a can of pop here?* □ *One greenback will get you about 2,400 adobe dollars these days.*

AFAIK *phr.* as far as I know. (Acronym. Computers and the Internet.) □ *Everything is ok with the server, AFAIK.*

African golf ball AND **African grape** a watermelon. (Streets. Alludes to an early stereotype of African-Americans being very fond of watermelon.) □ *Gimme a big slice of that African golf ball.* □ *When he said we were having African grapes for dessert, I thought he meant sherbet.*

African grape Go to African golf ball.

Afro AND **fro** *n.* a hairdo, sometimes worn by American blacks, where the hair appears to be a large puffy ball. □ *Man, I thought Afros went out in the sixties!* □ *Where's you get that fat fro?*

ag AND **aggro** *mod.* aggravated = irritated; annoyed. □ *Hey, man. Don't get yourself so aggro!*

aggie ['ægi] **1.** *mod.* agricultural. □ *She spent a year at some aggie college, but didn't like it.* □ *Her aggie interests faded fast.* **2.** *n.* a student of an agricultural (college) training program. (Specifically,

Texas A&M.) □ *More and more aggies are going back for their MBAs.* □ *What kind of a job can an aggie get these days?* **3.** *n.* an agricultural futures contract. (Securities markets. Usually plural.) □ *The March aggies are looking good right now.* □ *Let's take a look at the aggies and see how the bellies are doing.* **4.** *n.* an agate marble or a glass imitation of one. □ *I found the old aggies I played with when I was a kid.* □ *Somebody kiped my prize aggie!*

agree to disagree *in.* to agree to discuss something, but retain one's opinions. □ *We have decided nothing except that we agree to disagree.* □ *The two political parties agreed to disagree in 1971, and that was the last agreeable thing either one of them did.*

AH *n.* an asshole; a really wretched person. (A euphemistic disguise. Also a term of address. Rude and derogatory.) □ *Look here, you goddamn AH! Who the hell do you think you are?*

ahead of the game *mod.* [being] early; having an advantage in a competitive situation; having done more than necessary. (Especially with *get* or *keep*.) □ *Without a car telephone, I find it hard to get ahead of the game.* □ *If being ahead of the game is important to you and to your business, lease a mobile telephone from us.*

A-hole *n.* an asshole, a very stupid or annoying person. (Usually refers to a male. Rude and derogatory.) □ *Tom can be an A-hole before he's had his coffee.*

aim for the sky AND **reach for the sky;** **shoot for the sky** *in.* to aspire to something; to set one's goals high. (See a different sense at **reach for the sky**.) □ *Shoot for the sky, son. Don't settle for second best.*

ain't long enough *phr.* of a sum of money that isn't adequate. (Streets.) □ *I can't go with you. My cash ain't long enough.* □ *This here bankroll ain't long enough to get me much of anything.*

air-bags *n.* the lungs. □ *Fill those air-bags with good Colorado air!*

air ball *n.* a basketball throw that misses everything, especially the basket. □ *Old Fred has become a master with the air ball. The net will never get worn out.*

airbrain Go to **airhead**.

air guitar *n.* an imaginary guitar, played along with real music. □ *Dave stood near the window while his roommate played air guitar in front of the mirror.* □ *Jed, who sees himself as some sort of rock star, plays air guitar when he's happy or sad.*

airhead AND **airbrain** *n.* a stupid person. (Someone with air where there should be brains.) □ *What is that loony airhead doing there on the roof?* □ *Some airbrain put mustard in the ketchup squeezer.*

airheaded *mod.* stupid; giddy. □ *You are the most airheaded twit I have ever met!* □ *That was an airheaded idea if I ever heard one.*

air hose *n.* invisible socks; no socks. □ *All these kids run around campus in air hose. You'd think they'd get blisters.* □ *How do you like my new air hose? One size fits all.*

airish *mod.* [of the weather] chilly or briskly cool. □ *I'm not going out without my jacket. It's too airish.* □ *It's airish enough to freeze the brass off a bald monkey!*

air kiss *n.* a kiss that is placed on the inside of the fingers of one's hand then "blown" to the recipient who is likely to be some distance away. □ *A mass of air kisses drifted down to the wharf from the passengers departing on the huge Titanic.* □ *I want more than an air kiss! Come and kiss me!*

air one's belly *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *What was in that hamburger? I think I've got to air my belly.* □ *That must have been some party. I heard you airing your belly for most of the night, after you got home.*

air one's pores *tv.* to undress oneself; to become naked. □ *I'm fixing to air my pores and take a shower.* □ *Me and Wilbur, that's my brother, both fell in the creek and had to air our pores a while so our pants could dry out.*

airy-fairy *mod.* insubstantial; of wishful thinking. □ *Haven't you outgrown that kind of airy-fairy thinking yet?* □ *I don't care to hear any more of your airy-fairy ideas.*

ak AND **ok** [ɑk] *n.* October. (Securities markets: options and futures trading.) □ *The ak futures are looking worse by the hour.* □ *When the oks expire on Friday, we'll start looking at the dec index.*

alchy AND **alkie**; **alky** ['ælkɪ] **1.** *n.* alcohol; an alcoholic beverage. □ *He showed up with a week's supply of alkies.* □ *The crooks stole most of the alchy from the bar at the club.* **2.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *You see alchy after alchy all up and down Maxwell Street.* □ *Some alkies came in and asked for a quarter.*

alkie Go to alchy.

alkied (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *That old bum looks completely alkied up.*

alky Go to alchy.

alley apple **1.** *n.* a piece of horse manure. (See also **road apple**.) □ *The route of the parade was littered with alley apples after about twenty minutes.* □ *Harry is collecting alley apples for his garden.* **2.** *n.* a brick or stone found in the rubble of the streets. □ *"Drop it!" the cop called to the kid with an alley apple in his hand.* □ *Kelly kicked an alley apple so that it struck a garbage can with a crash.*

all meat and no potatoes Go to all (that) meat and no potatoes.

all-nighter **1.** *n.* something that lasts all night, like a party or study session. □ *After an all-nighter studying, I couldn't keep my eyes open for the test.* □ *Sam invited us to an all-nighter, but we're getting a little old for that kind of thing.* **2.** *n.* a place of business that is open all night. □ *We stopped at an all-nighter for a cup of coffee.* □ *I worked in an all-nighter for a month. I just couldn't keep those hours though.* **3.** *n.* a person who often stays up all night. □ *Fred is an all-nighter. He's not worth much in the mornings though.* □ *I'm no all-nighter. I need my beauty sleep, for sure.*

all over someone like a cheap suit *phr.* pawing and clinging; seductive. (A cheap suit might cling to its wearer.) □ *She must have liked him. She was all over him like a cheap suit.*

all over something *mod.* very fond of something. □ *Jane's really into jazz. I mean she's all over it!* □ *Dave is all over old bikes.*

all right **1.** *interj.* yes; okay. □ *All right. I'll do it.* **2.** *mod.* for sure; for certain. □ *He's the one who said it, all right.* □ *I was there, all right.* **3.** *mod.* okay. (This is hyphenated before a nominal. Slang when used before a nominal.) □ *Wally is an all-right guy.* □ *I'm all right.* □ *We had an all-right time at your party.* **4.** *exclam.* That's good!; Keep it up! (A general expression of approval, often cried out from the audience during a performance or at applause time. Usually **All right!** The right is drawn out and falling in pitch.) □ *After the last drumbeat, the entire audience exploded into a roaring "All right!"* □ *"All right!" cried the crowd when they heard the announcement about the pay increase.*

(all) shook up *mod.* excited; disturbed; upset. □ *She stole my heart, and I'm all shook up.* □ *They were pretty shook up after the accident.*

all that and then some *phr.* everything mentioned and even more. □ *Yes, he brought all that and then some.* □ *Q: Did she say all those terrible things so that everyone could hear her? A: All that and then some.*

all that jazz *n.* all that stuff; all that nonsense. □ *I need some glue, paper, string, and all that jazz, to make a kite.* □ *She told me I was selfish, hateful, rude, ugly, and all that jazz.*

all (that) meat and no potatoes *phr.* said of a tremendously fat person. (A rude catchphrase.) □ *Look at that guy—all meat and no potatoes.* □ *All that meat and no potatoes. She should go on a diet.*

all the way *mod.* with everything on it, as with a hamburger. (See also **go all the way**.) □ *I'd like one double cheeseburger—all the way.* □ *Make mine all the way, too.*

all the way live *mod.* very exciting; excellent. □ *Man, this place is all the way live.*

□ *Oh, Tiffany is just, like, all the way live!*

the **almighty dollar** *n.* the dollar viewed as a symbol of power or greed. □ *You don't care about anything but the almighty dollar.* □ *The world's economy seems to depend on an adequate supply of the almighty dollar.*

alot *mod.* a lot. (A misspelling that is so widely used in Internet news groups as to be considered part of the Internet jargon.) □ *I like that alot, definately alot.*

alphabet soup *n.* initialisms and acronyms in general. □ *The names of these government offices are just alphabet soup.* □ *Just look at the telephone book! You can't find anything because it's filled with alphabet soup.*

Alpha Charlie *n.* a bawling out; a severe scolding. (From AC = ace-chewing.) □ *The cop stopped me and gave me a real Alpha Charlie for speeding.*

ambulance chaser 1. AND **chaser** *n.* a lawyer or entrepreneur who hurries to the scene of an accident to try to get the business of any injured persons. □ *The insurance companies are cracking down on ambulance chasers.* □ *Two minutes after the spectacular wreck, seven chasers with police radios showed up and began harassing the victims.* **2.** *n.* a derogatory term for any lawyer. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *That ambulance chaser is trying to charge me for reaching his office when I called a wrong number!*

Ameche *n.* telephone. (Very old slang. From the name of actor Don Ameche, who starred in the film *The Story of Alexander Graham Bell*, 1939.) □ *Won't somebody please answer the Ameche?*

amigo [ə'migo] *n.* a friend. (Spanish. Also a term of address.) □ *Hey, amigo, let's go somewhere for a drink.*

ammo ['æmo] **1.** *n.* ammunition. □ *There they were, trapped in a foxhole with no ammo, enemy all over the place. What do you think happened?* □ *I don't know. They sent out for ammo, maybe?* **2.** *n.* information or evidence that can be used to

support an argument or a charge. □ *I want to get some ammo on the mayor. I think he's a crook.* □ *Try to keep my traffic tickets a secret. The opposition will use them as ammo in the next election.*

ammunition 1. *n.* toilet tissue. □ *Could somebody help me? We're out of ammunition in here!* □ *The ammunition in Europe is better these days than it used to be.*

2. *n.* liquor. (See also **shot**.) □ *The cowboy walked in, downed a shot, and called for more ammunition.* □ *He's had about all the ammunition he can hold.*

amps *n.* amphetamines. (Drugs.) □ *I never do any drugs except maybe a few amps now and then, and the odd downer, and maybe a little grass on weekends, but nothing really hard.* □ *Paul is on a roller coaster of amps and damps.*

anal applause *n.* the release of intestinal gas. (Jocular.) □ *Who is responsible for this pungent anal applause?*

anchor-clanker *n.* a sailor. (Army.) □ *The bar was suddenly filled with anchor-clankers, and the army guys began looking for a way out.* □ *How can you anchor-clankers stand being cooped up on those cans?*

ancient history *n.* someone or something completely forgotten, especially past romances. (See also **history**.) □ *Bob? I never think about Bob anymore. He's ancient history.* □ *That business about joining the army is ancient history.*

and a half *n.* someone or something greater, more severe, or more intense than normal. □ *This computer problem is a mess and a half!* □ *She is a woman and a half!*

and change *phr.* plus a few cents; plus a few hundredths. (Used in citing a price or other decimal figure to indicate an additional fraction of a full unit.) □ *This one only costs ten bucks and change.* □ *The New York Stock Exchange was up seven points and change for the third broken record this week.*

And how! *exclam.* I agree! □ *I am really excited you are here. And how!* □ **BILL:** *I am*

pleased you are here. BOB: Me, too! And how!

and stuff like that (there) *n.* and other things similar to what was just mentioned. ☐ *Please gather up all the empty bottles, the picnic things, and stuff like that there.*

angel **1.** *n.* a secret financier. ☐ *Who was the angel for your new play? ☐ I was hoping for an angel to see this project through, but all the fat-cats seem to have disappeared.* **2.** *n.* a sweetheart. (Also a term of address.) ☐ *See my angel standing over there? Isn't he gorgeous? ☐ Okay, angel, let's get in the car.* **3.** *n.* a sniper hiding in a high place, such as on the roof of a building. ☐ *The guards looked upward, watching for angels.*

angel dust **AND** **angel hair; dust of angels** *n.* the common name for phencyclidine (PCP). (Originally drugs.) ☐ *Angel dust is getting to be quite a problem in this town. ☐ I thought that angel hair and stuff like that was a problem of the sixties.*

angel hair Go to angel dust.

angle **1.** *n.* selfish motive; ulterior motive. ☐ *Okay, Ted, I know you better than to think that you are doing this out of the kindness of your heart. What's your angle? ☐ I don't have any angle. I have reformed.* **2.** *n.* slant; bias; focus. ☐ *Let's try to get a good angle on this news story so the wire service will buy it from us. ☐ I think that by studying the Maya I will be able to develop a new angle on why they disappeared.*

animal *n.* a male who acts like a beast in terms of manners, cleanliness, or sexual aggressiveness. (Also a term of address.) ☐ *You are an animal! ☐ Stop picking your nose, animal.*

ankle **1.** *n.* an attractive woman or girl. (Typically with *some*.) ☐ *Now, there's some ankle I've never seen around here before. ☐ Do you get ankle like that around here all the time? **2.** *in.* to walk [somewhere]. ☐ *I have to ankle down to the drugstore. ☐ Why should I ankle when I can drive? **3.** *in.* to walk away from one's employment; to leave. (See also **walk**.) ☐**

One more day like this, and I'm gonna ankle. ☐ I didn't fire her. I told her she could ankle if she wanted.

ankle biter Go to rug rat.

annihilated *mod.* very drunk; intoxicated with a drug. ☐ *The boys came in annihilated and their father had plenty to say to them. ☐ Pete and Gary went out and got annihilated.*

another peep (out of you) *n.* another complaint, word, or sound from someone. (Usually in the negative.) ☐ *I don't want to hear another peep out of you! ☐ I've heard enough! Not another peep!*

ante ['ænti] **1.** *n.* an amount of money that must be contributed before playing certain card games such as poker. ☐ *What's the ante to join this game? ☐ That's a pretty high ante. Forget it! **2.** *n.* the charge or cost. ☐ *What's the ante for a used 1985 four-door? ☐ The ante is marked on the sticker.**

anti ['ænti OR 'æntai] **1.** *n.* someone who is against someone or something. ☐ *She's an anti. Don't even ask her. ☐ All the antis are going to vote for it this time. **2.** *mod.* against someone or something. (Sometimes with the force of a preposition.) ☐ *I'm not anti the proposal, I just have some questions. ☐ Four are in favor, and two are anti.**

antifreeze *n.* liquor; any legal or illegal alcohol. ☐ *With enough antifreeze, I can stand the cold. ☐ Here's some antifreeze to stop your teeth from chattering.*

antifreezed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *Man, I feel totally antifreezed. ☐ He appears to be frozen even though he's antifreezed.*

antsy ['æntsi] *mod.* nervous; restless. (See also **have ants in one's pants**.) ☐ *You look a little antsy. What's wrong? ☐ Who is that antsy guy? ☐ She gets antsy before a test.*

Anytime. *interj.* You are welcome.; Happy to oblige. (Sometimes said in response to *Thank you*.) ☐ *MARY: Thanks for the ride. PAUL: Anytime. Think nothing of it. ☐ TOM: You've been a real friend, Sally.*

I can't thank you enough. SALLY: Anytime.

A-OK *mod.* in the best of condition. ☐ *I really feel A-OK.*

ape *n.* a hoodlum or strong-arm man, especially if big and strong. (Underworld.) ☐ *Tell your ape to let me go!* ☐ *You take your apes and get out of here!*

aped [ept] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *I've never seen my brother so totally aped before.* ☐ *He comes home aped about once a month.*

ape hangers *n.* long steering handles on a bicycle or motorcycle. ☐ *Who is that guy riding the bike with ape hangers?* ☐ *Aren't ape hangers sort of dangerous?*

apeshit **1.** *mod.* excited; freaked out. (See also **go apeshit over someone or something**. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *He was really apeshit about that dame.* **2.** *mod.* drunk. (Acting as strangely or comically as an ape.) ☐ *The guy was really apeshit.*

app *n.* an application; a computer software application. ☐ *Ted bought a new app for word-processing and he says it's a killer.* ☐ *Ted's killer app can run circles around your old WordSun program.*

apple **1.** *n.* a baseball. ☐ *Jim slammed the apple over the plate, but the ump called it a ball.* ☐ *Just when I raised my arm to throw to second, the damn apple slipped out of my hand and rolled down my arm. Now, explain that!* **2.** *n.* an Amerindian who behaves more like a European than an Amerindian. (Like the apple, the person is red on the outside and white on the inside. Patterned on **oreo**. See also **banana**. Rude and derogatory.) ☐ *Stop acting like an apple all the time!* ☐ *Sam is your typical apple. Can't decide who he really is.* **3.** *n.* a breast. (Usually plural. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Look at the firm little apples on that girl!*

apple-polisher *n.* a flatterer. ☐ *Doesn't that wimpy apple-polisher know how stupid he looks?* ☐ *Everybody at the office seems to be an apple-polisher but me.*

applesauce *n.* nonsense. ☐ *Don't give me that applesauce. I know better.* ☐ *That's just applesauce!*

arb [arb] *n.* an arbitrageur; a market speculator. (Securities markets.) ☐ *The arbs are at it again, buying up companies like hot cakes.* ☐ *I wanted to be an arb, but it takes about forty million to get in the door.*

Are we away? *interrog.* Shall we go?; Let's go. (Really a command to depart expressed as a question.) ☐ *Well, it's late. Are we away?* ☐ *The car's warmed up. Are we away?*

ark [ark] *n.* an old car. ☐ *Why don't you get rid of that old ark and get something that's easier to park?* ☐ *This ark is the most comfortable car I've ever had. I'll drive it till it falls apart.*

arm *n.* a police officer. (Underworld. See also **long arm of the law**.) ☐ *What'll you do if the arms come in while you're sawing the bars of your cell?* ☐ *So this arm says to me, "Going to a fire?"*

armpit *n.* any undesirable place. (A nickname for an undesirable town or city.) ☐ *Who wants to spend a weekend in an armpit?* ☐ *The town should be called the armpit of the nation.*

arm-twister *n.* someone who uses strong persuasion. ☐ *I hate to seem like an arm-twister, but I really need your help on this project.* ☐ *My aunt works as an arm-twister collecting overdue bills for the telephone company.*

arm-twisting *n.* powerful persuasion. ☐ *The boss is very good at arm-twisting.* ☐ *If nice talk won't work, try a little arm-twisting.*

army brat *n.* a child born to a parent in the army. (Such a child will live in many different places.) ☐ *I was an army brat and went to seven different schools before I got out of high school.* ☐ *We army brats tend to stick together.*

(a)round the bend **1.** *mod.* crazy; beyond sanity. ☐ *I think I'm going around the bend.* ☐ *She sounds like she's round the bend already.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. ☐ *One more of those, and you'll*

be around the bend. □ *From the look in her eye, I'd say she is completely round the bend now.*

artillery **1.** *n.* guns; grenades. (Underworld.) □ *Where does Frank stash the artillery?* □ *All the artillery is locked in the trunk of the getaway car.* **2.** *n.* flatware; cutlery. □ *Who put out the artillery? I didn't get a fork.* □ *Go get your own artillery. This ain't the Ritz.*

[artist] *n.* a combining form meaning *specialist*. See also **booze artist**; **bullshit artist**; **burn artist**; **castor oil artist**; **con artist**; **flimflam artist**; **hype artist**; **make-out artist**; **off artist**; **(rip-)off artist**; **take-off artist**.

artsy-craftsy *mod.* dabbling in arts and crafts; artistic. □ *Wally is sort of artsy-craftsy.* □ *Gary's an artsy-crafty kind of guy with lots of talent.* □ *The artsy-craftsy crowd held a show in the library parking lot last Sunday.*

artsy (fartsy) *mod.* obviously or overly artistic. (Use caution with **fart**.) □ *The decorations were sort of artsy fartsy, but the overall effect was quite nice.* □ *Things are a little artsy fartsy in the south dorm, but most of the residents are really nice.*

(as) close as stink on shit *phr.* very close; intimate; inseparable. □ *In love? He's as close to her as stink on shit.*

As if! *exclam.* <an expression said when someone says something that is not true but wishes that it were.> □ *A: I've got a whole lot of good qualities. B: As if!*

asleep at the switch *mod.* inattentive to duty. (Not literal.) □ *Donald was asleep at the switch when the call came in.* □ *He sat there reading—asleep at the switch as usual.*

asphalt jungle *n.* the paved landscape of the city; the city viewed as a savage place. □ *I don't look forward to spending the rest of my days in an asphalt jungle.* □ *I want to go back to Kansas. I hate the asphalt jungle.*

ass **1.** *n.* the buttocks. (Usually objectionable.) □ *This big monster of a guy threatened to kick me in the ass if I didn't get out*

of the way. **2.** *n.* women considered as sexual gratification. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *All he could think about was getting some ass.* **3.** *n.* one's whole body; oneself. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Your ass is really in trouble!*

asshole **1.** *n.* the opening at the lower end of the large bowel; the anus. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I was so mad I could have kicked him in the asshole.* **2.** *n.* a worthless and annoying person. (Also a term of address. Rude and derogatory.) □ *Somebody get this asshole outa here before I bust in his face!*

ass-kisser AND **ass-licker** *n.* a flatterer; an apple polisher; someone who would do absolutely anything to please someone. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Sally is such an ass-kisser. The teacher must have figured her out by now.*

ass-kissing AND **ass-licking** **1.** *n.* the act of fawning over and flattering people. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *After his show of ass-kissing, Fred thought the judge would let him off with a light fine.* **2.** *n.* pertaining to the act of fawning over and flattering people. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Shut your ass-licking mouth and start talking straight, or I'm gonna bust you one.*

ass-licker Go to **ass-kisser**

ass-licking Go to **ass-kissing**.

ass out *mod.* broke. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I ain't got a cent. I'm ass out, man.*

ass over tit *mod.* [of someone falling] rolling and bounding over. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He fell, ass over tit, down the stairs.*

ass-wipe AND **butt-wipe** **1.** *n.* a useless and annoying person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Get outa here, you ass-wipe!* **2.** *n.* toilet paper. (Usually objectionable.) □ *There's no goddamn ass-wipe left in here!*

astronomical *mod.* extremely expensive; of any very high figure. □ *The prices here are astronomical!* □ *The market indexes have all reached astronomical heights for the second time.*

at a snail's gallop Go to at a snail's pace.

at a snail's pace AND **at a snail's gallop** *mod.* very slowly. □ *Things are moving along at a snail's pace here, but we'll finish on time—have no fear.* □ *Poor old Wally is creeping at a snail's gallop because his car has a flat tire.*

ate up with someone or something *mod.* consumed with someone or something; intrigued by someone or something. □ *Bob is really ate up with his new girlfriend.*

at loose ends *mod.* nervous and anxious; bored with nothing to do. □ *Tom usually works puzzles whenever he's at loose ends.* □ *I'm at loose ends on weekends.*

atomic wedgie *n.* an instance of pulling someone's underpants up very tightly—from the rear—so that the cloth is pulled between the victim's buttocks; a severe **wedgie** or **melvin**. □ *I'm going to sneak up behind Bob and give him an atomic wedgie.*

attic *n.* the head, thought of as the location of one's intellect. □ *She's just got nothing in the attic. That's what's wrong with her.* □ *Ken has an attic full of fear and resentment he needs to clean out before he will feel comfortable again.*

attitude-adjuster *n.* a police officer's nightstick; any club. □ *The officer said he would bring order to the gathering with his attitude-adjuster.* □ *Andy had a black attitude-adjuster hanging from his belt, and I wasn't going to argue with him.*

Aunt Flo *n.* a woman's menstrual period. (Used especially in expressions. See also **visit from Flo**. Refers to the menstrual flow.) □ *I am sorry to announce that Aunt Flo has come for a visit.* □ *It's Aunt Flo again. She is such a pest.*

avenue tank *n.* a bus. □ *Watch out for them avenue tanks when you cross the street.*

the **avs** [ævz] *n.* chance; the law of averages. (Streets.) □ *The avs say that I ought to be dead by now.* □ *It looks like the avs finally caught up with him.*

away 1. *mod.* out (in baseball). □ *Jim put the last one away, and that is three outs retiring the side.* □ *There's one away and two men left on base.* **2.** *mod.* in prison. (Underworld.) □ *My cousin is away for a year.* □ *The judge wanted to put him away for two years, but decided on one instead.*

awesome 1. *exclam.* Great!; Excellent! (Usually **Awesome!** Standard English, but used often in slang.) □ *You own that gorgeous hog? Awesome!* □ *Awesome! I'm impressed.* **2.** *mod.* impressive. □ *Let me have a look at this awesome new box of yours.* □ *That thing is really awesome.*

AWOL [e 'dæb]ju 'o 'el OR 'ewəl] *mod.* absent without leave; escaped from prison or from the military. (Acronym or initialism.) □ *The kid the cops picked up was AWOL. He's had it.* □ *If I don't get back to the base, they're going to think I'm AWOL.*

(Aw) shucks! *exclam.* a mild oath. (Folksy.) □ *Shucks, ma'am. It wasn't anything at all.* □ *Aw shucks, I ain't never been this close to a woman before.*

Aztec two-step *n.* diarrhea, specifically that contracted in Mexico or South America by tourists; **Montezuma's revenge**. □ *I was there for only two days before I was struck down with the Aztec two-step.* □ *I spent a week in Cancun and never even heard of anybody with Aztec two-step.*

B

BA *n.* bare ass; the naked buttocks. (See also **hang a BA (at someone).**) □ *Cover up your BA and see who's at the door.* □ *The guy was running around with his BA showing.*

babe 1. AND **babes** *n.* <a term of endearment for a woman or a man.> (Also a term of address. See also **baby.**) □ *Look, babe, get in there and tackle that guy! We're losing!* □ *Say, babes, bring me a beer, would you?* **2.** *n.* a good-looking woman. □ *Who is that babe standing on the corner over there?* □ *That babe happens to be my sister.*

baboon *n.* a jerk; a stupid person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Stop acting like a baboon! Grow up!* □ *Tell that ugly baboon to get out of here.* □ *Hey, baboon, get off my lawn!*

baby 1. *n.* a lover; one's sweetheart. (Also a term of address.) □ *Come over here and kiss me, baby.* □ *Look, baby, I think we can work this out.* **2.** *n.* a term of address for a friend or pal of either sex. □ *Come on, baby, push this thing—hard!* □ *Hey, baby! Getting any action?* **3.** *n.* a thing; a gadget; a machine, such as a car. (Similar to **sucker.**) □ *This baby is a real bear.* □ *Hand me that baby with the sharp point, will you?* □ *What kind of tranny does that baby have?* **4.** *n.* a project thought of as an offspring. (Always with a possessor.) □ *Whose baby is the Johnson account?* □ *You give the report. This project is your baby.*

baby bear *n.* a beginning highway patrol officer; a **rookie** cop. (Citizens band radio. See also **Smokey (the Bear).**) □ *Some baby bear tried to arrest me for speeding, but I conned him out of it.* □ *He*

may be just a baby bear, but he can still bite hard.

Baby Bell *n.* one of the new, regional telephone companies that were formerly a part of American Telephone and Telegraph Company. (See also **Ma Bell.**) □ *The Baby Bells are doing better than the parent company.* □ *"If the Baby Bells get into long distance service, say good-bye to Ma Bell," the hotshot money manager muttered in his third martini.*

(baby) boomer *n.* someone born during the baby boom—from the last years of World War II until the early 1960s. □ *When the baby boomers get around to saving up for retirement, you're going to see a lot of investment scams.* □ *At about age forty-five the boomers will start putting money away.*

babycakes AND **honeycakes** *n.* <a term of endearment; sweetie; dear.> (Also a term of address.) □ *My babycakes gave me a flimsy nightie for my birthday.* □ *Look, honeycakes, I found some lipstick on your collar.*

baby-kisser *n.* a politician. □ *Once those baby-kissers get in office, they spend, spend, spend.* □ *There were lots of promises at the town square today when four local baby-kissers tried to rally interest in the upcoming election.*

The **baby needs shoes.** *sent.* Give me luck. (Said in games of chance, such as dice or bingo.) □ *He shook the bones, saying, "The baby needs shoes."* □ *All the players in the crap game must be poor, because they kept saying that the baby needs shoes.*

bach (it) Go to ba(t)ch (it).

back *n.* one's support or second in a fight. (From *back-up*.) □ *Fred served as Tom's back in the scuffle.* □ *I need a back I can depend on.*

backassed *mod.* pertaining to a manner that is backwards, awkward, or roundabout. (Old and widely known. Usually objectionable.) □ *Of all the backassed schemes I've ever seen, this one is tops.*

backbone *n.* courage; integrity. □ *If you had any backbone, you would be able to deal with this.* □ *She lacks backbone, that's all.*

backdoor trot(s) *n.* a case of diarrhea. (From the time when people had to go out the backdoor to the outhouse.) □ *I can't go out tonight. I got a case of the backdoor trots.* □ *She gets the backdoor trot when she drinks wine.*

backed up *mod.* drug intoxicated. □ *Oh my God, I am really backed up!* □ *Old Benny's really backed up.*

back-ender Go to *rear-ender*.

backer *n.* a supporter; a financier of a play, political campaign, etc. □ *I had a lot of generous backers for the play.* □ *I was hoping for a backer, but the project was too chancy.*

backfire *in.* to release intestinal gas anally, perhaps audibly. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Whew! Somebody backfired!* □ *It was noisy when Dave backfired, and hardly anyone heard what happened.*

backfire (on someone) *in.* [for a scheme meant to cause harm to someone or something] to harm the person who runs the scheme. □ *I hope this plan doesn't backfire on me.* □ *Her attempt to frame Bill for the crime backfired.*

backhander *n.* a backhand slap in the face. □ *Then she gave me a powerful backhander without even looking to see who I was.* □ *Yes, officer, a perfectly strange woman came up and clobbered me with a backhander that loosened a tooth.*

backlash *n.* the negative response to something. □ *Was there any backlash aimed at your suggestion?* □ *We weren't prepared for the backlash we got.*

back number *n.* an old-fashioned person. (Like an out-of-print issue of a magazine.) □ *Some old back number wearing gaiters wants to have a word with you.* □ *Oh, Dad! You're getting to be such a back number!*

back room *mod.* secret; concealed. □ *I am going to watch for back room deals.* □ *All the candidates were selected in back room meetings.*

back room boys Go to *boys in the back room*.

backseat driver *n.* an annoying passenger who tells the driver how to drive; someone who tells others how to do things. □ *I don't need any backseat driver on this project.* □ *Stop being a backseat driver!*

backside *n.* the buttocks; one's rear. □ *She fell right on her backside.* □ *There is some mustard or something on your backside.*

backslapper *n.* someone who is overly friendly and outgoing. □ *At election time, city hall is filled with backslappers and baby-kissers.* □ *In the used car dealership, this backslapper comes up to me and tells me he's got something that will last me a lifetime.*

back to square one *phr.* back to the beginning. (Often with *go*.) □ *Well, it looks like it's back to square one.* □ *We've got to get this done without going back to square one.*

back to the salt mines *phr.* back to the workplace. □ *Well, it's Monday morning. Back to the salt mines.* □ *Break's over! Back to the salt mines, everybody.*

back up *in.* to refuse to go through with something; to back out (of something). □ *Fred backed up at the last minute, leaving me with twenty pounds of hot dogs.* □ *Don't back up now, man. It's too late.*

bacon *n.* the police; a police officer. (See also *pig*.) □ *Keep an eye out for the bacon.* □ *That bacon is hassling me!*

bad 1. *mod.* powerful; intense. (Streets.) □ *Man, that is really bad music!* □ *This grass is bad!* **2.** *mod.* suitable; excellent; good. (Streets.) □ *I got some new silks that are really bad.* □ *That is a bad man*

dancing there. □ Look at those really bad shoes on that guy.

badass 1. *mod.* tough; bad; belligerent. □ Tom is one badass cop! □ Stop acting like such a badass punk! **2.** *n.* a tough guy; a belligerent and arrogant person, usually a male. □ Don't be such a badass all the time. □ Tom is the classic badass. A real bum.

baddy AND **baddie** ['bædi] *n.* a bad thing or person. □ Using butter is supposed to be a real baddy. □ Marty has become such a baddie that no one speaks to her anymore.

bad egg *n.* a repellent person. □ You're not such a bad egg after all. □ She's a real bad egg.

bad hair day *n.* a bad day in general. (Also used literally when one's inability to do anything with one's hair seems to color the events of the day.) □ I'm sorry I am so glum. This has been a real bad hair day. □ It's just one bad hair day after another.

bad-mouth 1. *tv.* to speak ill of someone or something. (See also **dirty mouth**; **poor-mouth**.) □ I wish you would stop bad-mouthing my car. □ Harry bad-mouths everything he doesn't understand. **2.** *n.* someone who speaks ill of someone or something. □ Harry is such a bad-mouth! □ The world is filled with bad-mouths. We need more caring people.

bad news 1. *n.* the bill for something. □ Here comes the bad news. □ Okay, let's see what the bad news is. **2.** *mod.* unpleasant; unfortunate. □ That poor guy is really bad news. □ It's bad news Freddy on the phone again.

bad paper *n.* bad checks; a bad check. □ She got six months for passing bad paper. □ There is more bad paper passed in this town in one month than in all of Sweden for a whole year!

bad rap 1. *n.* a false criminal charge. (Underworld. The same as **bum rap**.) □ Freddy got stuck with a bad rap. □ All those guys get nothing but bad raps. Nobody's ever guilty. **2.** *n.* unjustified criticism. □ This car has gotten a bad rap, and

I don't know why. □ Butter has been getting sort of a bad rap lately.

bad shit 1. *n.* a bad event; bad luck; evil practices. (Usually objectionable.) □ I had to put up with a lot of bad shit at my last job. Is this one gonna be the same? **2.** *n.* bad drugs; adulterated drugs. (Usually objectionable.) □ Freddy got hold of some bad shit, and he's really sick.

bad trip 1. *n.* a bad experience with a drug. (Drugs.) □ My first trip was a bad trip, and I never took another. □ The guide is supposed to talk you down from a bad trip. **2.** *n.* any bad experience or person. □ This class is a bad trip. □ Harry can be such a bad trip.

bafflegab ['bæf|gæb] *n.* confusing jargon. □ Don't throw that bafflegab at me. Use English. □ Watch out for the bafflegab they use to try to sell that stuff.

bag 1. *tv.* to capture and arrest someone. (See also **bagged**. Underworld.) □ They bagged the robber with the loot still on him. □ We'll be able to bag the alleged killer when we have more evidence. **2.** *n.* an ugly woman. (Rude and derogatory.) □ Tell the old bag to mind her own business. □ She has turned into an absolute bag. **3.** *n.* one's preference; something suited to one's preference. □ My bag is things with whipped cream. □ That kind of stuff is just not my bag. **4.** *tv.* to obtain something. □ I'll try to bag a couple of tickets for you. □ See if you can bag one of the red ones. **5.** *n.* a container of drugs. (Drugs. Not necessarily a real bag.) □ Two bags of H. for two dimes? □ The man flipped a couple of bags out from a little stack he had held under his wrist by a rubber band. **6.** *in.* to die. □ The guy was coughing so hard that I thought he was going to bag right there. **7.** *tv.* to apply a respirator to someone. (Medical. The respirator has a bag attached to hold air.) □ Quick, bag him before he boxes.

bag ass (out of some place) AND **barrel ass (out of some place)**; **bust ass (out of some place)**; **cut ass (out of some place)**; **drag ass (out of some place)**; **haul ass (out of some place)**; **shag ass (out of some place)** *tv.* to hurry away

from some place; to get oneself out of a place in a hurry. (Usually objectionable.)
 □ *I gotta shag ass, Fred. Catch you later.*

bagged 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *How can anybody be so bagged on four beers?* □ *She just sat there and got bagged.*
2. *mod.* arrested. □ *"You are bagged," said the officer, clapping a hand on the suspect's shoulder.* □ *"I'm not bagged yet, copper," said the crook.*

Bag it! 1. *exclam.* Drop dead! (California. See also **Bag your face!**; **Bag that!**) □ *You are not rad, and you are not awesome, so, like, bag it!* □ *Bag it yourself!* **2.** *exclam.* Shut up! □ *Bag it! I'm reading.* □ *Oh, bag it! I've heard enough.*

bagman ['bægmən] **1.** *n.* a tramp. □ *Two old bagmen wandered slowly down the lane.* □ *The bagman asked politely for some work that he would be paid for in food.* **2.** *n.* a drug dealer. (Drugs.) □ *Sam was a bagman for a well-known dealer for a while.* □ *We don't just want the bagman. We want to arrest Mr. Big.* **3.** *n.* any racketeer. □ *Some bagman from the mob was pulled out of the river yesterday.* □ *So you think you and your bagmen can just walk in here and take over!*

bag of bones *n.* an extremely skinny person or animal. □ *I'm just turning into a bag of bones.* □ *Get that old bag of bones off the racetrack!*

bag of wind Go to windbag.

bag on someone *in.* to criticize someone. □ *Stop bagging on me! I'm tired of all your complaining.* □ *If you are going to bag on everyone all the time, I don't want to hear about it.*

bag someone *tv.* to put someone on a respirator. (A medical device, part of which is a rubber bag, used to help someone breathe.) □ *Bag this guy quick. He is struggling to get his breath.*

bag some rays Go to catch some rays.

Bag that! *tv.* Forget that! □ *Bag that! The number I gave you was wrong.* □ *There are four—no, bag that!—six of the red ones and three blue ones.*

Bag your face! *exclam.* Go away! (See also **Bag it!**) □ *You outrage me. Bag your face!* □ *You are in the way. Bag your face!*

Bahama-mama [bə'hɑmə'mɑmə] *n.* an obese black woman. □ *Clare has turned into a real Bahama-mama. She's gonna have to lay off eating so much.* □ *That Bahama-mama who was just in here ordered four chocolate shakes.*

bail (out) *in.* to resign or leave; to get free of someone or something. □ *I can't take any more. I'm going to bail out.* □ *Albert bailed just before he got fired.*

bail (out) on someone *in.* to depart and leave someone behind; to abandon someone. □ *Bob bailed out on me and left me to take all the blame.*

baked 1. *mod.* sunburned. □ *I was out in the sun until I got totally baked.* □ *If you would use some lotion, you wouldn't get so baked.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *All four of them went out and got baked.* □ *I've never seen anybody so baked.*

bald-headed hermit AND **bald-headed mouse; one-eyed pants mouse** *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Somebody said something about the attack of the one-eyed pants mouse, and all the boys howled with laughter.*

bald-headed mouse Go to bald-headed hermit

Baldwin *n.* a male. (As in Alec Baldwin.) □ *Who is that Baldwin I saw you with last night?*

baldy AND **baldie** ['baldi] *n.* a bald-headed man. □ *I'm getting to be an old baldie.* □ *I turned into a baldy in my twenties.*

ball 1. *n.* a wild time at a party; a good time. □ *We really had a ball.* See ya! □ *Your birthday party was a ball!* **2.** *n.* a testicle. (Usually plural. Usually objectionable. See also **balls.**) □ *The teacher preferred "testicles" to "balls," if they had to be mentioned at all.* **3.** *in.* to enjoy oneself. (Ambiguous with the next sense.) □ *The whole crowd was balling and having a fine time.* □ *We balled the whole evening.* **4.** *in.* to depart; to leave. □ *It's late.*

Let's ball. □ *We gotta ball.* **Later.** **5.** *tv. & in.* to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Isn't there anything more to you than balling?* □ *I hear she balled him but good.* **6.** *in.* to play a ball game. □ *Bob's out balling with the guys.* □ *Hey, man! Get your shoes on and let's go ballin'!*

ball and chain *n.* a wife; a girlfriend. (Mostly jocular.) □ *I've got to get home to my ball and chain.* □ *My ball and chain is mad at me.*

ball-breaker AND **ball-buster** **1.** *n.* a difficult task; a difficult or trying situation requiring extremely hard work or effort. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That whole construction job was a real ball-breaker.* **2.** *n.* a hard taskmaster; a hard-to-please boss. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Tom gets a day's work for a day's pay out of his men, but he's no ball-breaker.* **3.** *n.* a female who is threatening to males. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Mrs. Samuels has a terrible reputation as a ball-breaker. Wholly deserved, I might add.*

ball-buster Go to ball-breaker.

ball-busting **1.** *mod.* very difficult or challenging. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Man, that was a real ball-busting job. I hope I never have to do that again.* **2.** *mod.* very obnoxious and threatening. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Who is that ball-busting bitch?* **3.** *mod.* very industrious. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That's a real ball-busting crew working on that job.*

balled up *mod.* confused; mixed up. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ *That dame is so balled up she doesn't know anything.* □ *This is really a balled-up mess you've made.*

baller *n.* an athlete. (One who plays with footballs, basketballs, baseballs, etc.) □ *You will make a lot of money as a professional baller.* □ *Most of the high-paid ballers are out of a job by the age of forty.*

ballhead *n.* an athlete. (Perhaps a stupid one.) □ *My dorm is full of ballheads.* □ *If you want to be a ballhead, you have to have talent and stamina.*

The **ball is in someone's court.** *phr.* to be someone else's move, play, or turn. □ *The ball's in your court now. You do something.* □ *I can't do anything as long as the ball is in John's court.*

ball off Go to beat off.

ball of fire AND **fireball** *n.* an energetic and ambitious person; a go-getter. □ *That guy is a real ball of fire when it comes to sales.* □ *I don't want to hire some young fireball. I need wisdom and thoughtfulness.*

balloons *n.* a woman's breasts, especially large ones. (Usually objectionable.) □ *What fine balloons on Jim's girl!*

ball park estimate AND **ball park figure** *n.* a rough estimate. □ *I can only give you a ball park estimate at this time.* □ *All I need is a ball park figure. Exactness comes later.*

ball park figure Go to ball park estimate.

balls **1.** *n.* the testicles. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He got hit in the balls in the football game.* **2.** *exclam.* an exclamation of disbelief. (Usually an exclamation: **Balls!** Usually objectionable.) □ *Out of gas! Balls! I just filled it up!* **3.** *n.* courage; bravado. (Usually refers to a male, but occasionally used for females. Usually objectionable.) □ *He doesn't have enough balls to do that!*

ball someone or something up *tv.* to mess someone or something up; to put someone or something into a state of confusion. □ *When you interrupted, you balled me up and I lost my place.*

ballsy **1.** *mod.* courageous; daring; foolhardy. (Usually said of a male. Usually objectionable.) □ *Who is that ballsy jerk climbing the side of the building?* **2.** *mod.* aggressive; masculine. (Said of a female, especially a masculine female. Usually objectionable.) □ *You act too ballsy, Lilian. You put people off.*

ball up *in.* to mess up; to make a mess of things. □ *Take your time at this. Go slow and you won't ball up.*

ballyhoo ['bælihu] **1.** *n.* publicity. □ *I have never heard so much ballyhoo for such a*

lousy movie. □ *After the ballyhoo died down, we realized that nothing at all had really changed.* **2.** *tv.* to promote or publicize someone or something. □ *They ballyhooed this movie on television for a month before it came out.* □ *We promise to ballyhoo John at election time.*

balmed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **bombed (out)**; **embalmed**.) □ *Tom was totally balmed and went to bed.* □ *Fred and Wilma went out and got totally balmed.*

balmy **1.** *mod.* crazy; giddy. □ *You are totally balmy if you think I will put up with that stuff.* □ *What a balmy idea!* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She's not just drunk, she's a little balmy.* □ *How can anybody be so balmy on four beers?*

baloney AND **bologna** [bə'lɒni] *n.* nonsense. (Also as an exclamation.) □ *Don't give me all that baloney!* □ *That's just a lot of bologna. Don't believe it for a minute.* □ *Baloney! You're nuts!*

baltic *mod.* cold; very cold. □ *It really looks baltic out there today.*

bamboozle [bæm'buzl] *tv.* to deceive someone; to confuse someone. (See also **bamboozled**.) □ *Don't try to bamboozle me! I know what I want!* □ *The crooks bamboozled the old man out of his life savings.*

bamboozled [bæm'buzld] **1.** *mod.* confused. □ *This stuff sure has me bamboozled.* □ *I don't know who's more bamboozled, you or me.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Collegiate.) □ *She's not just drunk, she's totally bamboozled.* □ *She just sat there and got bamboozled as the dickens.*

bamma *n.* a rural person, such as someone from Alabama; a hick. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Some bamma in a pickup truck nearly ran me off the road.*

banana *n.* an American of East Asian descent who acts too much like a Caucasian. (The person is yellow on the outside and white on the inside. Patterned on **oreo**. See also **apple**. Rude and derogatory.) □ *Stop acting like such a banana!* □ *Dave is the classic banana. Can't quite figure out who he really is.*

banana-head *n.* a stupid person. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Kelly can be such a banana-head!* □ *Ask that banana-head why she is wearing a coat like that in July.*

banana oil *n.* nonsense. □ *That is the silliest banana oil I have ever heard!* □ *I refuse to listen to any more of your childish banana oil.*

banana republic **1.** *n.* a stereotypic small Central American country having continual political turmoil. (Formerly of interest to the U.S. only because it supplied bananas.) □ *This is no banana republic! Things like this aren't supposed to happen here!* □ *If you want to change governments like underwear, maybe you should emigrate to some banana republic.* **2.** *mod.* in turmoil, like a stereotypic small Central American country. □ *Who would think that you would have banana republic politics in your own backyard?* □ *We've had enough of your banana republic tactics!*

bananas **1.** *mod.* crazy. (Often with **go**, see also **go bananas**.) □ *You are driving me bananas!* □ *You were bananas before I ever showed up on the scene.* **2.** *mod.* enthusiastic. □ *The audience was bananas over the new star.* □ *The kids were bananas when they saw their presents.*

B. and B. *mod.* breast and buttock, having to do with entertainment featuring female nudity. □ *There were some picketers in front of the store protesting the sale of B. and B. mags over the counter.* □ *Many movies contain a little B. and B. just to get an R-rating.*

bang **1.** *n.* a bit of excitement; a thrill; some amusement. □ *We got a bang out of your letter.* □ *What a bang the party was!* **2.** *n.* the degree of potency of the alcohol in liquor. □ *This stuff has quite a bang!* □ *The bang is gone from this wine.* **3.** *n.* an injection of a drug; any dose of a drug. (Drugs.) □ *I need a bang pretty fast.* □ *If Albert doesn't have a bang by noon, he gets desperate.* **4.** *tv. & in.* to inject a drug. (Drugs.) □ *They were in the back room banging away.* □ *She banged herself and went on with her work.* **5.** *n.* a drug rush. (Drugs.) □ *One snort and the bang will knock you over.* □ *There was one sudden*

bang and then nothing. **6.** *tv.* to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Did you bang her? Huh? Tell me!* **7.** *n.* an act of copulation. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *One bang was never enough for Wallace T. Jones. He was never satisfied.*

(bang) dead to rights *mod.* in the act; [guilty] without question. ☐ *We caught her dead to rights with the loot still on her.* ☐ *There he was, bang dead to rights with the gun still smoking.*

banger 1. *n.* the front bumper of a vehicle. ☐ *Other than a dent or two in the banger, this buggy's okay.* ☐ *How much for a used banger like this old heap?* **2.** *n.* a hypodermic syringe. (Drugs.) ☐ *Jed dropped his banger and really panicked when it broke.* ☐ *His banger and other stuff were upstairs under a loose board.*

bang for the buck *n.* value for the money spent; excitement for the money spent; the cost-to-benefit ratio. ☐ *I didn't get anywhere near the bang for the buck I expected.* ☐ *How much bang for the buck did you really think you would get from a twelve-year-old car—at any price?*

banging *mod.* good; exciting. ☐ *We had a banging good time at the concert.*

bang in the arm *n.* an injection of narcotics. (Drugs. See also **bang**. Compare this with **shot in the arm**.) ☐ *The guy looked like he needed a bang in the arm right then!* ☐ *One good bang in the arm leads to another, they always say.*

bang-up *mod.* really excellent. ☐ *We had a bang-up time at your bash.* ☐ *I like to throw a bang-up party once or twice a year.* ☐ *Another bang-up day at the factory!*

banjaxed ['bændʒækst] **1.** *mod.* demolished; ruined. ☐ *My car is totally banjaxed. What a mess!* ☐ *Everything I worked for is now banjaxed.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *She just sat there and got banjaxed.* ☐ *All four of them went out and got banjaxed.*

bank 1. *n.* money; ready cash. ☐ *I can't go out with you. No bank.* ☐ *I'm a little low on bank at the moment.* **2.** *n.* a toilet. (Where one makes a deposit.) ☐ *Man,*

where's the bank around here? ☐ *I have to go to the bank and make a deposit.*

banker's hours *n.* short work hours: 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. ☐ *When did you start keeping banker's hours?* ☐ *There aren't many bankers who keep banker's hours these days.*

bankroll 1. *n.* a roll or wad of currency; one's cash assets. ☐ *My bankroll is getting a little low.* ☐ *Don't show that bankroll around here!* **2.** *tv.* to finance something. ☐ *We were hoping to find somebody who would bankroll the project.* ☐ *Wilson Sanderson, famous for bankrolling struggling acting companies, could not be reached for comment.*

barb *n.* a barbiturate; a barbiturate capsule. (Drugs.) ☐ *Old Joey is hooked on barbs.* ☐ *You got a barb I can bum?*

Barbie doll *n.* a pretty, giddy girl or woman. ☐ *She's just a Barbie doll.* ☐ *Ask that little Barbie doll if she wants a drink.*

bare-ass(ed) *mod.* with a naked posterior exposed; totally naked. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *He ran right through the room—totally bare-assed—looking scared as hell.*

barf [barf] **1.** *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. ☐ *I think I'm going to barf!* ☐ *Don't barf here.* **2.** *n.* vomit. ☐ *Is that barf on your shoe?* ☐ *Whatever it is, it looks like barf.* **3.** *in.* [for a computer] to fail to function. ☐ *The whole system barfed about noon, and all the data was lost.* ☐ *My little computer barfs about once a day. Something is wrong.* **4.** **AND** **barfola** [barf'olə] *interj.* dammit; Good grief! (Often **Barfola!**) ☐ *Oh they're late. Barfola!* ☐ *Barfola! You're out of your mind!*

barf bag *n.* a bag available on an airplane for persons who are nauseated. ☐ *I hope I never even have to see anyone use a barf bag.* ☐ *What do they do with used barf bags?*

Barf City *n.* someone or something disgusting or undesirable. (**Barf** = vomit.) ☐ *The guy is gross! Just plain Barf City!* ☐ *The movie was really bad; Barf City, I'd say.*

barfly 1. *n.* a person who frequents bars. □ *Who will trust the word of an old barfly like Wally?* □ *There were only a few of the regular barflies hanging over their drinks when I walked into Mike's place.* **2.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *You're nothing but an old barfly!* □ *Some barfly staggered out of the tavern straight into the side of a car.*

barfola Go to barf.

Barf out! *exclam.* This is awful! (California.) □ *Look at that scrungy wimp! Barf out!* □ *Barf out! Get a life!*

barf-out *n.* an unpleasant person or thing. □ *What a barf-out! I want my money back.* □ *That guy is a real barf-out.*

barf out *in.* to become very upset; to freak out; to psych out. □ *I nearly barfed out when I heard he was coming.*

barf someone out *tv.* to totally disgust someone. □ *God! That kind of music just barfs me out! Who can stand all that slow stuff?*

(bargaining) chip *n.* something to be used in negotiations. □ *I want to use this incident as a bargaining chip in future negotiations.* □ *I need a few chips to use when we get down to drawing up the contract.*

bari AND **bary** ['bæri] *n.* a baritone saxophone, the saxophone with a pitch range approximating that of the human baritone voice. (Musicians.) □ *Wally played the bari when he was in college.* □ *A fine bary will cost thousands of dollars.*

barking spider AND **trumpet spider** *n.* the imaginary source of the sound of an audible release of intestinal gas. □ *Hey, Chuck! Did I hear a barking spider over there?* □ *Heidi, do you know anything about the trumpet spider I keep hearing?*

barnburner *n.* an attention-getting event or development. □ *The current barnburner in Washington is the Wilson investigation.* □ *This is a real barnburner! Everyone will want to see it.*

Barney 1. *n.* the penis, especially if erect. (Usually a nickname. Alludes to color.) □ *Now, put Barney away and let's talk about our relationship.* □ *Barney wants to come out and play.* **2.** *n.* a nerd; a wimp;

an unattractive male. (From the Flintstones character or the children's dinosaur character.) □ *Sam's an old Barney—a real loser.* □ *If you weren't such a Barney, you'd stick up for your own rights.*

barnstorm 1. *tv. & in.* [for an entertainer] to perform in small towns for short engagements. □ *My great-uncle used to barnstorm Kansas and Oklahoma with his medicine show.* □ *He barnstormed for three years before his death.* **2.** *in.* to perform stunts in a biplane in small towns. (Presumably swooping around barns.) □ *When we used to barnstorm, everybody thought we were kooks.* □ *The old biplane we used to barnstorm with is the safest plane ever built.*

barnyard *mod.* smutty; obscene. (Refers to the dung found in barnyards. See also **barnyard language**.) □ *Those barnyard movies belong in the barnyard.* □ *You are thinking barnyard thoughts again. I see it in your eyes.*

barnyard language *n.* dirty language. □ *We don't allow any barnyard language in the house!* □ *I don't care to hear so much barnyard language.*

barracuda *n.* a predatory person, especially a predatory woman. □ *She's a barracuda. Better watch out!* □ *I wouldn't get involved with those barracudas if I were you.*

barrel 1. *tv. & in.* to drink liquor to excess. □ *Those guys are barreling like beer was going out of style.* □ *Stop barreling beer and let's go home.* **2.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *The barrel was full up and through for the evening.* □ *A tired and weepy barrel staggered in and fell into a booth in the corner.* **3.** *in.* to go fast; to speed while driving. □ *He was barreling along at about ninety.* □ *She barreled out of here like a bat out of hell.*

barrel ass *in.* to move or drive carelessly and rapidly. □ *He was barrel assing along at nearly ninety.* □ *I'm gonna barrel ass outa here in just one minute.*

barrel ass (out of some place) Go to bag ass (out of some place).

barreled (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Those guys are really barreled up!* □ *She spends a lot of time barreled.*

barrel fever **1.** *n.* drunkenness. □ *She seems to get barrel fever about once a week.* □ *I think she has figured out what caused her barrel fever.* **2.** *n.* a hangover. □ *Man, have I ever got barrel fever.* □ *That business last night gave me a touch of barrel fever.* **3.** *n.* the delirium tremens. □ *The old man is down with barrel fever again.* □ *The barrel fever hit him in the middle of the night.*

barrel of fun *n.* a tremendous amount of fun. □ *Tracy is just a barrel of fun on dates.* □ *We had a barrel of fun at your party.*

bary Go to bari.

base **1.** *mod.* rude; gross. (California.) □ *You are so, like, base!* □ *What a base creep!* □ *Oh, how base!* **2.** Go to free base.

baseballing Go to free-basing.

base binge [...bindʒ] *n.* a binge on free base, a form of cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *Clare is off on another base binge.* □ *Base binges are very expensive.*

basehead Go to baseman.

baseman AND **basehead** *n.* someone who is using free base, a form of cocaine; someone who is on base. (Drugs.) □ *They say that all those rich guys are basemen.* □ *The baseheads in the dorm finally got caught.* □ *The stuff is so powerful that one whiff and you're a basehead.* □ *Basemen shouldn't drive.*

bash [bæʃ] **1.** *n.* a wild party; a night on the town. □ *What a bash! I'm exhausted!* □ *There's a big bash over at Wally's place.* **2.** *in.* to party; to celebrate. □ *Let's go out and bash, how 'bout it?* □ *No more bashing for me till I recover from last night.*

bashed [bæʃt] **1.** *mod.* crushed; struck. □ *His poor car was bashed beyond recognition.* □ *Give me that bashed one, and I'll straighten it out.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *All four of them went out and got bashed.* □ *I've never seen anybody so bashed.*

bashing *n.* criticizing; defaming. (A combining form that follows the name of the person or thing being criticized.) □ *I am sick of your college-bashing!* □ *I hope*

you'll excuse the broker-bashing, but some of these guys don't play fair. □ *On TV they had a long session of candidate-bashing, and then they read the sports news.*

basing Go to free-basing.

basket *n.* the stomach. (See also bread-basket.) □ *I got a pain in the basket.* □ *You've got a lot of something in your basket. It's huge.*

basket case *n.* a person who is a nervous wreck. (Formerly referred to a person who is totally physically disabled.) □ *After that meeting, I was practically a basket case.* □ *The waiting was so intense that I was a real basket case.*

Basra belly ['bɑsrə 'bɛli] *n.* diarrhea; a case of diarrhea. □ *The Basra belly hit me while I was on the bus.* □ *How do you tell Basra belly from Montezuma's revenge?*

bastard **1.** *n.* a person of illegitimate birth. (Standard English. Considered by some as impolite, at best, except in historical references.) □ *When I learned I was a bastard, I couldn't help but think of all the times I have been called one.* **2.** *n.* an obnoxious and offensive person. (Usually a male. Especially with dirty. Usually objectionable.) □ *You goddamn, stupid bastard! What the hell do you think you are doing? Get your butt out of here—now!*

basted ['bestəd] **1.** *mod.* beaten; harmed. □ *The team got basted three games in a row.* □ *We were really basted in the market crash.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I got totally basted.* □ *I got so basted I vowed never to touch another drop.*

bat **1.** *n.* a drinking bout. □ *She was on a bat that lasted over a week.* □ *What's the longest bat you've ever heard of?* **2.** *n.* a drunkard; a person on a drinking spree. □ *Somebody give that bat a hand before he falls down.* □ *A tired old bat—still waving a bottle—met me on the stairs.*

ba(t)ch (it) [bætʃ...] *tv.* & *in.* to live alone like a bachelor. □ *I tried to bach it for a while, but I got too lonely.* □ *I didn't want to batch, but I had to.*

bathtub scum *n.* a totally despised person. (See also pond scum; shower scum.)

Also a term of address.) □ *Look out, bathtub scum, outa my way!* □ *John is bathtub scum at its worst.*

bats **1.** AND **batty** *mod.* crazy. □ *You're bats!* □ *You are driving me batty!* **2.** AND **batty** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; confused and drunk. □ *The guy was bats—stewed to his ears.* □ *She was sort of batty from the wine.* **3.** the **bats** *n.* the delirium tremens. (Always with *the*.) □ *My buddy is shaking because of a slight case of the bats.* □ *The bats getting you down again, Jed?*

batted **1.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She spends a lot of time battled.* □ *Will this stuff get me battled?* **2.** AND **batted out** *mod.* arrested. (Underworld.) □ *I got battled out on my first day as a booster.* □ *This gal got battled twice last year on the same rap.*

batted out Go to **batted**.

battered *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Man, was I battered. I will never drink another drop.* □ *Those guys really got battered at the party.*

battle-ax ['bædɪ 'æks] *n.* a belligerent (old) woman. (Derogatory.) □ *Tell the old battle-ax she can go straight to blazes.* □ *I can handle any battle-ax. Send her on in.*

battle of the bulge *n.* the attempt to keep one's waistline normal. (Named for a World War II battle.) □ *She appears to have lost the battle of the bulge.* □ *I've been fighting the battle of the bulge ever since I had the baby.*

battleships Go to **gunboats**.

batty Go to **bats**.

bay window *n.* a belly; an abdomen. □ *You are going to have to do something about that bay window.* □ *Your bay window is getting out of hand.*

bazillion [bə'zɪljən] *n.* an indefinite, enormous number. □ *Ernie gave me a bazillion good reasons why he shouldn't do it.* □ *Next year's bazillion-dollar budget should make things even worse.*

bazoo AND **wazoo** **1.** *n.* the human mouth. □ *You want me to punch you in the wa-*

zoo? **2.** *n.* the stomach or belly. □ *His great wazoo hung poised, out over his belt, like it might dive down to the floor and bounce off across the room.* **3.** *n.* the anus; the buttocks. (Jocular and euphemistic.) □ *One more word like that and I'll give you a kick in the wazoo that you'll remember for a long time.*

bazoom(s) *n.* a woman's breasts; the female bosom. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I don't know how it happened, but a whole bowl of jello went down this lady's, uh, bazoom, and we haven't the slightest idea what to do about it!*

bazoongies *n.* a woman's breasts. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Every time she moved forward, even just a little, her bazoongies tended to stay behind, for just a second. Oh, God!*

B-ball *n.* basketball; a basketball. (See also **hoops**; **V-ball**.) □ *Let's go play some B-ball.* □ *Toss me the B-ball, huh?*

BB brain *n.* a stupid person; a person with a brain the size of buckshot. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *What BB brain left the door open?* □ *Look here, BB brain, straighten up and fly right!*

BBL *in.* be back later. (Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *Bye. BBL.* □ *See you. BBL.*

BCNU ['bi'si'ən'ju] *tv.* Be seeing you. (An initialism. Appears in informal written contexts.) □ *Bye for now. BCNU.* □ *Todd always closes his notes with "BCNU."*

beach bum *n.* a young man who frequents beaches. □ *A bronzed beach bum helped me find my lotion.* □ *Some of those beach bums are getting to look sort of old.*

beach bunny *n.* a young woman who frequents beaches. □ *This little beach bunny bounced up and offered to put lotion on me.* □ *They say that most of those beach bunnies have some degree of sun blindness.*

beak **1.** *n.* a nose. □ *What a beak on that guy!* □ *I want some glasses that sit in just the right place on my wonderful beak.* **2.** *in.* to gossip; to chatter. □ *We stood*

around and beaked for a while. □ Stop beaking and get to work.

beam Go to (I-)beam.

beamer *n.* a user of IBM computers; one who is knowledgeable about IBM computers. (See also **beemer**.) □ *I'm no beamer! I'm a Mac fan.* □ *Fred is a confirmed beamer, especially now that computers are cheaper.*

beaming Go to on the beam.

Beam me up, Scotty! *sent.* Get me out of here!; Take me away from this mess! (From the television program *Star Trek*.) □ *This place is really crazy! Beam me up, Scotty!* □ *I've heard enough! Beam me up, Scotty!*

beam up *in.* to die. (From the television program *Star Trek*.) □ *Pete dead? I didn't think he was old enough to beam up.* □ *I was so exhausted after climbing four flights that I was afraid I would beam up.*

bean 1. *n.* the head. □ *I got a bump right here on my bean.* □ *Put your brim on your bean and cruise.* **2.** *tv.* to hit someone on the head. (See also **beanball**.) □ *The lady beamed me with her umbrella.* □ *A board fell off the scaffold and beamed the worker.* **3.** Go to beans.

beanball *n.* a pitched baseball that strikes the batter on the head, usually by accident. (Baseball.) □ *He got hit by a beanball and went after the pitcher with a bat.* □ *The guy is a master at throwing a beanball and living to tell about it.*

bean-counter *n.* a statistician; an accountant. □ *When the bean-counters get finished with the numbers, you won't recognize them.* □ *The bean-counters predict a recession sometime in the next decade.*

beamed up *mod. high* on amphetamines. (Drugs.) □ *Ernie is beamed up again.* □ *Two students were beamed up and were sent home.*

beanery *n.* a cheap eating establishment. (Where baked beans are served.) □ *I stopped in for a cup of brew at a little all-night beanery on Thirty-fourth. Barlowe was waiting.* □ *I'm tired of eating in beaneries.*

bean head 1. *n.* an oaf. (Also as one word.) □ *You are such a bean head!* □ *Why I keep running around with a bean head like you is beyond me.* **2.** *n.* a drug user who uses pills habitually. (Drugs.) □ *You bean heads are just as much junkies as the jerks who shoot.* □ *There's no harm in being a bean head.*

beanpole *n.* a skinny person. □ *I'm getting to be such a beanpole.* □ *I used to be a beanpole. Look at me now—both of me!*

beans 1. *n.* nothing. □ *You act like you don't know beans about it.* □ *I have nothing I can give you. Nothing, zotz, beans!* **2.** *n.* nonsense. (Refers to beans that produce gas, which is **hot air** or nonsense.) □ *Come on, talk straight. No more beans!* □ *Stop feeding me beans.* **3.** *n.* soybean futures contracts. (Securities markets. Usually with *the*.) □ *The beans are headed south.* □ *Buy the jan beans and sell puts on the bellies.* **4.** *n.* money; dollars. □ *No beans left. Can't buy threads.* □ *Gimme some beans. I gotta get some gas.*

bean time *n.* dinnertime. □ *Hey, you guys! It's bean time!* □ *I'm hungry. When's bean time around here?*

Bean Town *n.* Boston, Massachusetts. (From *Boston baked beans*.) □ *I plan to hit Bean Town about noon.* □ *I got a lot of buddies in Bean Town.*

bear 1. *n.* a difficult task. □ *This problem is a real bear.* □ *This is a bear of a job. I'll be glad when it's over.* **2.** *n.* an ugly woman. (Derogatory.) □ *Tell the old bear to hold her tongue.* □ *How can a bear like that be allowed to run around loose?* **3.** *n.* a highway patrol officer. (See also **Smokey (the Bear)**.) □ *There's a bear hiding under that bridge.* □ *A bear is over-head, watching your speed from a helicopter.*

bear cage *n.* a police station. (Citizens band radio.) □ *Have you ever been in a country bear cage?* □ *I sat for two hours in that stinking bear cage.*

bear in the air *n.* a police officer in an airplane or a helicopter. (Citizens band radio.) □ *They've got a bear in the air on duty in northern Indiana.* □ *There's a bear*

in the air and another regular one keeping watch over your speed.

bear trap *n.* a hidden speed trap, one set by a bear. (Citizens band radio.) □ *That whole town is a glorified bear trap.* □ *I got caught in a bear trap.*

beast **1.** *n.* an ugly person. □ *Who is that beast with the big hat?* □ *That beast should give the monkey back its face before it bumps into something.* **2.** *n.* a crude, violent, or sexually aggressive male; an animal. □ *That beast scares the hell out of me.* □ *Oh, Martin, you're such a beast!* **3.** *n.* liquor. □ *I feel a little overcome by the beast.* □ *Pour me some more of that beast.*

beasty *mod.* [of a person] undesirable; yucky. (California.) □ *You are like, so like, beasty!* □ *I can't stand that gross beasty jerk!*

beat **1.** *mod.* exhausted; worn-out. □ *I'm just beat!* □ *The whole family was beat after the game.* **2.** *mod.* down and out; ruined. □ *This thing is beat. I don't want it.* □ *Who wants a beat hat?* **3.** *n.* the area that a worker, a police officer, reporter, etc., is assigned to cover. □ *That's not on my beat. You'll have to talk to someone else.* □ *Your store is on my beat, and I want to make sure everything is okay.* **4.** *n.* [in music] the rhythm, especially the bass. □ *Man, that is just the kind of beat I like.* □ *The notes are nice, but it has no beat!* **5.** *mod.* having to do with the Bohemian youths of the 1950s. □ *My brother looked sort of beat, but I was neat as a pin.* □ *Actually, I don't think I ever saw anybody who I would call beat.* □ *The beat guys are all gone now.* **6.** *mod.* broke. □ *Man, I'm beat. I got no copper, no bread.* □ *All we need is another beat mouth to feed.* **7.** *tv.* to get free from a specific criminal charge or rap. □ *I tried, but I couldn't beat the rap.* □ *I beat it twice, but there is no third time.* **8.** *mod.* having to do with counterfeit or bogus drugs. (Drugs.) □ *This stuff is beat. Ditch it!* □ *Whose ever it is, it's beat.* **9.** *mod.* having to do with marijuana after the smokable substance is exhausted; cashed. □ *This stuff is beat. Who wants it?* □ *Who sold you this beat dope?* **10.** *mod.* lousy; unfortunate. (Col-

legiate.) □ *This has been a beat day.* □ *What a beat deal you got!*

beat box *n.* the person who provides the (verbal) rhythmic beat in a rap song. □ *What makes him sound so good is his beat box.* □ *Let me be the beat box this time.*

beater **1.** *n.* a junky old car. □ *I like my old beater even if it has no bumpers.* □ *I want an old beater that doesn't cost more than 800 bucks.* **2.** Go to **beatnik**.

Beat it! *exclam.* Get out!; Go away! □ *You bother me. Beat it!* □ *Beat it! I've had it with you.*

beatnik AND **beater** ['bitnik AND 'bitɜː] *n.* a member of the Bohemian subculture that flourished in the 1950s. (The *nik* is from Russian via Yiddish.) □ *Those beatniks back in the fifties were something to behold.* □ *This beater comes up to me and mumbles something I can't hear.*

beat off AND **ball off; jack off; jag off; jerk off; pull oneself off; toss off; wack off; wank off; whack off; whank off; whip off** **1.** *in.* to masturbate. (Usually objectionable.) □ *They say if you beat off too much, you'll get pimples.* **2.** *in.* to waste time; to waste one's efforts; to do something inefficiently. □ *The whole lot of them were jacking off rather than sticking to business.*

beat one's brains out (to do something) *tv.* to work hard at a task. □ *I'm tired of beating my brains out to do what you want.* □ *He beat out his brains to get here on time!*

beat one's gums *tv.* to waste time talking a great deal without results. □ *I'm tired of beating my gums about this stuff.* □ *You're just beating your gums. No one is listening.*

beat one's meat Go to **beat the dummy**.

beats me *tv.* [the answer is] not known to me. (The emphasis is on *me*.) □ *I don't know the answer. Beats me!* □ *Beats me how those things stay in the air.*

beat someone or something out *tv.* to outdistance someone or some group; to perform better than someone or some group. □ *We have to beat the other com-*

pany out, and then we'll have the contract.
 ☐ *I beat out Walter in the footrace.*

beat someone's brains out **1.** *tv.* to beat someone severely. ☐ *She threatened to beat my brains out.* ☐ *Those thugs nearly beat his brains out.* **2.** *tv.* to drive oneself hard (to accomplish something). ☐ *I beat my brains out all day to clean this house, and you come in and track up the carpet!* ☐ *Don't beat your brains out. Just give it a good try.*

beat something out *tv.* to type something or play something on the piano. ☐ *It'll just take me a few minutes to beat this out.* ☐ *He beat out a cheery song on the old ivories.*

beat the drum for someone or something *tv.* to promote or support someone or something. ☐ *I spent a lot of time beating the drum for our plans for the future.* ☐ *The senator is only beating the drum for his special interests.*

beat the dummy **AND** **beat the meat; beat one's meat; beat the pup; choke the chicken; pound one's meat; pull one's pud; pull one's wire; whip one's wire; whip the dummy; yank one's strap** *tv.* to masturbate. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Are you going to sit around all day pulling your pud?*

beat the meat Go to beat the dummy.

beat the pup Go to beat the dummy.

beat the shit out of someone **AND** **kick the shit out of someone, knock the shit out of someone** *tv.* to beat someone very hard. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Shut up, or I'll beat the shit out of you!*

beat up *mod.* visibly worn; shabby. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) ☐ *Get your beat-up car painted or something!* ☐ *My coat is too beat up to wear to the opera.*

beauhunk *n.* a good-looking male. (Based on *bohunk*. A play on *beau* = boyfriend, and *hunk*.) ☐ *Who is that gorgeous beauhunk over there?* ☐ *Jennifer went out with a real beauhunk who turned out to be a dipwad.*

beaut [bjut] *n.* someone or something excellent, not necessarily beautiful. ☐ *Man,*

this fishing rod's a beaut! ☐ *This is a beaut of a day!*

beautiful *mod.* very satisfying; excellent. ☐ *This wine is really beautiful!* ☐ *Man, this place is beautiful. You got your own sink and toilet right in the room and good strong bars to keep the riffraff out.*

beauty sleep *n.* sleep; the sleep one requires. (Usually mentioned by nonbeautiful men as a joke.) ☐ *I gotta get home and get my beauty sleep.* ☐ *You really need some beauty sleep. Why don't you try a week of it and see if that works?*

beaver **1.** *n.* the female genitals. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *He thought he could see her beaver through her swimming suit.* **2.** *n.* women considered as receptacles for the penis. (Rude and derogatory.) ☐ *He devoted most of his teen years to dreaming about beaver.*

bed-bunny **1.** *n.* a young female who will copulate with any male. ☐ *Wally says he's looking for a nice warm bed-bunny.* **2.** *n.* a female who enjoys sex immensely. ☐ *Wanda turned out to be a hot bed-bunny even though she had seemed sort of dull.*

bed of roses *n.* a luxurious situation; an easy life. ☐ *Who said life would be a bed of roses?* ☐ *If I had a million bucks, I would be in a bed of roses.*

bedrock **1.** *n.* fundamentals; solid facts. ☐ *Let's get down to bedrock and quit wasting time.* ☐ *This is bedrock—the truth.* **2.** *mod.* fundamental. ☐ *You've been avoiding the bedrock issues all your life.* ☐ *Let's hear some more about these bedrock ideas.*

bedroom eyes *n.* seductive eyes. ☐ *Beware of bedroom eyes. They mean trouble.* ☐ *She batted those bedroom eyes at me, and I knew I was a goner.*

bedtime story Go to fairy tale.

beecher *n.* a man who chews Beechnut (brand) tobacco. (Usually derogatory.) ☐ *Some old beecher wandered in and looked like he was going to leave a remembrance on the floor.* ☐ *The lobby of the county courthouse was populated by beechers and old hound dogs.*

beef 1. *n.* a complaint; a quarrel. □ *I gotta beef against you.* □ *Okay, what's the beef?* **2.** *n.* a criminal charge or complaint. □ *Well, officer, what's the beef?* □ *The beef is that you appear to have left the bank Monday with about seventy-five grand that isn't yours. That's the beef!* **3.** *n.* a large and muscular male. □ *Let's get one of those beefs in here to help.* □ *The two beefs pushed and pushed, but couldn't budge the crate.* **4.** *in.* to complain. □ *Stop your beefing!* □ *What's he beefing about now?* **5.** *in.* to break wind; to release intestinal gas audibly. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Who beefed?* □ *Wally warned everybody that he was going to beef.* **6.** *n.* an act of breaking wind. (Usually objectionable.) □ *All right! Who's beef was that?* □ *Jimmy made another beef!* **7.** *in.* to crack up and get injured as in a skateboard accident. □ *Chuck beefed and wrecked his elbow.* □ *Be careful or you'll beef!*

beefcake 1. *n.* a display of the male physique. (See also **cheesecake**.) □ *There was one calendar showing beefcake rather than the usual cheesecake.* **2.** *n.* a muscularly handsome male. □ *She's been going out with a real beefcake.* □ *I prefer skinny guys to a beefcake.*

beef-head *n.* an oaf; a meathead. □ *Look you beef-head, lay off!* □ *This beef-head here thinks he knows how to do my job.*

beef-hearts *n.* audible releases of intestinal gas through the anus. (Rhyming slang for farts. Usually objectionable.) □ *No more of these beef-hearts!*

beef something up *tv.* to add strength or substance to something. □ *Let's beef this up with a little more on the drums.* □ *They beefed up the offer with another thousand dollars.*

beemer ['bimə:] *n.* a BMW automobile. (See also **beamer**.) □ *I had to sell my beemer when the stock market crashed.* □ *Tiffany's beemer was leased, but no one was supposed to know.*

been around (the block) *phr.* sexually experienced. □ *He's just a kid. He hasn't been around the block yet.*

been had AND was had 1. *phr.* been copulated with; been made pregnant. □ *I've been had, and I'm going to have the baby.* □ *When she said she was had, I didn't know it was on her honeymoon.* **2.** *phr.* been mistreated, cheated, or dealt with badly. (See also **taken**.) □ *Look at this shirt! I was had!* □ *I've been had by that lousy gyp joint.*

beeper *n.* a portable telephone signal. □ *I have somebody call me during a meeting so my beeper will go off and get me out of it.* □ *My beeper went off, and I had to leave the meeting.*

beer 1. *in.* to drink beer. □ *Fred and Tom sat in there watching the game and beer-ing and belching like two old whales.* □ *Let's just sit here and beer for a while.* **2.** *tv.* to get oneself drunk on beer. □ *I beered myself, but good.* □ *Let's go beer a few.*

beer and skittles [...'skɪdɪz] *n.* something very easy to do; an easy time of it. □ *Did you think life was all beer and skittles?* □ *All you want is beer and skittles. Don't you know you have to work hard for what you want?*

beer belly AND beer gut *n.* a large belly. □ *You're going to end up with a real beer belly hanging over your belt if you don't let up on that stuff.* □ *Look at the beer belly on that guy.*

beer blast AND beer bust *n.* a beer-drinking party; a beer binge. □ *Kelly's having a beer blast at his place, starting tonight.* □ *There is a beer bust somewhere around here almost every night.*

beerbong ['bɪrbɒŋ] **1.** *n.* a can of beer prepared for drinking in one gulp. (An opening is made in the bottom of a can of beer. The can, with the opening placed in the mouth, is turned upright, and the tab opener is pulled, releasing all the beer directly into the mouth. In another version, the beer is poured into a funnel attached to a plastic tube that leads to the drinker's mouth.) □ *Do you know how to make a beerbong?* □ *A beerbong is a great way to liven up a party.* **2.** *in.* to drink beer as described in sense 1. □ *Those guys*

who were beerbonging all barfed after it was over. □ I tried beerbonging once, just once.

beer bust Go to beer blast.

beer goggles [...'gaglz] *n.* a condition of the eyes of someone wherein all persons of the opposite sex look very attractive. (Usually said about the eyes of males.) □ Three beers and it's beer goggles for Walter. □ See how Wally is looking at that bowser. He's got his beer goggles on!

beer gut Go to beer belly.

beeswax ['bizwæks] *n.* business; concern. (See also **mind your own beeswax**; **none of someone's beeswax**.) □ Is this any of your beeswax? □ Tend to your own beeswax.

beetle *n.* a Volkswagen automobile. □ We wanted to buy a beetle, but decided on a domestic model. □ I remember when people used to put big windup keys on their beetles to make them look like windup toys.

beetlebrain ['bidlbren] *n.* a stupid person. □ Some beetlebrain left a can of paint in the hall, and guess who knocked it over? □ Why are you such a beetlebrain when it comes to math?

beeveedees Go to BVDs.

beezer ['bizə] *n.* the nose. □ I've got a zit on my beezer. □ I was afraid he would bop me on the beezer.

begathon *n.* a televised appeal for contributions, especially as conducted by U.S. public television stations. □ It seems like this station is one long begathon all year long.

behind *n.* the posterior; the buttocks. □ I've got a boil on the behind that's driving me crazy. □ She needs some jeans that will flatter her behind.

behind bars *mod.* in jail; in prison. □ You belong behind bars, you creep! □ I've got something here that will keep you behind bars for years.

behind the eight ball **1.** *mod.* in trouble; in a weak or losing position. □ I'm behind the eight ball again. □ John spends a lot of time behind the eight ball. **2.** *mod.*

broke. □ Sorry, I'm really behind the eight ball this month. I can't make a contribution. □ I was behind the eight ball again and couldn't make my car payment.

beige [beɪʒ] *mod.* boring; insipid. (California. See also **vanilla**.) □ The party is beige. Let's cruise. □ This day is way beige! Bag it!

be-in *n.* a gathering of hippies. □ A meeting of happy people, yes; a be-in this is not. □ This is just like a sixties be-in. Lots of phony love.

belch [beltʃ] **1.** *in.* to bring up stomach gas. (See also **berp**.) □ They swallow beer by the can and see who can belch the loudest. □ I belched, and everybody stared. **2.** *n.* a burp; an upwards release of stomach gas. □ That was the loudest belch I've ever heard. □ What I really need is a good belch. **3.** *n.* beer, especially bad beer. □ Where did you get this belch? □ Pass the belch. Anything's good on a hot day.

belcher ['beltʃə] **1.** *n.* a beer drinker. □ Look at the belly on that belcher! □ Harry is a confirmed belcher. **2.** *n.* a hard drinker; a drunkard. □ A couple of belchers wandered in about midnight. Other than that, the night is dead. □ I'm a belcher, and I know it.

Believe you me! *exclam.* You should believe me! □ Believe you me, that was some cake! □ This is a fine picnic. Believe you me!

bellies *n.* pork bellies; pork belly futures. (Securities markets. Often with *the*.) □ What are the dec bellies doing? □ Buy the bellies and sell the beans.

bells and whistles *n.* extra, fancy gadgets. □ I like machines with all the bells and whistles. □ All those bells and whistles add to the cost.

bellyache ['beliek] **1.** *n.* a stomachache. □ Oh, mama, do I have a bellyache! □ That stuff will give you one fine bellyache. **2.** *in.* to complain. □ You are always bellyaching! □ Don't bellyache to me about it!

belly button *n.* the navel. □ Is your belly button an insy or an outsy? □ Do dogs have belly buttons?

belly fiddle *n.* a guitar. □ *Listen to that guy play that belly fiddle!*

belly flop **1.** *n.* a failed dive where there is a loud noise when the flat of the stomach hits the water. □ *Wow, I never knew that a belly flop hurts!* □ *A belly flop gets zero points in a dive meet.* **2.** *in.* to dive into the water so that the flat of the stomach hits the water, usually making a loud noise. □ *Sam belly flopped again.* □ *I get so embarrassed when I belly flop!*

bellyful *n.* more than enough; more than one needs. □ *I've had a bellyful of your excuses.* □ *You've given us all a bellyful.* Now, good night.

belly laff Go to **belly laugh**.

belly laugh AND **belly laff** *n.* a loud, deep, uninhibited laugh. □ *I don't want to hear giggles when I tell a joke. I want long belly laughs.* □ *I let out a loud belly laff at the preacher's joke. A no-no, for sure.*

belly up **1.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Sylvia was boiled—belly up—glassy-eyed.* □ *After four beers, I was belly up, for sure.* **2.** *mod.* dead. □ *That's the end. This company is belly up.* (See also **turn belly up**.) □ *After the fire the firm went belly up.* **3.** Go to **belly up (to something)**.

belly up (to something) *in.* to move up to something, often a bar. □ *The man swaggered in and bellied up to the counter and demanded my immediate attention.* □ *As he bellied up, he said, "Do you know who I am?"*

belt **1.** *n.* a blow with the fist or hand. □ *Quiet or I'll give you a belt in the chops.* □ *I got a belt in the gut for my trouble.* **2.** *tv.* to strike someone. □ *Quiet or I'll belt you one!* □ *Don't belt me!* **3.** *n.* a kick or a thrill. □ *We all got quite a belt from your jokes.* □ *Kelly gets a belt from roller coasters.* **4.** *n.* the rush or jolt from an injection of a drug. (Drugs.) □ *This stuff has one hell of a belt.* □ *The belt nearly knocked her over.* **5.** *n.* an injection of a drug. (Drugs.) □ *I could use a belt of smack to hold off the pain.* □ *Gimme a belt in the leg, will you? My arms are finished.* **6.** *n.* a swallow of liquor. □ *He took a belt and rolled it around in his mouth be-*

fore draining it down into his rumbling belly. □ *Three more quick belts and he was ready to sit down and talk.* **7.** *tv.* to drink (something). (See also **belt the grape**.) □ *He belted his drink and asked for another.* □ *Don't belt it! Savor it! Go slowly.*

belted *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *How many belts does it take to get belted?* □ *We were belted out of our minds.*

belt the grape *tv.* to drink wine or liquor heavily and become intoxicated. □ *He has a tendency to belt the grape—twenty-four hours a day.* □ *She's been belting the grape more than she wants.*

Be my guest. *sent.* Please go in front of me.; Please make yourself comfortable in my home. □ *John stood aside at the open door and said to Walter, "Be my guest."* □ *Help yourself to whatever you need. Be my guest.*

bench **1.** *tv.* to take someone out of a ball game. □ *The coach benched Jim, who injured his arm.* □ *If you don't stop fouling, I'll bench you!* **2.** *tv.* to retire someone; to withdraw someone from something. □ *I worked as a bridge painter for twenty-five years until they benched me.* □ *The manager benched the entire sales staff for cheating on their expense reports.*

bench jockey *n.* a player who sits on the bench and calls out advice. □ *The coach told all the bench jockeys to shut up.* □ *Do what you are told, or be a bench jockey for the rest of the season!*

bench warmer *n.* a ballplayer who spends most of the game on the bench waiting to play; a second-rate player. □ *You'll never be anything but a bench warmer.* □ *I do what I'm told so I can play every game. I don't want to be a bench warmer.*

bender **1.** *n.* a drinking binge. (See also **twister**.) □ *Her benders usually last about ten days.* □ *Paul is off on a bender again.* **2.** *n.* a heavy drinker; a drunkard. □ *This bender comes up to me and nearly kills me with his breath, asking for a match.* □ *In the dim light I could make out a few of the regular benders, but Harold wasn't there.*

bend one's elbow AND **bend the elbow;** **lift one's elbow** *tv.* to take a drink of an

alcoholic beverage; to drink alcohol to excess. □ *He's down at the tavern, bending his elbow.* □ *Paul gets lots of exercise. He bends his elbow thirty times a day.*

bend the law *tv.* to cheat a little bit without breaking the law. (Jocular.) □ *I didn't break the law. I just bent the law a little.* □ *Nobody ever got arrested for bending the law.*

benies *n.* benefits. (See also **benny**.) □ *The salary is good, but the benies are almost nonexistent.* □ *Are retirement contributions one of your benies?*

Benjamin AND **Benji** *n.* a one-hundred dollar bill. (Bearing a picture of Benjamin Franklin.) □ *You owe me two Benjamins!*

benny AND **bennie** *n.* a Benzedrine™ capsule or tablet. □ *You got a benny or two you could spare a poor man?* □ *A couple of bennies will chase away the blues.*

bent **1.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *I've never seen two guys so bent.* □ *I can get bent on a glass of wine.* **2.** *mod.* dishonest; crooked. □ *I'm afraid that Paul is a little bent. He cheats on his taxes.* □ *A lot of those officeholders get bent in office—if they weren't before.* **3.** *mod.* angry. □ *He was so bent there was steam coming out of his ears.* □ *Come on, don't get bent. I was only kidding.*

bent out of shape **1.** *mod.* angry; insulted. □ *Man, there is no reason to get so bent out of shape. I didn't mean any harm.* □ *I got bent out of shape because of the way I was treated.* **2.** *n.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *I was so bent out of shape I thought I'd never recover.* □ *I've been polluted, but never as bent out of shape as this.*

benz [benz] **1.** *n.* Benzedrine™. (Drugs.) □ *Benz will pep you up, but you give it all back later.* □ *Stay off the benz. Coffee is enough to perk anybody up.* **2.** AND **Benz** *n.* a Mercedes Benz automobile. □ *I traded in my Benz for a beemer.* □ *My uncle had a Benz that he took back to Germany every two years for service.*

berp AND **burp** **1.** *in.* to bring up stomach gas. (See also **belch**.) □ *She burped quietly behind her hanky, so no one would no-*

tice. □ *Try not to burp at the table.* **2.** *n.* an upward release of stomach gas. □ *The burp did not go unnoticed.* □ *What can you do when you berp in church?*

berps AND **burps** *n.* liquor; beer. (See also **belch**.) □ *Did you bring the berps for the party?* □ *Hey, this is pretty good berps.*

berpwater *n.* beer; ale; champagne. □ *I don't care for all that berpwater.* □ *Berpwater is for sissies.*

berries **1.** the **berries** *n.* the best; the finest. (Always with *the*. A noun with the force of an adjective.) □ *Those people are really the berries.* □ *Man, this stuff is the berries!* **2.** *n.* wine. (Originally black. See also **grape(s)**.) □ *Lemme stop at the liquor store for some berries.* □ *No berries for me. Where's the belch?*

best bud *n.* a best buddy; a best friend. □ *Isn't Bill your best bud? Why are you so mad at him?*

best buy *n.* a sexually loose woman. □ *That chick is a best buy.*

bet one's bottom dollar *tv.* to be very certain of something; to bet in complete certainty of winning. (Need not refer to an actual bet.) □ *I bet my bottom dollar you never ever went to Alaska!* □ *He bet his bottom dollar on that horse, and it died at the gate.*

bet someone dollars to doughnuts *tv.* to bet something of value against something worth considerably less. □ *I bet you dollars to doughnuts that she is on time.* □ *He bet me dollars to doughnuts that it would snow today.*

better half *n.* one's wife, and occasionally, one's husband. □ *My better half disapproved of the movie.* □ *I gotta go home to my better half.*

Better luck next time. *sent.* I wish you luck when you try again. □ *So you goofed up. Better luck next time.* □ *You blew it, you stupid twit. Better luck next time.*

betty **1.** *n.* some fake drugs; a bad drug buy. □ *John's supplier slipped him some betty.* **2.** *n.* a good-looking girl or woman. (Usually **Betty**.) □ *Who's your new Betty, Bob?*

between a rock and a hard place *mod.* in a very difficult position; facing a hard decision. ☐ *You got him caught between a rock and a hard place, for sure.* ☐ *I'm between a rock and a hard place. I don't know what to do.*

between you, me, and the bedpost Go to between you, me, and the lamppost.

between you, me, and the lamppost **AND between you, me, and the bedpost** *phr.* just between you and me. ☐ *Between you, me, and the lamppost, things are going to get worse before they get better.* ☐ *They're worse than you think now, just between you, me, and the bedpost.*

bewottled *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *Sam was so bewottled that he could hardly walk.* ☐ *Garth and Wayne were severely bewottled.*

bezongas *n.* a woman's breasts. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *I've never seen so many definitely fine bezongas all in one place at the same time.*

BF *n.* best friend. (Initialism. Collegiate.) ☐ *You would have thought you and she were BFs to hear her talk.* ☐ *Sharon is my BF.*

BFD *exclam.* Big fucking deal!; So what? (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *So, you've got serious money problems. BFD!*

BFE Go to butt-fucking Egypt

BG *interj.* big grin. (An initialism used in computer forum or news groups to show that the writer is joking or happy. Not pronounced. Often enclosed, <BG>.) ☐ *I haven't seen you on the board. I thought you had run away from home. <BG>* ☐ *Your last message was filled with misspelled words, but I think I could understand what you meant. <BG>*

bhang [bæŋ OR bɑŋ] **1.** *n.* the marijuana plant. (Drugs. From Hindi.) ☐ *Martha grows bhang in a pot in her room.* ☐ *She farms bhang for her own use.* **2.** *n.* a marijuana cigarette; the smoking of a marijuana cigarette. ☐ *Max had to stop for a bhang.* ☐ *The kids found an old bhang in Fred's car.*

bhang ganjah [bæŋ 'gændʒə OR bɑŋ 'gundʒə] *n.* marijuana; marijuana resin.

(Drugs.) ☐ *It's the bhang ganjah that gives the stuff its kick.* ☐ *Can you get bhang ganjah by itself?*

bhong Go to bong.

bi **1.** *n.* the biceps. (Typically **BI**. Usually plural.) ☐ *I have to work on my BIs and then build up my thighs.* **2.** *mod.* bisexual. ☐ *Suddenly she suspected that she was getting involved in some sort of strange bi activities.* **3.** *n.* a bisexual person. ☐ *This information is of interest only to bis and gays.*

bicarb ['baɪkɑrb] *n.* bicarbonate of soda, used for an upset stomach. ☐ *I sure could use a little bicarb after that chili she served.* ☐ *I can't stand that sweet-tasting stuff. I want bicarb.*

biff [bɪf] **1.** *tv.* to hit someone. ☐ *Tom biffed Fred on the snoot.* ☐ *Fred got biffed, and that really made him mad.* **2.** *n.* a blow. ☐ *The biff on the nose gave Fred a nosebleed.* ☐ *Tom got a biff in the gut for his trouble.*

biffy ['bɪfi] *n.* a toilet. ☐ *Where's the biffy?* ☐ *The house we toured has a pink biffy. Can you believe it?*

the **Big Apple** *n.* New York City. ☐ *The Big Apple is filled with young kids trying to get into show biz.* ☐ *Max and his gang went to the Big Apple to lie low for a while.*

big-ass *mod.* really big. ☐ *Did you see that big-ass SUV hit the little Honda?* ☐ *Shut up your big-ass mouth!*

bigass **1.** *n.* a person with very large buttocks. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Some bigass came in and broke the chair when he sat down.* **2.** *mod.* pertaining to someone who has very large buttocks. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Tell that bigass jerk to get out!* **3.** *mod.* pertaining to a person who is self-important, overbearing, or arrogant; pertaining to anything having to do with arrogance. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Take your bigass ideas and go back where you came from.*

big blue *n.* the stock of International Business Machines or the company itself. (Securities markets. See also (I-)beam.) ☐ *I have 400 shares of big blue that I would*

like to sell. □ *Big blue led the market lower again today.*

big board *n.* the New York Stock Exchange. (Securities markets.) □ *On the big board, stocks were down again today, bringing the loss this week on the Dow to nearly 175 points.* □ *Is that stock on the big board or where?*

big brother **1.** *n.* a personification of the totalitarian state. (From George Orwell's 1984.) □ *Big brother has changed the tax laws again.* □ *Now big brother has fixed it so you can't even baby-sit without paying taxes.* **2.** *n.* someone who personifies the totalitarian state: the police, parents, teachers. □ *Old big brother grounded me for a week.* □ *Big brother says the paper is due tomorrow, or else.*

big bucks *n.* a lot of money. (See also **megabucks**.) □ *To me, \$400 is big bucks.* □ *She gets paid big bucks to worry about stuff like that.*

big-C. **1.** *n.* cancer. (Usually with *the*.) □ *She was struck with the big-C.* □ *The big-C. will finish off quite a few of us.* **2.** *n.* cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *When she started taking big-C., she was only eight.* □ *They use kids to deliver big-C. because they know they're not going to get put in prison.*

big cheese *n.* the boss; the key figure; the leader. □ *Here's a note from the big cheese telling me to come in for a chat.* □ *The big cheese is giving everyone a bonus at the end of the year.*

big-D. *n.* Dallas, Texas. □ *Kelly is from big-D.* □ *What is big-D. famous for?*

big deal **1.** *n.* something really important. □ *Don't make such a big deal out of it!* □ *This isn't a big deal as I see it.* **2.** *exclam.* So what!; What does it matter? (Usually **Big deal!**) □ *So he snores! Big deal! Snore back!* □ *She says to me, "Your socks don't match." And I says back, "Big deal!"*

big drink *n.* the Atlantic Ocean; an ocean. □ *We flew over the big drink in an hour or two.* □ *When you're over the big drink you really get to feel how tiny we humans are.*

big drink of water **1.** *n.* a very tall person. (Folksy.) □ *Tim is sure a big drink of water.* □ *Kelly grew into a big drink of water.* **2.** *n.* a boring person or thing. (A pun on *hard to take*.) □ *She is a big drink of water, but she could be worse.* □ *The lecture was a big drink of water.*

big enchilada [...entʃə'lədə] *n.* the boss; the leader. (See also **big cheese**.) □ *I wanna see the big enchilada!* □ *The big enchilada has sent word that it's safe to return.*

big fish *n.* the boss; the leader. (Underworld.) □ *We took in the little guys, but the big fish got away.* □ *The big fish ordered the killing.*

biggie **1.** *n.* something or someone important. □ *This one's a biggie. Treat him well.* □ *As problems go, this one's a biggie.* **2.** *n.* copulation. (Usually with *the*.) □ *But I don't think I'm ready for the biggie.* □ *He wanted to do the biggie!*

biggity ['bɪɡədi] *mod.* haughty; aloof. □ *Kelly is too biggity for my taste.* □ *Who is that biggity guy with the mustache?*

big gun *n.* an important and powerful person, such as an officer of a company. (Often with *bring in* as in the example.) □ *It went up to the big guns, who said no immediately.* □ *I knew they would bring in the big guns at the last minute.*

big-H. *n.* heroin. (Drugs.) □ *She's on big-H. now. Soon she'll be hooked for good.* □ *The big-H. in this town is so watered down, you can joy pop for years and never get hooked.*

bighead *n.* a headache and other ill effects from drinking. □ *I got a case of the big-head. Too much soda in my drinks, I guess.* □ *You look like you have the bighead this morning.*

bigheaded **1.** *mod.* conceited. □ *Now don't get bigheaded, but you are a top drummer in my book.* □ *Look at him swagger. He is so bigheaded.* □ *What a bigheaded jerk!* **2.** *mod.* having a hangover. □ *Tiffany is a little bigheaded this morning.* □ *I feel sort of bigheaded.*

the **big house** *n.* a state or federal penitentiary. □ *It's either go straight now or spend the rest of your life in the big house.* □ *Two years in the big house is like two years in a custom-made hell.*

big iron *n.* a large, mainframe computer. (Computers. See also **iron**.) □ *We'll have to run this job on the big iron over at the university.* □ *What kind of big iron do they have over there?*

big John *n.* the police; a police officer. □ *Big John is going to have to deal with you.* □ *Big John took her in and hit her with a vice rap.*

big juice *n.* a big-time crook. (See also **juice**.) □ *Marty's big juice now that he's got himself a gang.* □ *So, you're the big juice around here.*

big kahuna *n.* the important person; the knowledgeable authority on some matter. (From the Hawaiian word for "priest." Sometimes capitalized.) □ *Joe is the big kahuna around here when it comes to predicting stock market prices.* □ *Here comes the big kahuna. He thinks he knows everything.*

big league **1.** *n.* a situation where competition is keen and a high level of performance is expected. (Usually plural. Referred originally to major league sports.) □ *In the big leagues you've got to know what you're worth.* □ *You're in the big leagues now—no more penny-ante stuff.* **2.** AND **big-league** *mod.* professional; **big time.** (From baseball.) □ *He works for one of the big-league accounting firms.* □ *When I'm a big-league star, I'll send you free tickets.*

Big Mac attack *n.* a sudden and desperate need for a Big Mac sandwich, a product of the McDonald's restaurant chain. (Big Mac is a protected trade name of McDonald's.) □ *I feel a Big Mac attack coming on!* □ *I just can't fight off a Big Mac attack.*

big man on campus *n.* an important male college student. (See more examples at **BMOC**.) □ *Hank acts like such a big man on campus.* □ *Let some big man on campus do the dirty work for a change.*

big mouth **1.** *n.* a person who talks too much or too loudly; someone who tells secrets. (Also a term of address.) □ *Okay, big mouth! Shut up!* □ *Tell that big mouth to shut up.* **2.** *tv.* to spread secrets around. □ *Why do you always have to big mouth everything around?* □ *Don't you big mouth this, but I'm going to have a baby.*

big name **1.** *n.* a famous and important person. □ *Lots of big names were there lending their support to the cause.* □ *One of the big names invited for the event canceled out at the last minute.* **2.** AND **big-name** *mod.* famous; important. □ *Some big-name star I've never heard of was there pretending to serve dinner.* □ *The big-name ballplayers make millions.*

big noise **1.** *n.* an important person. □ *If you're such a big noise, why don't you get this line moving?* □ *She's the big noise in Washington right now.* **2.** *n.* the important current news; the current scandal. □ *What's the big noise around town now?* □ *There's a big noise up on Capitol Hill. Something about budget cuts.*

big-O. *n.* opium. □ *The big-O. is making a comeback, I hear.* □ *Most of the users of big-O. died out thirty years ago.*

big of someone **1.** *mod.* magnanimous of someone. □ *That is really big of you, Fred.* □ *It was big of Tom to come back and apologize.* **2.** *mod.* nice of someone. (Often sarcastic.) □ *A whole pound. Wow, that is really big of you!* □ *Three daisies he gave me! "Oh, that's big of you!" I said, batting my eyes.*

big shot AND **bigshot** **1.** *n.* a very important person. □ *So, you really think you're a big shot.* □ *I'm no big shot, but I do have a little power around here.* **2.** *mod.* mighty; overbearing; overly-important. □ *If you think that a big shot title impresses me, you're wrong.* □ *Your bigshot ideas are getting us nowhere.*

big spender *n.* someone who spends a lot of money. (Often sarcastic.) □ *The big spender left me a whole quarter tip!* □ *It's the big spenders who get themselves into money trouble.*

big stink *n.* a major issue; a scandal; a big argument. □ *There was a big stink made about my absence.* □ *Don't make such a big stink about it.*

big talk **1.** *n.* boasting; exaggerated claims. □ *No more big talk. I want action!* □ *I heard nothing but big talk since you got here.* **2.** *tv.* to boss other people around. □ *Don't big talk me. I know who you are.* □ *She came in and big talked everybody, and we just naturally thought she was the owner.*

big-ticket *mod.* having to do with something expensive. □ *Will the government cut back on the big-ticket programs?* □ *In a survey taken last month, heads of families said they were unwilling to put big-ticket items at the bottom of their shopping lists.*

big time **1.** *n.* the high level of success. □ *I've finally reached the big time!* □ *When the pressure in the big time got to be too much, the guy simply retired.* **2.** **AND** **big-time** *mod.* outstanding; extravagant. □ *This is one of your real big-time stars.* □ *I can't stand any more of this big-time living.* **3.** **AND** **big-time** *mod.* felonious. (Underworld.) □ *Frank is into big-time stuff now.* □ *The gang pulled a real big-time job and got away with it.*

big-time operator **AND** **BTO** **1.** *n.* someone who does business in a big way. (The abbreviation is an initialism.) □ *If you're such a BTO, why are we standing here in the rain?* □ *He's no big-time operator!* **2.** *n.* a man who chases women. □ *This big-time operator comes up and asks me to go home with him.* □ *That twit thinks he's a big-time operator. A stud he's not.*

big-time spender *n.* someone who spends a lot of money. □ *Martin is the original big-time spender.* □ *A big-time spender doesn't look at the prices on the menu.*

big top **1.** *n.* a circus tent; the circus, in general. □ *The best acts take place under the big top.* □ *And now, one of the greatest acts under the big top.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with the circus. □ *Big top life doesn't appeal to me at all.* □ *One big top experience is enough to last me a lifetime.*

big wheel *n.* a very important person. □ *Some big wheel wrote the order. Don't blame me.* □ *Kelly was a big wheel with the gas company for a while.*

bigwig *n.* an important person; a self-important person. □ *The bigwig in charge of that sort of thing will be in tomorrow.* □ *Some bigwig in a pinstripe suit waltzed through and asked me to leave.*

big with someone *mod.* preferred by someone. □ *Soup is big with everybody in cold weather.* □ *This kind of ice cream is really big with my family.*

big Z's *n.* sleep. □ *I need me some of them big Z's.* □ *The big Z's must have set in before I could finish the movie.*

bike *n.* a motorcycle; a bicycle. □ *How much did that bike set you back?* □ *You have to wear a helmet with a bike that size, don't you?*

bike boys *n.* cops; the police. □ *Look out! Here come the bike boys.*

biker *n.* a motorcycle rider. □ *Four bikers roared by and woke up the baby.* □ *That biker is wearing about a dozen earrings.*

bill and coo *in.* to kiss and cuddle. (In the manner of love birds.) □ *Keep an eye on those kids. They aren't going to be satisfied with billing and cooing forever, you know.* □ *If they bill and coo enough now, maybe they will remember how when they're older.*

billie **AND** **bill(y)** ['bɪli] *n.* paper money; a bill. (California.) □ *Do you have any billies on you?* □ *Nope, no billies on me.*

bimbo ['bɪmbə] **1.** *n.* a clown-like person. □ *What a silly bimbo!* □ *If that bimbo doesn't keep quiet, I'll bop him.* **2.** *n.* a giddy woman; a sexually loose woman. □ *So she's a bimbo. She still has rights. Have a heart!* □ *Now the bimbo is a star in the movies.*

bind *n.* a problem; a wrinkle. □ *I've got a little bind here I didn't anticipate.* □ *Unfortunately, a new bind has slowed down the project.*

bindle **1.** *n.* a packet or bundle; a hobo's pack. □ *The guy had a bindle tied to a*

stick, just like an old-time tramp. □ *Throw your bindle over yonder, and plunk your butt on that empty crate.* **2.** *n.* a packet of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *She had a bindle of H. in her purse.* □ *That bindle was more important than money.*

binge [bɪndʒ] **1.** *n.* a drinking or drugging spree. □ *Larry is the type who likes a good binge every now and then.* □ *A coke binge can cost a lot of cabbage.* **2.** *n.* any spree of self-indulgence: emotional, gluttonous, etc. □ *About Thanksgiving time I start a month-long eating binge.* □ *The crying binge started when Marty got off the train.* **3.** *in.* to drink heavily. □ *He has been binging since June.* □ *She binges about once a month and is stone-cold sober the rest of the time.*

binged ['bɪndʒd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She sat there, binged out of her mind.* □ *I'm gonna go out and get myself binged, but good.*

Bingo! ['bɪŋɡo] *exclam.* Yes!; That's right! (From the game Bingo.) □ *Bingo! I've got the answer!* □ *And we put this little jobber here, another one here, and Bingo! We're done.*

bird 1. *n.* a woman; a girl. □ *I like the bird you were with last night.* □ *What a bird! I want one.* **2.** *n.* a derisive noise made with the lips; a raspberry. □ *The third time he fumbled, he was greeted by two thousand mouths making the bird.* □ *You guys making the bird aren't perfect either.* **3.** *n.* an odd person. □ *Some old bird came up to me and tried to sell me a cookbook.* □ *This bird is too much for me. I'm leaving.* **4.** *n.* a rude gesture made with the middle finger. (Usually with *the*. See comments at **finger wave**.) □ *The kid gave me the bird, so I bopped him.* □ *A lot of little kids give people the bird all the time because they see it on television.* **5.** *n.* an airplane. □ *I like this bird. She's a dream to fly.* □ *The bird crashed on take-off.* **6.** *n.* one-hundred dollars. □ *This thing cost three birds! Bull!* □ *Can you loan me a bird?*

birdbrain 1. *n.* a stupid-acting person. □ *You silly birdbrain. Stop it!* □ *I'm such a birdbrain. I forgot my driver's license, of-*

ficer. **2.** *AND* **birdbrained** *mod.* stupid. □ *I've never heard such a birdbrain idea in my life.* □ *Look, you birdbrained idiot, you are dead wrong!*

birdbrained Go to **birdbrain**.

bird-dog 1. *tv.* to take away another man's girlfriend. □ *Why'd you have to go and bird-dog me, your best buddy?* □ *I didn't bird-dog you. I'm just more loveable, that's all.* **2.** *tv.* to supervise someone; to tail someone. □ *I wish you would stop bird-dogging me!* □ *Barlowe knew somebody was bird-dogging him, but he was too smart to show it.*

birdseed 1. *n.* a small amount of money. (See also **chicken feed**.) □ *That's just birdseed compared to what I spend.* □ *Forty billion is birdseed to a government with a 600 billion dollar budget.* **2.** *n.* nonsense. (Based on **BS**.) □ *Cut the birdseed. I'm not stupid, you know.* □ *I've heard enough birdseed here to last for a lifetime.*

birdturd 1. *n.* an obnoxious person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *You silly birdturd. Wake up!* □ *Clare can be such a birdturd when she wants.* **2.** *mod.* stupid; obnoxious. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Of all the stupid, underhanded, birdturd tricks—this takes the cake!* □ *Get your ugly birdturd car out of my driveway!* **3.** *n.* bird dung, especially if dried. (Usually objectionable.) □ *There's a birdturd on your shoe.* **4.** *mod.* lousy; worthless. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I don't want this birdturd job any longer. I quit!*

bird watcher *n.* a girl watcher; someone, usually a man, who enjoys watching women go by. □ *Harry is a dedicated bird watcher.* □ *You bird watchers should just mind your own business.*

birdy *AND* **birdie** *mod.* crazy; strange. □ *She acts a little birdy from time to time.* □ *Would you kindly take your birdie friends and go?*

biscuit ['bɪskət] *n.* the head. □ *She got a nasty little bump on the biscuit.* □ *He wears a tin can on his biscuit in case he tumbles.*

bit 1. *n.* a jail sentence. (Underworld.) □ *I did a two-year bit in Sing Sing.* □ *He got*

only a four-year bit. He was afraid of getting worse. **2. n.** a small theatrical part. (From *bit part*.) □ *I worked in bits for a year and then started selling used cars.* □ *It was just a bit, but I needed the money.* **3. n.** any part of an act; any business or presentation. □ *I didn't like that bit concerning penalties.* □ *Now, in this next bit, you are to move stage center.*

bit-bucket n. the imaginary place where lost computer data goes. (Computers.) □ *I guess my data went into the bit-bucket.* □ *I bet the bit-bucket is filled with some of the best stuff in the world.*

bitch 1. n. an unpleasant or irritating female. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *How can anyone be expected to deal with a bitch like that?* **2. in.** to complain. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Oh, stop bitching! I'm sick of hearing your noise.* **3. n.** a complaint. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I've got a bitch about this new foreman.* **4. n.** a difficult thing or person. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Life's a bitch.* □ *This algebra problem is a real bitch.* **5. tv.** to ruin something. (Usually objectionable. See also **bitch something up**.) □ *You really bitched this coil of wire.* □ *Here's a clean one. Don't bitch it.* **6. n.** one's girlfriend. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She's my bitch, and I love her.* □ *Me and my bitch really like this kind of stuff.*

bitch box n. a public address system loudspeaker. (Military. Because it is always nagging.) □ *I'm sick of listening to that bitch box day and night.*

bitchen Go to *bitchin'*.

bitchin' AND bitchen; bitching 1. mod. excellent; great; classy. (Usually objectionable.) □ *This is a totally bitchin' pair of jeans!* **2. exclam.** Terrific! (Usually **Bitchin'!**) □ *Four of them? Bitchen!*

bitch of a someone or something n. a very difficult or unpleasant person or thing. (Usually objectionable.) □ *This is a bitch of a math problem!*

bitch out in. to complain. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You are always bitching out no matter how well off you are.*

bitch session n. a session of complaining; an informal gripe session. (See also **bitch**. Usually objectionable.) □ *We were just having a bitch session. Come on in.*

bitch slammer n. a women's prison. (Streets.) □ *They threw her in the bitch slammer for three years.* □ *She's meaner than a screw in a bitch slammer.*

bitch someone off tv. to make someone very angry. (See also **piss someone off**. Usually objectionable.) □ *You know what bitches me off? Soggy French fries, that's what!*

bitch something up tv. to mess something up; to ruin or spoil something. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The rain really bitched up our picnic.*

bitch tits n. gynecomastia; the development of breast tissue in the male. (From bodybuilding, in reference to breast development caused by steroids. Usually objectionable.) □ *If you don't let up on the gorilla juice, you'll get bitch tits.*

bitchy mod. irritable; complaining. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Why are you so bitchy today?*

bite 1. in. to accept a deception; to fall for something; to respond to a come-on. □ *I knew somebody would bite.* □ *We put up a sign advertising free pop, but nobody bit.* **2. in.** [for someone or something] to be bad or threatening. □ *Watch out for Gloria. She bites!* □ *My dad bites, but don't worry, he's in a good mood.* **3. in.** to be irritating. (More severe than to **suck**, as in *It sucks*.) □ *This movie is really dumb. It bites.* □ *This party bites. Sko.* **4. tv.** to copy something without permission; to steal something. □ *Sue bit a copy of my term paper, and I almost got in trouble.* □ *Somebody bit my jacket!*

bite on someone in. to copy something that someone else has done; to dress the same way someone else does. □ *Nobody will bite on Sally. She has terrible taste.* □ *Jennifer is always biting on Anne, who is a careful dresser.*

biter 1. n. a thief. (See also **bite**.) □ *Some biter made off with my algebra book.* □ *Who's the biter who took my jacket?* **2. n.**

someone who copies someone else. (From the first sense.) □ *She's wearing the same coat as me! What a biter.* □ *That's my steelo, you biter!*

biters *n.* teeth. (Streets.) □ *You wanna get socked in the biters?* □ *Jimmy got his biters stuck in the candy!*

bite the big one *tv.* to die. □ *I was so tired that I thought I was going to bite the big one.* □ *I hope I am old and gray when I bite the big one.*

bite the bullet *tv.* to accept something difficult and try to live with it. □ *You are just going to have to bite the bullet and make the best of it.* □ *Jim bit the bullet and accepted what he knew had to be.*

bite the dust **1.** *tv.* to die. □ *A shot rang out, and another cowboy bit the dust.* □ *I'm too young to bite the dust.* **2.** *tv.* to break; to fail; to give out. □ *My car finally bit the dust.* □ *This pen has bitten the dust.*

Bite the ice! *exclam.* Go to hell! □ *If that's what you think, you can just bite the ice!* □ *Get a life! Bite the ice!*

Bite your tongue! *exclam.* Be sorry you said that!; Take back what you said! □ *Me a thief? Oh, bite your tongue!* □ *Why do you say that this will fail? Bite your tongue!*

a bit much *mod.* more than enough; more than good taste allows. □ *That was a bit much, Paul. After all, there is such a thing as good taste.* □ *Your birthday card was a bit much, but thank you just the same.*

bit of the action Go to piece (of the action).

biz [biz] **1.** *n.* a business; business. □ *What biz you in?* □ *I'm in the plumbing biz.* **2.** *n.* apparatus for injecting drugs. (Drugs.) □ *The biz is right there in the towel on top of the stack.* □ *Use your own biz. I got that disease, I think.*

blab [blæb] **1.** *n.* talk; chatter; meaningless talk. □ *I never pay any attention to blab like that.* □ *Cut the blab and get to work.* **2.** *tv.* to tell a secret; to reveal something private in public. □ *I'll tell you if you promise not to blab it.* □ *Tiffany blabbed the whole thing.*

blabbermouth **1.** *n.* someone who talks too much and tells secrets. □ *You are such a blabbermouth!* □ *See if you can keep your brother—who is a blabbermouth—to keep this still.* **2.** *tv.* to tell secrets in public. □ *Don't blabbermouth this to everybody.* □ *Somebody blabbermouthed the story all over town.*

black *mod.* without cream or milk. (Said of coffee.) □ *I'd like mine black, please.* □ *Black coffee, good and hot, please.*

black and blue *mod.* bruised, physically or emotionally. □ *I'm still black and blue from my divorce.* □ *What is that black and blue area on your leg?*

black and white *n.* the police; a black and white police patrol car; any police car. □ *A black and white pulled up to the curb.* □ *Call the black and whites. We got trouble here.*

blackball *tv.* to vote against someone in a secret ballot. □ *Someone blackballed the prospective member.* □ *I chose to blackball her, and I'm not sorry.*

black eye *n.* a moral blemish; an injury to the prestige of someone or something. □ *The library has gotten a black eye from this incident.* □ *That kind of behavior can give us all a black eye.*

blacklist **1.** *n.* a list of the names of banned people; a list of people undesirable to some group. □ *Am I on your blacklist?* □ *I hear they keep a blacklist of all the people they disagree with.* **2.** *tv.* to put someone's name on a list of undesirables. □ *They blacklisted me for not belonging to the right organizations.* □ *Nobody else I know was blacklisted.*

blade **1.** *n.* a knife. □ *Bring your blade over here and cut this loose.* □ *What are you carrying a blade for?* **2.** *n.* a young man, witty and worldly. □ *One of those blades kept winking at me.* □ *A couple of blades from the international jet set ordered vintage wine for everyone.* **3.** *n.* a homosexual man. (From gay blade.) □ *This blade comes up and says, like, "Gotta match?"* □ *Some blade came over and offered to buy me a drink.*

blah [bla] **1.** *mod.* bland; dull. □ *What a blah performance!* □ *After a blah day like this I need something really exciting like a hot bath.* **2.** *mod.* depressed; worn out. □ *When I get into a blah mood like this, I just want to cry.* □ *I'm really blah. Would you mind awfully if I just went home?* **3.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; very drunk. □ *I got myself blah in about twenty minutes.* □ *We are going to get totally blah tonight.*

blah-blah ['bla'bla] *phr.* <a phrase echoic of gibberish or incessant chattering.> (It can be repeated many times.) □ *Why all this blah-blah-blah?* □ *She's going blah-blah on the phone all the time.*

the **blahs** [blaz] *n.* a state of mental depression. □ *I've had the blahs about as long as I can stand.* □ *You look like you've got the blahs.*

blanco ['blanko] *n.* a white person; a Caucasian. (From Spanish. Potentially derogatory.) □ *Adios, blanco.* □ *The blancos arrived in droves.*

blanket drill *n.* a night's sleep; sleep. (Military.) □ *Fred is still on blanket drill. He's in for it.* □ *Blanket drill is the only thing I like in the army.*

blankety-blank AND **blankity-blank** ['blæŋkədi'blæŋk] *mod.* damned. (From the past practice of printing blank spaces in place of banned words. See also **blasted**.) □ *I'm tired of your blankety-blank bad humor.* □ *Get this blankity-blank cat out of here!*

blast **1.** *n.* an exciting party. □ *Fred knows how to put on a real blast!* □ *What a blast we had!* **2.** *n.* a thrill; a kick. □ *That gag gave me a blast.* □ *The roller coaster was a blast.* **3.** *tv.* to shoot someone with a gun. □ *The speeding car drove by, and somebody tried to blast him with a machine gun.* □ *The cops blasted the crook till there was nothing left.* **4.** *tv.* to attack or criticize someone or something verbally. □ *She really blasted the plan in front of the board.* □ *He blasted his brother until we all left in embarrassment.* **5.** *n.* a verbal attack. □ *The senator leveled a blast at the administration.* □ *The administration delivered an enormous blast at the senate*

hearing. **6.** *n.* the kick or rush from taking or injecting a drug. (Drugs.) □ *That stuff really gives me a blast.* □ *With a blast like that, somebody's gonna get hooked fast.*

blasted **1.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *I got myself blasted. I'm really sorry.* □ *I got so blasted I swore never to blow another joint.* **2.** *mod.* damned. □ *I asked her to get her blasted stockings off the shower curtain.* □ *Shut your blasted mouth!*

blaster Go to (ghetto) blaster.

blaze *in.* to smoke marijuana. □ *Two freshmen are in the restroom blazing.*

blazes Go to (blue) blazes.

blazing *mod.* really good; really good looking; really hot. (See also **blaze**.) □ *We had a blazing time at Jane and Bob's wedding reception.*

bleed *tv.* to drain someone of money through extortion or continuous demands for payment. □ *You can't bleed me anymore. I'm tapped.* □ *I'm going to bleed you till I get what I deserve.*

bleed for someone *in.* to sympathize with someone. □ *I really bleed for you, but there's nothing I can do.* □ *We bleed for you, we really do.*

bleed like a stuck pig *in.* to bleed great volumes of blood. □ *I poked a nail into my foot and bled like a stuck pig.*

bleed someone dry Go to bleed someone white.

bleed someone white AND **bleed someone dry** *tv.* to take all of someone's money; to extort money from someone. (See also **bleed**.) □ *The creeps tried to bleed me white.* □ *Frank got some picture of Fred and Paul together and tried to bleed both of them dry.*

blimp *n.* <a nickname for an obese person.> (Cruel.) □ *Look at that blimp who just came in.* □ *This enormous blimp managed to get on the plane, but couldn't get into a seat.*

blimped *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; swollen with drinking. □ *I am still a little blimped*

from our party last night. □ I'm bigheaded and still blimped this morning.

blimp out *in.* to overeat. □ I love to buy a bag of chips and just blimp out. □ I only blimp out on weekends.

blind drunk *mod.* heavily alcohol intoxicated. □ You came in blind drunk last night. What's going on? □ They drank till they were blind drunk.

blind(ed) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ I guess she was blinded. She couldn't stand up. □ They were both blind as they come.

(blind) munchies *n.* a craving for food or snacks. (Originally drugs.) □ There is nothing like potato chips when you've got the munchies. □ By midnight I had the blind munchies.

blindsided *tv.* [for someone or something] to surprise someone, as if sneaking up on the blind side of a one-eyed person (or animal). □ The new tax law blindsided about half the population. □ The mugger came up and blindsided her with a blow to the head before she knew what had happened.

blinkers *n.* the eyes. □ As I opened my blinkers, guess who I saw? □ Look at those classy blinkers!

blinky AND **winky** ['blɪŋki AND 'wɪŋki] *n.* a device for smoking free base, a form of cocaine. (Drugs.) □ He broke his blinky and is desperate for a new one. □ Hold the winky here and wait till I tell you.

blip [blɪp] **1.** *n.* an intermittently appearing light on a radar screen. □ A blip caught the controller's eye for an instant. □ Did you see that blip, Freddy? **2.** *n.* anything quick and insignificant; a onetime thing of little importance. □ It was nothing, just a blip. The press blew it out of proportion. □ It wasn't really a fight. It was just a blip.

blissed (out) AND **blissed-out** [blɪst...] **1.** *mod.* in a state of emotional bliss. □ After the second movement, I was totally blissed out. □ What a blissed-out dame! □ I know a gal who can get blissed from a sunset. **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ She is more than blissed. She is

stoned. □ My friend is a little blissed out. Can she sit here?

bliss ninny ['blɪs 'nɪni] *n.* a giddy and disoriented person; a blissed-out person. (See **bliss (out)**.) □ You silly bliss ninny. Who watches over you, anyway? □ Tiffany is such a bliss ninny—all heart though.

bliss out *in.* to become euphoric. (See also **blissed (out)**.) □ I blissed out just because it is spring and I am with you. □ I always bliss out from talk like that, but I still love Wally.

blisterfoot *n.* someone who walks a lot; a police patrol officer, a soldier, etc. □ This blisterfoot puts his hand on my shoulder and says, "What's the rush, chum?" □ So this blisterfoot just falls down right there on the parade ground.

blithering idiot ['blɪðərɪŋ...] *n.* a crazy person; a totally disoriented person. □ How can you be such a blithering idiot? □ You blithering idiot! You've buttered the tablecloth!

blitz [blɪts] **1.** *n.* a devastating attack. □ After that blitz from the boss, you must feel sort of shaken. □ That's my second blitz this week. I feel like London. **2.** *tv.* to attack and defeat someone or demolish something. □ Two of your friends came by and blitzed my refrigerator. □ The team from downstate blitzed our local team for the third year in a row.

blitzed (out) [blɪtst...] *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ To say she is blitzed out is putting it mildly! □ I want to go out and get totally blitzed. I'll show her who's in charge!

blivit ['blɪvət] *n.* someone or something annoying and unnecessary. □ The dame's a blivit. She adds up to one too many. □ Don't be a blivit. Just calm down.

blixed [blɪkst] *mod.* mildly drug intoxicated. (Drugs.) □ He was a little blixed when I last saw him. □ He has been blixed for hours.

blob [blab] **1.** *n.* a fool; an oaf. □ Don't be a blob. Get up and get going. □ This blob just sits there and lets me do all the work. **2.** *n.* a useless dishrag of a person; a

wimp. □ *You blob! Show some spunk!* □ *I'm amazed that blob can tie his own shoes.* **3.** *n.* a very fat person. □ *What a blob!* □ *You'd think being a blob like that would get old after a while.*

block 1. *n.* the head. □ *That block of yours is pretty dense.* □ *Try to get this stuff through your block before the test.* **2.** *n.* the auction block. □ *The painting went on the block and sold for nearly fifty-three million dollars.* □ *The house had just gone on the block, and the first bid was already opened.* **3.** *n.* a stupid person. (Possibly a back formation on **blockhead**.) □ *You silly block! Get out of the way.* □ *Wally acts like such a block!*

blockbuster 1. *n.* something enormous, especially a movie or book that attracts a large audience. □ *That blockbuster should make about twenty million.* □ *I need two blockbusters like that to pay for the last flop.* **2.** *mod.* exciting and successful. □ *The new blockbuster movie made about a zillion bucks in a month.* □ *With a blockbuster novel like that in print, you should make quite a bundle.*

blocked *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Man, he is really blocked.* □ *How can anybody get so blocked on four beers?*

blockhead *n.* a stupid person. (See also **block**.) □ *Without a blockhead like you to remind me of the perils of stupidity, I might be less efficient than I am.* □ *Why did he call me a blockhead? I didn't do anything.*

blood 1. *n.* catsup. □ *Somebody pass the blood.* □ *How 'bout some blood for my burger?* **2.** Go to **blood (brother)**. **3.** *n.* a black buddy or fellow gang member. (Also a term of address.) □ *Hey, blood! Where you been?* □ *The bloods aren't going to like this.*

blood and guts 1. *n.* strife; acrimony. □ *There is a lot of blood and guts around here, but we get our work done.* □ *Cut out the blood and guts and grow up.* **2.** *mod.* acrimonious. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ *There are too many blood-and-guts arguments around here.* □ *Old*

blood-and-guts Wally is here making threats again.

blood (brother) *n.* a fellow black male. □ *One of the bloods came up to say hello.* □ *This blood brother keeps asking me for money.*

blooey ['blui] **1.** *mod.* gone; destroyed. □ *Everything is finished, blooey!* □ *All my plans are blooey!* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *John is totally blooey. He can't even open his eyes.* □ *Man, I'm blooey. I'm stoned to the bones.*

blooper ['blupə] **1.** *n.* an embarrassing broadcasting error that must be bleeped or blooped out of the program. □ *I made a blooper, and they cut it out of the program.* □ *There is a record you can buy that lets you hear the famous bloopers of the past.* **2.** *n.* an error. □ *Another day, another blooper.* □ *That was a real blooper. Did you get fired?*

blot someone out *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld.) □ *Sorry, chum, we got orders to blot you out.* □ *They blotted out the witness before the trial.*

blotter 1. *n.* a drunkard. (See also **sponge**.) □ *The guy's a blotter. He'll drink anything and lots of it.* □ *They say that Mr. Franklin is a blotter and needs treatment.* **2.** *n.* the drug LSD, sold on bits of blotting paper. (Drugs.) □ *Most of the acid in this town is blotter.* □ *Blotter can bring one to five dollars a pop.* **3.** *n.* a police station log of arrests; a police blotter. □ *We went downtown to have a look at the blotter. There was no Matthew Wilson on it anywhere.* □ *The blotter is full of the names of petty criminals and drunks.*

blotto ['blado] **1.** *n.* strong liquor. □ *Let's go get a little of that blotto.* □ *Let's get some blotto and get blocked.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; dead drunk. □ *Let's get some smash and get blotto.* □ *She just lay there—blotto.*

blow 1. *tv.* & *in.* to leave (someplace) in a hurry. (See also **blow town**; **blow the joint**.) □ *It's late. I gotta blow.* □ *They blew this place before you got here.* **2.** *tv.* to ruin something; to ruin an opportunity. □ *You really blew it!* □ *It was my last*

chance, and I blew it. **3. n.** a setback; an attack. □ *It was a real blow to our prestige.* □ *Acme Systems Industries suffered a blow to its plans to acquire ABC Steel Widgets.* **4. tv.** to waste money; to spend money. □ *Mary blew forty bucks on a second-hand radio.* □ *We blew it all at a fancy restaurant.* **5. in.** to become very angry; to lose one's temper. (See also **blow a fuse**.) □ *Finally I had had enough, and I blew.* □ *The brass blew, and we heard the noise all the way down here.* **6. in.** to play a musical instrument, not necessarily a wind instrument. □ *He blows, and everybody listens.* **7. AND blow-out n.** a drinking party. □ *What a blow over at Joe's. I'll never get sober.* □ *Man, come to my blow-out. It's the best place to go.* **8. tv.** to **snort** any powdered drug; to take snuff. (Drugs.) □ *Those guys spend all their time blowing coke.* □ *Are you blowing something good?* **9. in.** to smoke marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *He sits there blowing by the hour. How can he afford it?* □ *They say that blowing that much will affect your brain.* **10. n.** cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *You can get some good blow over at that crack house.* □ *What's blow cost around here?* **11. tv.** to perform an act of oral sex on someone, especially males. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Tom was looking for some bone addict who would blow him for nothing.*

blow a fuse AND **blow one's fuse; blow a gasket; blow one's cork; blow one's lid; blow one's top; blow one's stack** *tv.* to explode with anger; to lose one's temper. □ *Come on, don't blow a fuse.* □ *Go ahead, blow a gasket! What good will that do?*

blow a gasket Go to blow a fuse.

blow a hype *tv.* to overreact; to spaz out. □ *I was afraid she would blow a hype about the broken window.* □ *Come on, don't blow a hype. It's only a car.*

blow a snot rocket Go to blow snot rockets.

blow beets *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *What was in that stew? I feel like I gotta blow beets.* □ *She wasted a few*

minutes blowing beets, just to make things worse.

blow chow Go to blow chunks.

blow chunks AND **blow chow; blow grits; blow lunch** *tv.* to vomit. □ *She drank too much and left the room to blow chunks.* □ *Who's been blowing lunch in the john?* □ *The smell was so bad I thought I was going to blow chow.* □ *Where's Kim? She was blowing grits in the john the last time I saw her.*

blow cold *in.* [for a person] to display disinterest. □ *Lately, he's sort of blown cold when I'm around.* □ *The committee blew cold as my plan unfolded.*

blowed (away) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. (See also **blown away**.) □ *I was so blowed away I couldn't see straight.* □ *I'm afraid I am way blowed.*

blower 1. n. a cocaine user. (Drugs.) □ *I can spot a blower any day.* □ *Max is a blower, among other things.* **2. n.** cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *What's the best quality blower around here?* □ *George says he can't live without blower.* **3. n.** a cigarette. □ *You got a blower I can bum?* □ *That's the third blower in ten minutes!* **4. n.** a handkerchief. □ *He pulled a crusty blower from his back pocket.* □ *And what does he do when he doesn't have a blower?*

blow grits Go to blow chunks.

blowhard ['blo'hard] *n.* a braggart; a big talker. □ *You're just a big blowhard.* □ *When and if this blowhard finishes, let's go.*

blow in *in.* to arrive. □ *I just blew in last night. Where can I find a room?* □ *When I blew in, nobody was here.*

Blow it out your ear! Go to (Go) blow it out your ear!

blow jive *tv.* to smoke marijuana. (See also **jive**.) □ *Man, let's go out and blow some jive!* □ *You would rather blow jive than eat, I think.*

blow job *n.* an act of oral sex performed on the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The hustler knew very well what the expression "blow job" meant.*

blow lunch Go to blow chunks.

blown Go to blown away.

blown away **1.** *mod.* dead; killed. (Underworld.) ☐ *Four of the mob were blown away when the cops got there.* ☐ *That guy was blown away weeks ago.* **2.** *AND* **blown** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. ☐ *I drank till I was blown, and then I drank some more.* ☐ *Whatever that pill was, Cecilia is totally blown away.* **3.** *mod.* overwhelmed; greatly impressed. (Often with *with* or *by*.) ☐ *We were just blown away by your good words.* ☐ *Like it? I was blown away.*

blown (out) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. ☐ *Fred is totally blown out and will have a huge hangover tomorrow.* ☐ *Fred stood at the door and told us he was blown—something that was totally obvious anyway.*

blown (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **blown away**.) ☐ *I guess I'm a little too blown up to drive.* ☐ *You are blown as blazes, you twit!*

blow off **1.** *in.* to goof off; to waste time; to procrastinate. ☐ *You blow off too much.* ☐ *All your best time is gone—blown off.* **2.** *n.* a time-waster; a goof-off. (Usually **blow-off**.) ☐ *Fred is such a blow-off!* ☐ *Get busy. I don't pay blow-offs around here.* **3.** *n.* something that can be done easily or without much effort. (Usually **blow-off**.) ☐ *Oh, that is just a blow-off. Nothing to it.* ☐ *The test was a blow-off.* **4.** *n.* the final insult; an event that causes a dispute. (Usually **blow-off**.) ☐ *The blow-off was a call from some dame named Monica who asked for Snookums.* ☐ *When the blow-off happened, nobody was expecting anything.* **5.** *n.* a dispute; an argument. (Usually **blow-off**. See also **blow up**.) ☐ *After a blow-off like that, we need a breather.* ☐ *There was a big blow-off at the plant today.*

blow off (some) steam *AND* **let off (some) steam** *tv.* to release emotional tension by talking or getting angry. ☐ *Don't worry. She's just blowing off steam.* ☐ *Let off some steam. Get it out of your system.*

blow (one's) cookies *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. ☐ *I think I'm going to blow my cookies.* ☐ *Okay, if any you guys gotta blow your cookies or something, do it here, not inside!*

blow one's cool *tv.* to become angry. ☐ *Now, now, don't blow your cool.* ☐ *I almost blew my cool when the dog wet my pants leg.*

blow one's cork Go to blow a fuse.

blow one's doughnuts *AND* **lose one's doughnuts** [...ˈdonəts] *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. ☐ *The stuff was so vile, I thought I would blow my doughnuts.* ☐ *Who lost their doughnuts in the hall?*

blow one's fuse Go to blow a fuse.

blow one's groceries *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. ☐ *I gotta blow my groceries. Look out!* ☐ *She blew her groceries all over the front seat.*

blow one's lid Go to blow a fuse.

blow one's lines *tv.* to forget one's lines in a play; to speak one's lines incorrectly in a play. ☐ *There I was in my first major role, and I blow my lines!* ☐ *If you blow your lines, just try to cover it up.*

blow (one's) lunch *AND* **lose one's lunch** *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. ☐ *I almost lost my lunch, I ran so hard.* ☐ *I wanted to blow my lunch, that's how rotten I felt.*

blow one's own horn *AND* **toot one's own horn** *tv.* to brag. ☐ *Gary sure likes to toot his own horn.* ☐ *"I hate to blow my own horn," said Bill, lying through his teeth.*

blow one's stack Go to blow a fuse.

blow one's top Go to blow a fuse.

Blow on it! *exclam.* Cool it!; Take it easy! ☐ *It's all right, Tom. Blow on it!* ☐ *Hey, man. Relax. Blow on it!*

blow-out Go to blow.

blow smoke **1.** *tv.* to state something in a way that conceals the truth. (See also **smoke and mirrors**.) ☐ *She is a master at blowing smoke. She belongs in government.* ☐ *When they began to figure him*

out, he began to blow smoke. **2.** *tv.* to smoke marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *Frank sits around blowing smoke when he's not selling.* □ *The whole sales force blows smoke during office hours.*

blow snot rockets AND **blow a snot rocket** *tv.* to blow gobs of nasal mucus from one nostril at a time by blocking off the other nostril with a thumb. □ *Bob is always blowing snot rockets! How crude!* □ *Bud blew a snot rocket right out the window and into the street!*

blow someone away **1.** *tv.* to kill someone; to shoot someone. (Underworld.) □ *The boss said we was to blow you away if you gives us any trouble.* □ *We blow away guys like you every day.* **2.** *tv.* to overwhelm someone; to amaze someone. □ *The music about blew me away.* □ *The whole idea just blew her away.*

blow someone or something off **1.** *tv.* to neglect or ignore someone or something. □ *Get it done now. Don't blow it off!* □ *Don't blow me off. Listen! I want it done now!* **2.** *tv.* to cheat someone or a group; to deceive someone or a group. □ *Don't try to blow me off! I know what's what.* □ *They blew off a young couple and conned a hundred bucks out of them.*

blow someone out of the water *tv.* to utterly destroy someone. (As a ship is blown up by a torpedo.) □ *This is too much. I'm gonna blow that guy out of the water.* □ *How does it feel to be blown out of the water like that?*

blow someone's cover *tv.* to reveal someone's true identity; to ruin someone's scheme for concealment. □ *The dog recognized me and blew my cover.* □ *I didn't mean to blow your cover.*

blow someone's doors off *tv.* to defeat someone; to surpass someone. (As if someone were going by another vehicle on the highway at such a high speed that the doors would be blown off in passing.) □ *We're gonna really blow your doors off in the next game.* □ *They blew our doors off in sales last year.*

blow someone's mind **1.** *tv.* to impress someone; to overwhelm someone. □ *This*

whole business just blows my mind. □ *Your credentials really blow my mind!* **2.** *tv.* [for a drug] to intoxicate someone. □ *This stuff will blow your mind.* □ *That blue acid blew my mind.*

blow someone to something *tv.* to treat someone to something, such as a meal, a movie, a drink, etc. □ *Let me blow you to a meal.* □ *I think I'll blow myself to a fancy dessert.*

blow something wide open AND **bust something wide open** *tv.* to expose corrupt practices or a scheme; to put an end to corruption. □ *The press is trying to blow the town wide open, and the feebies are trying to hush them up so they can move about in secret.* □ *I'm going to bust this racket wide open.*

blow the joint *tv.* to get out of a place, probably in a hurry. (Underworld. See also **joint**.) □ *Come on, let's blow the joint before there's trouble.* □ *They blew the joint about an hour ago.*

blow the lid off something *tv.* to expose a scandal or corrupt practice; to expose political dishonesty. □ *I'm going to blow the lid off another phony candidate.* □ *The reporter blew the lid off the latest city hall scandal.*

blow town *tv.* to get out of town, probably in a hurry. (Underworld.) □ *He blew town yesterday.* □ *I gotta pack and blow town. The cops are onto me.*

blow up **1.** *in.* to burst into anger. □ *I just knew you'd blow up.* □ *So she blew up. Why should that affect you so much?* **2.** *n.* an angry outburst; a fight. (Usually **blowup**.) □ *After the third blowup, she left him.* □ *One blowup after another. Yuck!* **3.** *n.* an enlarged version of a photograph, map, chart, etc. (Usually **blowup**.) □ *Here's a blow up of the scene of the crime.* □ *Kelly sent a blowup of their wedding picture to all her relatives.* **4.** *n.* the ruination of something; the collapse of something. (Usually **blowup**.) □ *The blowup in the financial world has ruined my chances for early retirement.* □ *After the blowup, they called one another to compare notes.*

blow Z's [...ziz] *tv.* to sleep. □ *I got to blow Z's for a while; then we'll talk.* □ *Him? Oh, he's in the back blowing Z's.*

blubber gut(s) ['bləbər 'gʊt(s)] *n.* a fat person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Hey, blubber guts! Get a girdle.* □ *Why doesn't that blubber gut do something about all that weight?*

blue 1. *mod.* depressed; melancholy. □ *That music always makes me blue.* □ *I'm feeling sort of blue.* □ *I'm in a blue mood.* **2.** *mod.* obscene; vulgar; dirty. □ *Those blue jokes don't go over very well around here.* □ *Enough of your blue interests. Get out and take all these magazines with you.* □ *That one was really blue.* **3.** *n.* the sky; the heavens. □ *I just look up at the blue and hope for the best.* □ *The idea came to me right out of the blue.* **4.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *What have you been drinking? You're getting a little blue.* □ *You might say I'm blue. Others might note that I am stoned.* **5.** *n.* an amphetamine tablet or capsule, especially a blue one. (Drugs.) □ *How are blues different from reds and yellows?* □ *I'm sort of wired. You got any blues?* **6.** *n.* a police officer; the police. □ *The blues will be here in a minute.* □ *One blue isn't enough to handle the job.* **7.** *n.* a 10-mg tablet of Valium™. (Drugs.) □ *A blue is enough to put most people into a stupor. Why do you want two?* □ *In treatment they kept giving me blues to calm me down. Now I can't live without them.*

blue and white *n.* a police car; the police. (Patterned on **black and white** and used in cities where the police cars are painted blue and white.) □ *A blue and white suddenly appeared, and I knew we were finished.* □ *I can usually spot a blue and white before anyone else.*

blue around the gills AND **green around the gills** **1.** *mod.* ill; nauseated. □ *You are looking a little blue around the gills.* □ *How about a little air? I feel a little green around the gills.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *In the middle of the drink, I knew I was getting blue around the gills.* □ *Marty—now thoroughly green around the gills—slid neatly under the table, and everyone pretended not to notice.*

blue balls AND **hot-rocks** *n.* a painful condition of the testicles caused by unrelieved sexual need. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She always gives me hot-rocks.* □ *Oh, man. Do I ever have the blue balls!* *That movie was too much!*

(blue) blazes *n.* hell. □ *You can go straight to blue blazes as far as I care.* □ *It's as hot as blazes here.*

blue boys AND **blue coats** *n.* the police. (See also **men in blue**.) □ *Four blue boys held me while a fifth slipped the cuffs on me. I ain't no pushover.* □ *The blue coats climbed out of the black and white and just stood there.*

blue chip 1. *n.* stock shares of a large company that has a high value. (Securities markets.) □ *The blue chips took another nose dive in today's trading.* □ *I buy nothing but blue chips.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with the stock of large, valuable companies. (Securities markets.) □ *The blue chip rally ran for a third day.* □ *It was another blue chip led sell-off.*

blue coats Go to **blue boys**.

blue devils 1. *n.* melancholia; depression. □ *Hank is down with the blue devils again.* □ *How do you get rid of the blue devils?* **2.** *n.* the delirium tremens. □ *You wouldn't think that a society dame like that would have the blue devils, would you?* □ *The shakes, or the blue devils, are a sure sign of a serious drinking problem.* **3.** *n.* capsules of Amytal™, a barbiturate. □ *How much for a little box of blue devils?* □ *Got no red devils. Will blue devils do it to you?*

blue-eyed *mod.* innocent. □ *Look, you little blue-eyed sweetie, I know your game!* □ *He's sure his blue-eyed wonder couldn't have hit my child.* □ *Don't try to look so blue-eyed.*

blue flu 1. *n.* an imaginary disease afflicting police officers who call in sick during a work stoppage or slowdown. (Journalistic. Occurs where strikes are illegal.) □ *Another epidemic of the blue flu struck the city's police officers early today.* □ *It seems that the city's criminals and lawbreakers are immune to the blue flu. Their work*

goes on totally unaffected. **2. n.** a hang-over. □ *He was out late last night and has the blue flu.*

blue funk ['blu 'fʌŋk] *n.* a state of depression. □ *I'm glad I'm out of my blue funk.* □ *You've got to get out of your blue funk and get back to work.*

bluehair *n.* an old lady, especially one whose hair is tinted blue. □ *The cruise was nice but sort of dull because of all the bluehairs aboard.* □ *The bluehairs all crowded up to the door, each one trying to be first.*

blue in the face *mod.* pale from exhaustion or exertion. □ *I laughed until I was blue in the face.* □ *She worked hard enough to be blue in the face.*

blue suit *n.* a police officer. (Usually plural.) □ *The blue suits showed up about twenty minutes after I called them!* □ *Watch out for the blue suits if you are going to drive this fast!*

BM 1. n. a bowel movement; an act of defecation. (Mostly a euphemism used with children.) □ *If I don't have a BM soon, I'm gonna die.* **2. n.** a disgusting and annoying person. (Also a term of address. A humorous way of calling someone a shit. Usually objectionable.) □ *Get out of here, you stupid BM!* □ *The new guy has to be the world's worst BM.*

BMOC *n.* big man on campus, an important or self-important male college student. (Initialism. Collegiate. See also **BWOC**.) □ *Who's the BMOC who keeps trying to get elected class president?* □ *When this BMOC asked me to leave, I ignored him.*

BO 1. n. (bad) body odor. (Initialism.) □ *Man, do you have BO!* □ *Now here is a product that will end your worries about BO.* **2. n.** box office, where tickets to some event are sold. □ *The show was a big hit at the BO.* □ *If you want your money back, you'll have to go to the BO.* **3. AND BO** *n.* HBO, Home Box Office, the cable television channel. (Initialism and dysphemism.) □ *Is there a good movie on BO tonight?* □ *There is boxing on BO but no movie.*

boat 1. n. a big shoe. (See also **gunboats**.) □ *Whose boat is that under the coffee table?* □ *Those boats are special made, in fact.* **2. n.** a big car; a full-size car. □ *I don't want to drive a big boat like that.* □ *How do you stop that boat? Throw out an anchor?*

boat anchor *n.* a useless computer; anything heavy and useless. □ *Why don't you replace that boat anchor with a new model?*

bod [bad] **1. n.** a body, especially a nice body. (See also **odd-bod**.) □ *You got a nice bod, Tom.* □ *If you got a good bod and enough money, why are you depressed?* **2. n.** a person. □ *How many bods are coming over tonight?* □ *Who's the bod with the tight slacks?*

bodacious [bo'deɪʃəs] *mod.* assertive; audacious. □ *That is a bodacious plan, for sure.* □ *Yes, sir! That is really bodacious.*

body count 1. n. the total of dead bodies after a battle. □ *The body count at Hill 49 was three.* □ *The body count seems to go down during the rainy season.* **2. n.** the total number of casualties after some kind of shake-up. □ *The pink slips are coming out every day. The body count on Monday was twenty-three.* □ *Most everybody is flunking quan. The body count after the last test was in the twenties.* **3. n.** a count of people present. □ *The body count was about forty-five at the meeting.* □ *The body count seems to go down each month.*

body shake *n.* a shakedown of the body; a skin-search. (Underworld. See also **shakedown**.) □ *You can't give me a body shake. I want my lawyer!* □ *They give everybody who passes through these doors a body shake.*

boff [baf] **1. tv.** to punch someone. □ *I was afraid she was going to boff me.* □ *Ted boffed Harry playfully.* **2. in.** to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (See also **barf**.) □ *She boffed and boffed, until she was exhausted.* □ *I think I'm gonna boff!* **3. tv. & in.** to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *They were boffing*

in the faculty lounge and the principal caught them.

boffo ['bafo] **1.** *n.* a box-office hit; a successful play, musical, movie, etc. □ *The last one was a tremendous boffo, but we only broke even.* □ *I need a boffo just once in my life.* **2.** *mod.* successful; tremendous. □ *We had a boffo time at your rally.* □ *Another boffo success for Wally!* □ *That was really boffo!*

bogard Go to **bogart**.

bogart AND **bogard** ['bogart AND 'bogard] **1.** *in.* to monopolize a communal marijuana cigarette; to hold a communal marijuana cigarette so long—Bogart style—that one drools on it. (From *Humphrey Bogart*, the screen actor.) □ *Come on, man. Don't bogart on us!* □ *Stop bogarding and take a hit!* **2.** *in.* to stall. □ *Stop bogarting. Let's get this done!* □ *The lawyer for the other side is bogarding, and it will take weeks to get it settled.* **3.** *in.* to act in a tough manner like Humphrey Bogart. □ *Look at him bogarting! Who needs tough guys?* □ *There's nothing funnier than a wimp trying to bogard around.*

bogue [bog] *mod.* **bogus**; fake. □ *Keep your bogue gold watch. I don't want it!* □ *She is so, like, bogue!*

bogus ['bogəs] **1.** *mod.* phony; false; undesirable. □ *I can't eat any more of this bogus food.* □ *This class is really bogus.* **2.** *mod.* great; excellent. □ *Man, this place is really bogus!* □ *Sam and Charlie had a really bogus time at the jig.*

bogus beef AND **bum beef** *n.* a false complaint or charge. (See also **beef**.) □ *The cops took them in on a bogus beef.*

boheme [bo'him] *n.* <a (feminine) personal style consisting of no makeup, large baggy clothing, long skirts, and comfortable shoes.> (Collegiate.) □ *She looks so good in boheme!* □ *Boheme is not you.*

bohunk **1.** *n.* a resident of or an immigrant from an Eastern European country, such as Poland, Hungary, etc. (A nickname. Can be perceived as derogatory. Usually objectionable.) □ *The bohunks can really cook up some fine food.* **2.** *n.* an oafish person. (Usually refers to a male. Usually

objectionable.) □ *Get outa here, you stupid bohunk!* **3.** *n.* a term of endearment for a close friend or child. □ *Come here, you little bohunk. Let me tuck in your shirt.* □ *Okay, you bohunks, come to dinner now.*

boiled **1.** *mod.* angry. □ *I am so boiled at you!* □ *Now, don't get boiled. It was only a joke.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *How can you get so boiled on wine?* □ *The two were boiled and not much use to us.*

boiling (mad) *mod.* very mad. □ *Mad, I'm not mad. I'm just boiling.* □ *She is really boiling mad.*

boink *tv.* & *in.* to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He said he boinked her twice.*

BO juice *n.* a deodorant; an underarm deodorant. (Collegiate. See also **BO**.) □ *Who took my BO juice? I've got to go to class.* □ *Help this man find his BO juice, fast! He really needs it.*

bokoo AND **boku** ['bo'ku] *mod.* many. (A play on French *beaucoup*.) □ *I've got bokoo things to do today.* □ *There are already boku people invited.*

boku Go to **bokoo**.

bold *mod.* great; outstanding. □ *Bold move, Charles. You outfoxed them.* □ *The movie we saw last night was really bold.*

bologna Go to **baloney**.

bolt *in.* to leave; to go away. (Not necessarily fast.) □ *Time to go, man. Let's bolt.* □ *Time to bolt. Got to get home.*

bolus ['boləs] *n.* a physician. (From the Latin name for a pill.) □ *The bolus kept trying to get me to lose weight.* □ *There is a new bolus in town.*

bomb **1.** *n.* a bad performance or an inherently bad show. □ *They tried as hard as they could, but the thing was a bomb from Act One on.* □ *The latest bomb on Broadway, like all bombs, will only go off once. This one finished to a chorus of boos before the final curtain.* **2.** *in.* to fail. □ *My first try bombed, but things got better.* □ *It bombed the minute the first curtain went up.* **3.** Go to **bomb(shell)**.

the **bomb** AND **da bomb** *n.* something really great. □ *This tingle is really da bomb.*

bombed (out) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. (Possibly from **embalmed**.) □ *They were bombed and looked nearly dead.* □ *How can I drive when I'm bombed out?*

bomb (out) *in.* [for a computer or computer program] to fail. □ *You expect a program to bomb a time or two.* □ *The whole thing bombed out at just the wrong time.*

bomb(shell) *n.* a stunning piece of news that is dropped without warning. □ *I am still recovering from your bomb of last evening.* □ *After you left us with the bomb-shell about your marriage to the Christmas tree farmer in Montana, we began to realize that it's your life and you should do what you want.*

bone 1. *n.* a trombone. (Musicians. See also **bones**.) □ *Herman is just a wonder on the bone.* □ *She plays the bone like nobody's business.* **2.** Go to **boner**.

bone factory 1. *n.* a hospital. □ *Lemme outa this bone factory!* □ *After about two months in the bone factory, I was back on the job.* **2.** *n.* a cemetery. □ *We must have passed by forty bone factories going across Missouri.* □ *I know I'll end up in the bone factory just like everyone else.*

bonehead 1. *n.* a stupid or stubborn person. □ *You are such a bonehead when it comes to buying cars.* □ *Don't be a bonehead. Cooperate!* **2.** AND **boneheaded** *mod.* stupid; stubborn. □ *Of all the boneheaded things to do!* □ *Why am I married to the world's greatest all-time bonehead klutz?* □ *Don't be so boneheaded.*

boneheaded Go to **bonehead**.

bone idle *mod.* very lazy; completely idle or unproductive. □ *Your problem is that you are bone idle.* □ *Take your bone idle brother and move out!*

bone orchard *n.* a cemetery. □ *That is a very pleasant bone orchard.* □ *Does it really matter how comfortable a bone orchard looks?*

bone out *in.* to leave. □ *It's time we boned out and got home.* □ *Ted and Bill boned out after midnight.*

boner 1. *n.* a silly error; a gaffe. (See also **pull a boner**.) □ *Well, that was a bad boner.* □ *What a boner! You must be embarrassed.* **2.** AND **bone** *n.* an erection. □ *He always gets a boner when he doesn't need it and never when he does.*

bones 1. *n.* dice. (See similar senses at **bone**.) □ *Toss me the bones and get out your checkbooks.* □ *Throw them bones and hope for the best.* **2.** *n.* <a nickname for a ship's physician.> (From **sawbones**. Also the nickname of the doctor on the starship *Enterprise* of *Star Trek* fame.) □ *This fat bones actually wanted me to lose weight.* □ *This is quite a cut. You'll have to go over to the bones in Adamsville.* **3.** *n.* <a nickname for a skinny person.> (Also a term of address.) □ *Well, bones, how about a nice big meal?* □ *Ask bones there what he wants to drink.* **4.** *n.* dollars; money; cash. □ *You got any bones on you I can borrow?* □ *The tickets only cost a few bones, but the play was lousy and I want my money back.*

boneyard 1. *n.* a cemetery. □ *I'd like to be planted in a boneyard like that.* □ *I'll take a boneyard with a view of the lake.* **2.** *n.* a junkyard. □ *I got a used right-hand door from a boneyard.* □ *This old car's ready for the boneyard.*

bong AND **bhong** [bɒŋ] **1.** *n.* a marijuana smoking device that cools the smoke by passing it through water. (Drugs.) □ *This bong is really getting sort of nasty.* □ *Fill up your bong and let's get going.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to smoke marijuana or other drugs with a **bong** or other device. (Drugs.) □ *You can't just bong for the rest of your life!* □ *Wanna go bong a bowl?* **3.** *n.* a puff or hit of marijuana taken through a **bong**. (Drugs.) □ *I'll take two bongs, and then I gotta go.* □ *I only got one bong!* **4.** *tv. & in.* to drink keg beer through a hose. (California. See also **beerbong**.) □ *Everybody bonged till the keg was empty.* □ *There were no cups, so people had to bong their beer.*

bonged (out) [bɒŋd...] *mod.* exhausted from too much marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *I was bonged all through the holidays.* □ *She was still bonged out after the first week of classes.*

bonk [bɒŋk] **1.** *tv.* to strike one's head. □ *He bonked his head on the shelf.* □ *I bonked my bean.* **2.** *tv.* to strike someone on the head. □ *I bonked John on the head.* □ *He wouldn't move, so I bonked him.* **3.** *tv. & in.* to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She bonked him all night. At least that's what he said.*

bonkers ['bɒŋkɜːz] **1.** *AND crackers* *mod.* insane; crazy. □ *Get this bonkers brother of yours out of here!* □ *I think I am going crackers.* **2.** *mod.* slightly intoxicated. □ *I'm just a little bonkers, nothing really serious.* □ *She's too bonkers to drive.*

Bonus! ['bɒnəs] *exclam.* That's great!; That's good enough to earn a bonus! □ *Bonus! That's the best news I've heard in a long time!* □ *The teacher's sick? Bonus!*

bonzo ['bɒnzɔ] *mod.* crazy. □ *You are completely bonzo!* □ *I want out of this bonzo place!*

boob [bub] **1.** *n.* a stupid person; a rural oaf. □ *You boob! What have you done?* □ *Why did I marry a boob like you?* **2.** *AND booby* ['bubi] *n.* a breast. (Usually plural. Usually objectionable.) □ *My boobs aren't what I might have wished for.* □ *With boobs like that, she can go anywhere she likes.*

boo-bird ['bu'bɜːd] *n.* a person who boos frequently at games or other public events. □ *It was a big day for the boo-birds at Wrigley Field.* □ *The catcher turned and stared right at the loudmouthed boo-bird. Everybody knew what he was thinking.*

boo-boo ['bubu] *n.* an error. (See also **make a boo-boo**.) □ *It's only a small boo-boo. Don't stress yourself.* □ *Another boo-boo like that, and you are through.*

boob-tube ['bub'tub] *n.* a television set. (Something for a **boob** to watch.) □ *You spend too much time in front of the boob-tube.* □ *What's on the boob-tube tonight?*

booby Go to **boob**.

booby hatch ['bubi...] *n.* a mental hospital. □ *I was afraid they would send me to the booby hatch.* □ *Don't you mean send you back to the booby hatch?*

booby trap **1.** *n.* a concealed trap. (Both literal and figurative.) □ *This clause in the contract is a real booby trap. Let's rewrite it.* □ *Some kind of booby trap in the warehouse kept the robber from getting away.* **2.** *tv.* to install a concealed trap in a place. (Usually **booby-trap**.) □ *The agents booby-trapped the cellar.* □ *They booby-trapped the elevator so it turned into a cell if you didn't know the code to open the door.*

boodle ['budl] *n.* loot; the proceeds from a crime. (Underworld.) □ *All of the boodle was recovered in a suitcase.* □ *They divvied up the boodle and got out of town.*

boody *AND boodie; bootie; booty* **1.** *n.* the buttocks. (Potentially offensive. Usually objectionable.) □ *Look at the nice little boody on that guy.* □ *Get your boodie out on that dance floor and shake it.* **2.** *n.* someone or something disliked. (From sense 1.) □ *Why don't you clean up all this boody? This place is a mess.* □ *Who are those boodies blocking the doorway?* **3.** *n.* the female genitals; the vulva. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He wants to get into her boody.* **4.** *n.* women considered as a receptacle for the penis. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *He likes boody better than anything.*

booger **1.** *n.* a blob of nasal mucus, moist or dry. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Keep your boogers to yourself!* □ *Who got boogers all over my bedspread?* **2.** Go to **boogie**.

boogie ['bugi or 'bogi] **1.** *n.* a kind of rock dance. □ *I didn't like the boogie until I learned how to do it right.* □ *The boogie will tire you out, but good!* **2.** *in.* to dance rock-style. □ *I don't like to boogie.* □ *I'm too old to boogie.* **3.** *n.* a party where the boogie is danced. □ *There's a boogie over at Steve's tonight.* □ *One more boogie and I'm through for the year.* **4.** *in.* to get down to work; to get down to business.

□ *All right, it's time to boogie. Cool it!* □ *The whistle blew. Time to boogie.* **5.** AND **booger** *n.* a piece of nasal mucus. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That's no way to take care of a booger!* □ *Is that a boogie on your lip, or what?* **6.** *in.* to leave. □ *Come on, man. Let's boogie.* □ *Time to boogie. It's late.* **7.** *n.* a tumor. (Medical slang. See also **guber**.) □ *Looks like a little boogie down in the lung.* □ *I've got to take out three boogies before lunch and look at x-rays all afternoon.* **8.** *in.* to copulate; to have sex. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Let's go boogie.*

boogie-board ['bugibord OR 'bugibord] **1.** *n.* a surfboard. (California.) □ *Get your boogie-board out there in that tube.* □ *She cracked her boogie-board apart on that big one.* **2.** *n.* a skateboard. (Teens.) □ *He fell off his boogie-board and broke his tailbone.* □ *Can you imagine a boogie-board costing 600 dollars?*

boogie down (to somewhere) *in.* to hurry (to somewhere); to go (somewhere). □ *So, why don't you boogie down to the store and load up with bud and berries for the weekend?* □ *I'm gonna boogie down and see what's going on.*

boogieman ['bugimæn OR 'bugimæn] *n.* an imaginary man who is said to frighten people; a false threat of any kind. □ *Don't turn me into a boogieman. Spank the child yourself.* □ *The press has made the secretary into some sort of boogieman.*

book **1.** *in.* to leave. □ *Time's up. Gotta book.* □ *Let's book. I'm late.* **2.** *tv.* to charge someone with a crime. □ *The cop booked him for vagrancy.* □ *She looked sort of scroungy, and they wanted to book her for something, but didn't know what.* **3.** *in.* to study. (See also **book it**.) □ *I gotta book. Bye.* □ *I hate to book all night.*

bookie *n.* a bookmaker for betting. □ *Frank was a bookie till he got into drugs.* □ *My bookie wants his money on the spot.*

book it *tv.* to study hard; to spend a period of time studying. (Collegiate.) □ *I am so tired of booking it every night of my life.* □ *I've got to spend the rest of the night booking it.*

boom *in.* to listen to music, as with a **boom box**. □ *You don't do anything but hang around and boom all day!* □ *If you're going to boom all the time, why don't you get some headphones?*

boom box *n.* a portable stereo radio. (See also **box**, **thunderbox**.) □ *Turn down that damn boom box, or I'll kick it in.* □ *Hey, man! You even gonna take your boom box to church, or what?*

boomer **1.** *n.* a laborer who moves from one economic boom to another. □ *Fred's great uncle was a boomer in the days of the Oklahoma oil rush.* □ *Most of the old boomers settled down and raised families.* **2.** Go to (**baby**) boomer.

boom sticks *n.* drumsticks. (Musicians.) □ *He always carries his boom sticks in his back pocket, and he beats on walls, radiators, desks—you name it.* □ *I need new boom sticks. They keep breaking.*

boon *in.* to leave the road in a car for the **boondocks**. □ *Tom has a 4-wheel-drive so we can really boon!*

boondocks AND **boonies** ['bundaks AND 'buniz] *n.* an isolated area; an area of wild terrain; suburbs distant from a city. (From the word for *mountain* in the Tagalog language. Since World War II.) □ *The weather out in the boonies looks cold and dry.* □ *I don't want to be stuck out in the boondocks!*

boondoggle ['bundɔgɫ] *n.* a waste of time and money; a project for spending public money. □ *Another Washington boondoggle came to light today as investigators revealed plans for a dam in a California canyon that doesn't have any water.* □ *This is another boondoggle—just the thing every single baby-kisser pledged to stop.*

boonies Go to **boondocks**.

boosiasm(s) *n.* a woman's breasts. (A blend of *bosom* and *enthusiasm*. Occurs both as a count and a noncount noun. Old but recurrent. Usually objectionable.) □ *Did you see the boosiasms on that dame?* □ *What a remarkable boosiasm!*

boost **1.** *tv.* & *in.* to steal or shoplift something. (Underworld.) □ *He specializes in*

boosting meat for resale. □ *He boosts for a living.* **2.** *tv.* to praise or **hype** someone or something; to support someone or something. □ *She is always boosting some cause.* □ *If she would boost me as well, I wouldn't object to the time she spends hyping other people.*

booster 1. *n.* a shoplifter. □ *The cops hauled in two boosters by noon.* □ *Gary was a part-time booster till he got into dope.* **2.** *n.* a supporter (of someone or some cause). □ *We don't have enough boosters to have any effect.* □ *I'm a booster of lots of good causes.*

boot 1. *n.* a thrill; a charge. □ *I get a real boot out of my grandchildren.* □ *Their little games give me a real boot.* **2.** *tv.* to dismiss or eject someone. □ *I booted him myself.* □ *John, boot that guy at once!* **3.** *n.* a dismissal or ejection. □ *I got the boot even though I had worked there for a decade.* □ *Seven people got the boot.* **4.** *tv. & in.* to start the operating system of a computer. □ *I booted the thing, but it just sat there.* □ *When I booted, all I got was a feep.* **5.** *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *The kid booted and booted and will probably never smoke another cigar.* □ *I think I'm gonna boot. Gangway!*

bootie Go to **boody**.

boot someone out *tv.* to throw someone out; to kick someone out. □ *Are you going to boot me out?* □ *I don't boot out anybody. John does that. Bruno, come here.*

booty Go to **boody**.

booty call 1. *n.* sexual arousal. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Sam said he was feeling the booty call and needed to find his woman.* **2.** *n.* calling someone up for sex. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Reg stopped at a phone booth in the bar to make a booty call.*

booze [buz] **1.** *n.* beverage alcohol. (Slang since the 1500s.) □ *I don't care for booze. It makes me sneeze.* □ *Where's the booze?* **2.** AND **booze up** *in.* to drink alcohol to excess; to go on a bash. □ *Let's go out and booze up!* □ *Stop boozing for a minute and listen up, guys.*

booze artist *n.* a drunken person; a drunkard. □ *Pete was a booze artist for a decade before he realized what he was doing.* □ *A wobbly booze artist sat musing on the stool in the corner.*

boozed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Wow, is he ever boozed!* □ *I think I am a little boozed.*

booze it (up) *tv.* to drink excessively; to drink to intoxication. □ *You come home every night and booze it up. How can you keep on this way?* □ *Let's go out and booze it, okay?*

booze up Go to **booze**.

boozy-woozy ['buzi'wuzi] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *The boozy-woozy man clung to the railing and sang at the top of his voice.* □ *I think I am just an itty-bitty boozy-woozy.*

bop [bap] **1.** *tv.* to strike someone or something. □ *I bopped the car on the hood and made a dent.* □ *You wanna get bopped in the beezer?* **2.** *n.* a style of jazz popular in the 1940s. □ *We heard some bop in an old movie.* □ *Bop is not popular, but it is by no means dead.* **3.** *n.* a drug in pill form; a dose of a drug. (See also **hit**.) □ *Give me a bop of that stuff, will ya?* □ *You gonna drop both of them bops?*

bore the pants off (of) someone *tv.* to bore someone exceedingly. □ *You bore the pants off me!* □ *The lecture bored the pants off of everybody.*

bosh [baʃ] *n.* nonsense; idle talk. (Also an exclamation, **Bosh!**) □ *That is enough of your bosh!* □ *Oh, bosh! You don't know what you're talking about.*

bosom buddy *n.* a very close male or female friend. □ *We are bosom buddies, but we can still get into a big fight every now and then.* □ *Oh, yes, Sharon is my bosom buddy.*

bosom chums AND **bosom friends** *n.* lice. □ *The old guy sat there scratching at his bosom chums.* □ *"Nobody seems to like my bosom friends," he muttered.*

bosom friends Go to **bosom chums**.

boss *mod.* excellent; powerful; superior. □ *That is a boss tune.* □ *This rally is really boss.*

boss dick *n.* a cop; a police officer. (Streets. See **dick** = detective.) □ *There's a whole p-crutch stuffed full of boss dicks behind you.* □ *The boss dick slugged me in the face and said I should be more careful.*

boss lady *n.* the woman in charge. □ *You'll have to ask the boss lady.* □ *The boss lady asked again for volunteers.*

boss man *n.* the man in charge. □ *The boss man's coming. Watch out!* □ *I guess the boss man is about ready to retire.*

both sheets in the wind *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **three sheets in the wind**.) □ *She's both sheets in the wind at the moment.* □ *She's not just both sheets in the wind—they're all in the wind.*

bottle **1.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *The bar was empty save an old bottle propped against the side of a booth.* □ *That old girl is just a bottle. There's more booze in her than outside.* **2.** the **bottle** *n.* liquor. (Always with the in this sense.) □ *Her only true love is the bottle.* □ *The bottle plays a big role in his life.* **3.** *in.* to drink liquor to excess. □ *I wish there was a way I could get through the day without bottling.* □ *Let's go out and bottle into oblivion.*

bottleache ['badlek] *n.* a hangover; the delirium tremens. □ *A lot of these guys really suffer from the bottleache, but what can they do?* □ *I got a touch of the bottleache this morning.*

bottle baby *n.* an alcoholic. □ *The bottle babies sat there, waiting to be thrown out at closing time.* □ *There is help for bottle babies.*

bottom **1.** *n.* the buttocks. □ *Ted fell on his bottom and just sat there.* □ *My bottom is sore from sitting too long.* **2.** *n.* the second half of a baseball inning. □ *It's the bottom of the second, Wilbur's up.* □ *Wilbur hit a double-bagger in the bottom of the second.* **3.** *tv.* to drink something to the bottom. □ *He bottomed the beer and ordered another one.* □ *Come on. Bottom that beer, and let's get out of here.*

bottom dollar *n.* one's last dollar. (See also **bet one's bottom dollar**.) □ *I lost my bottom dollar on that deal.* □ *I'm down to my bottom dollar. How about a little loan?*

bottom fishing *n.* seeking something at its lowest price; seeking something at a low cost and willing to accept inferior quality. □ *I don't think bottom fishing for stocks is always wise. There is always a good reason why the price is low.* □ *Bottom fishing probably won't get you anything of value.*

bottomless pit **1.** *n.* a very hungry person. □ *The guy is a bottomless pit. There isn't enough food in town to fill him up.* □ *I've got two boys, and they're both bottomless pits.* **2.** *n.* an endless source of something, usually something troublesome. □ *This house is a bottomless pit. Keeping it up is endless.* □ *Our problems come from a bottomless pit. There is just no end to them.*

the **bottom line** **1.** *n.* the grand total; the final figure on a balance sheet. (Securities markets.) □ *The company's bottom line is in bad shape.* □ *If the bottom line is positive, everything is okay.* **2.** *n.* the result; the **nitty-gritty**; the **score**. □ *The bottom line is that you really don't care.* □ *Well, when you get down to the bottom line, it's only money that matters.*

bottom of the barrel AND **bottom of the heap** *n.* the location of persons or things of the very lowest quality. (Usually with *from*. See also **scrape the bottom of the barrel**.) □ *That last secretary you sent me was really from the bottom of the barrel.* □ *I don't need any candidates from the bottom of the heap.*

bottom of the heap Go to bottom of the barrel.

bottom out *in.* to reach the lowest or worst point of something. □ *All my problems seem to be bottoming out. They can't get much worse.* □ *Interest rates bottomed out last February.*

Bottoms up. *sent.* Let us drink up! (A drinking toast.) □ *Well, bottoms up.* □ *They all raised their glasses, and the host said, "Bottoms up."*

bounce **1.** *in.* [for a check] to be returned from the bank because of insufficient funds. (See also **rubber (check)**.) □ *The check bounced, and I had to pay a penalty fee.* □ *If your check bounces, you'll have to bring us cash.* **2.** *in.* to leave; to depart. □ *It's late. Let's bounce.* **3.** *tv.* [for a bank] to refuse to honor a check. □ *They bounced another of my checks today.* □ *The bank won't bounce any more checks because I closed the account.* **4.** *tv.* to throw someone out. □ *Willie bounced me, and I ran to my car and beat it.* □ *The owner came out and bounced us.* **5.** *n.* pep; energy. □ *All these kids have a lot of bounce.* □ *I never have any bounce when I wake up early.*

bounce for something Go to spring for something.

bouncer *n.* a strong man hired to eject unruly people from a bar or similar place. (People supposedly bounce when thrown out.) □ *I saw the bouncer looking at me, and I got out of there fast.* □ *He was the biggest bouncer I've ever seen.*

bounce something off (of) someone *tv.* to try out an idea on someone; to get someone's opinion of an idea. □ *Let me bounce this off of you.* □ *I bounced the idea off Gary, but he wasn't at all impressed.*

bouquet of assholes *n.* an annoying or disgusting person or thing. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Don't pay any attention to him. He's just another one of the bouquet of assholes you find around here.*

bout it Go to (a)bout it.

bowl *n.* a pipe or other device for smoking cannabis. (Drugs.) □ *Where is my bowl? I got some real Q. gold.* □ *There's somebody's bowl out in the hall. Go get it before the neighbors call the fuzz.*

bowser ['bauzə] *n.* a person with a dog face or ugly face. (Typically applied to females.) □ *What a bowser! She belongs in a stable!* □ *Fred went out with a real bowser, but said he had a good time anyway.*

bow to the porcelain altar *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (The porcelain

altar is the toilet bowl.) □ *He spent the whole night bowing to the porcelain altar.* □ *I have the feeling that I will be bowing to the porcelain altar before morning.*

bow-wow ['bauwau] **1.** *n.* a dog. (Juvénile.) □ *The bow-wow frightened me.* □ *We're going to get you a bow-wow!* **2.** *n.* an ugly woman; a **dog**. (Derogatory.) □ *What a bow-wow!* □ *I would have chosen a better nose if I had been given a chance, but—all in all—I'm not such a bow-wow.*

box **1.** *n.* the genitals of the male, especially as contained within a garment, such as underwear. (Usually objectionable.) □ *God, did you see the box on him?* **2.** *n.* the genitals of a female; the vagina considered as a container for the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He wants to get in her box.* **3.** *n.* a coffin. □ *Put him in a box and put the box in a hole. Then the matter is closed.* **4.** *n.* a phonograph player. □ *My box is old, but still good.* □ *Yours is old! My box still has tubes!* **5.** *n.* a portable stereo radio. □ *Does that damn box have to be so loud?* **6.** *n.* a piano. □ *Man, he plays a mean box.* □ *She sure can pound the devil out of that box!* **7.** *in.* to die. □ *The old man looks like he's going to box at any minute.* **8.** Go to (ghetto) **box**. **9.** Go to (squeeze-)**box**.

boxed *mod.* dead; died. □ *My old dog is boxed.* *A car hit her.* □ *He's boxed. There's nothing that can be done.*

boxed in *mod.* in a bind; having few alternatives. □ *I really feel boxed in around here.* □ *I got him boxed in. He'll have to do it our way.*

boxed on the table *mod.* died on the (operating) table. (Medical. See also **boxed**.) □ *The surgeon did the best job possible, but the patient boxed on the table.* □ *Another patient boxed on the table. That's three today.*

boxed (up) **1.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *I am way boxed, and I feel sick.* □ *She got boxed up on gin.* **2.** *mod.* in jail. □ *I did it, and I was boxed for a long time for it. Now lay off!* □ *Pat was boxed up for two days till we got bond money.*

box someone in *tv.* to put someone into a bind; to reduce the number of someone's alternatives. (See also **boxed in**.) □ *I don't want to box you in, but you are running out of options.* □ *I want to box in the whole staff, so they'll have to do it my way.*

boys in blue Go to men in blue.

boys in the back room AND **back room boys** *n.* any private male group making decisions, usually politicians. □ *The boys in the back room picked the last presidential candidate.* □ *The back room boys have decided too many things in the past. Their day is over.*

bozo ['bozo] *n.* a clown; a jerk; a fool. (Also a term of address.) □ *Look, you bozo, I've had enough of your jabber.* □ *Those bozos are at it again. Spend, spend, spend.*

bra-burner *n.* <a nickname for a woman who supported the women's liberation movements of the 1960s and 1970s.> (Derogatory.) □ *Didn't the bra-burners give way to whale-savers in the seventies?* □ *Mike wants to know if the bra-burners took them off first.*

bracelets *n.* handcuffs. □ *The cops put the bracelets on Jane and led her away.*

brack-brain ['brækbren] *n.* a fool. □ *The brack-brains in Washington have done it again!* □ *One brack-brain around here is enough. Do you want me to leave?*

brain 1. *n.* a good student; a very intelligent person. (See also **brains**.) □ *I'm no brain, but I get good grades.* □ *Who was the brain who figured this out?* **2.** *tv.* to hit someone (in the head). □ *I ought to brain you for that!* □ *She almost brained me with her umbrella.*

brain bucket *n.* a bike or motorcycle helmet. □ *He refuses to wear a brain bucket when he rides.*

brain-burned AND **brain-fried** *mod.* brain-damaged from drugs. (Drugs. See also **burnout**.) □ *The kid is a little brain-burned, but still has a chance at an independent life.* □ *Man, you're gonna get brain-burned from this stuff.*

brainchild 1. *n.* someone's good idea viewed as an offspring of the brain. □ *Is this your brainchild? It won't work.* □ *Listen to this. It's my best brainchild.* **2.** *n.* a person who has good ideas. □ *The boss's new brainchild seems to have gone dry.* □ *You can't just go out and hire a brainchild. They've got to want to work for you.*

brain-dead *mod.* stupid. □ *I don't know why he's so dull. He's seems brain-dead half the time.* □ *I think that half my students are brain-dead.*

brain-drain *n.* the movement of intellectuals from one country to another where the pay and job opportunities are better. □ *It looks like the brain-drain of the fifties is reversing with more and more academics leaving the U.S. to join British universities.* □ *Where there is a good education system, there will always be a brain-drain.*

brain-fried Go to brain-burned.

brains *n.* the person(s) in charge of thinking something through. □ *Who's the brains around this joint?* □ *John is not what I would call the brains of the gang.*

brainstorm 1. *n.* a good idea; an idea that enters one's head suddenly. □ *I had a sudden brainstorm and got out of bed to write it down.* □ *This brainstorm hit me while I was in the shower.* **2.** *in.* to try to think up good ideas, especially as a group. □ *Let's brainstorm on this for a little while.*

brain-teaser Go to brain-twister.

brain-twister AND **brain-teaser** *n.* a puzzle. □ *This Maltese falcon case is a real brain-twister.* □ *Can you help me with this brain-teaser?*

(brand) spanking new *mod.* completely new. □ *My car is spanking new.* □ *Look at that brand spanking new car!*

brass *n.* high-ranking military or civilian officers. (See also **top brass**.) □ *We'll see what the brass has to say first.* □ *The brass said no to your promotion.*

brassed (off) *mod.* angry; disgusted. □ *You look so brassed off at the world. Smile!* □ *I'm not brassed in the least, really.*

brass hat *n.* a member of the brass. □ *When are the brass hats going to start paying attention to the important things?* □ *A brass hat came up to me and asked me where I was going.*

brass tacks *n.* essential business. (Usually in get down to brass tacks.) □ *Now that we are talking brass tacks, how much do you really want for this watch?* □ *Since we haven't gotten down to brass tacks, would it be unethical for me to buy you lunch?*

BRB *interj.* Be right back. (Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud. Often enclosed, <BRB>.) □ *I have to get off the computer for a minute.* <BRB> □ *I have to get off the computer to use the phone.* BRB

bread *n.* money. □ *I need to get some bread to live on.* □ *You got any bread you can spare?*

bread and butter *n.* one's livelihood. □ *It's bread and butter to me. I have to do it.* □ *I can't give it up. It's my bread and butter.*

breadbasket AND **dinner basket** *n.* the belly; the stomach. □ *I hit him, pow, right in the breadbasket.* □ *With a dinner basket like that, he must have a devil of a time buying clothes.*

break 1. *n.* a chance; an opportunity. □ *Come on, give me a break!* □ *I got my first break in show biz when I was only twelve.* **2.** *n.* an escape from prison; a prison breakout. □ *I hear there's a break planned for tonight.* □ *Two cons got shot in the break.* **3.** *in.* [for a news story] to unfold rapidly. (Journalism.) □ *As the story continues to break, we will bring you the latest.* □ *Something is breaking on the Wilson murder. Get over to the DA's office, quick.* **4.** *n.* a solo played when the rest of the band stops. □ *This is your break, Andy. Let's hear it, man.* □ *It wasn't much of a break, but I gave it everything.*

Break a leg! *exclam.* Good luck! (A special theatrical way of wishing a performer good luck. Saying *good luck* is considered to be a jinx.) □ *"Break a leg!" shouted the*

stage manager to the heroine. □ *Let's all go and do our best. Break a leg!*

breaker 1. *n.* a break dancer. (Break dancing is a rhythmic and energetic impromptu performance usually done by untrained urban youths.) □ *He is one of the best breakers in the city.* □ *I'm too fat to be a breaker.* **2.** *n.* someone attempting to use a citizens band radio channel. □ *There's a breaker trying to use this channel. Let's drop down to eleven.* □ *You got it, breaker.*

breakfast of champions *n.* a first alcoholic drink of the day, taken in the morning, instead of breakfast. (Collegiate.) □ *Well, here it goes—the breakfast of champions.* □ *He calls it the breakfast of champions. I call it a bad sign of something out of hand.*

Break it up! *exclam.* Stop it! (An order to two or more people to stop doing something, such as fighting.) □ *All right you two, break it up!* □ *She told the boys to break it up or get sent to the principal's office.*

break one's balls to do something *Go to bust (one's) ass (to do something).*

break out *in.* to leave. □ *It's late, man. Time to break out.* □ *We broke out a little after midnight.*

break someone's balls *tv.* to wreck or ruin someone; to overwork someone; to overwhelm someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I'm gonna break your balls. You understand me?*

break the ice 1. *tv.* to be the first one to do something. □ *No one wants to break the ice. I guess I will be first.* □ *Well, I guess we should break the ice and start dancing.* **2.** *tv.* to attempt to become friends with someone. □ *He tried to break the ice, but she was a little cold.* □ *A nice smile does a lot to break the ice.*

breather *n.* a rest period; a lull. □ *I really need a breather.* □ *As soon as we've had a breather, it's back to work.*

breeder *n.* a nonhomosexual. (In a homosexual context.) □ *Don't invite Wally. He's*

a breeder. □ *Why not? The breeders invited us to their party.*

breeze *n.* an easy task. □ *Nothing to it. It was a breeze.* □ *I went through it like a breeze.*

brew **1.** *n.* coffee; occasionally, tea. □ *I could use a nice cup of brew.* □ *This is my kind of brew, hot, black, and aromatic.* **2.** *n.* beer; a can, bottle, or glass of beer. □ *Hey, give me a cold brew, will ya?* □ *This is my favorite brew, and it's at just the right temperature.*

brewed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Fred is brewed every evening by 9:00. I think he has a problem.* □ *He tries to get brewed as soon as he can after work.*

brew-ha ['bruha] *n.* **brew**; a beer. □ *One brew-ha over here, innkeeper!* □ *How 'bout some brew-ha, Mike?*

brew-out *n.* a beer blast; a beer blow-out. □ *Were you at Tom's brew-out? I was too bombed to see who was there.* □ *Was that Tom's brew-out I was at?*

brews brothers *n.* (male) beer-drinking college students. (A play on *The Blues Brothers*, a popular movie released in 1980.) □ *The brews brothers were making a lot of noise last night. Don't those guys do anything but drink?* □ *You guys look like the devil and you smell like the brews brothers.*

brewski AND **brewsky** ['bruski] *n.* beer; a beer. □ *Hey, how 'bout a brewski?* □ *I'll take a nice cold brewsky.*

brewsky Go to **brewski**.

brewster ['brustə] **1.** *n.* a beer drinker; a beer drunkard. □ *Fred has become a committed brewster. He pounds one beer after another.* □ *A dedicated brewster can put away a six-pack in half an hour.* **2.** *n.* beer; a can of beer. □ *I need another brewster over here, and another one for my buddy.* □ *Toss me a cold brewster, will you?*

brick **1.** *n.* a failed shot in basketball. □ *Chalk up another brick for Michael.* □ *It looked close, but it was a brick.* **2.** *n.* any failure. □ *Charlie is responsible for another brick in the accounting department.* □ *This whole thing is a mess. Whose brick*

is this anyway? **3.** *in.* to fail. □ *The whole project bricked because we sat on the contract too long.* □ *The company almost bricked because of delays in signing contracts.*

brickhouse *n.* a large-breasted woman. (A confused or euphemistic reference to built like a brick shithouse. Usually objectionable.) □ *Clara's a real brickhouse. I don't see how she stands up.* □ *Look at the boobiasms on that brickhouse!*

brig [brig] *n.* jail. (From the term for a naval prison or a shipboard jail.) □ *Throw this jerk in the brig.* □ *The brig in that one-horse town is a mess.*

bright and breezy *mod.* cheery and alert. □ *You look all bright and breezy. What happened?* □ *Bright and breezy people on a day like this make me sick.*

bright-eyed and bushy-tailed *mod.* alert and ready to do something; as alert and as active as a squirrel. □ *You look all bright-eyed and bushy-tailed this morning.* □ *The child—bright-eyed and bushy-tailed—woke everyone up at dawn.* □ *Tell that bright-eyed and bushy-tailed brat to shut up!*

brights *n.* the eyes. (From *bright eyes*.) □ *Shine your brights on this thing for a minute, will you.* □ *Don't you close your brights and look bored when I'm talking to you!*

brim *n.* a hat. □ *Man, that is one fine brim you got.* □ *New silks call for a new brim.*

bring-down **1.** *n.* something that depresses someone. □ *The news was a terrible bring-down.* □ *Just to see your face was a bring-down.* **2.** *n.* something that brings someone back to reality. □ *The bill for the week's stay was a real bring-down.* □ *I have had one bring-down after another today.*

bring home the bacon *tv.* to earn a livelihood; to earn money to buy food. □ *When I have to bring home the bacon, I hope I have an interesting job.* □ *I have to bring home the bacon for six kids.*

bring someone down **1.** *tv.* to terminate one's own or someone else's drug expe-

rience. (Drugs.) □ *It took a lot to bring her down.* □ *We brought down the two of them carefully.* **2.** *tv.* to depress someone. □ *The news really brought me down.* □ *The failure of the business brought down the staff.*

bring someone on *tv.* to arouse someone sexually. □ *Look at her! She's doing her best to bring him on! Why are men so stupid?* □ *Are you trying to bring me on or something?*

bring something up **1.** *tv.* to mention something. (Standard English.) □ *Why did you have to bring that up?* □ *Then they brought up the question of money.* **2.** *tv.* to vomit something up; to cough something up. □ *See if you can get him to bring up the penny.* □ *I did, and he brought up a nickel instead!*

broad *n.* a woman. (Originally underworld slang. Often jocular. Usually considered rude and derogatory.) □ *When is that broad gonna show up?* □ *Will you broads go get yourselves ready so we can leave?*

Bronx cheer ['brʌŋks 'tʃɪr] *n.* a rude noise made with the lips; a **raspberry**. □ *The little air compressor in the corner of the parking lot made a noise like a Bronx cheer.* □ *He got only a Bronx cheer for his efforts.*

brother Go to (soul) brother.

brown-bag **1.** *n.* a bag lunch. □ *Bring a brown-bag, and we'll talk and eat at the same time.* □ *I lost my brown-bag, but I'll come to talk anyway.* **2.** *in.* to carry a bag lunch. □ *He's back to brown-bagging while he saves up for his vacation.* □ *I like to brown-bag. I don't eat so much when I do.* **3.** *mod.* having to do with an event during which people eat their own bag lunches. □ *These brown-bag affairs seem so tacky.* □ *The brown-bag meeting wasn't very useful.* □ *It's brown-bag. Come if you can.*

brown bottle flu *n.* a hangover or sickness from drinking. (Probably from beer, which is often sold in brown bottles.) □ *The jerks in the back row of my history class show up every Monday morning with the brown bottle flu.* □ *Wayne had a case*

of the brown bottle flu and didn't make the meeting.

browned (off) *mod.* angry. □ *I am really browned off at you!* □ *The boss is browned—to say the least.*

brown hole **1.** *n.* the anus. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Bob tried to kick Ziggy in the brown hole but missed.* **2.** *n.* to poke someone in the anus; to **goose** someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Freddy brown-holed Tom on the stairway, and they had quite a fight.*

brownie Go to brown-nose.

brownie points *n.* imaginary credit for doing something well. (Originally 'demerits' in railroading.) □ *How many brownie points do I get for not frowning when you take my picture?* □ *No brownie points for you, twit!*

brown-nose **1.** AND **brownie; brown-noser** *n.* a sycophant; one who flatters for self-serving motives. □ *You are just a plain old brown-nose.* □ *That brown-noser actually gave the boss a bottle of wine for her birthday.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to curry favor with someone; to be a sycophant. □ *Don't you brown-nose me!* □ *Don keeps brown-nosing, and the professor pretends not to notice.*

brown-noser Go to brown-nose.

brown out **1.** *in.* [for the electricity] to fade and dim down. (Something less than a black out.) □ *The power kept browning out.* □ *The lights started to brown out, and I thought maybe I didn't pay the bill for the juice.* **2.** *n.* a period of dimming or fading of the electricity. □ *There was another brown out today.* □ *They keep building all these expensive power stations, and then we still have brown outs.*

brown someone off *tv.* to make someone angry. (See also **browned (off)**.) □ *That whole business with the cab really browned me off.* □ *I'm afraid I'm going to brown off everyone, but here goes anyway.*

bruised [bruzd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I am bruised. My head hurts, and my gut feels yucky.* □ *How can anybody get so bruised on so little booze?*

bruiser ['brʊzə] *n.* a large, rough male. □ *That big bruiser must weigh a ton.* □ *They call that 320-pound bruiser “The Fridge.”*

brush *n.* an encounter; a close shave. □ *My brush with the bear was so close I could smell its breath—which was vile, I might add.* □ *It seemed like a brush with death.*

brushoff ['brʌʃɔf] *n.* a dismissal; an act of ignoring someone. (See also **give someone the brushoff**.) □ *No brushoff for her. I told her to beat it.* □ *I got the brushoff, but I can take it.*

brutal *mod.* excellent; powerful. □ *Man, what a brutal tune!* □ *That last wave was brutal to the max.*

BS 1. *n.* bullshit; nonsense; deception. (Partly euphemistic. Usually objectionable.) □ *Don't feed me that BS! I know the score!* **2.** *tv.* to deceive or attempt to deceive someone with lies or flattery. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Don't try to BS me with your sweet talk!*

BTO Go to big-time operator.

BTW *interj.* By the way. (Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *BTW, have you heard about the new communications software upgrade?* □ *I am, BTW, very interested in what you said about the high cost of software.*

bubblehead 1. *n.* a fool; a giddy person. □ *You silly bubblehead. Watch where you are going!* □ *If you can't say anything without coming off like a bubblehead, keep your mouth shut.* **2.** *n.* a heavy drinker of champagne. □ *It takes a pretty good bankroll to be a real high-class bubblehead.* □ *Part-time bubbleheads go into operation at weddings and other celebrations.*

bubbles Go to bubble water.

bubble water AND **bubbles** *n.* champagne. □ *More bubble water, or do you want something stronger?* □ *I want about a gallon of bubbles, thanks.*

bubbly *n.* champagne. (Often with *the*.) □ *I'd like a big glass of bubbly, if you don't mind.* □ *The bubbly will brighten up any party.*

buck 1. *n.* a dollar. □ *Gimme a buck for a bottle of wine, will you mister?* □ *Here's a buck; get me some cigarettes.* **2.** *tv.* to resist something. □ *Don't buck it. Do what you are told.* □ *He enjoys bucking the system.* **3.** *n.* a buckskin (leather) shoe. (Usually plural.) □ *Look at my new bucks!* □ *You don't see many red bucks. Are you sure you got the right thing?*

buckage *n.* money. (See also **buck**.) □ *I am a little low on buckage at the moment.* □ *Can you spare a little buckage until payday?*

bucket 1. *n.* the goal (hoop and net) in basketball. (Sports.) □ *Freddy arced one at the bucket and missed.* □ *When he holds his arm up, his hand is as high as the top of the bucket.* **2.** *n.* a hoop or basket in basketball. (Sports.) □ *Four buckets in two minutes. Is that a record, or what?* □ *The last bucket put Adamsville ahead by two points.* **3.** *n.* the buttocks. (See also **can**.) □ *Sam's getting a real fat bucket, isn't he?* □ *Haul your bucket over here and have a seat.* **4.** *n.* an old car. (From **bucket of bolts**.) □ *How much did you pay for that old bucket?*

bucket of bolts *n.* a machine, such as a car or a motorcycle, that is old, run-down, or worn-out. □ *My old bucket of bolts won't start this morning.*

buck for something *in.* to work ambitiously for something, such as a promotion. □ *I'm just bucking for recognition, and of course, a 20 percent raise.* □ *You can tell she's bucking for promotion.*

buck naked *mod.* entirely naked. (Folksy. From the color of buckskin leather.) □ *He stood there buck naked, scratching his belly.* □ *They all slipped off their trousers and went swimming buck naked.* □ *Who's that buck naked dancer?*

bucko ['bʊkə] *n.* friend; pal. (Also a term of address. Can also be used with a sneer to convey contempt.) □ *Hey, bucko, come here a minute.* □ *Ask your bucko there if he wants to join us.*

buckpasser *n.* someone who cannot accept the responsibility for something. (See also **pass the buck**.) □ *You are the most*

irresponsible buckpasser I have ever had to deal with! □ *When something really goes wrong, everybody suddenly becomes a buckpasser.*

buck up *in.* to cheer up; to perk up. □ *Come on, now, buck up. Things can't be all that bad.* □ *She began to buck up when I showed her the results of the tests.*

bud [bəd] *n.* a Budweiser™ beer; any beer. (See also **budhead**.) □ *How 'bout one of them buds in a green bottle?* □ *I got four kinds of bud here. Which do you want?*

buddy-buddy ['bʊdi'bʊdi] *mod.* friendly; too friendly. □ *Why is that guy so buddy-buddy with me?* □ *Don't try to get too buddy-buddy with these people. They don't like strangers.* □ *What a buddy-buddy phony!*

buddy up to someone *in.* to become very friendly toward someone. □ *Why are you buddying up to me? I don't even know you.* □ *Try to buddy up to him and pretend you are interested in what he is doing.*

buddy up (with someone) *in.* to share living space with someone; to share something with someone. □ *Let's buddy up, okay?* □ *There weren't enough to go around, so we had to buddy up.*

budget *mod.* [of something] of low quality or cheap. □ *Don't you dare bring back any of that budget pizza!*

budget crunch Go to budget squeeze.

budget squeeze AND **budget crunch** *n.* a situation where there is not enough money in the budget. □ *Facing another budget squeeze, the legislators were forced to put off their pay increase.* □ *The budget crunch hasn't begun to affect us yet.*

budhead ['bʊdhɛd] *n.* a beer drinker. (See also **bud**.) □ *You're a budhead, and you're getting worse.* □ *Here comes Charlie, my favorite budhead. How about a brew, Charlie?*

buffaloed ['bʊfələd] *mod.* confused; stumped. □ *These tax forms really have me buffaloed.* □ *He was so buffaloed by the problem that he didn't get any work done.*

buff(ed) [bʌft] *mod.* strong; muscular. □ *Bill is buffed and short-tempered. Stay away from him.* □ *He has such buff legs! Does he have a job or does he just work out?*

bug 1. *n.* a flaw in a computer program. □ *As soon as I get the bugs out, I can run my program.* □ *There is a little bug still, but it hardly causes any problems.* **2.** *n.* someone who is enthusiastic about something. (A combining form.) □ *Mary is a camera bug.* □ *Al has turned into a real compact disc bug.* **3.** *n.* an obsession or urge. □ *I've got this bug about making money.* □ *I have a bug that causes me to eat tons of pasta.* **4.** *n.* a spy device for listening to someone's conversation. □ *I found a little bug taped under my chair.* □ *The agency bulls put bugs everywhere.* **5.** *tv.* to conceal a microphone somewhere. □ *Who bugged my office?* □ *We will have to bug the bookie joint to get the goods on those guys.* **6.** *tv.* to annoy someone. □ *Stop bugging me, you twit!* □ *This kind of thing really bugs me.*

bug-fucker 1. *n.* a male with a small penis. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Tell the little bug-fucker he doesn't get a discount, no matter what he's got!* **2.** *n.* a small penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Well, a bug-fucker is better than no fucker at all.* **3.** *n.* an insignificant and worthless male. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Listen to me, you stupid bug-fucker! Get your things and get outa here!*

buggy ['bʊgi] *n.* an automobile. □ *Other than a dent in the front bumper, this buggy is in A-1 condition.* □ *It's time to buy a new buggy.*

bugly ['bʊg li] *mod.* butt ugly; really ugly. □ *I have never seen such a bugly guy in my life!*

Bug off! *exclam.* Get out!; Go away! □ *Bug off! Get out of here!* □ *Bug off and leave me alone!*

bug out 1. *in.* to pack up and retreat. (Military, Korean War.) □ *Orders are to bug out by oh-nine-hundred.* □ *Okay, everybody, move it! We're bugging out.* **2.** *in.* to get out of somewhere fast. □ *I gotta find*

a way to bug out of here without getting caught. □ Okay, it's clear. Let's bug out.

buick *in.* to vomit. (Onomatopoetic. Based on the automobile name.) □ Dave buicked on the lawn and then stumbled into the house. □ Oh, lordy! I feel like I'm going to buick.

built like a brick shithouse **1.** *mod.* pertaining to a very strong and well-built person. (Usually refers to a male. Refers to the sturdiness of an outhouse [outdoor toilet] built of brick rather than the traditional wooden outhouse. Usually objectionable.) □ Chuck is built like a brick shithouse. The only fat on him is where his brain ought to be. **2.** *mod.* pertaining to a beautiful and curvaceous woman. (Refers to the imagined curving and uneven walls of an outhouse built hastily and carelessly of brick. This sense is a misinterpretation of the first sense. Usually objectionable.) □ Look at that dame! She's really built like a brick shithouse.

bull **1.** *n.* nonsense; **bullshit.** □ That's just a lot of bull. □ Don't give me that bull! I won't buy it. **2.** *tv. & in.* to lie to or deceive someone. □ Stop bullying me! □ Is she bullying again? **3.** *n.* a police officer; a private detective or guard. □ Here come the bulls. Get out. □ And this bull comes up and says, "Where's the fire?"

bull bitch *n.* a strong and masculine woman. (Rude and derogatory.) □ So, this bull bitch walks up to me and says, "Hey, buddy, got a match?"

bull-dagger Go to bulldiker.

bulldiker AND **bull-dagger; bulldyer** *n.* a lesbian, especially if aggressive or masculine. (Rude and derogatory.) □ Some old bulldiker strutted in and ordered a beer and a chaser.

bulldoze *tv.* to apply pressure or force to get someone to do something. □ You think you can bulldoze people into doing what you want! □ Don't bulldoze me! I push back.

bulldyer Go to bulldiker.

bullet-stopper *n.* a U.S. Marine. (From the Persian Gulf War.) □ The bullet-stoppers

shipped out before we even got to the desert. □ About a dozen bullet-stoppers came into the bar and the army guys tried to start a fight.

bullheaded *mod.* stubborn. □ Don't be so bullheaded. □ You are the most bullheaded man I've ever known.

bull-pucky ['bʊlpəki] **1.** *n.* bull dung. □ Why didn't you watch where you were going? Didn't you expect to find bull-pucky in a barnyard? □ How can you tell it's bull-pucky? **2.** *n.* nonsense; **bullshit.** □ Don't give me that bull-pucky! □ That's all just bull-pucky. Don't believe a word of it.

bull session *n.* a session of casual conversation. □ The gals were sitting around enjoying a bull session. □ The bull session ran on late into the night.

bullshit **1.** *n.* lies; deception; hype; nonsense. (Also an exclamation: **Bullshit!** Widely known and used by both sexes. Usually objectionable.) □ That's just a lot of bullshit! □ I've heard enough of your bullshit. **2.** *tv.* to deceive someone verbally. (Usually objectionable.) □ Are you trying to bullshit me? **3.** *in.* to tell lies; to hype and promote. (Usually objectionable.) □ Can't you stop bullshitting about how good you are? **4.** *mod.* false; deceptive. (Usually objectionable.) □ I'm sick of those bullshit ads on TV.

bullshit artist AND **bullshitter** *n.* a person expert at lies, deception, and hype. (See **bullshit.** Usually objectionable.) □ What can you expect from a bullshit artist? The truth?

bullshitter Go to bullshit artist.

bullyrag ['bʊliræg] *tv. & in.* to harass someone. □ Don't bullyrag me just because you're upset. □ Pete is bullyragging again.

bum **1.** *n.* a vagrant; a good-for-nothing. □ You had better get your finances in order unless you want to become a bum. □ There is a bunch of bums on the corner, just doing nothing. **2.** *mod.* bad; faulty. □ This is a bum fuse. No wonder it won't run. □ The screw has a bum head and won't turn. **3.** Go to bum something (off someone).

bum about someone or something *in.* to be depressed about someone or something. □ *She's really bum about her grades. They suck.*

bum around *in.* to wander around; to kick around. □ *I thought I'd bum around for a few years before I settled down.* □ *Those two kids bummed around Europe for two months.*

bum beef Go to bogus beef.

Bumblefuck Go to Bumfuck.

bum check *n.* a bad check; a forged check. (See also **paper**.) □ *I never wrote a bum check in my life.* □ *We took in four bum checks today.*

Bumfuck AND **Bumblefuck** *n.* an imaginary place where everyone is a rural oaf. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I have to drive my cousin home. He lives out in West Bumfuck or something.*

bummed (out) *mod.* discouraged; depressed. □ *I feel so bummed. I think I need a nice hot bath.* □ *When you're feeling bummed out, think how many problems I have.*

bummer 1. AND **bum trip** *n.* a bad drug experience. (Drugs.) □ *She almost didn't get back from a bum trip.* □ *This bummer comes from mixing pills.* **2.** *n.* a disagreeable thing or person. □ *My coach is a real bummer.* □ *The game was a bummer you wouldn't believe.* **3.** *mod.* disappointing; unpleasant. □ *I had a real bummer day.* □ *This bummer car won't start!*

bumming *mod.* down; depressed; suffering from something disagreeable. (Collegiate.) □ *I'm really bumming. I think I need somebody to talk to.* □ *Everybody's bumming. It must be the weather.*

bum out 1. *in.* to have a bad experience with drugs. (Drugs.) □ *I bummed out on angel dust.* □ *She bummed out once too often and gave up the stuff altogether.* **2.** *in.* to have any bad experience. □ *We bummed out at the concert. I dropped my music, and Larry broke a string.* □ *The test was horrible. I bummed out, for sure.*

bump *tv.* to remove someone from an airplane flight, usually involuntarily, be-

cause of overbooking. □ *They bumped me, but gave me something to make up for it.* □ *Is this airline in the habit of bumping old ladies?*

bumping *mod.* [of music] having a good beat. □ *Man, this music is bumping. I can feel the beat.*

bump someone off *tv.* to kill someone. (Originally underworld.) □ *What am I supposed to do, bump her off?* □ *The mob bumped off the witness before the trial.*

Bump that! *tv.* Forget that! □ *Bump that! I was wrong.* □ *I gave you the wrong number. Bump that!*

bump uglies *tv.* [for two people] to copulate. □ *You been bumpin' uglies with Joannie again?*

bum rap 1. *n.* a false criminal charge. (Underworld. The same as **bad rap**.) □ *This is a bum rap, and you know it.* □ *If a crook didn't scream that he got a bum rap, I might think he was really innocent.* **2.** AND **bum-rap** *tv.* to talk ill about someone; to accuse someone of something falsely. □ *You're always bum-rapping your car!* □ *Don't bum rap me! I'll sue!*

bum someone out *tv.* to discourage someone. (See also **bummed (out)**.) □ *That darn blow-out bummed me out.* □ *The failure of his tires bummed out the race driver.*

bum something (off someone) *tv.* to beg or borrow something (from someone). □ *Can I bum a cigarette off you?* □ *Can I bum a quarter for a phone call?*

bum's rush *n.* the ejection of a person from a place. □ *I got the bum's rush at that bar.* □ *Do I look that bad?* □ *Give this dame the bum's rush. She can't pay for nothin'.*

bum steer ['bəm 'stir] *n.* a false lead; false information. □ *You sure gave me a bum steer when you told me who he was.* □ *We spent all day checking out what turned out to be a bum steer.*

bum trip Go to bummer.

bunch of fives *n.* the fist. □ *How would you like a bunch of fives right in the kisser?*

□ *He ended up with a bunch of fives in the gut.*

bunch-punch **1.** *n.* an act of serial copulation, with one female and a group of males. □ *Sam always dreamed about being involved in a bunch-punch.* **2.** *n.* an act of group rape of a woman. □ *There was a bunch-punch in this neighborhood last night, and the night before, and the night before that. Where are the police?*

bunco ['bæŋkə] **1.** *n.* a scheme to swindle people. (From *banca*, the name of a card game in Spanish.) □ *He's been fiddling with bunco on the West Coast.* □ *All the stuff relating to bunco comes across this desk.* **2.** *tv.* to swindle someone. □ *They buncoed an old lady and left her penniless.* □ *Fred tried to bunco a chick in Frisco, but felt sorry for her at the last minute.*

buncombe Go to bunkum.

bundle *n.* a large amount of money. (See also *lose a bundle*; *make a bundle*; *package*.) □ *He still has a bundle from the sale of his house.* □ *You must think I have a real bundle.*

bundle from heaven Go to bundle of joy.

bundle of joy AND **bundle from heaven** *n.* a baby. □ *We are expecting a bundle of joy next September.* □ *When your little bundle from heaven arrives, things will be a little hectic for a while.*

bundle of nerves *n.* a very nervous person. □ *I'm just a bundle of nerves. I wish this were over.* □ *Paul's been a bundle of nerves ever since his wreck.*

bunghole **1.** *n.* the mouth. □ *I've heard enough out of you! Shut your bunghole!* **2.** *n.* the anus. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She tripped and fell down on her bunghole.*

bunkie ['bæŋki] *n.* a roommate. □ *My bunkie is from Iowa.* □ *I wish I had a bunkie. Things get lonely in a single room.*

bunkum AND **buncombe** ['bæŋkəm] *n.* nonsense. □ *That's just plain bunkum.* □ *Another candidate for governor means just that much more buncombe.*

buns *n.* the buttocks. □ *Look at the buns on that guy!* □ *Me and my girlfriend just*

love to go down to the beach and look for guys with cute buns.

burb [bɜːb] *n.* a suburb. (Usually plural.) □ *I've lived in the burbs all my life.* □ *Our burb is too far from the city for much pollution.*

burbed out [bɜːbd...] *mod.* looking very middle-class and suburban; decked out like a suburban citizen. □ *She's all burbed out with new clothes and a fancy car.* □ *He looks sort of burbed out for a city guy.*

burg [bɜːg] *n.* a small town. (Disdainful.) □ *I can't stand another day in this burg.* □ *This burg is getting on my nerves.*

burger *n.* a hamburger sandwich; a hamburger patty. □ *You ready for another burger?* □ *He's cooking burgers out on the grill right now.*

burger-flipper *n.* a lowly hamburger cook in a fast-food restaurant. □ *If you drop out of school now, you'll end up being a burger-flipper for the rest of your life.*

burn **1.** *n.* a cigarette. □ *Gimme a burn, huh?* □ *Fred just stood there with a burn on his lower lip and his hands in his pockets.* **2.** *tv.* to smoke a cigarette. □ *I need to burn a fag. Just a minute.* □ *This nicotine fiend needs to burn one for a fix!* **3.** *tv.* to smoke cannabis. (Drugs.) □ *Jim spent Saturday out in the field burning grass.* □ *The two of them sat there burning reefers for hours on end.* **4.** *tv.* to execute someone in the electric chair. (Underworld.) □ *I'll see that they burn you for this!* □ *The DA tried to burn me, but I got off with six months.* **5.** *in.* to die by electrocution in the electric chair. (Underworld.) □ *I ain't afraid I'll burn, copper!* □ *I'll see that you burn for this.* **6.** *tv.* to cheat or rob someone. □ *Tom tried to burn me by selling me a bum watch, but I'm too clever.* □ *He will burn you if you're not careful.* **7.** *tv.* to shoot someone. (Underworld.) □ *He burned the guy with a pistol, but it didn't stop him.* □ *Hold it! I've burned one guy tonight, and I ain't afraid of puttin' a hole through you.* **8.** *n.* a deception; an instance of being cheated. □ *Man, that was a burn. That guy was really mad.* □ *We pulled off the burn with-*

out a hitch. It was a gas. **9. n.** the charge or rush after the injection of a drug into a vein. (Drugs.) □ *Man, wait'll you taste the burn from this stuff.* □ *I don't want a big burn; just drag it out for about an hour.*

10. tv. to cook food. □ *Why don't you burn some chow for me?* □ *Burn your own stuff, you lazy good-for-nothing man!*

burn artist *n.* someone who cheats or harms someone else; an informer. (Underworld.) □ *Never trust a known burn artist.* □ *The fuzz rounded up all the burn artists in the district and pumped them for info.*

burned 1. mod. cheated; betrayed. □ *Man, did I get burned in that place!* □ *We sure got burned on that deal.* **2. mod.** disappointed; humiliated; put down. □ *Whenever we rap, you're never happy till I'm burned.* □ *Ha! You're burned!* **3. AND burned up** *mod.* very angry. □ *I've never been so burned up at anyone.* □ *Boy, was I burned!*

burned out **AND burnt out 1. mod.** tired; bored. □ *I'm burned out after all that partying.* □ *I don't want to work with burnt out people. I need energy.* **2. mod.** having to do with the ruined veins of an addict. (Drugs.) □ *These old ropes are just burned out. I don't know what to do.* □ *My veins are burnt out so I shoot in the jug.* **3. mod.** ruined by marijuana smoking. (Drugs. See also **burnout**.) □ *The poor kid was burned out at the age of twelve.* □ *What's left for these burned out kids?* **4. mod.** no longer affected by a particular drug. (Drugs.) □ *It's no good. I'm just burned out. The stuff doesn't affect me at all.* □ *She was burned out on Q.*

burned up Go to **burned**.

burnout ['bɜːnaʊt] **1. n.** a person who is ruined by drugs. □ *The kid's a burnout. What can you do?* □ *Two burnouts sat on the school steps and stared at their feet.* **2. n.** someone no longer effective on the job. □ *As a teacher, Fred is a burnout.* □ *We try to find some other employment for the burnouts.*

burn rubber *tv.* to run a car engine so fast that one spins the tires so that rubber is

left on the street. (See also **lay (some) rubber**.) □ *Man, this hog can really burn rubber.* □ *When George was at the age when the greatest thrill was burning rubber, he began to shave once a week.*

burn someone down *tv.* to humiliate someone. □ *Man, don't you ever burn me down like that again!* □ *You just want to burn down everybody to make yourself seem better.*

burn someone up *tv.* to make someone very angry. □ *That kind of thing just burns me up.* □ *This whole business burns all of us up.*

burnt offering *n.* burned food; a badly cooked meal. □ *Everything I try to cook turns out to be a burnt offering.* □ *All I have to look forward to after work is a burnt offering.*

burnt out Go to **burned out**.

burn with a low blue flame 1. in. to be heavily alcohol intoxicated. □ *Yeah, he's burning with a low blue flame.* □ *He's not just drunk, he's burning with a low blue flame.* **2. in.** to be quietly and intensely angry. □ *She just sat there with her steak in her lap, burning with a low blue flame.* □ *She was quiet, but everyone knew she would soon burn with a low blue flame.*

burp Go to **berp**.

burps Go to **berps**.

bury the hatchet 1. tv. to make peace. (From an alleged Amerindian practice.) □ *I'm sorry. Let's stop arguing and bury the hatchet.* □ *Tom and I buried the hatchet and we are good friends now.* **2. tv.** to leave surgical instruments in the patient. (Medical.) □ *Did Dr. Smith bury the hatchet again?* □ *The idea that a doctor would bury the hatchet is a very old joke.*

bush 1. n. the pubic hair. (Usually objectionable.) □ *How old were you when you started growing a bush?* **2. n.** women considered as a receptacle for the penis. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Bubba says he gotta have some bush.*

bush bitch **AND bush pig** *n.* an ugly or unpleasant female. (Derogatory.) □ *Tom's*

been dating some bush pig from Adamsville. □ Who is that bush bitch I saw Tom with last night?

bushed [boʊt] *mod.* exhausted. □ I am just bushed. □ Another hard day! I am more bushed than ever.

bush patrol **1.** *n.* a session of necking and petting. (Here *patrol* has the military meaning of assignment.) □ Tom is out on bush patrol tonight. I don't know who with. □ Martha and Paul spent the evening on bush patrol. **2.** *n.* an imaginary search through campus shrubbery to flush out the necking couples. □ The dean of women put on her housecoat and went out on bush patrol. □ Bush patrol starts at midnight, so be in by then.

bush pig Go to bush bitch.

business end (of something) *n.* the dangerous end of something; the part of something that does something as opposed to the part one holds on to. □ Harry burned himself on the business end of a soldering iron. □ The robber pointed the business end of the gun right at Kelly.

bust **1.** *n.* a failure. □ The whole project was a bust from the beginning. □ My whole life is a bust. **2.** *tv.* to reduce someone's rank. (Originally military, now also in civilian use as with the police.) □ I'm going to bust you to private! □ The brass busted her on the spot. **3.** *n.* a riotous drinking party. □ There was a big bust in the park until two in the morning. □ There was no beer at the bust. Only wine. **4.** *n.* a raid by the police. □ The cops staged a bust on Max's place. □ I knew it was a bust the minute they broke in the door. **5.** *tv.* [for the police] to raid a place. □ The bacon busted Bill's bar and put Bill in the slammer. □ We're gonna bust every bookie joint in town. **6.** *tv.* to arrest someone. □ The feds finally busted Frank on a tax rap. □ A smokey busted Fred for not having a tail-light. **7.** *n.* an arrest. □ The bust was carried off without much stress. □ What a bust! The man was hollering and the kids were scoffing like mad. **8.** *tv.* to inform on someone, leading to an arrest. □ I guess I busted Frank, but they threatened me. □ Tom busted Sam because there's bad blood

between them. **9.** *n.* the police. □ The bust is gonna find you no matter where you hole up. □ Here comes the bust. Beat it! **10.** Go to busted.

busta *n.* a punk; a jerk. (From the nickname *buster*.) □ Yo, Busta! Tsup?

bust a gut (to do something) *tv.* to make a great effort (to do something). (Usually objectionable.) □ I busted a gut trying to get just the thing you wanted! □ Don't bust a gut, but try to get here on time.

bust a move *tv.* to leave (a place). □ Let's go. Time to bust a move. □ Let's bust a move. Lots to do tomorrow.

bust-ass Go to kick-ass.

bust ass (out of some place) Go to bag ass (out of some place).

busted **1.** *AND bust mod.* arrested. □ Max is bust again. The third time this month. □ I got busted for speeding. **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ I went to a beer bust and got busted. □ Jim is busted again—really boiled.

bust (one's) ass (to do something) AND break one's balls (to do something); bust one's butt (to do something); bust one's nuts (to do something) *tv.* to work very hard to do something; to work very hard at something. (Usually objectionable.) □ You get down there and bust your ass to get the job done right! You hear me? □ Come on, you guys! Let's bust ass! Get busy! □ I've been busting my butt at this job for 30 years and look where it's got me!

bust one's butt to do something Go to bust (one's) ass (to do something).

bust one's nuts to do something Go to bust (one's) ass (to do something).

bust on someone or something *n.* to attack someone or a group. □ These three guys busted on Bubba and broke his arm.

bust someone one *tv.* to punch someone; to give someone a punch, probably in the face. □ You better shut up, or I'll bust you one! □ You want me to bust you one? I will if you do that again.

bust (some) suds **1.** *tv.* to drink some beer. □ *Let's go out and bust some suds.* □ *I'm tired of busting suds. Let's play cards.*

2. *tv.* to wash dishes. □ *I don't want to spend the rest of my life busting suds.* □ *You get into that kitchen and bust some suds to pay for your meal!*

bust something up *tv.* to ruin something; to break something up. □ *She tried to bust my marriage up!* □ *I hate to bust up the party, but we gotta go.*

bust something wide open *Go* to blow something wide open.

but *mod.* totally; very. (Note its position in the sentence.) □ *Tell him to get his tail over here but fast.* □ *This thing has to be done but good.*

but-boy *n.* someone, usually a male, who raises objections frequently. (The opposite of a yes-man.) □ *I wish you wouldn't be such a but-boy, Higgins. Can't you ever agree with anyone?* □ *Hank is such a but-boy. He doesn't know when to just let something go by.*

butch [bʊtʃ] **1.** *n.* a physician. (Derogatory. From *butcher*.) □ *The butch at the infirmary was no help at all.* □ *What does it take to be a butch besides an office and a degree?* **2.** *mod.* virile and masculine. (In a homosexual context.) □ *That's a real butch haircut, Claude.* □ *Really, Clare. How butch!*

But, hey *phr.* <a sentence opener used often to get attention and perhaps contradict a previous remark.> □ *A: Please don't track sand all over the restaurant carpet! B: But, hey, it's my vacation!* □ *But, hey! I live here and I can do what I want!*

butt [bʊt] **1.** *n.* the buttocks. (Potentially offensive, although heard almost everywhere.) □ *She fell right on her butt.* □ *The doctor gave her a shot in the butt.* **2.** *n.* a cigarette butt. □ *Whose butts are those in the car ashtray?* □ *Don't leave your butts in the houseplants!* **3.** *n.* a cigarette of any kind. □ *You got a butt I can bum?* □ *What kind of butt is that, anyway?* **4.** *n.* someone or something that is disliked. (Rude and derogatory. See also *boody*.) □ *The*

guy's a real butt. A real squid. □ *I wish you didn't act like such a butt all the time.*

butter *mod.* good; really fine. □ *This guy Walter, he's butter, totally butter.* □ *Man, your threads are butter!*

butterfingers *n.* someone who cannot hold on to things. (Also a term of address.) □ *I'm such a butterfingers. I dropped my papers.* □ *Hang on to this tight, butterfingers!*

butt-fucking Egypt AND **BFE** *n.* a place that is very far away. (Usually objectionable.) □ *My brother lives out in butt-fucking Egypt somewhere.*

butthead *n.* a stupid or obnoxious person of either sex. (Also a term of address. Rude and derogatory.) □ *Don't be such a butthead!*

butthole *n.* the anus; the asshole. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Why are you always scratching your butthole?*

buttinsky AND **buttinski** [bə'tɪnski] *n.* someone who interrupts; someone who gets involved in other people's business. □ *Frank is such a buttinsky.* □ *I hate to be a buttinski, but what are you talking about?*

buttlegging ['bʊtlægɪŋ] *n.* the transportation of untaxed or undertaxed cigarettes across a state line. (Patterned on *bootlegging*.) □ *There's another news story about buttlegging in northern Indiana tonight.* □ *Most of the guys at the plant do buttlegging on the way home from work.*

buttlod AND **shitload** *mod.* a lot; a large amount. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I know we can sell a buttlod of these recordings—if we can only get a shipment of them in time.* □ *I want to get a really good job and earn a shitload of money.*

butt naked *mod.* totally nude. □ *I was butt naked in the shower and couldn't get the phone.*

button **1.** *n.* the termination of a recitation; the punch line of a joke; a *zinger*. (The equivalent of a button punched to signal a response.) □ *When I got to the button, I realized that I had told the whole joke wrong.* □ *When I came to the button, I*

knew I was really going to insult the guy.
2. n. a police officer's badge or shield. □ *The guy flashed his button, so I let him in.* □ *Just because you got a button, it doesn't mean you can push innocent citizens around!*

buttonhole *tv.* to accost someone; to make someone listen to one. (As if grabbing someone by the coat lapel to keep them from getting away.) □ *The guy buttonholed me on my way out, and started asking me a lot of questions.* □ *See if you can buttonhole a cop and get some directions.*

Button your lip! *exclam.* Shut up!; Be quiet! □ *I've heard enough outa you! Button your lip!*

Butt out! *exclam.* Get out of my affairs!; Mind your own business! □ *Go away! Butt out!* □ *Butt out! I'm busy.*

butt-ugly *mod.* very ugly. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That is the most butt-ugly car I've ever seen.* □ *She is one butt-ugly woman.*

butt-wipe *Go to ass-wipe.*

buy 1. n. a purchase. □ *Man, this is a great buy.* □ *What a buy, two for the price of one.* **2. tv.** to believe something. □ *Nobody'll buy that story.* □ *It sounds good to me, but will your wife buy it?*

buy it *tv.* to die. (See also **buy the farm**; **buy the big one**.) □ *For a minute, I thought I was going to buy it.* □ *He lay there coughing for a few minutes, and then he bought it.*

buy someone's wolf ticket *tv.* to challenge someone's boast or taunt. (Streets. See also **sell a wolf ticket**.) □ *He wants me to buy his wolf ticket bad.* □ *He's such a fighter. He'll buy anybody's wolf ticket.*

buy the big one *tv.* to die. □ *I don't plan to buy the big one for at least another thirty years.* □ *She conked out for good—you know, bought the big one.*

buy the farm *tv.* to die; to get killed. □ *He bought the farm on San Juan Hill.* □ *I'm too young to buy the farm.*

buy time *tv.* to use a tactic to postpone something. □ *You are just doing this to*

buy time. □ *Maybe I can buy some time by asking for a continuance.*

buy trouble *tv.* to encourage trouble; to bring on trouble. □ *I don't want to buy trouble. I have enough already.* □ *Saying something like that is just buying trouble.*

buzhie ['buʒi] **1. n.** a middle-class person. (From *bourgeoisie*.) □ *My mother was a buzhie, but my father was a Bohemian type.* □ *I live in a neighborhood of buzhies.* **2. mod.** middle-class. □ *I can't stand this buzhie neighborhood.* □ *I live in a buzhie house and drive a buzhie car.* □ *She is so buzhie!*

buzz 1. n. a call on the telephone. (Usually with *give*. See also **jingle**.) □ *I'll give you a buzz tomorrow.* □ *I got a buzz from him yesterday.* **2. tv.** to call someone on the telephone. □ *Buzz me about noon.* □ *I'll buzz Mary and see if she can go.* **3. tv.** to signal someone with a buzzer. □ *I'll buzz my secretary.* □ *Did you buzz, Gloria?* **4. n.** a thrill. □ *I got a real buzz out of that.* □ *The dancers gave the old man a buzz.* **5. n.** a chuckle. □ *She gets a buzz out of reading the comics.* □ *Here's a little joke that'll give you a buzz.* **6. n.** the initial effects of drinking alcohol or taking certain drugs. □ *Sam got a little buzz from the wine, but he still needed something stronger.* □ *She took a hit and leaned back, waiting for the buzz.*

buzz along 1. in. to depart. □ *Well, I must buzz along.* □ *It's time to buzz along to work now.* **2. in.** to drive or move along rapidly. □ *We were buzzing along at about seventy when we heard a siren.* □ *"You were buzzing along at eighty-two miles per hour," said the cop.*

buzzard *n.* an old man; a mean old man. (Especially with *old*.) □ *Who's the buzzard in the wing-tip shoes?* □ *Some old buzzard is at the door asking for Mary Wilson.*

buzzard meat *n.* someone or something that is dead or outdated. □ *If you don't watch out, you're going to become buzzard meat!* □ *That old car is buzzard meat. It will hardly run.*

buzzing *mod.* drunk. □ *Sally was buzzing after only a few drinks.* □ *She was really buzzing and Molly had to take her home.*

buzzword *n.* a specialist word; a technical word; a jargon word. (See also **fuzzword**.) □ *Your constant use of buzzwords makes your work sound quite trivial.* □ *What's the latest buzzword?*

BVDs AND **beeveedees** *n.* underwear; men's underwear. (The first entry is an initialism. From *Bradley, Voorhies, and Day*, the manufacturers. Always plural.) □ *He stood there in his BVDs, freezing.* □

If you don't wear a belt, your BVDs will show.

BWOC *n.* big woman on campus, an important or self-important female college student. (Initialism. Collegiate. See also **BMOC**.) □ *Some BWOC came in and asked us to leave.* □ *It's always the same BWOCs you see in the paper.*

BYO(B) *mod.* bring your own (booze or bottle). (Initialism.) □ *A note on the invitation says that the party is BYOB.* □ *I hate BYOB parties. There's never enough to drink.*

C

C. *n.* the sum of one-hundred dollars, as in **C-note**. (Underworld. The C is the Roman numeral 100.) □ *Four C.s for an old junker like that? You're crazy!* □ *This suit cost me two C.s.*

cabbage *n.* money. (Originally underworld. See also **green**; **spinach**.) □ *How much cabbage you want for this heater?* □ *I don't make enough cabbage to go on a trip like that!*

cabbagehead *n.* a fool; a stupid person. □ *What cabbagehead put this thing on upside down?* □ *I'm such a cabbagehead. I mailed my paycheck back to the office by mistake.*

cabbie AND **cabby** *n.* a taxi driver. (Also a term of address.) □ *Ask the cabbie if he can change a twenty.* □ *Say, cabby, do you know the way to St. Joseph's Hospital?*

caboose [kə'bus] *n.* the buttocks. (From the name of the car at the end of a railroad train.) □ *You just plunk your caboose over there on the settee and listen up to what I have to tell you.* □ *My caboose is bigger than I want it, but life is too short to fret about stuff like that.*

caca AND **kaka** ['kaka] **1.** *n.* dung; feces. (Juvenile. From Spanish. Usually objectionable.) □ *There's fresh caca in the front yard.* □ *Don't worry. It's dog kaka.* **2.** *in.* to defecate. (Juvenile. Usually objectionable.) □ *Jimmy kakad in his diaper!* □ *It's time you learned to caca in the potty.*

cack [kæk] **1.** *n.* dung; feces. (Usually objectionable. See also **caca**.) □ *Wipe that cack off your shoes before you come in here!* □ *The sidewalks are just covered with cack!* **2.** *in.* to defecate. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The dog cacked right there on Fifth Avenue.* □ *"Dogs can't cack here,"*

hollered the police officer. **3.** AND **kack;** **kak** *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *I cacked all night with the flu.* □ *I've never heard anybody cack so loud in my life!* **4.** AND **kack;** **kak** *tv.* to kill someone. □ *Frank threatened to cack Veronica if she didn't straighten up.* □ *The witness got cacked before she could testify.* **5.** *tv.* to deceive someone; to **shit** (sense 7) someone. □ *That didn't happen! You're just cacking me.*

cackleberry *n.* an egg. (Old.) □ *You want cackleberries for breakfast?*

cactus (buttons) *n.* peyote cactus containing mescaline. (Drugs.) □ *Gert came back from vacation with a bag of cactus buttons.* □ *"Who ate all my cactus?" screamed Gert.*

cactus juice *n.* tequila. (A Mexican liquor.) □ *Ernie brought back a big jug of cactus juice from Mexico.* □ *This cactus juice will make your hair stand on end.*

caddy ['kædi] *n.* a Cadillac automobile. □ *What I really want is a caddy. Keep your yuppie beemer.* □ *Who's the chick in the caddy?*

Cadillac ['kædɪlək] **1.** *n.* the name of something powerful or superior. (From the name of the automobile.) □ *This product is the Cadillac of plastic kitchenware.* □ *Acme is the Cadillac of monochrome closed-circuit retail surveillance equipment.* **2.** *n.* a powerful drug, especially cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *Just a pinch of Cadillac in my junk seems to keep me a little more lively.* □ *Nothing but Cadillac for Frank!*

the **cage of anger** *n.* a prison. (Streets.) □ *The judge put Jojo into the cage of anger for a three-year stretch.* □ *Man, you*

wanna stay in the cage of anger for the rest of your life? If not, chill, chill, chill.

cagey ['kɛdʒi] *mod.* sneaky; shrewd. □ John is pretty cagey. You have to keep an eye on him. □ He's too cagey for me. I don't trust him at all.

cake 1. *n.* money. (From bread, dough.) □ I can't scrape together enough cake to do the job. □ I don't have cake in my pocket, in the bank, or under my mattress. What am I going to do? **2.** Go to **cakes**.

cake hole Go to word **hole**.

cakes the buttocks. (Like **buns**.) □ You behave yourself or I'll blister your cakes. □ She fell down and bruised her cakes.

cakewalk *n.* something very easy. (See also **sleepwalk**.) □ Nothing to it. It's a cakewalk. □ The game was a cakewalk from beginning to end.

calaboose ['kæləbʊs] *n.* jail. (From a Spanish word.) □ One night in the calaboose is enough. □ Are we going to tell what happened, or are we going to spend the night in the calaboose?

calendar *n.* a month. □ Okay, man. I'll see you in one calendar. □ One more calendar, then you get your jack.

call 1. *n.* a decision; a prediction. □ That was a good call, Mike. □ The market behaved just as you said it would. Good call.

2. *tv.* to challenge someone. □ I called him, but he ignored me. □ Are you the guy who called me? Who do you think you are?

3. *n.* the early effects of a drug; the beginning of a rush; a rush. (Drugs.) □ You may not get the call on this stuff for twenty minutes or more. □ A guy like this is only happy when he senses the call.

call (all) the shots *tv.* to decide on the course of action; to be in charge. □ Why do you have to call all the shots? □ Do what you're told. I'll call the shots.

call earl Go to call **hughie**.

call-girl *n.* a woman who is on call as a prostitute. (Possibly refers to a prostitute who can be contacted by a telephone call.) □ The cops dragged in a whole flock of call-girls after the convention.

call hogs *tv.* to snore really loudly. □ Mike was calling hogs all night long and I got hardly a wink of sleep. □ Wake up! Wake up! You're calling hogs again!

call house *n.* a brothel. □ The cops busted a call house on Fourth Street last week. □ The madame of the call house certainly looked like a lady to me.

call hughie AND **call earl** [...'hyui AND ...'ɜ:l] *tv.* to vomit. (Onomatopoeic from the sound of retching.) □ Fred spent an hour in the john calling hughie. □ Yuck! I have to go call earl.

Call my service. *sent.* Please call me through my answering service. (Not a friendly or encouraging invitation.) □ Good to talk to ya, babe. Call my service. Love ya! □ I can't talk now. Call my service.

call of nature Go to nature's call.

call ralph Go to cry **ruth**.

call ruth Go to cry **ruth**.

call shotgun *phr.* to call out and claim the seat beside the driver in an automobile. □ Bob called shotgun so he could sit next to the driver.

call someone out *tv.* to challenge someone to a fight. □ Max wanted to call him out, but thought better of it. □ Did you call me out? What are you going to do about it?

Cambodian red AND **cam (red)** *n.* a reddish brown marijuana grown in Cambodia. (Drugs.) □ Where did you get cam red?

camp 1. *n.* something cute and out-of-fashion; something of such an anachronistic style as to be intriguing. □ Camp is dull and was never interesting. □ My brother thinks camp is just a joke. □ Nobody really knows what style camp really is, and very few even care. **2.** AND **campy** *mod.* overdone; out-of-fashion and intriguing. □ Most camp entertainment is pretentious and overdrawn. □ Who needs camp movies? **3.** *mod.* having to do with homosexual persons and matters. □ What a camp way of walking! □ She is so camp, I could scream!

campi ['kæmpaɪ] *n.* campuses. (The Latin plural of *campus* = field.) □ *I'll see you about the campi. Ciao!* □ *When will you return to the campi after vacation?*

camp it up **1.** *tv.* to overact. □ *Can you make it a little more lively without camping it up?* □ *She's so dull that she could camp it up and still look half asleep.* **2.** *tv.* to overdo effeminacy; [for a homosexual male] to act too effeminate in public. □ *Can't you even walk across the room without camping it up?* □ *John just loves to burst into the most sedate hotel in town and camp it up in the lobby.*

campus ['kæmpəs] *tv.* to restrict someone to the grounds of a college campus. (See also **campused**. Collegiate.) □ *The dean threatened to campus the entire fraternity for a month.* □ *"We will campus you for a year, if necessary," shouted the dean, who really didn't understand young people.*

campused ['kæmpəst] *mod.* restricted to the campus. (Collegiate.) □ *I can't go to town. I'm campused.* □ *She's campused and can only go to the library.*

campus queen *n.* a good-looking and popular female college student. □ *I always thought I wanted to be a campus queen, but all that has changed.* □ *I wonder what some of those campus queens look like when they get up in the morning.*

campy Go to **camp**.

cam (red) Go to **Cambodian red**.

can **1.** *n.* the head. □ *What do you have in your can, anyway? Lard?* □ *Jerry landed one on Frank's can. Frank crumpled.* **2.** *n.* toilet. □ *Restroom? Hell, I ain't tired! Where's the can?* **3.** *n.* the buttocks. (Usually objectionable. See also **bucket**.) □ *The guy slipped on the ice and fell on his can.* □ *Look at the can on that guy!* **4.** *n.* jail. (Usually with *the*.) □ *I had to spend the night in the can, but it wasn't too bad.* □ *You've seen one can, you've seen 'em all.* **5.** *tv.* to dismiss someone from employment. □ *The jerk canned everybody who played a part in the gag.* □ *I'll can anybody who tries a stunt like that again.* **6.** *n.* a car. □ *That's a good-looking can he's driving.* □ *Please don't park your old can*

in front of my house. **7.** Go to **cans**. **8.** *n.* a breast. (Usually objectionable. Usually plural.) □ *Man, look at the cans on that dame!* □ *Those cans can't be real!* **9.** *n.* a measurement of marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *How much do you want for a can?* □ *A can is too much except for a party.*

canary [kə'nəri] **1.** *n.* a female singer. □ *The band had a cute canary who could really sing.* □ *The drummer and the canary just don't seem to be able to get along.* **2.** *n.* a capsule of Nembutal™, a barbiturate. (Drugs. The capsule is yellow.) □ *You got any canaries? I need a downer.* □ *There are a couple of blues, which ought to do the same as canaries.* **3.** *n.* a police informer who sings to the police. (See also **stool (pigeon)**.) □ *Ziggy is no canary. He would never squeal on us.*

cancel someone's Christmas *tv.* to kill someone; to destroy someone. (Underworld. The dead person will miss Christmas.) □ *If he keeps bugging me, I'm gonna cancel his Christmas.* □ *Bruno threatened to cancel Frank's Christmas if Frank didn't pay up.*

cancer stick *n.* a tobacco cigarette. (From the notion that cigarette smoking is a major cause of lung cancer. Old but recurrent.) □ *Kelly pulled out his ninth cancer stick and lit it up.* □ *A lot of people are addicted to cancer sticks.*

candied ['kændid] *mod.* addicted to cocaine. (Drugs. See also **nose (candy)**.) □ *Unfortunately, Paul is candied, and he lost his job so he can't buy toot.* □ *He is one of those people who gets candied at first snort.*

candlelight *n.* dusk; dawn. □ *I'll see you along about candlelight.* □ *Turn your lights on at candlelight or the cops will stop you.*

candy *n.* drugs in general. (Drugs. See also **nose (candy)**.) □ *I gotta go get some candy from the candy man.* □ *This candy is powerful stuff.*

candy-ass **1.** *n.* a coward; a timid person. □ *Sue is such a candy-ass when it comes to dealing with her children.* **2.** Go to **candy-ass(ed)**.

candy-ass(ed) *mod.* timid; frightened; cowardly. □ *What a candy-assed twit you are!*

candy man *n.* a drug dealer. (Drugs.) □ *Lefty said he had to go meet with the candy man.* □ *Max is sort of a candy man.*

candy store *n.* a liquor store. □ *Let's stop at this candy store and get some bubbles.* □ *Somebody robbed the candy store on the corner.*

cane *n.* cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *What the hell did you pay for this cane?* □ *Even the kids can afford to buy cane now. The social problems of the twenty-first century are starting right here.*

Can it! *exclam.* Shut up! □ *I've heard enough. Can it!* □ *That's enough out of you! Can it!*

canned 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I'll drive. I'm too canned to walk.* □ *Man, am I canned!* **2.** *mod.* having to do with pre-recorded laughter or applause that is added to the sound track of a television program. □ *Canned laughter really sounds phony.* □ *The dialogue was funny enough that they didn't need to have the laughter canned.*

cannon *n.* a gun; a revolver. (Underworld.) □ *Rocko pulled out his cannon and aimed it at Barlowe's throat.* □ *The cops found Rocko's cannon where Barlowe had kicked it during the struggle.*

cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose *Go to see no further than the end of one's nose.*

can of worms *n.* an intertwined set of problems; an array of difficulties. (Often with *open*.) □ *This whole business is a real can of worms.* □ *When you brought that up, you opened a whole new can of worms.*

cans *n.* earphones. □ *The guy with the cans on his head is the radio operator.* □ *I bought a new set of cans for my stereo.*

can-shaker *n.* a fund-raiser. (As if a person were holding a can for the solicitation of coins from passersby.) □ *John was the mayor's can-shaker in the last election.* □ *Fred was a professional can-shaker for*

a museum. Maybe he has some ideas as to how we can raise some money.

can't hit the (broad) side of a barn *tv.* cannot aim something accurately. □ *You're way off. You couldn't hit the broad side of a barn.* □ *Carry the paper to the wastebasket. You can't hit the side of a barn.*

can't win (th)em all *tv.* (one should) expect to lose every now and then. □ *It doesn't really matter. You can't win them all.* □ *Well, I can't win 'em all.*

cap 1. *n.* a capsule of a drug. □ *Do you want it in caps or elixir?* □ *She spilled the caps on the floor and had to find every single one of them.* **2.** *tv.* to exceed something; to surpass something. □ *I know I can't cap that. That's just super!* □ *Who could ever cap a joke like that?* **3.** *tv.* to make a capsule. □ *I must have capped 300 placebos today.* □ *Albert capped some H. for a pal.* **4.** *tv.* to kill someone. □ *The kid capped his friend for dissing him.* □ *One more word and I'll cap you!*

caper ['kæpə] **1.** *n.* any stunt or event; a trick or a scam. □ *That little caper the kids did with the statue from the town square was a dandy.* □ *Another caper like that and I call your parents.* **2.** *n.* a criminal job: theft, kidnapping, blackmail, etc. (Underworld.) □ *Who did you work with on that bank caper?* □ *The black and whites pulled up right in the middle of the caper.*

capish [kə'piʃ] *in.* to understand. (Usually as a question. From an Italian dialect.) □ *The matter is settled. No more talk. Capish?* □ *Now, if you don't capish, let's get it clear right now.*

capital *n.* cash; money. □ *I'm a little short of capital right now.* □ *Do you think I could borrow a little capital until payday?*

capper ['kæpə] *n.* the climax or clincher of something. □ *The capper of the evening was when the hostess got lathered before midnight and couldn't celebrate the New Year.* □ *When the butler tripped and served Mr. Wilson the entire dessert, in his lap, that was the capper to an exciting evening.*

captain of industry *n.* a corporation officer; a capitalist. □ *The captains of industry manage to hang on to their money no matter what.* □ *It's fun to see those captains of industry drive up in their benzes.*

carb [karb] *n.* an engine carburetor. □ *This can needs a new carb.* □ *I learned how to clean and adjust a carb by the time I was in high school.*

carbos ['karboz] *n.* carbohydrates. (Bodybuilding.) □ *You need more protein and less carbo.* □ *Too many carbo will make you fat.*

carburetor *n.* a device for smoking cannabis that mixes the smoke with air. (Drugs.) □ *I have a carburetor with the rest of my stash.* □ *Frank showed Walter how to use a carburetor.*

carcass ['kɑrkəs] *n.* one's body; a large or heavy body. □ *He hauled his carcass out of the car and lumbered into the bank.* □ *Put your carcass on a chair, and let's chew the fat.*

card **1.** *n.* a funny person. □ *Tracy is such a card. She cracks me up.* □ *Gee, Fred. You're a card. Somebody's gonna have to deal with you.* **2.** *tv.* to check people's ID cards for age or other eligibility. (See also **carded**.) □ *They card everybody at the football games, even the parents.* □ *The bartender was carding people so we left quietly.*

carded AND **proofed** *mod.* [of an ID card] examined to determine whether one has reached the legal drinking age. □ *Dave got carded at the party even though he is thirty and looks it.* □ *All the students were proofed at the door.*

carrier *n.* a narcotics seller or transporter. (Drugs. See also **courier**.) □ *The carrier has the most dangerous job of all.* □ *You'll never see an old carrier.*

carrot top *n.* a person with red hair. (Also a term of address.) □ *Sam is a carrot top with the most beautiful hair I've ever seen.* □ *Hey, carrot top, where are you going?*

carry **1.** *in.* to carry drugs on one's person. (Drugs.) □ *If you get busted while you're carrying, you are in big trouble with the*

man. □ *You gotta learn when you can carry and when you can't.* **2.** *n.* drugs carried on the person as an emergency supply in case of arrest. (Underworld.) □ *I lost my carry somewhere.* □ *The cops found my carry, and I spent three days in the clink climbing the walls.*

carrying a (heavy) load *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Marty is carrying a heavy load.* □ *Your father's carrying a load again. What are we going to do?*

carry the stick *tv.* to live as a hobo, on the streets. (Streets. From the stick that supports the hobo's bundle.) □ *I even carried the stick for a while in the sixties.* □ *I was afraid I'd be carrying the stick if I got laid off.*

carry weight *tv.* to have influence. □ *I don't carry much weight around here, but Walter does.* □ *Tom carries weight with the mayor. Ask him.*

cartwheel *n.* a round, white cross-scored amphetamine tablet. (Drugs.) □ *He took cartwheels in the morning and fender-benders at night.* □ *Cartwheels were the favorite diet pill of the 1960s.*

carved in stone *mod.* permanent or not subject to change. (Often in the negative.) □ *Now, this isn't carved in stone yet, but this looks like the way it's going to be.* □ *Is this policy carved in stone?*

cas [kæz] *mod.* okay; fine. (From *casual*. See also **cazh**.) □ *That's cas, man. Good to hear it.* □ *I agree. Cas. Totally cool.*

case of the shorts *Go to short.*

case the joint **1.** *tv.* to look over someplace to figure out how to break in, what to steal, etc. (Underworld. See also **joint**.) □ *First of all you gotta case the joint to see where things are.* □ *You could see he was casing the joint the way he looked around.* **2.** *tv.* to look a place over. □ *The dog came in and cased the joint, sniffing out friends and foes.* □ *The old lady entered slowly, casing the joint for the face of someone of her era, and finally took a seat.*

cash cow *n.* a dependable source of money; a good investment. □ *I put most of my money in a dependable cash cow that pays*

off once a month. □ Mr. Wilson turned out to be the cash cow we needed to start our repertoire company.

cached **1.** *mod.* having to do with marijuana whose active ingredients have been exhausted. (Drugs.) □ *This stuff is cached. Trash it.* □ *Frank sold the wrong guy some cached grass.* **2.** *mod.* exhausted. □ *I'm just cached—really pooped.* □ *After the game, the team was cached and couldn't even celebrate.*

cash flow *n.* cash; ready money. □ *When I get a little cash flow at the end of the week, I'll treat you to a hamburger.* □ *There wasn't enough cash flow to pay the rent.*

cash in one's checks Go to cash in one's chips.

cash in one's chips **AND** **cash in one's checks** *tv.* to die; to finish the game (of life). □ *He opened his eyes, said good-bye, and cashed in his chips.* □ *I'm too young to cash in my checks.*

Cash is king. *sent.* It is best to keep one's investment money in cash. (Said when the prices in the securities market are too high. It is better to build up cash and wait for a break in the market.) □ *Things look a little pricy now. I'd say that cash is king for the moment.* □ *I'm holding a little cash for a little bottom fishing, but I wouldn't say that cash is king.*

Cash is trash. *sent.* It is unwise to keep one's investment money in cash. (Said when there are good opportunities in securities and it is foolish to stay on the sidelines in cash.) □ *If you've got money sitting around in a money market fund while the market is steaming ahead, you are losing dollars. Right now cash is trash.* □ *Cash is trash. Get into the market or you stand to lose a bundle.*

Caspar Milquetoast ['kæspə 'mɪlktəst] *n.* a very timid man. (From the name of a character in a cartoon.) □ *I'm a little sensitive—not a Caspar Milquetoast, but I have feelings.* □ *He's no Caspar Milquetoast. He's quite a tennis player in fact.*

casper *mod.* gone; departed. (In the manner of Casper, the friendly ghost—a car-

toon character.) □ *We'll be casper in just a minute.* □ *I'm casper. See you later.*

casting couch *n.* a legendary couch found in the offices of casting directors for use in seducing young people by offering them roles. □ *They say she got the job on the casting couch.* □ *They say the director got his job on the casting couch, too.*

cast-iron stomach *n.* a very strong stomach that can withstand bad food or anything nauseating. □ *If I didn't have a cast-iron stomach, I couldn't eat this stuff.* □ *Fred—known for his cast-iron stomach—ate all of his pepper soup.*

castor oil artist *n.* a medical doctor. □ *This two-bit castor oil artist tried to get me to lose weight.* □ *Check with your personal castor oil artist to see if you should be taking this medication.*

cat **1.** *n.* a fellow; a guy; a dude. □ *Now, this cat wants to borrow some money from me. What should I do?* □ *Ask the cat what he's got for security.* **2.** *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *I think I'm gonna cat.* □ *Looks like somebody catted in the bushes.* **3.** *n.* a gossip woman. (See also **catty**.) □ *She is such a cat!* □ *Mary can be such a cat, you know.*

catch-22 *n.* a directive that is impossible to obey without violating some other, equally important, directive. □ *There was nothing I could do. It was a classic catch-22.* □ *I had my choice between catch-22s. What do you call that kind of a dilemma?*

catch **1.** *n.* a drawback. □ *Okay, that sounds good, but what's the catch?* □ *There's no catch. It's all on the up and up.* **2.** *tv.* to view something; to attend something; to hear something. □ *We'll take the chicks to catch a film after we eat.* □ *Did you catch "Gone with the Wind" on TV?*

catch hell (for something) *tv.* to get severely reprimanded for (doing) something. □ *I knew I'd catch hell for it.* □ *Somebody is going to catch hell for this!*

catch some rays **AND** **bag some rays** *tv.* to get some sunshine; to tan in the sun. □ *We wanted to catch some rays, but the sun never came out the whole time we were*

there. □ *I went to Hawaii to bag some rays.*

catch something *tv.* to see or listen to something. (More specific than the colloquial sense, to *manage to hear something*.) □ *I will try to catch that new movie this weekend.* □ *Did you catch that radio program about cancer last night?*

catch some Z's AND **cop some Z's; cut some Z's** *tv.* to get some sleep. □ *I gotta catch some Z's before I drop.* □ *Why don't you stop a little bit and try to cop some Z's?*

catch up *in.* to break the drug habit; to withdraw from drugs. (Drugs.) □ *John never tried to catch up. He's just too far gone.* □ *I just know I can catch up, if I can just get through the first week.*

Catch you later. *sent.* I will talk to you again when I next see you. □ *Can't talk now. Catch you later.* □ *Sorry, gotta rush. Catch you later.*

catholic bagel *n.* a non-traditional bagel made or flavored with cinnamon, blueberries, strawberries, etc. (Jocular.) □ *At breakfast, they had catholic bagels and sweet rolls.*

cats and dogs *n.* slow selling or undesirable merchandise. □ *During the Christmas season, the merchants try to get rid of all their cats and dogs.* □ *When people are buying up even the cats and dogs, you know business is good.*

cat's meow [...mi'au] *n.* something really fine. □ *This stuff is really the cat's meow.* □ *Hearing all the old big band music again is the cat's meow.*

cat-soup ['kætsup] *n.* catsup; ketchup. □ *Do you want some cat-soup on your burger?* □ *No, I never use cat-soup.*

cattle-rustler *n.* a thief who steals meat from supermarkets for resale. (Underworld.) □ *Marty is a cattle-rustler, and she's got some stuff for sale.* □ *She's a cattle-rustler to support her habit.*

catty *mod.* spiteful; snotty. □ *You know how catty Mary is—almost as catty as Gloria—well, she told me something about you that really shocked me.* □ *How can anybody be so catty?*

caveman *n.* a strong, virile man. □ *He's sort of a caveman, big and hairy.* □ *I don't care for cavemen.*

cazh [kæʒ] *mod.* casual. (From *casual*. See also **cas**.) □ *I tend to dress cazh in warm weather no matter what the occasion.* □ *Tom showed up dressed cazh and all the other guys were in tuxes.*

cee [si] *n.* cocaine. (Drugs. See also **C**.) □ *Where can I get a little bit of cee?* □ *Ask Max for some cee, but ask him nice.*

celeb [sə'leɪb] *n.* a celebrity. □ *They hired a few celebs to shill for their new computer.* □ *There were celebs all over the place, but nobody I recognized.*

cement city *n.* a cemetery. □ *I'm too young to end up in cement city.* □ *There's a cement city outside town, and our house is just a half mile east of it.*

cent *n.* one dollar. (Underworld.) □ *One cent for one joint? Not bad.* □ *A cent for this thing?*

century note *n.* a one-hundred-dollar bill. (Underworld. The C is the Roman numeral for 100. See also **C-note**.) □ *I got a couple of century notes for driving these guys home from the bank.* □ *Here's a century note for your trouble, young man.*

a certain party *n.* someone whom I do not wish to name; you can guess whom. □ *I spoke to a certain party about the matter you mentioned.* □ *If a certain party finds out about you-know-what, what on earth will you do?*

cets AND **sets** [sets] *n.* tablets of Darvocet™, a painkiller. (Drugs.) □ *You got any cets I can bum off you?* □ *I don't know anything about sets or any of that stuff.*

CF Go to Charlie Foxtrot; cluster fuck.

chain(saw) *tv.* to destroy something; to cut something up severely. □ *The senatorial committee tried to chainsaw the nominee, but the full senate voted for confirmation.* □ *We didn't think they'd come in and chain all our plans.*

chain(-smoke) *in.* to smoke cigarette after cigarette. □ *I gave never wanted to chain-smoke, but I got addicted.* □ *I used*

to chain, and my husband threatened to leave me if I didn't give it up. I quit when he left.

chain-smoker *n.* someone who smokes cigarette after cigarette. □ *She was a chain-smoker for thirty years, and then suddenly, boom. She's gone.* □ *There are fewer chain-smokers now than there were just a few years ago.*

the **chair** *n.* the electric chair, as used in the execution of the death penalty. (Underworld.) □ *You'll fry in the chair for this, Lefty!* □ *I don't wanna go to the chair!*

cham AND **chammy; sham; shammy** [ʃæm AND 'ʃæmi] *n.* champagne. □ *Would you like a little more shammy?* □ *This is a stunning cham you picked for us, Tiffany. Is it famous?*

chamber of commerce *n.* toilet; restroom. □ *Q: Where's Bob? A: Oh, Bob's in the chamber of commerce.*

chammy Go to cham.

champ [tʃæmp] **1.** *n.* a champion. (Also a term of address.) □ *Mark is a real champ—always there to help.* □ *Hey, champ, welcome home!* **2.** *n.* a dependable member of the underworld. (Underworld. See also **thoroughbred**.) □ *John would never sing. He's a champ.* □ *Lefty is a champ. He stood by me the whole time.*

champers AND **shampers** ['ʃæmpəz] *n.* champagne. □ *I could live on shampers.* □ *My dad sent us a bottle of French champers.*

change *n.* money. (See also **and change**.) □ *It takes a lot of change to buy a car like that.* □ *I don't have the change to get one of those videotape machines.*

changes *n.* an alteration in one's mental state. (See also **go through the changes**.) □ *The changes have sort of got me down.* □ *I'm forty and I'm finished with the changes, and if there's anything I don't want it's to be young again.*

change the channel *tv.* to switch to some other topic of conversation. □ *Just a minute. I think you changed the channel. Let's go back to the part about you owing*

me money. □ *Let's change the channel here before there is a fight.*

channel hopping AND **channel surfing; channel zapping** *n.* using a remote control to move quickly from one television channel to another, pausing only a short time on each channel. □ *I wish you would stop channel hopping!* □ *Channel zapping is a way to keep up with a number of television shows at the same time.*

channel surfer *n.* a person who practices **channel hopping**. □ *My husband is a confirmed channel surfer. I can't understand why he does it.* □ *Channel surfers try to keep up with many programs at one time.*

channel surfing Go to channel hopping.

channel zapping Go to channel hopping.

chap *tv.* to anger or annoy someone. (See also **chapped**.) □ *That whole business really chapped me.* □ *I didn't mean to chap you.*

chapped *mod.* angry; annoyed. □ *I was chapped. There was no way to get around it.* □ *Don't get so chapped. Nothing can be done now.*

chapter and verse *mod.* in the finest detail. (From the *chapter and verse* organization of the Bible.) □ *He could recite the law concerning state-funded libraries, chapter and verse.* □ *She knew her rights, chapter and verse.*

charge 1. *n.* a dose or portion of a drug. (Drugs.) □ *I need a charge to tide me over.* □ *Just a little charge till I can get to my candy man.* **2.** *n.* a drug's **rush**. (Drugs.) □ *This stuff has no charge at all.* □ *What kind of charge do you expect out of half-cashed weed?* **3.** *n.* a thrill. □ *Seeing my kid up there on that stage was a real charge.* □ *I got a tremendous charge out of your last letter.*

charged (up) 1. *mod.* slightly overdosed with drugs. (Drugs.) □ *He was talking fast and nodding his head back and forth. I think he was charged.* □ *The kid is usually charged up by class time.* **2.** *mod.* drug intoxicated. (Drugs.) □ *The way she sat there nodding, you knew she was com-*

pletely charged up. □ Paul was one charged up guy after the session. **3.** mod. excited. □ The audience was charged up and ready for the star to come out. □ The charged up quarterback made some wonderful plays.

Charles 1. *n.* cocaine. (Drugs.) □ I want to meet Charles somewhere. □ Is there a house where I can buy some Charles somewhere close? **2.** *n.* a Caucasian. (Black. Not necessarily derogatory.) □ And what is Charles gonna say about what you did to his car? □ That brother's so backward, he's still afraid to go to Charles's front door.

Charley *n.* the Viet Cong in Vietnam. (Military. From Victor Charley, which is from VC.) □ How come Charley never gets bit to death by those snakes? □ What if we meet up with Charley down there?

Charlie Foxtrot AND **CF 1.** Go to cluster fuck (sense 1). **2.** Go to cluster fuck (sense 2).

Charlie Irvine *n.* a police officer. (Black. See also *Irv.*) □ Charlie Irvine was around asking after you. □ Look smart, dude, here comes Charlie Irvine.

Charlie Noble *n.* a ship's smokestack. (Naval. This is an old naval term, used as slang and in joking.) □ The captain says I am supposed to take this letter to Charlie Noble.

charmer *n.* a seducer; a make-out artist. □ You always have to act like some half-ass charmer scamming like it really mattered! Grow up! □ Willard is such a charmer! Too bad he's married.

chart *n.* a musical score. (Musicians. See also *map.*) □ Come on, man! Look at the chart! You're making clinkers like hot cakes. □ Lemme borrow your chart for a while, okay?

charts *n.* the trade magazine rankings of current pop music. □ The big one is back on the charts this week. Give it a listen. □ Number five on the charts again this week—it's "My Blue Heaven" with the Andrews Sisters.

chas AND **chez** [tʃæz AND tʃɛz] *n.* matches. (Collegiate. A clipping of *matches.*) □

Where are my chas? □ You got a couple of chez?

chaser 1. *n.* an alcoholic drink taken after a nonalcoholic one; beer, water, or some similar liquid drunk after a shot of hard liquor. (See also *wash.*) □ I could use a little chaser with this soda. □ I'd like a double scotch and a beer chaser. **2.** Go to ambulance chaser.

chase the dragon *tv.* to inhale opium fumes through a straw. (Drugs.) □ Harry thinks that chasing the dragon sounds like real fun. □ Chasing the dragon may sound good, but it smells awful.

C-head 1. *n.* a cocaine user. (Drugs.) □ I don't want any C-head operating on me! □ How much money does a C-head need to get through the day? **2.** *n.* an LSD user who takes LSD on sugar cubes. (Drugs.) □ Frank was a C-head in the sixties. □ Why don't you C-heads grow up?

cheapie *n.* a cheaply made article. (See also *el cheapo.*) □ I don't want a cheapie. I can afford better. □ It broke. I guess it was a cheapie.

cheap shot *n.* a remark that takes advantage of someone else's vulnerability. □ It's easy to get a laugh with a cheap shot at cats. □ People who wouldn't dare utter anything negative about blacks, Poles, or women just love to take a cheap shot at yuppies.

cheapskate ['tʃɪpskɛt] *n.* a miserly person; a very cheap person. (See also *piker.*) □ A 5 percent tip! What a cheapskate! □ I don't think of myself as a cheapskate, but I do try to watch my cash flow.

cheaters *n.* sunglasses. (Formerly referred to all spectacles. See also *shades; sunshades.*) □ Get your cheaters on. The sun's really bright. □ Somebody sat on my cheaters!

check 1. *n.* a dose of a drug in a capsule or folded in a paper. (Drugs.) □ Frank handed me a check, and I slipped him some long green. □ How much you want for a check? **2.** *interj.* okay; yes; yes, it is on the list. □ BILL: Four quarts of oil. TOM: Check. □ FRED: Are you ready? PAUL: Check.

check out the plumbing AND visit the plumbing *tv.* to go to the bathroom. □

I think I'd better check out the plumbing before we go. □ I want you kids to visit the plumbing as soon as we get there.

check something out *tv.* to examine something; to think about something. □ *It's something we all have to be concerned with. Check it out. □ Check out this Billy Biggles album.*

check that *tv.* cancel that; ignore that (last remark). □ *Check that. I was wrong. □ At four, no, check that, at three o'clock this afternoon, a bomb exploded at the riverside.*

cheddar *n.* money. □ *I'm totally out of cheddar. Can you loan me a Benji? □ This rag ain't worth that much cheddar.*

cheese **1.** *n.* vomit. □ *There's cheese on the sidewalk. Look out! □ In there, there's cheese on the bathroom floor. So gross! 2. in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *Somebody cheesed on the sidewalk. □ She popped into the bushes and cheesed soundlessly. 3. in.* to smile, as for a photographer who asks you to say cheese when a picture is taken. □ *Why are you cheesing? Did something good happen. □ She's always cheesing at him. What's up? 4. n.* money. □ *I don't have the cheese to buy a new car. □ You have some cheese I can borrow?*

cheesecake **1.** *n.* a display of the female form, probably wearing little clothing, often in photographs. (See also **beefcake**.) □ *Women don't like to see all that cheesecake on the walls when they bring their cars in here to be fixed. □ Now they're even putting the magazines with cheesecake under the counter. 2. n.* a good-looking woman; good-looking women. □ *Who's the cheesecake in that low-cut job? □ Bring on the cheesecake!*

cheesed off *mod.* angry; disgusted. □ *Clare was really cheesed off at the butler. □ The butler was cheesed off at the cook.*

cheese-eater *n.* an informer; a rat fink. (Rats eat cheese.) □ *Some cheese-eater called the clerk and warned her we were coming. □ Tracy, the cheese-eater, called the police.*

cheesehead **1.** *n.* a stupid-acting person.

□ *Is this cheesehead bothering you? □ Why do all the cheeseheads in town ride in my cab in the same day? 2. n.* someone from the state of Wisconsin. (Much cheese is made in Wisconsin. Not usually derogatory.) □ *I moved to Wisconsin and became a cheesehead. □ We take our vacations in the land of the cheeseheads.*

Cheese it (the cops)! *exclam.* Run away, the cops are coming! □ *Look out! Cheese it, the cops! □ If you see the fuzz coming, you're supposed to yell, "Cheese it, the cops!" But I don't know why. Then they know we're doing something wrong.*

cheesy *mod.* cheap; tacky. □ *I wouldn't live in a cheesy place like this if I could afford better. □ That was a cheesy trick to pull on somebody.*

cheezer *n.* a very bad smelling release of intestinal gas; a foul-smelling fart. □ *God, who let the cheezer?*

cherry **1.** *n.* an inexperienced person; a novice. □ *He's just a cherry. He don't know from nothing. □ She's a cherry when it comes to computers. 2. n.* the hymen. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Her cherry is intact, but she's no virgin. □ You jerk! All you care about is scoring cherries!*

chew *in.* to eat. □ *She's in the kitchen, chewing. □ Man, I'm hungry. It's time to chew!*

chewed *mod.* abused. □ *After that argument at the office yesterday, I really felt chewed. □ After an interview like that, I am too chewed to even cry.*

chew face *tv.* to kiss. (More jocular than crude.) □ *A couple of kids were in a doorway chewin' face. □ Hey Tracy! Wanna go chew face?*

chew someone out *tv.* to scold someone. □ *I knew my dad was going to chew me out. □ The dean chewed out the whole fraternity.*

chew someone's ass out *tv.* to scold someone severely. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The cop was really mad and chewed Bob's ass out.*

chew something over **1.** *tv.* to talk something over. □ *Why don't we do lunch*

sometime and chew this over? □ *We can chew it over at lunch.* **2.** *tv.* to think something over. □ *I'll have to chew it over for a while. I'm not sure now.* □ *Don't chew it over too long. The offer is only good till Friday.*

chew the cheese *tv.* to vomit. □ *Fred's out in the bushes, chewing the cheese.* □ *The cat's chewing the cheese on the living room carpet again.*

chew the fat **AND** **chew the rag** *tv.* to chat or gossip. □ *Put your carcass over on the chair, and let's chew the fat for a while.* □ *We were just chewing the rag. Nothing important.*

chew the rag *Go to chew the fat.*

chez *Go to chas.*

chi-chi ['ʃiʃi] *mod.* elegant. □ *Oh, you look so chi-chi in that lace blouse.* □ *Her living room is so chi-chi that you are afraid to go in.*

chick *n.* a girl or woman. □ *Who's the chick driving the ragtop?* □ *We're gonna take some chicks to dinner and then catch a flick.*

chicken *n.* a coward. □ *Come on, let's go. Don't be a chicken.* □ *He's no fun. He's a chicken.*

chicken feed *n.* a small amount of money. (See also **peanuts.**) □ *Sure I can afford it. It's just chicken feed.* □ *It may be chicken feed to you, but that's a month's rent to me.*

chicken-hearted *mod.* cowardly. □ *Yes, I'm a chicken-hearted softie. I hope you don't want to make something of it.* □ *He's chicken-hearted, but I still love him.*

chicken out (of something) *in.* to manage to get out of something, usually because of fear or cowardice. □ *Come on! Don't chicken out now!* □ *Freddy chickened out of the plan at the last minute.*

chicken powder *n.* powdered amphetamine. (Drugs.) □ *Those kids seem to be satisfied with chicken powder.* □ *Nobody is satisfied with chicken powder for very long.*

chicken shit 1. *n.* virtually nothing. (From chicken feed. Usually objectionable.) □

Fifty bucks! That's just chicken shit! 2. mod. cowardly. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You are such a chicken shit coward! Stand up and fight! 3. mod.* worthless. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I don't want this chicken shit pizza! Get me one with pepperoni on it, not dead fish.*

chief *n.* the person in charge. (Also a term of address.) □ *Okay, chief, where to?* □ *You got a couple of clams to pay the toll with, chief?*

chief cook and bottle washer *Go to head cook and bottle washer.*

chill 1. **AND** **chilly** *n.* a cold can of beer. □ *Hey, toss me a chill, would ya, buddy?* □ *You ready for another chill?* **2.** *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld.) □ *Rocko had orders to chill Barlowe or not to show his face again.* □ *I'll chill you with one blast from my cannon, you creep.* **3.** *tv.* to frighten someone. (Standard English.) □ *The specter chilled everyone who saw it.* □ *The prospect of having to go in there alone chilled Wally, but good.* **4.** *tv.* to reject someone. □ *The whole gang chilled him, and this really made him come home.* □ *She chilled me once too often. I won't take that from a dame.* **5.** *Go to chill (out).* **6.** *tv. & in.* to relax; to cause someone to relax; to hang out [with someone]. (See also **chill (out).**) □ *Go out there and chill those people. They are getting wild!* □ *They are chilling now. For a while they were real rowdy.*

chillin' *mod.* great; excellent. □ *I had one chillin' time last night.* □ *Everybody there was chillin'.*

chill (out) *in.* to calm down; to be cool; to get cool; to relax. □ *All right now, people, chill . . . chill.* □ *Before we can debate this matter, you're all gonna have to chill out.*

chill someone's action *tv.* to squelch someone; to prevent someone from accomplishing something. □ *Freddie is trying to chill my action, and I'm a little steamed about that.* □ *Just wait! I'll chill his action—just you wait.*

chillum ['tʃɪlʌm] *n.* a pipe or device used for the smoking of marijuana. (Drugs.)

□ *He keeps a chillum in his stash.* □ *Ernie carries a chillum with him. He's trying to sell it.*

chilly Go to chill.

china *n.* the teeth. (See also **ivories**.) □ *I spent a damn fortune trying to get this china fixed up.* □ *If you would brush your china every day, you'd be okay.*

China white 1. AND **Chinese white** *n.* pure or nearly pure heroin. (Drugs.) □ *Beware of that China white.* □ *You never see Chinese white anymore. There's too many other kinds of junk for anybody to bother with it.* **2.** *n.* fentanyl, a synthetic narcotic analgesic. (Drugs.) □ *That Chinese white can paralyze your lungs.* □ *All the hopheads I know of stay away from China white.*

Chinese red *n.* heroin. (Drugs.) □ *Chinese red is really high quality.* □ *No, Chinese red is cheap.*

Chinese white Go to China white.

chin music *n.* talk; idle chatter. □ *That's enough chin music back there.* □ *Okay, chum, make with the chin music. Let's have the whole story.*

chintzy ['tʃɪntsi] **1.** *mod.* cheap; shoddy. □ *Nobody's gonna buy this chintzy stuff. Throw it out.* □ *What a chintzy car! The door fell off!* **2.** *mod.* stingy; miserly. □ *The chintzy guy left me no tip!* □ *Don't be chintzy. Give the man a dollar for a cup of coffee.*

chin-wagging *n.* chatting; talking a lot. □ *I can't hear the movie because of all the chin-wagging.*

chip Go to (bargaining) chip.

chipper 1. *mod.* jolly, fresh, and alert. (Standard English.) □ *Well, you look chipper this morning.* □ *This chipper young man will show you around.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Larry here is chipper already!* □ *A glass of wine will make her chipper almost immediately.* **3.** AND **chippie; chippy (user)** *n.* an occasional user of an addictive drug. (Drugs.) □ *The chippy users rarely end up in the hospital.* □ *Who can stay a chippie very long?*

chippie Go to chipper; chippy.

chippy AND **chippie 1.** *n.* a part-time prostitute. □ *Yeah, so I'm a chippie. So what's that make you?* □ *Some little chippie stopped us to ask for a match. How amateurish.* **2.** *in.* to play around sexually. □ *She won't even chippie.* □ *So me and my boyfriend was chipping a little in the hall. Why was ya watching?*

chippy around *in.* to be sexually promiscuous. □ *She has been known to chippy around, but not with just anyone and never for money.* □ *She figures it's her right to chippy around.*

chippy-chaser *n.* a man who chases sexually loose women. □ *He tried to be such a charmer—you know, a chippy-chaser, but he is so inept.* □ *Frank used to be a chippy-chaser, but the scag has him sort of debilitated these days.*

chippy (user) Go to chipper.

chips 1. *n.* money. (See also (bargaining) chip.) □ *I managed to put away a few chips when I worked for Acme Systems.* □ *She saved some chips over the years and bought herself a little place on the beach.* **2.** *n.* a carpenter. (Also a term of address.) □ *Tell our chips to come up here and put in a new floorboard.* □ *Tell me, chips, how fast can you build a coffin?*

chisel ['tʃɪzl] *tv.* & *in.* to extort (money). □ *Lefty tried to chisel forty bucks outa me.* □ *He's always chiseling. That's his hustle.*

chiseler *n.* a small-time crook; a cheater. (Originally underworld. Also a rude term of address.) □ *You dirty, two-bit chiseler! Give me my money back!* □ *Why did you trust a known chiseler like him?*

chism Go to jism.

chit [tʃɪt] **1.** *n.* a bill or tabulation of charges that one signs rather than paying. □ *I don't have any cash. Can I sign a chit for it?* □ *Fred came in to pay for his chits about once a week.* **2.** *n.* a check. □ *She wrote out a chit for the balance due.* □ *I have your chit for the full amount.*

chitchat ['tʃɪttʃæt] **1.** *n.* talk; idle talk. □ *That's enough chitchat. Please get to work.* □ *Please stop the chitchat there in the back*

row. **2. n.** a short, friendly conversation. ☐ *I'd like to have a little chitchat with you when you have time.* ☐ *We had a chitchat about the problem, and I think things will work out.*

Chi(town) ['ʃaɪtaʊn OR 'tʃaɪtaʊn] *n.* Chicago, Illinois. ☐ *I can't wait to get back to old Chitown.* ☐ *I was born in Chi.*

chiv Go to shiv.

chiz [tʃɪz] *in.* to relax. (Collegiate.) ☐ *I gotta get back to my room and chiz awhile.* ☐ *Chiz, guys, things are getting a little rough.*

chock-full *mod.* totally full. ☐ *The new musical is just chock-full of laughs.* ☐ *The trunk is chock-full. There's no more room.*

chocoholic *n.* a person who craves chocolate. (Patterned on *alcoholic*.) ☐ *Cake, ice cream, pie—make it chocolate. I'm a chocoholic and I'm glad.* ☐ *I have a real treat for you chocoholics—triple chocolate cheesecake.*

choice *mod.* nice; cool. ☐ *We had a choice time at Tom's party.* ☐ *This new tunage is real choice.*

choke 1. in. [for a computer] to fail to take in information being fed to it. (Computers.) ☐ *If you don't have your modem and your software set the same way as the host, your machine will choke.* ☐ *I did what you told me, but it choked anyway.* **2. in.** to panic before or during a test. (From *choke up*.) ☐ *I choked and couldn't finish.* ☐ *She always chokes during a test.*

choked *mod.* having to do with overly diluted drugs. ☐ *This stuff is choked. Don't score with that guy again.* ☐ *Why is this stuff so stepped on—you know, choked?*

choker 1. n. a cigarette; a cigarette butt. ☐ *Put that damn choker out in my house!* ☐ *I can smell a choker the minute somebody lights it.* **2. n.** a necktie. ☐ *Let's go out to eat where I don't have to wear a choker.* ☐ *Hey, Tom! That's a classy new choker you're wearing!*

choke the chicken Go to beat the dummy.

chones 1. n. the testicles. (From Spanish *cojones*. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *You*

look at me that way again, and you will be saying goodbye to your chones. **2. n.** bravado. (See also *balls*; *ballsy*. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Man, has he got chones!* ☐ *Why are you always trying to prove that you have chones?*

chooms *n.* the testicles. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *He got hit in the chooms in the football game.*

chop *n.* a rude remark; a cutting remark. ☐ *Jerry made some chop about the way I dress.* ☐ *That was a rotten chop! Take it back!*

chopped liver *n.* someone or something worthless. ☐ *And who am I? Chopped liver?*

chopper *n.* a helicopter. ☐ *The chopper that monitors the traffic goes over my house every morning at 6:00.* ☐ *I never want to ride in a chopper. Those things scare me.*

choppers *n.* the teeth. ☐ *I may be on my last legs, but my choppers are still my own.* ☐ *That horse has a nice set of choppers.*

chop-shop *n.* a place where stolen cars are cut or broken up into car parts for resale. ☐ *The state is cracking down on these chop-shops.* ☐ *Once a stolen car gets to a chop-shop, there's no hope of identifying it.*

chotchke Go to tchotchke.

chow 1. n. food. ☐ *I need some chow before I go out and shovel snow.* ☐ *What time is chow served around here?* **2. tv. & in.** to eat (something). (See also *chow down*.) ☐ *I've been chowing canned tuna and stale bagels to save money.* ☐ *When do we chow?* **3.** Go to *ciao*.

chowderhead *n.* a stupid person. ☐ *Look, chowderhead, do what I told you.* ☐ *Don't be such a chowderhead.*

chow down *in.* to eat; to take a meal. ☐ *Over there is where we chow down.* ☐ *It's past my time to chow down.*

chow hound *n.* someone who loves to eat; a heavy eater. ☐ *Harry is a real chow hound, and he's got love handles to prove it.* ☐ *Okay, listen up all you chow hounds. There's extra beans tonight!*

chow something down *tv.* to eat something, probably quickly or without good manners. □ *We can chow this pizza down in about two minutes!* □ *I found a box of cookies and chowed it down before anybody knew what I was doing.*

Christmas tree *n.* a drunkard. (From being lit like a Christmas tree.) □ *Some old Christmas tree staggered by, muttering to herself.* □ *A well-dressed Christmas tree sat in the corner—lit up, of course.*

chrome-dome *n.* a shiny, bald head; a man with a bald head. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *The guy with the chrome-dome suddenly grasped his chest and made a face.* □ *Hey, chrome-dome, you're blinding me!*

chubbo ['tʃəbo] *n.* a fat person. (From chubby.) □ *Mary is a happy little chubbo. She'll probably outgrow all her baby fat.* □ *Look at those chubbos gobbling all those French fries.*

chubby *n.* an erection. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He always gets a chubby when he doesn't need it and never when he does.*

chuck 1. AND **chuck up** *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (See also **upchuck**.) □ *Look! Somebody chucked.* □ *I think I gotta chuck!* **2.** *tv.* to throw something away. □ *Chuck this thing. It's no good.* □ *The wrinkle-rod was so twisted we had to chuck it.* **3.** *in.* to eat voraciously. □ *Don't just chuck, man, enjoy your food.* □ *The two guys sat guzzling and chucking till they were full.* **4.** *n.* food. □ *Man, this chuck is okay.* □ *Who cooked this chuck, man? It's garbage!* **5.** *n.* a white male. (Usually capitalized. Often a term of address or a generic for all white males. Black.) □ *Hey, Chuck. Where do you think you are?* □ *Did you see that fat Chuck in the hood?*

chuck a dummy *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *He left the room—to chuck a dummy, I guess.* □ *Somebody chucked a dummy on the patio.*

chucked *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I'm too chucked to drive.* □ *How did you get so chucked?*

chuckers AND **chucks** *n.* a great hunger; an enormous appetite. (Usually with *the*.) □

Oh, man, I really got the chucks. What time is chow? □ *The chuckers got my stomach asking if my throat is cut.*

chuck it in *tv.* to quit; to give up. (See also **throw in the towel**.) □ *I was so depressed, I almost chucked it in.* □ *If I didn't have to keep the job to live, I'd have chucked it in long ago.*

chucks Go to **chuckers**.

chuck up Go to **chuck**.

chug(-a-lug) ['tʃəgələg] *tv.* & *in.* to drink down a whole beer (or other drink) without stopping. □ *The two guys tried to see who could chug-a-lug the most beer.* □ *Wally chugged two cans in a row.* □ *All four of them sat there chugging.*

chum *n.* a pal; a good friend. □ *This is my chum, Wally.* □ *We've been chums for years. Went to college together.*

chummy ['tʃəmi] *mod.* friendly. □ *I'm glad to see that you are a little more chummy this morning.* □ *Don't get too chummy with me. I'm a real son of a bitch.*

chump [tʃəmp] *n.* a stupid person; a gullible person. □ *You are such a chump.* □ *See if that chump will loan you some money.*

chump change *n.* a small amount of money; the kind of salary or amount of money a **chump** would work for. □ *I refuse to work for chump change! I want a real job.* □ *It may be chump change, but it's better than nothing.*

chumphead *n.* a stupid person. □ *John is not my favorite chumphead, but he's close.* □ *What a chumphead. You painted over the windows.*

chunk 1. *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (Collegiate.) □ *I think I gotta chunk.* □ *The cat chunked all over the carpet.* **2.** *in.* to do badly; to blunder. □ *Sorry. I really chunked on that last deal.* □ *She is so afraid of chunking that she will hardly do anything.*

chunky *mod.* stout; fat. □ *Harry—the chow hound—is getting a little chunky.* □ *It's not all fat! He's always been a chunky brute.*

church key *n.* a beer can opener. □ *Where is the church key when I need it?* □ *I have a church key in my glove compartment.*

churn *tv.* [for a stockbroker] to cause a heavy turnover in the portfolio of an investor. (The broker collects commissions on each transaction.) □ *I reported my broker for churning my account.* □ *They churn accounts to earn the commissions.*

ciao AND **chow** [tʃaʊ] Good-bye; Hello. (Italian.) □ *See ya. Ciao.* □ *Chow, baby. Call my service.*

cid AND **sid** [sɪd] *n.* the hallucinogenic drug LSD. (Drugs. From **acid**. **Sid** can be capitalized.) □ *Where can I go to drop a little cid?* □ *Bruno can tell you where Sid is these days.* □ *You know where I can rap with Sid?*

cig [sɪg] *n.* a cigarette; a cigar. □ *Barlowe fumbled for a cig and thought better of it.* □ *Toss me my pack of cigs, will ya?*

cigarette with no name AND **no brand cigarette**; **no name cigarette** *n.* a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *You got one of them cigarettes with no name?* □ *He spends his whole life burning those no name cigarettes.*

ciggy AND **ciggie** ['sɪgi] *n.* a cigarette. □ *How 'bout a ciggy before we take off?* □ *Where is my pack of ciggies?*

cinch [sɪntʃ] **1.** *n.* something very easy. □ *No sweat! It was a cinch!* □ *What a cinch. Anybody can do it.* **2.** *tv.* to have something settled and secured. □ *He cinched it with a simple signature and date.* □ *It only took a handshake to cinch the deal.*

cinched [sɪntʃt] *mod.* settled; secured; sealed (up). (As one tightens the saddle girth on a horse.) □ *I've got it cinched! No sweat!* □ *This is a cinched deal—a done deal. No one can stop it from going through.*

circle-jerk **1.** *n.* a gathering of males performing mutual masturbation. (Partly jocular. Usually objectionable.) □ *There were twelve boys involved in a circle-jerk, and the principal caught them.* **2.** *n.* a boring or time-wasting meeting. (From

sense 1.) □ *That board meeting was the typical circle-jerk that it always is.*

circle (the drain) *tv.* & *in.* to be in the final process of dying; to be in extremis. (Jocular but crude hospital jargon.) □ *Get Mrs. Smith's son on the phone. She's circling the drain.*

circular file *n.* a wastebasket. (See also **file thirteen**.) □ *That letter went straight into the circular file.* □ *Most of the junk mail sits here until I can put it into the circular file.*

civil serpent *n.* a civil servant. □ *You have no idea the kinds of things civil serpents have to put up with.* □ *I'm a civil serpent with the state.*

civvies ['sɪvɪz] *n.* civilian clothes rather than a uniform. (Originally military.) □ *I feel sort of funny in civvies.* □ *I re-upped because I couldn't stand the thought of civvies and stuff like that.*

clam 1. *n.* a dollar. (Underworld.) □ *Forty clams for a sweater that doesn't even have arms!* □ *You got a couple of clams I can bum for a little bottle?* **2.** *n.* a tight-lipped person. □ *Suddenly, she became a clam and wouldn't talk anymore.* □ *Rocko's a clam. He won't say a word.*

clam up *in.* to get quiet. (See also **dummy up**.) □ *The minute they got him inside the cop-shop, he clammed up.* □ *You'll clam up if you know what's good for you.*

clanked *mod.* exhausted; pooped. □ *At the end of the race, the chick was totally clanked.* □ *I'm really clanked, man. Gotta take a rest.*

clanks *n.* the delirium tremens. □ *He's suffering with the clanks again.* □ *Who's the old buzzard shaking with the clanks?*

clap *n.* a case of gonorrhea. (Very old and still in use.) □ *He thinks he got the clap from her.*

claptrap *n.* nonsense; something worthless. □ *This is enough claptrap. I'm leaving.* □ *I know claptrap when I see it, and your play was claptrap.*

class 1. *n.* high style; elegance. □ *The dame's got class, but no brains.* □ *Class*

isn't worth much in this neighborhood. **2.** *mod.* first-rate; high-class. □ I've always regarded the firm as a class outfit. □ This was a class suburb just a few years ago.

class act *n.* a high-quality act; a high-quality way of doing things. □ I like the way you move on the field, Jerry. It's a real class act. □ The prof puts on a real class act, but he grades very hard.

classis-chassis AND **classy-chassy** ['klæsi'tʃæsi AND 'klæsi'fæsi] *n.* an attractive female figure. □ Who's the classis-chassis in the mink? □ Now there is a classy-chassy if I ever saw one.

classy *mod.* elegant; dandy. □ Pretty classy place you got here. □ How much does a classy car like this cost?

classy-chassy Go to classis-chassis.

clay *n.* good-quality hashish. (Drugs.) □ I like the feel of this clay. I'll take it. □ Ask John where you can dig up some clay.

clay pigeon *n.* a gullible person; a pigeon. (Underworld.) □ We need a clay pigeon to divert attention from the snatch. □ Who's gonna be the clay pigeon for the bank caper?

clean 1. *mod.* not using drugs; not involved with drugs. □ There's a success story. Kelly is one clean guy if I ever saw one. □ I've been clean for more than a month now. **2.** *mod.* sober; not intoxicated with drugs at the moment. (Almost the same as sense 1.) □ He's clean right now, but he'll get the call in an hour or two. □ Just being clean for a day is an accomplishment. **3.** *mod.* not breaking any law. (Police and underworld.) □ I'm clean, officer. You can't charge me with anything. □ This guy is clean. Let him go. **4.** *mod.* not carrying a weapon. (Police and underworld.) □ I frisked him. He's clean. □ Bugsy's gang was clean except for Bugsy himself who had a small pistol. **5.** *mod.* well-dressed. □ Now there's a clean dude! □ New threads, huh? Clean, baby, clean!

clean-cut *mod.* [of a person] neat and tidy. □ He's a very clean-cut guy, and polite too. □ He's sort of clean-cut looking, but with bushy hair.

cleaned out 1. *mod.* broke; with no money. □ I'm cleaned out. Not a cent left. □ Tom's cleaned out. He's broke. He'll have to go home. **2.** *mod.* with one's digestive tract emptied. □ That medicine really left me cleaned out. □ I feel better now that I'm cleaned out.

clean one's act up *tv.* to reform one's conduct; to improve one's performance. □ We were told to clean our act up or move out. □ I cleaned up my act, but not in time. I got kicked out.

clean someone out 1. *tv.* to get all of someone's money. (See also **cleaned out**.) □ The bill for supper cleaned me out, and we couldn't go to the flick. □ The robbers cleaned out everybody on the train. **2.** *tv.* to empty someone's bowels. (See also **cleaned out**.) □ That medicine I took really cleaned me out. □ A couple of those little burgers will clean me out.

clean sweep *n.* a broad movement clearing or affecting everything in the pathway. (Usually figurative.) □ The boss and everybody in the front office got canned in a clean sweep from upstairs. □ Everybody got a raise. It was a clean sweep.

clean up (on something) *in.* to make a lot of money on something. □ The promoters cleaned up on the product. □ If we advertise, we can clean up.

clear 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ Man, is she ever clear! □ He was clear, you know, polluted. **2.** *mod.* [of liquor] undiluted; neat. □ No soda. Clear, please. □ I like mine clear with just one ice cube. **3.** *tv.* to earn a specific net amount of money. □ She cleared a cool forty thousand on that Wilson deal. □ We just want to clear a decent profit. Nothing greedy.

clear as mud *mod.* not clear at all. (Often with *as*.) □ All of this is clear as mud to me. □ I did all the reading, but it's still as clear as mud.

clear as vodka 1. *mod.* very clear. □ The weather is as clear as vodka. □ The river wasn't exactly as clear as vodka because it had just rained. **2.** *mod.* very understandable. □ Everything he said is as clear as vodka. □ I don't understand what John

said, but everything you say is clear as vodka.

clear out *in.* to leave; to depart. □ *Time for you people to clear out. It's past midnight.* □ *The boss gave me till next week to clear out. I'm fired—canned.*

clear sailing *mod.* easy; easy going. □ *It'll be clear sailing from now on.* □ *When this is finished, it'll be clear sailing.*

click (with someone) *in.* to catch on with someone; to intrigue someone; to become popular with someone. □ *The pink hair and multiple earrings never really seemed to click with many kids.* □ *Sam and Mary are getting along fine. I knew they'd click.*

cliff-dweller *n.* someone who lives in a tall apartment building. □ *I could never survive as a cliff-dweller in a big city.* □ *The majority of cliff-dwellers wouldn't choose to live in any other way.*

climb 1. *n.* a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs. The means to a high.) □ *I need a climb to set me straight.* □ *Here, have a swallow of this climb.* **2.** *tv.* to scold someone. □ *The boss climbed Harry for being late.* □ *Don't climb me! The train broke down!*

climb the wall(s) *tv.* to do something desperate when one is anxious, bored, or excited. □ *He was home for only three days; then he began to climb the wall.* □ *I was climbing the walls to get back to work.*

clinch [kɪntʃ] *tv.* to settle something; to make something final. □ *I was able to clinch the deal, and I got a raise for it.* □ *I want to clinch this contract before the weekend.*

clinch ['kɪntʃə] *n.* the final element; the straw that broke the camel's back. (See also **capper**.) □ *The clincher was when the clerk turned up the volume.* □ *Eating garlic by the bushel was the clincher. I had to get a new roommate.*

cling like shit to a shovel AND **stick like shit to a shovel 1.** *in.* to stick or adhere [to someone or something] tightly. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That oily stuff sticks like shit to a shovel.* **2.** *in.* to be very dependent on someone; to follow someone

around. (Often with an indirect object. Usually objectionable.) □ *She's so dependent. She clings to him like shit to a shovel.*

clink *n.* jail. □ *We'll throw you in the clink if you don't talk.* □ *One night in the clink was enough.*

clinker 1. *n.* a mistake; (in music) a misplayed note. □ *That was a bad clinker in the middle of the soft passage.* □ *Look at the score, man! That series of clinkers just isn't there.* **2.** *n.* a worthless person or thing. (From the term for a cinder.) □ *This guy is such a clinker. Who needs him?* □ *Ralph has turned out to be a real clinker. We'll have to pink slip him.*

clip 1. *tv.* to cheat someone. (See also **clipped**; **clip joint**.) □ *That guy in there clipped me for a fiver.* □ *I didn't clip you or anybody else!* **2.** *tv.* to kill someone. □ *Rocko had orders to clip both Max and John.* □ *Frank and John had set out to clip Rocko first.* **3.** *n.* a holder for a marijuana cigarette butt. (Drugs. See also **roach clip**.) □ *She's got a clip if you need it.* □ *My clip's at home in my stash.* **4.** *n.* a music video; a short film. □ *This next clip is something you'll all recognize.* □ *Stay tuned for more great clips.* **5.** *n.* a fast rate of speed. □ *By traveling at a good clip, we managed to get there before the wedding started.* □ *You were moving at a pretty good clip when you ran into the truck.*

clip a butt *tv.* to pinch out a cigarette for later smoking. (Also with *the*.) □ *Like an old soldier, Wally took a puff and then clipped the butt for later.* □ *You learn to clip a butt so you won't waste what you can't finish.*

clip joint *n.* a business establishment that cheats customers. □ *That place is a clip joint. Stay away.* □ *The clip joint on Fourth Street was busted last night.*

clipped 1. *mod.* cheated. □ *When Marty counted his change, he found he'd been clipped.* □ *You weren't clipped by me. I just made a mistake.* **2.** *mod.* arrested. □ *Frank got clipped as he got out of his car.* □ *He was clipped and no one read him his rights, so off he went.*

clip someone's wings *tv.* to restrain someone; to reduce or put an end to a teenager's privileges. □ *One more stunt like that and I'm going to clip your wings for a couple of weeks.* □ *Her father clipped her wings for getting into trouble with the cops.*

clit AND **clitty** *n.* the clitoris. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Have I got a present for you and your clitty!*

clobber *tv.* to strike someone; to beat someone; to outscore someone. □ *I ought to clobber you, but good.* □ *She clobbered him over the head with her bouquet.*

clobbered *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He's the kind of guy who goes home and gets clobbered after work.* □ *The whole fraternity celebrated by getting themselves clobbered.*

clock *tv.* to earn, score, or total up someone or something. (As if the person or thing gained were being metered or clocked.) □ *Sam clocked a date with Sally, and is he ever proud!* □ *Amy clocked nearly \$12 an hour in overtime last weekend.*

clock in *in.* to record one's arrival at a set time. □ *He clocked in three minutes late.* □ *When they clock in, give them this envelope.*

clock watcher *n.* someone—a worker or a student—who is always looking at the clock. □ *There are four clock watchers in our office.* □ *People who don't like their jobs can turn into clock watchers.*

clod *n.* a stupid and oafish person. (Usually refers to a male. Old. Widely known. Usually objectionable.) □ *Don't be such a clod! Put on your tie, and let's go.*

clodhopper **1.** *n.* a big shoe. □ *Wipe the mud off those clodhoppers before you come in here.* □ *Look at the clodhoppers she's wearing!* **2.** *n.* a stupid person; a rural oaf. □ *Some clodhopper came into town and fell in with the wrong crowd.* □ *You don't know it, but that clodhopper is worth about two million bucks.*

close as stink on shit Go to (as) close as stink on shit

Close, but no cigar. [klos...] *phr.* Close, but not close enough to win a prize! □ *You almost did it. Close, but no cigar.* □ *Close, but no cigar! Give it another try.*

close call Go to close shave.

close shave AND **close call** *n.* a narrow escape. □ *Wow, that was a close shave.* □ *The car passed this close to us—a real close call.*

closet *mod.* secret; concealed. □ *Marty is a closet chocolate fiend.* □ *I'm a closet hard rock fan.*

clotheshorse ['klozhors] *n.* someone who is obsessed with clothing and looking good in it. □ *Her brother is the real clotheshorse.* □ *Mary is such a clotheshorse! Look at her now.*

clout *n.* influence; power. (See also **wallop**.) □ *You have clout with the mayor. You try it.* □ *I don't have any clout at all.*

clouted *mod.* arrested. □ *Some old wino got clouted for spitting on the sidewalk.* □ *They do things like that to get clouted so they can have a warm place to stay overnight.*

clown *n.* a fool. □ *Some clown threw our paper in a puddle this morning.* □ *Tell that clown in the front row to can it.*

clown around *in.* to act silly; to mess around. □ *Please stop clowning around and get to sleep.* □ *We were just clowning around. We didn't mean to break anything.*

cluck AND **kluck** [klək] *n.* a stupid person; a person as stupid as a chicken. □ *Why did they send me a dumb cluck to do this work?* □ *Some kluck came in and asked for a left-handed monkey wrench.*

cluckhead *n.* a stupid oaf. □ *What cluckhead put sugar in the salt shaker?* □ *I'm getting to be such a cluckhead!*

clucky *mod.* stupid; oafish. □ *What a clucky dame!* □ *The plan you submitted to this office was rejected by the policy committee. They noted that it was the cluckiest idea they had ever seen.*

clueless *mod.* unaware. □ *She is so dense. Totally clueless.* □ *I have never seen anyone so totally clueless. What a dunce!*

cluelessness *n.* total stupidity. (See also **totally clueless**.) □ *I just shake my head in wonder at the cluelessness of my fellow humans.* □ *This place is just infested with juvenile cluelessness!*

clue someone in *tv.* to set someone straight (about something); to inform someone of the facts. □ *What's going on? Clue me in.* □ *I think I'd better clue in Sam about the rally.*

clunk 1. *tv.* to strike someone or something. □ *A small truck clunked me from behind.* □ *The branch clunked the roof as it fell.* **2.** *n.* a hit; the sound of a hit. □ *I heard a clunk on the roof. Must be reindeer.* □ *The clunk on the roof was a falling branch.*

clunker 1. *n.* an old car. □ *He drives an old clunker and doesn't have any insurance.* □ *I gotta get rid of this clunker pretty soon.* **2.** *n.* someone or something worthless; a **clinker**. □ *We have to get the clunkers off the payroll.* □ *Fred? There's another clunker we don't need.*

clunkhead *n.* an oaf; a stupid dolt. □ *What clunkhead put sugar in the salt shaker?* □ *My brother can be such a clunkhead.*

clunky *mod.* ponderous and inefficient. □ *The whole plan is too clunky. Try to prune it down.* □ *I got rid of all the clunky stuff. Now it's lean and mean.*

cluster fuck 1. *n.* an act of group rape. (Also **Charlie Foxtrot** from the initials **CF**. Usually objectionable.) □ *Look at her! She's just asking for a cluster fuck.* **2.** *n.* any event as riotous as an act of group rape. (Figurative on sense 1. The same allusion as sense 1.) □ *This goddamn day has been one long cluster fuck!*

clutched *mod.* nervous. □ *I get so clutched before a test.* □ *George is clutched most of the time. He's in bad shape.*

clutch (up) *in.* to become very tense and anxious; to freeze with anxiety. □ *I have been known to clutch up before a race.* □ *Cool it, babe! Don't clutch!*

Clyde [klaɪd] *n.* an oaf; a **square**, usually a male. (See also **Zelda**. Also a term of address.) □ *Well, Clyde, I think you're way off base.* □ *A dull Clyde, that's my old Bill, but I still love him.*

C-note AND **C-spot** *n.* a one-hundred-dollar bill. (The C is the Roman numeral for 100. See also **century note**.) □ *How much ammo will a C-note buy these days?* □ *That guy wanted a C-spot to fix my muffler.*

coaster *n.* someone who lives near the ocean. (California.) □ *Tiffany is a coaster now, but she was born, like, somewhere else.* □ *The coasters just don't want to be beige, that's all.*

cob 1. *n.* a sharp poke or **goose** in the anus. □ *Ouch! That cob hurt!* **2.** *tv.* to give someone a sharp poke in the anus. □ *Tom clobbered Fred when he passed by.*

cock *n.* the penis. (Taboo. Usually objectionable. Mainly in the South, this refers instead to the female genitals.) □ *He made some joke about a cock, but nobody laughed.* □ *The streaker covered his cock and ran across the field.*

cockamamie ['kakəmemi] *mod.* ridiculous; inconceivable. □ *What a cockamamie idea!* □ *That is the most cockamamie thing I ever heard of.*

cock-cheese Go to **crotch-cheese**.

cockeyed ['kakəɪd] *mod.* crazy. □ *Who came up with this cockeyed idea, anyway?* □ *If you didn't act so cockeyed all the time, you'd have more friends.*

cocksucker 1. *n.* a male who performs **fellatio** (licking and sucking of the penis). (See also **dick-sucker**. Also a provocative term of address. Rude and derogatory.) □ *There is one question I've always wanted to ask a cocksucker, but I have never had the chance.* **2.** *n.* a low and despicable male; a male who is despicable enough to perform **fellatio**. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *You rotten cocksucker! I ought to punch you in the face.* **3.** *n.* a male who performs oral sex on a woman. □ *I don't care if he's a cocksucker, as long as he loves his mother.* **4.** *n.* an obsequious and flattering male; a male **sycophant**. (Rude

and derogatory.) □ *Why doesn't that stupid cocksucker talk straight. He's always trying to butter somebody up.*

cocksucking *mod.* despicable; contemptible. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Get your goddamn cocksucking foot outa my doorway!*

coed ['koəd] *n.* a female college student. (From *coeducational*.) □ *Some of these coeds are pretty strong-minded.* □ *My daughter is a coed at Midwest University.*

coffee and *n.* coffee and a doughnut or a pastry. □ *I'll have coffee and.* □ *We stopped at a little shop for coffee and.*

coffin-dodger ['kɒfɪn dɒdʒə] *n.* a heavy smoker. □ *I just hate these damn coffin-dodgers who light up a cigarette in a restaurant!* □ *Coffin-dodgers, chain-smokers—who cares? Let 'em commit suicide—in the privacy of their own homes, of course.*

coffin nail 1. AND **coffin tack** *n.* a cigarette. (Old.) □ *No more coffin nails for me.* □ *Every coffin tack you smoke takes a little off the end of your life.* **2.** *n.* a drink of liquor. □ *How about another coffin nail?* □ *Coffin nail sounds bad. Drink sounds good.*

coffin tack Go to coffin nail.

coffin varnish *n.* inferior liquor. □ *You want some more of this coffin varnish?* □ *Do you see what that coffin varnish you serve here has done to some of those guys?*

coin *n.* money. (See also **hard coin**; **do some fine coin**.) □ *I'm sort of short of coin right now. Can it wait?* □ *He made a lot of coin on the last picture.*

cojones *n.* the testicles. (Spanish. Usually objectionable.) □ *He kicked that old cat right in the cojones and sent it flying.*

cokeaholic [kəkə'həlɪk] *n.* a cocaine addict. (Drugs.) □ *It's hard to get a cokeaholic to get treatment.* □ *When I realized I was a cokeaholic, I decided to stop, but I couldn't.*

cokehead *n.* a heavy cocaine user; a cocaine addict. (Drugs.) □ *We get a few depressed cokeheads in the emergency room*

who have tried suicide. □ *As a banker, I see two or three cokeheads file for bankruptcy each year.*

coke party *n.* a gathering where cocaine is consumed. (Drugs.) □ *There's a coke party in the warehouse after closing tonight.* □ *Tom's hosting a coke party for his yuppie friends.*

coke-spoon AND **(flake) spoon** *n.* a small spoon used to carry powdered cocaine to a nostril. (Drugs.) □ *Wally wears a coke-spoon around his neck.* □ *The principal wrote a letter to Mrs. Simpson telling her that Jimmy had brought a flake spoon to school.*

cold 1. *mod.* [stopping something] suddenly and totally. □ *I stopped cold—afraid to move further.* □ *That remark stopped her cold.* **2.** *mod.* dead. □ *This parrot is cold—pifted!* □ *When I'm cold and buried, I hope people will think of me fondly.* **3.** *mod.* not good. □ *That new CD is real cold. The sound is bad and the performance is too.* □ *The lecture was cold and dull.* **4.** *mod.* excellent. (Very cool.) □ *That last pitch was cold, man.* □ *Hey, G! That's a cold ride.*

cold blood AND **cold coffee** *n.* beer. □ *How would you like a little cold blood to start things off?* □ *A nice big cold coffee would do me fine.*

cold call *tv.* to call a sales prospect from a list of persons one has never met. □ *The broker cold called a number of people each evening for two months.* □ *Things have to be pretty bad when the senior brokers at a major house have to cold call people to get business.*

coldcock *tv.* to knock someone out. □ *The guy who called Max out wanted to coldcock him for shorting him, but got coldcocked himself.* □ *The clerk coldcocked the would-be robber with a champagne bottle.*

cold coffee Go to cold blood.

cold feet *n.* a wave of timidity or fearfulness. □ *Suddenly I had cold feet and couldn't sing a note.* □ *You sort of expect a candy-ass like that to have cold feet.*

cold fish *n.* a dull and unresponsive person. ☐ *I hate to shake hands with a cold fish like that. He didn't even smile.* ☐ *I hate going out with a cold fish.*

a cold piece of work *n.* a person who is difficult to deal with. ☐ *Buddy, you are a cold piece of work.*

cold pop *n.* beer. ☐ *How about another can of that cold pop?* ☐ *A few cans of cold pop and John began to wobble a little.*

cold shoulder **1.** *n.* a cool reception; the brushoff. ☐ *I didn't expect to be greeted by such a cold shoulder.* ☐ *I got the cold shoulder at the office today.* **2.** *tv.* to ignore someone; to give someone a cool reception. ☐ *The hostess cold shouldered me, so I spilled my appetizers in the swimming pool.* ☐ *Tiffany cold shouldered the guy who was putting the moves on Roberta.*

cold sober *mod.* sober; completely sober. (See also **sold cober**.) ☐ *Of course, I'm cold sober!* ☐ *He had a fine head on and wanted more than anything to be cold sober and alert.*

cold turkey *mod.* [stopping something] suddenly, without tapering off. (Said especially of stopping an addictive drug intake. Originally drugs.) ☐ *Martha stopped cold turkey and survived.* ☐ *I stopped smoking cigarettes cold turkey and had to be hospitalized.* ☐ *I gave up rich desserts cold turkey and lived to tell about it.*

coli ['kɒli] *n.* marijuana. (Drugs. From broccoli.) ☐ *There's a little bag of coli in the fridge.* ☐ *Who got into my stash and took the coli?*

collar **1.** *tv.* to arrest someone. (See also **collared**.) ☐ *The cops collared her as she was leaving the hotel.* ☐ *The nark tried to collar Frank, but Frank moved away too fast.* **2.** *n.* an arrest. ☐ *It was a tough collar, with all the screaming and yelling.* ☐ *I made the collar in broad daylight.*

collared *mod.* arrested. ☐ *Willard Babbit? Oh, yes. He's collared. Got him last night.* ☐ *Got collared during a routine traffic stop.*

Colombian (gold) AND **Columbian (gold)** *n.* a potent marijuana from Colombia. (Columbian is a misspelling.) ☐ *Colombian gold seems to be a favorite around here.* ☐ *Columbian is cheap and abundant in almost every city.*

color of someone's money *n.* the amount of money someone has in hand. ☐ *Well, I can tell if we can make a deal if I could see the color of your money.* ☐ *Lemme see the color of your money. Then we'll talk.*

Columbian (gold) Go to **Colombian (gold)**.

combo ['kæmbɒ] **1.** *n.* a small group of musicians; a small band. (From *combination*.) ☐ *Andy started his own combo and made money from day one.* ☐ *You can make a good living with a combo.* **2.** *n.* a combination of people or things. ☐ *Those two make an interesting combo.* ☐ *The dish was a combo of fish, garlic, and cream.* **3.** *n.* a bisexual person. ☐ *Nobody would have thought that Fred's a combo.* ☐ *He's not a combo, he's just confused.*

comboozelated [kəm'buzəledəd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Collegiate.) ☐ *I believe I am just a little comboozelated.* ☐ *How did you get so comboozelated?*

come AND **cum** **1.** *in.* to experience an orgasm. (There is no other single word for this meaning. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *God, I thought she'd never cum.* **2.** *n.* semen. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Do you think cum is alive?*

comeback **1.** *n.* a retort; back talk. ☐ *Hank is pretty fast with the comeback.* ☐ *One more snotty comeback like that and you're finished.* **2.** *n.* a return to a former state. ☐ *The aging singer tried to sober up and make a comeback.* ☐ *Her comeback was not a financial success, but it improved her spirits.*

come clean (with someone) (about something) *in.* to admit (something) to someone. ☐ *I wish you'd come clean with me about this problem.* ☐ *You're gonna have to come clean eventually.*

come down **1.** *in.* to happen. ☐ *Hey, man! What's coming down?* ☐ *When something like this comes down, I have to stop and*

think things over. **2. n.** a letdown; a disappointment. (Usually **comedown**.) □ *The loss of the race was a real comedown for Willard.* □ *It's hard to face a comedown like that.* **3. in.** to begin to recover from the effects of alcohol or drug intoxication. □ *She came down slow, which was good.* □ *It was hard to get her to come down.*

come down hard *in.* to come out of a drug use session badly. (Drugs.) □ *Mike came down hard, and it took them a long time to calm him down.* □ *Some kids who come down hard will need treatment, but none of them get it unless they look like they are bad off.*

come down hard on someone *in.* to scold someone; to punish someone severely. □ *Joe's parents came down hard on him when they learned he had been suspended from school.* □ *The judge came down hard on the crooks.*

come-hither look [kəm'hɪðə lʊk] *n.* an alluring or seductive look or glance, usually done by a woman. □ *She blinked her bedroom eyes and gave him a come-hither look.* □ *She had mastered the come-hither look, but was not ready for the next part.*

Come off it! **1. AND Get off it!** *exclam.* Stop acting arrogantly! □ *Oh, you're just one of us. Come off it!* □ *Come off it, Tiff.* *You're not the Queen of England.* **2. exclam.** Give up your incorrect point of view! □ *Come off it! You're wrong, and you know it.* □ *You are arguing from a foolish position. You're dead wrong. Get off it!*

come on **1. n.** a lure; bait. (Usually **come-on**.) □ *Forty people responded to the come-on published in the Sunday paper.* □ *It's just a come on. Nobody is giving away a decent color TV just for listening to a sales pitch.* **2. n.** an invitation; a sexual invitation. (Usually **come-on**.) □ *She stared at him with her bedroom eyes, giving him that age-old come-on.* □ *Who could resist a come-on like that?* **3. in.** to begin to perform well. □ *In the second scene, the entire cast came on, and the audience loved it.* □ *The singer came on immediately. We knew we had a star.* **4. in.**

to feel the effects of a drug; for a drug to take effect. (Drugs.) □ *After what seemed a long time, I began to come on to the stuff.* □ *When I came on, I decided I didn't like it, but then it was too late.* **5. exclam.** You are wrong! (Usually **Come on!**) □ *Come on! This is a good set of clubs!* □ *Come on! Wasteful spending occurs at all levels of all governments! Nobody is innocent!*

come on like gangbusters *Go to come on strong.*

come on strong AND come on like gangbusters *in.* to seem aggressive; to impress people initially as very aggressive and assertive. (See explanation at **like gangbusters**.) □ *She has a tendency to come on strong, but she's really a softie.* □ *The new president comes on strong at first.*

come on to someone **1. in.** to make advances to a person. □ *He came on to her, but she beat it outa there fast.* □ *She didn't even know he was coming on to her, till they got to his place.* **2. in.** to try to get someone to respond romantically or sexually. □ *She was just starting to come on to me when her parents came home.* **3. in.** to begin to become friendly. □ *After a few minutes, they began to come on to each other.* □ *When the nervousness of meeting a blind date passed, Sam and Mary began to come on, and we could see it would be a success.*

come out ahead *in.* to end up with a profit; to end up with some benefit. □ *I never seem to come out ahead at the end of the month.* □ *We'll come out ahead in the end. Just you wait.*

come out in the wash *in.* to be dealt with in the normal chain of events. (As if someone were counseling someone who had caused a clothing stain.) □ *All of these things will come out in the wash.* □ *Whatever it is, it'll come out in the wash. Don't worry.*

come out of the closet *in.* to appear publicly as a homosexual. (The phrase has many nonsexual metaphorical meanings.) □ *They say he came out of the closet when he was 8 years old.*

come out on top *in.* to end up to the better; to win. □ *Tim always has to come out on top—a classic poor loser.* □ *She made all the wrong moves and still came out on top.*

comer ['kəmər] *n.* someone with a bright future. □ *Fred is a real comer. You'll be hearing a lot about him.* □ *A comer like that can command a high salary.*

come up for air *in.* to pause for a break. □ *The kissers—being only human—had to come up for air eventually.* □ *They were taking in money so fast at the box office that there wasn't a minute to come up for air.*

comeuppance [kəm'əpənts] *n.* a well-deserved rebuke. □ *He finally got the comeuppance that he's needed for so long.* □ *I gave her a comeuppance she'll never forget.*

comfort station **1.** *n.* a restroom; toilet facilities available to the public. □ *Do you have a comfort station in this store?* □ *We need to stop and find a comfort station in the next town.* **2.** *n.* an establishment that sells liquor. □ *Let's get some belch at a comfort station along here somewhere.* □ *There's cops all around that comfort station. Somebody must have robbed it.*

comfy ['kəm(p)fi] *mod.* comfortable. □ *This is a very comfy chair.* □ *I find myself in a not too comfy position with regard to your further employment here.*

coming out of one's ears *mod.* in great abundance. □ *Mr. Wilson has money coming out of his ears.* □ *Borrow some paper from Chuck. He's got it coming out of his ears.*

comma-counter *n.* a pedantic person. □ *Comma-counters can be such a pain.* □ *When you need a proofreader, you need a comma-counter.*

commie ['kami] *n.* a communist. □ *What are the commies up to now?* □ *The commies are selling gold today, and the price went down a lot.*

commode-hugging drunk *mod.* heavily alcohol intoxicated; drunk and vomiting. □ *John got commode-hugging drunk in the space of two hours.* □ *I could tell by the*

sounds coming from the bathroom that Ernie had come home commode-hugging drunk again.

comp **1.** *tv.* to accompany someone [musically]. □ *I have to sing a solo at a wedding and need someone to comp me.* **2.** *tv.* to give something to someone free. (Either as compensation for difficulties endured or as a complimentary gift.) □ *The movie patron was angry and demanded his money back. The manager comped him with a few free passes and he was happy.*

company bull *n.* a detective or guard who works for a private firm. □ *Pete is a company bull for Acme Systems. He works nights.* □ *The company bull asked what we were doing there.*

company man *n.* a man who always sides with his employers. □ *Ken's a company man—he'll always take management's side.* □ *You can depend on a company man to do as he is told.*

con **1.** *n.* a convict. □ *One of the cons keeps a snake in his cell for a pet.* □ *Is that guy in the gray pajamas one of the escaped cons?* **2.** *n.* a confidence scheme. □ *They pulled a real con on the old lady.* □ *This is an okay con you got going.* **3.** *tv.* to swindle or deceive someone. □ *Don't try to con me. I know the score.* □ *Sam conned him out of his money.*

con artist Go to con man.

conehead **1.** *n.* a fool; an oaf. □ *Some conehead put sugar in the salt shaker.* □ *You can be pretty much of a conehead yourself sometimes, you know.* **2.** *n.* an intellectual; a pointy-head. □ *The coneheads have decided that we are all making too much money.* □ *They build fences around universities to keep the coneheads in.*

cones *n.* the breasts; female breasts. □ *Cones really turn him on.* □ *She ain't much in the cones department.*

con job *n.* an act of deception. □ *What a con job he tried to pull on us!* □ *This is not an annual report! It's a con job!*

conk AND **konk** *n.* the head. □ *Put your brim on your conk, and let's cruise.* □

Where'd you get that nasty bump on your konk?

konk-buster AND **konk-buster**

['kɒŋkbəstə] **1.** *n.* inferior liquor. □ *Another shot of that konk-buster and I will just pass out.* □ *Jed kept a jar of konk-buster under his bed against night sweats.* **2.** *n.* a hard-to-answer question or problem. □ *Man, what you asking is really a konk-buster.*

konk out **1.** *in.* [for someone] to collapse.

□ *I was so tired I just went home and konked out.* □ *I was afraid I would konk out while I was driving.* **2.** *in.* [for something] to break down; to quit running. □ *My car konked out finally.* □ *I hope my computer doesn't konk out.*

con man AND **con artist** *n.* someone who makes a living by swindling people. □ *Gary is a con artist, but at least he's not on the dole.* □ *He looks like a con man, but he's just a sweetie.*

connection *n.* a seller of drugs; someone who is a source for drugs. (Originally drugs.) □ *Frank's connection got roused.* □ *This connection you keep taking about—is he dependable?*

connect (with someone) *in.* to meet someone; to talk to someone on the telephone. □ *Let's try to connect on this matter tomorrow.* □ *We connected over a drink and discussed the matter fully.*

connect (with something) *in.* [for a batter] to hit a ball. □ *Wally connected for a double.* □ *He swung, but didn't connect with the ball.*

conniption (fit) [kə'nɪpfən...] *n.* a burst of anger; a spaz. □ *He had a conniption fit over the question of my marriage to Wally.* □ *Come on, don't have a conniption!*

constitutional *n.* the first drink or dose of drugs of the day. (See also **breakfast of champions**.) □ *He downed a constitutional and made ready to set out for the office.* □ *He never fails to drop a constitutional in the morning.*

cooch **1.** *n.* the female genitals; the vulva. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He thought he could see her cooch through her swimming*

suit. **2.** *n.* women considered as a receptacle for the penis. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Q: Don't you ever think about anything except getting some cooch? A: No.*

coo-coo AND **cuckoo** **1.** *mod.* unconscious. □ *I socked him on the snoot and knocked him coo-coo.* □ *Rocko was cuckoo for a minute; then he was up and swinging.* **2.** *mod.* insane. □ *The chick is just cuckoo, that's all.* □ *How did I ever get involved in this cuckoo scheme, anyway?*

cooked *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Pete is cooked, fried, boiled, baked—drunk.* □ *Gary is calling a cab. He's too cooked to drive.*

cooked up *mod.* contrived. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ *The whole thing seems so cooked up.* □ *What a cooked-up story! Of course, you don't believe it.*

cookie pusher **1.** *n.* a bootlicker; someone who flatters other people for self-serving motives. □ *When you've got a whole office full of cookie pushers, there's always someone to take you to lunch.* □ *Another cookie pusher came in today to tell me what a great teacher I am.* **2.** *n.* a lazy do-nothing. □ *Is Martin a couch potato or a cookie pusher? That is the question!* □ *I'm just looking for a cookie pusher to fire today.*

cooking with gas *in.* doing exactly right. (Always with -ing.) □ *That's great! Now you're cooking with gas!* □ *I knew she was finally cooking with gas when she answered all the questions correctly.*

cool **1.** *mod.* unabashed; unruffled; relaxed. (See also **keep one's cool**; **lose one's cool**.) □ *This chick is so cool—no matter what happens.* □ *She is totally cool and easygoing.* **2.** *mod.* good; excellent. □ *This is a really cool setup!* □ *Then this, like, cool muscleman comes over and asks Tiffany if she'd like to dance.* **3.** *mod.* [of music] mellow; smooth. □ *This stuff is so cool, I'm just floating.* □ *Doesn't he blow a cool trumpet?* **4.** *mod.* no less than [some amount of money]. □ *He earns a cool million every year.* □ *She cleared a cool forty thousand on the Wilson deal.* **5.** *in.* to die; to become cold after death. (Med-

ical euphemism.) □ *The patient cooled during surgery.* □ *We were afraid that he would cool.*

Cool bananas! Go to Cool beans!

Cool beans! AND **Cool bananas!** *exclam.*

Wow! □ *Cool beans, man. That's great!* □ *You got a car? Cool bananas!*

cool, calm, and collected *mod.* cool; unabashed. □ *Albert is almost always cool, calm, and collected.* □ *Before a race I am anything but cool, calm, and collected.*

cool cat *n.* someone who is cool, usually a male. □ *Monty is a cool cat. I really like him.* □ *There is a shortage of cool cats on this turf.*

cool down *in.* to calm down. □ *Now, just cool down. Chill, chill. Everything's gonna be real cool.* □ *When things cool down around here, life will be much more liveable.*

cooled out *mod.* calm; unabashed. □ *Ted is a really cooled out kind of guy.* □ *When she's cooled out, she's great.*

cooler *n.* jail. (Usually with *the*.) □ *Do you want to talk, or do you want to spend a little time in the cooler?* □ *Let me outa this cooler!*

Cool it! *exclam.* Calm down! □ *Take it easy! Cool it!* □ *Come on, cool it, man!*

cool off *in.* to calm down. □ *Now, it's all right. Cool off!* □ *I knew things would cool off eventually.*

cool out *in.* to calm down; to relax. (See also **cooled out**.) □ *Now, just cool out, man. This will pass.* □ *Everybody cooled out after the emergency, and everything was fine.*

cool someone out *tv.* to calm someone; to appease someone. □ *Cool yourselves out, you people. We gotta be sensible.* □ *The manager appeared and tried to cool out everybody, but that was a waste of time.*

cooties ['kudziz] *n.* real or imagined lice. □ *Randy pulled back from me like I had cooties or something. What's wrong with me?* □ *You have cooties, crotch-pheasants, and bad breath. What do you expect?*

cop 1. *tv.* to take or steal something. (Originally underworld.) □ *Somebody copped the statue from the town square.* □ *Who copped the salt from this table?* **2.** *n.* a theft. (Underworld.) □ *They pulled the cop in broad daylight.* □ *It was a lousy cop. No skill. No finesse.* **3.** *n.* a police officer. (From sense 1.) □ *The cop wasn't in any mood to put up with any monkey business.* □ *You call the cops. I've got enough trouble.* **4.** *tv.* to arrest someone. (See also **copped**.) □ *The officer copped him and read him his rights.* □ *They copped Sam with the evidence right on him.* **5.** *n.* an arrest. □ *It was a smooth cop. No muss, no fuss.* □ *The cop went off without a hitch except for a few little insults.*

cop a drag *tv.* to smoke a cigarette. (See also **drag**.) □ *She kept going off to the john to cop a drag.* □ *Smokers who have to leave the office to cop a drag must cost this nation billions each year.*

cop a fix *tv.* to obtain a dose of drugs. □ *She was gonna, like, die if she didn't cop a fix pretty soon.* □ *She carries her apps so she can cop a fix whenever.*

cop a head *tv.* to become alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *He was mad and depressed and went home having decided to cop a head.* □ *The two old codgers sat there copping a head, or trying to anyway.*

cop an attitude *tv.* to take a negative or opposite attitude about something. (See also **tude**.) □ *Look, chum, don't cop an attitude with me!* □ *I think you're copping an attitude. Not advised, man. Not advised.*

cop a plea *tv.* to plead guilty to a lesser charge. □ *Rocko copped a plea and got off with a week in the slammer.* □ *I wanted to cop a plea, but didn't have the chance.*

copasetic [kopə'sɛdɪk] *mod.* agreeable; satisfactory. (Originally black. Probably from French.) □ *Everything is copasetic. Couldn't be better.* □ *This is one fine copasetic day.*

cop a squat *tv.* to sit down. □ *Hey, man! Come in and cop a squat.* □ *Cop a squat and crack a tube.*

cop a tube *tv.* to catch a perfect tubular wave. (Surfers.) □ *He was a real pro at copping a tube, and always just the right one.* □ *Mark—as drunk as all get out—said he was gonna go out and cop a tube.*

cop out **1.** *in.* to plead guilty (to a lesser charge). (Underworld. See also **cop a plea**.) □ *Frank copped out and got off with a night in the cooler.* □ *I decided not to cop out and got a mouthpiece instead.* **2.** *in.* to give up and quit; to **chicken out** (of something). □ *Why do you want to cop out just when things are going great?* □ *I couldn't cop out on you guys if I wanted to.* **3.** *n.* a poor excuse to get out of something. (Usually **cop-out** or **copout**.) □ *This is a silly copout.* □ *That's not a good reason. That's just a cop-out.*

copped *mod.* arrested. □ *Jed got himself copped—a speeder.* □ *I was copped for doing absolutely nothing at all.*

copper **1.** *n.* a police officer. (Originally underworld. Because the **copper cops** or **takes**. See also **cop**.) □ *See that copper over there? He busted me once.* □ *The coppers will catch up with you some day.* **2.** *n.* money. (From **copper penny**. See also **rivets**.) □ *How much copper you got on you?* □ *That car takes too much copper to run.*

cop-shop *n.* a police station. □ *They hauled off everybody to the cop-shop.* □ *The pigs down at the cop-shop tried to act like they didn't know who Frank was.*

cop some Z's Go to catch some Z's.

a **copy** *n.* apiece, as with an item produced. □ *We sell the toy at \$14 a copy.* □ *These cars cost over \$20,000 a copy.*

copycat *n.* someone who mimics or copies the actions of others. □ *Don't be such a copycat. Find a style that suits you.* □ *Jim is a real copycat. He can say anything you say, just the way you say it.*

corked (up) AND **corky** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *You seem to be a little corked.* □ *You'd be corked up, too, if you'd drunk as much as I have.*

corker *n.* someone or something good, funny, or entertaining. □ *That was a real*

corker. I thought I'd die laughing. □ *Tracy is quite a corker. I bet she's fun at parties.*

corkscrewed (up) *mod.* courageous because of alcohol; with one's courage screwed by alcohol. □ *After getting himself corkscrewed up, he went into the boss's office for a word.* □ *He used a bit of vodka to get corkscrewed enough to demand a raise.*

corky Go to corked (up).

corn *n.* money. □ *I need some corn to pay the rent.*

cornball **1.** *n.* a stupid or corny person. □ *He's a cornball, but he's fun.* □ *Who invited this cornball to my party?* **2.** *mod.* stupid or corny. □ *What a cornball idea!* □ *Ken is such a cornball hick!*

corned *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *The old timer is corned on moonshine.* □ *Let's go out and get corned.*

cornfed *mod.* rural; backwards; unsophisticated. □ *I enjoy her honest, cornfed humor.* □ *Jed is a homey, cornfed kind of guy. Don't know anybody who bears him any ill will.*

cornhole **1.** *n.* the anus. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Well, doc, I got this terrible itch in the cornhole, you know.* **2.** *n.* a sharp poke or **goose** in the anus. (Usually objectionable.) □ *They delivered a painful cornhole to the bully and then ran off.* **3.** *tv.* to poke someone in the anus. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Let's sneak up and cornhole that guy!*

corny **1.** *mod.* having to do with simple-minded, overdrawn humor. □ *This corny dialog has to be revised before I'll act in this play.* □ *Don't be corny. This is serious.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with overdone sentiment. □ *The love scenes were your corny hands-off-the-naughty-parts events, but nobody laughed.* □ *Harry always laughs at corny mush in a movie.*

corpse **1.** *n.* an empty liquor or beer bottle. (See also **dead soldier**.) □ *Sam tossed another corpse out the window.* □ *Throw your corpses in the trash can, you jerk!* **2.** *n.* a cigarette butt. □ *The wino picked up the corpse and put it in a little box of them*

he carried with him. □ He is saving corpses to build a real smoke.

corral dust *n.* nonsense, lies, and exaggeration. (A euphemism for **bullshit**.) □ *The way Judy handles the corral dust, she must be running for political office.* □ *That stuff is all corral dust. Don't believe a word of it.*

cosmic *mod.* excellent; powerful. □ *This pizza is absolutely cosmic!* □ *Who wants to see a really cosmic movie?*

cotton-picking AND **cotton-pickin'** *mod.* worthless; damned. (Folksy.) □ *What's the cotton-pickin' idea?* □ *Who is this cotton-picking bigwig pushing us around?*

couch-doctor AND **couch-turkey** *n.* a psychiatrist; a psychoanalyst. □ *Some couch-doctor told her to go out and find a lover.* □ *I finally walked out on my couch-turkey. Now I'm getting it all together.*

couch potato *n.* a lazy, do-nothing television watcher. (See also **sofa spud**.) □ *If there was a prize for the best couch potato, my husband would win it.* □ *You are turning into a perfect couch potato.*

couch-turkey Go to couch-doctor.

Cough it up! *exclam.* Give me the money (or some other thing that you are trying to keep from me) now! □ *You owe me 20 bucks. Cough it up!*

cough something up *tv.* to produce something (which someone has requested), usually money. □ *Come on, buster, cough it up, now!* □ *You owe me seven stereo amplifiers. Now, cough them up!* □ *Cough up what you owe me!*

country drunk *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; drunk and disorganized. (Folksy.) □ *Them good old boys know how to get country drunk.* □ *The cowboy, really country drunk this time, got to town somehow and started a fight.*

county-mounty *n.* a highway patrol officer. (Citizens band radio.) □ *There's a county-mounty waiting under that bridge ahead of you.* □ *The county-mounty wrote me seven tickets in that one roust.*

courier *n.* a small-time drug seller; a drug runner; a carrier of contraband. (Drugs.)

□ *The cops can catch the couriers whenever they want. It's the big guys they're after.* □ *The couriers are expendable.*

cover-up *n.* an act of concealing something. □ *The cover-up drew more attention than whatever it was that was covered up.* □ *The candidate accused her opponent of a cover-up.*

cow *n.* a fat or ugly woman. (Cruel.) □ *That cow can hardly get through the door.* □ *Wouldn't you think a cow like that would go on a diet?*

cowboy *n.* a reckless and independent man; a reckless driver. (Also a term of address.) □ *Come on, cowboy, finish your coffee and get moving.* □ *Some cowboy in a new caddy cut in front of me.*

cow chips *n.* dried cow dung. □ *There's a whole field of cow chips out there! Why do you want to buy a bag of the stuff at a nursery?* □ *Break up these cow chips and work them into the soil around the base of the bushes.*

cow-doots [...'duts] *n.* cow dung; masses of cow dung. □ *Don was walking through the pasture gathering cow-doots to use as fertilizer.* □ *Don't step in the cow-doots.*

cow flop AND **cow plop** *n.* a mass of cow dung. □ *Mrs. Wilson is out in the pasture gathering cow flops for her garden.* □ *Cow plops are not all the same, you know.*

cow juice Go to moo juice.

cow plop Go to cow flop.

coyote-ugly ['kaiot 'ægli OR 'kaioti 'ægli] *mod.* extremely ugly. (Crude, cruel, and potentially offensive. Said of people. See also **double-bagger**; **triple-bagger**. Supposedly, if one woke up and found one's arm around a **coyote-ugly** person, one would chew off one's arm—in the manner of a coyote escaping from a steel-jaw trap—rather than pull it back away from this person.) □ *Is that your pet monkey, or is your date just coyote-ugly?* □ *Isn't that the most coyote-ugly creep you've ever seen?*

cozy up (to someone) *in.* to become overly friendly with someone in hope of gaining special favors. □ *Tracy cozied up*

to the prof, hoping for a good grade at least. ☐ She failed to read the syllabus, which advised students not to cozy up to the professor or call him at home.

cr@p **1.** *n.* a partial written disguise for **crap** = junk. ☐ I asked him what all the cr@p was on the floor. **2.** *in.* a partial written disguise for **crap** = dung. ☐ The cat cr@pped in the hall last night.

crab *n.* a louse. (Usually plural.) ☐ He's scratching like he's got crabs. ☐ The old wino and his crabs wandered into the flop-house for a little peace and quiet.

crack **1.** *n.* the gap between the buttocks. ☐ You can take your old summons and stick it up your crack! ☐ You wanna get kicked in the crack? **2.** *n.* the gap between the lips of the vulva. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ He screamed something rude about her crack and slapped her. **3.** *n.* women considered as the object of copulation and male sexual release. (Usually with some. Rude and derogatory.) ☐ Jed said he had to have some crack soon or he would die. **4.** *n.* a joke; a smart-aleck remark. ☐ Another crack like that and your nose will be a little flatter than it is. **5.** *n.* a try (that may or may not succeed). ☐ Have another crack at it. ☐ One more crack and I'll have it. **6.** *n.* a unit of something (for a particular price); a use (of something). ☐ You would think twice, too, if you remembered that it's seven dollars a crack. ☐ At two dollars a crack, this is the best game on the midway. **7.** *n.* crystalline, smokable cocaine. (Drugs.) ☐ This crack seems to have become the drug of choice for punks of all ages. ☐ Crack became popular when it became easy and cheap to process. It's been around for years in medicinal form. **8.** *in.* to break down and talk under pressure. (Underworld.) ☐ They kept at her till she finally cracked and talked. ☐ We knew you'd finally crack. **9.** *mod.* [of a person] excellent; top-flight. ☐ The dealer's crack salesman was no help at all. ☐ With our crack staff, we can have everything worked out in no time. **10.** *tv.* to break into something. (Underworld.) ☐ We almost cracked the safe before the alarm went off. ☐ His specialty is cracking car trunks and stealing tires.

crack a book *tv.* to open a book to study. (Usually in the negative.) ☐ I never cracked a book and still passed the course. ☐ Sally didn't crack a book all semester.

crack a tube *tv.* to open a can of beer. (See also **tube**.) ☐ Why don't you drop over this evening, and we'll crack a few tubes? ☐ Would you crack a tube for me? My hands are too cold.

crackbrain *n.* a fool; a stupid oaf. ☐ Did you hear about the crackbrain who found part of the sky floating in the lake? ☐ Sometimes you are quite a crackbrain yourself.

crackbrained *mod.* stupid; ridiculous. ☐ I've heard enough of your crackbrained schemes. ☐ One more crackbrained idea and you're fired.

cracked *mod.* crazy. ☐ You're cracked if you think I'll agree to that. ☐ You gotta be cracked if you think I'm going back in there.

cracked up to be *mod.* supposed to be. ☐ This pizza isn't what it's cracked up to be. ☐ I wanted to find out whether this stuff was what it is cracked up to be.

crackerjack *mod.* excellent; industrious. ☐ Fred is a crackerjack stockbroker, but his personal life is a mess. ☐ Clare is a crack-erjack teacher, but she is looking for something that pays a real salary.

crackers Go to bonkers.

crackhead *n.* a user of **crack**. (Drugs.) ☐ They brought an eight-year-old crackhead in for treatment. ☐ Crackheads are a very serious problem in the nation's work force.

crack house *n.* a house or dwelling where **crack** is sold and used. (Drugs.) ☐ The police are continuing their efforts to close down crack houses in the area. ☐ In one dilapidated neighborhood, there is a crack house on every block.

crack open a bottle *tv.* to open a bottle of liquor. (Also with *the*.) ☐ Let's crack open a bottle and celebrate. ☒ He cracked the bottle open and poured a little for everyone to try.

crackpot 1. *n.* a fake; a person with strange or crazy plans. □ *Some crackpot called to tell us that the sky is falling in.* □ *I'm no crackpot! I saw some of the sky floating in the lake. If it had fallen on land, someone might have been killed.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with crazy things, mainly ideas. □ *We need a crackpot idea around here just so we'll have something to compare your ideas to.* □ *Why not start a crackpot idea contest?*

crack someone up *tv.* to make someone laugh. □ *She giggled, and that cracked us all up.* □ *The lecturer would talk along sort of boring like, and then all of a sudden he would crack up everybody with a joke.*

crack some suds *tv.* to drink some beer. □ *Let's go out tonight and crack some suds.* □ *The guys wanted to watch the game and crack some suds.*

crack up 1. *in.* to have a wreck. □ *The plane cracked up and killed two of the passengers.* □ *Whose car cracked up on the expressway?* **2.** *in.* to break out in laughter. □ *The whole audience cracked up.* □ *I knew I would crack up during the love scene.* **3.** *in.* to have a nervous breakdown. □ *The poor guy cracked up. It was too much for him.* □ *You would crack up, too, if you had been through all he went through.* **4.** *n.* an accident; a wreck. (Usually **crack-up**.) □ *There was a terrible crack-up on the expressway.* □ *There were four cars in the crack-up.*

cram *in.* to study hard at the last minute for a test. □ *She spent the night cramming for the test.* □ *If you would study all the time, you wouldn't need to cram.*

crank 1. *n.* a crackpot; a bothersome person with a bogus message. □ *A crank called with a bomb threat.* □ *A crank came in and offered to punch me in the nose for a quarter.* **2.** *mod.* bogus. □ *We had four crank calls threatening to blow up the Eiffel tower.* □ *A crank letter promised us a million dollars if we would play "My Blue Heaven" for two hours each morning.* **3.** *n.* a crabby person. (Collegiate.) □ *Why are you such a crank? Is something wrong in*

your life? □ *The prof is such a crank; he jokes only about once a semester.*

crank bugs *n.* a drug-induced hallucination that insects are crawling under one's skin. (Drugs.) □ *I have crank bugs, and I'm cartooning, too.* □ *There's no such thing as crank bugs, so stop scratching them.*

cranking *mod.* exciting; excellent. □ *This record is really cranking!* □ *We had a massively cranking time at your set.*

crank something out *tv.* to produce something; to make a lot of something. □ *She can crank mystery novels out like fury.* *They're all good, too.* □ *That man does nothing but crank out trouble.*

crank something up 1. *tv.* to start something up. □ *I'll go out and crank the car up so it can warm up.* □ *Crank up the copying machine. We've got a big job to do.* **2.** *tv.* to increase the volume of an electronic device. □ *He cranked it up a little more and CRACK, there went both speakers!* □ *Kelly cranked up his stereo until we were nearly deafened.*

cranky *mod.* irritable; fretful. □ *Don't be cranky. We're almost there.* □ *Max is cranky today. The fuzz is on his tail.*

crap 1. *n.* dung; feces. (Often used as a milder replacement for **shit**. Usually objectionable.) □ *There's dog crap on my lawn!* □ *Don't step in that crap!* **2.** *in.* to defecate. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Your dog crapped on my lawn!* □ *I have to crap; then I'll be right with you.* **3.** *n.* nonsense; lies. (See also **BS**.) □ *Stop talking crap and get serious!* **4.** *n.* junk; shoddy merchandise. □ *Send this crap back. I won't pay for it!* □ *This thing is just crap! It hasn't worked right since I bought it.*

craphouse *n.* a privy. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Wally's out in the craphouse reading, I guess.* □ *Where's the craphouse that used to be out there?*

crap-list Go to **shit-list**.

crap out *in.* to evade something; to chicken out (of something). □ *Now, don't crap out on me at the last minute.* □ *Fred crapped out, so there are only three of us.*

crapped (out) *mod.* dead; finished. (Not prenominal. From dice, not from the other senses of **crap**.) □ *After a serious encounter with a rattlesnake, my two dogs were crapped by dawn.*

crapper 1. *n.* a toilet, privy, or restroom. (Usually objectionable. See also **crap**.) □ *Where's the crapper around here?* □ *Old Jed never passes up a chance to use an indoor crapper.* **2.** *n.* a braggart. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The guy is a crapper and can't be trusted at all.* □ *Don't listen to the crapper.*

crapper dick *n.* a police officer or detective who patrols public toilets. □ *When he flubbed up the Wilson case, they made him a crapper dick in the central business district.* □ *What's a crapper dick get paid?*

crappy 1. *mod.* messed up with dung; dungy. □ *Clean off your crappy shoes before you go in there!* **2.** *mod.* lousy. □ *This has been a real crappy day for me.*

crapshoot *n.* a gamble; a matter of chance. (Like a crap [dice] game.) □ *Basically, life is a crapshoot.* □ *The stock market isn't concerned with value anymore. It's just a crapshoot.*

crash 1. *tv. & in.* to attend a party or other event uninvited. (See also **crasher**.) □ *Some clown tried to crash the rally, but my dad called the cops.* □ *The boys who tried to crash also broke a window.* **2.** *in.* to spend the night. (See also **crash pad**.) □ *I crashed at a friend's place in the city.* □ *You have a place I can crash?* **3.** *in.* to sleep. □ *I crashed till noon.* □ *If I don't crash pretty soon, I'm going to die!* **4.** *n.* a place to sleep. □ *I think I know of a crash for tonight.* □ *Molly's on the phone, looking for a crash.* **5.** *in.* [for a computer] to stop working. □ *This thing crashes every time I hit a certain key.* □ *My machine hasn't crashed since I got it.* **6.** *n.* a total failure of a computer. □ *Most of my data was lost in the crash.* □ *Crashes are to teach you to back up your data.* **7.** *in.* [for any electronic device] to fail. □ *My stereo crashed, so I've been watching TV.* □ *My TV crashed, and I had to go out to watch at somebody else's house.* **8.** *in.* [for a securities market] to lose a significant por-

tion of its value in a short time. □ *The market crashed and scared the stuffing out of everybody.* □ *When the bond market crashed, the press didn't even realize it.* **9.** *n.* a collapse of a securities market. □ *After the crash, a lot of people swore off the market for good.* □ *A crash like that was too much for a lot of people.* **10.** *in.* to pass out from drinking alcohol to excess. □ *About midnight I crashed, and I woke up here.* □ *Let's get Wilbur home before he crashes for good.*

crash and burn 1. *in.* [for a young man] to fail brilliantly with a romance. (Collegiate. See also **go down in flames**.) □ *I knew I would crash and burn with her.* □ *It stands to reason that if Carole hadn't shot me down, I wouldn't have crashed and burned.* **2.** *in.* to fail spectacularly. □ *I have to be prepared. I don't want to crash and burn if I don't have to.*

crashed 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Fred is crashed. Leave him alone.* □ *There were two crashed freshmen asleep on the lawn.* **2.** *mod.* raided by the police. (See also **bust**.) □ *Our pad got crashed, and a lot of kids were arrested.* □ *After the place was crashed, it was a mess.*

crasher *n.* a person who attends a party uninvited. (See also **crash**.) □ *The crashers ruined the party, and my dad called the cops.* □ *The crashers were no more rude than the guests.*

crash pad *n.* a place to stay the night on short notice. □ *I've got a crash pad in the city for emergencies like this.* □ *I gotta find a crash pad for tonight.*

crate *n.* a dilapidated vehicle. □ *Where'd you get that old crate?* □ *This crate gets me to work and back. That's good enough.*

crater 1. *n.* an acne scar. □ *Ted has a nasty crater on his cheek.* □ *Walter was always sort of embarrassed about his craters.* **2.** *in.* to collapse and go down as with a falling stock price. □ *The stock cratered and probably won't recover for a year or two.* □ *When my portfolio cratered, I thought it was the end of the world. Then most of the prices came back up in a month.*

crater-face AND **pizza-face; pizza-puss; zit-face** *n.* a person with acne or many acne scars. (Intended as jocular. Rude and derogatory.) □ *I gotta get some kind of medicine for these pimples. I'm getting to be a regular crater-face.*

crawling with someone or something *mod.* covered with someone or something; alive with someone or something. □ *The place was crawling with police and FBI agents.* □ *The room was just crawling with ants.*

crazy 1. *n.* a crazy person. □ *The guy's a crazy, and he keeps coming in here asking for money.* □ *I think the crazies are taking over the world.* **2.** *mod.* cool. □ *This stuff is really crazy, man. I love it!* □ *What a crazy dress. It makes you look like a million.*

crazy bone *n.* the elbow. □ *Ouch! I hit my crazy bone!* □ *Ken hit his crazy bone as he went into church, and was yelling "Oh! Oh! Oh!" as if the Spirit had got into him or something.*

cream 1. *tv.* to beat someone; to outscore someone. □ *The other team creamed us, but we had better team spirit.* □ *We'll cream 'em next week.* **2.** *semen.* (Usually objectionable.) □ *His father found some cream in the john and went into a purple rage.* □ *Some of them swallow the cream, they say.* **3.** *vaginal secretions.* □ *Now, that ought to bring on the cream!* **4.** *to copulate [with] someone, usually a female.* (Usually objectionable.) □ *He acted like he wanted to cream her.* □ *She went out and got herself creamed.*

creamed 1. *mod.* beaten; outscored. □ *We were really creamed in that last game, and the coach is steamed.* □ *Midwest U. got creamed again today by the Podunk Badgers.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Man, Tony is totally creamed!* □ *I got myself creamed last night, didn't I?*

creamed foreskins *n.* creamed chipped beef on toast. (Military. Usually objectionable.) □ *Oh, boy! It's creamed foreskins again tonight!*

cream (in) one's pants AND **cream one's jeans** *in.* [for a bring] to ejaculate in his

pants from excessive sexual excitement. (Usually objectionable.) □ *God, when I saw her I nearly creamed in my pants.* □ *The kid creamed his jeans in that movie.*

cream one's jeans Go to **cream (in) one's pants**.

cream puff 1. *n.* a weakling; a wimp. □ *Don't be a cream puff all your life! Join a health club!* □ *We're having a cream puff special this week for you clowns who can't climb stairs without panting.* **2.** *n.* a used car that is in very good condition. □ *This one is a real cream puff. Only driven to church by a little old lady.* □ *This cream puff is loaded, air and everything.*

creased *mod.* exhausted. □ *What a day. I am totally creased.* □ *Here is one creased football player. Let him hit the rack.*

creep *n.* a weird person; an eerie person. □ *Charlie is such a creep when he's stoned.* □ *I thought Charlie was a creep no matter what.*

creep dive Go to **creep joint**.

creeping-crud 1. *n.* any unidentified disease. □ *There is some kind of creeping-crud between my toes.* □ *I got the creeping-crud growing in my armpit.* **2.** *n.* a repellent person. □ *Wally has become such a creeping-crud since he inherited all that money.* □ *Don't be a creeping-crud. Just go back to being a plain crud.* **3.** *n.* any nasty, slimy substance. □ *You got creeping-crud all over my pants leg.* □ *That's not creeping-crud! That's my pecan pie!*

creep joint AND **creep dive** *n.* an unpleasant place populated by creeps. □ *You shouldn't go into a creep joint like that alone.* □ *Why would anyone want to work in a creep dive like that?*

the **creeps** *n.* the jitters; a case of nerves. □ *These movies always give me the creeps.* □ *The creeps always make me have to go to the john.*

creepy *mod.* eerie; frightening. □ *I have this creepy feeling that someone is just this very moment reading something that I wrote.* □ *This is the creepiest old house I have ever been in.*

crib 1. *n.* a location where thieves gather to plot; a dwelling for thieves, prostitutes, etc. (Underworld.) □ *The police busted a crib over on Fourth Street.* □ *They use a basement over there for a crib.* **2.** *n.* a dwelling. □ *Where's your crib, man?* □ *My good threads are all back at my crib.*

crib course *n.* an easy course in college. □ *Tom signed up for three crib courses and gym. What a twit!* □ *Andy thought he was getting into a crib course, but it turned out to be really hard.*

cricket *mod.* acceptable. (See negative examples at **not cricket**.) □ *Is it really cricket to play under two different names?* □ *Who cares if it's cricket!*

crisco ['krisko] *n.* a fat person. (Cruel. Also a rude term of address. The brand name of a baking shortening.) □ *Some crisco came in and ordered ten large fries.* □ *Hey, crisco! Go on a diet!*

crisp *mod.* drug intoxicated. □ *The crisp guy waving the bra is the one we are after.* □ *Man, is he crisp!*

crispy-critter *n.* a person under the effects of marijuana. (From the brand name of a breakfast cereal.) □ *He's fried all right. A real crispy-critter.* □ *A crispy-critter came in and tried to sell me his watch.*

croak 1. *in.* to die; to expire; to succumb. □ *I was afraid I'd croak.* □ *The parrot croaked before I got it home.* **2.** *tv.* to kill someone or something. □ *The car croaked the cat just like that.* □ *Somebody croaked my parrot.*

croaker *n.* a doctor. □ *I went to the croaker with my sore throat.* □ *The croaker said my tonsils have to come out.*

crock 1. *n.* nonsense. (See also **crock (of shit)**.) □ *What a crock! You don't know what you are talking about!* □ *This whole business is a crock. Hell, life's a crock!* **2.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *Give the old crock some money, anything to get him outa here before he barfs or something.* □ *The crock wants booze, not money.*

crocked [krakt] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *What do you get out of getting crocked*

very night? □ *Oh, my God! You're crocked again!*

crockery *n.* the teeth. (See also **china**.) □ *I gotta go to the dentist for some work on my crockery.* □ *Is that your own crockery?*

crock (of shit) 1. *n.* a mass of lies and deception worth no more than dung. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That's nothing but a crock of shit! I don't believe a word of it.* **2.** *n.* a person who tells lies. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *He's just a crock of shit. He never tells the truth.* **3.** *n.* a braggart. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *He's such a crock. He makes everything he has done sound ten times better than it really is.*

cromagnon [kro'mægnən] *n.* an ugly male. (Collegiate.) □ *Who is that cromagnon you were with last night?* □ *That was no cromagnon. That was your blind date for next weekend.*

cross-eyed (drunk) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *What's the point of getting cross-eyed drunk?* □ *He sat on the bar stool, cross-eyed and crying.*

cross someone (up) AND **cross up someone** *tv.* to go against someone; to thwart someone. □ *Don't cross me up if you know what's good for you.* □ *I told you not to cross me again!*

cross up someone Go to **cross someone (up)**.

crotch-cheese AND **cock-cheese** *n.* smegma; any nasty, smelly substance—real or imagined—that accumulates around the genitals, especially in athletes. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Man, this stuff is vile. It smells like crotch-cheese.*

crotch-cobra *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He held his hands over his crotch-cobra and ran for the bedroom.*

crotch-monkey Go to **crotch-pheasant**.

crotch-pheasant AND **crotch-monkey** *n.* a louse. (Usually in the plural.) □ *He appears to be afflicted with what you might call crotch-pheasants.* □ *There is a special medicine that will get rid of crotch-monkeys.*

crotch-rot *n.* a skin irritation or disease characterized by itching in the genital area, usually said of males. (See also **grunge**.) □ *What will get rid of crotch-rot?* □ *Here's some medicine for crotch-rot.*

crowd **1.** *tv.* to pressure or threaten someone. □ *Don't crowd me!* □ *Frank began to crowd Sam, which was the wrong thing to do.* **2.** *tv.* to gang up on someone. □ *Some guys were crowding Todd, so we chased them off.* □ *They moved in from all sides, carrying clubs, and began to crowd us.*

crown *tv.* to hit someone on the head. □ *The clerk crowned the robber with a champagne bottle.* □ *The bride, at the end of her patience, crowned the stuttering cleric with her bouquet, shouted, "I do," and began kissing the groom.*

crud **1.** *n.* any nasty substance. (An old form of the word *curd*.) □ *There's some crud on your left shoe.* **2.** *n.* junk; stuff; personal possessions. □ *Get your crud outa my way, will you!* **3.** *n.* a repellent person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Don't be such a crud!* □ *That crud kept trying to paw me!*

cruddie Go to **cruddy**.

cruddy AND **crudy**; **cruddie** ['krædi] *mod.* nasty; awful. □ *What is this cruddy stuff on my plate?* □ *It's just chocolate mousse, and it's not cruddie.*

cruise **1.** *in.* to travel at top speed. □ *This old caddy can really cruise.* □ *We cruised all the way to Philly.* **2.** *in.* to drive around looking for friends or social activity. □ *We went out cruising, but didn't see anybody.* □ *Let's go cruise for a while.* **3.** *tv.* to pursue a member of the opposite sex. □ *Tom was cruising Tiffany, but she got rid of him.* □ *Are you cruising me, Tom? You know you just barf me, like, out!* **4.** *in.* to move on; to leave. □ *Listen, I gotta cruise.* □ *Time to cruise. Monty Python's on in ten minutes.* **5.** *in.* to move through life at a comfortable pace. □ *I just want to get a good job and cruise for a while.* □ *I'm cruising just the way I want now.* **6.** *tv.* to pass a course easily. □ *I'm gonna cruise that math course.* □ *Tom really cruised English this semester.*

cruiser *n.* a car; a fast car. □ *This old hog is a real cruiser.* □ *I don't want a yuppie cruiser, just an old family wagon.*

cruising for a bruising AND **cruisin' for a bruisin'** *in.* asking for trouble. □ *You are cruising for a bruising, you know that?* □ *Who's cruisin' for a bruisin'?*

crumb [krəm] *n.* a repellent person. □ *The old man was a real crumb and tried to cheat us.* □ *Mickey is a crumb, and he treats me like dirt.*

crumb-cruncher AND **crumb-crusher** *n.* a child. □ *How many crumb-crunchers do you have at home.* □ *I nearly stepped on that little crumb-crusher! Get him out of the way!*

crumb-crusher Go to **crumb-cruncher**.

crumbum ['kræmbəm] **1.** *n.* a repellent person; a bum. □ *A skid row crumbum asked us for a buck.* □ *I gave the crumbum a buck and hoped he would leave.* **2.** *mod.* inferior; lousy. □ *I sent the crumbum food back to the kitchen. There was a bug in it.* □ *I want out of this crumbum place.*

crumby Go to **crummy**.

crummy AND **crumby** ['kræmi] *mod.* lousy; bad; inferior. □ *You know, this stuff is pretty crummy.* □ *It's worse than crumby.*

crumped (out) **1.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She was too crumped out to drive herself home.* □ *Are you crumped out again?* **2.** *mod.* dead. □ *Our old dog crumped out at age fourteen.* □ *Uncle Dave is crumped and now there's nobody left to drive that 1952 Cadillac.* □ *I am so tired. I feel half-crumped.*

crum something up *tv.* to mess something up; to make something crummy. □ *Who crummed the bird feeder up?* □ *Now don't crum up this deal.*

crunch *n.* a crisis; a time of pressure or tightness, especially of a budget. □ *We seem to be in a crunch of one kind or another all the time.* □ *The budget crunch meant that we couldn't take trips to Europe anymore.*

crunchers *n.* the feet. ☐ *My crunchers are sore from all this walking.* ☐ *New shoes can be hard on your crunchers.*

crunchie *n.* a soldier; a marching infantry soldier. (Military. See also **crunchers**.) ☐ *A couple of crunchies were complaining about the Army.* ☐ *Crunchies have a pretty hard life.*

crunchy *mod.* [of someone] loving nature, plants, and animals. (The type of person who lives on granola.) ☐ *He's such a crunchy guy, always saving whales and trees.*

crush *n.* the person on whom one has a crush; one's **main squeeze**; one's boyfriend or girlfriend. ☐ *I'm gonna go study with my crush tonight.* ☐ *Wuz up, man! Where's your crush?*

crust *n.* nerve; gall. ☐ *She's got a lot of crust—coming in here like that.* ☐ *It takes crust to sell this stuff to somebody. You really gotta push.*

crusty *mod.* feisty; gruff. ☐ *Jed is a crusty old man.* ☐ *Unlike most crusty, old men, Jed hasn't a single redeeming quality.*

crutch **1.** *n.* a car. (Streets.) ☐ *That's one fine crutch you got here, Bud.* ☐ *I need a better crutch to get around. How about a benz?* **2.** *n.* a device to hold a marijuana cigarette butt. ☐ *Here's a crutch so you can finish your smoke.* ☐ *I lost my crutch, so now I keep burning my fingers on the last few tokes.*

cry hughie ['kraɪ 'hjuɪ] *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. ☐ *He is in the john crying hughie.* ☐ *I think I gotta go cry hughie.*

crying drunk *mod.* alcohol intoxicated and weeping. ☐ *She was crying drunk and feeling sorry for herself.* ☐ *I really hate it when they come in here crying drunk.*

crying towel *n.* someone or something used to comfort someone. ☐ *I guess I really need a crying towel today.* ☐ *I'm the kind of person who has to carry a crying towel at all times.*

crying weed *n.* marijuana. ☐ *I must have got hold of some crying weed. This stuff*

leaves me cold. ☐ *On a rainy day, crying weed seems just right.*

cry in one's beer *in.* to feel sorry for oneself. ☐ *She calls up, crying in her beer, and talks on and on about her problems.* ☐ *Don't cry in your beer. Get yourself straightened out.*

cry ralph Go to cry ruth.

cry ruth AND **call ruth; call ralph; cry ralph** *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (See also **ruth**. Also with capital *r*.) ☐ *Someone is in the bushes crying ruth.* ☐ *I think I have to cry ruth! Stop the car!*

crystal **1.** *n.* crystallized cocaine. (Drugs. See also **crack**.) ☐ *I wonder how much crystal is used in this country each day.* ☐ *Crystal—an older name for crack—was a favorite many years ago.* **2.** *n.* liquid Methedrine™ in glass ampoules. (Drugs.) ☐ *I hear that Wally's shooting crystal. Is that true?* ☐ *Frank has lots of crystal right now.*

crystals *n.* the testicles. (From *crystal balls*.) ☐ *He got hit right in the crystals. It was real embarrassing, as well as painful.*

C-spot Go to C-note.

CU *tv.* see you (later). (Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages.) ☐ *Bye. CU.* ☐ *CU L8R.*

cube [kjuːb] **1.** *n.* a very square person. ☐ *This nerd was the most unbelievable cube you have ever seen.* ☐ *Not just an L7, a real cube.* **2.** *n.* a die, one of a pair of dice. (Usually in the plural.) ☐ *Toss me the cubes.* ☐ *She shook the cubes, saying, "Baby needs shoes!"* **3.** *n.* a sugar cube impregnated with LSD. (Drugs. Often in the plural.) ☐ *First they took it on cubes. Then on little bits of paper.* ☐ *The cubes were usually bluish.*

cuckoo Go to coo-coo.

cuddle bunny *n.* a female lover. ☐ *All you want is a cuddle bunny with big tits! Grow up, Maxwell Wilson!* ☐ *Who is that cuddle bunny driving the caddy?*

cuff *tv.* to put a charge on one's bill. □ *Would you cuff this for me, please?* □ *Sorry, I can't cuff anymore for you.*

cuff quote *n.* an off-the-cuff quote of a financial instrument price. (Securities markets.) □ *This is just a cuff quote, but I would say it's about ninety-four.* □ *I can give you a cuff quote of ninety-two, but don't hold me to it.*

cuffs *n.* handcuffs. □ *I felt the cuffs tighten and snap shut on my wrists.* □ *The cuffs carried the cold of the night to my bare skin. Of course, I was innocent, but that's not the way it works in real life.*

cull *n.* a socially unacceptable person. □ *Who's the cull driving the Edsel?* □ *This place is filled with culls. Let's split.*

culture-vulture **1.** *n.* an avid supporter of the arts. □ *A gaggle of culture-vultures gawked its way into the gallery.* □ *Many culture-vultures seem to be long on enthusiasm and short on taste.* **2.** *n.* someone who exploits the arts for monetary gain. □ *Mr. Babbit, a well-known culture-vulture in art circles, never could pass up a chance to grab up all the works of an up-and-coming young artist.* □ *Some culture-vultures are throwing a wine and cheese party on behalf of some of the young dolts they have grubstaked.*

cum ['kʌm] **1.** *n.* semen. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I would never say cum to a doctor or nurse!* **2.** AND **cume** [kjʌm] *n.* a cumulative average, such as a grade-point average. □ *My cume is not high enough to get into law school.*

cunt **1.** *n.* the female genitals; the vulva. (One of the English four-letter words. Usually objectionable.) □ *He thought he could see her cunt through her swimming suit.* **2.** women considered as nothing more than a receptacle for the penis; a wretched and despised woman. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Jed announced that he really needed some cunt, bad.* **3.** *n.* a wretched and disgusting male. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Don't act like such a cunt, you twit!*

cunt fart AND **pussy fart** *n.* a vaginal fart, the sudden release of air—from the

vagina—trapped on insertion of the penis during copulation. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He heard a little cunt fart and started laughing so hard, he had to stop.*

cunt-hooks AND **shit-hooks** *n.* the fingers; the hands. □ *Put your shit-hooks around those oars and row!*

cunt hound *n.* a lecher. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Tod is such a cunt hound. All he thinks about is dames.*

cupcake *n.* an attractive woman. (Also a term of address.) □ *Hey, cupcake, what ya doing?* □ *Who is that cupcake driving the beemer?*

cup of tea *n.* something preferred or desired. (Often negative.) □ *This drug scene stuff is just not my cup of tea.* □ *Driving children around all afternoon is not my cup of tea.*

curl up and die *in.* to retreat and die. (Often figurative.) □ *I was so embarrassed, I thought I would just curl up and die.* □ *The old cat, finishing up the last of its nine lives, just curled up and died.*

curly *n.* a bald person, almost always a male. (Also a jocular term of address.) □ *Well, Curly, looks like you got your dome sunburned!*

the **curse** *n.* the menses. □ *The curse struck this morning.* □ *Oh, the woes of the curse!*

curtains *n.* death. (Underworld.) □ *It's curtains for you if you don't come across.* □ *Okay, Barlowe, this time it's curtains.*

cushy ['kʊʃi] *mod.* soft; easy. (From *cushion*.) □ *He's got sort of a cushy job.* □ *That's a cushy kind of life to lead.*

cut **1.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He got cut on beer, which is unusual for him.* **2.** *tv.* to dilute something. □ *She always cuts her eggnog with cola. Yuck!* **3.** *n.* a share of the loot or the profits. (Originally underworld.) □ *You'll get your cut when everybody else does.* **4.** *n.* a single song or section of music on a record. □ *This next cut is one everybody likes.* **5.** *tv.* to eliminate something; to stop (doing something). □ *Okay, chum, cut the clowning.* **6.** *mod.* muscular; with well-defined muscles, especially in reference to the ab-

dominal muscles. ☐ *He works out and he's really cut!* **7. mod.** circumcised. (Not usually prenominal.) ☐ *I'm not cut and neither is my brother.*

cut a check *tv.* to write a check. ☐ *We'll cut the check tonight and send it out in tomorrow's mail.* ☐ *Please cut a check for Mr. Babbit. Here's the amount.*

cut a deal *tv.* to arrange a deal; to seal a bargain. ☐ *Maybe we can cut a deal. Let's talk.* ☐ *The two lawyers cut a deal that left me with the furniture, although she got the house.*

cut a fart **AND cut one; let a fart; let one** *tv.* to release intestinal gas through the anus. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Fred cut a fart right in the middle of English class, and nobody moved a muscle.*

cut a muffin Go to cut the cheese.

cut and run *in.* to stop what one is doing and flee. ☐ *The cops were coming, so we cut and run.* ☐ *At the first warning, we cut and run.*

cut ass (out of some place) Go to bag ass (out of some place).

cut corners *tv.* to do something more easily; to take shortcuts; to save money by finding cheaper ways to do something. ☐ *They're always finding ways to cut corners.* ☐ *I won't cut corners just to save money. I put quality first.*

cutie *n.* a cute thing or person. (Also a term of address.) ☐ *Your baby is a real cutie.* ☐ *Come here, cutie, let me fix your collar.*

cutie pie *n.* a cute person, typically a woman or a baby. (Also a term of address.) ☐ *She is such a cutie pie.* ☐ *What's your name, cutie pie?*

Cut it out! *exclam.* Stop it! ☐ *That's enough! Cut it out!* ☐ *Get your hands off me! Cut it out!*

cut loose *in.* to let go; to become independent. ☐ *It was hard to cut loose from home.* ☐ *I guess it's time I cut loose.*

cut no ice (with someone) *tv.* to have no influence on someone; to fail to convince someone. ☐ *I don't care who you are. It cuts no ice with me.*

cut one Go to cut a fart.

cut one's losses *tv.* to do something to stop a loss of something. ☐ *I knew I had to do something to cut my losses, but it was almost too late.* ☐ *Sell some of the high-priced stuff to cut your losses.*

cut one's own throat *tv.* to do something that harms oneself. ☐ *If I do that, I'd be cutting my own throat.* ☐ *He's just cutting his own throat, and he knows it.*

cut one's wolf loose *tv.* to go on a drinking bout; to get drunk. ☐ *I'm gonna go out and cut my wolf loose tonight.* ☐ *You're going to cut your wolf loose too often and really get into trouble.*

cut out *in.* to leave; to run away. ☐ *It's late. I think I'll cut out.* ☐ *Don't cut out now. The night is young.*

cut-rate *mod.* cheap; low-priced. ☐ *I don't want any cut-rate stuff.* ☐ *Where are your cut-rate sweaters?*

cuts *n.* sharply defined musculature, especially in the abdominal area. ☐ *Look at the cuts on that guy! What great abs!*

cut someone a break *tv.* to give someone a break. ☐ *Come on, cut me a break! I'm a good guy!* ☐ *I was only a few minutes late! Cut me a break! Don't dock my pay!*

cut someone in (on something) *tv.* to permit someone to share something. ☐ *You promised you would cut me in on this caper.* ☐ *We can't cut you in. There's not enough.*

cut some Z's Go to catch some Z's.

cut the cheese **AND cut the mustard; cut a muffin** *tv.* to release intestinal gas. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Who cut the cheese?* ☐ *People who cut the mustard in the car have to get out and walk.*

Cut the comedy! *exclam.* Get serious!; Stop acting silly! ☐ *That's enough, you guys. Cut the comedy!* ☐ *Cut the comedy and get to work!*

Cut the crap! *exclam.* Stop the nonsense! (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *I've heard enough. Cut the crap!* ☐ *Cut the crap. Talk straight or get out.*

cut the dust *tv.* to take a drink of liquor.

□ *I think I'll stop in here and cut the dust.*

□ *I want to cut the dust. Can I have a snort?*

cut the mustard 1. *tv.* to be able to do something requiring youth or vigor.

(Usually in the expression **too old to cut the mustard**.) □ *Do you really think he can cut the mustard?* □ *She's not too old to cut the mustard.* **2.** Go to **cut the cheese**.

cut to the chase *in.* to focus on what is important; to abandon the preliminaries and deal with the major points. □ *All right, let's stop the idle chatter and cut to the chase.* □ *After a few introductory*

comments, we cut to the chase and began negotiating.

cut (up) *mod.* having well-defined abdominal muscles. □ *Greg is really cut up. He works out every day.* □ *Andy works hard to try to get a gut that's cut.*

cut up (about someone or something) *mod.* emotionally upset about someone or something. □ *She was all cut up about her divorce.* □ *You could see how cut up she was.*

cuz [kəz] *n.* cousin. (Old colloquial.) □ *I've got to go to Denver to visit my cuz.* □ *My cuz came to visit for the weekend.*

D

da bomb Go to the bomb.

dad *n.* one's father; any father; any old man. (Also a term of address. Capitalized when referring to one's own father.) ☐ *Hey, Dad, can I use the car tonight?* ☐ *Well, dad, how's it going?*

daddy (of them all) Go to (grand)daddy (of them all).

daffy ['dæfi] *mod.* silly; crazy. ☐ *Kelly was acting daffy because she was so happy.* ☐ *Oh, don't be daffy!*

dagwood (sandwich) ['dægwood...] *n.* a tall sandwich with many layers of food. (From the comic strip character Dagwood by Chick Young.) ☐ *I really like to make an old-fashioned dagwood sandwich every now and then.* ☐ *How many calories are there in a dagwood, on the average?*

daily dozen *n.* a short set of daily exercises. ☐ *I need to do my daily dozen before breakfast.* ☐ *A daily dozen would be good for you.*

daily grind *n.* the tedious pattern of daily work. (See also **rat race**.) ☐ *Well, it's Monday. Time to start another week of the daily grind.* ☐ *The daily grind really gets me down.*

dairies *n.* the breasts. (Old.) ☐ *Fine dairies on that one!*

daisy *n.* an excellent thing. (See also **doosie**.) ☐ *This little car is a real daisy.* ☐ *I want a daisy of a haircut. Something unusual with bangs or something.*

damage *n.* the cost; the amount of the bill (for something). (See also **bad news**.) ☐ *Okay, waiter. What's the damage?* ☐ *As soon as I pay the damage, we can go.*

damaged *mod.* drunk. ☐ *Them guys went out and really got damaged.* ☐ *Too much grapes and you are damaged!*

dank [dæŋk] **1.** *mod.* very good. ☐ *We stopped for a while in this real dank little bistro on the main boulevard.* ☐ *This wine is so dank!* **2.** *mod.* very bad. ☐ *Class was so dank today. I thought I would die of terminal boredom.* ☐ *This is a real dank day. I hope it's over soon.*

dap [dæp] *mod.* well-dressed. (From *dapper*.) ☐ *Who is that dap looking dude?* ☐ *Man, you look dap!*

darb [darb] *n.* an excellent person or thing. ☐ *Carl is a real darb. I'm glad to know him.* ☐ *What a swell darb of a car!*

dark horse **1.** *n.* an unknown entrant into a contest; a surprise candidate for political office. ☐ *The party is hoping that a dark horse will appear before the election.* ☐ *You'd be surprised at how eagerly people will vote for a dark horse.* **2.** *mod.* previously unknown. ☐ *Who would vote for a dark horse candidate?* ☐ *A dark horse player can win if all the others are creeps.*

dark Monday AND **dark Sunday; dark night** *n.* an evening when a theater is closed and no performances are held. ☐ *I couldn't get tickets for the 16th. That's dark Monday.* ☐ *Monday night is always dark night.*

dark night Go to dark Monday.

dark Sunday Go to dark Monday.

Dash it all! *exclam.* Oh, phooey!; To hell with it all! ☐ *Oh, dash it all! I'm late.* ☐ *I broke it! Dash it all!*

day one *n.* the first day. ☐ *You haven't done anything right since day one! You're fired!*

□ *She was unhappy with her new car even on day one.*

day person *n.* a person who prefers to be active during the daytime. (Compare this with **night person**.) □ *I am strictly a day person. Have to be in bed early.* □ *The Count insisted that he was not a day person, and he had to remain on his home ground until nightfall.*

day the eagle flies Go to when the eagle flies.

day the eagle shits *n.* payday. (Military. Usually objectionable.) □ *Tomorrow is the day the eagle shits, and do I ever need it.*

day-tripper *n.* a tourist who makes one-day trips. □ *At about 4:00 P.M. the day-trippers start thinning out.* □ *Being a day-tripper is hard on your feet sometimes.*

dead 1. *mod.* quiet and uneventful; boring. □ *The day was totally dead.* □ *What a dead day!* □ *Things were sure dead around this town this summer.* **2.** *mod.* very tired. □ *I am just dead from all that jogging.* □ *I went home from the office, dead as usual.* **3.** *mod.* dull; lifeless; flat. □ *This meal is sort of dead because I am out of onions.* □ *The pop went dead because someone left it open.* □ *Who wants dead pop?* **4.** *mod.* no longer effective; no longer of any consequence. □ *You're dead, Fred. You can't help us anymore.* □ *That guy is dead—out of power.* **5.** *mod.* [of an issue] no longer germane; no longer of any importance. □ *Forget it! It's a dead issue.* □ *The project is dead. Don't waste any more time on it.*

dead and gone 1. *mod.* [of a person] long dead. □ *Old Gert's been dead and gone for quite a spell.* □ *When I'm dead and gone, I hope folks remember me at my best.* **2.** *mod.* [of a thing] gone long ago. □ *That kind of thinking is dead and gone.* □ *The horse and buggy days are dead and gone.*

deadbeat *n.* someone who doesn't pay debts or bills. □ *Some deadbeat with the same name as mine is ruining my credit rating.* □ *Pay up! Don't be a deadbeat.*

dead broke *mod.* completely broke; without any money. □ *I'm dead broke—not a*

nickel to my name. □ *I've been dead broke for a month now.*

deadcat bounce *n.* a small, knee-jerk rally in one of the financial markets. (A dead cat—or any other animal—will bounce only slightly after being dropped. Refers to a stock index or security price that bounces up only slightly after a precipitous fall. Securities market.) □ *The whole market gave only a deadcat bounce after the string of losses this last week.* □ *I was expecting more than a deadcat bounce because of the good news.*

dead-catty *mod.* with only a slight bounce. (See the explanation at **deadcat bounce**. Securities markets.) □ *We expected the stock to go up a lot today, but the increase was no better than dead-catty.* □ *It was just a dead-catty day in spite of the good economic news.*

dead cinch *n.* an absolute certainty; an easy thing to do. □ *It's a dead cinch. I foresee no problems.* □ *The job was no dead cinch, but we did it on time.*

dead drunk *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; totally inebriated. □ *They were both dead drunk. They could only lie there and snore.* □ *Marty is dead drunk again.*

dead duck *n.* a person or thing doomed to failure or disaster. □ *This whole plan was a dead duck from the beginning.* □ *Wally is a dead duck because he flunked astronomy.*

dead easy *mod.* very easy. □ *This whole job is dead easy.* □ *It was so dead easy, Frank did it with one hand.*

dead-end kid *n.* a youth with no future, usually a male. □ *Kelly wasn't your typical dead-end kid.* □ *Frank was a dead-end kid from the day he was born.*

dead from the neck up 1. *mod.* stupid. (With a dead head.) □ *Beavis seems dead from the neck up.* □ *She acts like she is dead from the neck up.* **2.** *mod.* no longer open to new ideas. □ *My uncle is dead from the neck up. A real fossil.* □ *Everyone on the board of directors is dead from the neck up.*

deadhead 1. *n.* a stupid person. □ *Who's the deadhead in the plaid pants?* □ *Wow, are you a deadhead!* **2.** *tv. & in.* [for someone] to return an empty truck, train, airplane, etc., to where it came from. □ *I deadheaded back to Los Angeles.* □ *Who is supposed to deadhead this truck to Miami?* **3.** *n.* a follower of the rock group *The Grateful Dead*. □ *What do these deadheads see in that group?* □ *My son is a deadhead and travels all over listening to these guys.*

dead horse *n.* a **dead issue**, especially one that is referred to continually. (Often with *beat*, *whip*.) □ *Forget it! Don't waste time whipping a dead horse.* □ *The whole business is a dead horse. Forget it.*

dead in the water *mod.* stalled; immobile. (Originally nautical.) □ *This whole company is dead in the water.* □ *The project is dead in the water for the time being.*

dead issue *n.* an issue that doesn't matter anymore. □ *It's a dead issue. Forget it.* □ *The question of my late arrival is a dead issue.*

dead letter 1. *n.* a letter that cannot move through the post office because the addressee does not exist or because the address is wrong or illegible. (Standard English.) □ *Every now and then they open the dead letters to see if they can figure out who they were meant for.* □ *Sometimes dead letters have return addresses in them.*

2. *n.* an issue that does not matter anymore. □ *This contract is a dead letter. Forget it!* □ *The mayor's plan for our raises is a dead letter.*

deadly (dull) *mod.* very dull. □ *The lecture was deadly dull, and I went to sleep.* □ *What a deadly dull prof.* □ *Her story was really deadly. I am sorry I was awake for part of it.*

dead man Go to **dead soldier**.

dead marine Go to **dead soldier**.

deadneck *n.* a stupid person. □ *What deadneck put sugar in the salt shaker?* □ *Who's the deadneck who painted the fence purple?*

dead on *mod.* exactly right; on target. □ *That's a good observation, Tiffany. You are dead on.* □ *Your criticism is dead on!*

dead one Go to **dead soldier**.

deadpan 1. *n.* <an expressionless face.> (See also **pan**.) □ *This guy has a super deadpan.* □ *Remember the deadpan she used to put on?* **2.** *n.* a person with an expressionless face. □ *The guy's a perfect deadpan.* □ *When you come on stage, look like a deadpan.* **3.** *mod.* dull and lifeless. (Usually said of a face, expression, etc.) □ *What a deadpan expression!* □ *Her face is totally deadpan.* □ *He has such a deadpan approach to everything.*

dead president *n.* a piece of U.S. paper money. (Refers to the pictures of presidents on the bills.) □ *This silly magazine costs three dead presidents!*

(dead) ringer (for someone) *n.* someone who is an exact duplicate of someone else. □ *You are sure a dead ringer for my brother.* □ *Isn't he a ringer for Chuck?*

dead soldier AND **dead man; dead marine; dead one 1.** *n.* an empty liquor or beer bottle. □ *Toss your dead soldiers in the garbage, please.* □ *A dead marine fell off the table and woke up all the drunks.* **2.** *n.* a cigarette butt. (Less common than sense 1.) □ *The bum found a dead soldier on the ground and picked it up.* □ *He collected dead soldiers to use in building a whole smoke.*

dead to rights Go to **(bang) dead to rights**.

dead to the world 1. *mod.* sound asleep. □ *After all that exercise, he's dead to the world.* □ *He's dead to the world, and I can't rouse him.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Six beers and he was dead to the world.* □ *By midnight almost everybody was dead to the world.*

deadwood *n.* nonproductive or nonfunctional persons. □ *We'll have to cut costs by getting rid of the deadwood.* □ *Is there any way to make the deadwood productive again?*

deal stock *n.* a stock that is a takeover candidate. (Securities markets.) □ *I try to*

spot the deal stocks early and buy them before others do. □ *You can lose a lot of money on deal stocks, too.*

Dear John letter *n.* a letter a woman writes to her boyfriend in the military service telling him that she does not love him anymore. □ *Wally got a Dear John letter today.* □ *Sally sends a Dear John letter about once a month.*

deathly *mod.* excellent. □ *Did you see Kelly's deathly new convertible?* □ *That's a deathly idea!*

death on someone or something *n.* causing the death or destruction of someone or something. (See also **death on something**.) □ *This kind of road is just death on tires.* □ *This candy is death on my teeth.*

death on something *n.* moving very fast or skillfully on something, such as wheels. □ *He is way fast—just death on wheels.* □ *Pete is death on skis. You ought to see him go.*

decent *mod.* good; very good. □ *This is some pretty decent jazz.* □ *Your threads are decent, all right.*

deck **1.** *tv.* to knock someone to the ground. □ *Fred decked Bob with one blow.* □ *I was so mad I almost decked him.* **2.** *n.* a pack of cigarettes. □ *Can you toss me a deck of fags, please?* □ *Why don't you stop in there and buy a deck?*

deduck ['didək] **1.** *n.* a tax deduction. (From *deduct*.) □ *Interest is no longer a deduck.* □ *I need a few more deducks this year.* **2.** **AND** **duck** *n.* a deduction from one's paycheck. □ *More of my pay goes to deducks than I get myself.* □ *What's this duck for?*

deejay Go to disk jockey.

deep *mod.* intense; profound. □ *She gave this really deep speech to us about how we should stay off drugs.* □ *All these comments are too deep for me.*

deep pockets **1.** *n.* a good source of money. □ *We need to find some deep pockets to finance this venture.* □ *Deep pockets are hard to find since the stock market crashed.* **2.** *n.* a rich person. □ *The*

lawyer went after the doctor who was the deep pockets of the organization. □ *I want to find the deep pockets who arranged all this.*

deep six **1.** *tv.* to jettison something, including a corpse, from a ship at sea. (Usually **deep-six** as a verb.) □ *The captain had them deep-six the garbage.* □ *They deep-sixed the body of the first mate, who had died of the shakes.* **2.** the **deep six** *n.* burial at sea. (Always with *the* in this sense.) □ *They gave her the deep six with full honors.* □ *I think I'd want the deep six, but I'll probably kick off on dry land.* **3.** *tv.* to kill or dispose of someone. (Underworld. Usually **deep-six** as a verb.) □ *Mr. Big ordered Sam to deep-six Frank.* □ *The thugs tried to deep-six the witness, but failed.* **4.** *tv.* to throw something away. (Usually **deep-six** as a verb.) □ *Take this old thing out and deep-six it.* □ *I've got to deep-six this old TV set.* **5.** the **deep six** *n.* a grave. (Always with *the* in this sense. Graves are usually six feet deep.) □ *When you know the deep six is at the end of the line no matter who you are, it makes you take life less seriously.* □ *The deep six can't be made attractive to many people.*

def [def] **1.** *mod.* better; cool. (Originally black. From *definitive*.) □ *Man, that yogurt is def!* □ *What a def set of threads!* **2.** *mod.* definitely. □ *I will be there. Def.* □ *This is def the best there is.*

definately *mod.* definitely. (A misspelling that is so widely used in Internet news groups as to be considered part of the Internet jargon.) □ *I am definately going to look at your home page!*

defrosted *mod.* even with someone who has insulted, embarrassed, or angered oneself. (See also **chill**; **ice**.) □ *He yelled at her till he was defrosted, and then things settled down.* □ *Bob was finally defrosted when he insulted Heidi.*

Delhi belly ['deli beli] *n.* diarrhea, as suffered by tourists in India. □ *I've got a touch of the Delhi belly and will have to miss the Taj Mahal.* □ *I've got something you can take for Delhi belly.*

delish [də'liʃ] *mod.* delicious. □ *Oh, this cake is just delish.* □ *What a delish meal.*

delts [dɛlts] *n.* the deltoid muscles. (Bodybuilding.) □ *Look at the delts on that dame!* □ *How do you get delts like that?*

dem Go to **demo**.

demo ['dɛmɔ] **1.** **AND** **dem** [dɛm] *n.* a member of the Democratic Party. □ *A couple of dems are running for the caucus, but no other party is represented.* □ *Which demos are they?* **2.** *n.* a demonstration (of something). □ *Can I have a demo of this model?* □ *Hey, Chuck, give this man a demo.* **3.** *n.* an automobile or other machine or device that has been used by a dealer for demonstration purposes. □ *I can give you a demo for half price.* □ *Do you have any demos?* **4.** *tv.* to demonstrate something (to someone). □ *Let me demo this for you so you can see how it works.* □ *Will someone please demo this computer?* **5.** *tv.* to demonstrate (something) to someone. □ *I've got to go demo these people on this software.* □ *Can you demo me before you go?*

des [dis] *n.* December. (Securities markets. Futures and options trading.) □ *The bean futures for des fell out of bed yesterday.* □ *Are these figures des or March?*

desert cherry *n.* a new soldier in a desert war; a soldier new to the desert in wartime. (From the Persian Gulf War. See also **cherry**.) □ *About 5,000 desert cherries arrived last week. Something is going to happen soon.* □ *The desert cherries are complaining about the scorpions again.*

desk jockey *n.* someone who works at a desk in an office. (Patterned on **disc jockey**.) □ *I couldn't stand being a cooped-up desk jockey.* □ *The desk jockeys at our place don't get paid very well.*

destroyed *mod.* drug intoxicated. □ *Wow, what happened to Tracy? She looks destroyed.* □ *The kid who took angel dust is destroyed most of the time.*

the deuce [dus] **1.** *n.* the devil. □ *I'll knock the deuce out of you if you come around here again.* □ *Get the deuce out of here!* **2.** *n.* the two in playing cards. □ *If I could only get a deuce.* □ *Ah, here's the deuce I*

need. **3.** *n.* two dollars. □ *Can you loan me a deuce till payday?* □ *Sure, here's a deuce. Don't spend it all in one place.* **4.** *n.* a two-year prison sentence. (Underworld.) □ *Lefty served a deuce up the river.* □ *The DA made sure that Bruno got more than a deuce.* **5.** *n.* a table for two. □ *Give the next couple the deuce over in the corner.* □ *You can't put three people at a deuce!*

a devil of a time **AND** **the devil of a time.** *n.* a very difficult time. □ *I had a devil of a time with my taxes.* □ *This cold has been giving me a devil of a time.*

the devil's own time *n.* a very difficult time; a hellish time. □ *I had the devil's own time with these tax forms.* □ *My gout is giving me the devil's own time.*

dew Go to (mountain) **dew**.

dialog *tv.* to attempt to deceive someone; to attempt to seduce someone. □ *Just let me dialog her for a while; then you'll see some action.* □ *Ron was dialoging this dame when her brother came in.*

diamond in the rough *n.* a person who is wonderful despite a rough exterior; a person with great potential. □ *Sam looks a little tacky, but he's a diamond in the rough.* □ *He's a diamond in the rough—a little hard to take at times, but okay mostly.*

diarrhea of the jawbone Go to **diarrhea of the mouth**.

diarrhea of the mouth **AND** **diarrhea of the jawbone** *n.* an imaginary disease involving constant talking. □ *Wow, does he ever have diarrhea of the mouth!* □ *You're getting diarrhea of the jawbone again.*

dibs on something *phr.* a claim on something. □ *I've got dibs on the yellow one!* □ *Dibs on the front seat!*

dicey ['daɪsi] *mod.* touchy; chancy; touch and go. □ *Things are just a little dicey right now.* □ *I'm working on a dicey deal with the city right now.*

dick **1.** *n.* a detective; a police officer. (Underworld. From *detective*.) □ *Some dicks were around looking for you.* □ *Barlowe is a private dick who has to keep one step*

ahead of the cops. **2. n.** the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She told some dirty joke about a dick, but everybody just sat there and looked straight ahead.* **3. n.** a stupid person, usually a male. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *What stupid dick put this thing here in the way?* **4. n.** nothing. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The whole idea isn't worth dick.* □ *I was supposed to get a lot of money out of this deal, but all I got was dick!* **5. tv. & in.** to copulate [with] a woman. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Hell, she's never been fucked. I don't care what she says!* □ *If you think I'm going out with a guy who only wants to get me fucked, you're crazy.* **6. tv.** to cheat or deceive someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That salesman fucked me for ten extra bucks.* □ *Man, I really got fucked at that store! Those creeps are crooks.*

dick around *in.* to waste time; to goof off. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Stop fucking around and get to work!*

dickens **1.** the **dickens** *n.* the devil. (Always with *the* in this sense.) □ *She was going to kick the dickens out of me.* □ *I felt as bad as the dickens, but what could I do?* **2. n.** a devilish or impish child. (Also a term of address.) □ *Come here, you little dickens.* □ *You are such a cute little dickens!*

dick for *n.* a person dumb enough to ask "What's a **dick** for?" (Jocular and contrived. Usually objectionable.) □ *The guy's a real dick for.*

dickhead **1. n.** a stupid person, usually a male. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *See if you can get that dickhead to do it right this time.* **2. n.** the head of the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *If you like your dickhead attached, you had better do just exactly as you are told.*

dick-sucker **1. n.** a male who performs fellatio (licking and sucking of the penis). (Rude and derogatory.) □ *In the bar, this dick-sucker came up and wanted to know my sign.* **2. n.** a low and despicable male; a male who is despicable enough to perform fellatio. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *You slimy dick-sucker. I'll get you for this.*

dicky-licker *n.* someone who performs oral sex on the penis, usually a homosexual male. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *One of the dicky-lickers started staring at me.*

dicty ['dɪktɪ] *mod.* snobbish. (Black.) □ *Those people can be so dicty!* □ *That dicty lady told me I could come to the back to get a tip if I wanted.*

diddle **1. tv.** to feel someone sexually. (See also **feel someone up**. Usually objectionable.) □ *He was trying to diddle her, and she was trying to watch the movie.* □ *She moved her hand over, like she was going to diddle him, then she jabbed him in the crystals.* **2. in.** to masturbate [oneself]. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Have you been diddling again?* **3. tv.** to masturbate someone else. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She diddled him since it was his birthday.* **4. tv.** to cheat someone. □ *The shop owner diddled me out of ten bucks.* **5. tv. & in.** to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I'm tired of hearing who has diddled whom in Hollywood.*

diddle with something *in.* to play with something; to toy with something. □ *Here, don't diddle with that watch.*

diddly-shit AND **doodly-shit** **1. n.** anything at all. (Usually in the negative. Usually objectionable.) □ *I don't give a diddly-shit what you do!* **2. mod.** virtually worthless; useless. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I'm gonna take this diddly-shit watch back to the store and get my money back.*

diddly-squat AND **(doodly-)squat** ['dɪdlɪskwʌt AND 'dʊdlɪskwʌt] *n.* nothing. (Folksy. Originally black or southern.) □ *This contract isn't worth diddly-squat.* □ *I get paid almost doodly-squat for a full day's work.*

DIDO *phr.* dreck in, dreck out; garbage in, garbage out. (Computers. Acronym. See also **dreck**. If you get **dreck** out of a computer, it's because you put **dreck** in. See also **GIGO**.) □ *Look at this stuff that the printer put out. What is it? Oh, well. DIDO.* □ *As a programmer, I specialize in DIDO.*

die *in.* to “perish” (figuratively) from laughter or some other emotionally intense response. □ *The whole audience died laughing.* □ *He laughed till he died.*

die on someone **1.** *in.* [for a patient] to die under the care of someone. □ *Get that medicine over here fast, or this guy’s gonna die on me.* □ *Come on, mister, don’t die on me!* **2.** *in.* [for something] to quit running for someone. □ *My car died on me, and I couldn’t get it started.* □ *My stereo died on me, and I had to listen to the radio.*

diesel ['dizl] *mod.* really good. □ *Fred had a really diesel idea, but no money to carry it out.* □ *I am set for a diesel evening and I intend to enjoy it.*

diff [dɪf] *n.* difference. □ *Aw, come on! What’s the diff?* □ *The diff is about twenty dollars worth of repairs, that’s what.*

differential *n.* the buttocks; the rear (end). □ *I got a little ache in the differential.* □ *You’re walking like there’s something wrong with your differential.*

different strokes for different folks *phr.* different things please different people. (Catchphrase.) □ *Do whatever you like. Different strokes for different folks.* □ *Different strokes for different folks. That’s what I always say.*

dig **1.** *tv. & in.* to understand something. □ *I just don’t dig what you are saying.* □ *Sorry. I just don’t dig.* **2.** *tv.* to appreciate something; to like something. □ *He really digs classical music.* □ *Do you dig chocolate?*

digits *n.* numbers; phone number. □ *Tell me your digits and I’ll call you and let you know the time.* □ *If I can find her digits, I’ll call her.*

digs *n.* a dwelling; a dwelling and its furnishings. □ *You got some pretty swell digs, here.* □ *Nice digs. You like it here?*

Dig up! *exclam.* Listen up!; Pay attention! □ *Dig up, man! This is important.* □ *Shut up and dig up!*

dike AND **dyke** *n.* a lesbian; a bulldiker. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *I guess she was a dike. She looked mean enough.* □ *Who’s the dike in the cowboy boots?*

dikey AND **dykey** *mod.* in the manner of a lesbian; pertaining to lesbians. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She walks kinda dikey, doesn’t she?*

dildo ['dɪldo] *n.* a stupid person, usually a male. (Rude and derogatory. The term refers to an artificial penis.) □ *Hank can be such a dildo sometimes.* □ *You silly dildo!*

dilly *n.* something excellent. □ *This little car is a real dilly.* □ *What a dilly of an apartment!*

dilly-dally *in.* to waste time. □ *Stop dilly-dallying around.* □ *I like to dilly-dally over a cup of coffee.*

dim *n.* the evening; the night. (Streets.) □ *She spends every dim in the library studying.* □ *Where’ll you be this dim?*

dim bulb *n.* a dull person; a stupid person. □ *George seems to be a dim bulb, but he’s a straight-A student.* □ *I feel like such a dim bulb when I do things like that.*

dime-dropper *n.* an informer. (Underworld. Because an informer at one time could drop a dime in a public telephone and call the police or drop a dime on the sidewalk as a signal for the police to move in and make an arrest. See also **drop a dime**.) □ *I think that Tracy is the dime-dropper who caused the roust.* □ *The fuzz protects its dime-droppers with everything they’ve got.*

dime store *n.* an establishment that is chaotic because of its small scale. □ *I can’t stand this dime store anymore. This is no way to run a law firm.* □ *Things move so fast around here that we have become a dime store rather than an accounting office.*

dimwit ['dɪmwɪt] *n.* an oaf; a dullard. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Oh, Dave, you can be such a dimwit!* □ *Come on, now, you’re not really a dimwit.*

dinero [dɪ'nɛro] *n.* money. (Spanish.) □ *I don’t have as much dinero as I need, but other than that, I’m doing okay.* □ *You got some dinero I can borrow?*

ding **1.** *tv.* to shoot, dent, or knock something. □ *The rock dinged my left fender.*

□ *The bullet dinged Rocko's right arm.* **2.** *tv.* to negate; to cast out; to blemish. □ *Please stop dinging my little brother. He's a good kid.* □ *The reviewer dinged the book, but it sold well anyway.*

ding-a-ling ['dɪŋəlɪŋ] *n.* a stupid person; a giddy person who hears bells. □ *This ding-a-ling comes up and asks me for a dollar for the orphans. I tell her I got all the orphans I can use at any price.* □ *Who's the ding-a-ling who painted the windows stuck?*

dingbat **1.** *n.* <a name for a gadget.> □ *Isn't there supposed to be a little red dingbat that goes in this hole?* □ *Is this the dingbat you mean?* **2.** *n.* a stupid person. □ *Who is the dingbat with Bob?* □ *That's no dingbat; that's his sister.* **3.** *n.* any undesirable person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Look, dingbat, stop laughing!* □ *I'm tired of reading about that dingbat in the paper every day.*

ding-dong **1.** *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He held his hands over his ding-dong and ran for the bedroom.* **2.** *n.* a stupid person of either sex. □ *You silly ding-dong! Try again.* **3.** *mod.* damned. (A euphemism.) □ *Get your ding-dong junk outa my way!*

dinged out *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Gary is dinged out and can't drive.* □ *He got dinged out on a couple of quarts of foam.*

dinghead *n.* a stupid person. □ *Shut up, you stupid dinghead.* □ *Frank was a real dinghead when he cheated on the exam.*

dingleberry **1.** *n.* a blob of fecal matter clinging to the hairs around the anus. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Is there no permanent cure for the heartbreak of dingleberries?* **2.** *n.* a stupid-acting person of either sex. □ *You are such a dumb dingleberry! Wise up!*

dingle(-dangle) *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Come on, Billy. Shake your dingle and put it away.*

dingus **1.** *n.* a thing or gadget. □ *I have a little dingus that helps me clean venetian blinds.* □ *Toss me one of those dinguses that holds the wire in the groove, will ya?*

2. **AND** **dingy** *n.* the penis; the male thing. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Jimmy, shake your dingus and put it away!*

dingy ['dɪŋi] **1.** *mod.* loony; giddy. □ *That friend of yours sure does act dingy sometimes.* □ *Tell the dingy drip to forget it.* □ *I'm not dingy, I'm just in love.* **2.** *Go to dingus.*

dink **1.** *n.* a person of East Asian (including Japanese) nationality or descent; originally a person of Chinese nationality or descent. (Much use during the Vietnam War for the Vietnamese. Rude and derogatory.) □ *He said he fought against dinks in the war.* **2.** *n.* the penis, especially a small one. (Usually objectionable.) □ *God, Fred, you really got a dink. Is it full grown yet?* **3.** **AND** **DINK** *n.* double income, no kids; a (young) married couple with two incomes and no children. (Acronym.) □ *The whole neighborhood is populated by dinks. Not a single child on the block.* □ *Most dinks are young. Older couples whose children are grown up are just called old.*

dink someone off *tv.* to make someone angry. □ *Whatever you do, don't dink her off!* □ *Why did you have to start out your speech by dinking off the entire audience?*

dinky ['dɪŋki] *mod.* small; undersized. □ *Isn't this a little dinky for a \$14 steak?* □ *I'll take the dinky one. I'm on a diet.*

dinner basket *Go to breadbasket.*

dip **1.** *n.* a drunkard. (From *dipsomaniac*.) □ *Buy the dip a drink. That'll shut him up for a while.* □ *A dip hung around outside the tavern, mooching coin for drinks.* **2.** **AND** **dipper** *n.* a pickpocket. (Underworld.) □ *Watch out for dips at the race-track.* □ *The dip tried a snatch, but the dupe turned around at the wrong time.* **3.** *n.* a pinch or helping of snuff. □ *He took a dip just before he picked up the bat.* □ *After the hit, he got another dip.* **4.** *n.* a wad of chewing tobacco. □ *You could see he had a big dip in his cheek.* □ *I won't tell you what he did with the dip when he was finished with it.* **5.** *n.* an oaf; a jerk. (See also *dipshit*.) □ *Why are you acting like*

such a dip? □ *Is there a convention of dips or something here today?*

diphead Go to dipshit.

dipper Go to dip.

dippy *mod.* crazy; loony. □ *Who is that dippy chick with the lamp shade on her head?* □ *Tom is dippy, but fun.*

dipshit **1.** *AND diphead; dipstick* *n.* an oaf; a jerk. (Rude and derogatory. See also **dip**.) □ *Why are you acting like such a dipshit?* □ *Is there a convention of dipsticks or something here today?* □ *Look, dipstick, I'm in a hurry.* **2.** *mod.* pertaining to someone or something obnoxious, stupid, or offensive. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Here's another one of his dipshit ideas.*

dipso ['dipso] *n.* a drunkard; an alcoholic. (From *dipsomaniac*. See also **dip**.) □ *Oh, I didn't realize she was a dipso.* □ *She's sort of a closet dipso.*

dipstick **1.** *n.* the penis. (From the name of the metal stick used to measure the amount of oil in an automobile engine. Usually objectionable.) □ *He held his hands over his dipstick and ran for the bedroom.* **2.** Go to **dip(shit)**.

dipsy ['dipsi] *mod.* tipsy; alcohol intoxicated. (See also **dip**.) □ *I think that Jed is permanently dipsy.* □ *The cop pulled the dipsy dame over and arrested her.* □ *He was too dipsy to drive.*

dipwad ['dipwad] *n.* a jerk; a nerd. (Euphemistic for **dip(shit)**.) □ *Fred is such a dipwad. Why doesn't he wise up?* □ *If you weren't a big dipwad, you would give me a hand with this.*

dirt **1.** *n.* low, worthless people. (Singular with the force of plural.) □ *He is just dirt.* □ *I am not dirt. I'm just temporarily financially embarrassed.* **2.** *n.* scandal; incriminating secrets; **dirty linen**. □ *What's the dirt on Tracy?* □ *I don't want to know about anybody's dirt!*

dirtbag *n.* a low, worthless person. □ *Ziggy is a slimy dirtbag, and I want him put away for good.*

dirt cheap *mod.* very cheap. □ *I picked this thing up dirt cheap.* □ *Get one of these while they're dirt cheap.*

dirty **1.** *mod.* obscene. □ *You have a dirty mind.* □ *The movie was too dirty for me.* □ *How would you know what's dirty and what's not?* **2.** *mod.* low and sneaky. □ *What a dirty trick!* □ *That was really dirty!* □ *What a dirty thing to do!* **3.** *mod.* illegal; on the wrong side of the law. (Compare this with **clean**.) □ *The cops knew that Max was dirty and they searched his car until they found something they could use against him.* □ *You just look at Sam and you know he is dirty.* *The question is, what's he done now?*

dirty crack *n.* a rude remark. □ *Who made that dirty crack?* □ *Another dirty crack like that and I'll leave.*

dirty deal *n.* an unfair deal. □ *That was a dirty deal. I feel cheated.* □ *I got a dirty deal at that shop, and I won't go back.*

dirty dog *n.* a low and sneaky person. □ *What a low, dirty dog.* □ *That dirty dog tried to get fresh with me!*

the (**dirty**) **dozens** *n.* a game of trading insulting remarks about relatives. (Originally black.) □ *Man, what's with you? Always the dirty dozens. You just gotta start something all the time.* □ *Freddy is out giving the dozens to Marty.*

dirty joke **1.** *n.* an obscene joke. □ *Fred told a dirty joke that shocked almost everyone.* □ *No dirty jokes around here. We get enough of that on television.* **2.** *n.* a very ugly or very stupid person. □ *Look at that face. That's a dirty joke.* □ *Beavis is sort of a dirty joke that nobody can laugh at.*

dirty laundry Go to dirty linen.

dirty linen *AND dirty laundry* *n.* scandal; unpleasant private matters. □ *I wish you wouldn't put our dirty linen out for everyone to see.* □ *I've heard enough about her dirty laundry.*

dirty look *n.* a frown meant to show displeasure with something that has been said or done. □ *I gave him a dirty look, and he took his arm off my shoulder.* □ *What is that dirty look meant to mean?*

dirty-minded *mod.* having a tendency to see the lewd or obscene aspects of anything; having a tendency to place an obscene interpretation on the words and actions of others. □ *Sam is sort of dirty-minded, but he wouldn't do anything really vile.* □ *He's a vile, dirty-minded jerk.* □ *Most of those guys are dirty-minded.*

dirty-mouth **1.** *n.* a person who talks dirty. (See also **bad-mouth**.) □ *You are getting to be quite a dirty-mouth, Gary.* □ *Some dirty-mouth yelled out the most obscene things during the meeting.* **2.** *tv.* to speak ill of someone or something. (See also **bad-mouth**.) □ *Please stop dirty-mouthing my friends.* □ *You have dirty-mouthed cats just about enough.*

dirty old man *n.* a lecherous old man. (Usually jocular.) □ *Jimmy, you are getting to be a dirty old man!* □ *What a terrible joke. You are a dirty old man!*

dirty pool *n.* activities conducted using unfair or sneaky tactics. □ *They're playing dirty pool now. This calls for a new plan.* □ *When they start playing dirty pool, it's time to get mean.*

dirty word *n.* a curse word; an informal word concerned with sex or excrement. □ *No dirty words are allowed on this computer or news group.* □ *Some kid got the microphone and yelled a dirty word into it.*

dirty work **1.** *n.* menial work; hard work. □ *Why do I always get stuck with the dirty work?* □ *We should share the dirty work evenly.* **2.** *n.* sneaky activities. □ *I hear that Sam is up to his old dirty work again.* □ *He is a master at dirty work.*

discipline *n.* drugs. □ *Frank has been on a little too much of that discipline lately.* □ *She smokes this stuff she calls discipline. Smells like pot to me.*

disc jockey Go to **disk jockey**.

discombobulate [dɪskəm'babjələt] *tv.* to confuse or perplex someone. □ *That kind of discussion discombobulates me something awful.* □ *Don't let the heat of the argument discombobulate you.*

discombobulated AND **discomboobulated** [dɪskəm'babjələdəd AND dɪskəm-

'bubjələdəd] **1.** *mod.* confused. □ *I get completely discombobulated when I think of figures that big.* □ *I'm so discomboobulated these days!* □ *She is one discombobulated gal.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *From the way she is walking, I'd say she is discombobulated.* □ *You'd be discomboobulated, too, if you'd drunk as much as she has.*

discomboobulated Go to **discombobulated**.

dish **1.** *n.* a good-looking woman. □ *Wow, isn't she a dish?* □ *Now there's a good-looking dish.* **2.** *tv.* to criticize someone or something; to spread gossip about someone or something. (Probably short for **dish the dirt**.) □ *The critics all dished the opening of the play mercilessly.* □ *I wish you would stop dishing me all the time.*

dishrag Go to (**limp**) **dishrag**.

dish something out **1.** *tv.* to serve up food to people. (Standard English.) □ *I'll dish it out, and you take it to the table.* □ *Careful how you dish out the mashed potatoes. There may not be enough.* **2.** *tv.* to distribute information, news, etc. □ *The press secretaries were dishing reports out as fast as they could write them.* □ *The company dishes out propaganda on a regular basis.* **3.** *tv.* to give out trouble, scoldings, criticism, etc. □ *The boss was dishing criticism out this morning, and I really got it.* □ *The teacher dished out a scolding to each one who was involved in the prank.*

dish the dirt *tv.* to spread gossip; to gossip. □ *Let's sit down, have a drink, and dish the dirt.* □ *David goes down to the tavern to dish the dirt.*

disk jockey AND **deejay**; **disc jockey**; **DJ** *n.* a radio announcer who introduces music from phonograph records. (The abbreviations are initialisms. Compare this with **desk jockey**. See also **veejay**.) □ *The disk jockey couldn't pronounce the name of the singing group.* □ *I was a DJ for a while, but I didn't like it.*

dis(s) *tv.* to belittle someone; to show disrespect for someone. (From **disrespect**.) □ *Gary is such a complainer. All he does is diss people.* □ *Please stop dissing my lit-*

tle sister. She didn't do any of those things.
 □ *Don't dis my ride! It's only temporary.*

dis(s) (on someone) ['dis...] *in.* to belittle [someone]; to show disrespect [for someone]. (From *disrespect*.) □ *Gary is such a complainer. All he does is diss.* □ *Please stop dissing on me.*

ditch **1.** *tv.* to dispose of someone or something; to abandon someone or something. □ *The crooks ditched the car and continued on foot.* □ *The flyboy ditched the plane in the lake and waded ashore.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to skip or evade someone or something. □ *Pete ditched class today.* □ *If you ditch too often, they'll throw you out of the organization.*

dither ['diðə] *n.* a state of confusion. (See also *in a dither*.) □ *A dither like that is hard to break out of. Maybe a good night's sleep would help.* □ *I'm too far gone with this dither to sleep.*

ditsy Go to ditz.

ditz AND **ditzo** ['dits(o)] *n.* a giddy, absent-minded person. □ *You silly ditz!* □ *I'm getting to be such a ditz!* □ *Who is the ditzo on the phone? Another wrong number?*

ditzo Go to ditz.

ditzzy AND **ditsy** ['ditsi] *mod.* giddy; unaware; flighty. □ *You are such a ditzzy geek!* □ *Betty has been acting a little ditsy lately. What's wrong?*

dive *n.* a low drinking establishment; a cheap saloon. □ *I don't think I want to spend the whole evening in this dive.* □ *Hey, this dive ain't bad.*

dive a muff *tv.* to perform oral sex on a woman. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Tod likes to dive a muff every now and then.*

divot ['divət] *n.* a toupee; a partial toupee. (See also *rug*.) □ *I think that Sam is wearing a little divot.* □ *His divot slipped, but no one laughed.*

divvy ['divi] *n.* a share of something. (See also *divvy something up*.) □ *How much is my divvy?* □ *Give me my divvy so I can go home.*

divvy something up *tv.* to divide something up. □ *We had to divvy my aunt's things up after her death.* □ *They divvied up the fish and drove back to the city.*

dizzy *mod.* stupid; scatterbrained. □ *The prof is a little dizzy, but entertaining.* □ *Who is that dizzy dame?*

DJ Go to disk jockey.

DL Go to the down low.

DNK [dnk] did not keep (a medical appointment). (Medical.) □ *Why did you write DNK next to the patient's name?* □ *When that DNK calls for another appointment, make sure she knows when it is.*

DOA **1.** *mod.* dead on arrival. (Hospitals. Initialism.) □ *The kid was DOA, and there was nothing anybody could do.* □ *Do you want to end up DOA?* **2.** *n.* a person who is dead on arrival at a hospital. □ *They brought in two DOAs Saturday night.* □ *Drugs increase the number of DOAs considerably.* **3.** *n.* phencyclidine (PCP). (Because it is deadly.) □ *Stay away from DOA. There's a good reason why it's called that.* □ *The kids use DOA no matter what.*

do **1.** *n.* a party; a social event. □ *We had a smashing time at your little do.* □ *I'm having a do for a friend this weekend. Would you like to come?* **2.** *tv. & in.* to use a drug or drugs in general. (See also *do a line*; *do drugs*.) □ *Is Tracy doing dust again?* □ *Tracy never stopped doing. She just switched from dust to splash.* **3.** AND **doo** *n.* a hairdo. □ *Nice do. Is it new?* □ *I can't go out in this rain and get my doo wet!* **4.** Go to (must) *do*. **5.** *in.* to serve (a purpose) well. (Usually with *will* or *won't*.) □ *This will do quite nicely.* □ *Oh, yes, this will do.* □ *That won't do at all!* **6.** Go to *doo-doo*. **7.** *tv.* to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He did Martha, then he did Sue, then he did Gloria.*

do a dump on someone or something AND **dump all over someone or something**; **dump on someone or something** *tv.* to criticize someone or something; to destroy someone or something.

□ *There is no need to do a dump on me. I didn't wreck your car.* □ *The boss—mad as a wet hen—dumped all over me.* □ *That rotten jerk really did a dump on my car. Look at that fender!*

do a fade *tv.* to leave; to sneak away. □ *Frank did a fade when he saw the pig-mobile.* □ *It's time for me to do a fade.*

do a job on someone or something *1. tv.* to ruin someone or something; to give someone or something a thorough working over. □ *The cops did a job on Rocko, but he still wouldn't talk.* □ *There's no need to do a job on me, man, I'll tell you everything I know—which is zip.* □ *That punch sure did a job on my nose.* **2.** Go to do a number on someone.

do a line *tv.* to snort a dose of a powdered drug, usually cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *Max slipped into a doorway to do a line.* □ *Ernie has to do a line about every four hours—night and day.*

do a number on someone AND **do a job on someone** *tv.* to harm or deceive someone. □ *The IRS really did a number on me.* □ *My local friendly plumber did a job on me cleaning out my drain.*

do a number on something *1. tv.* to urinate or defecate on something. □ *Billy did a number on the bathroom floor.* **2. tv.** to damage or ruin something; to destroy something. □ *The truck really did a number on my car.*

do a slow burn *tv.* to be quietly angry. (See also **slow burn**.) □ *I did a slow burn while I was getting my money back.* □ *I was doing a slow burn, but I didn't let it show.*

do a snow job on someone *tv.* to deceive or confuse someone. □ *Don't try to do a snow job on me. I know all the tricks.* □ *She thought she did a snow job on the teacher, but it backfired.*

doc(s)-in-a-box *n.* a walk-in emergency health care center, as found in shopping centers. (See also **McDoctor(s)**.) □ *I was cut and went immediately to the docs-in-a-box in the mall.* □ *The doc-in-the-box finally closed because of lack of customers.*

doctor's orders *n.* something that one is strongly advised to do. (Refers here to any advice given by anyone but a doctor.) □ *I have to spend a month in Arizona. Doctor's orders.* □ *I'm doing this on doctor's orders, but I don't like it.*

dode [dod] *n.* a nerd; a simpleton. □ *Wally is such a dode.* □ *My roommate is a loser. I was afraid I'd end up with a dode.*

dodge [dadʒ] *n.* a swindle; a scam; a deception. □ *What sort of dodge did you get flimflammed with?* □ *Gary has a new dodge to make money, but he hasn't made any yet.*

do dope Go to do drugs.

do drugs AND **do dope** *tv.* to take drugs; to use drugs habitually. (Drugs and now general.) □ *Rocko doesn't do drugs, and he doesn't drink.* □ *Frank started doing dope when he was very young.*

dog *1. n.* a foot. (Usually plural.) □ *My dogs are killing me.* □ *I gotta get home and soak my dogs.* **2. n.** an ugly girl. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *I'm no dog, but I could wish for some changes.* □ *So she's not a movie star; she's not a dog either!* **3. n.** something undesirable or worthless; merchandise that no one wants to buy. □ *Put the dogs out on the sale table so people will see them.* □ *They even bought all the dogs this year. Sales were great.* **4. n.** dog dung. (See also **dog-doo**.) □ *There's some dog on the lawn.* □ *Don't step in the dog.* **5. tv.** to follow someone. □ *The cop dogged Lefty for a week.* □ *Stop dogging me, you twit!* **6. tv.** to stay with one and haunt one. □ *Will this memory dog me all the days of my life?* □ *The thought of all that cake and ice cream dogged me all during my diet.* **7. tv.** to eat something; to eat something as a dog eats. □ *He dogged his hamburger and ran out the door to catch the bus.* □ *Here, dog a couple of crackers and cheese. That should keep you from starving.* **8. tv.** to criticize someone or something. □ *Stop dogging me about every little thing!* □ *My mom always dogs me because I don't clean my room.*

dog and pony show *n.* a demonstration; a speech, skit, or other presentation that

is presented often. □ *Wally was there with his dog and pony show about water safety.* □ *I've seen that dog and pony show so many times, it's like I know all the words.*

dog collar *n.* the collar worn by priests and some other clerics. □ *The man in the dog collar prayed for a while, then we ate dinner.*

dog-dew Go to **dog-doo**.

dog-do Go to **dog-doo**.

dog-doo AND **dog-dew; dog-do** ['dɒɡdu] *n.* dog dung. □ *Don't step in the dog-doo.* □ *When the snow melts, the sidewalks are covered with dog-doo.*

dog-eat-dog *mod.* cruel; highly competitive. □ *This is a dog-eat-dog world.* □ *It's dog-eat-dog out there.*

dogface *n.* an infantry soldier. (World War II. Also a term of address.) □ *Get those dogfaces over here on the double.* □ *Did I see a salute, dogface?*

dog-fashion Go to **dog-ways**.

doggo ['dɒɡo] *mod.* hidden away; quiet and waiting. (See also **lie doggo**.) □ *This error was there, doggo, for nearly thirty years.* □ *Here is another one of your doggo deadbeats on this list.*

doggone(d) ['dɒ'ɡɒn(d)] *mod.* darn(ed); damn(ed). □ *I sort of wish my hooter wasn't so doggone big.* □ *Who made this doggoned mess?*

doggy bag ['dɒɡɪbæɡ] *n.* a bag—supplied by a restaurant—in which uneaten food can be carried home. □ *Do you have a doggy bag for my mousse?* □ *We do not have doggy bags, but we do supply foil.*

dog meat *n.* a dead person. (Typically in a threat.) □ *Make one move, and you're dog meat.* □ *They pulled another hunk of gangland dog meat out of the river.*

dog-gooder ['dʊɡʊdɜː] *n.* a person who is always trying to help others. (Often derogatory.) □ *The do-gooders are demanding a bigger cut of the pie.* □ *I don't consider myself a do-gooder, but I try to help people.*

dog's mother *n.* a bitch; a bitchy person. (Euphemism.) □ *If Sally insists on being*

a dog's mother on this matter, I'll tell her what I think of her. □ *Stop being a dog's mother and chill out!*

dog-style Go to **dog-ways**.

dog-ways AND **dog-fashion; dog-style** *mod.* [copulation] in the manner of dogs, that is, with the male approaching from the rear. □ *They did it dog-style, so they could both watch television.*

Do I have to draw (you) a picture? Go to **Do I have to paint (you) a picture?**

Do I have to paint (you) a picture? AND **Do I have to draw (you) a picture?** *interrog.* Do you understand yet?; How simple do I have to make it for you? □ *This is supposed to be easy. Do I have to paint a picture?* □ *Do I have to draw you a picture, or can you visualize this?*

doll 1. *n.* a pretty girl or woman. □ *Who's the doll I saw you with last night?* □ *That doll was my sister, jerk.* **2.** *n.* a pill. (Drugs. Usually plural.) □ *She took stuff, yeah, but only dolls.* □ *Taking dolls is different from shooting up.*

dome *n.* the head, especially if bald. □ *I need a new hat for my shiny dome.*

dome-doctor *n.* a psychologist or psychiatrist. □ *They sent me to a dome-doctor, but it didn't help.* □ *The dome-doctor lets me talk while he keeps score.*

done by mirrors AND **done with mirrors** *mod.* illusory; purposefully deceptive. □ *The whole budgetary process is done with mirrors.* □ *The self-review was done by mirrors and didn't come off too bad.*

done deal *n.* a completed deal; something that is settled. □ *It's too late. It's a done deal.* □ *The sale of the property is a done deal. There is nothing that can be done now.*

done for *mod.* lost; dead; doomed. □ *I'm sorry, this whole scheme is done for.* □ *I knew I was done for.*

done over *mod.* beat; outscored. □ *The other team was done over, and they knew it.* □ *Bruno felt that Frank would get the idea if he was done over a little.*

done to a turn **1.** *mod.* well-cooked; nicely cooked. ☐ *The entire meal was done to a turn.* ☐ *The turkey was done to a turn.* **2.** *mod.* beaten. ☐ *When Wilbur's opponent was done to a turn, Wilbur was declared the winner.* ☐ *Max was done to a turn, and Sam walked away.*

done with mirrors Go to **done by mirrors**.

dong *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *He held his hands over his dong and ran for the bedroom.*

donkey's breakfast *n.* something made of straw: a straw hat, a straw mattress, etc. ☐ *I don't really want to sleep on a donkey's breakfast, but it's better than the floor.* ☐ *The tourist was wearing a red dress and had a donkey's breakfast on her head.*

donkey's years *n.* a long time. ☐ *I haven't seen you in donkey's years.* ☐ *It's been donkey's years since we talked.*

donnybrook *n.* a big argument; a brawl. ☐ *There was a big donnybrook at the concert, and the police were called.* ☐ *Who started this donnybrook?*

Don't ask. *sent.* The answer is so depressing, you don't even want to hear it. ☐ *How am I? Don't ask.* ☐ *This has been a horrible day. How horrible, you say? Don't ask.*

Don't ask me. *sent.* I don't know either. (With the emphasis on *me*.) ☐ *I don't know. Don't ask me.* ☐ *Don't ask me. I wasn't there.*

Don't call us, we'll call you. *sent.* a formulaic expression given to job applicants who have just interviewed or auditioned for a job. ☐ *Thank you, Eddie Evans. Don't call us, we'll call you.* ☐ *Stupendous, Gloria, just stupendous. What glamour and radiance! Don't call us, we'll call you.*

Don't get your bowels in an uproar! *exclam.* Don't get so excited! ☐ *Now, now, don't get your bowels in an uproar. Everything will be all right.*

don't give a hoot *tv.* don't care at all. (Folksy.) ☐ *Go ahead. Do it if you want. I don't give a hoot.* ☐ *She doesn't give a hoot if you go into town without her.*

don't give a rip *tv.* don't really care at all. ☐ *Go ahead! Ruin your life! I don't give a rip.* ☐ *I don't give a rip what you do!*

Don't have a cow! *exclam.* Calm down!; Don't get so excited! (Made famous in the television show, *The Simpsons*.) ☐ *Chill out, man! Don't have a cow!* ☐ *Aw, don't have a cow, dad!*

Don't I know it! *exclam.* That is really true! ☐ *It's bad all right. Don't I know it!* ☐ *Late? Don't I know it. I'm yawning like hot cakes.*

Don't make a federal case out of it! *sent.* Don't make such a fuss!; This isn't as important as you are making it. ☐ *So, I dropped a whole dozen eggs! I'll clean it up. Don't make a federal case out of it!*

Don't make me laugh! *exclam.* That is a stupid suggestion! ☐ *You a judge? Don't make me laugh!* ☐ *Don't make me laugh. Tom could never do that.*

Don't sweat it! *exclam.* Don't worry about it! ☐ *No problem. Don't sweat it!* ☐ *Don't sweat it! We'll take care of it.*

(Don't) you wish! *exclam.* I'm sure you wish it were true. ☐ *You think you'll win? Don't you wish!* ☐ *There's no school tomorrow? You wish!*

doo Go to **do**.

doobage Go to **dubage**.

doobie **AND dooby; duby** ['dubi] *n.* a marijuana cigarette; a fat marijuana cigarette. (Drugs.) ☐ *Frank sells doobies like they were candy.* ☐ *Want a doobie?*

doodad ['dudæd] *n.* <a name for a gadget.> ☐ *What are these little doodads?* ☐ *I don't know what they're called. If they had names, they wouldn't be doodads, now would they?*

doodle **1.** *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Put your doodle away, Jimmy, and flush the toilet.* **2.** *n.* feces, especially a baby's feces. ☐ *Billy's got doodle in his diapers.* **3.** *in.* to defecate. (See also **doo-doo**.) ☐ *The dog doodled on the back porch.*

doodly-shit Go to **diddly-shit**.

(doodly-)squat Go to **diddly-squat**.

doo-doo **1.** *n.* dung; fecal material. □ *There's dog doo-doo on your shoe.* **2.** *in.* to defecate. □ *Mommy, the cat's doo-dooing in the kitchen!*

doofer AND **dufer** ['dufə] *n.* a (found or borrowed) cigarette saved for smoking at another time. (It will *do for* later.) □ *Sam always has a doofer stuck behind his ear.* □ *He takes two fags, one to smoke and a dufer.*

doofus AND **duffis** ['dufəs] *n.* a jerk; a nerd. □ *Hank, you are acting like a doofus. Stop standing on your head.* □ *My roommate is a duffis and I'm tired of putting up with her.*

doohickey Go to doojigger.

doojigger AND **doohickey; doohickie** ['dudʒɪgə AND 'duhɪki] *n.* <a name for a gadget.> □ *Toss me that little red doohickey, will you?* □ *Jim has one of those doohickies that will tighten the bit in the drill.*

dook [duk] **1.** *mod.* really bad. (Probably related to *duky*.) □ *No more of your dook ideas!* □ *This day was really dook!* **2.** *in.* to defecate. □ *Mom, I gotta dook.* □ *He's dooking in the john.*

do oneself proud *tv.* to have done a very fine job. □ *That's super! You've done yourself proud!* □ *I feel like I've done myself proud.*

do one's (own) thing *tv.* to do what one wants; to do what pleases oneself no matter what others think. □ *She's going to start doing her own thing for a change.* □ *I've always done my thing, and I don't see a great amount of benefit from it.*

do or die *mod.* having to try as hard as one can. □ *He has the obsessive do or die attitude.* □ *I was determined to get there—do or die.*

doormat *n.* a weak-willed person who is abused by others. □ *I always feel like a doormat.* □ *Why do people treat me like a doormat?*

doosie AND **doozie; doozy** ['duzi] *n.* something extraordinary, good or bad. □ *The trade show was a real doozy this year.* □ *Old Gert was a real doozy.*

doowacky ['duwæki] **1.** *n.* a thing; a nameless gadget. □ *Where is the doowacky I laid here?* □ *Is this your doowacky? I was going to throw it away.* **2.** *n.* money. □ *You got some doowacky I can borrow?* □ *I'm out of doowacky myself.*

doozie Go to doosie.

doozy Go to doosie.

dope **1.** *n.* a stupid person. □ *I'm not such a dope.* □ *That dope has done it again!* **2.** *n.* drugs in general; marijuana. □ *Lay off the dope, will ya?* □ *How much dope do you do in a week anyway?* **3.** *n.* news; scuttlebutt. □ *What's the dope on the new mayor?* □ *I got some dope on the tavern fire if you want to hear it.* **4.** *mod.* best; most excellent. □ *My roommate is really dope. Great guy!* □ *We had a great time there. It was dope and dudical.*

dope something out *tv.* to figure out something from the *dope* (information) available. □ *I think I can dope this thing out from the evidence available.* □ *We can dope out the truth from her testimony if we have to.*

dope up **1.** *in.* to inject drugs; to take a dose of a narcotic. (Drugs.) □ *I'm hurting, man, I gotta dope up, now!* □ *She slipped into the backroom to dope up.* **2.** *in.* to purchase a supply of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Where's my old friend Frank? I gotta dope up.* □ *Frank is doping up, himself. He doesn't grow it himself, you know.*

dopey **1.** *mod.* stupid. □ *What a dopey guy!* □ *That was a dopey thing to do.* **2.** *mod.* sleepy. □ *I feel sort of dopey.* □ *The soft music made him dopey.* **3.** *mod.* drug intoxicated. □ *He looks sort of dopey.* □ *The chick is too dopey to drive. See that she gets home, Ralph, huh?*

do-re-me Go to do-re-mi.

do-re-mi AND **do-re-me** ['do're'mi] *n.* money. (From *dough*.) □ *It takes too much do-re-mi to live in this part of town.* □ *Do you have a little do-re-me you could loan me?*

dorf [dorf] *n.* a stupid person; a weird person. □ *You are a prize-winning dorf.* □ *Is*

there a convention of dorfs here today or something?

dork [dɔrk] **1.** *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Paul told a joke about a dork, but everybody just sat there and looked straight ahead.* **2.** *n.* a jerk; a strange person. (See also **megadork**.) □ *Ye gods, Sally! You are a dork!*

dorkmeier AND **dorkmunder** ['dɔrkmaɪr AND 'dɔrkməndə:] *n.* a total jerk; a simpleton. □ *Ellen, stop acting like such a dorkmeier!* □ *Fred is my idea of the perfect dorkmunder.*

dorkmunder Go to **dorkmeier**.

dork off *in.* to waste time; to goof off. □ *Stop dorking off and get busy.* □ *The whole class was dorking off and the teacher got furious.*

dorkus maximus ['dɔrkəs 'mæksɪməs] *n.* a simpleton or fool; a great fool. □ *Tim is now the dorkus maximus of our dorm since he broke the dorm's television set.* □ *Sally is a dorkus maximus and spaced out to boot.*

dorky *mod.* tacky, stupid, or awkward. (From **dork**.) □ *I don't want any of this dorky food!*

dorm *n.* a dormitory. □ *Which dorm do you live in?* □ *Fred lives in a co-ed dorm.*

do's and don'ts *n.* the rules; the things that should be done and those that should not be done. □ *I must admit that a lot of the do's and don'ts don't make much sense to me either.* □ *Better learn the do's and don'ts immediately.*

do some bong *tv.* to smoke some marijuana, usually with a water pipe. (Drugs. See also **bong**.) □ *All the kids think that doing bong is the greatest thing on earth.* □ *Hey, dude, wanna do some bong?*

do some fine coin *tv.* to make a large sum of money. □ *When I get my big break, I'm going to do some fine coin.* □ *Frank did some fine coin on that last house-painting job.*

do someone dirt *tv.* to do ill to someone; to harm someone's reputation. □ *You really did me dirt.* □ *It seemed that the*

lawyer was determined to do me dirt right there in the courtroom.

Do tell. *sent.* Is that so? (A disinterested way of holding up one end of a conversation.) □ *So, you're a dentist. Do tell.* □ *Do tell. I've never heard that before. Nice talking to you.*

do the drink thing *tv.* to drink alcohol heavily. □ *He's been doing the drink thing quite a lot lately.* □ *He started doing the drink thing when he got out of prison.*

do the drug thing *tv.* to be involved with drugs; to take drugs. □ *Man, you gotta stop doing the drug thing.* □ *All she thinks about is doing the drug thing.*

do the trick *tv.* to do exactly what is needed. □ *This about does the trick.* □ *Does this little dudenwhacker do the trick?*

do time *tv.* to serve a sentence in prison; to serve a specific amount of time in prison. (Underworld. See also **hard time**.) □ *Lefty had done time on a number of occasions.* □ *You'd better talk and talk fast if you don't want to do time.*

double *n.* a drink consisting of two servings of liquor. □ *Make mine a double, bartender.* □ *Sam usually has two doubles on the way home.*

double-bagger **1.** *n.* a hit good for two bases in baseball. □ *Wilbur hit a nice double-bagger in the top of the fourth.* □ *The hit was good for a double-bagger.* **2.** *n.* a very ugly person. (Cruel. With a face so ugly that it takes two paper bags to conceal it. See also **Bag your face!**; **triple-bagger**; **coyote-ugly**.) □ *Fred is what I would call a double-bagger. What a mug!* □ *I am no double-bagger!*

double-barreled slingshot *n.* a brassiere. □ *Did you see the size of that double-barreled slingshot hanging on that clothesline?*

double buffalo Go to **double nickels**.

double cross **1.** *tv.* to betray someone. (Originally a more complicated switching of sides in a conspiracy wherein the **double-crosser** sides with the victim of the conspiracy—against the original conspirator.) □ *Don't even think about double crossing me!* □ *Frank double crossed*

Mr. Big a few years back. **2.** *n.* a betrayal. (See comments with sense 1.) ☐ *He always remembered that double cross.* ☐ *It's one double cross Frank is sorry about.*

double-crosser *n.* a person who betrays someone. (Often with *dirty*. See comments at **double cross**.) ☐ *You dirty, low-down double-crosser, you!* ☐ *Frank is the classic double-crosser.*

double-decker **1.** *n.* a two-level bus. ☐ *I like to ride in double-deckers.* ☐ *Some double-deckers don't have tops.* **2.** *n.* a sandwich of two layers. ☐ *He put away a giant double-decker and a glass of milk.* ☐ *How can anybody eat a double-decker that is so thick?*

double-deuces *n.* the number 22. ☐ *The National Weather Service says it's going down to the double-deuces tonight.* ☐ *He's double-deuces today, that's right, twenty-two years old!*

double digits *n.* the range of numerals from 10 through 99. ☐ *With interest rates in the double digits, we do everything we can to avoid going into debt.* ☐ *When Billy moved into the double digits, he had some behavior problems, but when he was 19 he sort of straightened out.*

double-dipper *n.* a person who collects two salaries; a federal employee who collects a federal pension and Social Security. ☐ *The voters of the state were shocked to learn that there were no laws against double-dippers.* ☐ *The double-dippers say they weren't doing anything wrong.*

double-dome **1.** *n.* an intellectual. ☐ *It's not that what the double-domes say is wrong, it's that they are so sure that they are right that scares me.* ☐ *I'd rather be just folks than a double-dome.* **2.** *mod.* intellectual. ☐ *No more of your double-dome ideas.* ☐ *Most kids need to be exposed to double-dome profs at college for a while.*

double-gaited *mod.* weird; eccentric. ☐ *Carl is a little double-gaited at times. Tries too hard for a laugh.* ☐ *Wow, is he ever double-gaited!* ☐ *She is one of the most successful double-gaited comedians I've ever seen.*

double nickels AND **double buffalo** *n.* the number 55; the 55-mile-per-hour speed limit. (Originally citizens band radio. The buffalo is on one side of the nickel and accounts for the 5.) ☐ *You'd better travel right on those double nickels in through here. The bears are hungry.* ☐ *The double buffalo is enforced on this road.*

double saw(buck) *n.* a twenty-dollar bill. (See also **sawbuck**.) ☐ *This whole thing only cost a double sawbuck.* ☐ *Can you loan me a double sawbuck till payday?*

double six *n.* a year; a pair of six-month periods. (Streets.) ☐ *Johnny spent a double six in the slammer.* ☐ *It'll be one whole double six until I see you again.*

double take *n.* a surprised second look at something. ☐ *I did a double take and blushed.* ☐ *Fred did a double take, then recognized Tracy.*

double-trouble *n.* a very troublesome thing or person. ☐ *Oh, oh. Here comes double-trouble.* ☐ *That car you got is double-trouble.*

double up (with laughter) *in.* to laugh so hard that one bends over. ☐ *We all just doubled up with laughter.* ☐ *I doubled up when I heard the punch line.*

double whammy ['dəbəl 'mæmi] *n.* a double portion of something, especially something troublesome. (From *Li'l Abner*, a comic strip by Al Capp.) ☐ *We got a real double whammy of trouble down at the office.* ☐ *This morning was bad, but this afternoon the boss gave us a double whammy.*

douche bag **1.** *n.* a wretched and disgusting person. (Rude and derogatory.) ☐ *Don't be a douche bag. Pick up your things and go home, Chuck.* **2.** *n.* an ugly girl or woman. (Rude and derogatory.) ☐ *Look at that face! What a douche bag!*

dough [do] *n.* money. (See also **bread**.) ☐ *I got a lot of dough for that ring I found.* ☐ *I need some dough to buy groceries.*

dough head *n.* a nerd; a simpleton. ☐ *Tom, don't be such a dough head. Read the instructions and do it right.* ☐ *Fred, you are a real dough head! Why did you do that?*

dove [dɒv] *n.* someone who supports a peace-seeking U.S. defense policy. (Compare this with **hawk**.) □ *The doves want to sell the tanks and distribute the money to the poor.* □ *The hawks want to ignore the poor and the doves and buy tanks with the money.*

down 1. *mod.* depressed; melancholy. (See also **down with something**.) □ *I feel sort of down today.* □ *We're all a little down.* **2.** *mod.* [of a machine] inoperative. (Originally said of a computer.) □ *The system is down. Come back later.* □ *How long has it been down?* **3.** *tv.* to eat or drink something down quickly. □ *He downed a can of soda and burped like a thunderclap.* □ *She downed her sandwich in record time.* **4.** *tv.* to throw someone down, as in wrestling; to knock someone down as in a fight. □ *Wilbur downed his opponent and won the match.* □ *Paul downed the guy with one blow.* **5.** *mod.* behind in a score. □ *We're three points down with two minutes to play.* □ *They're twenty points down, and it looks like the Adamsville team has won.* **6.** *mod.* finished; completed; behind one. □ *Well, I've got the test down. Now what?* □ *One down and three to go.* **7.** *mod.* learned; memorized. (From sense 6.) □ *I got all the dates down pat.* □ *I've got the dates down, but not the names.* **8.** *mod.* okay; satisfactory; cool; in agreement. (See also **down (with someone)**.) The grammar error in the second example is part of the typical context.) □ *We had a fight, but we're down now.* □ *Me and him is down and always will be.* □ *This guy is really down.* **9.** *mod.* prepared; knowledgeable. (From senses 7 and 8.) □ *Are you down for the test tomorrow?* □ *Everything's down for the party.* **10.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Five beers and he was down.* □ *They were all down by midnight.* **11.** Go to **downer**.

downbeat *mod.* cool; easygoing. (Compare this with **upbeat**.) □ *He is sort of a downbeat character—no stress.* □ *I wish I was downbeat like he is.* □ *I had sort of a downbeat day. Not your typical Monday.*

downer AND **down; downie 1.** *n.* a barbiturate or a tranquilizer. (Drugs.) □ *She*

favours downers. □ *Too much booze with those downers, and you're dead.* **2.** *n.* a bad drug experience; a **down trip**. (Drugs.) □ *That stuff you gave me was a real downer.* □ *Dust is a downer for most people.* **3.** *n.* a depressing event; a bad situation; a **down trip**. □ *These cloudy days are always downers.* □ *My birthday party was a downer.*

down for the count *mod.* inactive for the duration (of something). (From boxing.) □ *I've got a terrible cold, and I think I'm down for the count.* □ *Fred is down for the count. He's in jail.*

downie Go to **downer**.

the **down low** AND the **DL** the information or explanation; the **lowdown**. (Streets.) □ *Give me the haps. What the down low?* □ *Let me in on the down low.*

down the drain *mod.* gone; wasted. □ *Well, there's 400 bucks down the drain.* □ *A lot of money went down the drain in that Wilson deal.*

Down the hatch! *exclam.* Let's drink it! (A drinking toast. See also **hatch**.) □ *Down the hatch! Have another?* □ *Bottoms up! Down the hatch!*

down time *n.* the time when a computer is not operating. (Compare this with **up time**.) □ *I can't afford a lot of down time in the system I buy.* □ *We had too much down time with the other machine.*

down to the wire *mod.* until the very last minute. □ *It came down to the wire before I turned the proposal in.* □ *We went right down to the wire on that one.*

down trip *n.* any bad experience. (See also **downer**.) □ *Today was a classic down trip.* □ *My vacation was a down trip.*

down under *n.* the area of Australia; Australia. □ *I've always wanted to visit down under.* □ *We spent Christmas down under.*

down (with someone) *mod.* friends with someone; to be okay or on good terms with someone. (*Down* = okay.) □ *It's okay. I'm down with Chuck.* □ *Chuck and I are down.*

down with something **1.** *mod.* comfortable with something; comfortable. (Usually with *get*.) □ *Let's get down with some good music.* □ *Pete wanted to get down with some grapes.* **2.** *mod.* ill with something; sick in bed with something. □ *I was down with the flu for two weeks.* □ *Fred and his wife were down with colds for weeks at a time.*

down with the haps *in.* knowing what's happening; comfortable with what's happening. (Streets.) □ *Tell me what's going on! I gotta be down with the haps.* □ *Don't ask me, bro. I ain't down with the haps around here.*

doxy ['daksɪ] *n.* a gangster's woman. (Underworld. Old.) □ *Lefty's doxy dropped off this package. It's ticking.* □ *Does Frank have a doxy?*

(Do) you eat with that mouth? **AND (Do) you kiss your momma with that mouth?** *interrog.* Do you actually eat with the mouth you use to talk that filth?; Do you actually use that filthy mouth to kiss your mother? (A catchphrase said to someone who talks dirty all the time.) □ *That's a lot of foul talk. Do you eat with that mouth?* □ *You talk dirt a lot. You eat with that mouth?*

(Do you) get my drift? *interrog.* Do you understand me? □ *Get my drift? Should I explain it again?* □ *Do you get my drift, or shall I run through it again?*

(Do) you kiss your momma with that mouth? Go to **(Do) you eat with that mouth?**

dozens Go to the **(dirty) dozens.**

DQ *n.* Dairy Queen, a trade name for a franchise fast-food store specializing in frozen desserts. (Initialism. Teens and collegiate.) □ *Let's go to DQ, okay?* □ *The DQ is closed for the winter.*

draft board *n.* a tavern; a saloon. (Alludes to draft beer.) □ *Larry is down at the draft board, slamming some beers.* □ *Let's stop in the local draft board and toss a couple.*

drafty *n.* a draft beer; beer. □ *How about a cold drafty?* □ *Another drafty, Tom?*

drag **1.** *n.* something dull and boring. □ *This day's a drag.* □ *What a drag. Let's go someplace interesting.* **2.** *n.* an annoying person; a burdensome person. (See also **schlep**.) □ *Gert could sure be a drag when she wanted.* □ *Clare was a drag whether she wanted to be or not.* **3.** *n.* a (female) date. □ *You got a drag for the dance yet?* □ *My drag finked out on me.* **4.** *n.* a puff of a cigarette. □ *He took a big drag and scratched at his tattoo.* □ *One more drag and he coughed for a while and stubbed out the fag.* **5.** *tv.* to pull or puff on a cigarette. □ *She dragged a couple and sat in the funk for a while.* □ *When she dragged a fag, you could see her relax and get straight.* **6.** *tv.* to race a car against someone; to race someone in a car. □ *I'm planning to drag you at the fairgrounds next Saturday. Better be there.* □ *I don't drag anybody anymore. I lost my license.*

drag ass around *in.* to go around looking very sad and depressed. □ *Why do you drag ass around all the time, Tom?*

drag ass (out of some place) Go to **bag ass (out of some place).**

dragged *mod.* anxious or frightened after smoking marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *The kid was dragged. You could tell he didn't have much experience with the real world.* □ *Some of these burnouts really look dragged.*

dragged out *mod.* exhausted; worn-out. □ *I feel so dragged out. I think I need some iron.* □ *After the game, the whole team was dragged out.*

draggin'-wagon *n.* a fast car; a car customized for racing. □ *My draggin'-wagon is in the shop.* □ *Your draggin'-wagon can't be driven in town, can it?*

a drag (on someone) *n.* a burden (to someone). □ *I wish you wouldn't be such a drag on your friends.* □ *I don't want to be a drag on the department.*

drain **1.** *n.* someone or something that exhausts one. □ *Harry is such a drain on me.* □ *What a drain these meetings are.* **2.** *tv.* to wear someone out. □ *Arguing like that drains me something awful.* □ *Your constant bickering is meant to drain me till I submit. Is that it?*

drain the bilge *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *Fred left quickly to drain the bilge.* □ *Who drained the bilge in the bushes?*

Drat! [dræt] *exclam.* Damn! □ *Drat! I'm late!* □ *Oh, drat! Another broken nail!*

dreamboat *n.* just the kind of lover one has always dreamed of. (Also a term of address.) □ *Oh, Pete is my dreamboat.* □ *A face man makes a great dreamboat, as long as you never get to know him.*

dreck [dræk] *n.* dirt; garbage; feces. (From German via Yiddish.) □ *What is all this dreck in the corner?* □ *I've had enough of this dreck around here. Clean it up, or I'm leaving.*

dressed to kill *mod.* dressed in fancy or stylish clothes to impress someone. □ *She is always dressed to kill.* □ *I'm never dressed to kill. I just try to be neat.*

dressed to the nines AND **dressed to the teeth** *mod.* dressed very stylishly with nothing overlooked. □ *She showed up for the picnic dressed to the nines.* □ *Clare is usually dressed to the teeth in order to impress people.*

dressed to the teeth Go to dressed to the nines.

the **drink** *n.* the water of the ocean, lake, pond, etc. □ *Stay away from the edge of the boat unless you want to fall in the drink.*

drinkies *n.* drinks; liquor. □ *Okay, kids, it's drinkies all around.* □ *What time is drinkies around here?*

Drink up! *exclam.* Finish your drink! Finish that drink, and we'll have another! □ *Okay, drink up! It's closing time.* □ *Drink up, and let's get going.*

drinkypoo ['drɪŋkɪpu] *n.* a little drink of liquor. □ *Wouldn't you like just one more drinkypoo of Madeira?* □ *Just a little drinkypoo, my dear.*

drip *n.* an oaf; a nerd. □ *Oh, yuck. He's such a drip.* □ *Bob is a drip, I guess, but he's harmless.*

drippy *mod.* weak; ineffective; undesirable. □ *Bob can be so drippy without even try-*

ing. □ *You are proposing some pretty drippy ideas.*

drive someone around the bend *tv.* to drive someone crazy. (See also (a)round the bend.) □ *This tax stuff is about to drive me around the bend.* □ *Gert tried to drive us all around the bend.*

drive someone bonkers AND **drive someone nuts** *tv.* to drive someone crazy. (See also bonkers; nuts.) □ *This cold is driving me bonkers.* □ *These tax forms are driving me nuts.*

drive someone nuts Go to drive someone bonkers.

drive someone up the wall *tv.* to frustrate someone; to drive someone to distraction. □ *These days of waiting drive me up the wall.* □ *Staying in the house drove us all up the wall.*

drive the big bus AND **drive the porcelain bus; ride the porcelain bus** *tv.* to vomit into the toilet. □ *Harry's in the john driving the big bus.* □ *Who do I hear driving the porcelain bus in the john?*

drive the porcelain bus Go to drive the big bus.

droid [droid] *n.* a robot-like person; a nerd. (From *android*.) □ *Beavis is as close to a droid as we'll ever see.* □ *The droids are taking over this campus.*

droob AND **drube** [drub] *n.* a dullard; an oaf. □ *Who's the droob standing by the punch bowl?* □ *That drube is my brother!*

drool (all) over someone or something *in.* to show enormous desire for someone or something. □ *He was just drooling all over that new car.* □ *Sam was drooling over Martha like a love-sick calf.*

droopy-drawers *n.* someone—usually a child—whose pants are falling down. (Also a term of address.) □ *Hey, droopy-drawers, pull up your pants.* □ *Jimmy is a regular droopy-drawers. Maybe he needs suspenders.*

drop 1. *tv.* to kill someone or something. □ *He dropped the deer with one shot.* □ *Lefty tried to drop the leader of the gang.*
2. *in.* to get arrested. (Underworld.) □

I'm not going to drop for you. □ *Sam dropped, but Mr. Big got him off.* **3.** *tv.* to knock someone down. □ *Jim dropped Willard with a punch to the shoulder.* □ *The swinging board hit him and dropped him.* **4.** *n.* a small drink of liquor; a small serving of liquor. □ *I'll take just another drop of that dew, if you don't mind.* □ *Can I give you another drop?* **5.** *n.* a place at which drugs, alcohol, or other contraband is left to be claimed by the recipient. □ *The police discovered the drop and waited for the runner.* □ *They switched drops constantly just in case of discovery.* **6.** *tv.* to take a drug, specifically acid. (Drugs.) □ *Ted dropped some stuff and went on a trip.* □ *Now he doesn't drop even once a month.*

drop a bomb(shell) *Go to drop a brick.*

drop a bop *tv.* to take a drug in pill form. (See also **bop**.) □ *Tyrone dropped a bop and went on his way.* □ *Wanna come over and drop a bop or two?*

drop a brick AND **drop a bomb(shell)** *tv.* to reveal startling information. □ *Tracy came in and dropped a brick that scared us all.* □ *You really dropped a bombshell!*

drop a bundle (on someone) *tv.* to spend a lot of money pleasing or entertaining someone. □ *I dropped a bundle on the candidate, and it didn't help me at all.* □ *Over the years, I've dropped a bundle on clients at that restaurant.*

drop a bundle (on something) *tv.* to pay a lot of money for something. □ *Pete dropped a bundle on this car.* □ *I always buy el cheapo. I've never dropped a bundle on anything.*

drop a dime *tv.* to inform the police of criminal activity. (Underworld. See explanation at **dime-dropper**.) □ *We were pretty sure that Tracy is the one who dropped the dime.* □ *No, almost anybody will drop a dime these days.*

Drop dead! *exclam.* No!; Beat it!; Go away and don't bother me! □ *I don't care. Just drop dead!* □ *Drop dead! Beat it!*

drop-dead 1. *mod.* stunning enough to make one drop dead. (Not literal.) □ *I had my living room done in a bright drop-*

dead red that makes your blood run cold! □ *She stood up and made this drop-dead announcement about getting married, and I thought I would just scream.* **2.** *mod.* rude, as if telling someone to drop dead. □ *I couldn't stand the boss's drop-dead attitude, so I quit.* □ *She looked at me with that kind of drop-dead look that really made me mad.*

drop-dead list *n.* an imaginary list of annoying people whom one could live happily without. □ *You are right at the top of my drop-dead list.* □ *I put Frank on my drop-dead list.*

Drop it! *exclam.* Forget it!; Never mind! □ *Never mind! Just drop it!* □ *Drop it! I should never have brought it up.*

drop one's cookies *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (See also **toss one's cookies**.) □ *The runner went off to the side and dropped her cookies.* □ *If you feel like you're going to drop your cookies, don't do it on the carpet.*

drop one's teeth *tv.* to react with great surprise. □ *I almost dropped my teeth when she told me her news.* □ *They dropped their teeth when I told them I was married.*

drop out 1. *in.* to withdraw from a conventional lifestyle. □ *Sometimes I just want to drop out and raise pigs or something.* □ *Ted dropped out and bought a farm.* **2.** *in.* to quit school or some organization. □ *I dropped out before I got promoted.* □ *Don't drop out of school. You'll regret it.* **3.** AND **dropout** *n.* someone who has dropped out of school. □ *Dropouts find it very hard to get a job.* □ *Some dropouts make great successes of themselves, but not very many.*

dropped *mod.* arrested. □ *Max was dropped only once last year.* □ *He got himself dropped on a speeding ticket.*

drop someone *tv.* to knock someone down; to punch and knock down a person. □ *Fred dropped Bruno with one punch to the jaw.* □ *Frank lost his cool and dropped Sam.*

drop someone or something like a hot potato *tv.* to disassociate oneself with

someone or something instantly. □ *When we learned of the conviction, we dropped him like a hot potato.* □ *I dropped the idea like a hot potato.*

drop someone some knowledge *tv.* to give someone some information. □ *Come on, What's the 411. Drop some knowledge on me.*

drop the ball *tv.* to fail at something; to allow something to fail. □ *I didn't want to be the one who dropped the ball, but I knew that someone would flub up.* □ *Sam dropped the ball, and we lost the contract.*

drube Go to droob.

drug 1. *in.* to use drugs. (Drugs.) □ *There is no way that she will stop drugging by herself.* □ *Why does she drug so heavily?* **2.** AND **drug out** *mod.* down; depressed. □ *Man, am I drug!* □ *We are all drug out after that meeting.*

druggie AND **druggy** *n.* a drug addict or user. □ *That druggy loves to hang out here.* □ *There are too many druggies in this neighborhood.*

drughead *n.* a heavy drug user; an addict. (Drugs.) □ *They find a drughead in the river about once a month.* □ *The drugheads are taking over this neighborhood.*

drug lord *n.* a drug dealer high up in the distribution chain. □ *The drug lords like Mr. Big seem never to get arrested.* □ *Frank had always admired the sheer power of the domestic drug lord.*

drugola [drəg'olə] *n.* a bribe paid by drug dealers to the police for protection. (Patterned on **payola**.) □ *Frank pays a little drugola, but mostly the cops never come into this area anyway.* □ *A lot of drugola is simply paid in drugs.*

drug out Go to drug.

drugstore cowboy *n.* a male who hangs around drugstores and other public places trying to impress women. □ *You don't see the old drugstore cowboys around this part of town anymore.* □ *The drugstore cowboys of years ago are all hidden away shooting up something.*

drunk back *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; very drunk. □ *The whole bunch was drunk back by midnight.* □ *Larry was drunk back and couldn't drive us home.*

drunk tank *n.* a jail cell where drunks are kept. (See also **junk tank**.) □ *A couple of hours in the drunk tank really made me think about alcohol.* □ *They hose down the drunk tank every hour on Friday and Saturday nights.*

dry 1. *mod.* sober; no longer alcohol intoxicated. □ *Tracy's dry, I hear.* □ *How long will Ernie stay dry?* **2.** *n.* a prohibitionist; an abstainer from alcohol. □ *The dries are in an increasing majority.* □ *Do you know even one dry?* **3.** *mod.* having to do with a region where alcoholic beverages cannot be purchased. (Compare this with **wet**.) □ *Is Kansas still dry?* □ *I hate to get stuck in a dry town.* □ *Some small towns are dry, but not many.*

dry-as-dust *mod.* dull; lifeless. □ *I can't take another one of his dry-as-dust lectures.* □ *All her ideas are dry-as-dust.* □ *Some dry-as-dust old crock talked endlessly about old bones.*

Dry up! *exclam.* Shut up!; Go away and don't bother me! □ *Aw, dry up! I've heard enough.* □ *Dry up and beat it!*

dub [dəb] **1.** *tv.* & *in.* to duplicate something; to copy something. □ *Dub this and keep a copy yourself.* □ *He's busy dubbing right now.* **2.** *n.* a duplicate; a copy. □ *The dub was so poor we couldn't understand the dialog.* □ *This is an almost perfect dub of the original.*

dubage AND **doobage** ['dubiɪdʒ] *n.* drugs; marijuana. (See also **doobie**.) □ *I detect the smell of dubage in the hallway!* □ *Bill kept his doobage in an old shoe in his closet.*

dub-dub-dub AND **dubya-dubya-dubya** *n.* double-u, double-u, double-u, the letters WWW found in World Wide Web addresses. (The second version is merely a colloquial pronunciation of double-u, and neither is commonly written or printed.) □ *Our address is dub-dub-dub dot reindeer dot com.* □ *Look me up at dubya-dubya-dubya dot wmu dot org.*

duby Go to doobie.

dubya-dubya-dubya Go to dub-dub-dub.

ducats AND **duc-ducs** ['dəkəts AND 'dəkdəks] *n.* money. (See also **gold**.) □ *Who's got enough ducats to pay for the tickets?* □ *I've got duc-ducs galore!*

duc-ducs Go to ducats.

duck 1. *n.* a male urinal bedpan. (Hospitals.) □ *Somebody in room 212 needs a duck.* **2.** *tv.* to avoid someone or something. □ *Clare is ducking her responsibility.* **3.** Go to **deduck**. **4.** *n.* a ticket. (Probably akin to **ducats**.) □ *Did you buy the ducks early, or do we have to stand in line?*

duck-butt 1. *n.* a very large pair of buttocks. □ *What an enormous duck-butt!* **2.** AND **dusty butt** *n.* a short person, especially someone with large buttocks. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *The duck-butt who just came in reminds me of somebody I once knew.* □ *Hey, dusty butt, where you been keeping yourself?*

ducks *n.* tickets. □ *You got the ducks for Friday?* □ *There were no ducks left.*

duck-squeezer *n.* someone with strong concerns about the environment and conservation, especially rescuing oil-covered ducks. (See also **eagle freak**.) □ *Some duck-squeezers were complaining about what the new dam might do.* □ *The duck-squeezers were picketing the dam site.*

ducky *mod.* okay; good. (Often used sarcastically.) □ *Now, isn't that just ducky?* □ *That's a ducky idea!*

dud [dəd] *n.* a failure; something that fails to perform as intended. (See also **duds**.) □ *The whole idea turned out to be a dud.* □ *The play was a dud from start to finish.*

dude [dud] **1.** *n.* a male friend; a guy. (Also a term of address.) □ *Who's the dude with the cowboy boots?* □ *Hey, dude, what's happ?* **2.** *mod.* excellent. (See also **dudical**.) □ *The game was severely dude! We won!* □ *This whole day has been dude and fat.*

dudette ['dudet] *n.* a young woman; the feminine of **dude**. □ *Susan is one fine-*

looking dudette. □ *The place was filled with good-looking dudettes, just waiting for the right guy to come along.*

dude up *in.* to dress up. □ *Let's get all duded up and go out.* □ *I got to dude up a little before we go.*

dudical ['dudɪkl] *mod.* really good. (Derived from **dude**.) □ *It is truly dudical to see you here, Dave.* □ *What a dudical crib!*

duds [dɒdz] *n.* clothes. (Folksy. Always plural.) □ *Are those new duds?* □ *I need some new duds, too.*

dufer Go to doofer.

duff [dʌf] *n.* the buttocks. □ *Get off your duff and get busy.* □ *Don't you get tired of sitting around on your duff?*

duffer ['dʌfə] **1.** *n.* a foolish oaf; a bungler. □ *Some old duffer is weeding our garden for us. He's lost, I think.* □ *Pete's just a duffer—he's not really serious at it.* **2.** *n.* an unskilled golfer. □ *Those duffers up ahead are holding up the game.* □ *Don't call me a duffer!*

duffis Go to doofus.

duke *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (Collegiate. Rhymes with **puke**. See also **dukes**.) □ *He left to duke. I saw how green he was.* □ *She's in the john, duking like a goat.*

dukes 1. *n.* the fists. □ *Okay, brother, put your dukes up.* □ *The guy's got dukes like hams.* **2.** *n.* the knees. □ *He went down on his dukes and prayed for all sorts of good stuff.* □ *He cracked one of his dukes on the railing.*

duke someone out *tv.* to knock someone out. (See also **dukes**.) □ *Wilbur tried to duke the guy out first.* □ *Bob duked out the mugger with a jab to the cheek.*

duky ['duki] *n.* feces. (Originally black and primarily juvenile.) □ *The doggie made duky in the backyard.* □ *Mommy, there's duky in Jimmy's diaper.*

dull as dishwater *mod.* very dull. □ *She's cute, but dull as dishwater.* □ *Life can be as dull as dishwater.*

dull roar *n.* a relatively quiet degree of noisiness. □ *Hey, simmer down to a dull roar!* □ *Try to keep it at a dull roar if you can.*

dullsville ['dɒlzvɪl] **1.** *n.* a dull place. □ *This place is just dullsville!* □ *Home is dullsville to a teenager.* **2.** *n.* something dull. □ *The lecture was downtown dullsville for sure.* □ *When each movie I see turns into dullsville, I want to give up seeing them.*

dumb-ass AND **stupid-ass** **1.** *mod.* stupid; dumb. □ *That was a real dumb-ass thing to do.* **2.** *n.* a stupid person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Don't be such a dumb-ass! You know what I mean!*

dumbbell *n.* a stupid oaf. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Look, dumbbell, pay attention!* □ *I'm afraid I come on like a dumbbell sometimes.*

dumb bunny *n.* a stupid person; an oaf. □ *Who's the dumb bunny in the double-knits?* □ *Don't be a dumb bunny. Pay attention to what's going on.*

dumb cluck *n.* a stupid oaf; a person as stupid as a chicken. □ *Sally is not a dumb cluck, but she is sort of slow.* □ *What a dumb cluck!*

dumb-dodo ['dɒm'dodo] *n.* a very stupid person. □ *What a dumb-dodo you are!* □ *I'm no dumb-dodo!*

dumb Dora *n.* a stupid woman; a giddy woman. □ *I'm no dumb Dora. I'm just learning.* □ *Who's the dumb Dora with the blonde hair and long fingernails?*

dumb-dumb AND **dum-dum** *n.* a stupid oaf; a dullard. □ *You can be such a dumb-dumb without even trying.* □ *Marvin is no dum-dum. He just looks that way.*

dumbhead *n.* a stupid person. □ *Bob is no dumbhead, but he sure is strange.* □ *I'm no dumbhead. Just a little slow.*

dumbo ['dʌmbə] **1.** *n.* a stupid oaf. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Say, dumbo, could you move out of the way?* □ *Who's the dumbo in the plaid pants?* **2.** *n.* someone with large ears. (Also a rude term of address. The name of a cartoon character elephant whose ears were large enough to fly with.) □ *Wow, look at that*

dumbo with size twenty ears! □ *I better get new glasses, or I'm going to be a dumbo when my head starts growing.*

dumb ox *n.* a large and stupid person, usually a man. □ *What does that dumb ox want?* □ *Do you think I'm going to argue with that big dumb ox?*

dumbshit **1.** *n.* a very stupid person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *He's a dumbshit. He can't do any better than that.* **2.** *mod.* stupid; dumb. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That was really a dumbshit thing to do.*

dumbski ['dʌmski] **1.** *n.* a stupid person. □ *He's not the dumbski he seems to be.* □ *They used to think Gert was a dumbski.* **2.** *mod.* stupid; dumb. □ *What a dumbski jerk!* □ *It is not a dumbski idea!*

dum-dum Go to dumb-dumb.

dummy **1.** *n.* an empty liquor or beer bottle. □ *Toss your dummies over here, and I'll put them in the bin.* □ *That was a sixty dummy party. I counted.* **2.** *n.* a cigarette butt. □ *The tramp collected dummies until he had enough for a smoke.* □ *The guy tossed a dummy out the window of his car.* **3.** *n.* a stupid person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Don't be such a dummy.* □ *I'm no dummy!* **4.** *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He held his hands over his dummy and ran for the bedroom.*

dummy up *in.* to refuse to talk. (Underworld. See also **clam up**.) □ *Tracy dummed up when they got her into the station.* □ *Rocko dummed up right away. He's a real thoroughbred.*

dump **1.** *tv. & in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *He ran straight to the john and dumped his dinner.* □ *She turned green, and I knew she was going to dump.* **2.** *in.* to defecate. (Usually objectionable. See also **dump one's load**.) □ *He dumped and then came back.* □ *He said he had to dump.* **3.** *n.* an act of defecation. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He said he needed a dump.* □ *He had a dump and then came back.* **4.** *n.* a low or cheap establishment; a **joint**. □ *I want out of this dump.* □ *My mama didn't raise me to spend the rest of my days in a run-down dump like this.*

dump all over someone or something

Go to do a dump on someone or something.

dumped on 1. *mod.* maligned; abused. □

I really feel dumped on. □ *The jerk who designed this stupid congested stairway hasn't been dumped on enough.* **2.** *mod.* snowed on. □ *The entire Midwest was dumped on with about ten inches of snow.* □ *Our town really got dumped on last night.*

Dump it. *tv.* throw it away. □ *We don't need it. Get rid of it! Dump it!***dump one's load 1.** *tv.* to empty one's

stomach; to vomit. □ *He's in the john dumping his load.* □ *Why can't he learn to dump his load silently?* **2.** *tv.* to defecate. (Usually objectionable. Also with a load.) □ *He had to go dump a load.*

dump on someone 1. *in.* to scold someone severely. □

Please, don't dump on me. I've had a hard day. **2.** *in.* to place a large burden of guilt or grief on someone; to give someone all of one's troubles. □ *She had had a bad day, so she dumped on me for about an hour.*

dump on someone or something 1. *in.*

to snow on someone or something. □ *Well, it dumped on us again last night.* □ *The cold front dumped on the northeast again today.* **2.** Go to do a dump on someone or something.

dupe 1. *n.* a potential victim of a confidence trick; a **patsy**. □

The crooks found a good dupe and started their scheme. □ *I don't want to be a dupe for anybody.* **2.** *tv.* to trick someone; to swindle someone. □ *You tried to dupe me!* □ *I did not try to dupe you. It was an honest mistake.* **3.** *n.* a duplicate; a copy. □ *Make a dupe of this before you send it off.* □ *I've got a dupe in the files.* **4.** *tv.* to duplicate something; to copy something. □ *Dupe this and send the original back.* □ *Just a minute, I have to dupe a contract for the boss.*

dust 1. *in.* to leave; to depart. □

Well, it's late. I gotta dust. □ *They dusted out of there at about midnight.* **2.** *tv.* to defeat someone; to win out over someone. □ *We dusted the other team, eighty-seven to*

fifty-four. □ *In the second game, they dusted us.* **3.** *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld.) □ *The gang set out to dust the witnesses, but only got one of them.* □ *Max knew that Sam was out to dust him.* **4.** *n.* fine tobacco for rolling cigarettes. (Prisons.) □ *How about a little dust for this candy bar?* □ *I don't want dust. I need chocolate.* **5.** *n.* a powdered drug; heroin, phencyclidine (PCP), cocaine; fine cannabis. (Drugs.) □ *It's the dust that can really do you damage.* □ *Wally got hold of some kind of dust and took it to the police.* **6.** *tv.* to add a powdered drug to the end of a (tobacco or cannabis) cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *Pete dusted one, then lit it up.* □ *Frank never dusts them before he sells them.* **7.** *n.* worthless matter. □ *You keep acting like that and you'll be dust.* □ *John said that Frank was going to be dust if Mr. Big ever heard about what happened.*

duster *n.* the buttocks. (See also **rusty-dusty**.) □ *She fell down right on her duster.* □ *My duster is sore from all that riding.*

dust of angels Go to angel dust.

dust someone off *tv.* to give someone a good pounding or beating. □ *Sam threatened to dust Frank off.* □ *Bob dusted off Larry; then he started for Tom.*

dust someone's pants *tv.* to spank someone, usually a child. □ *My dad will dust my pants if he hears about this.* □ *I'm too old for somebody to dust my pants.*

dust-up *n.* a fight. □ *Frank got in a dust-up with Bruno.* □ *There was a dust-up at the party that ruined the evening for everyone.*

dusty butt Go to duck-butt.

the **Dutch act** AND the **Dutch cure** *n.* suicide. □ *Well, Ken took the Dutch cure last week.* □ *She had tried the Dutch act many times in the past.*

Dutch courage 1. *n.* liquor; false courage from drinking liquor. □ *A couple of shots of Dutch courage, and he was ready to face anything.* □ *How about a little Dutch courage to help you through the first act?* **2.** *n.* drugs. □ *Max deals in Dutch*

courage, as he calls it. □ Too much Dutch courage and you're in permanent trouble.

Dutch cure Go to Dutch act.

Dutch treat *n.* an outing for two or more where the cost is split among the participants, either evenly or in proportion to what is consumed. (See also **go Dutch**.) □ *I propose a Dutch treat to celebrate the day.* □ *We had a Dutch treat, which gave us a chance to get to know one another better.*

Dutch uncle *n.* someone who gives avuncular advice; a man who gives advice with the directness of one of one's own relatives. □ *If I can be a Dutch uncle for a minute, I could give you some good advice.* □ *Dutch uncles can be as big of a pain as parents.*

dweeb [dwib] **1.** *n.* an earnest student. (Collegiate.) □ *Don't call Bob a dweeb! Even if he is one.* □ *The dweebs get all the*

A's, so why work? **2.** *n.* a strange or eccentric person; a **nerd**. □ *This place is filled with dweebs of all sizes.* □ *Here comes a dweeb. Ask him for some money.*

dyke Go to dike.

dykey Go to dikey.

dynamic duo [daɪ'næmɪk 'duo] *n.* a very special pair of people or things. (From the *Batman* television program. Used mostly for humor.) □ *The dynamic duo, Beavis and Fred, showed up late and without the beer.* □ *Next time tell the dynamic duo to come earlier.*

dynamite **1.** *n.* anything potentially powerful; a drug, news, a person. □ *This chick is really dynamite!* □ *The story about the scandal was dynamite and kept selling papers for a month.* **2.** *mod.* excellent; powerful. □ *I want some more of your dynamite enchiladas, please.* □ *These tacos are dynamite, too.*

E

eager-beaver *n.* a person who is very eager to do something. □ *Rocko is an eager-beaver when it comes to collecting money for Mr. Big.* □ *The eager-beavers were trying to buy tickets yesterday!*

eagle *n.* a dollar bill. (From the picture of the eagle on the back.) □ *This thing ain't worth 4 eagles!* □ *The lady tipped me two eagles for carrying her bags.*

eagle-eye **1.** *n.* a busybody; a person who watches or monitors other people's actions: a floorwalker, a detective, a hall-monitor. □ *Some old eagle-eye across the street saw me standing in the cold and called my wife who came down and let me in.* □ *The store detective is an eagle-eye and caught the kleptomaniac.* **2.** *n.* an eye or eyes with very keen vision. □ *Keep your eagle-eye trained on the entrance.* □ *My eagle-eye tells me there's trouble over there.*

eagle freak *n.* someone with strong concerns about the environment and conservation, especially the preservation of the eagle. (A play on **eco freak**.) □ *The eagle freaks oppose building the dam.* □ *They call me an eagle freak, which doesn't bother me at all.*

ear candy *n.* soft and pleasant popular music; music that is sweet to the ear. □ *I find that kind of ear candy more annoying than heavy metal.* □ *People joke about it, but ear candy is restful.*

ear-duster *n.* a gossip person. □ *Sally is sort of an ear-duster, but she's all heart.* □ *I can be an ear-duster, I know, but have you heard about Sally and her you-know-what?*

earful ['ɪrfʊl] **1.** *n.* a tremendous amount of gossip. □ *I got a big earful about Sally.* □

I can give you an earful about the mayor.

2. *n.* a scolding. □ *Her mother gave her an earful when she finally got home.* □ *Tom got an earful for his part in the prank.*

ear hustling *n.* eavesdropping. □ *Your ear hustling will get you in trouble, especially when people are talking about you.*

earl [ɛrl] *in.* to vomit. (Onomatopoeic.) □ *I think I gotta go earl!* □ *Who's earling in the john?*

early beam(s) *n.* dawn; early morning. (Streets.) □ *I always come to in the early beam.* □ *He was away every day, early black to early beam.*

early bird **1.** *n.* a person who gets up early. □ *I never miss sunrise. I'm an early bird.* □ *The early birds saw the corpse on the street and called the cops.* **2.** *n.* a person who arrives early. □ *The early birds get the best seats.* □ *There were some early birds who arrived before the tea things were laid.* **3.** *mod.* having to do with early arrival. □ *Early bird arrivals will be given a free cup of coffee.* □ *The early bird special this week is a free six-pack of pop for the first 100 visitors.*

early black *n.* dusk; early evening. (Streets.) □ *I'll be back to my crib about early black.* □ *He was away every day, early black to early beams.*

earp AND **urp** **1.** *in.* to vomit. □ *She went over by the bushes and earped and earped.* **2.** *n.* vomit. □ *God, there's earp right there on the sidewalk.*

Earp slop, bring the mop. *tv.* Someone has vomited. (Juvenile catchphrase.) □ *See what's in the hall? Earp slop, bring the mop.* □ *Earp slop, bring the mop. Somebody was sick.*

earth pads *n.* shoes. (Streets.) □ *Where are your earth pads, girlfriend? You can't go to town with nekkid feet!* □ *Where'd you get those fly earth pads, bro?*

Earth to someone. *phr.* Hello someone, are you listening? (A means of getting the attention of someone who is ignoring you or who is daydreaming. As if one were on the earth, trying to contact someone in a spaceship. The implication is that the person being addressed is **spacy**.) □ *Earth to Mom! Earth to Mom! What's for dinner?* □ *Earth to Fred! Are you asleep? Say something, Fred!*

easy *mod.* easy to please; flexible. □ *Don't worry about me. I'm easy.* □ *Fred's easy. He'll eat anything.*

Easy does it. *1. phr.* Calm down.; Relax. □ *Chill, man, easy does it.* □ *Easy does it! Relax and go slow!* *2. phr.* Be gentle.; Handle with care. □ *Easy does it. Go slow, and you won't dent anything.* □ *Easy does it. Two people can handle this heavy old thing if they go slow.*

easy make *n.* someone who can be copulated with without much trouble. □ *She's got a reputation as an easy make.*

easy mark *n.* a likely victim. □ *Martin looks like an easy mark, but he's really quite savvy.* □ *Mary is an easy mark because she is so unsuspecting.*

easy money *n.* money earned or gained with little or no difficulty. □ *You know where I can get some easy money?* □ *All you guys want easy money. Don't you want to work for it?*

easy street *n.* a place or position in life where living is easy. (See also **fat city**; **on easy street**.) □ *Easy street is no place for an active guy like Sam.* □ *Easy street is exactly what I want out of life.*

eat 1. *tv.* [for something] to bother or worry someone. □ *What's eating you, Bill?* □ *Nothing's eating me. I'm just the nervous type.* **2.** *tv.* to absorb the cost or expense of something. □ *It was our mistake, and we'll have to eat it.* □ *We'll eat the costs on this one. It's the least we can do.* **3.** *tv.* to perform oral sex on someone.

(Usually objectionable.) □ *She said she wanted to eat me!*

eat at the Y *in.* to perform oral sex on a woman. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Hey, sailor, you wanna eat at the Y?*

eat crow *tv.* to display total humility, especially when shown to be wrong. □ *Well, it looks like I was wrong, and I'm going to have to eat crow.* □ *I'll be eating crow if I'm not shown to be right.*

eat face *tv.* to kiss deeply. (See also **suck face**.) □ *There were some kids eating face over in the corner.* □ *Tim and Karen were in the backseat eating face.*

Eat me! *tv.* <an expression meaning roughly *suck my genitals*> (Usually objectionable.) □ *Eat me, you creep!*

eat nails *tv.* to look and act really tough or angry. □ *Sam looked mad enough to eat nails.* □ *They were all eating nails by the time the IRS got the mess straightened out.*

eat one's hat *tv.* to do something extraordinary. □ *If she wins, I'll eat my hat.* □ *I'll eat my hat if our advertisement actually brings us a president.*

eat one's heart out 1. *tv.* to suffer from sorrow or grief. □ *She has been eating her heart out over that jerk ever since he ran away with Tracy.* □ *Don't eat your heart out. You really didn't like him that much, did you?* **2.** *tv.* to suffer from envy or jealousy. (Usually a command.) □ *Yeah, this one's all mine. Eat your heart out!* □ *Eat your heart out! I won it fair and square.*

Eat shit! *tv.* Drop dead! (Usually objectionable.) □ *Eat shit, mother-fucker!*

eat someone's lunch *tv.* to best someone; to defeat, outwit, or win against someone. (In the way that a school bully takes away children's lunches and eats them at recess.) □ *The upstart ABC Computer Company is eating IBM's lunch.*

eat something up 1. *tv.* to consume something rapidly, such as food or money. □ *Running this household eats my income up.* □ *The car really eats up gas.* **2.** *tv.* to believe something. □ *Those people really eat that stuff up about tax reduction.* □ *They'll eat up almost anything you tell*

them. **3.** *tv.* to appreciate something. □ *The audience really ate it up.* □ *The stuff about the federal budget went over well.* *They really ate up the whole story.*

eat up *in.* to eat in enjoyment. (Usually a command.) □ *Come on, now. Sit down and eat up!* □ *Eat up! There's plenty more where this came from.*

eco freak AND **eco nut** ['iko frik AND 'iko nət] *n.* someone with strong concerns about the environment and conservation. (Mildly derogatory. From *ecology*.) □ *They call me an eco freak, which is okay by me.* □ *It's we eco nuts who think about the future of our planet.*

eco nut Go to **eco freak**.

Ecstasy ['ekstəsi] *n.* a hallucinogen similar to **LSD**. (Drugs.) □ *Chemicals with names like "Ecstasy" are being put on the streets every day.* □ *Ecstasy is just one of a dozen drugs with similar formulas.*

eddress *n.* an electronic address. □ *Please tell me your eddress so I can send you some e-mail.*

edge *n.* drunkenness; the early stage of intoxication from alcohol or drugs. (See also **have an edge on**.) □ *She was beginning to show a little edge, but she obviously still could drive.* □ *The edge was starting, so Kelly slowed down her drinking.*

edged *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *They set out to be edged by midnight.* □ *We were edged and full of rich food. We needed only to sleep.*

edgy *mod.* nervous; anxious and uncertain. □ *I feel sort of edgy about the race.* □ *I'm just an edgy guy.* □ *Don't let yourself get so edgy.*

effing AND **F-ing** *mod.* fucking. (Usually objectionable.) □ *What an effing stupid idea!* □ *Of all the F-ing stupid things to do!*

effing around AND **F-ing around** *in.* fucking around; messing around. (See also **fuck around**. Usually objectionable.) □ *They were F-ing around with the switch, and turned it on accidentally.*

egg-beater 1. *n.* an outboard boat motor. □ *My egg-beater has been acting up, so I didn't go out on the lake today.* □ *By the time you get about twenty egg-beaters on the lake at once, it's really pretty noisy.* **2.** *n.* a helicopter. (See also **rotorhead**.) □ *The egg-beater landed on the hospital roof.* □ *I would think that egg-beaters all over the place would disturb the patients.*

egghead *n.* an intellectual person. □ *The eggheads aren't exactly taking over the world.* □ *My uncle was an egghead, but nobody in our family thought he knew very much.*

egg-sucker *n.* a flatterer; a sycophant. □ *The guy is a chronic egg-sucker. Ignore him.* □ *Who's the egg-sucker who brought the teacher candy?*

ego trip *n.* a public expression of one's feelings of importance or superiority. □ *The guy is on another ego trip. Pay no attention.* □ *Sorry, I guess I'm on another ego trip.*

ego tripper *n.* a person who habitually goes on an **ego trip**. □ *Not another ego tripper running for public office!* □ *You have to be an ego tripper to be a palm-presser.*

eighteen-wheeler *n.* a large trailer truck. (There are a total of eighteen wheels on the cab and trailer.) □ *An eighteen-wheeler almost ran me off the road.* □ *The eighteen-wheelers rule the road at night.*

the **eighty-eight** *n.* a piano. (Pianos have 88 keys.) □ *Sam can really beat the eighty-eight.*

eighty-six AND **86** *tv.* to dispose of someone or something; to **nix** someone or something. □ *Please take this out and 86 it.* □ *He wants \$400? 86 that! We can't afford it.*

elbow-bending *n.* drinking liquor; drinking liquor to excess. □ *She spends quite a bit of time at elbow-bending.* □ *That's a lot of elbow-bending for one sitting.*

elbow-grease *n.* effort. □ *Put out a little elbow-grease.* □ *All this job needs is a little more elbow-grease.*

el cheapo [el 'tʃipo] **1.** *n.* the cheap one; the cheapest one. (Mock Spanish.) □ *I don't want one of those el cheapos.* □ *I can only afford el cheapo.* **2.** *mod.* cheap. □ *The el cheapo brand won't last.* □ *This is el cheapo. I don't want it.* □ *Is this the el cheapo model?*

electrified *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Her eyes were staring straight ahead, and I knew she was electrified.* □ *By midnight we were all electrified.*

elevated *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; tipsy. □ *Jerry was too elevated to drive home.* □ *Sam was elevated from the drinking he did.*

elevator music *n.* dull, uninteresting music of the type that can be heard in elevators or shops. (As compared to exciting jazz or rock.) □ *I don't want to have to hear elevator music all day.* □ *Elevator music is better than listening to someone chewing food.*

eliminated **1.** *mod.* killed. □ *Mr. Big wanted Frank eliminated.* □ *When Frank is eliminated, there will be no competition.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *By midnight, Wally was eliminated.* □ *How can anybody get eliminated on four beers?*

(el) primo [(el) 'primo] *mod.* [of something] top quality. (From Spanish for the first.) □ *This stuff is primo.* □ *I want some more of that el primo C.*

em AND **emm** [ɛm] *n.* an empty liquor bottle. (See also **knock someone's block off**.) □ *Put your ems in the garbage, not on the floor.* □ *Whose emms are all these?*

embalmed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *By morning they were all embalmed.* □ *Bob was too embalmed to stand up.*

embalming fluid *n.* strong liquor; raw whiskey. □ *Jed seemed to favor some cheap embalming fluid as his poison.* □ *Bar-tender, pour out this embalming fluid and get me your best.*

[emoticon] See the discussion at **Smiley**.

empties *n.* empty bottles. □ *Throw your empties in the trash.* □ *Whose empties are these, and how many are there?*

empty-nesters *n.* parents whose children have grown and moved out. □ *There are a few adjustments that empty-nesters have to make.* □ *I don't mind being an empty-nester. There's more room.*

end *n.* the final insult; too much; the last straw. □ *This is just the end. I'm leaving.* □ *When she poured her drink down my back, that was the end.*

end of the ball game *n.* the end of everything. □ *Well, the car broke down. I guess that's the end of the ball game.* □ *It looked like the end of the ball game as we sped too fast around the curve.*

ends **1.** *n.* money. (Streets.) □ *You got enough ends to get you through the week?* □ *We don't have enough ends to pay the gas bill.* **2.** *n.* shoes. □ *You even got holes in your ends.* □ *Could you use some new ends?*

enforcer *n.* a bully; a thug or bodyguard. □ *Sam is the perfect enforcer. Meaner than all get out.* □ *Rocko is too tender-hearted to be a good enforcer.*

enhanced *mod.* high on marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *Frank is sort of enhanced, as usual.* □ *Fred is enhanced by dinnertime each day.*

Enough, already! *exclam.* That is enough! Stop! □ *Please stop! Enough, already!*

equalizer *n.* a gun; a pistol. (Underworld.) □ *Rocko carried an equalizer, but wouldn't dream of using it.* □ *An equalizer can be dangerous in Max's business.*

erase *tv.* to kill someone. □ *Sam had orders to erase Frank.* □ *Mr. Big decided who was gonna erase who.*

erb Go to **herb**.

Ervine Go to **Irv**.

ESAD! *tv.* Eat shit and die!: take what's coming to you. (Usually objectionable.) □ *All right, you bastard, ESAD!*

eternal checkout *n.* death. (Usually with the.) □ *When the time comes for the eternal checkout, I hope I am ready to go.* □ *Hank knew the eternal checkout was just around the corner, and he suddenly got religion.*

eternity-box *n.* a coffin. □ *When I'm in my eternity-box, then you can have my stereo.* □ *I have my eternity-box all picked out.*

euchre ['jʊkə] *tv.* to cheat or deceive someone. □ *Those guys'll try to euchre you, so watch out.* □ *I think the clerk euchred me.*

evened out *mod.* back to normal; restored to sanity. □ *When things are evened out after the holidays, we can settle down.* □ *Finally, at about age thirty, you could say that Sam was evened out.*

even-Steven 1. *mod.* evenly divided. □ *He made the two piles of diamonds even-Steven and then let me chose which one I wanted.* □ *The cake is not exactly cut even-Steven.* **2.** *mod.* even; balanced. □ *Now we're even-Steven.* □ *Now that we've given each other black eyes, are we even-Steven?*

everything from soup to nuts *n.* everything imaginable. □ *It looks like she brought everything from soup to nuts.* □ *I have everything from soup to nuts in my briefcase.*

evidence *n.* liquor. (Usually with *the*. Incorporated into a suggestion that the evidence be destroyed by drinking it.) □ *There is only one thing to do with evidence like this, and that's drink it.* □ *They knocked back all the evidence very quickly.*

evil *mod.* excellent. (See also **wicked**.) □ *This wine is really evil!* □ *Man, what evil fronts!*

ex [ɛks] *n.* a former spouse or lover. □ *My ex is in town, but we don't talk much anymore.* □ *Her ex remarried.*

Excellent! *exclam.* Fine! (Like **awesome**, this expression is a standard word used frequently in slang contexts.) □ *A new stereo? Excellent!* □ *Excellent! Way rad!*

Excuse me for breathing! Go to (Well,) pardon me for living!

Excuse me for living! Go to (Well,) pardon me for living!

Excuse my French. Go to Pardon my French.

exec [ɛg'zɛk] *n.* an executive. □ *The execs are well-treated around here.* □ *They are even firing the execs now.*

expense *n.* a baby; a child. □ *The little expense just cries, craps, and chows.* □ *How many expenses you got in your crib?*

eyeball *tv.* to look hard at someone or something. □ *I eyeballed the contract and saw the figures.* □ *The two eyeballed each other and walked on.*

eyeball to eyeball *mod.* face to face. □ *They approached each other eyeball to eyeball and frowned.* □ *Let's talk more when we are eyeball to eyeball.*

eyeful *n.* the sight of something that one was not meant to see. □ *I got an eyeful of that contract. Yikes! What a giveaway!* □ *She really gave us an eyeful. Shame.*

eye-in-the-sky *n.* an overhead surveillance camera, usually in a dome; a traffic police helicopter. □ *The cops used an eye-in-the-sky to get the evidence and make the arrest.*

eye-opener 1. *n.* a real surprise. □ *Her confession was a real eye-opener.* □ *This day has been an eye-opener for me.* **2.** *n.* a wake-up drink of liquor; a strong drink any time. □ *He knocked back a quick eye-opener and finished dressing.* □ *One eye-opener led to another.*

eye-popper 1. *n.* something astonishing. □ *The description of the theft was a real eye-popper.* □ *What an eye-popper of a story!* **2.** *n.* a very good-looking woman or girl. □ *Isn't that foxy lady an eye-popper?* □ *I may not be an eye-popper, but my virtue is exemplary.*

eyewash 1. *n.* nonsense; deception. □ *Aw, that's just a lot of eyewash!* □ *It's not eyewash! It's true!* **2.** *n.* liquor. □ *How about some of that nice eyewash?* □ *You've been putting away a lot of that eyewash, haven't you?*

F

fab [fæb] *mod.* fabulous. □ *Man, what a fab stereo!* □ *Your pad is not what I'd call fab. Just okay.*

face card *n.* an important person; a self-important person. (As with the royal characters in playing cards.) □ *Who's the face card getting out of the benz?* □ *Mr. Big is the face card in the local mob.*

faced **1.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (From **shit-faced**.) □ *Lord, is he faced!* □ *Who is that guy on the corner who looks so faced?* **2.** *mod.* rejected by a member of the opposite sex. (Collegiate.) □ *I've been faced again, and I hate it!* □ *Sally was faced by Todd, and she won't speak to him or anybody else.*

(face) fungus *n.* whiskers; a beard. □ *If John would shave off that face fungus, he'd look a lot better.* □ *What do you need all that fungus for anyway?*

face man *n.* a good-looking young man with no personality. (Collegiate.) □ *Harry is just a face man and as dull as dishwater.* □ *Norm is the perfect face man—all looks and no brains.*

face-off *n.* a confrontation. (From hockey.) □ *For a minute it looked like we were headed toward a nasty face-off.* □ *The face-off continued for a few moments till both of them realized that there was no point in fighting.*

face the music *tv.* to receive the rebuke that is due one. □ *You had better go in and face the music now.* □ *You have to face the music eventually.*

face time *n.* time spent face to face with someone. (As opposed to over the telephone or by email, etc.) □ *I need to have more face time with my children.*

facilities *n.* toilet facilities. □ *Where are the facilities around here?* □ *Can I use your facilities?*

fack [fæk] *in.* to state the facts; to tell (someone) the truth. (Black.) □ *That dude is not facking with me.* □ *Now is the time to start facking. Where were you?*

facts of life **1.** *n.* an explanation of human reproduction, especially as presented to a child. □ *No one ever explained the facts of life to me. I read books about it.* □ *She is so naive. She doesn't even know the facts of life.* **2.** *n.* the truth about life's difficulties. □ *You had better face up to the facts of life and get a job.* □ *They taught me everything in college except the facts of life.*

fade **1.** *in.* to leave. □ *I think that the time has come for me to fade. See ya.* □ *Hey, man, let's fade.* **2.** *in.* to lose power; to lose influence. □ *Ralph is fading, and someone else will have to take over.* □ *The positive effect of the weekend faded fast.*

faded *mod.* drunk; drug intoxicated. □ *Man, is that guy ever faded! Look at him weave from one lane to another.* □ *Bob's faded and fell asleep in his chair.*

fadoodle [fə'dudl] *n.* something ridiculous; nonsense. □ *Oh, stop your silly fadoodle!* □ *That's nothing but fadoodle!*

fag [fæg] **1.** *n.* a cigarette. □ *Hey, pal, gimme a fag.* □ *Go buy your own fags!* **2.** AND **faggot** *n.* a homosexual. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Who's the fag with the fancy hat?* □ *Don't act like a faggot, Gary.* **3.** *n.* a repellent male. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *You creepy fag. Stop it!* □ *Sam is such a fag!*

fag-bashing Go to fag-busting.

fag-busting AND **fag-bashing** *n.* doing violence to homosexuals. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Those bums get some kind of pleasure out of fag-busting.* □ *What's this strange need you have for fag-bashing? What's your problem?*

fagged out *mod.* exhausted. □ *I'm really fagged out after all that running.* □ *John, you sure look fagged out.*

faggot Go to **fag**.

fail *n.* a failing grade; a grade of F. (Compare this with **pass**.) □ *Sorry, this paper's a fail if I ever saw one.* □ *I pulled a fail in stat.*

fair-haired boy *n.* a promising young man; a young man who receives favoritism. □ *Ted is the boss's fair-haired boy now, but he'll be just like the rest of us in a month.* □ *He'd have been fired if he wasn't the fair-haired boy.*

fair shake *n.* a fair chance. (From shaking dice.) □ *I want to give you both a fair shake.* □ *All I want from you is a fair shake.*

fair-weather *mod.* temporary; insincere. (From *fair-weather sailor*.) □ *I need something more than a fair-weather friend to help me through all this.* □ *Well, I see you are just a fair-weather golfer like me.*

fairy *n.* a male homosexual. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Bob got fired for calling Bill a fairy.*

fairy tale AND **bedtime story** *n.* a simplistic and condescending explanation for something; a lie. □ *I don't want to hear a fairy tale, just the facts, ma'am.* □ *What you're telling me sounds like a bedtime story. Come back when you can be more straightforward.*

fake book *n.* a book with basic melody and chord changes for hundreds of popular songs. □ *Somebody lifted my fake book.* □ *I thought fake books were illegal.*

fake it *tv.* to pretend (to do something). □ *If you don't know the right notes, just fake it.* □ *I can't fake it anymore. I've got to be honest with you.*

fake off *in.* to waste time; to goof off. □ *Hey, you guys, quit faking off!* □ *All you clowns do is fake off. Now, get busy!*

fake someone out *tv.* to deceive someone, as with a football pass. □ *They faked me out, and then I stumbled over my own feet. The coach was fuming.* □ *We faked out the teacher who thought we had gone out in the hall.*

fake the funk *tv.* to pretend to be in the know; to pretend to be fly; to fake being stylish. (Streets.) □ *Hey, bro. You ain't down with nothing. You're just faking the funk.* □ *He's only faking the funk to survive in the hood. He gets an A in every class in school.*

fakus ['fekəs] *n.* a gadget; something with no name or a forgotten name. □ *This little fakus goes right in here.* □ *Hand me that long fakus with the hole in one end.*

falderal AND **folderol** ['fəldərl] *n.* wasted effort; nonsense. □ *I had about enough of your falderal.* □ *Stop the folderol and get to work.*

fall 1. *in.* to be arrested; to be charged with a crime. (Underworld. See also **fall guy**.) □ *I heard that Bruno fell. Is that right?* □ *Sam would never fall easily. Must be a frame.* **2.** *n.* one's arrest; being arrested and charged. (Underworld.) □ *Who took the fall for the bank job?* □ *Rocko will never accept a fall willingly.*

fall guy *n.* a victim; a dupe. (Originally underworld.) □ *Rocko wasn't going to be the fall guy for this caper.* □ *I didn't want to be the fall guy, so I sat out the last job.*

falling-down drunk 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; very drunk. □ *Poor Fred is falling-down drunk and has no way to get home.* □ *She's not just tipsy; she's falling-down drunk.* **2.** *n.* a drunken person who falls down. □ *Poor old Jed is turning into a falling-down drunk.* □ *One more falling-down drunk in this neighborhood will not be anything new.*

falling-out *n.* a disagreement. □ *Tom and Bill had a little falling-out.* □ *They patched up their little falling-out.*

fall off the wagon *in.* to resume drinking after having stopped. □ *Poor Jed fell off the wagon again.* □ *It looks to me like he wanted nothing more than to fall off the wagon.*

fall out *in.* to depart. (Probably from the military command meaning *disperse*.) □ *It's late, G. I have to fall out.* □ *Let's fall out. I have to get up early in the morning.*

fallout *n.* the results of something; the flack from something. □ *The fallout from this afternoon's meeting was not as serious as some expected.* □ *It's not the crisis itself, but the fallout from the crisis that concerns us all.*

fall out of bed *in.* to fall far down, as with the drop in some measurement. □ *The temperature really fell out of bed last night! It was twenty-three below!* □ *The stock market fell out of bed last year at this time.*

falsies *n.* artificial breasts; stuffing for making the breasts appear larger and more shapely. □ *I don't care if she is wearing falsies. She's got a beautiful smile.*

family jewels *n.* the testicles. (Jocular and euphemistic. They are necessary to produce a family.) □ *Hey, careful of the family jewels!*

fan *tv.* to ignore someone or something; to cut a class; to **blow someone or something off**. □ *You have to meet with your teacher? Oh, fan that. It doesn't matter.* □ *Mary fanned her history class and missed an important test.*

fancy footwork **AND** **fast footwork** *n.* artful maneuvering; fast and clever thinking. □ *Ken did a lot of fancy footwork to get out of that one.* □ *Fast footwork is the key to success in politics.*

Fancy meeting you here. *sent.* Just imagine meeting you here!; I am surprised to meet you here! □ *Well, hello, Tom. Fancy meeting you here!* □ *Fancy meeting you here, Bill. How have you been?*

fancy-schmancy ['fæntsi'smæntsi] *mod.* fancy; very fancy. □ *This one is just too fancy-schmancy for Heidi.* □ *She likes everything fancy-schmancy.* □ *I don't care for these fancy-schmancy get-togethers.*

Fancy that! *exclam.* Imagine that! □ *So, you're a bus driver now. Well, fancy that!* □ *Fancy that! There's a piece of pie left in the fridge.*

fanigle *Go to finagle.*

fanny *n.* the buttocks. (Euphemistic in the U.S. The term has taboo implications in the U.K.) □ *He fell down right on his fanny.* □ *There's dust or something on your fanny.*

fanny-bumper *n.* an event that draws so many people that they bump into one another. □ *The fire on Thirty-fourth Street turned into a real fanny-bumper.* □ *There was a typically dull fanny-bumper in the village last night.*

fanny-dipper *n.* a swimmer, as opposed to a surfer. (California.) □ *The fanny-dippers are not supposed to go out that far.* □ *It's too windy for fanny-dippers, let alone surfers.*

Fantabulous! *exclam.* Great! (A blend of *fantastic* and *fabulous*.) □ *You're here at last. Fantabulous!* □ *Fantabulous! It's finished.*

fan the breeze *tv.* to chat or gossip. □ *We're just fanning the breeze, so you didn't interrupt anything.* □ *Stop fanning the breeze and get to work.*

far gone **1.** *mod.* in an extreme state. □ *Wow, that chick is far gone. Listen to her rave.* □ *He was too far gone to make any sense.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Larry's far gone and looking sick.* □ *Wow, is she ever far gone!*

far out **1.** *mod.* cool; great; extraordinary. □ *This jazz is really far out!* □ *You want to hear some far out heavy metal?* **2.** *mod.* very hard to understand; arcane; highly theoretical. □ *This stuff is too far out for me.* □ *I can't follow your far out line of reasoning.* **3.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *How'd you get so far out?* □ *Three beers and Wally was really far out.*

fart **1.** *in.* to release intestinal gas through the anus. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Okay, who farted?* □ *I think I'm gonna fart.* **2.** *n.* the sound or odor of the release of intestinal gas. (Usually objectionable.)

□ *Who made that smelly fart?* **3.** *n.* a stupid, despicable, and annoying person. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The guy's nothing but a fart. Just forget him.*

fart around *in.* to waste time; to do something ineffectually or inefficiently. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Stop farting around and get to work!*

fart hole *n.* a wretched and worthless person; an asshole. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Stop acting like such a fart hole!* □ *Come on, fart hole! Get moving!*

fart off *in.* to waste time; to goof off. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Why are you farting off when there's work to be done?*

farts *n.* fine arts. (Use discretion with **fart**.) □ *Ted is studying over in the farts department.* □ *Fred took a course in farts and hated it.*

fart sack *n.* one's bed. (Military. Apparently a place where one can break wind at will. Usually objectionable.) □ *Come on! Get out of the fart sack and get moving!*

fast buck Go to quick buck.

fast footwork Go to fancy footwork.

fast one *n.* a clever and devious trick. (See also **pull a fast one**.) □ *That was a fast one. I didn't know you were so devious.* □ *This was the last fast one like that you'll ever pull on me.*

fat 1. *mod.* great; excellent. □ *The fireworks in the park were really fat this year!* □ *Mary thought the rally was fat, but left early anyway.* **2.** *mod.* well supplied with something; having an overabundance of something. □ *When it comes to printer paper, this place is fat.* □ *We're fat with paper, but there's not a ribbon in sight.* **3.** *mod.* sexy. □ *She is one fat sister!* □ *You are truly fat, Wendy.*

fat as a beached whale *phr.* very, very fat. (Often with *as*.) □ *That dame is as fat as a beached whale.*

fat-ass(ed) *mod.* having large buttocks. □ *Get your fat-ass self outa my car!* □ *Who is that fat-assed dame over there?*

fat-cat 1. *n.* someone with great wealth and the accompanying success. □ *I like to*

watch the fat-cats go by in their beemers. □ *I'm no fat-cat. I'm usually financially embarrassed in fact.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with wealth or a wealthy person. □ *You'll never see me driving any of those fat-cat cars.* □ *I just have a bank account. No fat-cat investments.*

fat chance *n.* a very poor chance. (Sarcastic.) □ *Fat chance I'll ever get a new car.* □ *Me, get an A? Fat chance.*

fat city 1. *n.* a state of wealth and comfort; **easy street.** □ *She's living in fat city ever since she inherited her fortune.* □ *I could settle down in fat city without any trouble.* **2.** *n.* fatness (expressed as a place). □ *I've had it with fat city. I'm going on a diet.* □ *Sally is well on her way to fat city.*

fathead *n.* a stupid person; someone who has fat where brains ought to be. □ *You can be such a fathead!* □ *Paul, you are being a perfect fathead.*

fatheaded *mod.* stupid. □ *Now that is really a fatheaded idea.* □ *It's not fat-headed!* □ *Let's not come up with a fat-headed plan. This one has to make sense.*

fat lip Go to lip.

fat skril *n.* lots of money (See also **skrilla**.) □ *The car cost some real fat skril.*

fatso ['fætso] *n.* a fat person. (Cruel. Also a rude term of address.) □ *Hey, fatso! Go on a diet!* □ *Some fatso tried to get on the plane and couldn't even get through the door!*

fatty *n.* a derogatory nickname for a fat person. (Cruel. Also a rude term of address.) □ *Okay, fatty, you get the biggest piece of cake because you deserve it.* □ *That fatty over there is going to eat up all the snacks.*

fattygeus ['fætɪgjuːz] *n.* fatigues. (Originally military.) □ *I'll slip into some fattygeus and be right with you.* □ *Whose fattygeus are piled here in the corner?*

FB Go to fuck bunny.

feather brain *n.* a stupid person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Gary is such a feather brain.* □ *Hey, feather brain. Wake up and get busy!*

fed 1. AND the **feds** *n.* a federal agent concerned with narcotics, tax collection, customs, etc. □ *Some fed was prowling around asking questions about you.* □ *The feds are onto Rocko and his gang.* **2. The Fed** *n.* the Federal Reserve Board. (Usually **Fed**. Always with *the* in this sense.) □ *The Fed is not likely to raise interest rates very soon again.* □ *There is no way to predict what the Fed is going to do.*

federal diploma *n.* a U.S. bank note. □ *I could use a few extra of those federal diplomas.* □ *How many federal diplomas you got with you?*

federal jug *n.* a federal prison. (Underworld. See also **jug**.) □ *Rocko was set to spend the next twenty years in the federal jug.* □ *Lefty is fresh and sweet—just out of the federal jug.*

the **feds** Go to **fed**.

feeb [fib] *n.* an oaf; a stupid person. (From *feeble-minded*.) □ *Don't be a feeb. Wake up!* □ *You are such a feeb!*

feebee Go to **feeb**.

feeby AND **feebee** ['fibi] *n.* the FBI, the Federal Bureau of Investigation. □ *The locals were going to call in the feebies, but the DA said to wait.* □ *The feeby is in on this already.*

feed one's face *tv.* to put food in one's mouth; to eat (something). □ *You're always feeding your face. You're going to get fat.* □ *Stop feeding your face and listen to me.*

feel a draft *tv.* to sense that one is being rejected; to sense that someone is cool toward one, possibly for racial reasons. □ *Oh, man, I feel a draft in here. Let's leave.* □ *What a reception! I sure feel a draft.*

feel groovy 1. *in.* to feel really good and mellow. □ *It's a beautiful day, and I really feel groovy.* □ *Everybody is feeling groovy and smiling and all.* **2. in.** to be alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Looks like Kelly is feeling groovy on gin again.* □ *Sam feels groovy because of what he is smoking.*

feeling no pain 1. *mod.* numbed by alcohol and feeling nothing; alcohol intoxicated. □ *She fell off the wagon and is feeling*

no pain. □ *He drank the whole thing, and he's feeling no pain.* **2. mod.** feeling nothing; dead. □ *Now, poor Jed is feeling no pain.* □ *Your aunt is feeling no pain now. She slipped away before dawn.*

feel someone up *tv.* to feel someone sexually. □ *He tried to feel her up, but she wasn't that drunk.* □ *She felt him up and kissed him passionately.*

feep [fip] **1. n.** the beep made by a computer. □ *This thing only makes a feep when I try to run my program.* □ *What does the feep mean?* **2. in.** [for a computer] to make a little beep. □ *It feeps when it's angry, I think.* □ *Naw! It just feeps to get your attention.*

fella ['fɛlə] *n.* a fellow; a guy. (Also a term of address.) □ *Who's the fella with the dark glasses?* □ *Hey, fella. Got a match?*

fenced *mod.* angry. (California.) □ *Boy, was that old man fenced!* □ *Too many people around here are fenced all the time.*

fence hanger *n.* someone who cannot decide which side to be on. □ *We need to find a way to persuade the fence hangers to come over to our side.* □ *The senator stated he would be a fence hanger until the very minute of the vote.*

fender-bender 1. n. a minor accident. (See also **rear-ender**.) □ *There are a couple of fender-benders on the expressway this morning, so be careful.* □ *A minor fender-bender blocked traffic for a while.* **2. n.** a reckless driver (who causes minor accidents). □ *I can't get insurance on my seventeen-year-old, who is a hopeless fender-bender.* □ *Don't give up on young fender-benders.*

fer shur [fɜː 'ʃɜː] *phr.* for sure; absolutely. (Eye-dialect. Used in writing only for effect. See also **for sure**.) □ *This is way rad, fer shur.* □ *I'll be there. Fer shur!*

feshnushkied [fɛ'ʃnuʃkid] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Wow, is that guy ever feshnushkied!* □ *Gert is too feshnushkied to drive home.*

fetch up *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *I really felt like I was going to*

fetch up. □ *Somebody fetched up in here and didn't clean it up.*

fettie *n.* money. □ *I need some fettie to pay the rent.*

a **few ticks** *n.* a few minutes; a few seconds. □ *Just wait. I'll be there in a few ticks.*

fib [fɪb] **1.** *n.* a small lie. □ *It was just a little fib. I'm sorry.* □ *Is this another one of your fibs?* **2.** *in.* to tell a small lie. □ *Stop fibbing and tell me the truth.* □ *Did you fib to the teacher?*

fibber *n.* a liar. □ *Harry can be a fibber sometimes. You got to watch him.* □ *Jimmy is turning into a little fibber.*

fiddle-fart Go to monkey-fart.

FIFO. *phr.* first in, first out, the first items placed in the stack are the first items to be retrieved. (Computers. Acronym. See also GIGO; LIFO.) □ *Of course the wrong thing came out. That register is FIFO.* □ *Oh, I thought this thing was FIFO, and I put the stuff in the wrong order.*

fifth wheel *n.* an extra and unneeded person. □ *I feel like such a fifth wheel around here.* □ *Hank is just a fifth wheel. Send him home.*

file Go to (pro)file.

file thirteen *n.* the wastebasket. (See also circular file.) □ *Please throw this in file thirteen. I don't need it anymore.* □ *I'm afraid that the papers you want went into file thirteen two days ago.*

filling station *n.* a liquor store. (From an old name for an automobile service station.) □ *Please stop at the filling station and get some suds on your way home.* □ *The filling station on the corner does a big business on Fridays.*

fill-mill *n.* a tavern. □ *She stopped off at the fill-mill again this evening.* □ *She spends a lot of time at that fill-mill.*

fill or kill AND **FOK** *phr.* a broker's notation advising the stock exchange to fill a stock order or kill it. (The abbreviation is an initialism. Securities markets.) □ *Get rid of this order. It was fill or kill, and it should have been killed yesterday.* □ *Where? I don't see that it's marked FOK.*

filthy lucre [...'lukə] *n.* money. □ *I sure could use a little of that filthy lucre.* □ *I don't want to touch any of your filthy lucre.*

filthy rich **1.** *mod.* very wealthy. □ *I wouldn't mind being filthy rich.* □ *There are too many filthy rich people now.* □ *Ken is filthy rich because of the money his uncle left him.* **2.** *n.* people who are very wealthy. □ *The filthy rich can afford that kind of thing, but I can't.* □ *I sort of feel sorry for the filthy rich.*

fin AND **finn** [fin] *n.* a five-dollar bill. (Germanic via Yiddish.) □ *Who says I owe you a fin?* □ *I gave the old guy a finn, and he nearly passed out.*

finagle AND **fanigle** [fɪ'neɪɡl AND fə'nɪɡl] **1.** *in.* to plot and plan; to conspire; to arrange (something). □ *He's pretty good at finagling.* □ *She'd rather fanigle than ask outright.* **2.** *tv.* to acquire something through conniving. □ *She spent a lot of time trying to finagle a ride to work.* □ *Can I fanigle a buck from you?*

financially embarrassed *mod.* broke. □ *I'm a bit financially embarrassed at the moment.* □ *Gary found himself financially embarrassed when the time came to pay the bill.*

fine and dandy *mod.* nice; good; well. (Often sarcastic.) □ *Well, that's just fine and dandy. Couldn't be better.* □ *I feel fine and dandy, and I'm going to have a good time here.*

fine wolf *n.* a sexy or desirable man. (Streets.) □ *Who is that fine wolf I seen you with last night?* □ *That Johnny, he's one fine wolf.*

F-ing Go to effing.

F-ing around Go to effing around.

finger **1.** *tv.* to point someone out; to identify someone (as having done something, been somewhere, etc.). □ *Pete fingered Marty as being the one who arrived first.* □ *Nobody would dare finger Rocko as the one who did it.* **2.** *n.* someone who identifies criminals for the police; a police informer. (Underworld.) □ *Tracy has become a finger for the cops.* □ *Yup, she*

turned finger after her last vacation. **3. n.** an amount of liquor poured into a glass equal to the width of a finger. □ *Tracy said she only drank one finger, but the glass was five inches in diameter!* □ *No fingers for you, chum. You've had enough.*

finger wave *n.* the act of giving someone the finger; displaying the middle finger upright as a sign of derision. (The gesture is taboo. See also **give someone the finger**.) □ *Two little kids gave the cop the finger wave.* □ *The salute turned into a finger wave when the Major turned away.*

fink [fɪŋk] **1. n.** an informer; a stool (pigeon). (From *Pinkerton*. See also **rat fink**.) □ *Tracy has turned into a fink.* □ *Mr. Big doesn't think much of finks.* **2. Go to fink (on someone).** **3. n.** any strange or undesirable person. □ *You are being such a fink. Stop it!* □ *Martin is a strange kind of fink.*

fink (on someone) *in.* to inform on someone. □ *You won't fink on me, will ya?* □ *Rocko never finks on his friends.*

fink out (on someone or something) *in.* to decide not to cooperate with someone or something (after all). □ *Come on, don't fink out on us now.* □ *Bob finked out on the plan.*

finn Go to **fin**.

fire a line *tv.* to snort a line of cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *Frank left to fire a line.* □ *Rocko has never fired a line in his life.*

fire away *in.* to start asking questions; to start talking. □ *Okay, I'm ready. Fire away.* □ *The cops fired away at him for an hour.*

fireball Go to **ball of fire**.

fired up *mod.* excited; enthusiastic. □ *How can you be so fired up at this time of the morning?* □ *It's impossible to get Martin fired up at all.*

fire someone up *tv.* to motivate someone; to make someone enthusiastic. (See also **fired up**.) □ *See if you can fire John up and get him to paint the house.* □ *I have to fire up the electorate if I want them to vote for me.*

fire something up *tv.* to start something such as an engine; to light something. □ *Fire this thing up, and let's get going.* □ *Andy fired up the snow blower and started to clear a path.*

fire up *in.* to light a marijuana cigarette. □ *Frank fires up at every chance.* □ *Rocko says he never fired up in his life.*

firewater *n.* whiskey. (From cowboy and Indian talk.) □ *This firewater leaves a lot to be desired.* □ *This isn't gin; it's firewater!*

fireworks **1. n.** excitement. □ *When the fireworks are over, come in and we'll talk.* □ *What're all the fireworks about around here?* **2. n.** trouble; a display of temper. □ *After Sam's fireworks, we calmed down a little.* □ *Cut out the fireworks, Sally. Calm down and get back to work.*

the **firstest with the mostest** *mod.* the earliest and in the largest numbers; the earliest with more of what's needed. □ *Pete got the prize for being the firstest with the mostest.* □ *I always like to be there early—the firstest with the mostest.*

fish *n.* a stupid and inept person. (Derogatory.) □ *The guy's a fish. He can't do anything right.* □ *Don't be such a fish, Martin. Anyone can work a can opener.*

fish-fight *n.* a fight between females. □ *There's a fish-fight over by the biology building.* □ *Those fish-fights can get brutal.*

fishing expedition *n.* an exploratory search for facts. (This involves asking questions with no preconceived notion of what the answers might reveal.) □ *The lawyer was on a fishing expedition. There was no real wrong committed to justify a lawsuit.* □ *Your honor, counsel is just on a clumsy fishing expedition. I move for dismissal.*

fish-kiss **1. tv. & in.** to kiss (someone) with puckered up lips. (Collegiate.) □ *He can fish-kiss like an expert, which is like being an expert at nothing.* □ *He fish-kissed me, then ran back to his car.* **2. n.** a kiss made with puckered up lips. (Collegiate.) □ *One more fish-kiss tonight, and I am going to scream.* □ *The actor planted a big*

fish-kiss right on her lips and frightened her.

Fish or cut bait. *sent.* Do something or get out of the way. □ *Fish or cut bait, Chuck. There's work to be done here.* □ *Decide whether you're going to watch or help. Fish or cut bait.*

fish story AND **fish tale** *n.* a great big lie. (Like the fisherman who exaggerates the size of the fish that got away.) □ *That's just a fish story. Tell me another!* □ *He's a master at the fish tale. Maybe he should be a politician.*

fishtail *in.* [for the rear of a car] to whip back and forth like a fish moving its tail. □ *The caddy fishtailed on the curb and almost spun around.* □ *It's easy to fishtail in wet weather.*

fish tale Go to fish story.

fishy *mod.* dubious; questionable; likely to be improper or illegal. (See also **smell fishy**.) □ *Something here is fishy.* □ *That was a pretty fishy story you told us.*

fitshaced *mod.* drunk. □ *He goes out and get really fitshaced almost every night.*

fitted *mod.* well-dressed; properly outfitted. □ *Sam got himself all fitted and looks like a real playa!*

a **five-alarm fire** Go to a three-alarm fire.

five-finger discount *n.* the acquisition of something by shoplifting. □ *Bruno used his five-finger discount to get the kind of ring Tracy wanted.* □ *I got this thingy with my five-finger discount.*

five it Go to take the fifth.

five-oh AND **5-O** *n.* the police. (From a television program, *Hawaii Five-O*.) □ *If you hit me again, I'll call the five-o!*

fiver ['faɪvə] *n.* a five-dollar bill. (See also **tenner**.) □ *This thing only cost me a fiver.* □ *Give him a fiver, and let's get outa here.*

fix 1. AND **fix-up** *n.* a dose of a drug, especially for an addict who is in need of drugs. (Drugs. It fixes the suffering of withdrawal.) □ *It was clear that the prisoner needed a fix, but there was nothing the cops would do for him.* □ *Max arranged to get a fix-up into the con.* **2.** *in.*

to buy a dose of drugs; to take drugs. (See also **fixed**. Drugs.) □ *Frank had to fix before he could even talk to me.* □ *Tracy was in the other room fixing.* **3.** *tv.* to castrate or spay an animal, especially a pet. (See also **fixed**. Jocularly of people.) □ *Get somebody to fix your cat!* □ *Sally suggested that someone ought to fix Beavis—if he isn't already.* **4.** *n.* a bribe. (See also **fixed**.) □ *Rocko never took a fix in his life.* □ *The agent payed a fix to the cops.* **5.** *tv.* to influence the outcome of a contest or an election. (See also **fixed**.) □ *Who fixed this race?* □ *Sam knows what it takes to fix an election—cash.* **6.** *n.* a scheme to influence the outcome of a contest or an election. □ *Something is wrong with this game. I smell a fix.* □ *Sam planned a great fix, but the cops got wise.* **7.** *n.* a repair made to a computer program. (Computers.) □ *This little fix should make the whole program run faster.* □ *I wrote a fix to make the program more efficient.* **8.** *n.* a cure for a social ill. (See also **quick fix**.) □ *There is no easy fix for a problem like this.* □ *Some people think there is no fix at all.*

fixed 1. *mod.* doped; intoxicated. □ *Frank is comfortable now that he's fixed.* □ *He was fixed and broke—in a real mess, I'd say.* **2.** *mod.* bribed. □ *Don't worry, the night watchman is fixed.* □ *The cop is fixed and won't give you guys any trouble.* **3.** *mod.* having the outcome prearranged. (Said of a contest, race, or election.) □ *The election was fixed, and we are going to protest.* □ *It was not fixed!* □ *The race was fixed, but we won anyway.* **4.** *mod.* neutered. □ *Now that the cat is fixed, she seems even meaner.* □ *I wouldn't buy anything but an already-fixed dog.*

fixed up *mod.* provided with a date. □ *Sam got fixed up with Martha.* □ *Okay, Sam is fixed up with a date for Saturday.*

fixer *n.* a lawyer. □ *I'll get my fixer on it first thing in the morning.* □ *Bruno's fixer didn't show up in court.*

fix-up Go to fix.

fizzle ['fɪzl] **1.** *n.* a failure; something that sputters away. □ *The whole project was a fizzle.* □ *Her first play was no fizzle.* **2.** *in.*

in. to fail; to **peter out**. □ *The whole plan fizzled, and we had to start over.* □ *The play began to fizzle in the second act.*

flabbergasted ['flæbəˌgæstəd] **1.** *mod.* surprised; baffled. □ *We were flabbergasted by your proposal.* □ *They all sat there flabbergasted.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I thought you were cutting down, and here you are totally flabbergasted again.* □ *After about six beers, Harry became flabbergasted and slid under the table.*

flack Go to **flak**.

flackery ['flækəri] *n.* an advertising agency. □ *Ted works for a flackery over on Maple Street.* □ *It seems like the whole political campaign was directed by some New York flackery.*

flack (out) *in.* to collapse in exhaustion; to go to sleep. □ *I just have to go home now and flack out.* □ *Betsy flacked out at nine every night.*

flag **1.** *tv.* to fail a course. □ *Pat flagged English again.* □ *I'm afraid I flagged algebra.* **2.** *n.* the grade of F. □ *I'll get a flag on algebra for the semester.* □ *I got three flags and an A.* **3.** *tv.* to arrest someone. (See also **flagged**.) □ *The cop flagged Tracy for soliciting.* □ *They flagged Bob for speeding even though he was a judge.*

flagged *mod.* arrested. □ *Frank almost got himself flagged for speeding.* □ *Sally was flagged, and she called her fixer to come get her out.*

flak AND **flack** [flæk] **1.** *n.* complaints; criticism; negative feedback. □ *Why do I have to get all the flak for what you did?* □ *We're getting a lot of flak for that news broadcast.* **2.** *n.* publicity; hype. □ *Who is going to believe this flak about being first-rate?* □ *It's all flak and no substance.* **3.** *n.* a public relations agent or officer. □ *The flak made an announcement and then disappeared.* □ *There were flacks all over the place telling lies and making false promises.*

flake **1.** *n.* a person who acts silly or giddy. □ *Sally is such a flake!* □ *Who's the flake in the plaid pants?* **2.** *n.* a medicinal form of crystallized cocaine. (Drugs. Similar

to **crack**.) □ *Where can I get some flake around here?* □ *Max specializes in flake.*

3. *tv.* [for the police] to place drugs or traces of drugs on a person during an arrest. (Underworld. The person is then charged with possession of drugs.) □ *That's not mine! You flaked me!* □ *The fuzz must have flaked Rocko. He never touches the stuff.* **4.** AND **flakes** *n.* phenylcyclidine (PCP), an animal tranquilizer. □ *Even Bart won't sell flake, and he's not what I would call a concerned citizen.* □ *Sometimes they smoke a cigarette with flakes on it.*

flaked Go to **flaked out**.

flaked out **1.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *You are too flaked out to drive home. Give me your keys.* □ *Man, is she flaked out!* **2.** AND **flaked** *mod.* passed out because of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Sally was flaked out on the sofa.* □ *Jerry took the stuff and ended up flaked.* **3.** *mod.* unconscious; exhausted; tired out. □ *Tom? He's upstairs flaked out from work.* □ *There are too many flaked out people working at dangerous machines.*

flake down *in.* to go to bed; to go to sleep. □ *Look at the time. I gotta go home and flake down.* □ *After I flake down for about three days, I'll tell you about my trip.*

flake (out) **1.** *in.* to pass out from exhaustion; to fall asleep. □ *I just flaked out. I had had it.* □ *After jogging, I usually flake for awhile.* **2.** *in.* to fall asleep after drug use. (Drugs.) □ *An hour after she took the stuff, she just flaked.* □ *Pete popped a few pills and flaked out.*

flakes Go to **flake**.

(flake) spoon Go to **coke spoon**.

flako Go to **flaky**.

flaky ['fleki] **1.** *mod.* unreliable. □ *She's too flaky to hold the job.* □ *He's a flaky dude.* □ *I'm getting so flaky. Must be old age.* **2.** *mod.* habituated to the use of cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *He looks a little flaky. Look at his eyes and nose.* □ *Bart is flaky. He's a walking advertisement for what he sells.* **3.** AND **flako** ['fleko] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Man, is she flako!* □ *Paul was flaky and couldn't drive.*

flamdoodle Go to flapdoodle.

flame *in.* to write an excited and angry note in a computer forum or news group. ☐ *Barb is flaming again. It doesn't take much to set her off.* ☐ *Stop flaming a minute and try to explain your position calmly.*

flamer **1.** *n.* a blatantly obvious homosexual person. (Primarily and originally for males.) ☐ *Todd is such a flamer!* ☐ *He tries not to be a flamer, but what can he do?* **2.** *n.* a person who writes excited and angry notes on a computer forum or news group. ☐ *There are too many flammers on this board to make it interesting and entertaining.* ☐ *The flammers turn everything into a screaming battle.*

flame-war *n.* an angry and excited exchange of notes on a computer forum or news group. ☐ *A flame-war erupted on the board last night and a lot of people said some pretty rude things.* ☐ *The SYSOP tried to stop the flame-war, but it kept going anyway.*

flap *n.* an argument; a minor scandal. ☐ *I'm sorry about that flap we had yesterday, but it was all your fault.* ☐ *Who started this flap anyway?*

flapdoodle AND **flamdoodle** ['flæpdudl AND 'flæmdudl] *n.* nonsense. ☐ *I've heard enough of this flapdoodle.* ☐ *Cut out the flamdoodle and speak the truth.*

flapjaw ['flæpdʒɔ] **1.** *n.* a talkative person. ☐ *Who is the flapjaw who has Sally cornered?* ☐ *Martin is anything but a flapjaw. I bet he doesn't say a dozen words per hour.* **2.** *n.* chatter; gossip. ☐ *Too much flapjaw for me to concentrate in here.* ☐ *Could you all turn down the flapjaw a little?*

flash **1.** *n.* something suddenly remembered; something suddenly thought of. ☐ *I had a flash and quickly wrote it down.* ☐ *After we talked awhile, a flash hit me. Why don't we sell the house?* **2.** *n.* a very short period of time; an instant. (See also *in a flash*.) ☐ *I'll be there in a flash.* ☐ *It was just a flash between the time I said I'd be there and when I showed up.* **3.** *tv.* to display something briefly. ☐ *You'd better not flash a wad like that around here.*

You won't have it long. ☐ *The cop flashed her badge and made the pinch.* **4.** *in.* to display one's private parts briefly. ☐ *The guy flashed and moved on down the street.* ☐ *She flashed briefly, providing the show that people came to see, and left the stage.* **5.** *n.* a drink of liquor. ☐ *I'll have just a flash; then I've got to run.* ☐ *Here, have a flash, and let's chat a little longer.*

flashback *n.* a memory of the past; a portrayal of the past in a story. ☐ *Suddenly, Fred had a wonderful flashback to his childhood.* ☐ *The next scene in the film was a flashback to the time of Ivan the Terrible.*

flasher *n.* a male exhibitionist; a male who shows his penis to women. ☐ *The cops hauled in a couple of flashers from the public library.*

flash on something *in.* to remember something suddenly and vividly. ☐ *Then I flashed on a great idea.* ☐ *I was trying to flash on it, but I couldn't bring it to mind.*

flash the hash *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. ☐ *Dave left quickly to go out and flash the hash, I think.* ☐ *Who's in there flashing the hash?*

flat-ass *mod.* absolutely; totally. (From a general slang term *flat-out*.) ☐ *She opened it up as flat-ass fast as it would go.*

flat broke *mod.* having no money at all. ☐ *Sorry, I'm flat broke. Not a cent on me.* ☐ *You may be flat broke, but you will find a way to pay your electricity bill or you will live in the dark.*

flat-chested *mod.* with little or no female breast development. ☐ *I wish I wasn't so flat-chested!*

flatfoot AND **flatty** *n.* a police officer, especially a foot patrol officer. ☐ *Think about how the flatfoot on the beat is affected by this cold.* ☐ *The flatty stopped at the door, tried the lock, and moved on.*

flat-hatting *n.* flying an airplane low and wrecklessly. (As if flying low enough that only people wearing flat hats could escape being struck.) ☐ *The pilot lost his license for flat-hatting near the park.* ☐

Some of the air force pilots were flat-hatting over the desert when one of them crashed.

flathead *n.* a stupid person. □ *Carl, don't act like such a flathead.* □ *He may seem slow, but Carl is no flathead.*

flatheaded *mod.* stupid. □ *That is really a flatheaded idea, you know?* □ *Martin seems flatheaded, but he's quite brilliant.*

flatline *in.* to die. (From the flatness of the line on an EEG monitor.) □ *It appeared that the patient flatlined during the night.* □ *She just grabbed at her chest and flatlined.*

(flat) on one's ass **1.** *mod.* completely exhausted. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I'm just flat on my ass. I need some rest.* □ *After the day of the marathon, Pete was flat on his ass for a week.* **2.** *mod.* broke; financially destroyed. (Usually objectionable. An elaboration of **flat broke**.) □ *Sorry, I can't help you. I'm broke—flat on my ass.* □ *The guy's flat on his ass. Can you help him out with a loan?*

flat out **1.** *mod.* totally. □ *She was flat out mad as hell.* □ *We were all flat out disgusted.* **2.** *mod.* at top speed. □ *They drove the thing flat out for an hour.* □ *If we run flat out, we can get there before dusk.*

flatten *tv.* to knock someone down with a blow. □ *Bart flattened the kid with a jab to the nose.* □ *Wilbur will flatten his opponent.*

flatly *Go to flatfoot.*

fleabag ['flibæg] *n.* a cheap hotel; a flop-house. □ *I won't stay in this fleabag for one minute.* □ *Rocko never stays in fleabags. He's too proud. Sam doesn't care.*

fleece *tv.* to cheat someone; to steal everything from someone. (Underworld.) □ *Sam fleeced the kids for a lot of money.* □ *Rocko never tried to fleece anybody.*

flesh-presser AND **palm-presser** *n.* a politician. □ *It's that time of the year when the flesh-pressers really go to work.* □ *A palm-presser came to our door to ask us what we thought about his issues.*

flexed out of shape *mod.* very angry; bent out of shape. □ *The boss was completely flexed out of shape.* □ *I am truly flexed out of shape.*

flick *n.* a movie. □ *That was a pretty good flick, right?* □ *Let's go see that new Woody Allen flick.*

flimflam ['flɪmflæm] **1.** *n.* a confidence trick or deception. □ *The whole business sounds like a bit of flimflam to me.* □ *The crooks pulled a nasty flimflam on Betsy.* **2.** *n.* nonsense; deception. □ *Beware of the flimflam they will try to pull on you.* □ *I can spot flimflam a mile away.* **3.** *tv. & in.* to cheat or deceive (someone). □ *Don't try to flimflam me. I wasn't born yesterday, you know.* □ *She is flimflamming over at the Adamsville fair this week.*

flimflam artist *n.* someone who practices confidence tricks or deceptions on someone else. □ *I don't trust that flimflam artist at all.* □ *Pretty soon, you'll learn how to spot a flimflam artist.*

fling up *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *I was afraid I was going to fling up.* □ *Who flung up on the sidewalk?*

fling-wing *n.* a helicopter. □ *The fling-wing from the radio station is hovering over the traffic jam.* □ *There must be a dozen fling-wings up there making all that noise.*

flip *in.* to go crazy. □ *Wow, I've got so much to do, I may just flip.* □ *The guy flipped. He was the nervous type.*

flip-flop **1.** *n.* a reversal. □ *The President denied making a flip-flop. He said he simply forgot his earlier position.* □ *The manager did a flip-flop on the personnel policy.* **2.** *n.* the return trip of a long journey. (Citizens band radio. See also **flip side**.) □ *Nice talking to you, Silver Streak. Catch you on the flip-flop.* □ *Didn't we chat on the flip-flop last week?* **3.** *in.* to change direction or intensity. □ *He flip-flopped again, leaving us quite confused.* □ *Jed flip-flopped twice in the evening, leaving us where we started.* **4.** *in.* to waiver in one's decisions. □ *I'm sorry I'm flip-flopping on this matter. I just can't seem to de-*

cide. □ *Well, you just flip-flop all you want. I know what I want.*

flip one's lid Go to flip one's wig.

flip one's wig AND **flip one's lid** *tv.* to go crazy; to lose control. □ *Tom nearly flipped his wig.* □ *I flipped my lid when I got the news.*

flip (out) *in.* to lose control of oneself. □ *Wow, I almost flipped out when I heard about it.* □ *He got so mad that he flipped.*

flipping *mod.* damnable. (Euphemistic for **fucking**. Usually objectionable.) □ *Get this flipping dog out of here!* □ *What's the flipping idea?*

flipping burgers *tv.* what school drop outs end up doing. (An occupation that offers practically no opportunities for advancement.) □ *Do you want to spend the rest of your life flipping burgers! Do your damn homework!*

flip side **1.** *n.* the "other" side of a phonograph record. □ *On the flip side, we have another version of "Love Me Tender" sung by Beverly Mills.* □ *Give a listen to the flip side sometime.* **2.** *n.* the "other" side of something, such as an argument. □ *I want to hear the flip side of this before I make a judgment.* □ *On the flip side, he is no bargain either.* **3.** *n.* the return trip of a long journey. (Citizens band radio.) □ *See ya. Catch you on the flip side, maybe.* □ *Didn't I talk to you on the flip side last week?*

flip someone off AND **flip someone out** *tv.* to give someone the finger. (Collegiate.) □ *Did you flip me off?* □ *Ernie flipped Tom out, and Tom flattened Ernie.* *Ah, life in the big city.*

flip someone out Go to flip someone off.

flip someone the bird *tv.* to give someone the finger; to display the *digitus impudicus* to someone. □ *Max flipped the cop the bird—and that was just the wrong thing to do.* □ *The little kid flipped the cop the bird and didn't even know what it meant.*

flip the script **1.** *tv.* to lie; to change one's story. □ *The guy flips the script depending on whose listening.* **2.** *tv.* to turn the

tables on someone. □ *Now he's the one who's in trouble! That's really flipping the script!*

flivver ['flɪvə] *n.* an old car. (Once a nickname for the Model-T Ford.) □ *Whose flivver is that parked out in the street?* □ *I got an old flivver to get to school and back.*

FLK ['ɛf 'ɛl 'ke] *n.* funny looking kid. (Initialism. A strange looking child, especially one being treated for social or physical problems.) □ *The therapist had two FLKs in a row.* □ *When the mother came in with an FLK in tow, Jane knew her afternoon would be busy.*

flog [flag] *tv.* to promote something; to try to sell something aggressively. □ *Fred was flogging this car so hard, I figured he was trying to get rid of it.* □ *Don't flog it so hard. It makes people suspicious.*

flooeey ['fluɪ] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *You're flooeey again. That's every night this week.* □ *Wow, is she flooeey!*

floored **1.** *mod.* surprised. □ *I was really floored by what she had to say.* □ *You looked floored when I came in. Wasn't I invited?* **2.** *mod.* knocked to the floor by a blow. □ *Wilbur was floored by his opponent.* □ *The guy was floored and didn't move a muscle—ever again.* **3.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He's totally floored. Can't see a hole in a ladder.* □ *You'd be floored, too, if you'd drunk a dozen beers.*

floozy ['flu:zi] *n.* a promiscuous woman. □ *Tracy was enraged when Rocko called her a floozy.* □ *"I didn't call you a floozy," said Rocko. "I said you were boozy."*

flop **1.** *n.* a failure. □ *What do you mean your life is a flop?* □ *The play was a flop. The entire audience left during the second act.* **2.** *n.* a place to sleep for the night; a bed in a flophouse. (Streets.) □ *The old man was looking for a flop for the night.* □ *Do you know where I can find a flop?*

flophouse *n.* a very cheap hotel offering only rows of beds. □ *This place is a flophouse! I won't stay here for a moment.* □ *All some of those guys need in life is a flop in a flophouse.*

flopper-stopper *n.* a brassiere. □ *Hey, Jimmy, does your sister wear a flopper-stopper yet?* □ *She's very shy. She won't even hang her flopper-stoppers out on the line to dry.*

flub something up *tv.* to do something incorrectly; to **mess up** a procedure. □ *Now don't flub this up.* □ *I never flub up anything.*

flub the dub *tv.* to fail to do the right thing. □ *Martin is flubbing the dub with the fund-raising campaign.* □ *Please don't flub the dub this time.*

flub (up) **1.** AND **flub-up** *n.* an error; a blunder. □ *I tried not to make a flub, but I did.* □ *Who is responsible for this flub-up?* **2.** *in.* to **mess up**; to **foul up**. □ *You are flubbing up again, aren't you?* □ *I do my best to keep from flubbing.*

fluff [flʌf] **1.** *n.* nonsense; irrelevant stuff; hype. □ *This is just a lot of fluff. Nothing substantial at all.* □ *Cut out the fluff and talk straight.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to make an error; to do something incorrectly. □ *Todd fluffs his lines in the same place every night.* □ *Don't fluff again, please.*

fluff-stuff *n.* snow. □ *There is supposed to be an inch of fluff-stuff tonight.* □ *Fluff-stuff looks pretty, but it's no fun to shovel it.*

flunk [flʌŋk] **1.** *tv. & in.* to earn a failing grade in a course. □ *I'm flunking in English lit.* □ *Wilbur is flunking everything.* **2.** *tv.* to assign someone a failing grade. □ *Good grief! She flunked me!* □ *I'm sorry, but I am going to have to flunk half the class.*

flunk out (of something) *in.* to leave school or a course because of failure. □ *Fred flunked out of school and never tried to go back.* □ *That's it. All F's. I've flunked out.*

flush *mod.* wealthy; with plenty of money. □ *Today I am flush. By tomorrow, I'll be broke.* □ *I'm not exactly flush, but I can pay the bills.*

flusher *n.* a toilet. (Folksy. Compared to an outhouse.) □ *I hear they put in a flusher*

over at the Babbitts'. □ *That's silly. They've always had a flusher.*

fly **1.** *mod.* knowledgeable; alert and in the know. □ *This dude is fly; there's no question about it.* □ *We don't need any more fly birds around here.* **2.** *mod.* nice-looking; stylish. □ *I like your fly shoes, Sam.* □ *She drives a fly crutch.*

flyboy *n.* a pilot. (Military.) □ *Rocko was a flyboy in Korea.* □ *Those flyboys have it easy.*

fly-by-night *mod.* undependable; dishonest. □ *Sam seems like such a fly-by-night character.* □ *He's not fly-by-night at all.* □ *Don't do business with fly-by-night people.*

flying-fuck **1.** *n.* a real or imaginary act of copulation where the male leaps or dives onto and into the female. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The movie showed some jerk allegedly performing a flying-fuck, just for laughs.* **2.** AND **French-fried-fuck** *n.* something totally worthless. (Usually objectionable.) □ *This thing isn't worth a flying-fuck!* □ *I wouldn't give you a French-fried-fuck for all the crummy cars like that in the world.*

fly kites *tv.* to distribute or pass bad checks. (Underworld. See also **kite**.) □ *Marty was picked up for flying kites in three different cities.* □ *She got caught flying kites in Philadelphia.*

fly light *in.* to skip a meal or eating. □ *Nothing for me, thanks. I'm flying light today.* □ *I fly light until about dinnertime.*

fly mink *n.* a fine woman; a sexually attractive woman. (Streets. See also **mink**.) □ *That Veronica is one fly mink, man.* □ *Who was that fly mink I saw you with last night?*

fly the coop *tv.* to escape from somewhere; to get away. □ *I was afraid he would fly the coop if I didn't tie him up.* □ *I flew the coop before my dad got home.*

fly trap *n.* the mouth. □ *Close your fly trap. You talk too much.* □ *Don't talk with your fly trap full.*

foam *n.* beer. □ *How about some more foam?* □ *All the guy thinks about is foam.*

FOB *mod.* fresh off the boat; as gullible and trusting as a new immigrant. (Initialism. A play on the initials of *Free on Board*.)
 □ *That new guy is really FOB. What a wimp!* □ *Where did you get those FOB shoes? Blue suede is back?*

the **foggiest (idea)** *n.* (even) a hazy idea. (Usually in the negative.) □ *I'm sorry I don't know. I haven't the foggiest.* □ *I don't have the foggiest idea of how to do this.*

FOK Go to fill or kill.

fold 1. *in.* to fail; to close. □ *The play folded in the second week.* □ *I was afraid my business would fold because of the recession.* **2.** *in.* to collapse from drinking. □ *Dave had just one more drink, and then he folded.* □ *She folded neatly and slid beneath the table.*

folded *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Pete is folded. That's the third time this week.* □ *Man, is he folded!*

folderol Go to falderal.

folding money AND **folding stuff** *n.* U.S. paper bank notes, as opposed to coins. □ *Sorry, I don't have any folding money with me. Can you pick up the bill?* □ *I sure could use some more of that folding stuff.*

folding stuff Go to folding money.

folks *n.* one's parents. (Always with the possessive.) □ *I'll have to ask my folks if I can go.* □ *Her folks are sort of mad at her.*

fomp [famp] *in.* to play around sexually. (Collegiate.) □ *Who are those two over there fomping?* □ *Jerry wanted to fomp, and I wanted to get him out of my sight.*

foodaholic *n.* a glutton. □ *Kelly is a foodaholic and has a real eating problem.* □ *What a foodaholic! She ate a whole large pizza!*

foodie *n.* someone who is interested in foods, cooking, and the latest food and restaurant fads. □ *The foodies are all clamoring for fried sweet potatoes with salmon.*

fooeey Go to phooey.

foo-foo water ['fufuwədæ] *n.* aftershave lotion; cologne. □ *Don't use so much of*

that foo-foo water. □ *I got three bottles of foo-foo water for my birthday.*

foot-in-mouth disease *n.* the tendency to say the wrong thing at the wrong time. □ *I suffer a lot from foot-in-mouth disease.* □ *Well, Ralph has foot-in-mouth disease again.*

foot it *tv.* to go somewhere by foot; to walk or run. (See also **ankle**; **shank it**.) □ *I have to foot it over to the drugstore for some medicine.* □ *I'm used to footing it wherever I go.*

foozle ['fuzl] **1.** *n.* an error; a messed up task. □ *Who made this fozzle?* □ *What a stupid fozzle!* **2.** *tv.* to mess something up; to bungle something. (See also **foozlified**.) □ *I'm afraid I'll fozzle the camera if I open it up.* □ *Who fozzled the copying machine?*

foozlified ['fuzlɪfaɪd] **1.** *mod.* bungled. □ *This job is really fozzlified. Who was in charge?* □ *I've never seen such a fozzlified mess in my life!* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Why do you always come home fozzlified?* □ *Fred is fozzlified and can't see his hand in front of him.*

for all I know *phr.* as far as I know; I really don't know. □ *For all I know, they just did it for a lark.* □ *She came in late because she had an accident, for all I know.*

for (all) one's trouble *phr.* in spite of one's efforts; in very poor payment for one's efforts. □ *He got a punch in the jaw for all his trouble.* □ *For her trouble, she got only honorable mention.*

forbidden fruit *n.* something that is attractive because it is denied to one. (From the Garden of Eden in the Bible.) □ *A new car became Ralph's forbidden fruit.* □ *Liquor was forbidden fruit for Jed.*

for chicken feed Go to for peanuts.

for free *mod.* free from monetary charge; gratis. □ *And I get all this for free?* □ *Is all this really mine for free?*

Forget it! **1.** *exclam.* Never mind, it wasn't important! □ *Forget it! It wasn't important.* □ *I had an objection, but just forget it!* **2.** *exclam.* Never mind, it was no trou-

ble at all! □ *No trouble at all. Forget it!*
□ *Forget it! It was my pleasure.*

Forget you! *exclam.* Drop dead!; Beat it! □
Oh, yeah! Forget you! □ *Forget you! Get a life!*

for keeps *mod.* forever. □ *Does that mean I'm going to have this scar for keeps?* □ *This is yours for keeps. Enjoy it.*

for kicks *mod.* for fun; for a thrill. □ *We just did it for kicks. We didn't mean to hurt anyone.* □ *Let's drive over to Wally's place, just for kicks.*

fork something over *tv.* to hand something over (to someone). □ *Okay, fork it over. It's mine!* □ *Okay, fork over the dough and be quick about it!*

Fork you! *exclam.* Fuck you! (A partial disguise. Rude and derogatory.) □ *Fork you, you stupid twit!*

for peanuts **AND** **for chicken feed** *mod.* for practically no money at all. (See also **chicken feed**.) □ *I won't work for peanuts.* □ *You surely don't expect me to do this for chicken feed, do you?*

For Pete's sake! **AND** **For pity's sake!; For the love of Mike!** *exclam.* Good grief! □ *For Pete's sake! How've ya been?* □ *For pity's sake! Ask the man in out of the cold!*

For pity's sake! Go to **For Pete's sake!**

for real *mod.* genuine; not imaginary. □ *Ken is really strange. Is he for real?* □ *This whole day just isn't for real.*

for sure *phr.* absolutely. (The same as **fer shur**.) □ *I'll be there, for sure.* □ *Am I happy? For sure!*

for the birds *mod.* undesirable. □ *This pizza is for the birds.* □ *I don't like this kind of life. It's for the birds.*

for the devil of it **AND** **for the heck of it; for the hell of it** *mod.* because it is slightly evil; for no good reason. (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *The kids broke the window just for the devil of it.* □ *We just drove over for the heck of it.*

for the heck of it Go to **for the devil of it**.

for the hell of it Go to **for the devil of it**.

For the love of Mike! Go to **For Pete's sake!**

forty winks *n.* a nap; sleep. (Usually with a quantifier. Either *forty* or *some*, a *few*, a *bunch of*, etc.) □ *I could use forty winks before I have to get to work.* □ *I need forty winks before I get started again.*

fosho *mod.* for sure. □ *I'll be there on time fosho.*

fossil **1.** *n.* an old-fashioned person. □ *Some old fossil called the police about the noise.* □ *Oh, Tad, you are such a fossil.* **2.** *n.* a parent. □ *My fossils would never agree to anything like that.* □ *Would your fossils permit that?*

fouled up *mod.* messed up; ruined; tangled up. □ *This is sure a fouled up mess.* □ *You sure are fouled up, you know.*

foul mouth *n.* a person who uses obscene language habitually. □ *Terry, don't be such a foul mouth.* □ *Sally is turning into a real foul mouth.*

foul up **1.** *in.* to blunder; to mess up. □ *Please don't foul up this time.* □ *The quarterback fouled up in the first quarter, and that lost us the game.* **2.** *n.* a blunder; an error. (Usually **foul-up**.) □ *That was a fine foul-up! Is that your specialty?* □ *I can produce a serious foul up with both hands tied behind me.*

four-bagger *n.* a home run in baseball. □ *Wilbur hit his third four-bagger of the season.* □ *Another four-bagger for Wilbur!*

four-bits *n.* fifty cents. (A bit is equal to twelve and one-half cents.) □ *You got four-bits I can borrow?* □ *Here's four-bits. Keep the change.*

four-eyes *n.* someone who wears glasses. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Well, I've got to the age where I'm a four-eyes.* □ *Hey, four-eyes, betcha you can't see this!*

four-flusher *n.* a cheater. □ *Bruno is a lousy four-flusher, among other unpleasant things.* □ *You dirty four-flusher!*

four-oh-four **AND** **404** *phr.* the answer to your question is unknown; the location you seek is unknown. (From the Internet message: *Error - 404* that is received

when the Internet cannot find the address you are seeking. □ *Q: Where's the kitchen? A: 404. You'll have to find it yourself.*

four-one-one AND **411** *n.* information; the details about something or someone. (In the U.S., the telephone number of directory assistance or information is 411.) □ *What's the 411 on the new guy in the front office? □ I heard some interesting 411 on the guy down the street.*

four sheets in the wind AND **four sheets (to the wind)** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See comments at **three sheets in the wind**.) □ *She's not just tipsy. She's four sheets! □ After only three beers, Gary was four sheets to the wind.*

four sheets (to the wind) Go to **four sheets in the wind**.

four-topper *n.* a restaurant table that will seat four people. (Restaurant jargon.) □ *Please seat these two couples at the four-topper in the corner.*

four wheels *n.* a car; transportation. (See also **wheels**.) □ *I need four wheels to get me around town. □ Without four wheels at my disposal, I feel trapped.*

fox *n.* an attractive girl or young woman. □ *Man, who was that fox I saw you with? □ That fox was my sister. Next question?*

fox trap *n.* an automobile customized and fixed up in a way that will attract women. □ *I put every cent I earned into my fox trap, but I still repelled women. □ To you it's a fox trap; to me it's a pimpmobile.*

foxy 1. *mod.* sexy, especially having to do with a woman. □ *Man, isn't she foxy! □ What a foxy dame! 2. mod.* smelly with perspiration odor. □ *Somebody in this taxi is a little foxy. □ Who's got the foxy pits? □ Subway cars can sure get foxy in the summer. 3. mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Gary is a little foxy. Let him rest awhile. □ He's worse than foxy—he's stinking drunk.*

foxy lady *n.* a sexually attractive woman or girl. □ *You are really a foxy lady, Tracy. □ A couple of foxy ladies stopped us on the street.*

fracture *tv.* to cause someone to laugh very hard. □ *Now, this joke'll fracture you. □ I like to tell a few that fracture everybody.*

fractured 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *This is the third night this week that Pete has rolled in fractured. □ He was so fractured he couldn't see. 2. mod.* demolished by laughter. □ *The class was fractured, and the laughter didn't stop until the teacher managed to get up off the floor. □ The whole audience was fractured by the time my ten minutes were up.*

frag [fræg] *tv.* to assassinate an unpopular military officer in Vietnam. (Military.) □ *The guy was so certain that nobody was going to frag him that he got careless and Charlie got him. □ I saw some creeps frag a guy once.*

fragged [frægd] *mod.* destroyed; ruined. □ *Why does your room look so fragged? □ My clothes are fragged, and I need a haircut.*

fraidy cat ['fredi...] *n.* a coward; a person who is frightened of everything. (Used in children's taunts.) □ *Don't be a fraidy cat. Go ahead, jump! □ Carl is such a fraidy cat.*

frame 1. *tv.* to cause an innocent person to be blamed for a crime; to contrive evidence so that someone appears to be guilty. (Originally underworld.) □ *Jimmy tried to frame his sister for painting the cat yellow. □ You won't frame me and get away with it! 2. AND frame-up; frameup* *n.* a scheme where an innocent person is made to take the blame for something; incrimination caused by contrived evidence. (Underworld.) □ *Sam would never fall easy. Must be a frame. □ The frame-up would have worked if it weren't for one little thing.*

frame-up Go to **frame**.

frantic *mod.* great; wild. □ *We had a frantic time at Chez Freddy. □ That rally was really frantic.*

frat [fræt] **1.** *n.* a fraternity. (Collegiate.) □ *Are you going to join a frat? □ My brother is in a frat. 2. mod.* having to do with fraternities and their members.

(Collegiate.) □ *Is there a frat party tonight?* □ *Frat life is not for me.*

frat-rat ['frætræt] *n.* a member of a fraternity. (Collegiate.) □ *The frat-rats are having a rally tonight.* □ *Is Frank a frat-rat, or is he independent?*

freak daddy *n.* a good-looking male. □ *Tony is a real freak daddy, and I intend to get him to take me out.* □ *Jane wants to get her hands on the freak daddy in her history class.*

freaked (out) **1.** *mod.* shocked; disoriented. (Perhaps from drugs or alcohol.) □ *I was too freaked out to reply.* □ *Man, was I freaked.* **2.** *mod.* tired out; exhausted. □ *I'm too freaked out to go on without some rest.* □ *The chick is really freaked. Let her rest.*

freaker **1.** *n.* an incident that causes someone to **freak (out)**. (Collegiate.) □ *Wasn't that weird? A real freaker.* □ *Did you see that near miss? What a freaker!* **2.** *n.* a **freaked (out)** person. (Collegiate.) □ *Some poor freaker sat in the corner and rocked.* □ *Who's the freaker in the corner?*

freaking *mod.* damned. (Euphemistic for **fucking**. Usually objectionable.) □ *Get your freaking socks off my bed.* □ *What is this freaking mess on my plate?*

freak mommy *n.* a good-looking female. □ *Wendy, you are a freak mommy, and I want to get to know you better.* □ *Sally is such a freak mommy. My eyes just water!*

freak (out) **1.** *in.* to panic; to lose control. □ *I was so frightened, I thought I would freak.* □ *Come on, relax. Don't freak out.* **2.** *n.* a bad drug experience; a psychotic reaction to the drug LSD. (Drugs. Usually **freak-out** or **freakout**.) □ *The poor kid had a freak-out and never really recovered.* □ *Some of them get turned off to drugs by a really good freakout.* **3.** *n.* a wild party of any type; any exciting happening. (Usually **freak-out** or **freakout**.) □ *There is a big freak-out at Freddy's joint tonight.* □ *What a frantic freakout!* **4.** *n.* a **freaked (out)** person. (Usually **freak-out** or **freakout**.) □ *Some poor freak-out sat in the corner and rocked.* □ *Who's the freakout in the corner?*

freak someone out *tv.* to shock or disorient someone. □ *The whole business freaked me out.* □ *I didn't mean to freak out everybody with the bad news.*

freaky *mod.* strange; eccentric. □ *I get a freaky feeling whenever I hear that music.* □ *That's really freaky.* □ *What a freaky movie.*

free base AND **(free)base** **1.** *n.* a smokable, pure extract of cocaine. □ *Bart is real big on free base.* □ *Sam likes base, too.* **2.** *in.* to smoke a pure extract of cocaine. □ *Rocko has never freebased in his life.* □ *Rocko won't base, smoke, or anything.*

(free)base Go to free base.

free base party *n.* a gathering where free base is used. (Drugs.) □ *Bart has a free base party about once a week.* □ *The cops broke up a free base party in Beverly Hills.*

free-baser *n.* a user of free base. (Drugs.) □ *Of course Bart is a free-baser! What doesn't he do?* □ *Some of these free-basers have heart attacks.*

free-basing AND **baseballing; basing** *n.* using free base as a recreational drug. (Drugs.) □ *Rocko refuses to try free-basing.* □ *He saw what basing did to his brother.*

freebee Go to freebie.

freebie AND **freebee; freeby** ['fri:bi] *n.* something given away free. □ *They gave me a freebie with my purchase.* □ *I expect a freebee when I spend a lot of money like that.*

free for all AND **free-for-all** *n.* a brawl; a general fight. □ *A free for all started on the beach over near the concession stand.* □ *The cops broke up the free-for-all.*

freeload *in.* to sponge off someone else; to eat and drink at someone else's expense; to live off someone else. □ *Don't come around here and expect to freeload.* □ *My brother-in-law has been freeloading at our house for months.*

freeloader *n.* someone who eats and drinks at someone else's expense; a parasitic person. □ *Ken is sort of a freeloader, but he's a lot of fun anyway.* □ *There are a lot of*

freeloaders here. We are going to have to ask to see tickets.

free lunch *n.* something free. (Often negative.) □ *There is no such thing as a free lunch.* □ *There's always somebody who'll do anything to get a free lunch.*

free ride *n.* an easy time; participation without contributing anything. □ *You've had a free ride long enough. You have to do your share of the work now.* □ *No more free rides around here. Get off your duff and get a job!*

free show *n.* a peek at a private part of someone's body, usually a woman. □ *Martin looked like the type who was always waiting for a free show that was never to be.* □ *A true gentleman takes no notice of a "free show."*

free trip *n.* an echo or a flashback of an LSD experience. (Drugs.) □ *The kid got a free trip, and it scared her to death.* □ *If these free trips continue, we may have to run some tests.*

free-wheeling *mod.* lacking restraint; flamboyant and uncontrolled. □ *These high-spending, free-wheeling palm-pressers appear out of nowhere at election time.* □ *She's too free-wheeling.* □ *She's a free-wheeling executive type.*

freeze 1. *n.* the act of ignoring someone; the cold shoulder. □ *Everybody seems to be giving me the freeze.* □ *I got the freeze from Julie. What did I do wrong?* **2.** *tv.* to ignore someone; to give someone the cold shoulder. □ *Don't freeze me, gang! I use a mouth wash!* □ *They froze him because he didn't send thank-you notes for his birthday presents.* **3.** *in.* to hold perfectly still. (Also a command given by a police officer that implies there is a gun pointed at a suspect.) □ *I froze, and the bull didn't see me.* □ *The fuzz shouted, "Freeze, or you're dead meat!"*

freeze someone out 1. *tv.* to make it too cold for someone, usually by opening windows or through the use of air conditioning. (See also **play freeze-out.**) □ *Turn up the heat unless you're trying to freeze us out.* □ *Are you trying to freeze out everybody? Close the door.* **2.** *tv.* to lock

someone out socially. □ *We didn't want to freeze you out. You failed to pay your dues, however.* □ *They froze out the newcomers.*

freezing cold *mod.* very cold. □ *It's freezing cold out there.* □ *I won't go out in freezing cold weather.* □ *Why does it have to be so freezing cold?*

French 1. *n.* an act of oral sex. (Usually objectionable.) □ *How much is a French at a cathouse like that?* **2.** *mod.* referring to oral sex. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He tried some French stuff on her, and she nearly killed him.* **3.** *tv.* to perform oral sex on someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He wanted her to French him.* **4.** *tv. & in.* to kiss someone using the tongue; to French kiss. □ *We were Frenching when the teacher came in.* □ *I wouldn't French her on a bet!*

French-fried-fuck Go to flying-fuck.

French kiss 1. *n.* kissing using the tongue; open-mouth kissing. □ *What's French about a French kiss?* □ *I didn't know whether I was going to get a French kiss or a fish-kiss.* **2.** *tv.* to kiss someone using the tongue. □ *Kids like to try to French kiss each other at an early age. It's part of growing up.* □ *He tried to French kiss me, but I stopped him.*

fresh 1. *mod.* cheeky; impudent. □ *Ken sure is fresh sometimes.* □ *Kids get some pretty fresh ideas.* **2.** *mod.* a little aggressive sexually; prone to caress too eagerly. □ *Hey, buster! Don't get fresh with me!* □ *He got fresh, so I slapped him.* **3.** *mod.* cool; okay. □ *Gee, that's not fresh. Too bad.* □ *That stuff's really fresh. It's a winner.* **4.** *mod.* good-looking. □ *Wendy is fresh and smart too.* □ *Tom is fresh and buff.*

fresh and sweet *mod.* just out of jail. (Streets.) □ *Tracy is fresh and sweet and back on the street.* □ *Hey, Lefty, you look all fresh and sweet.*

fresh as a daisy *mod.* someone who is always alert and ready to go. □ *How can you be fresh as a daisy so early in the morning?* □ *I always feel fresh as a daisy.*

fricking *mod.* lousy; damn. (A euphemism for *fucking*.) □ *What a fricking mess you've made of this!* □ *Get the fricking hell out of here!*

fridge [frɪdʒ] *n.* a refrigerator. □ *Put this in the fridge so it won't spoil.* □ *What's in the fridge for dinner tonight?*

fried *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. (See also **brain-burned**; **southern-fried**.) □ *How the hell did you get so fried?* □ *The chick got totally fried on three beers.*

frig 1. *tv. & in.* to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Bob and Mary were in the back room frigging.* **2.** *tv.* to ruin something. □ *Somebody frigged my rear bumper.* □ *Stop frigging my stereo!*

frigging 1. *mod.* damnable. (A euphemism for *fucking*.) □ *Who made this frigging mess?* □ *I smashed up my frigging car!* **2.** *mod.* damnably. □ *What a frigging stupid thing to do!* □ *That is a dumb frigging thing to do!*

Frisco ['frɪsko] *n.* San Francisco, California. (Objected to by residents of that city.) □ *Have you ever been in Frisco?* □ *My cousin lives in Frisco.*

friz [frɪz] *n.* a Frisbee™. □ *If I could find my friz, we could go out and whirl a few.* □ *Whose friz is that in the tree?*

fro Go to **Afro**.

frog face *n.* a nerd; a geek. (Especially as a rude term of address.) □ *Look here, frog face, what makes you think you can talk to me that way?* □ *Wally is such a frog face.* *Does he take nerd classes or what?*

frog slicing *n.* biology class; a biology course. (A dysphemism.) □ *Dave dreaded going to frog slicing. The smell got to him.* □ *Mary found frog slicing to be interesting. She especially liked the study of conservation and ecology.*

from A to Z *mod.* of a complete and wide variety. □ *We have just about everything from A to Z.* □ *She ordered everything on the menu from A to Z.*

from hunger Go to (strictly) **from hunger**.

from (the) git-go *mod.* from the very start. (See also **git-go**; **jump (street)**.) □ *This*

kind of thing has been a problem from the git-go. □ *I warned you about this from git-go.*

front 1. *in.* to pay out money in advance of receiving goods; to pay up front. (See also **front money**.) □ *I fronted about \$550 for the new computer.* □ *How much do you want her to front for this?* **2.** *n.* a respectable appearance. □ *Jan can put up a good front, but most of us know the real Jan.* □ *The front she put up collapsed as she heard the bad news.* **3.** *in.* to pretend. □ *Wendy, you are not real. You're just fronting all the time.* □ *Stop fronting and be yourself.* **4.** *tv.* to challenge someone; to confront someone, perhaps in anger. □ *Don't front me unless you are ready for a fight.* □ *You better not front any of your teachers.*

front man *n.* a respectable and well-known man who represents a less respectable person or organization. □ *The former adviser now serves as a front man for a large foundation.* □ *The front man came out and made an announcement.*

front money *n.* money paid in advance; earnest money. □ *How much front money do you need?* □ *I put up a lot of front money and have nothing to show for it.*

front off about something *in.* to be brash and resentful about something. □ *Todd was fronting off about his assignment and got a detention for it.* □ *You will wish you hadn't fronted off about your supervisor.*

front runner *n.* the leader; the person or thing most likely to win. □ *The press found out some juicy secrets about the front runner and made them all public.* □ *Who is the front runner in the race for senator?*

fronts *n.* clothing; a sports jacket. □ *You got some good-looking fronts there.* □ *I need some new fronts.*

froody ['frudi] *mod.* grand; wonderful. □ *The curtains parted to the most froody, funky set I've ever seen.* □ *Man, is this froody!* □ *Oh, you have some froody ideas, all right. But can you carry them out?*

frosh [frɒʃ] **1.** *n.* a freshman. □ *Ken is just a frosh, but he looks older.* □ *Get some frosh to do it for you.* **2.** *mod.* having to do

with freshmen. □ *The frosh dorm is full again this year.* □ *This is a frosh dance.* *You can't come in.*

frost *tv.* to make someone angry. (See also **frosted (over)**.) □ *That really frosts me.* □ *The little car frosted me by zooming into my parking place.*

frosted (over) *mod.* angry; annoyed. □ *The clerk was really frosted over when I asked for a better one.* □ *Why was he so frosted?*

frosty 1. AND **frosty one** *n.* a beer; a cold beer. □ *Hey, toss me a frosty, will ya?* □ *I need a frosty one after all that work.* **2.** *mod.* cool; really cool and mellow. □ *That music is really frosty.* □ *We had a frosty time, didn't we?*

frosty one Go to frosty.

froth *n.* a beer. □ *Would you like some froth?* □ *How about another pitcher of froth, innkeeper?*

froyo *n.* frozen yogurt. □ *Let's stop at the store and get some froyo.*

fruit 1. *n.* a strange person. (Now overwhelmed by sense 2.) □ *Ted is such a fruit.* □ *Sam comes on like a fruit, but it's just his sense of humor.* **2.** AND **fruiter** *n.* a homosexual person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Bob thinks that you-know-who is a fruit.* □ *Who's the fruiter who just came in?*

fruitcake 1. *n.* a silly-acting person. (Also a term of address.) □ *You can be such a silly fruitcake sometimes.* □ *Some fruitcake put salt in the sugar bowl.* **2.** *n.* a male homosexual. (Rude and derogatory. An elaboration of **fruit**.) □ *We went into this bar, but it was filled with fruitcakes, so we left.* **3.** AND **fruit loop** *n.* a foolish oaf. (Someone who is as nutty as a fruitcake.) □ *What a fruitcake! Doesn't even know where his head is at.* □ *Carl acts like such a loony fruit loop.*

fruiter Go to fruit.

fruit loop Go to fruitcake.

fruity 1. *mod.* silly-acting. □ *He's a fruity guy. Always silly and weird.* □ *Why are you acting so fruity? Not get enough sleep?*

2. *mod.* in the style or manner of a male homosexual. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The entertainers were sort of fruity, but other than that, the show was okay.*

fry 1. *in.* to die in the electric chair. (Underworld.) □ *The DA is determined that you will fry.* □ *I don't want to fry!* **2.** *tv.* to execute someone in the electric chair. (Underworld.) □ *They're gonna fry you for this.* □ *Nobody's gonna fry Rocko!*

fuck 1. *tv. & in.* to copulate [with] someone. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *They want to fuck all night.* □ *She fucked him all night.* **2.** *n.* an act of copulation. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *I need a fuck.* **3.** *n.* a person with whom one can copulate. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Man, he's a good fuck if I ever saw one.* **4.** *n.* semen. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Clean up that fuck before somebody sees it!* **5.** *exclam.* an exclamation of anger or exasperation. (Usually **(Oh,)** **fuck!** Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Fuck! The hell you do!* □ *Oh, fuck! I'm outa beer.*

fuckable 1. *mod.* readily agreeable to copulation. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *About midnight, she got sorta fuckable, and then she fell asleep.* □ *Okay, sweetie. When you feel fuckable, call me.* **2.** *mod.* highly desirable for copulation. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Isn't he about the most fuckable hunk you've ever seen?* **3.** *mod.* suitable or acceptable for copulation. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *She is the most fuckable looking chick I have ever seen!*

Fuck a dog! Go to Fuck a duck!

Fuck a duck! AND **Fuck a dog!** *exclam.* Oh, hell!, an expression of anger or distress. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Fuck a duck! I won't do it!* □ *Fuck a dog! You're outa your mind.*

fuck around *in.* to waste time; to mess around. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Stop fucking around and get busy!* □ *She's always fucking around when she should be minding the store.*

fuck around with someone 1. AND **fuck someone around** *tv. & in.* to harass or

intimidate someone; to give someone a hard time. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Don't fuck around with me all the time! Give me a break.* □ *You fuck me around too much. I'm quitting!* **2.** *in.* to fiddle or toy with someone or something. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Please, don't fuck around with my stuff.* □ *It's just a little radio. Don't fuck around with it.*

fuckathon *n.* serial copulation or sexual activity; an orgy. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *It was no honeymoon. It was a first-class fuckathon!* □ *What started out as a double date ended up as a fuckathon.*

fuck-brained **1.** *mod.* stupid; mindless. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *What a stupid, fuck-brained idea!* □ *I don't know why I'm stuck in this fuck-brained job.* **2.** *mod.* obsessed with sex. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *All he thinks about is dames. He is totally fuck-brained.*

fuck bunny AND **FB** *n.* someone who just loves to copulate. (Usually a female. Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *She's a real fuck bunny, isn't she?*

fucked out **1.** *mod.* exhausted from copulation. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *They went at it until they were both fucked out.* □ *Poor old Chuck is fucked out just from looking at girlie magazines.* **2.** *mod.* totally exhausted from doing anything. (As exhausted as if one had been copulating excessively. Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Some fucked-out dude was lying on the floor, and another was collapsed on the chair.*

fucked up *mod.* messed up; confused; ruined. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Man, are you fucked up! You need a vacation.* □ *This whole project is so fucked up, it'll take months to straighten out.*

fucker **1.** *n.* a male who copulates frequently or well. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *That guy is real fucker if I ever saw one.* □ *Tod thinks he's a big fucker. I think he's a big faker.* **2.** *n.* any male. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Tell that Goddamn fucker to get the hell out of here!* □ *Hey, Bill, you old fucker! How's it going?* **3.** *n.* the penis; the erect

penis. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *He held his hands over his little fucker and ran for the bedroom.* **4.** *n.* a female who is known to agree to copulate readily. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *She's a real fucker.* □ *I'm out to find me a real first-class fucker tonight.*

fuckery AND **fuck-house** *n.* a brothel; a house of prostitution. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *This street is just one fuckery after another.* □ *That one on the right is the oldest fuck-house in town.*

fuck-freak *n.* someone who is obsessed with copulation. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *She is a hot little fuck-freak, and she'll wear out any dude that takes her on.* □ *She's just another fuck-freak. A real FB.*

fuckhead *n.* a stupid and obnoxious person. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Don't be such a fuckhead! Go back there and stand up for yourself!* □ *All right, fuckhead, get your stuff and get moving!*

fuckheaded *mod.* stupid; senseless. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *You idiot! What a fuckheaded thing to do!*

fuck-house Go to fuckery.

Fucking A! *exclam.* absolutely; totally absolutely. □ *Q: Will you be at the concert?* *A: Fucking A!* □ *Is she good-looking? Fucking A, man!*

fucking *mod.* damnable; lousy; cursed. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Get that fucking idiot out of here!* □ *Somebody had better clean up this fucking mess.*

Fuck it (all)! *exclam.* Damn! (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Oh, fuck it all! I don't care what you do!* □ *Fuck it all! I broke my toe!*

Fuck it! *tv.* To hell with it!; Forget it! (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Your idea is stupid. Fuck it! Try something else.* □ *You don't need your silly hat! Fuck it! Let's go!*

fuck off **1.** *in.* to masturbate. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Stop fucking off! You wanna get pimples?* **2.** *in.* to waste time. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Stop fucking off and get to work.* □ *He'd*

rather fuck off than do an honest day's work. **3.** *in.* to go away; to get out of a place; to beat it. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *I told him to fuck off, but he still keeps hanging around.*

fuck-shit *n.* a truly wretched and obnoxious person. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Get out of here you slimy fuck-shit!*

fuck someone around *Go to fuck around with someone.*

fuck someone or something up *tv.* to mess someone or something up; to damage or ruin someone or something. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Please don't fuck my stereo up.* ☒ *You fuck up everything you get your hands on!*

fuck someone over *tv.* to give someone a very hard time; to abuse someone physically or mentally; to cheat, deceive, or trick someone. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *The big guys fucked him over for a while and then let him go.*

fuck someone's mind (up) *tv.* to confuse or disorient someone; [for a drug] to affect or destroy someone's mind. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *She's really fucked your mind up. I'd stay away from her if I were you.* ☐ *I don't know what this stuff is, but it really fucked my mind.*

fuck up *in.* to mess up; to fail. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Don't fuck up this time or you're fired.* ☐ *You can count on him to fuck up.*

fuck-up **1.** *n.* a mess; a hopeless hodgepodge. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *When you went home yesterday, you left behind a first-class fuck-up. Now you can clean it up.* ☐ *Who's responsible for this fuck-up?* **2.** *n.* someone who does everything wrong; someone who messes everything up. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Poor Wille is such a fuck-up. What a mess he has made.*

fuck with someone *in.* to cause trouble for someone; to threaten someone. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Don't fuck with me if you know what's good for you!*

fuck with something *in.* to meddle with someone or something. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Stop fucking with the radio!*

Fuck you! *tv.* Go to hell! (A very insulting curse. Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Fuck you, you shit!* ☐ *Fuck you, if that's what you think.*

fud *Go to fuddy-duddy.*

fuddy-duddy AND **fud** ['fʌdɪdʌdi AND fʌd] *n.* a stuffy person; an old-fashioned person, especially a male. ☐ *Pay no attention to him. He's just an old fud.* ☐ *There seems to be a convention of fuddy-duddies in the park today.*

fudge [fʌdʒ] **1.** *in.* to cheat; to deceive (someone). ☐ *Bill, you're fudging. Wait till the starting gun fires.* ☐ *No fair fudging!* **2.** *n.* nonsense; deception. ☐ *Cut out the fudge and talk straight.* ☐ *I've heard enough of your fudge. Let's get honest, okay?*

fudge factor *n.* a margin of error. ☐ *I never use a fudge factor. I measure correctly, and I cut the material exactly the way I measured it.* ☐ *I built in a fudge factor of three inches.*

fugly ['fʌgli] *mod.* fat and ugly. ☐ *Man, is that dog of yours ever fugly! What or who did it eat?* ☐ *Have you every seen such a fugly car?*

full blast *mod.* as strongly as possible. ☐ *He honked the horn full blast for a long time.* ☐ *The whistle blew full blast and woke everyone up.*

full of beans *mod.* full of nonsense; full of hot air. ☐ *Oh, be quiet. You're just full of beans.* ☐ *Pay no attention to John. He's full of beans.*

full of bull *Go to full of hot air.*

full of hops *mod.* full of nonsense. (As if one were full of beer, which contains hops.) ☐ *Aw, you're just full of hops!* ☐ *The guy was full of hops. Nothing he said made any sense.*

full of hot air AND **full of bull; full of it** *mod.* full of nonsense. ☐ *You're full of hot*

air. I don't believe you. □ Aw, you're just full of it! Be quiet!

full of it Go to full of hot air; full of shit.

full of Old Nick Go to full of the devil.

full of prunes *mod.* full of nonsense. (See also full of beans.) □ *You're just silly. Completely full of prunes. □ Oh, you're full of prunes. Get a life!*

full of shit AND **full of it** *mod.* full of lies; stupid. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You're full of shit, you liar! □ Don't pay any attention to her. She's full of it.*

full of the devil AND **full of Old Nick** *mod.* always making mischief. □ *Little Chuckie is sure full of the devil. □ In this weather, the kids are always full of Old Nick.*

full sesh ['fʊl 'sɛʃ] *mod.* totally; completely. (California.) □ *He was really out of it full sesh. □ It was a great game. They went at it full sesh the whole time.*

full steam ahead *mod.* with determination. □ *We started moving full steam ahead on the project. □ Full steam ahead! Let's see how fast this will go!*

fun *mod.* pleasant; entertaining. □ *We had a real fun time. □ His party was fun. □ What a fun evening!*

fun and games *n.* nonsense; a waste of time. □ *I've had enough fun and games. Let's get on with the business. □ You spend too much time with fun and games!*

fungus Go to (face) fungus.

fungus-face *n.* a bearded man. (See also (face) fungus. See also fuzz-face.) □ *Who's the fungus-face in the striped blazer? □ Hey, fungus-face! Who is that behind all the fuzz?*

funk [fʌŋk] **1.** *n.* a bad odor; a stench. □ *What is that ghastly funk in here? □ Open the windows and clear out this funk. 2.* *n.* tobacco smoke. □ *The funk was so thick I couldn't see across the room. □ Most of those important decisions are made by party hacks in funk-filled back rooms. 3.* *n.* a depressed state. □ *I've been in such a funk that I can't get my work done. □ As soon as I get out of my winter funk, I'll*

be more helpful. 4. *n.* cowardice; terror. □ *She suffers this terrible funk whenever she has to give a talk. □ The dog was in such a funk that it was crying. 5.* *n.* a kind of blues rock; jazz based on gospel music. □ *Man, groove on that funk, would ya? □ Now this is the kind of funk I've been looking for.*

funked out *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Do you think you can go through life funked out all the time? □ Are you funked out again?*

funking *mod.* damnable. (Euphemistic for fucking. Usually objectionable.) □ *Who put this funky milk crate in the hall? □ Get the funkying hell out of here.*

funky AND **phunky** **1.** *mod.* strange; far out. □ *I like your funky hat. □ Is he funky? □ He's such a funky guy. 2.* *mod.* basic and simple; earthy. □ *Everything she does is so funky. □ I like to be around funky people. 3.* *mod.* smelly; obnoxious. □ *Get your funky old socks outa here. □ This place is really funky. Open some windows. 4.* *mod.* unkempt. □ *Your hair is sort of funky. Comb it. □ John's room is funky and disorganized.*

funky-drunk *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; stinking drunk. □ *The guy is funky-drunk, and I think he's going to be sick. □ Wow, is she ever funky-drunk!*

funky-fresh *mod.* very good. (See also fresh.) □ *This tune is funky-fresh—to my ears anyway. □ Mary is funky-fresh when she works out, but a real slow runner when she's been lazy.*

funny business Go to monkey business.

funny farm *n.* an insane asylum; a psychiatric hospital. □ *He's really weird. They're going to send him to the funny farm.*

funny-money *n.* any substitute money: counterfeit money, military script, etc. □ *I don't want any funny-money. Real U.S. greenbacks or forget the deal. □ Who'll change my funny-money back to bucks?*

fur *n.* the police. (See also fuzz.) □ *I think the fur is onto you, Rocko. □ The fur ain't never gonna get Rocko.*

furball Go to hairball.

furphy ['fəfi] *n.* a groundless rumor. □ *I heard a furphy about you yesterday.* □ *Who started that furphy anyway?*

fuse box *n.* the head; the brain. □ *I'm afraid she's missing a little something in the fuse box.* □ *Jed acts like his fuse box is completely blown.*

fussbudget ['fəsbdʒət] *n.* someone who fusses all the time, especially a baby. □ *Oh, Gary, don't be such a fussbudget.* □ *He is such a fussbudget. Get him a passy.*

futz Go to putz.

futz around Go to putz around.

fuzz [fəz] **1. AND fuzz man; fuzzy (tail)** *n.* the police; a jail keeper; a detective. □ *The fuzz is onto you.* □ *See if you can distract the fuzz man while I lift his keys.* **2. AND fuzzle** *in.* to get drunk. □ *They were just sitting there fuzzling away the day.* □ *Stop fuzzing and listen.*

fuzzed AND **fuzzled; fuzzy** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *You are too fuzzed all the time to hold the job. Pack!* □ *Why do you come home every night fuzzled?*

fuzz-face *n.* a man with a beard. (See also **fungus-face**.) □ *Hey, fuzz-face, come here a minute.* □ *A couple of fuzz-faces came in and asked for mustache wax.*

fuzzle Go to fuzz.

fuzzled Go to fuzzed.

fuzz man Go to fuzz.

fuzz station *n.* a police station. □ *He had to spend about an hour at the fuzz station, but nothing happened to him.* □ *Drop by the fuzz station and pick up a copy of the driving rules.*

fuzzword *n.* a confusing term usually meant to obscure meaning. (See also **buzzword**.) □ *The current crop of fuzzwords contains a few that have come back from the twenties.* □ *Don't sling those fuzzwords at me!*

fuzzy Go to fuzzed.

fuzzy (tail) Go to fuzz.

FWIW *interj.* for what it's worth. (Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *FWIW, I understand exactly what you are saying.* □ *I think you are just too sensitive, FWIW.*

F-word *n.* the word fuck. (A euphemism that can be used to refer to the word alone without reference to the various meanings of the word.) □ *They said the F-word seven times in the movie we saw last night.* □ *What's so bad about the F-word?*

G

G 1. *n.* guy. ☐ *What's up, G?* ☐ *Tom's a real chilled out G.* **2.** *interj.* grin. (An initialism used on computer forum or news groups to show that the writer is grinning or happy. Usually, <G>. Not pronounced.) ☐ *I guess you are not interested in what I was saying to you. <G>* ☐ *When are you going to learn to spell? <G>* **3.** Go to **grand**.

gab [gæb] **1.** *in.* to chatter; to gossip. ☐ *Can you stop gabbing just for a minute?* ☐ *We like to gab. Leave us alone.* **2.** *n.* mindless chatter; gossip. ☐ *I like to listen in on other people's gab.* ☐ *Enough of this gab—on with the show!*

gabfest ['gæbfɛst] *n.* an event where much chattering or gossip takes place. ☐ *There's a gabfest going on in Clare's room.* ☐ *Say, your gabfest is a little loud.*

gabmeister *n.* a talk show host or hostess. ☐ *Todd Remington, a late night gabmeister, startled his audience by suddenly walking off stage.* ☐ *There are so many of these gabmeisters that I can hardly keep them straight.*

gab room *n.* a women's restroom where women are said to chatter. ☐ *She went to the gab room to powder her nose.* ☐ *There was a small commotion in the gab room.*

gaffer ['gæfə] *n.* an old man; a rustic old man. (From *grandfather*.) ☐ *Nobody out there but some old gaffer with a cane.* ☐ *The old gaffer smiled and moved on.*

gaffle *tv.* to steal something. ☐ *Somebody gaffled my bike!*

gaffled ['gæfld] *mod.* arrested. ☐ *Fred got himself gaffled for speeding.* ☐ *I can just picture Fred gaffled and acting all humble.*

gag [gæg] **1.** *in.* to retch or choke, especially with much noise. (Standard English.) ☐ *The food was so horrible I almost gagged on it.* ☐ *Don't eat so fast. You'll gag.* **2.** *n.* a joke; a trick. ☐ *She tells the best gags.* ☐ *What a great gag! Everybody will love it.*

gaga ['gaga] **1.** *mod.* crazy; eccentric. ☐ *Sometimes you are so gaga!* ☐ *Sally is just naturally gaga.* **2.** *mod.* dazzled. ☐ *The family was gaga about my success.* ☐ *Tom was totally gaga after he got promoted.*

galloping dandruff Go to **walking dandruff**.

galumph (around) [gə'lʌmpf...] *in.* to walk around; to **schlep** around. ☐ *I spent all day galumphing around, looking for a present for Ted.* ☐ *Stop galumphing long enough to eat some dinner.*

game *mod.* willing to do something. ☐ *Is anybody game for some pizza?* ☐ *I'm game, what about you?*

game plan *n.* a plan of action; a scheme. (From sports.) ☐ *The game plan for the election was beginning to shape up.* ☐ *Our game plan had to be scrapped.*

game time *n.* time to go do what has to be done; time to go to work. (From sports.) ☐ *Okay, gang, let's get going. It's game time.* ☐ *Will this report be ready by game time?*

gams [gæmz] *n.* a woman's legs, especially if attractive. ☐ *Is she the one with the gorgeous gams?* ☐ *Look at the gams on that chick!*

gander *n.* a look. ☐ *Let me take a gander at it and see if it's done right.* ☐ *We should all take a gander to see what one is like.*

gang-bang 1. **AND gang-shag** *n.* an act of serial copulation, with one female and a

group of males. □ *It was nothing but a gang-bang, and a drunken one at that.* □ *Old Sally used to like a good gang-shag every now and then.* **2.** AND **gang-shag** *n.* group rape of a woman. □ *There was another gang-bang in the park last week.* **3.** *in.* & *in.* to perform an act of serial copulation, as in senses 1 or 2. □ *A bunch of guys gang-banged Sally, for a fee, of course.* **4.** *tv.* & *in.* to gang up on someone or something. □ *They looked like they were going to gang-bang me.* □ *They're always gang-banging. The punks!*

gangbanger *n.* a member of a street gang.

□ *The gangbangers threatened the old lady too often, and finally she pulled out a can of mace and gave them a little lesson in good manners.* □ *Unless you want to grow up to be a gangbanger, you'd better go to school every day.*

gangbusters ['gænbəstəz] *n.* a wild, busy, and successful event. (See also **like gangbusters**.) □ *Our party was truly gangbusters, for sure.* □ *The explosion and fire two streets over was really gangbusters for a while.*

gang-shag Go to **gang-bang**.

gank *tv.* to steal something. □ *Who ganked my bike!*

GAPO ['gæpo] *n.* giant armpit odor; a bad underarm odor. □ *Who's got the GAPO?* □ *That cab driver really has the GAPO.*

garbage 1. *n.* nonsense; gibberish. □ *He's just talking garbage.* □ *I've heard too much garbage here today.* **2.** *n.* jumbled computer code. □ *All I get is garbage on the screen.* □ *If you put garbage into the computer, you'll get garbage out.*

garbage freak AND **garbagehead** *n.* an addict who will take any drug. (Drugs.) □ *We don't know what she took. She was such a garbage freak.* □ *The garbageheads will take beans or anything else.*

garbagehead Go to **garbage freak**.

garbage mouth *n.* someone who uses obscene language. □ *Quiet, garbage mouth! Watch your language.* □ *Who's the garbage mouth making all the noise?*

garbage something down *tv.* to gobble something up; to bolt something down. □ *Don't garbage your food down!* □ *That guy will garbage down almost anything.*

garbanzos *n.* a woman's breasts. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Look at the splendid garbanzos on that chick!*

gargle 1. *in.* to drink liquor. □ *They sat and gargled for an hour or two.* □ *Let's go out and gargle for a while.* **2.** *n.* liquor; a drink of liquor. □ *You want some more gargle?* □ *Pour me a little of that gargle, if you please.*

gargle factory *n.* a saloon; a tavern. □ *Gary spends a lot of time at the gargle factory.* □ *He should open his own gargle factory.*

gargler *n.* a drinker; a drunkard. □ *You are going to turn into a gargler if you don't let up on your drinking.* □ *Some old gargler froze to death last night.*

gas 1. *n.* intestinal gas. □ *The baby has gas and will cry for a while longer.* □ *I'm not too well, but I think it's just gas.* **2.** *n.* nonsense. □ *All we got in class today was gas.* □ *Hey, that's about enough of your gas.* **3.** *in.* to talk nonsense; to brag. (See also **gasbag**.) □ *Pay no attention. She's just gassing.* □ *Stop gassing for a minute and listen.* **4.** *in.* to have a good time. □ *We gassed all evening.* □ *Let's go out and gas tonight, how about it?* **5.** AND **gasser** *n.* a joke; a prank; a wild time. □ *The party was a gas.* □ *What a gas! I had a great time.* **6.** *n.* liquor, especially inferior liquor. □ *You want some more gas?* □ *Pour me a little more of that gas, will you?* **7.** AND **gas up** *in.* to drink excessively; to get drunk. □ *Let's go out and gas up!* □ *I come home every night and find that you've been gassing all day.*

gasbag *n.* a braggart. □ *What's the old gasbag going on about now?* □ *Harry is such a gasbag when he gets going about himself.*

gas-guzzler *n.* a large automobile that uses much gasoline. □ *I got rid of my gas-guzzler and got a smaller car.* □ *The old gas-guzzlers were certainly comfortable.*

gash *n.* the female genitals; the vulva. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He thought he could see her gash through her swimming suit.*

gash bucket *n.* a refuse bucket; a bucket used as a urinal. (Underworld and military.) □ *Don't kick over the gash bucket over there!* □ *Why don't you go dump the gash bucket?*

gas-passer *n.* a jocular nickname for an anesthetist. (Hospitals.) □ *My gosh! The gas-passer charged almost as much as the surgeon.* □ *The gas-passer put a needle in my arm.*

gassed (up) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Fred is gassed up and very wobbly.* □ *He was too gassed up to drive home.*

gasser Go to gas.

gas up Go to gas.

gat *n.* a handgun; a revolver. (Old.) □ *Willie kept his gat in his pocket when the cops walked up.*

the **gate** *n.* a forced exit; sending (someone) away. (See also **give someone the gate**.) □ *I could see in his eyes that it was the gate for me.* □ *I got the gate, but I was going to leave anyway.*

gaucho ['gaʊtʃo] *tv. & in.* to expose the buttocks (at someone), usually through a car window; to moon. □ *Victor gauched the cops as they went by.* □ *Victor would gauch at the drop of a hat—so to speak.*

gay as pink ink *mod.* having to do with an obviously homosexual person, usually a male. □ *Who said Ron's as gay as pink ink?* □ *These two guys—as gay as pink ink—came in together.*

gazinkus AND **gazunkus** [gə'zɪŋkəs AND gə'zəŋkəs] *n.* a gadget. □ *Where is the gazinkus I use for opening paint cans?* □ *Is this the little gazunkus you were looking for?*

gazizzey AND **gazob** [gə'zɪzi AND gə'zəb] *n.* a fool. □ *What gazizzey put the sugar in the salt shaker?* □ *Don't call me a gazob!*

gazob Go to gazizzey.

gazoo [gə'zu] *n.* the buttocks; the anus. □ *He fell down flat, smack on his gazoo.* □ *Look at the monstrous gazoo on that guy.*

gazoony [gə'zuni] *n.* a bully or strong-arm man. (Underworld.) □ *Bruno didn't like being called a gazoony, although that is what he is.* □ *A couple of gazoones stood outside looking menacing.*

gazumph [gə'zʌmpf] **1.** *tv.* to raise the price of a house after it is sold. □ *They tried to gazumph the price at the closing.* □ *I just knew that the owner was going to gazumph the final figure.* **2.** *tv.* to subject someone to the raising of the price of a house after it is sold. □ *They tried to gazumph me!* □ *If they try to gazumph you, tell them to forget the deal.*

gazunkus Go to gazinkus.

GBed ['dʒi'bid] *mod.* goofballed; drug intoxicated. (Initialism. Drugs.) □ *Pete is GBed again.* □ *Gert got GBed fairly often before the accident.*

GBG *interj.* a great big grin. (An initialism used on computer forum or news groups to show that the writer is grinning, joking, or happy. Not pronounced. Often enclosed, <GBG>.) □ *I think you are just talking nonsense. <GBG>* □ *You are such a kook! <GBG>*

gear 1. *mod.* excellent. □ *This jazz is really gear!* □ *Man, what a gear pizza!* **2.** *n.* an asterisk (*). □ *Why is there a gear after this word?* □ *The gear stands for anything you want it to stand for.*

gee [dʒi] **1.** *n.* a portion of liquor, a gallon or a single drink. □ *You want another gee of this booze?* □ *How about a gee for me?* **2.** *exclam.* Wow! (An abbreviation of Jesus!, although not always recognized as such. Usually **Gee!**) □ *Gee! What a mess!* □ *Golly gee, do I have to?* **3.** *mod.* gross; disgusting. (The initial letter of **gross**.) □ *This is just too gee!* □ *Tiffany is acting way gee lately.* **4.** Go to grand.

geedunk [gi'dəŋk OR 'gidəŋk] *n.* ice cream. □ *Let's go out and get some geedunk for dessert.* □ *Pineapple on chocolate geedunk? Yuck!*

geedus Go to geetis.

geegaw AND **gewgaw**; **googaw** ['gigə AND 'gugə] *n.* a gadget; a bauble. □ *Now that's*

a cute little geegaw. □ *What do you do with these gewgaws? Hang them on a tree?*

geek AND **geke** **1.** *n.* a disgusting and repellent person; a **creep**. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *The convention was a seething morass of pushy sales geeks and glad-handers.* □ *Who's the geek who just came in?* **2.** *n.* an earnest student; a hard-working student. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Martin is a geek, but he will go places with his brains.* □ *It looks like the geeks are taking over this campus. How gross!* **3.** *n.* a person, soldier, or civilian of an East Asian country, especially in wartime. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Wally is tired of geeks and the way they talk.*

geekazoid ['gikəzɔɪd] *n.* a social outcast; a **nerd**. □ *Don't be such a geekazoid!* □ *If you weren't such a geekazoid, I'd be surprised at the dumb things you do!*

geek-chic ['gik'fɪk] *mod.* stylish or fashionable only for social outcasts. (See also **geek**.) □ *Tom is the guy who always wears the tacky geek-chic jacket.* □ *Why do you have to buy all this geek-chic stuff? Don't they give it away somewhere?*

geekdom *n.* the realm of the hard-studying students or **geeks**. □ *This dorm is not exactly geekdom. Almost all the guys here are on academic probation.* □ *I spent all last semester in the hallowed halls of geekdom, studying my buns off.*

geek out *in.* to study hard. (See also **geek**.) □ *Big test tomorrow. I've got to get home and geek out.* □ *Bill's a geekazoid. He geeks out all the time.*

Geesh! [giʃ] *exclam.* Good grief! (Shows shock and disgust.) □ *What a mess! Geesh!* □ *Geesh! I love my work but hate my job!*

geetis AND **geedus; geetus** ['gidəs] *n.* money. □ *That kind of car takes a lot of geetis, doesn't it?* □ *I don't have the geetis to throw around on something like that.*

geetus Go to geetis.

geezer ['gizə] **1.** *n.* a strange old man; a **buzzard**. □ *Who's the old geezer with the straw hat on?* □ *He is a nice geezer, but a little talkative.* **2.** *n.* a drink of liquor. □

Toss down a geezer of this stuff and see how you like it. □ *Can I have another geezer of this firewater?*

geke Go to geek.

gel [dʒel] *in.* to relax and let one's hair down. □ *I've got to go home and gel for a while. Things are too stressful just now.* □ *If I don't get to gel a little every day, I tend to fall apart.*

gender-bender **1.** *n.* a device that changes electrical plugs or sockets to the opposite gender—male to female, female to male. □ *You need what's called a gender-bender to match those plugs.* □ *I tried a gender-bender, but it won't work.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with something that obscures male/female distinctions. □ *Those gender-bender hairstyles can be confusing.* □ *He always wears gender-bender clothes.*

generic [dʒə'nɛrɪk] *mod.* cheap; plain; undesirable. □ *I don't want any old generic car, I want something with power and good looks.* □ *This cereal is generic. It has no taste at all.* □ *This pizza is completely generic. I can't stand it.*

genuine article ['dʒɛnjəwən 'ɑrtɪkl] OR 'dʒɛn'ju'wɔɪn 'ɑrtɪkl] *n.* the real thing rather than a substitute. □ *Is this the genuine article or some cheap made-in-U.S.A. substitute?* □ *I'll take the genuine article, thanks.*

george **1.** *tv. & in.* to copulate [with] a woman. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He was in the back room georging some dame.* **2.** *in.* to defecate. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Man, I gotta george!*

GERK AND **gerk** [gə'k] *n.* an elderly simpleton; an old **nerd**. (Acronym. From *geriatric* and *jerk*.) □ *Old man Johnson is a real GERK—ill-tempered and rude.* □ *A couple of gerks sat on the park bench, snoozing.*

German goiter Go to Milwaukee goiter.

Geronimo! [dʒə'rənəmo] *exclam.* Here I go! (Originally said by parachutists leaving a plane. From Spanish for *Jerome*.) □ *There's my cue. Geronimo!* □ *Here goes nothing. Geronimo!*

get a bang out of someone or something AND **get a kick out of someone or something** *tv.* to get a thrill from someone or something. ☐ *I always get a bang out of her jokes.* ☐ *She gets a kick out of her grandchildren.*

get a buzz out of someone or something *tv.* to get some humor from someone or something. (See also **give someone a buzz**.) ☐ *I thought you'd get a buzz out of that gag.* ☐ *I hope you get a buzz out of Ted. He's a funny guy.*

get a can on *tv.* to get drunk. (See also **tie one on**.) ☐ *Let's go out tonight and get a can on.* ☐ *The entire office staff got a can on to celebrate the contract.*

get a fix AND **get a gift** *tv.* to buy drugs; to take a dose of drugs. (Drugs.) ☐ *Gert had to get home and get a fix.* ☐ *What did Tracy mean when she said she had to get a gift fast?*

get a gift Go to get a fix.

get a kick out of someone or something Go to get a bang out of someone or something.

Get a life! *exclam.* Change your life radically! (See also **Get real!**) ☐ *You are such a twit! Get a life!* ☐ *Get a life, you clown!*

get a load off one's feet AND **take a load off one's feet** *tv.* to sit down and relax. ☐ *Sit down and get a load off your feet.* ☐ *Take a load off your feet and have a drink.*

get a load off one's mind *tv.* to say what one is thinking; to speak one's mind; to talk something out. ☐ *I'm sorry, but I just had to get a load off my mind.* ☐ *I think you'll feel better after you get a load off your mind.*

get a load of something or someone *tv.* to look at someone or something. ☐ *Wow, get a load of Fred!* ☐ *Get a load of the chrome on that set of wheels!*

get an eyeball on someone or something *tv.* to manage to spot someone or something; to catch sight of someone or something. ☐ *When I finally got an eyeball on the speeding car, it was too far away for me to read the license plate.* ☐ *When*

Jane first got an eyeball on her blind date, she almost cringed in disappointment.

get a toehold *tv.* to work one's way into some association or relationship. ☐ *As soon as I get a toehold in the company, I'll be more relaxed.* ☐ *Once he gets a toehold, you'll never get rid of him.*

Get away! ['get ə'we] *exclam.* Stop being a pest!; I don't believe you! ☐ *Don't bother me! Get away!* ☐ *Get away! Nobody is that stupid!*

getaway ['getəwe] **1.** *n.* an escape from the law. (Originally underworld.) ☐ *Lefty made a quick getaway.* ☐ *There was no time to make a getaway, so we had to talk to Mrs. Wilson.* **2.** *n.* a quick vacation. ☐ *We took a little getaway to the Bahamas.* ☐ *What you need is a weekend getaway.*

Get a wiggle on! *exclam.* Hurry up! ☐ *Get a wiggle on! We don't have all day!* ☐ *Hey, you guys! Get a wiggle on! We gotta finish before nightfall.*

get behind someone or something *in.* to support someone or something. ☐ *Let's all get behind the party in the next election.* ☐ *Everybody got behind Todd and cheered him on.*

get behind something *in.* to enjoy something, such as a drug or music. (Originally drugs.) ☐ *I'm really getting behind heavy metal.* ☐ *Sam got behind some acid and got stuck there.*

Get cracking! *exclam.* Get moving!; Get started!; Hurry up! ☐ *Hurry up! Get cracking!*

get down **1.** *in.* to lay one's money on the table. (Gambling.) ☐ *Okay, everybody get down.* ☐ *Get down, and let's get going!* **2.** *in.* to concentrate; to do something well. ☐ *I'm flunking two subjects, man. I gotta get down.* ☐ *Come on, Sam, pay attention. Get down and learn this stuff.* **3.** *in.* to copulate. ☐ *Hey, let's get down!* ☐ *All Steve wants to do is get down all the time.* **4.** *in.* to dance. ☐ *Whenever I hear that band, I really want to get down.*

get down on someone *in.* to be critical of someone; to get on someone's case.

☐ *Don't get down on me. I didn't do it!* ☐ *I'm gonna get down on him for that.*

get down to some serious drinking *in.* to settle down to a long session of drinking. ☐ *Well, now we can get down to some serious drinking.* ☐ *When the kids go to bed, let's get down to some serious drinking.*

get down to the nitty-gritty *in.* to get down to the basic facts. (See also **nitty-gritty**.) ☐ *Stop messing around and get down to the nitty-gritty.* ☐ *If we could only get down to the nitty-gritty and stop wasting time.*

get face *tv.* to gain respect; to increase one's status. (The opposite of *lose face*.) ☐ *He's doing his best in life to get face.* ☐ *Let's do something to help her get face.*

get hot **1.** *in.* to begin to get lucky, as in gambling. ☐ *I knew I was getting hot when I got all the right cards.* ☐ *If I could only get hot, I might win back everything I lost.* **2.** *in.* to become busy or hectic. ☐ *Things always get hot around here toward the end of the month.* ☐ *When things start getting hot, we have to hire more people.*

get in bad (with someone) *in.* to get into trouble with someone. ☐ *I tried not to get in bad with Wally.* ☐ *We got in bad with each other from the start.*

get in on the act *in.* to become involved in something with someone else. (The involvement is not necessarily welcome.) ☐ *Everybody wants to get in on the act.* ☐ *Why are you trying to get in on the act?*

get in someone's face *in.* to provoke someone. ☐ *Ted's a real pain. He likes to get in your face. He'll argue about anything.* ☐ *I know you are angry, but don't get in my face. I had nothing to do with it.*

get in the groove *in.* to become attuned to something. ☐ *I was uncomfortable at first, but now I'm beginning to get in the groove.* ☐ *Fred began to get in the groove, and things went more smoothly.*

get in(to) someone's pants *in.* to manage to copulate with a certain female; to seduce a female. (Usually objectionable.)

☐ *Are you sure you don't just want to get into my pants?*

get into something *in.* to become deeply involved with something. ☐ *I got into computers when I was in junior high school.* ☐ *When did you get into foreign films?*

get it **1.** *tv.* to understand a joke; to understand a point of information. ☐ *Sorry. I don't get it.* ☐ *Don't you get it?* **2.** *tv.* to get punished. ☐ *I just know I'm going to get it when I get home.* ☐ *You're going to get it all right!*

get it (all) together *tv.* to get oneself organized; to get mentally adjusted. ☐ *When I get it together, I'll try to go back to school.* ☐ *Try to get it all together and come back to work next week, okay?*

get it in the neck *tv.* to receive something bad, such as punishment or criticism. (See also **pain in the neck**.) ☐ *You are going to get it in the neck for that remark.* ☐ *Jimmy was afraid he'd get it in the neck for being late.*

get it off *tv.* to ejaculate; to achieve sexual release; to copulate. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Harry kept saying he had to get it off or die. What's wrong with Harry?* ☐ *The entire crew of the yacht came ashore to get it off.*

get it on **1.** *tv.* to begin something. ☐ *Time to go back to work. Let's get it on!* ☐ *Get it on, you guys! Time to start your engines.*

2. *tv.* to begin dancing. ☐ *Let's go out there and get it on!* ☐ *He wanted to get it on, but my feet hurt.* **3.** *tv.* [for people] to copulate. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Come on, baby, let's get it on.* ☐ *I don't want to get it on with you or any other creep.* **4.** *tv.* to undertake to enjoy oneself. ☐ *I can really get it on with that slow jazz.*

☐ *Let's go listen to some new age and get it on.* **5.** *tv.* to get an erection; to become sexually aroused. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *He's too tired to get it on.*

get it out *tv.* to tell (someone) about a problem; to pour out one's grief. ☐ *Come on, get it out. You'll feel better.* ☐ *He would feel better if he could get it out.*

get it up 1. *tv.* to get an erection of the penis. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *He's so drunk all the time, he can hardly get it up.*
2. *tv.* to get excited about something. ☐ *I just couldn't get it up about going off to college.*

get lip *tv.* to get some kissing; to neck. (Teens.) ☐ *Jim's been out getting lip again. Look at the lipstick.* ☐ *These kids talk about getting lip. Ye gods, how crude!*

Get lost! *exclam.* Go away!; Beat it! ☐ *Get lost, you're bothering me!* ☐ *Quit following me. Get lost!*

get mad (at something) *in.* to muster great physical strength and determination in order to do something. ☐ *You're gonna have to get mad at it if you want to move it.* ☐ *Come on, you guys. Get mad.*

Get my drift? Go to (Do you) get my drift?

get naked *in.* to enjoy oneself thoroughly; to relax and enjoy oneself. ☐ *Let's all go out and get naked tonight.* ☐ *Man, I feel like getting naked tonight.*

get narkied [...'narkid] *in.* to inject drugs; to become addicted. (Drugs.) ☐ *Rocko only got narkied once in his life.* ☐ *Gert couldn't wait to get narkied.*

get nowhere fast *in.* to make very poor progress. ☐ *We are getting nowhere fast around here.* ☐ *I'm getting nowhere fast in this job. I quit.*

get off 1. *in.* to reach an understanding with someone. (Not slang.) ☐ *We just weren't getting off well at all.* ☐ *How well do you get off with Ralph?* **2.** Go to get off (on something).

Get off it! Go to Come off it!

Get off my ass! AND **Get off my tail!** **Get off my back!** *exclam.* Leave me alone!; Stop following me!; Stop dogging me! (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Stop pestering me! Get off my ass!* ☐ *If you don't get off my back, I'm gonna slug you!*

Get off my back! Go to Get off my ass!

Get off my bumper! 1. *exclam.* Stop following my car so closely! ☐ *Don't follow me so close! Get off my bumper!* **2.** *exclam.* Stop monitoring me!; Get off my back!

☐ *Look, man. I can take care of myself. Get off my bumper!*

Get off my tail! Go to Get off my ass!

get off one's rear *in.* to get up and get busy. ☐ *It's time to get off your rear and get to work.* ☐ *Hey, Chuck, get off your rear! There's work to be done.*

get off (on something) 1. *in.* to get pleasure from something; to become sexually aroused by something. ☐ *I don't get off on music anymore.* ☐ *I listen, but I just don't get off.* **2.** *in.* to take a drug and experience a rush. (Drugs.) ☐ *Max likes to get off, but he's got his business to run.* ☐ *Tracy likes getting off better than anything else.* **3.** *in.* to do well in something. ☐ *Wayne is getting off on history, much to everyone's surprise.* ☐ *Bill got off on fixing up his car, and I may let him do mine too.*

get off someone's back AND **get off someone's case** *in.* to stop annoying someone. (Compare this with **get on someone's case**.) ☐ *I wish you'd get off my back.* ☐ *Get off my case! You aren't my mother.*

get off someone's case Go to get off someone's back.

get off the dime *in.* [for something or someone] to start moving. (To get off the dime that one stopped on in *stop on a dime*.) ☐ *I wish this organization could get off the dime.* ☐ *If this project gets off the dime, we'll be okay.*

get one right here *tv.* to affect one deeply in a specific way. (Usually accompanied with a hand gesture showing exactly where one is affected: the heart = lovingly, the stomach or bowels = sickeningly.) ☐ *That sort of thing gets me right here.* ☐ *Pete clasped his hand to his chest and said, "That sort of thing gets me right here."*

get one's act together AND **get one's shit together; get one's stuff together 1.** *tv.* to organize oneself; to get one's possessions organized. (Use caution with **shit**.) ☐ *Let me get my act together, and I'll be right with you.* ☐ *I'll get my stuff together and be right with you.* **2.** AND **get**

one's head together *tv.* to calm down and get mentally organized. (Use caution with shit.) □ *As soon as I get my head together, I can be of more help.* □ *Get your act together and start living again.*

get one's bowels in an uproar *tv.* to become overly anxious or excited. □ *Cool it! Don't get your bowels in an uproar.* □ *Fred's always getting his bowels in an uproar about nothing.*

get one's head together Go to get one's act together.

get one's hooks into someone *tv.* [for a woman] to succeed in "capturing" a specific man. (Older.) □ *She just can't wait to get her hooks into Chuck.* □ *When she got her hooks into him, she decided he wasn't so great after all.*

get one's hooks into something *tv.* to get a hold of something; to gain control of something. □ *I want to get my hooks into the operation of this organization.* □ *If I could get my hooks into the control of the company, I would change things for the better.*

get one's kicks (from someone or something) *tv.* to get pleasure from someone or something. □ *Do you get your kicks from this sort of thing?* □ *I get my kicks from Billy Simpson. What a great entertainer!*

get one's knob polished *tv.* to copulate or otherwise have sex. (Refers to a male. Usually objectionable.) □ *Man, if you want to get your knob polished, just let me know. I got girls! I got girls you wouldn't believe!*

get one's lumps *tv.* to get the result or punishment one deserves. (See also **take one's lumps**.) □ *If she keeps acting that way, she'll get her lumps.* □ *We will see that Dave gets his lumps.*

get one's nose cold *tv.* to snort cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *Bart is always ready to get his nose cold.* □ *Rocko has never gotten his nose cold in his life.*

get one's nose out of joint *tv.* to feel slighted by something someone has done; to take offense at something. (See also

put someone's nose out of joint.) □ *You get your nose out of joint too easily about stuff like that.* □ *Now, don't get your nose out of joint. She didn't mean it.*

get one's nuts off Go to get one's rocks off.

get one's rocks off AND **get one's nuts off** *tv.* [for a male] to copulate or ejaculate. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He went into town to get his nuts off.*

get one's rocks off (on something) *tv.* to enjoy something. (See also **get one's rocks off**.) □ *I really get my rocks off on heavy metal.* □ *I've listened to the stuff, but I sure don't get my rocks off on it.*

get one's shit together Go to get one's act together.

get one's stuff together Go to get one's act together.

get one's tail somewhere fast! AND **get one's tail somewhere now!; get one's tail somewhere immediately!** *tv.* to move oneself to a particular place fast. □ *You get your tail over here immediately!* □ *Tell him to get his tail over here now.*

get one's tail somewhere immediately! Go to get one's tail somewhere fast!

get one's tail somewhere now! Go to get one's tail somewhere fast!

get one's teeth into something AND **sink one's teeth into something** *tv.* to undertake to do something. □ *I can't wait to sink my teeth into that Wallace job.* □ *Here, sink your teeth into this and see if you can't manage this project.*

get one's ticket punched *tv.* to die; to be killed. (Literally, to be cancelled.) □ *Poor Chuck got his ticket punched while he was waiting for a bus.* □ *Watch out there, or you'll get your ticket punched.*

get one's wings *tv.* to use heavy drugs for the first time; to succeed in becoming a drug addict. (Drugs.) □ *Gert got her wings after fiddling around with stuff for a long time.* □ *Bart got his wings at about age twelve.*

get on one's horse *in.* to prepare to leave. □ *It's late. I have to get on my horse.*

get on someone's case *in.* to start harassing someone about a personal problem; to annoy someone. (Compare this with **get off someone's case**.) ☐ *I'll get on Tom's case about being late so much.* ☐ *I'm sorry, I won't get on your case anymore.*

get on the stick *in.* to get organized and get busy. ☐ *Get on the stick and get this job done!* ☐ *Come on, you guys. Let's get on the stick!*

get out of Dodge *in.* to leave a place. (Refers to Dodge City, Kansas, and a catchphrase from Western entertainment adventures about this town.) ☐ *Come on, G. Let's get out of Dodge.* ☐ *Things are looking bad here. It's time to get out of Dodge.*

Get out of here! *exclam.* You are just kidding me!; You are making that up! ☐ *Get out of here! That can't be true!*

Get out of my face! *exclam.* Stop arguing with me!; Stand back! Don't confront me with your arguments and challenges! (See also **get in someone's face**.) ☐ *Beat it! Get out of my face!* ☐ *Get outa my face if you know what's good for you.*

Get out of town! *exclam.* Beat it!; Get out of here! ☐ *Go away, you bother me! Get out of town!* ☐ *You'd better get out of town, my friend. You are a pest.*

get (out) while the gettin(g)'s good **AND** **get (out) while the goin's good** *in.* to leave while it is still safe or possible to do so. ☐ *I could tell that it was time for me to get while the gettin's good.* ☐ *I told her she should get out while the goin's good.*

get (out) while the goin's good **Go to get (out) while the gettin(g)'s good.**

Get real! *exclam.* Start acting realistically! (See also **Get a life!**) ☐ *Hey, chum! You are way off base! Get real!* ☐ *Get real! Wake up to reality!*

get right **Go to get straight.**

get smart (with someone) *in.* to become fresh with someone; to talk back to someone. ☐ *Don't you get smart with me!* ☐ *If you get smart again, I'll bop you.*

get someone going *tv.* to get someone excited; to get someone talking excitedly. ☐ *I guess I really got him going on the subject of politics.* ☐ *The whole business really makes me mad. Don't get me going.*

get someone's goat *tv.* to irritate someone. ☐ *Don't let Mary get your goat. She's just irritable today.* ☐ *Everybody seems to be getting my goat today.*

get someone's motor running **1.** *tv.* to get someone excited. ☐ *What'll I have to do to get your motor running about algebra?* ☐ *I've got some news that'll really get your motor running. **2.** *tv.* to get someone sexually aroused. ☐ *She knows how to get his motor running.* ☐ *It's funny how that wild music gets her motor running.**

get some shut-eye *tv.* to get some sleep. ☐ *I need to get home and get some shut-eye before I do anything else.* ☐ *We all could use some shut-eye.*

get something going (with someone) *tv.* to start a romance with someone. ☐ *Heidi wants to get something going with Pete.* ☐ *Mary and Sam got something going.*

get some yokes on *tv.* to build up one's muscles. (Bodybuilding.) ☐ *If I keep working at this, I know I can get some yokes on.*

get straight **AND** **get right** *in.* to take a dose of a drug to end drug craving. (Drugs.) ☐ *Gert needed a fix to get straight.* ☐ *I need to get right before anything else.*

get stupid *in.* to become intoxicated; to make oneself alcohol or drug intoxicated. ☐ *Garth had the habit of going out and getting stupid every Friday night.* ☐ *It's been one totally screwed up week. I think I'll just stay home tonight and get stupid.*

get the ax **Go to get the sack.**

get the drop on someone **1.** *tv.* to succeed in getting an advantage over someone. ☐ *I guess I got the drop on you because I was early.* ☐ *I got the drop on almost everybody by sending in my registration by mail. **2.** *tv.* [for person A] to manage to get a gun aimed at person B*

before person B can aim back at person A. (The gun is then dropped by person B.) □ *Rocko got the drop on Bart in a flash.* □ *Max was too stoned to get the drop on Rocko.*

get the goods on someone *tv.* to uncover incriminating evidence against someone. □ *The fuzz has the goods on Mr. Big.* □ *The IRS tried to get the goods on Rocko, but Rocko knows all the angles.*

Get the lead out! *exclam.* Get moving!; Hurry up! (Crude. It is assumed that one has bowels full of lead.) □ *Come on, you turkeys. Get the lead out!* □ *Shake the lead out! I want it done today, not next week.*

Get the message? **AND Get the picture?** *interrog.* Do you understand?; Are you able to figure out what is meant? □ *Things are tough around here, and we need everyone's cooperation. Get the picture?* □ *We don't need lazy people around here. Get the message?*

get the nod *tv.* to be chosen. (See also **give someone the nod.**) □ *Fred got the nod for class treasurer.* □ *I hope I get the nod for the job.*

Get the picture? **Go to Get the message?**

get there *in.* to get drunk. □ *Another hour of drinking and Pete knew he was going to get there.* □ *Those guys have all got there. Now what?*

get the sack **AND get the ax** *tv.* to be dismissed from one's employment. □ *Poor Tom got the sack today. He's always late.* □ *I was afraid that Sally was going to get the ax.*

get the show on the road *tv.* to get (something) started. □ *Let's get started! Get the show on the road!* □ *Get the show on the road. We don't have all day.*

Getting any? *interrog.* Have you been having any sexual activity? (An inquiry or greeting between some males. Usually objectionable.) □ *Hey, Tom! Getting any?*

get to first (base) (with someone) *in.* to achieve a basic or initial level of intimacy with someone, such as getting some attention or even getting kissed. □ *I'm too*

shy. I just know I can't get to first base with her.

get to someone **1.** *in.* [for someone or something] to annoy someone after a period of exposure to the annoyance. □ *The whole business began to get to me after a while.* □ *Her remark got to me after I thought about it.* **2.** *in.* [for someone or something] to please or entice someone. □ *Lovely flowers and things like that get to me.* □ *Sad music gets to me and makes me cry.*

get with it **1.** *in.* to modernize one's attitudes and behavior. □ *Get with it, Martin. Get real!* □ *You really have to get with it, Ernie.* **2.** *in.* to hurry up and get busy; to be more industrious with something. □ *Get with it; we've got a lot to do.* □ *Let's get with it. There's a lot of work to be done.*

get with someone *in.* to find out about someone; to get to know someone. □ *I'd really like to get with her, but she's so distant.* □ *I was just beginning to get with Heidi when she left.*

get with the program *in.* follow the rules; do what you are supposed to do. □ *Come on, Mark. Get with the program. Do what you are told.* □ *Jane just can't seem to get with the program. She has to do everything her way, right or wrong.*

Get your ass in gear *exclam.* Get going!; Start working or performing well. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You have to get moving and get to work. Get your ass in gear!*

Get your nose out of my business! **AND Keep your nose out of my business!** *exclam.* Mind your own business and leave me alone. □ *Get your nose out of my business! This is not your affair.*

gewgaw *Go to geegaw.*

ghetto bird *n.* someone who hangs around the [black] neighborhood. □ *Sam is just a ghetto bird who has lots of skills but no job.*

(ghetto) blaster **AND (ghetto) box** ['gɛdə blæstə AND 'gɛdə baks] *n.* a portable stereo radio. (Often carried on the shoulder, especially by blacks.) □ *Hey, turn*

down that ghetto blaster in here! □ You can't bring that box on this bus!

(ghetto) box Go to (ghetto) blaster.

ghost turd *n.* a wad of lint, as found under a bed. (Use caution with **turd**.) □ *There's a lot of ghost turds under the bed. □ Sweep out those ghost turds and get rid of them.*

GIB *mod.* good in bed; good as a sexual partner. (Usually objectionable. Initialism.) □ *Pete lets on that he's GIB. □ How does he know he's GIB?*

gibber-gabber ['dʒɪbəˈdʒæbə] *n.* nonsense; gossip and chatter. □ *There sure is a lot of gibber-gabber coming from your room, Jimmy. □ What's all this gibber-gabber about?*

Giddy up! ['gɪdi...] *exclam.* Move faster! (Said to a horse to start it moving. Also said to people or things as a joke.) □ *Giddy up, Charlie! It's time to start moving. □ Let's get going, chum. Giddy up!*

gidget *n.* a silly-acting female; a ditzzy dame. □ *Sally is just a blonde gidget without a care in the world.*

giffed [ɡɪft] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (From **TGIF** *Thank God It's Friday*. Said of people who celebrate the end of the workweek with liquor.) □ *He left the tavern pretty giffed. □ She was pretty giffed for just a few beers.*

gift of gab *n.* the ability to speak well in public; the ability to persuade people verbally; the ability to speak well extemporaneously. □ *Gary has the gift of gab, but it doesn't get him anywhere. □ I wish I had the gift of gab. I'm just so shy.*

gig **1.** *n.* a onetime job; an engagement. (Musicians.) □ *I had a gig out on the west side, but I couldn't get there. □ The gig was canceled because of the snow.* **2.** *in.* to play or perform. (Musicians.) □ *I didn't gig at all last week. I'm getting hungry for a job. □ I'm happiest when I'm gigging.* **3.** *n.* any job of an assignment nature; a onetime job such as when a newspaper reporter is assigned to write a particular story. □ *I didn't want that election gig, but I got it anyway. □ Wally is tired of getting*

the crime gigs. **4.** *n.* a bother; an annoyance; a job. □ *Man, this paperwork is such a gig. □ This day's a gig. I've had it.* **5.** *n.* a giggle; a bit of laughter. □ *Her little story gave us all a good gig. □ I had a nice little gig over what happened to Tom.*

giggle goo ['ɡɪɡl gu] *n.* liquor. □ *Can I pour you a little of that giggle goo? □ Haven't you had about enough of that giggle goo?*

GIGO *phr.* garbage in, garbage out. (Computers. Acronym. If you get garbage out of a computer, it's because you put garbage in. See also **DIDO**.) □ *The program failed, and I know it's my fault. You know, GIGO. □ GIGO is my theme song. I get out just what I deserve.*

gimme ['ɡɪmi] *phr.* give me. (Eye-dialect. Typical spoken English. Used in writing only for effect. Used in the examples of this dictionary.) □ *Do you wanna gimme the thingy and lemme go ahead with my work? □ Gimme another one.*

Gimme a break! Go to Give me a break!

gimp [ɡɪmp] **1.** *n.* a lame person. (Originally underworld. Rude and derogatory.) □ *Lefty tried to mug an old gimp with a cane. □ The gimp came hobbling along, muttering something under his breath.* **2.** *in.* to limp about. □ *I've been gimping a little bit since my accident. □ I'll gimp over there as soon as I can. It'll take a while on these crutches.*

gimpy ['ɡɪmpi] **1.** *mod.* crippled; lame. □ *I got a gimpy leg. I'll catch up in a minute. □ He's sort of gimpy since the football season.* **2.** *n.* a police officer. (Also a rude term of address. A pun on **lame**, an inept person.) □ *Here comes gimpy, swinging his stick. □ Gimpy has been around asking about you.*

gin dive Go to gin mill.

ginhead *n.* a drunkard. □ *Gert could have ended up a ginhead, but she went another route instead. □ A couple of ginheads sat in the corner booth silently.*

gin mill AND **gin dive; gin palace** *n.* a saloon; a low liquor establishment. □ *Fred hit every gin mill on the way home. □*

You'll find Bob in some gin dive on the west side of town.

gin palace Go to gin mill.

girked *mod.* intoxicated with heroin. ☐ *He shot himself up and was girked in no time.*

girl 1. *n.* a woman; a young woman. (Objectionable to some as demeaning to women.) ☐ *A bunch of us girls got together for coffee today.* ☐ *Would you girls care to come over to my house next week?*
2. *n.* the queen of playing cards. (See also **bitch.**) ☐ *What I needed in that last hand was the girl.* ☐ *Come on, dealer, I need that girl!*

girlfriend *n.* one's female friend. (A term of address between females.) ☐ *Look, girlfriend, you can't let him treat you like that!* ☐ *Hey, girlfriend! What's in the bag?*

girlie magazine *n.* a magazine featuring pictures of nude women. ☐ *The girlie magazines were hidden under the counter.* ☐ *Some creepy character asked Sally if she would pose for a girlie magazine.*

girlie show *n.* a performance featuring nude women. ☐ *Bob and Pete went to the city and tried to get into a girlie show.* ☐ *This movie has turned out to be nothing but a girlie show.*

gism Go to jism.

git-go ['ɡɪtɡo] *n.* the very beginning. (See also **from (the) git-go.**) ☐ *Clear back at the git-go, I told you this wouldn't work.* ☐ *He's been gritching ever since git-go.*

give a fuck (about someone or something) Go to give a shit (about someone or something).

give a shit (about someone or something) **AND** **give a fuck (about someone or something)** *tv.* to care about someone or something. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *If you think I give a shit about you or anyone else, you're full of shit.*

giveaway *n.* something that reveals a fact that was meant to be concealed. (Often with **dead.**) ☐ *The way he was walking was a giveaway to the fact that he was the one who was injured.* ☐ *The look on her face was a dead giveaway.*

give head *tv.* to perform oral sex on someone, usually a male. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Does she give head?* ☐ *Sally is a pro at giving head. She makes her living at it.*

Give it a rest! *exclam.* Shut up! (The it is a mouth. See also **Give me a rest!**) ☐ *I've heard enough. Give it a rest!* ☐ *Give it a rest! You talk too much.*

give it the gun *tv.* to gun an engine; to rev an engine up. ☐ *Give it the gun for a minute.* ☐ *I gave it the gun, and it backfired.*

Give it up! *exclam.* Quit now!; Enough is enough! ☐ *Oh, give it up! You can't do it right.* ☐ *Give it up! You can't pitch!*

Give me a break! **AND** **Gimme a break!**
1. *exclam.* That is enough!; Stop it! ☐ *Do you have to go on and on? Give me a break!* ☐ *Give me a break, you guys! That's enough!* **2.** *exclam.* Don't be so harsh!; Give me a chance! ☐ *I'm sorry! I'll do better! Give me a break!* ☐ *I was only late once! Give me a break!* **3.** *exclam.* I don't believe you!; You don't expect anyone to believe that! ☐ *You say a gorilla is loose in the city? Gimme a break!* ☐ *Tom said he was late again because the back stairs caved in. His boss said, "Gimme a break!"*

Give me a rest! *exclam.* Lay off!; That is enough! (See also **Give it a rest!**) ☐ *Haven't I told you everything you need to know? Give me a rest.* ☐ *Give me a rest! I've heard enough.*

Give me five! Go to Give me (some) skin!

Give me (some) skin! **AND** **Give me five!**
Slip me five! *exclam.* Shake my hand! (A request for some form of hand touching in greeting. See also **give someone five;** **high five.**) ☐ *Hey, man! Give me some skin!* ☐ *Give me five, my man!*

give (out) with something *in.* to give out information. ☐ *Come on, give out with the facts, man.* ☐ *Give with the info. We're in a hurry.*

give someone a buzz **1.** *tv.* to give someone a telephone call. ☐ *Give me a buzz sometime.* ☐ *I'll give her buzz tonight and ask her.* **2.** *tv.* to give someone a chuckle

or a bit of enjoyment. □ *It always gives me a buzz to watch Sally do her act.* □ *Your little joke gave me a buzz.*

give someone a (good) talking to *tv.* to scold someone; to lecture someone sternly. □ *I think I'll have to give Pete a good talking to.* □ *The teacher gave Jimmy a talking to.*

give someone a (good) working over *tv.* to scold or beat someone. □ *The boss gave me a good working over before firing me.* □ *Fred really gave her a working over about her performance on the project.*

give someone a melvin *tv.* to jerk up someone's pants or underwear, drawing the fabric up sharply between the buttocks. (It is assumed that some geek named Melvin goes about with his underwear in this uncomfortable position.) □ *If you even try to give me a melvin, I'll bust you one.* □ *Tom came up behind Fred, and with a deft motion, gave Fred a melvin that he would never forget.*

give someone an earful **1.** *tv.* to scold someone. □ *I'm going to give Ralph an earful for doing that.* □ *Sally gave Sam an earful for the way he treated Mary.* **2.** *tv.* to tell someone surprising secrets. □ *Sally gave Wally an earful about Pete and the things he said about Mary.* □ *Wally gave Sally an earful about Todd's tax problems.*

give someone a pain *tv.* to annoy or bother someone. □ *Please don't give me a pain. I've had a hard day.* □ *You give me a pain!*

give someone five **1.** *tv.* to give someone a helping hand. □ *Hey, give me five over here for a minute, will ya?* □ *I gotta give this guy five with the crate. Be right with you.* **2.** *tv.* to slap hands in greeting. (See also **high five**; **Give me five!**) □ *Jerry gave John five as they passed in the corridor.* □ *Don tried to give me five in class, but missed.*

give someone hell **1.** *tv.* to bawl someone out; to scold someone severely. (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *The boss just gave me hell about it.* □ *I'm really going to give Tom hell when he gets home.* **2.** *tv.* to trouble someone. (Use caution with **hell**.) □

My arthritis is giving me hell in this weather. □ *This problem is giving us hell at the office.*

give someone the ax **1.** *tv.* to dismiss someone from employment. □ *They had to give Paul the ax because he was so unproductive.* □ *I was afraid they would give me the ax.* **2.** *tv.* to divorce someone. □ *Mary gave Fred the ax after only six months.* □ *She gave him the ax because he wouldn't stop smoking like he promised.*

give someone the brushoff *tv.* to repel someone; to ignore someone. (See also **brushoff**.) □ *Sam was afraid that Mary was going to give him the brushoff.* □ *The manager gave her the brushoff when she asked for a raise.*

give someone the business **1.** *tv.* to harass someone; to scold someone. □ *The guys have been giving me the business about my haircut.* □ *Sam was giving Tom the business about being late all the time.* **2.** *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld.) □ *Lefty wanted to give Rocko the business for being so damn perfect.* □ *Mr. Big told Sam to give Bart the business.*

give someone the finger **1.** *tv.* to display the middle finger upright as a sign of derision. (The gesture is taboo.) □ *Did one of you guys give Ted the finger?* □ *Somebody gave the cop the finger.* **2.** *tv.* to mistreat someone; to insult someone. □ *You've been giving me the finger ever since I started working here. What's wrong?* □ *I'm tired of everybody giving me the finger around here just because I'm new.*

give someone the gate *tv.* to get rid of someone. □ *The chick was a pest, so I gave her the gate.* □ *He threatened to give me the gate, so I left.*

give someone the go-by *tv.* to bypass someone; to ignore someone. (See also **go-by**.) □ *Gert gave us all the go-by when she was so sick.* □ *I didn't mean to give you the go-by. I'm preoccupied, that's all.*

give someone the nod **1.** *tv.* to signal someone by nodding. (Not slang.) □ *I gave Pete the nod, and he started the procedure.* □ *Just give me the nod when you are ready.* **2.** *tv.* to choose someone. (See

also get the nod.) □ *The committee gave Frank the nod for the job.* □ *They gave her the nod.*

give someone the raspberry *tv.* to make a rude noise with the lips at someone. (See also **Bronx cheer**; **raspberry**.) □ *The audience gave him the raspberry, which gave him some second thoughts about his choice of career.* □ *Even after his grandstand play, they gave him the raspberry.*

give someone the shaft *tv.* to cheat or deceive someone; to mistreat someone. (See also **shaft**.) □ *The boss really gave Wally the shaft.* □ *Somebody always gives me the shaft.*

give someone the slip *tv.* to escape from a pursuer. □ *We were on his tail until he gave us the slip.* □ *I can give her the slip in no time at all.*

gizmo ['gizmo] *n.* a gadget. □ *What is this silly little gizmo on the bottom for?* □ *This gizmo turns it on.*

gizzum Go to **jism**.

gizzy ['gizi] *n.* marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *The cops found a little gizzy in the guy's pocket.* □ *Where'd you get this gizzy?*

glad *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *After a few beers she was a mite glad.* □ *In fact, she was too glad to stand up.*

glad-hand *tv.* to greet someone effusively. □ *The Senator was glad-handing everyone in sight.* □ *He glad-handed Ernie and got a real earful.*

glad-hander *n.* someone who displays effusive friendship. □ *What a morass of eager glad-handers and glitz!* □ *The glad-handers were out in full force at the Independence Day parade.*

glad rags *n.* fancy clothes; best clothing. (See also **rag**.) □ *You look pretty good in your glad rags.* □ *I'll get on my glad rags, and we'll go out tonight.*

glam *mod.* glamorous. □ *Wow! Isn't she glam!* □ *What a totally glam life she leads!*

glamour puss *n.* a person with a beautiful face. □ *I'm no glamour puss, but I'm no dog either.* □ *Now, Sally is what I would call a glamour puss.*

glass gun *n.* a hypodermic syringe. (Drugs.) □ *Gert broke her glass gun and had to improvise.* □ *A lot of those bangsters don't even use a glass gun.*

glass(y)-eyed *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Mary is looking sort of glassy-eyed, and it's only midnight.* □ *Ernie is usually glass-eyed, but tonight it's much worse.*

glazed (drunk) AND **glazed (over)** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She has had too much. She's glazed drunk.* □ *Fred looks a little glazed. I think he's done for.*

glazed (over) Go to **glazed (drunk)**.

gleep [glip] *n.* a fool; an oaf. □ *What a gleep! Does he know what's what?* □ *Don't act like such a gleep!*

glick [glɪk] a strange person; a nerd. □ *Don't be a glick, Bill.* □ *Fred seems to be a classic glick, but he is really an all-right guy.*

glitch [glɪtʃ] *n.* a defect; a bug. □ *There is a glitch in the computer program somewhere.* □ *I'm afraid there's a glitch in our plans.*

glitz [glɪts] *n.* flashiness and glamour. □ *The place was a morass of eager sales geeks and phony glitz.* □ *The glitz was blinding, and the substance was invisible.*

glitzy ['glɪtsi] *mod.* fashionable; glamorous. □ *It was a real glitzy place to hold a meeting.* □ *Some glitzy blonde sang a couple of songs, and then the band played again.*

glock *n.* a gun; a revolver. □ *Sam was carrying a glock and threatened to end the argument his own way.*

glom [glam] **1.** *tv.* to steal something. (Underworld.) □ *Lefty glommed a little car for the evening.* □ *He gloms just about everything he needs.* **2.** *tv.* to take a look at someone or something. (Underworld.) □ *Glom this layout for a minute.* □ *Come over here and glom the view of the bank from this window.*

glommed [glamd] *mod.* arrested. (Underworld.) □ *Bart got glommed on a speeding charge. I didn't even know he could*

drive. □ *Glommed again! That's the story of my life.*

gloomy Gus *n.* a sad or dismal person; a pessimist. □ *Don't be such a gloomy Gus, Wally.* □ *Well, gloomy Gus just came in again.*

glop [glɒp] **1.** *n.* unappetizing food; gunk; anything undesirable. □ *Do we have the same old glop again tonight?* □ *No, this is different glop.* **2.** *tv.* to slop or plop something (onto something). □ *She glopped something horrible onto my plate.* □ *Don't glop any of that pink stuff anywhere near me.*

glorified *mod.* overblown; over-hyped; phony. □ *Why, this is just a glorified potato chip!* □ *She's just a glorified dance-hall girl.*

glow *n.* a mild state of drug or alcohol intoxication. □ *She had a nice glow, but was by no means stewed.* □ *What was supposed to be a nice glow turned out to be a terrifying hallucination.*

glow worm *n.* a drunkard; an alcoholic. (From **glow**.) □ *You are turning into a regular glow worm.* □ *Gary came out of the bar and tripped over a napping glow worm near the entrance to the alley.*

glued **1.** *mod.* arrested. (Underworld.) □ *Wally got glued for having over three hundred parking tickets.* □ *Bart goes to great extremes to keep from getting glued.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Fred is glued and can't stand up.* □ *About three more beers and I'll be glued.*

glue factory *n.* the place where old horses are sent so their bones can be made into glue; a similar, imaginary place for people. □ *I'm not as young as I used to be, but I'm not ready for the glue factory yet.* □ *If you can't keep up, we'll send you to the glue factory.*

gluer Go to **gluey**.

gluey AND **gluer** *n.* a person, usually a teenager, who sniffs glue. (Drugs.) □ *Teddy is a gluey. That's why he's failing in school.* □ *The gluers stand a chance of having brain damage.*

glug [glʌg] *n.* a gulp or shot of liquor. □ *Have another glug of this moonshine.* □ *I took one glug and spit it out.*

glutz [glʌts] *n.* a slut; a woman of low morals. □ *I didn't say she is a glutz!* □ *Tracy knows some old dames she would call glutzes.*

G-man ['dʒɪmæn] *n.* a government investigative agent; an FBI agent. □ *The G-men busted in and started shooting.* □ *When I was a kid, I wanted to be a G-man.*

(g)narly ['nɑrli] *mod.* excellent; great. (California.) □ *This pizza is too gnarly for words!* □ *Who is that narly guy in the white sweater?*

go **1.** *n.* a try (at something). □ *Let me have a go at it this time.* □ *I'd like to have another go at it, if I can.* **2.** *in.* to urinate. □ *I gotta go!* □ *Jimmy's gonna go in his pants!* **3.** *tv.* to say or utter something. (Mostly teens. Used in writing only for effect.) □ *So I go, "Gross!"* □ *Then she goes, "Like . . .," and just stops talking.*

go-ahead *n.* permission to proceed; the signal to go ahead. (See also **say-so**.) □ *We're ready to go as soon as we get the go-ahead.* □ *I gave him the go-ahead, and the tanks started moving in.*

go all the way *in.* to copulate; to carry necking all the way to copulation. (Euphemistic. Usually objectionable.) □ *Did they go all the way?* □ *He keeps wanting me to go all the way.*

go ape (over someone or something) *in.* to become very excited over someone or something. □ *I just go ape over chocolate.* □ *Sam went ape over Mary.*

go apeshit over someone or something *in.* to get very excited about someone or something. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She really went apeshit over the ice cream.*

goat *n.* a fast and powerful car; a Pontiac GTO. □ *Hey, man, where'd you get that goat?* □ *His goat conked out on him.*

gob [gab] **1.** *n.* a blob or mass of something. □ *I'd like a big gob of mashed potatoes, please.* □ *Take that horrid gob of gum out of your mouth!* **2.** *n.* a large amount of something. (Often in the plural.) □

I've just got gobs of it if you need some. □ *I need gobs of money to get through school.*

go bananas *in.* to go mildly crazy. (See also **bananas**.) □ *Sorry, I just went bananas for a minute.* □ *I thought he was going to go bananas.*

gobbledygook ['gab|digok] **1.** *n.* nonsense; officialese or government gibberish. □ *I can't understand all this gobbledygook.* □ *They must have a full time staff to dream up all this gobbledygook.* **2.** *n.* any mess, especially of food. □ *Dinner was just gobbledygook again.* □ *Do we have the same old gobbledygook tonight?*

go belly up Go to turn belly up.

go bitchcakes *in.* to go wild or crazy. (Usually objectionable.) □ *All this rude talk just makes me go bitchcakes.*

go blooey AND **go flooey** [go 'blui AND go 'flui] *in.* to fall apart; to go out of order. □ *Suddenly, all my plans went blooey.* □ *I just hope everything doesn't go flooey at the last minute.*

(Go) blow it out your ear! *exclam.* Go away and stop bothering me with your nonsense. □ *What a stupid thing to say. Go blow it out your ear!* □ *You are not way rad, you're just way out, twit! Blow it out your ear!*

go-by ['gobaɪ] *n.* an instance of ignoring or passing by (someone). (See also **give someone the go-by**.) □ *I got the go-by from her every time I saw her.* □ *I find the go-by very insulting.*

Go chase yourself! AND **Go chase your tail!**; **Go climb a tree!**; **Go fly a kite!**; **Go fry an egg!**; **Go jump in the lake!**; **Go soak your head!**; **Go soak yourself!** *exclam.* Beat it!; Go away! □ *Oh, go chase yourself! Get out of my face!* □ *Go soak your head! You're a pain in the neck.*

Go chase your tail! Go to Go chase yourself!

Go climb a tree! Go to Go chase yourself!

go down **1.** *in.* to happen. □ *Hey, man! What's going down?* □ *Something strange is going down around here.* **2.** *in.* to be accepted. (See also **swallow**.) □ *We'll just*

have to wait awhile to see how all this goes down. □ *The proposal didn't go down very well with the manager.* **3.** *in.* to be arrested. (Underworld.) □ *Lefty didn't want to go down for a job he didn't do.* □ *Mr. Big said that somebody had to go down for it, and he didn't care who.*

go downhill *in.* to decline. □ *This company is going downhill at a great rate.* □ *Things began to go downhill when the county cut the maintenance budget.*

go down in flames *in.* to fail spectacularly. (See also **shoot someone down in flames**; **crash and burn**.) □ *The whole team went down in flames.* □ *I'd hate for all your planning to go down in flames.*

go down on someone *in.* to perform oral sex on someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She was just gonna go down on him when the camera panned over to the window.*

go down the chute Go to go down the tube(s).

go down the line *in.* to snort a line of cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *Gert had to leave the office to go down the line.* □ *They found her in the john, going down the line.*

go down the tube(s) AND **go down the chute** *in.* to fail totally; to be ruined. □ *The whole project is likely to go down the tubes.* □ *All my plans just went down the chute.*

God's acre *n.* a cemetery. □ *When I end up in God's acre, I want everything to go on without me.* □ *They're planting somebody new in God's acre.*

go Dutch *in.* [for two people] to split the cost of something, such as a meal. (See also **Dutch treat**.) □ *How about dinner tonight? We'll go Dutch, okay?* □ *Yes, let's go Dutch.*

gofer Go to gopher.

Go figure. *interj.* Try to figure it out.; Just try to explain that! □ *She hung up on me again. Go figure.* □ *They heat the water to make the tea hot, then they put ice in it to make it cold, then they put lemon in it to make it sour, and then they put sugar in it to make it sweet. Go figure.*

go flooey Go to go blooey.

Go fly a kite! Go to Go chase yourself!

go for broke *in.* to choose to risk everything; to try to succeed against great odds. □ *I feel lucky today. I'll go for broke.* □ *We decided to go for broke, and that is exactly how we ended up.*

Go for it! *exclam.* Do it!; Try it! □ *Go for it! Give it a try!* □ *It looked like something I wanted to do, so I decided to go for it.*

go for the fences *in.* to set extremely high goals and do whatever is needed to meet them. (Alludes to attempting to hit a home run against the fences of a baseball stadium.) □ *Think big! Go for the fences!* □ *We are going to go for the fences on this one. Don't hold back on anything.*

Go fry an egg! Go to Go chase yourself!

Go fuck yourself! *exclam.* Go to hell!; Get out of here! (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *Go fuck yourself, you creep!* □ *You worthless mungshit. Go fuck yourself!*

go-getter *n.* an energetic person. □ *Wally is a real go-getter. He'll go places.* □ *Sally was really cut out to be a go-getter.*

goggle-eyed AND **googly-eyed** ['gaglaɪd AND 'gugliɑɪd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated and staring. □ *Wally was goggle-eyed and couldn't stand up.* □ *He's too googly-eyed to drive home.*

go-go ['gogo] **1.** *mod.* having to do with fast-dancing young women on display in a nightclub. □ *I worked as a go-go girl for a while.* □ *Those go-go places have mostly changed their style.* **2.** *mod.* vigorous; energetic; frantically moving. □ *He's a real go-go guy, always up to something.* □ *I bought some silly go-go stock, and it collapsed immediately.*

go great guns *in.* to do very well; to go very fast. □ *Everything is going great guns around here. We're busy and making lots of money.* □ *The project is finally going great guns, just as we planned.*

go haywire **1.** *in.* [for a person] to go berserk. □ *I thought for a minute that Pete was going to go haywire.* □ *Sorry, I guess I just went haywire for a minute.* **2.** *in.*

[for something] to go out of order; to break down. □ *My stereo's gone haywire.* □ *I'm afraid my car's gone haywire. It won't start.*

go home in a box *in.* to be shipped home dead. □ *Hey, I'm too young to go home in a box.* □ *You had better be careful on this camping trip, or you'll go home in a box.*

go home to mama *in.* to give up something—such as a marriage—and return to one's mother's home. □ *I've had it. I'm going home to mama.* □ *Mary left him and went home to mama.*

going high *n.* a long-lasting type of drug high. (Drugs.) □ *Freddie had a going high and was in trouble.* □ *Gert was always after a real going high.*

going over **1.** *n.* an examination. □ *After a thorough going over, the doctor pronounced me alive.* □ *I gave your car a good going over, and I fixed a lot of little things.* **2.** *n.* a beating. □ *Sam gave the guy a terrible going over.* □ *After a going over like that, the guy spent two weeks in the hospital.*

goings-on *n.* happenings; events. □ *There are sure some strange goings-on around here.* □ *Some big goings-on downtown tied up the traffic.*

go into orbit *in.* to become very excited. □ *Wow, I thought the manager was going to go into orbit, she was so mad.* □ *The entire staff went into orbit when they got the news.*

Go jump in the lake! Go to Go chase yourself!

gold *n.* money. (See also ducats.) □ *Do you have enough gold to pay the bill?* □ *There's no gold in my pockets.*

goldbrick **1.** *n.* a lazy person. □ *Pete is just a lazy goldbrick.* □ *Tell that goldbrick to get back to work.* **2.** *in.* to be lazy; to shirk one's duty. □ *Stop goldbricking and get back to work.* □ *Whoever is goldbricking when I come back gets a real talking to.*

goldbricker *n.* a loafer. (Also a term of address.) □ *Larry is such a goldbricker!* □ *Get moving, you goldbrickers.*

gold digger *n.* a woman who pays attention to a man solely because of his wealth. □ *Sam called Sally a gold digger, and she was devastated.* □ *“You little gold digger!” cried Sam.*

golden *mod.* excellent; really cool. □ *Look at the guy she is with. He is golden.*

golden-ager *n.* an old person; a senior citizen. □ *The golden-agers sat on the benches and chatted.* □ *When I’m a golden-ager, I’m going to have a part-time job.*

golden handcuffs *n.* monetary inducements to stay on the job. (Usually for highly paid executives in large corporations. See also **golden parachute**.) □ *The company provided a variety of golden handcuffs to keep its execs happy through a takeover.* □ *The golden handcuffs included a half million in severance pay for one of the vice presidents.*

golden opportunity *n.* a very good opportunity. □ *This is my golden opportunity, and I can’t pass it up.* □ *You get a golden opportunity like this very rarely.*

golden parachute *n.* a special kind of severance pay for persons who may be forced to leave a job. (Usually for highly paid executives in large corporations. If the company is taken over and the executives are fired, they are very well provided for. See also **golden handcuffs**.) □ *My golden parachute was so attractive that I wanted to get fired.* □ *If all the golden parachutes were used at the same time, it would bankrupt the company.*

goldie locks *n.* a policewoman. (Citizens band radio.) □ *Goldie locks pulled me over and gave me a citation.* □ *There was a goldie locks waiting under the bridge to spring on poor unsuspecting people like me.*

go mental *in.* go crazy; to act stupid. □ *Don’t go mental, Jane. Just calm down and think about it.* □ *Another day in that history class and I know I will go mental.*

gomer ['gomə] **1.** *n.* a stupid oaf; a social reject. (From the television character Gomer Pyle.) □ *Who’s that gomer in the overalls?* □ *That gomer is my Uncle Ben.*

2. AND goomer ['gumə] *n.* a person unwelcome in a hospital. (Supposedly an acronym for *Get out of my emergency room*.) □ *That goomer with the allergy is back in ER.* □ *I don’t want that goomer back in the emergency room.*

gone 1. AND gone under *mod.* unconscious. □ *He’s gone. Prop his feet up and call an ambulance.* □ *He’s gone under. You can begin the procedure now.* **2. AND gone under** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Those chicks are gone—too much to drink.* □ *Ted is really gone under.* **3. mod.** cool; out of this world. (Typically real gone.) □ *This ice cream is gone, man, gone!*

gone goose *n.* someone or something finished or done for. (A play on **dead duck**.) □ *I’m afraid that your old car is a gone goose.* □ *This old thing is a gone goose.*

goner ['gɔnə] *n.* someone or something finished or nearly finished. □ *This one’s a goner. Toss it.* □ *The horse was a goner, so it had to be destroyed.*

gone under Go to gone.

gonged [gɔŋd] *mod.* drug intoxicated. (Drugs. Originally on opium.) □ *Bruno found himself in the alley, gonged.* □ *Ernie was too gonged to stand up.*

gonna ['gɔnə OR 'gʊnə] *phr.* going to. (Eye-dialect. Used in writing only for effect. Used in the examples of this dictionary.) □ *What time you gonna be home?* □ *I’m gonna get you, you little dickens!*

gonzo ['ganzɔ] **1.** *n.* a silly or foolish person. □ *Some gonzo is on the phone asking for the president of the universe.* □ *Tell the gonzo I’m out.* **2.** *mod.* crazy. □ *The guy is totally gonzo!* □ *Who drew this gonzo picture of me?*

goo [gu] *n.* some sticky substance; gunk. □ *What is this goo on my shoe?* □ *There is some sort of goo on my plate. Is that meant to be my dinner?*

goob [gub] **1.** *n.* a pimple. (Short for **guber**.) □ *The goobs are taking over my whole face.* □ *I have the world’s greatest goob right on the end of my nose.* **2.** *n.* a nerd; a simpleton. (See also **guber**.) □

Don't be a goob. Come to the party with me. □ *Gary is such a goob. Why can't he do anything right?*

goober Go to guber.

goober-grabber ['gubəgræbɜː] *n.* someone who picks peanuts. (Typically someone native to Georgia where peanuts are grown. From guber.) □ *My nephew moved from Chicago to Atlanta, where he became a goober-grabber in no time at all.* □ *One of the local goober-grabbers took us to a peanut boil.*

goober-grease ['gubəgrɪs] *n.* peanut butter. □ *Pass me some of that goober-grease, will ya?* □ *This goober-grease is stale.*

goobrain ['gubren] *n.* a fool; a stupid person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *What silly goobrain put sugar in the salt shaker?* □ *Look, goobrain, think about it awhile. You'll catch on.*

good and something *mod.* thoroughly something. (Where something is an adjective.) □ *I am really good and mad at you for that.* □ *We are good and ready to do something about it.*

good buddy *n.* a friend; a partner. (Citizens band radio. Also a term of address.) □ *Well, good buddy, what's new with you?* □ *John's my good buddy.*

Good call! *exclam.* That was a good decision! □ *Good call, Walter! You picked the right company to deal with.* □ *I guess this was Jane's choice. Good call, Jane.*

Good deal! *exclam.* That is good! (Old, but still heard.) □ *Everyone is here on time! Good deal!* □ *Good deal! My tax refund just arrived!*

good-for-nothing 1. *mod.* worthless. (Usually having to do with a person.) □ *Let's get rid of this good-for-nothing car right now.* □ *Tell your good-for-nothing brother to find another place to live.* **2.** *n.* a worthless person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Tell the good-for-nothing to leave.* □ *Look, you good-for-nothing. Go out and get a job.*

Good golly, Miss Molly! *exclam.* Good grief!; Wow! □ *Good golly, Miss Molly!*

This place is a mess! □ *Good golly, Miss Molly, that's awful!*

Good heavens! *exclam.* My goodness! (A mild exclamation of amazement, shock, etc.) □ *Good heavens! I didn't expect you to be here.* □ *Good heavens! There's a man at the window!*

good Joe *n.* a good fellow. □ *Fred's a little slow on the uptake, but he's a good Joe.* □ *Frank's a good Joe. He'll help us.*

(good) looker *n.* a good-looking person. □ *Fred is not exactly a good looker, but he is pleasant enough.* □ *Mary is really a looker. I sure would like to go out with her.*

good old boy **AND** **good ole boy** *n.* a good guy; a dependable companion. (Folksy.) □ *Old Tom is a good old boy. He'll help.* □ *One of these good ole boys will give you a hand.*

good-time Charley *n.* a man who is always trying to have a good experience; an optimist. □ *Wally is such a good-time Charley. Who would believe the trouble he's had?* □ *Some good-time Charley is making a lot of noise.*

good-time it *tv. to party;* to spend money and have a good time. □ *You're always good-timing it. Don't you ever study?* □ *I just want to good-time it for the rest of my life.*

good-time man *n.* a man who sells drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Bart is the main good-time man in this neighborhood.* □ *The fuzz wants to see all the good-time men behind bars.*

good trip 1. *n.* a good session with LSD or some other drug. (Drugs.) □ *Paul said he had a good trip, but he looks like the devil.* □ *One good trip deserves another. At least that's what my guru says.* **2.** *n.* any good time. □ *This meeting was a good trip.* □ *Compared to the last class, this one is a good trip.*

goody two-shoes *n.* someone who tries to behave better than anyone else. (Also a term of address.) □ *Well, goody two-shoes, so you decided to come sit with us.* □ *I'm no goody two-shoes. I just like to keep my nose clean.*

goosey AND **GUI** *n.* a graphical user interface. (A type of computer control system that uses an orderly layout on the screen with icons and menus that are controlled by a computer mouse. **Goosey** is slang; **GUI** is a technical acronym. See also **WIMP**.) □ *Some of the older programs that lack a goosey require a lot less memory to run.* □ *Many new computer users find it much easier to use a goosey than to type in commands.*

goof [guf] **1.** *n.* a foolish oaf; a **goofy** person. □ *Sometimes I'm such a goof. I really messed up.* □ *Don't be a goof. Get with it.* **2.** *in.* to use heroin or some other addictive drugs without intending to become addicted; to play around (with heroin). (Drugs.) □ *Gert spent the first few years just goofing.* □ *She was goofing, and you know what that leads to.* **3.** *in.* to scratch, nod, and slobber after an injection of heroin. (Drugs.) □ *She just rocks and goofs for hours.* □ *She has been goofing for an hour.* **4.** AND **goof up** *in.* to make a blunder. □ *Whoops, I goofed!* □ *This time, you goofed.* **5.** *n.* a blunder; an error. □ *Who made this silly goof?* □ *This goof is yours, not mine.*

goof around Go to goof off.

goofball **1.** AND **goofy** *n.* a stupid person; a fool. □ *You are such a silly goofball.* □ *Chuck acts like a goofer, but he's really with it.* **2.** *n.* a barbiturate tablet. (Drugs.) □ *How many goofballs did you take to get like this?*

goofed (up) **1.** *mod.* messed up; out of order. □ *All my papers are goofed up.* □ *Everything on my desk is goofed. Who's been here?* **2.** *mod.* confused; distraught. □ *I'm sort of goofed up today. I think I'm coming down with something.* □ *I was up too late last night, and now I'm all goofed up.* **3.** *mod.* high on drugs. □ *Bob's a little goofed up after partying too much.* □ *He comes to class goofed up every day.*

gooter Go to goofball.

go off half-cocked *in.* to proceed without knowing all the facts. □ *I waited because I didn't want to go off half-cocked.* □ *The*

boss went off half-cocked and exploded into a rage about the mess.

go off the deep end *in.* to do or experience something in the extreme: to fall madly in love, to go crazy, to commit suicide, to fly into a rage, etc. □ *John is completely in love with Mary and wants to marry her. I was afraid he would go off the deep end, and he did.* □ *Sally was so depressed that we had to watch her day and night so she wouldn't go off the deep end.* □ *I saw what he had done, and I just went off the deep end. I was in a blind rage and didn't know what I was doing.*

goof off **1.** AND **goof around** *in.* to waste time. □ *Quit goofing off.* □ *Get busy. Stop goofing around.* **2.** *n.* a time-waster; a jerk. (Usually **goof-off**.) □ *Pete is such a goof-off!* □ *I'm no goof-off, but I am no scholar either.*

goof on someone *in.* to play a prank on someone; to involve someone in a deception. □ *Hey, don't goof on me. I'm your buddy!* □ *The kid goofed on Chuck, and he thought it was a pretty good joke.*

goof-proof **1.** *mod.* foolproof; not subject to misuse. □ *I want a goof-proof scheme.* □ *This scheme is not goof-proof, but it's pretty sound.* □ *Now, this time I've made it goof-proof.* **2.** *tv.* to make something foolproof; to take action to see that something cannot be misused. □ *I'll try to goof-proof my scheme.* □ *See if this can be goof-proofed by Monday evening.*

goof something up AND **goof up on something** *tv.* to mess something up. □ *Now don't goof it up this time.* □ *I hope I don't goof up the report again.* □ *I hope I don't goof up on the report again.*

goof up Go to goof.

goof up on something Go to goof something up.

goofus ['gufəs] **1.** *n.* a gadget. □ *Where is that little goofus I use to pry open these cans?* □ *Here's just the little goofus you're looking for.* **2.** AND **goopus** *n.* a foolish oaf. (Also a term of address.) □ *You're just acting like a goofus. Be serious!* □ *Hey, goopus! Come here!*

goofy ['gufi] **1.** *mod.* silly. □ *Stop acting so goofy! What will the neighbors say?* □ *You are really a goofy chick.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Wow, is she goofy!* □ *They went out and got themselves good and goofy.*

googaw Go to geegaw.

googly-eyed Go to goggle-eyed.

goo-goo eyes ['gugu 'aɪz] *n.* flirtatious eyes. (Often with *make*.) □ *Mary was making goo-goo eyes at Sam.* □ *Who's the chick over there with the goo-goo eyes?*

gook [guk OR guk] **1.** *n.* a slimy substance; a sediment or residue. □ *There was a lot of gook in my crankcase.* □ *Too much of that gook will ruin your engine.* **2.** *n.* a foolish oaf. □ *Wow, Chuck is turning into a real gook!* □ *Don't be such a gook, you twit!* **3.** *n.* a tramp. □ *Some old gook was asking for a handout.* □ *Give the gook some food and wish him well.* **4.** *n.* a prostitute. □ *Some old gook was standing around with too much leg on view.* □ *There are a lot of gooks around here in the center of town.* **5.** *n.* a derogatory nickname for various East Asians. (Crude.) □ *Nobody wanted to go to war against the gooks.* □ *Let the gooks fight it out amongst themselves.*

goombah ['gumbɑ] *n.* a buddy; a trusted friend. (Also a term of address. Ultimately from Italian.) □ *Hey, goombah! How goes it?* □ *He's my goombah. I can trust him.*

goomer Go to gomer.

Go on! *exclam.* I don't believe you!; I deny it! □ *Go on! You don't really know what you are talking about!* □ *Go on! You weren't even there.*

goon [gun] **1.** *n.* a stupid person; a fool. □ *Oh, Wally, you're such a goon sometimes.* □ *Todd is a silly goon, but he's a lot of fun at parties.* **2.** *n.* a hooligan; a thug or bodyguard. (Underworld.) □ *Sam is one of Mr. Big's goons.* □ *Call off your goons!*

go on (and on) about someone or something *in.* to rave about someone or something endlessly. □ *He just went on and on about the trouble he was having*

with the post office. □ *Why do you have to go on about your sister so?*

gooned [gund] *mod.* drunk. □ *Wayne came home gooned, and his dad went loco and grounded him.* □ *His date was gooned by ten, and he had to take her home.*

gooner ['gunə] *n.* a term for an Asian. (Derogatory. Military.) □ *These gooners sure can cook.* □ *See if one of the gooners will show you how to do it.*

goon-platoon *n.* a platoon of misfits; a platoon that is noted for its errors. (Military.) □ *Well, the goon-platoon's done it again!* □ *Which side is the goon-platoon on?*

goon squad **1.** *n.* an organized group of thugs; a gang of toughs. (Underworld.) □ *Sam and his goon squad are lurking about.* □ *The goon squad Mr. Big sent around scared the devil out of Bart.* **2.** *n.* the police. □ *Here comes the goon squad. Watch out!* □ *My old buddy on the goon squad tells me there'll be some action over on Maple Street tonight.*

goop AND **goup** [gup] *n.* slop; gunk; bad food. □ *I refuse to eat this goop.* □ *You get used to this goup after a while.*

goophead ['guphed] *n.* an inflamed pimple. (Patterned on *blackhead*.) □ *Ye gods! I'm covered with goopheads.* □ *You ought to see the goophead on your nose.*

goopus Go to goofus.

goopy ['gupi] *mod.* gummy; syrupy. □ *I just love goopy desserts.* □ *This is not goopy enough.* □ *There is some goopy stuff coming out of the car's engine.*

goose **1.** *n.* a silly oaf; an oaf. □ *Oh, I'm such a silly goose!* □ *What a goose you are!* **2.** *tv.* to (attempt to) poke something, such as a finger, in someone's anus. □ *Freddy tried to goose me!* □ *Don't goose me!* **3.** *n.* an attempt to **goose** someone. (As in sense 2.) □ *Harry is a master of the rude goose.* □ *He tried to give me a goose.* **4.** *tv.* to rev up an engine; to press down hard on the accelerator of a car. □ *Why don't you goose the thing and see how fast it'll go?* □ *Don't goose it too much.* **5.** *n.* an act of suddenly pressing down the ac-

celerator of a car. □ *Give it a good goose and see what happens.* □ *One more goose, but don't hold it down so long.*

goose egg 1. *n.* a score of zero. □ *We got a goose egg in the second inning.* □ *It was double goose eggs for the final score.* **2.** *n.* a bump on the head. □ *You've got quite a goose egg there.* □ *I walked into a door and got a big goose egg on my forehead.* **3.** *n.* a failure; a zero. (Similar to sense 1.) □ *The outcome was a real goose egg. A total mess.* □ *The result of three weeks' planning is one big goose egg.*

go over big *in.* to be appreciated as a success. □ *I'm sure this will go over big with the folks at home.* □ *Well, it didn't go over very big with the boss.*

go overboard *in.* to do far more than is necessary. □ *He has a tendency to go overboard at these parties.* □ *Now don't go overboard for us. We're just folks.*

go over like a lead balloon *in.* [for something meant to be good] to fail to be good. (See also **go over big**.) □ *The joke went over like a lead balloon.* □ *I'm afraid your plan went over like a lead balloon.*

go over the hill *in.* to escape from a prison or from the military service. (See also **over the hill**; **go over the wall**.) □ *Jim went over the hill, and they caught him.* □ *Jed and Tom planned to go over the hill last night. What happened?*

go over the wall *in.* to escape from a prison. □ *Lefty tried to go over the wall, but the warden got wind of it.* □ *Nobody goes over the wall in this joint.*

goozlum ['guzləm] *n.* any gummy, sticky substance: syrup, gravy, soup, etc. □ *Do you want some of this wonderful goozlum on your ice cream?* □ *Just keep putting that goozlum on my spuds.*

gopher AND **gofer** ['gɒfə] **1.** *n.* someone who goes for things and brings them back. (From *go for*.) □ *You got a gopher who can go get some coffee?* □ *Send the gofer out for cigarettes.* **2.** *n.* a dupe; a pawn; an underling. □ *The guy's just a gopher. He has no say in anything.* □ *I'll send a gopher over to pick up the papers.*

gopher ball *n.* a baseball pitch that is hit as a home run. (When it is hit, the batter will go for home.) □ *Wilbur hit another long gopher ball straight across center field.* □ *The center fielder did a dive over the fence trying to get the gopher ball.*

go-pills *n.* amphetamines. (Drugs.) □ *She took go-pills to start the day.* □ *After a while, these go-pills just demand to be taken.*

go places *in.* to become very successful. □ *I knew that Sally would go places.* □ *I really want to go places in life.*

go postal *in.* to become wild; to go berserk. □ *He made me so mad I thought I would go postal.*

go public 1. *in.* to sell to the public shares of a privately owned company. (Securities markets.) □ *The company decided not to go public because the economy was so bad at the time.* □ *We'll go public at a later time.* **2.** *in.* to reveal something to the public. (Especially with *with*, as in the examples.) □ *It's too early to go public with the story.* □ *Just let me know when we can go public with this.*

gorilla biscuits AND **gorilla pills** *n.* amphetamines. (Drugs.) □ *Tracy is big on those gorilla pills.* □ *Stay away from gorilla biscuits.*

gorilla juice *n.* steroids. (Bodybuilding. Steroids build muscle tissue rapidly.) □ *Andy really wanted to get hold of some gorilla juice, but his parents said no.* □ *Do all those muscle-bound creatures take gorilla juice?*

gorilla pills Go to gorilla biscuits.

go Rinso [...'rɪnsɔ] *in.* to fail; to collapse in price. (A play on to **go down the drain**. Rinso is a laundry soap that goes down the drain after it is used. Used in the context of the securities markets or other financial setting.) □ *All my drug stocks went Rinso when the president attacked the drug industry.* □ *I knew my bank account would go Rinso after last month's bills came in.*

gork [gɒrk] **1.** *n.* a fool; a dupe. □ *Martin acts like such a gork sometimes.* □ *The*

gorks are taking over the world! **2.** AND **GORK** *in.* an alleged hospital chart notation of the diagnosis *God only really knows.* (Hospitals.) □ *I see old Mr. Kelly is in again with a hundred complaints. His chart says GORK.* □ *He's down with gork again.* **3.** *tv.* to give a patient sedation. (Hospitals.) □ *Dr. Wilson says to gork the patient in 226.* □ *He'll quiet down after we gork him.*

gorked (out) [gorkt...] *mod.* heavily sedated; knocked out. (Hospitals.) □ *Once the patient was gorked, he was more cooperative.* □ *The guy in 226 is totally gorked out now.*

Go soak your head! Go to Go chase yourself!

Go soak yourself! Go to Go chase yourself!

go sour *in.* to turn bad or unpleasant. □ *It looks like all my plans are going sour.* □ *My whole life is going sour right now.*

go South AND **head South** **1.** *in.* to make an escape; to disappear. □ *Lefty went South the minute he got out of the pen.* □ *The mugger headed South just after the crime.* **2.** *in.* to fall; to go down. (Securities markets.) □ *All the stock market indexes went South today.* □ *The market headed South today at the opening bell.* **3.** *in.* to quit; to drop out of sight. □ *Fred got discouraged and went South. I think he gave up football permanently.* □ *After pulling the bank job, Bart went South for a few months.*

gospel (truth) *n.* the honest truth. □ *You gotta believe me. It's the gospel truth!* □ *He speaks nothing but gospel. You can trust him.*

go straight **1.** *in.* to stop breaking the law. □ *Lefty thought about going straight once, but pulled himself out of it.* □ *I think I'll give all this up and go straight—some day.* **2.** *in.* to get off drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Ernie wanted to go straight more than anything else in the world.* □ *I'll go straight one of these days.*

gotcha ['gatʃə] **1.** *tv.* I got you!; I've caught you! (Usually **Gotcha!**) □ *I gotcha, and you can't get away.* □ *Ha, ha! Gotcha!*

Come here, you little dickens. **2.** *n.* an arrest. (Underworld.) □ *The cop reached out, grasped Bruno's shoulder, and made the gotcha.* □ *It was a fair gotcha. Sam was nabbed, and he went along quietly.* **3.** *tv.* I understand you. □ *Gotcha! Thanks for telling me.* □ *Seven pounds, four ounces? Gotcha! I'll tell everybody.*

go the limit *in.* to do as much as possible; to get as much as possible. □ *Let's plan to do everything we can. Let's go the limit.* □ *We'll go the limit. To heck with the cost.*

go through someone like a dose of (the) salts *in.* to move through someone's digestive tract like a strong laxative. □ *That stuff they served last night went through me like a dose of salts.* □ *Careful of the coffee. It'll go through you like a dose of the salts.*

go through the changes **1.** *in.* to experience life's changes. □ *A good day, a bad day—it's all part of going through the changes.* □ *Nothing new with me, just going through the changes.* **2.** *in.* to go through a reconstruction of one's life. □ *I went through the changes all last year. It was a real bad time.* □ *I've been going through the changes lately. It's tough to grow up at this age.*

go tits up *in.* to die; to go to ruin; to fall apart. (A play on *go belly up* which has the same meaning. Refers to an animal like a goldfish that turns belly up when it dies.) □ *Her firm went tits up after the stock market crash.* □ *My goldfish went tits up because I overfed it.*

Go to! *exclam.* Go to hell! □ *Oh, you're terrible. Just go to!* □ *Go to, you creep!*

Go to blazes! AND **Go to the devil!** *exclam.* Go to hell! □ *Go to blazes! Stop pestering me!* □ *I'm sick of your complaining. Go to the devil!*

Go to the devil! Go to Go to blazes!

go to town *in.* to do something with gusto; to do something with great speed and energy. □ *The main office is really going to town on collecting overdue payments.* □ *Man, our team is really going to town.*

Go to your room! Go to On your bike!

gouch off [gaʊtʃ...] *in.* to pass out under the influence of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *After taking the stuff, Gary gouched off.* □ *After the fix, Gert waited patiently to gouch off.*

go underground *in.* to go into hiding; to begin to operate in secret. □ *The entire operation went underground, and we heard no more about it.* □ *We'll go underground if we have to. Nothing will stop the movement.*

go up *in.* to start to feel the effects of a drug. (Drugs.) □ *Gert started to go up and suddenly fell asleep.* □ *The guy couldn't wait to get home and go up.*

goup Go to goop.

gourd [gɔrd] *n.* the head. □ *I raised up and got a nasty blow on the gourd.* □ *My gourd aches something awful.*

go West *in.* to die. □ *Ever since Uncle Ben went West, things have been peaceful around here.* □ *When I go West, I want flowers, hired mourners, and an enormous performance of Mozart's "Requiem."*

go with it Go to go with the flow.

go with the flow AND **go with it** *in.* to cope with adversity; to accept one's lot. □ *No, just relax and go with the flow.* □ *Go with it. Don't fight it.*

goy [goi] **1.** *n.* a gentile. (From Hebrew. Not necessarily derogatory.) □ *But the goys can do anything they want on Sunday!* □ *Leave that kind of thing to the goys.* **2.** *mod.* gentile; non-Jewish. □ *I don't care for that goy stuff.* □ *Goy pickles are sort of blah.*

go zonkers *in.* to go slightly crazy. □ *What a day! I almost went zonkers.* □ *I went a little zonkers there for a minute.*

grabbers *n.* the hands. □ *Keep your grabbers to yourself.* □ *Wash your grubby little grabbers before coming to the table.*

grade-grubber **1.** *n.* an earnest, hard-working student. (In the way a pig roots or grubs around for food.) □ *Martin is a grade-grubber and a real hard worker.* □ *If there are too many grade-grubbers in a class, it will really throw off the grading*

scale. **2.** *n.* a student who flatters the teacher in hopes of a higher grade. □ *Toward the end of a semester, my office is filled with grade-grubbers.* □ *A few grade-grubbers help assure old professors that the world is not really changing at all.*

grade-grubbing **1.** *n.* working hard at one's studies in hopes of a high grade. □ *If all you're here for is grade-grubbing, you're going to miss a lot.* □ *Get a hobby. All grade-grubbing in college is no good.* **2.** *n.* flattering a teacher in hopes of a higher grade. □ *Some teachers don't mind a lot of grade-grubbing.* □ *So you've come in to do some grade-grubbing.* **3.** *mod.* having to do with students who are only concerned with getting high grades. □ *Grade-grubbing college kids are driving me crazy.* □ *Two grade-grubbing seniors came in and begged me to change their grades.*

graduate ['grædʒuət] **1.** *n.* a person experienced in life, especially sexually experienced. □ *Tracy is a graduate. Nothing is new to her.* □ *You need someone who is a graduate for this kind of a job.* **2.** ['grædʒuət] *in.* to move from casual drug use to addiction. (Drugs.) □ *Gert graduated to smack after only a year of skin-popping.* □ *Pete graduated and went into treatment all in the same month.*

grand AND **G; gee** *n.* one thousand dollars. □ *That car probably cost about twenty grand.* □ *Four Gs for that thing?*

Grand Central Station *n.* any busy and hectic place. (From Grand Central Station in New York City—a very busy place.) □ *This place is Grand Central Station on a Friday night.* □ *At just about closing time, this place becomes Grand Central Station.*

granddad *n.* an old-fashioned person; an out-of-date person. □ *Tom is just a silly granddad. He is dull and old-fashioned.* □ *Don't be such a granddad. Live a little.*

(grand)daddy (of them all) *n.* the biggest or oldest of all; the patriarch. □ *This old fish is the granddaddy of them all.* □ *This one is the daddy. Been here since the place was built.*

grandstand *in.* to make oneself conspicuous. □ *Stop grandstanding, Sally. Everyone can see you.* □ *Don't you just hate the way that Pat grandstands all the time?*

grandstand play *n.* something done exceedingly well to impress an audience or a group of spectators. □ *The grandstand play caught the attention of the crowd just as they were leaving.* □ *He tried one final grandstand play, but the audience continued to give him the raspberry.*

grape(s) *n.* champagne; wine. (See also **berries**.) □ *These grapes are great!* □ *No more of the grapes for me. It tickles my nose.*

grape shot *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; drunk on wine. □ *After the reception, Hank found himself a little grape shot.* □ *Man, is that guy ever grape shot! How can he hold enough to get that way?*

grapes of wrath *n.* wine. □ *Fred had taken a little too much of the grapes of wrath.* □ *How about another dose of the grapes of wrath?*

grapevine *n.* an informal communications network. □ *I heard on the grapevine that Sam is moving to the east.* □ *The grapevine was right. He's already left.*

grass **1.** *n.* marijuana. (Drugs and now widely known.) □ *These kids manage to find this grass somewhere.* □ *Almost everybody knows that grass means marijuana.* **2.** *n.* lettuce; salad greens. (See also **rabbit food**.) □ *I could use a little more grass in my diet.* □ *Do you want some dressing on your grass?*

grasser Go to **grasshead**.

grasshead AND **grasser; grasshopper** *n.* a marijuana smoker. (Drugs.) □ *The grassheads are taking over this neighborhood.* □ *Imagine, a seven-year-old grasser!*

grasshopper Go to **grasshead**.

grass party *n.* a marijuana-smoking party. (Drugs.) □ *The goon squad raided Pete's grass party without any warning.* □ *Sally tried to have a grass party, but didn't have any grass.*

grassroots **1.** *n.* the common people, especially rural people. □ *We really haven't heard anything from the grassroots yet.* □ *The grassroots isn't organized on most issues.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with or originating with the common people. □ *A grassroots movement pushed Senator Del Monte toward the nomination.* □ *Politicians love to create grassroots movements.*

grave-dancer *n.* someone who profits over someone else's misfortune. (From *dance on someone's grave*.) □ *I don't want to seem like a grave-dancer, but his defeat places me in line for a promotion.* □ *The guy's a grave-dancer. Anything to get ahead.*

gravel-pounder *n.* an infantry soldier. (Military.) □ *Do you really want to join the Army and be a gravel-pounder?* □ *The life of a gravel-pounder is not for me.*

graveyard shift *n.* the night shift of work in a factory, usually starting at about midnight. (See also **swing shift**.) □ *I'd prefer not to work the graveyard shift.* □ *The pay is pretty good on the graveyard shift.*

gravity check *n.* a fall as from a surfboard, bike, etc. □ *She rounded the turn and had a sudden gravity check, resulting in a scraped elbow.*

gravy *n.* extra or easy money; easy profit. □ *Virtually every cent that came in was pure gravy—no expenses and no materials costs at all.* □ *After I pay expenses, the rest is pure gravy.*

gravy train *n.* a job that brings in a steady supply of easy money or **gravy**. □ *This kind of job is a real gravy train.* □ *The gravy train is just not for me.*

Graybar Hotel AND **Graystone College** *n.* a jail; a prison. □ *The two cops had to spend two years in Graybar Hotel with some of the inmates they had caught over the past few years.* □ *Bart has graduated from Graystone College three times in the last ten years.*

grayhound *in.* [for a black] to date whites. □ *Somebody said you were grayhounding. Is that so?* □ *I am not grayhounding.*

Graystone College Go to Graybar Hotel.

GR&D *interj.* Grinning, running, and ducking. (Describes what one might be doing after having written a mischievous message on an electronic forum or news group. Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Sometimes enclosed, <GR&D>. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *I'm GR&D, but I'm glad I said it.* □ *I guess that you got just the kind of answer that you deserve.* <GR&D>

grease *n.* protection money; bribery money. (See also **grease someone's palm**.) □ *Rocko was in charge of making sure that enough grease was spread around city hall.* □ *See that the commissioner of the park district gets a little grease to help us get the contract.*

greased [grizd OR grist] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He went out and got himself greased, even though he knew it would probably kill him.* □ *She is way too greased to drive.*

greased lightning **1.** *n.* strong liquor. □ *This greased lightning of yours nearly blew my head off.* □ *No more greased lightning for me.* **2.** *n.* something fast or powerful. □ *That little car is just greased lightning.* □ *That kid can run like greased lightning.*

grease monkey *n.* a mechanic. □ *I took my car to my favorite grease monkey who says I need a new something or other.* □ *How much money does a grease monkey make?*

greaser ['grizə OR 'grisə] *n.* a rough and aggressive male, usually with long greased down hair. □ *Who's the greaser who just swaggered in?* □ *Donna has been going out with a real greaser.*

grease someone's palm *tv.* to pay someone a bribe. □ *I had to grease the clerk's palm in order to get the job done.* □ *Are you trying to grease my palm?*

grease the skids *tv.* to help prepare for the success or failure of someone or something. (See also **put the skids under someone or something**.) □ *Ray set out to grease the skids for the right things to happen.* □ *We need someone to grease the skids for the Wilson contract.*

greasy spoon *n.* an untidy and unappetizing diner or restaurant. □ *Let's eat at the greasy spoon over on Maple. The food is gross, but the people-watching is good.* □ *I wouldn't be caught dead in a greasy spoon like that.*

great divide *n.* a divorce. □ *How did Sam survive the great divide?* □ *The great divide cost over two grand.*

Great Scott! ['gret 'skat] *exclam.* Good grief! □ *Great Scott! What happened?* □ *I'm late again! Great Scott!*

the **great unwashed** *n.* most of the common people; the hoi polloi. □ *The great unwashed could probably tell us a lot about life in the big city.* □ *I usually find myself more in agreement with the great unwashed than with the elite.*

greefo AND **griefo** ['grifo] *n.* marijuana or a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs. Old Mexican Spanish for **weed**. See also **reefer**.) □ *Max had a soggy greefo in his mouth.* □ *He tossed Fred a griefo and held out his hand for some bread.*

Greek to someone *n.* something incomprehensible to someone; something as mysterious as Greek writing. □ *I don't understand this. It's all Greek to me.* □ *She said it was Greek to her, and that it made no sense at all.*

green AND **green folding; green paper; green stuff** *n.* money; paper money. (See also **long bread**.) □ *How much green you got on you?* □ *I have so much green stuff, I don't know what to do with it.*

green around the gills Go to blue around the gills.

greenback ['grinbæk] *n.* a dollar bill. □ *She came out of the bank and dropped this pack of greenbacks right there on the street.* □ *It's only ten greenbacks. Anybody can afford that.*

green folding Go to green.

greenie ['grini] *n.* a Heineken (brand) beer. (It comes in a green bottle.) □ *Tom ordered a greenie and had it put on his tab.* □ *Can I have a couple of greenies over here, please?*

green light *n.* the signal to go ahead with something; the **okay**. (See also **go-ahead**; **high sign**.) □ *She gave the green light to the project.* □ *When we get the green light, we'll start.*

greenmail *n.* a money-making scheme wherein a very wealthy person buys a large number of shares of a company, threatens to take control of the company, and then offers to sell the stock to the company at an exorbitant price in lieu of a takeover. (Securities markets.) □ *Mr. Smith made about twenty million in greenmail last year.* □ *One state is trying to outlaw greenmail to protect its industrial base.*

green paper Go to green.

green stuff Go to green.

green thumb *n.* a wonderful ability to garden and grow houseplants. □ *Heidi has a green thumb and can work wonders with plants.* □ *If I had a green thumb, I could grow my own bananas.*

greenwash *tv.* to launder money; to obliterate the illegal sources of money by moving it through a variety of financial institutions. (Underworld.) □ *It was shown in court that the mayor had been involved in greenwashing some of the bribe money.* □ *The treasurer hired someone to greenwash the cash.*

grelde [grɛldʒ] **1.** *n.* something nasty or yucky. □ *What is this greldge on my shoe?* □ *That's not greldge, that's just plain mud.* **2.** *exclam.* Nuts!; Darn! (Usually **Grelde!**) □ *Oh, greldge! I'm late!* □ *This is the last straw! Grelde!*

griefo Go to greefo.

gripe one's ass AND **gripes one's butt** *tv.* to annoy someone; to bother or irritate someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You really gripe my ass when you act like that!* □ *That kind of thing really gripes my butt.*

gripe one's butt Go to gripe one's ass.

gripe one's soul *tv.* to annoy someone. □ *That kind of thing really gripes my soul!* □ *John, have I ever told you that you gripe my soul?*

grit *n.* courage; nerve. □ *It takes a lot of grit to do something like that.* □ *Well, Pete has lots of grit. He can do it.*

gritch [grɪtʃ] **1.** *in.* to complain. (A blend of **gripe** and **bitch**.) □ *Stop gritching all the time.* □ *Are you still gritching about that?* **2.** *n.* a complainer; a griper. □ *You are getting to be such a gritch.* □ *Don't be such a gritch!*

gritchy ['grɪtʃi] *mod.* complaining; irritable. □ *I don't feel as gritchy today as I did yesterday.* □ *You seem quite gritchy to me.*

groan box *n.* an accordion. (See also (**squeeze-**)**box**.) □ *Clare is pretty good at the groan box.* □ *I used to play the groan box when I was a kid.*

groaty Go to grody.

grod AND **groddess** [grad AND 'gradəs] *n.* an especially sloppy man or woman. (Patterned on **god** and **goddess**.) □ *Hello, grods and groddesses, what's new?* □ *She is the groddess of scraggly ends.*

groddess Go to grod.

grody AND **groaty** ['grodi] *mod.* disgusting. (From **grotesque**. See also **grotty**.) □ *What a grody view of the street from this window.* □ *These shoes are getting sort of groaty. I guess I'll throw them out.*

grody to the max ['grodi tu ðə 'mæks] *mod.* totally disgusting. (California. From **grotesque**. See also **grody**.) □ *Oo, this is grody to the max!* □ *This pizza is, like, grody to the max!*

grog [grag] *n.* liquor. □ *Here, have some more of this grog.* □ *That's enough grog for me.*

groggery ['gragəri] *n.* a tavern; a place to buy liquor. □ *Sam stopped at the groggery for a snort.* □ *All the groggeries are closed on Sundays.*

groggified Go to groggy.

groggy **1.** *mod.* tired; in a stupor. □ *He was too groggy to care what happened to him.* □ *Who's that groggy guy?* □ *I'm still groggy by ten in the morning.* **2.** AND **groggified** ['grɒɡɪfaɪd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *John was a little groggy—*

from the grog, of course. □ He was too groggified to drive.

groghound *n.* a drunkard. □ I'm afraid that Ernie is getting to be a groghound. □ I'm an old groghound from way back.

grok [grɒk] *tv.* to appreciate someone or something; to relate to someone or something. □ I can really grok what you're saying. □ I don't quite grok that. Run it by again, would you?

gronk [grɒŋk] *n.* a nasty substance, such as dirt that collects between the toes. □ I don't want to hear any more at all about your gronk. □ What is this gronk here?

gronk (out) *in.* to conk out; to crash, as with a car or a computer. □ My car gronked out on the way to work this morning. □ The program gronks every time I start to run it.

groove *n.* something pleasant or cool. (See also **in the groove**.) □ This day has been a real groove. □ Man, what a groove!

grooved [gruvd] *mod.* pleased. □ I am so grooved. I'll just kick back and meditate. □ You sure look grooved. What's been happening in your life?

groove on someone or something *in.* to show interest in someone or something; to relate to someone or something. □ Fred was beginning to groove on new age music when he met Phil. □ Sam is really grooving on Mary.

grooving *mod.* enjoying; being cool and laid back. □ Look at those guys grooving in front of the television set. □ They were just sitting there grooving.

groovy **1.** *mod.* cool; pleasant. □ Man, this music is groovy. □ What a groovy day! **2.** *mod.* drug intoxicated. (Drugs.) □ Three beers and he was a little groovy. □ She's groovy, but she can still stand up. **3.** *mod.* out-of-date; passé. (California.) □ Your clothes are so groovy. It barfs me out. □ Oh, how groovy!

gross [gros] *mod.* crude; vulgar; disgusting. (Slang only when overused.) □ This food is gross! □ What a gross thing to even suggest.

gross-out **1.** *n.* something disgusting. □ This whole day has been a total gross-out. □ That horror movie was a real gross-out. **2.** *mod.* disgusting; gross. □ What a gross-out day this has been! □ Well, it looks like another gross-out movie.

gross someone out *tv.* to disgust someone. □ Those horrible pictures just gross me out. □ Jim's story totally grossed out Sally.

grotty ['gradi] *mod.* highly undesirable. (Originally British. From *grotesque*. See also **grody**.) □ Let's not see another grotty movie tonight. □ What is this grotty stuff they serve here? □ It's not grotty!

grounded *mod.* confined to one's home. (The standard punishment for a teenager. See also **campused**.) □ Tracy is grounded for a week because she came in late. □ You are grounded, and I don't want to hear another word about it!

ground-pounder *n.* an infantry soldier. (Military.) □ If you join the Army, it means a lot of your life spent as a ground-pounder. □ You won't find me among the ground-pounders. I have flat feet.

group-grope *n.* a group of people engaged in sexual activities. □ That party turned into a hopeless group-grope. □ The group-grope was busted up by you-know-who.

groupie *n.* a young woman who follows a band seeking romance with the band members. □ Would you believe that Sally was a groupie when she was 19? □ You mean all those young girls are groupies?

grouse [graʊs] **1.** *in.* to complain. □ Paul is always grouching about something. □ Stop grouching and look on the good side of things. **2.** *n.* a woman; women considered sexually. □ Who's the grouse I saw you with last night? □ Look at that grouse over there. **3.** *in.* to neck; to pet and kiss. □ They stopped grouching in order to come up for air. □ They were grouching in the backseat the whole trip.

grovel ['gravl] *in.* to fondle or pet. □ They spent the whole time in the backseat groveling. □ He always wants to go out and grovel.

growler *n.* a toilet. □ *Where's the growler around here?* □ *We only have one growler in this house.*

grub [grəb] **1.** *n.* food. □ *Hey, this grub's pretty good.* □ *What time's grub?* **2.** **AND** **grub up** *in.* to eat [a meal]. □ *When do we grub?* □ *Let's grub and get going.* **3.** *tv.* to eat something; to eat a meal. □ *Are you going to grub that whole pizza?* □ *Grub your food and let's go.* **4.** *n.* an earnest student. (Collegiate. See also **grade-grubber**.) □ *Martin is not exactly a grub. He gets good grades without trying.* □ *The test was so hard, even the grubs did poorly.* **5.** *n.* a sloppy person. (From *grub worm*.) □ *Don is such a grub all the time.* □ *Sorry I look like a grub. I've been doing some plumbing.* **6.** Go to **grubbies**.

grubbers Go to **grubbies**.

grubbies **AND** **grubbers; grubs** ['grəbiz **AND** 'grəbɔːz, grəbz] *n.* worn-out clothing; clothing one wears for the occasional dirty job. □ *I have to go home, put some grubbies on, and paint the house.* □ *There I was, running around in my grubs when the Senator stops by to say hello!*

grubby ['grəbi] *mod.* unclean; untidy; unshaven. □ *Pete looks sort of grubby today. What's wrong?* □ *Who's that grubby guy?* □ *I feel grubby, and I want a shower.*

grub on something *in.* to eat something. □ *What are you grubbing on? It looks horrible.*

grub up Go to **grub**.

gruesome-twosome ['grusəm'tusəm] *n.* two people or things. (Jocular. Neither the things or the people have to be *gruesome*.) □ *Well, it's the gruesome-twosome. Come in and join the party.* □ *The gruesome-twosome will both start in tonight's game.*

grunch Go to **grunge**.

grunge **AND** **grunch** [grændʒ **AND** grəntʃ] **1.** *n.* any nasty substance; dirt; **gunk**. □ *There's some gritty grunge on the kitchen floor.* □ *What's that grunch on your tie?* **2.** *n.* an ugly or nasty person; a repellent person. □ *Heidi thinks that Bart is a*

grunge. □ *Some grunch came by and dropped off this strange package for you.*

grungy ['grændʒi] **1.** *mod.* dirty and smelly; yucky. □ *Get your grungy feet off the table!* □ *My feet are not grungy!* □ *What is this grungy stuff on the closet floor?* **2.** Go to **gungy**.

grunt [grənt] **1.** *n.* an infantry soldier. (Military. From the gutteral sound made by a pig, and anyone doing very heavy labor.) □ *Hey, you grunts! Get in line!* □ *Get those grunts out on the field at sunrise!* **2.** *n.* a low-ranking or subservient person. (Someone who is likely to utter a grunt because of the discomforts of menial labor.) □ *Get one of the grunts over here to clean this up.* □ *Let's hire a grunt to do this kind of work.* **3.** *n.* a belch. □ *I heard your grunt!* □ *Does that grunt mean you like my cooking?* **4.** *n.* a hard-working student. □ *Martin isn't a grunt. Everything's easy for Martin.* □ *The grunts got B's on the test. It was that hard!* **5.** *n.* a wrestler. (Possibly in reference to a grunting pig.) □ *Two big grunts wearing outlandish costumes performed for the television cameras.* □ *One grunt threw the other grunt out of the ring.*

grunt work *n.* hard, menial labor; tedious work. □ *I'm tired of doing grunt work for minimum wages.* □ *Who is supposed to do the grunt work around here? Not me!*

gubbish *n.* nonsense; useless information. (Computers. A combination of *garbage* and *rubbish*.) □ *There's nothing but gubbish on my printout.* □ *I can't make any sense out of this gubbish.*

guber **AND** **goober** ['gubə] **1.** *n.* a facial pimple. (See also **goob**.) □ *Wow, look at that giant guber on my nose.* □ *How does anybody get rid of goobers?* **2.** *n.* a tumor. (Jocular medical slang. Possibly because it grows beneath the surface like the goober—the peanut. See also **boogie**.) □ *Dr. Jones took a huge goober out of a lady this morning.* □ *The patient with the abdominal goober is going into surgery now.*

guck [gək] *n.* a thick, sticky substance; yuck. □ *What is this guck on the bottom of my shoe?* □ *The doctor painted some*

nasty guck on my throat and told me not to swallow for a while.

gucky ['gəki] *mod.* thick and sticky; **yucky**.

□ *This is a gucky day. Look at the sky.* □ *Yes, it is gucky.* □ *There is a lot of gucky oil and grease on the garage floor.*

guff [gʌf] **1.** *n.* nonsense; **bunkum**. □ *Wow, that vice president guy can sure dish out the guff!* □ *No more guff outa you, okay?*

2. *n.* back talk; complaining. □ *I don't want to hear any more of your guff.* □ *That's enough of your guff!* **3.** *n.* a strange person; a **nerd**. (Possibly related to **goof**.)

□ *Wally acts like a guff when we go out. I am going to break up with him.* □ *Some old guff driving an Edsel yelled at us when we crossed the street.*

gug [gʊg] *n.* a repellent person. □ *Oo, he's such a gug!* □ *Rocko is not a gug!*

GUI Go to **goosey**.

gulf *n.* heroin from the Persian Gulf region. (Drugs.) □ *This gulf is flooding the country.* □ *Those pushers can call anything gulf. How does anybody know where it's from?*

gumby ['gəmbi] *n.* a tall, squared-off and slanting haircut that looks like the Gumby character's head. □ *Wayne came to school sporting a gumby and got a lot of attention.* □ *Ted got sent to the principal's office because of his gumby.*

gumbyhead ['gəmbihed] *n.* someone who does stupid things like the character, Gumby. □ *Fred is a total gumbyhead. He does all the wrong things.* □ *Don't be a gumbyhead. Don't drink and drive.*

gump [gʌmp] *n.* a fool; an oaf. □ *Who's the gump in the yellow slacks?* □ *Don't act like such a gump!*

gumshoe ['gəm'fu] *n.* a policeman or a detective. (Underworld. Also a term of address. So-named for wearing silent, gum-rubber soles.) □ *Has that gumshoe been around asking questions again?* □ *Look, gumshoe, what do you want with me?*

gun **1.** *n.* a hired gunman; a bodyguard, an assassin, or a member of a gang of criminals. (Underworld and Western.) □ *Willie and his guns came by to remind*

Gary of what he owed Mr. Big. □ *Tell your guns to lay off.* **2.** *n.* a leader; the key member of a group. □ *Who's the gun around here?* □ *Willie is the gun, and what he says goes.* **3.** *tv.* to race an engine; to rev up an engine. □ *See how loud it is when I gun it?* □ *Gun the thing again and let me hear it.* **4.** Go to **guns**.

gunboats AND **battleships** *n.* big feet; big shoes. □ *Hasn't he got the biggest gunboats you ever saw?* □ *Whose battleships are these under the coffee table?*

gun for someone *in.* to be looking for someone, not necessarily with a gun. □ *Sam is gunning for Bart.* □ *The French prof is gunning for you.*

gunge [gʌndʒ] *n.* a skin irritation in the groin. (See also **crotch-rot**. Said of males.) □ *I got the gunge. What'll I do?* □ *The sawbones'll give you something for the gunge.*

gungeon ['gʌndʒən] *n.* a potent type of marijuana from Africa or Jamaica; a cigarette made of this marijuana. □ *Where can I get some of that gungeon?* □ *Is this gungeon really from Africa?*

gung-ho ['gʌŋ'ho] *mod.* zealous; enthusiastic. □ *We're really gung-ho about the possibilities of this product.* □ *Pete always seems so gung-ho about everything.* □ *He's a gung-ho guy.*

gungy AND **grungy** ['gʌndʒi AND 'grʌndʒi] *mod.* messy; nasty; worn-out. (See also **grunge**.) □ *Get your grungy feet off the sofa.* □ *The weather is so grungy today.*

gunk [gʌŋk] **1.** *n.* any nasty, messy stuff. □ *What is this gunk on the counter?* □ *Get this gunk up off the floor before it dries.* **2.** *n.* glue sniffed as a drug. (Drugs.) □ *This kid is high on gunk.* □ *I thought that it was illegal to sell gunk.*

gunner *n.* an earnest student. (Collegiate.) □ *Martin is a gunner, all right.* □ *The gunners in my algebra class always get the A's.*

gunny ['gʌni] *n.* a potent marijuana from Jamaica or Africa. (Drugs.) □ *Is this gunny really from Jamaica?* □ *This gunny is just junk, plain old junk.*

guns *n.* the biceps. □ *Look at the guns on that guy!* □ *He lifts weights to build up his guns.*

gunzel-butt ['gʌnzlɒt] *n.* a strange-looking person, usually a male. (Underworld.) □ *Bruno told the gunzel-butt where to get off.* □ *Rocko is no gunzel-butt. He's a thinker.*

guru ['ɡʊrʊ] **1.** *n.* an experienced LSD user who guides someone else on a trip. □ *Bart volunteered to serve as a guru, but he never showed up.* □ *A guru can be a big help.* **2.** *n.* a stockbroker or other financial adviser. (Securities markets.) □ *My guru says to sell all my bonds.* □ *My guru just went bankrupt.* **3.** *n.* a psychiatrist; a psychotherapist. □ *I go to this guru who gets a lot of money just to listen.* □ *I've started using my mirror for a guru. It's cheaper.*

gussied up ['ɡʌsɪd...] *mod.* dressed up in one's best clothing. (Folksy.) □ *She was all gussied up in her finest.* □ *I like to get gussied up and go out on the town.*

gusto ['ɡæstə] **1.** *n.* beer. □ *Can you stop at the filling station and get some gusto?* □ *How about another tube of gusto?* **2.** *in.* to drink beer. □ *Don't you ever do anything but gusto?* □ *Let's go out and gusto all night!*

gut [ɡʌt] **1.** *n.* the belly; the intestines. □ *What a gut that guy has.* □ *Tom poked Bill right in the gut.* **2.** *mod.* basic; fundamental. □ *This is a gut issue, and we have to deal with it now.* □ *We are not dealing with what I would call one of the gut matters of the day.* **3.** *mod.* [of a college or high school course] easy. □ *That's a gut course. Nothing to it.* □ *I won't take any more gut economics courses. Even those are hard.* **4.** *n.* an easy course in school. □ *That course is a gut.* □ *If it's a gut, it's for me.*

gutbucket ['ɡʌtbəkɪt] **1.** *n.* a chamber pot, especially one used in a prison cell. (See also **gash bucket**.) □ *You got something around here I can use as a gutbucket?* □ *I don't want any gutbucket around here.* **2.** *n.* a toilet. □ *Where's the gutbucket around here?* □ *The kid tried to flush his*

stash down the gutbucket. **3.** *n.* the stomach. □ *Hey, your gutbucket's getting sort of big, isn't it?* □ *Sam poked Pete right in the gutbucket.* **4.** *n.* a fat person, usually a man. □ *Harry is getting to be a real gutbucket.* □ *Look at the gutbucket waddling down the street.* **5.** *n.* a cheap saloon; a low tavern. □ *Old Jed is probably stuck in some gutbucket someplace, talking his head off.* □ *The pinstriper needed a drink so bad he stopped at one of those gutbuckets on Maple Street.* **6.** *n.* an earthy style of music. □ *I'd like to hear some good old-fashioned gutbucket.* □ *You don't hear much gutbucket in public places these days.*

gutless wonder *n.* a totally spineless person. □ *George, don't be such a gutless wonder! Stand up for your rights!* □ *Here comes that gutless wonder, Martin.*

gut reaction (to something) *n.* a basic and immediate response to something. □ *Well, my gut reaction is quite negative.* □ *Her gut reaction to the plan is basically a good one.*

guts [ɡʌts] **1.** *n.* courage; bravado. □ *Man, she's got guts!* □ *It takes guts to do something like that.* **2.** *n.* the belly; the intestines. □ *Ted poked Frank right in the guts.* □ *I've got some kind of pain in the guts.* **3.** *n.* the inner workings of anything. □ *There's something wrong in the guts of this clock.* □ *My tape recorder needs all new guts.* **4.** *n.* the essence of something. □ *Let's discuss the real guts of this issue.* □ *The guts of your proposal are really easy to understand.*

gutsy ['ɡʌtsɪ] *mod.* courageous; feisty. □ *She sure is a gutsy young thing.* □ *She is not gutsy.* □ *Ernie's acting sort of gutsy today. What happened?*

guy *n.* a fellow; a man or boy. (Not necessarily male in the plural.) □ *Hey you guys, let's go!* □ *When you guys finish getting your makeup on, we can go back to the guys.*

guzzery Go to **guzzlery**.

guzzle ['ɡʌzl] **1.** *tv. & in.* to drink alcohol in great quantities. □ *Stop guzzling for a while and pay attention.* □ *Don't guzzle all that beer, or you'll turn into a guzzle-*

guts. **2.** *n.* a drinking spree. □ *Fred's out on another of his guzzles.* □ *It's one guzzle after another, day after day.*

guzzled ['gəzld] **1.** *mod.* arrested. (Underworld.) □ *Rocko got himself guzzled on a speeding rap.* □ *Lefty is guzzled again. He's so clumsy.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Sam was plenty guzzled when he got home.* □ *Todd was too guzzled to drive home.*

guzzle-guts *n.* a drunkard; a heavy drinker. □ *Old guzzle-guts here would like another drink.* □ *Don't call me guzzle-guts. I hardly ever have a drop.*

guzzler *n.* a heavy drinker. □ *Harry is getting to be quite a guzzler.* □ *A couple of guzzlers at the bar were carrying on a low conversation when Barlowe came in.*

guzzlery AND **guzzery** ['gəzləri AND 'gəzəri] *n.* a bar; a liquor store. □ *Sam hit every guzzlery on Maple Street on the way home.* □ *I wouldn't be caught dead in a guzzery like that!*

gweeb [gwib] *n.* a studious student. (Collegeiate. A variant of **dweeb**.) □ *I'm in a physics class full of gweeb.* □ *Martin is a gweeb, all right, but he's a good guy.*

gweebo ['gwibo] *mod.* feeble; despicable; in the manner of a **gweeb**. □ *I'm not gweebo. I'm just eccentric.* □ *Don't act so gweebo all the time.*

gym shoe *n.* a disliked person. □ *Who is the gym shoe who comes to class in a sport coat?* □ *Fred is such a gym shoe. Will he ever get with it?*

gynie ['gəni] *n.* a gynecologist. □ *My gynie says I'm fine.* □ *She went to a new gynie last week.*

gyve [dʒaɪv] *n.* marijuana; a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs. See also **jive**.) □ *Why are you always smoking gyve?* □ *How about a hit of that gyve?*

gyvestick Go to jivestick.

H

H. *n.* heroin. (Drugs.) □ *Now he's shooting H.* □ *First it was M.; now it's H.*

habit *n.* an addiction to a drug. □ *She has to steal to support her habit.* □ *There are many treatment programs to help with drug habits.*

hack **1.** *n.* a taxi. □ *Go out to the street and see if you can get a hack.* □ *I drove a hack for a few months; then I quit.* **2.** *n.* a cough. □ *That's a nasty hack you've got there.* □ *A hack like that can lead to pneumonia.* **3.** *n.* a professional writer who writes mediocre material to order. □ *This novel shows that even a hack can get something published these days.* □ *That hack can't even write her name!* **4.** *n.* a reporter. □ *She was a hack for the newspaper for a while.* □ *Newspaper hacks have to know a little of everything.* **5.** *tv.* to write clumsy or inefficient computer programs. □ *I can hack a program for you, but it won't be what you want.* □ *Well, I can hack myself.* **6.** *tv.* to break into a computer electronically to steal data or corrupt it or for the challenge of breaking in. □ *Somebody hacked our system.* □ *I'm gonna hack the bank's computer because they bounced a check of mine.* **7.** *tv.* to annoy someone. (See also **hacked (off)**.) □ *This really hacks me.* □ *That kind of behavior hacks her a lot.* **8.** *n.* anyone who does poor or undesirable work. □ *Oh, he's just a hack. What can you expect?* □ *There's always plenty of work for a hack.* **9.** *n.* a prison guard. □ *Watch out, man. The hacks are looking.*

hack around *in.* to waste time. □ *You guys are always hacking around. Get busy!* □ *I wanted to hack around for a year after college, but my finances disagreed.*

hacked [hækt] *mod.* worn-out; ready to quit. □ *What a day! I'm hacked.* □ *We were all hacked at the end of the climb.*

hacked (off) *mod.* angry; annoyed. □ *Wally was really hacked off about the accident.* □ *Oh, Wally is always hacked about something.*

hacker **1.** *n.* a taxi driver. □ *That hacker nearly ran into the back of my car!* □ *You wonder how some of these hackers keep their licenses.* **2.** *n.* a sloppy or inefficient computer programmer. □ *This program was written by a real hacker. It's a mess, but it works.* □ *I may be a hacker, but I get the job done.* **3.** *n.* a generally unsuccessful person. □ *Poor Pete is just a hacker. He'll never go any place.* □ *Hackers keep trying, but they never succeed.* **4.** *n.* someone who breaks into a computer electronically. □ *Some hacker broke into our computer!* □ *Some hackers are really good programmers.*

hack it *tv.* to stand up to something; to endure something. □ *It's hard, but I'm sure I can hack it.* □ *I'm afraid you can't hack it. It just isn't working out.*

had Go to taken.

hairball **1.** **AND** **furball** *n.* an obnoxious person. □ *I wish that the guys I date didn't always turn out to be hairballs.* □ *Stop being such a furball, Wally.* **2.** *exclam.* How awful! (Usually **Hairball!** An exclamation of disgust. From the name of the undigested mass of fur vomited by a cat.) □ *Hairball! I did it wrong again!* □ *Oh, I hate that dork! Hairball!*

hairy *mod.* hazardous; difficult. □ *That was a hairy experience!* □ *Wow, that's hairy!* □ *What a hairy ride!*

hairy-ass(ed) 1. *mod.* wild; exciting. □ *We had a real hairy-ass time on the roller coaster.* □ *The last part of the climb was really hairy-assed.* 2. *mod.* strong and virile. (Usually objectionable.) □ *This big hairy-ass guy started to push us around.* □ *Stop acting like a hairy-assed jerk.*

half a bubble off plumb *phr.* giddy; crazy. □ *She is acting about half a bubble off plumb. What is wrong with her?* □ *Tom is just half a bubble off plumb, but he is all heart.*

half-ass(ed) *mod.* clumsy; awkward and ineffectual. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She only made a half-ass try at passing the test.*

half-baked 1. *mod.* badly thought out. □ *That was a half-baked scheme. Was that the best you could do?* □ *It would have been approved if it weren't so half-baked.* 2. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *We're getting half-baked, come hell or high water.* □ *Fred got himself sort of half-baked every Saturday night.*

half-blind *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Fred got himself half-blind in no time at all.* □ *Get that half-blind jerk out of here!* □ *Four cans of beer and she was half-blind.*

half-canned *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; tipsy. □ *He's half-canned and will be no help at all.* □ *Old Don is half-canned and can't drive home.*

half-cocked 1. *mod.* unprepared. (See also **go off half-cocked**.) □ *So he's half-cocked. So what?* □ *You're half-cocked for everything you do.* 2. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He just sat there, half-cocked and singing.* □ *Old Jed got himself half-cocked at the reception.*

half-crocked *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Sam and John set out to get half-crocked.* □ *They came home half-crocked at midnight.*

half in the bag *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Jerry was half in the bag when we found him.* □ *They were all half in the bag by midnight.*

half-lit *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *John was half-lit in no time at all.* □ *Harry was half-lit by noon.*

half-sprung *mod.* tipsy; alcohol intoxicated. □ *Ted was half-sprung and could hardly stand up.* □ *They were half-sprung by noon.*

half-stewed *mod.* tipsy; alcohol intoxicated. □ *Poor Fred was half-stewed and still had to give a speech.* □ *We were half-stewed and had a lot of drinking yet to do.*

half-under 1. *mod.* semi-conscious. □ *I was half-under and could hear what the doctor was saying.* □ *I was afraid they would start cutting while I was only half-under.* 2. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; tipsy. □ *He was half-under and could barely stand up.* □ *Only four beers and she was half-under.*

half up the pole *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; tipsy. □ *She drank till she was half up the pole.* □ *Don was half up the pole when we picked him up to come here.*

halvsies ['hævziz] *mod.* with each (of two) paying half. (See also **go Dutch**.) □ *Let's do it halvsies.* □ *Let's make it halvsies, and I pay for the parking, too.*

ham 1. *n.* an actor; a bad actor. (See also **hams**.) □ *What a ham! A real showoff.* □ *The cast was an assemblage of hams.* 2. *n.* an amateur radio operator. □ *My brother is a ham, and he helped a lot during the emergency.* □ *The hams helped by providing communication to the outside world.*

hamburg *n.* a hamburger. (See also **burger**.) □ *I'd like a couple of hamburgs and a shake.* □ *This hamburg is as greasy as they come.*

hamburger *n.* a stupid and worthless person—meat. □ *The guy is just hamburger.* □ *You can't teach him anything.* □ *There is a lot of hamburger around here. Who hired them?*

hamburgers *n.* shares in the McDonald's corporation. (Securities markets. New York Stock Exchange jargon.) □ *I want 400 shares of hamburgers.* □ *Hamburgers just dropped a point.*

ham-handed *mod.* lacking dexterity; clumsy. □ *If I wasn't so ham-handed, I could probably fix the thing myself.* □ *He is the most ham-handed guy I've ever seen.*

hammer *n.* the accelerator of a vehicle. □ *She pressed down the hammer, and off they went.* □ *The hammer went straight to the floor.*

hammer a beer Go to pound a beer.

hammered *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Man, old Fred was really hammered.* □ *She got so hammered she couldn't see.*

hammerhead 1. *n.* a stupid person; a person whose head seems to be as solid as a hammer. □ *You can be such a hammerhead!* □ *What a hammerhead! Totally dense!* **2.** *n.* a drunkard or a drug user. □ *These hammerheads can't even hold a simple job for the most part.* □ *A couple of hammerheads stood in the alley, looking suspicious.*

hammer some beers Go to pound a beer.

hams *n.* legs; hips. □ *Her great hams extended over the sides of the chair.* □ *I got to do something to get the size of these hams down.*

handful *n.* a difficult thing or person. □ *Little Jimmy is a handful.* □ *His dad can be a handful, too.*

hand-in-glove *mod.* suiting one another naturally. □ *These two go hand-in-glove.* □ *The two parts went together like hand-in-glove.*

hand it to someone *tv.* to acknowledge someone's excellence (at something). □ *Well, I have to hand it to you. That was great!* □ *He had to hand it to her for her excellent performance.*

handle 1. *n.* a person's name or nickname. (Western jargon and then citizens band radio.) □ *Well, what's your handle so I'll know what to call you?* □ *My handle is Goober. You can call me Goob.* **2.** *n.* a way of dealing with something; a grasp of a problem. □ *As soon as I get a handle on this Wilson matter, I'll give you a buzz.* □ *I can't seem to get a handle on what's wrong.*

handles Go to (love) handles.

handout 1. *n.* a gift of money, food, or other goods to a needy person. (Often in the negative, as in the examples.) □ *I don't want a handout, just a loan.* □ *Give him a handout and send him on his way.*

2. *n.* an informational sheet of paper "handed out" to people. □ *As you can see on your handout, 40 percent of those who started never finished.* □ *I didn't get a handout.*

hand over fist *mod.* repeatedly and energetically, especially as with taking in money in a great volume. □ *We were taking in fees hand over fist, and the people were lined up for blocks.* □ *The money came in hand over fist at the BO.*

hands down *mod.* easily; unquestionably. □ *She won the contest hands down.* □ *They declared her the winner hands down.*

hand someone something *tv.* to tell someone something; to tell someone nonsense. □ *Don't hand me that stuff! That's silly!* □ *She handed me a line about being a famous author.*

hands-on 1. *mod.* having to do with an instructional session where the learners are able to handle the device they are being trained to operate. □ *Please plan to attend a hands-on seminar on computers next Thursday.* □ *After three weeks of hands-on training, I still couldn't add two and two.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with an executive or manager who participates directly in operations. □ *We expect that he will be the kind of hands-on president we have been looking for.* □ *John is a hands-on manager. I wish he would stay in his office.*

Hands up! AND Stick 'em up! *exclam.* Raise your hands in the air; this is a robbery! (Underworld and Western.) □ *Hands up! Don't anybody move a muscle. This is a heist.* □ *Stick 'em up! Give me all your valuables.*

hang in. to hang around; to spend time aimlessly. □ *Is that all you did all summer? Just hang?* □ *My mom yelled at me because I spent all day hanging with the guys.*

hang a BA (at someone) *tv.* to display one's buttocks to someone in derision. (A BA is a bare ass.) □ Victor was angry and hung a BA at the cop. □ He went to the window and hung a BA—just for the hell of it.

hang a few on *tv.* to take a few drinks; to have a few beers. □ They went out to hang a few on. □ Let's hang on a few and then go on to the meeting.

hang a huey ['hæŋ ə 'hjuɪ AND 'hæŋ ə 'hjuɪ] *tv.* to make a U-turn. (The first pronunciation of huey with no hj is probably the original version.) □ Hang a huey at the next corner. □ Right here! Hang a huey!

hang a left *tv.* to turn left. □ He hung a left at the wrong corner. □ Hey, here! Hang a left here!

hang a louie ['hæŋ ə 'luɪ] *tv.* to turn left. □ You have to hang a louie at the stop sign. □ Go another block and hang a louie.

hang a ralph ['hæŋ ə 'rælf] *tv.* to turn right. □ He skied down the easy slope and hung a ralph near a fir tree. □ Don't hang a ralph until you get past the traffic light.

hang a right *tv.* to turn right. □ Hang a right about here. □ I told him to hang a right at the next corner, but he went on.

hang (around) *in.* to loiter; to waste away time doing nothing. □ Don't just hang around. Get busy with something. □ Move. Don't just hang. There's work to be done.

hang five AND **hang ten** *tv.* to stand toward the front of a surfboard or diving board and hang the toes of one or both feet over the edge. (Teens and collegiate.) □ The coach told her to hang ten and not to look down. □ Get out there and hang five. You can swim. Nothing can go wrong.

hang in there *in.* to keep trying; to persevere. □ Hang in there. Keep trying. □ I'll just hang in there. Maybe things will get better.

Hang it all! *exclam.* Damn it all! □ Oh, hang it all! I'm late. □ He's late again! Hang it all!

hang it up *tv.* to quit something. □ I finally had enough and decided to hang it up. □ Oh, hang it up! It's hopeless.

hang loose AND **stay loose** *in.* to relax and stay cool. □ Just hang loose, man. Everything'll be all right. □ Stay loose, chum. See ya later.

hang one on *tv.* to get drunk. □ Fred was hacked and went out to hang one on. □ Fred hangs one on about once a month.

hangout ['hæŋaʊt] *n.* a place to loaf or hang (around). □ I dropped by one of his favorite hangouts, but he wasn't there. □ We went over to the hangout and sat around talking.

hang ten Go to hang five.

hang tough (on something) *in.* to stick to one's position (on something). □ I decided I'd hang tough on it. I tend to give in too easy. □ Yes, just hang tough.

hang up **1.** *n.* a problem or concern; an obsession. (Usually **hang-up**.) □ She's got some serious hang-ups about cats. □ I don't have any hang ups at all. Well, almost none. **2.** *in.* to say no; to cancel out of something. □ I hung up. That's not for me anyway. □ If you don't want to do it, just hang up. I'll understand.

hang with someone *in.* to hang around with someone. □ Dave spent the afternoon hanging with Don, and neither one got anything done. □ I'm going down to the corner and hang with the guys.

hanky AND **hankie** ['hæŋki] *n.* a handkerchief, especially if lacy and feminine. □ Do you have a hanky I can borrow? □ Here, use my hankie.

hanky-panky ['hæŋki'pæŋki] **1.** *n.* funny business; deceitfulness. □ There's some hanky-panky going on in the treasurer's office. □ I am going to get this hanky-panky straightened out. **2.** *n.* sexual play; sexual misconduct. (See also **mifky-pifky (in the bushes)**.) □ Sam and Mary are up to a little hanky-panky, I've heard. □ There's some hanky-panky going on in the storeroom.

happening **1.** *mod.* fashionable; trendy; positive. (Collegiate.) □ Oh, Tiffany, your

skirt is really happening. □ *Wow, that's happening!* **2.** *n.* an event. □ *The concert was a real happening.* □ *Well, class is never a happening, but it's never dull.*

happy 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; tipsy. □ *She seems a little happy. Must have had a few already.* □ *She's not happy. She's stewed.* **2.** *mod.* obsessed with something. (A combining form showing a strong interest in the thing that is named before happy.) □ *All those guys are girl-happy at this age.* □ *Pete's car-happy right now. That's all he thinks about.*

happy camper *n.* a happy person. (Often in the negative.) □ *Fred flunked algebra and he is not a happy camper.* □ *I am not a happy camper. I am tired, hungry, and I need a shower.*

happy hour *n.* cocktail time. □ *Happy hour starts at dawn for Harry.* □ *The hotel had a nice happy hour at five.*

happy juice *n.* liquor, beer, and wine. □ *A little more happy juice, John?* □ *Too much happy juice can make you very unhappy.*

happy pills *n.* tranquilizers. □ *She asked the doctor for some happy pills.* □ *She is now hooked on happy pills.*

happy shop *n.* a liquor store. □ *I need something from the happy shop.* □ *Let's stop off at the happy shop.*

haps *n.* things that are happening; events. (Streets.) □ *Come in and tell me the haps.* □ *I don't care what's going on. I'm down with the haps.*

hard 1. *mod.* fermented, as with cider. (See also **hard liquor**.) □ *This juice got hard. What shall I do with it?* □ *Where's the hard stuff?* □ *If it's hard, give it to me and I'll drink it.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with an addictive drug. (Compare this with **soft**.) □ *Gert's on hard stuff now.* □ *Hard drugs are easier to get than ever before.* **3.** *mod.* tough. (Akin to **hardhearted**; **hard as nails**.) □ *Sally is really hard. She can stand anything.* □ *Only the hard guys get through basic training.*

hardboiled *mod.* tough; heartless. □ *She is a hardboiled old gal.* □ *Do you have to act so hardboiled?*

hard case 1. *n.* a case of liquor. □ *Pete wanted a hard case delivered to his house.* □ *There's a lot of beer and a hard case in the van.* **2.** *n.* a person who is a real problem. □ *Jed has turned into a hard case. He's fighting us at every turn.* □ *The hard case we dealt with last week is back again.*

hard coin *n.* lots of money. (See also **coin**.) □ *A car like that takes hard coin.* □ *Old Freddie is earning some hard coin these days.*

hard-core 1. *mod.* sexually explicit; pornographic. □ *You can't sell that hard-core stuff in a store like this!* □ *You think that's hard-core?* **2.** *mod.* extreme; entrenched. □ *She spent some time teaching hard-core illiterates in a medium-sized town.* □ *There are too many hard-core cases of poverty there.* **3.** *mod.* very good; stunning; great. □ *This new album is one hard-core piece of tunage.* □ *I'd like a really hard-core pizza with at least five kinds of cheese.*

hardhat 1. *n.* a protective helmet worn around construction sites. (Standard English.) □ *You'll need a hardhat to come into this area.* □ *John swiped a hardhat from the construction site.* **2.** *n.* a construction worker. (Usually derogatory.) □ *The hardhats didn't care much for the actress's politics.* □ *Some hardhat was waving a flag and shouting something I couldn't understand.*

hard head *n.* a stubborn person. □ *You are a classic hard head. Lighten up!* □ *I'm not really a hard head. You bring out the worst in me.*

hardheaded *mod.* stubborn. □ *Gary is a real hardheaded guy.* □ *Anybody that hardheaded is going to have trouble with everybody.*

hardliner *n.* a person who takes a strict position (on something). □ *Tom is sort of a hardliner when it comes to spending public money.* □ *The mayor is a hardliner on the question of care for the elderly.*

hard liquor *n.* potent liquor such as whiskey, gin, rum, etc. □ *Hard liquor makes me sick.* □ *Stay off of hard liquor until your stomach feels better.*

hard-nosed *mod.* stern and businesslike; unsympathetic. □ *She's pretty hard-nosed and tends to put people off.* □ *It takes a hard-nosed manager to run a place like this.*

hard off *n.* a dull and sexless male. (The opposite of **hard-on**.) □ *Wally is a silly hard off. He seems asleep half the time.*

hard-on *n.* an erection of the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He must have had his last hard-on years ago.*

hard sell *n.* a high-pressure attempt to sell something. □ *I didn't want to listen to any hard sell, so I bought it from a mail-order place.* □ *I'm afraid I'm very susceptible to the hard sell.*

hard time **1.** *n.* a difficult experience. □ *I had a hard time at the doctor's office.* □ *She's having a hard time with her child.* **2.** *n.* a prison sentence. (Underworld.) □ *Lefty did hard time for his part in the robbery.* □ *How much hard time does he have behind him?*

hard to swallow *mod.* difficult to believe. □ *Your story is pretty hard to swallow, but I am beginning to believe it.* □ *The news was hard to swallow.*

hard up **1.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *After a couple of six packs, Wally found himself a little hard up.* □ *The whole gang was hard up by midnight.* **2.** *mod.* in need of drugs or alcohol. □ *Gert was hard up and needed a fix.* □ *The old hobo was hard up for a drink.* **3.** *mod.* desperate for companionship. □ *Freddie said he was hard up and needed a date.* □ *Mary must be hard up to date a jerk like that.*

hardware **1.** *n.* whiskey; potent liquor. □ *This hardware is enough to knock your socks off.* □ *Pour me some of that hardware, will ya?* **2.** *n.* hard drugs or hard liquor. □ *No wine for me. Give me the hardware.* □ *This hardware is pretty powerful.* **3.** *n.* a weapon; a gun. (Underworld and Western.) □ *I think I see your hardware showing.* □ *Lefty keeps his hardware*

under his mattress. **4.** *n.* computer parts, as opposed to computer programs. □ *What kind of hardware are you running this program on?* □ *The software is okay, so it must be the hardware that's off.*

harsh *mod.* bad; rude. □ *She's a harsh lady and doesn't care how you feel.* □ *Man, this hamburger is harsh. What did you put in it?*

harsh toke **1.** *n.* an irritating puff of a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *Wow, that was a harsh toke. Yuck!* □ *Pat got a harsh toke and coughed a lot.* **2.** *n.* anything or anyone unpleasant. □ *Sally can sure be a harsh toke when she wants.* □ *This meeting has been a real harsh toke.*

has-been ['hæzbɪn] **1.** *n.* someone who used to be important; a person whose career has ended. □ *Marty is just a has-been. There's no future for him.* □ *An old has-been was hired to host the midnight show.* **2.** *mod.* former; burnt-out. □ *Some has-been singer croaked through "The Star-Spangled Banner."* □ *Now I'm a has-been football player, and nobody even knows my name.*

hash [hæʃ] *n.* hashish; cannabis in general. (Drugs.) □ *The amount of hash that moves into this city in a single day would astound you.* □ *Hash is still the favorite first drug other than alcohol.*

hash cannon *n.* a device used in the smoking of cannabis. (Drugs. See also **shot-gun**.) □ *Gert kept a hash cannon in her stash.* □ *Don had a hash cannon in his office as a sample of a device for smoking pot.*

hash-head *n.* a smoker of cannabis. (Drugs.) □ *You can't stay a hash-head all your life.* □ *Kelly was almost a hopeless hash-head.*

hash-house **1.** *n.* a cheap diner. □ *Tom worked for two days as a hash-slinger in a hash-house.* □ *You see a lot of interesting people go in and out of a hash-house like this one.* **2.** *n.* a place where hashish is sold and used. (Drugs.) □ *This hash-house is due for a raid. Let's hit it.* □ *The fuzz raided a hash-house over on Maple Street.*

hash pipe *n.* a small pipe for smoking cannabis. (Drugs.) □ *John kept a hash pipe on the shelf just for show.* □ *The cops found a hash pipe in her pocket.*

hash-slinger *n.* a cook, waiter, or waitress in a hash-house. □ *I worked as a hash-slinger in an all-night diner.* □ *The life of a hash-slinger is pretty tough.*

hassle ['hæsl] **1.** *n.* a dispute; a bother. □ *The whole thing was a real hassle.* □ *It's a hassle every time I come here.* **2.** *tv.* to harass someone; to bother someone; to give someone a hard time. □ *Listen, please don't hassle me. I've had a hard day.* □ *Please make this dame stop hassling me!*

hatch *n.* the mouth. (See also **Down the hatch!**) □ *Shut your hatch!* □ *Pop this in your hatch.*

hate someone's guts *tv.* to hate someone very much. □ *You're horrible. I hate your guts!* □ *Those cops hate my guts.*

haul **1.** *n.* the proceeds from a theft; loot. (Underworld.) □ *They divvied up the haul from the bank job.* □ *The cops thought they must have got a pretty good haul.* **2.** *n.* the proceeds from any activity: a performance, a fishing trip, a collection of goods or money for charity, etc. □ *They got a good haul from the benefit.* □ *They surveyed the haul of cans and packages and decided they had done a pretty fair job.*

haul ass (out of some place) *Go to bag ass (out of some place).*

have a ball *tv.* to have an exciting time. (See also **ball.**) □ *I plan to have a ball while I'm there.* □ *Come on, everybody! Let's have a ball!*

have a (big) head *tv.* to have a hangover. (Have got can replace have.) □ *Oh, man, do I have a head!* □ *Tom has a head this morning and won't be coming into work.*

have a big mouth *tv.* to speak loudly; to tell secrets. (Have got can replace have.) □ *Boy, do you have a big mouth!* □ *He has a big mouth. Don't tell him anything you don't want everybody else to know.*

Have a blimp! *exclam.* Have a good year! (A play on Goodyear Tire and Rubber

Company, which operates the Goodyear blimp.) □ *Good-bye. Have a blimp!* □ *Have a blimp! See you next summer.*

have a bone on *tv.* to have an erection. (See also **bone** at **boner**. Usually objectionable.) □ *Look, friend, you can't do anything with me till you have a bone on. Get it up or get out. I got other customers waiting.*

have a buzz on *tv.* to be tipsy or alcohol intoxicated. (Have got can replace have.) □ *Pete has a buzz on and is giggling a lot.* □ *Both of them had a buzz on by the end of the celebration.*

have a crack at something *Go to take a crack at something.*

have a glow on *tv.* to be alcohol intoxicated; to be tipsy. (Have got can replace have.) □ *Since you already have a glow on, I guess you won't want another drink.* □ *Jed had a glow on and was just becoming civil.*

Have a good one. **AND Have a nice one.** *sent.* Have a good morning, afternoon, or evening, as appropriate. (A general formulaic expression used at any time of the day or night.) □ *Thank you. Have a good one.* □ *See you tomorrow, Todd. Have a nice one.*

have a hard-on *tv.* to have an erect penis. (The most common colloquial expression for this state. See also **hard-on**. Usually objectionable.) □ *I had a hard-on through the whole movie.*

have a hard-on for someone *tv.* to wish to do someone physical damage; to seek revenge on someone. (The aggressor and victim are usually males. Usually objectionable.) □ *The punk thinks he has a hard-on for Mr. Big.* □ *Albert had a hard-on for Walter. He was going to kill him if the chance came up.*

Have a heart! *exclam.* Be compassionate! Be kind! □ *Have a heart! Give me another chance.* □ *Come on! Have a heart!*

have a leg up on someone *tv.* to have an advantage over someone; to be ahead of someone. (Have got can replace have.) □ *Pete has a leg up on Wilbur because of his*

physical strength. □ *I don't have a leg up on anyone. I'm a loser.*

have a little visitor *tv.* to have received the menses. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *Mary said she has a little visitor.* □ *She has a little visitor and will call you later.*

have all one's marbles *tv.* to have all one's mental faculties; to be mentally sound. (See also **lose (all) one's marbles**. *Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *I don't think he has all his marbles.* □ *Do you think Bob has all his marbles?*

have a load on *tv.* to be alcohol intoxicated. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *Fred has a load on and is finished for the evening.* □ *You have a load on every time I see you.*

have a loose screw *Go* to have a screw loose.

have a man by the balls *tv.* to have a man in a position where he has little choice but to do what one says. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She's really got him by the balls. He will go along with whatever she wants.* □ *What could I do? They had me by the balls!*

have a monkey on one's back *tv.* to have a drug addiction. (Drugs. *Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *Gert has a monkey on her back.* □ *Do you think she wants to have a monkey on her back?*

have an ace up one's sleeve *tv.* to have something useful in reserve; to have a special trick available. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *I still have an ace up my sleeve that you don't know about.* □ *I don't have an ace up my sleeve. If it doesn't work, it doesn't work.*

have an edge on *tv.* to be alcohol intoxicated. (See also **edge**. *Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *I've got an edge on and shouldn't drive home.* □ *Bob has an edge on even though he hardly drank anything.*

Have a nice day. *sent.* a formulaic way of saying good-bye. (See also **Have a good one**.) □ *Thank you for shopping at Wallace's. Have a nice day.* □ *See you tomorrow. Have a nice day.*

Have a nice one. *Go* to **Have a good one**.

have an itch for something *tv.* to have a desire for something. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *I have an itch for some ice cream.* □ *We had an itch for a good movie, so we went.*

have ants in one's pants *tv.* to be nervous and anxious. (See also **antsy**. *Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *He seems to have ants in his pants before each game.* □ *All kids've got ants in their pants all the time at that age.*

have a run-in (with someone or something) *tv.* to have trouble with someone or something. □ *I had a run-in with Mrs. Wilson. She's a hard case.* □ *We've had a run-in before.*

have a screw loose **AND** **have a loose screw** *tv.* to be silly or eccentric. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *He's sort of strange. I think he's got a loose screw.* □ *Yes, he has a screw loose somewhere.*

have a shit-fit *tv.* to have a fit; to throw a temper tantrum. (Usually objectionable.) □ *If I'm not home on time, my father'll have a shit-fit.*

have a short fuse *tv.* to be easy to anger. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *He's got a short fuse, so watch out.* □ *Tracy has a short fuse and is likely to lose her temper at any time.*

have a skinful *tv.* [for someone] to contain too much alcohol; to be alcohol intoxicated. (See also **skinful**. *Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *Pete had a skinful and just sat there quietly.* □ *What is wrong with her is that she has a skinful, that's what.*

have a spaz [...spæz] *tv.* to get angry or hysterical; to have a **conniption (fit)**. (Teens and collegiate.) □ *If my dad hears about this, he'll have a spaz.* □ *The teacher had a spaz when I came in so late.*

have a tiger by the tail *tv.* to have become associated with something powerful and potentially dangerous. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *You have a tiger by the tail. You bit off more than you could chew.* □ *You've had a tiger by the tail ever since you took office.*

have a whale of a time *tv.* to have an exciting time; to have a big time. □ *We had a whale of a time at your party.* □ *Yes, we really had a whale of a time.*

have a wild hair up one's ass **1.** *tv.* to act in a hyperactive and energetic manner. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She has a wild hair up her ass about something. I don't know what.* □ *I'm sorry I was so rude. I guess I had a wild hair up my ass or something.* **2.** *tv.* to be obsessed with some strange or off-beat idea. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You're acting like you've got a wild hair up your ass. Calm down.*

have a yellow streak down one's back *tv.* to be cowardly. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *I think that Wally has a yellow streak down his back. That's what's wrong.* □ *If you have a yellow streak down your back, you don't take many risks.*

have bats in one's belfry [...'belfri] *tv.* to be crazy. (See also **bats**. *Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *You must really have bats in your belfry if you think I'll put up with that kind of stuff.* □ *Pay no attention to her. She has bats in her belfry.*

have egg on one's face *tv.* to be embarrassed by something one has done. (As if one went out in public with a dirty face. *Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *I was completely wrong, and now I have egg on my face.* □ *She's really got egg on her face!*

have good vibes [...vaɪbz] *tv.* to have good feelings (about someone or something). (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *I've got good vibes about Heidi.* □ *I know everything will go all right. I have good vibes.*

have gravy on one's grits *tv.* to be rich. □ *I want to earn some greens and get gravy on my grits.* □ *He got himself a good job and has gravy on his grits while I'm eating taters.*

have hot pants (for someone) **AND** **have the hots (for someone)** *tv.* to be sexually aroused over someone in particular; to lust after someone. (Also with *got* as in the example.) □ *She really has hot pants for him.* □ *She's really got the hots for him.*

have it all together *tv.* to be mentally and physically organized; to be of sound mind. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *I don't have it all together today.* □ *Try me again later when I have it all together.*

have it made *tv.* to have succeeded; to be set for life. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *I have a good job and a nice little family. I have it made.* □ *He's really got it made.*

have it made in the shade *tv.* to have succeeded; to be set for life. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *Wow, is he lucky! He has it made in the shade.* □ *Who's got it made in the shade?*

have kittens **1.** *tv.* to become enraged. □ *When I heard the news, I had kittens. I was hacked!* □ *I almost had kittens, I was so mad.* **2.** *tv.* to laugh very hard; to enjoy something enormously. □ *It was so funny, I had kittens laughing.* □ *She had kittens laughing about it.* **3.** *tv.* to be surprised. □ *I nearly had kittens when I heard.* □ *She had kittens when she heard about the wedding.*

have lead in one's pencil **1.** *tv.* to be vigorous and active. (Widely known phrase. Not taboo.) □ *Your problem, Tom, is that you should have more lead in your pencil. You just don't have the stamina.* **2.** *tv.* to have an erection of the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Due to his drinking habits, he never has any lead in his pencil.*

the **have-nots** *n.* the poor; those who have little or nothing. (Compare this with the **haves**.) □ *The have-nots seem never to be able to get ahead.* □ *What's in it for the have-nots?*

have one foot in the grave *tv.* to be near death. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *I feel like I've got one foot in the grave.* □ *Uncle Ben has one foot in the grave, but he's still cheery.*

have one's ass in a crack *tv.* to be stranded in a very difficult or uncomfortable state of affairs. (Usually objectionable. *Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *He's got his ass in a crack and needs all the help he can get.* □ *Now he's really got his ass in a crack and doesn't know what to do.*

have one's ass in a sling *tv.* to be dejected or hurt; to be pouting. (Usually objectionable. *Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *She's got her ass in a sling because she got stood up.* □ *Why do you have your ass in a sling?*

have one's brain on a leash *tv.* to be drunk. □ *Wayne had his brain on a leash before he even got to the party.* □ *Some guy who had his brain on a leash ran his car off the road.*

have one's mind in the gutter *tv.* to think or suggest something obscene. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *Tiffany has her mind in the gutter. That's why she laughs at all that dirty stuff.* □ *You always have your mind in the gutter.*

have one's nose wide open *tv.* to be in love. □ *Sam's not dense. He's got his nose wide open. It's that Sally.*

have rocks in one's head *tv.* to be silly or crazy. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *You have rocks in your head!* □ *She's got rocks in her head if she thinks that.*

the **haves** *n.* the wealthy; those who have money. (Compare this with the **have-nots**.) □ *The haves seem to be able to take care of themselves.* □ *I live in the western suburbs with the haves.*

have shit for brains *tv.* to be exceedingly stupid. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You poor dumb jerk! You really got shit for brains!* □ *You have shit for brains if you think you can get away with it.*

have someone by the short hairs *tv.* to have someone in an awkward position; to have dominated someone. (This refers to the shorter pubic hairs. Sometime euphemized to *neck hairs*.) □ *They've got me by the short hairs. There's nothing I can do.*

have someone dead to rights *tv.* to have caught someone red-handed; to have irrefutable evidence about someone's misdeed. (*Have got* can replace *have*. See also **(bang) dead to rights**.) □ *We've got you dead to rights on this one.* □ *The cops had him dead to rights.*

have something cinched *tv.* to have something settled; to have the results of some act assured. (See also **cinched**. *Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *Don't worry. I've got it cinched.* □ *You just think you've got it cinched.*

have something on the brain *tv.* to be obsessed with something. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *You've just got girls on the brain, you silly twit.* □ *I have money on the brain, I guess.*

have the hots (for someone) Go to have hot pants (for someone).

have the wrong number **1.** *tv.* to be wrong. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *Boy, do you have the wrong number! Get with it!* □ *You have missed the boat again. You have the wrong number!* **2.** *tv.* to be addressing the wrong person. (This use is in addition to the same expression used for a wrong telephone number. *Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *You have the wrong number. Walter is my brother. We look alike, though.* □ *No, I'm Sally. You have the wrong number.*

have what it takes *tv.* to have the skills, power, intelligence, etc., to do something. (*Have got* can replace *have*.) □ *I know I've got what it takes.* □ *I guess I don't have what it takes to be a composer.*

hawk **1.** *n.* someone who supports a warlike U.S. defense policy. (Compare this with **dove**.) □ *The hawks want to raise taxes and buy tanks.* □ *The doves want to sell the tanks, ignore the hawks, and give the money to the poor.* **2.** *in.* to cough mightily; to cough something up. □ *The cold has had me hawking for a week.* □ *He's been hawking all night.* **3.** the **hawk** *n.* the cold winter wind. (Originally black. Always with the *in* in this sense. See also **Mr. Hawkins**.) □ *Man, just feel the hawk cut through you!* □ *It's the time of the year when the hawk rules!*

hay burner **1.** *n.* a worthless racehorse; any old and worn-out horse. □ *Send that old hay burner to the glue factory.* □ *I went to a dude ranch, and they gave me an old hay burner to ride.* **2.** AND **hay head** *n.* a marijuana smoker. (Drugs.) □ *Some*

hay burner was around trying to sell raffle tickets that looked handmade. □ Another hay head came in and applied for the job.

hay head Go to hay burner.

hayseed *n.* a farmer; a rustic character, usually a male. □ I'm not just some hayseed fresh off the farm. □ It's hard for these hayseeds to adjust to city life.

haywire ['hɛwaɪr] **1.** *mod.* out of order. (Folksy.) □ This telephone has gone haywire. □ My stereo is haywire, so I've been listening to the radio. **2.** *mod.* disoriented. (Often from marijuana.) □ Wally is sort of haywire from the grass. □ Bart has been haywire for years.

hazel ['hezl] *n.* heroin. (Drugs. A variety of H.) □ Gert needs some hazel, but anything will help her. □ She wants to spend the evening with hazel.

head **1.** *n.* a headache. □ Man, do I have a head. You got any aspirin? □ Music that loud gives me a head. **2.** a **head** *n.* a hangover. (Always with a in this sense.) □ Boy, do I have a head this morning. □ How do you get rid of a head so you can go to work? **3.** *n.* a toilet; a restroom. (Originally nautical. Usually with the.) □ Where's the head around here? □ Ralph is in the head. He'll be back in a minute. **4.** *n.* a member of the drug culture; a hippie or a person who drops out of mainstream society because of drug use. (From the 1960s and 1970s.) □ You still see a few heads around, even today. □ Some of the heads became very, very straight. **5.** *n.* a smart person; an intellectual person. □ Bob's a real head. He gets straight As. □ I'm no head, but I am sure you made a mistake in your addition.

headache **1.** *n.* an annoying person or thing. □ Here comes that Ken Johnson. He's a real headache. □ Cars can be such a headache. **2.** *n.* liquor. □ Pour me some more of that headache, will you? □ Give the man some more headache.

headache department **1.** *n.* a central source of unnecessary problems; a person who habitually causes problems. □ Here's another memo from the headache

department. □ Mrs. Wilson is my least favorite headache department. **2.** AND **headache house** *n.* a liquor store or department. □ I stopped in at the headache department for some supplies. □ The headache house is having a special on gin.

headache house Go to headache department.

headache man *n.* a male law enforcement agent. □ The headache man was here to see you, Ernie. □ Who gave that hot tip to the headache man?

headbone *n.* the skull. □ I got a nasty bump on my headbone. □ Do you want I should conk your headbone, or will you be coming along politely?

head cook and bottle washer AND **chief cook and bottle washer** *n.* someone who is in charge of something trivial. □ I'm the head cook and bottle washer around here. □ I want to see the chief cook and bottle washer.

head drug *n.* a drug that affects the mind rather than the body; a psychoactive drug. □ It's these head drugs that get the kids into so much trouble. □ Head drugs are just as addictive as other drugs, but in a different way.

headfucker *n.* a person, situation, or a drug that confuses someone or disorients someone mentally. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ This day was a real headfucker! □ Why did you have to lay this headfucker on me?

head hunt *tv. & in.* to recruit someone (for a job). □ He went to the conference to head hunt a new employee. □ All the managers were there to head hunt.

headhunter *n.* someone who recruits executives for employment. (Head means boss here.) □ The board of directors hired a headhunter to get a new manager. □ The headhunter brought in a few candidates, but nobody promising.

head-job *n.* an act of oral sex performed on the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ The hooker asked him if he wanted a head-job. □ He wanted a head-job, but would settle for almost anything.

head South Go to go South.

Headstone City *n.* a cemetery. ☐ Unless you want to move into a furnished flat in Headstone City, you had better fasten your seatbelt when you drive or ride in a car. ☐ Our house is just one block after the large Headstone City on the left.

Heads up! *exclam.* Look out! ☐ Heads up! Watch out for the swinging bucket! ☐ Here's a rough spot on the trail. Heads up!

heads will roll *in.* someone will be punished. ☐ When I find out who did this, heads will roll. ☐ Heads will roll when I get back to the office.

head trip 1. *n.* a session with a head drug. (Drugs.) ☐ Bob had his first head trip last night. ☐ He says it will be his last head trip. **2.** *n.* an ego trip. ☐ Wally is on another of his head trips. ☐ Come down from your head trip and see if you can get along with the rest of us.

heap 1. *n.* an old car. (See also **load**.) ☐ I've got to get my heap fixed up. ☐ Is this old heap yours? **2.** *n.* any dilapidated thing or person. ☐ Marty is turning into a heap. ☐ We have to fix up this heap if we're really going to live in it. **3.** **AND** **heaps** *n.* lots (of something). ☐ I have a whole heap of papers for you. ☐ Mr. Wilson has heaps of money.

heaps Go to heap.

heart *tv.* to love someone or something. (Teens.) ☐ Oh, I just, like, heart your letter. ☐ She's hearting him more every day.

hearts and flowers *n.* sentimentality. ☐ The movie was so full of hearts and flowers that I was bored. ☐ I didn't care for the hearts and flowers part.

heart-to-heart (talk) *n.* a serious and intimate discussion. ☐ We sat down and had a nice heart-to-heart for about an hour. ☐ A little heart-to-heart talk is just what you need.

heat 1. the **heat** *n.* the police. (Underworld.) ☐ The heat is gonna catch up with you, Ernie. ☐ Who tipped the heat off about me? **2.** *n.* pressure. ☐ There's a lot of heat on Fred right now. ☐ The boss put some heat on Wally, and things are mov-

ing faster now. **3.** *n.* a gun; armaments. (Underworld. See also **heater**.) ☐ Lefty has his heat on him at all times. ☐ Rocko never carries heat.

heater *n.* a pistol. (Underworld.) ☐ Lefty carried his heater with him that day. ☐ Put your heaters away, boys. This is a job for reason.

heave [hiv] *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. ☐ He heaved and heaved and sounded like he was dying. ☐ I think I have to go heave.

heaven dust *n.* cocaine. (Drugs.) ☐ A little heaven dust and Pat was as good as new. ☐ She left her desk to take on a little heaven dust.

heavy 1. *n.* a villain. (Especially in movies, etc.) ☐ He is well-known for playing heavies in the movies. ☐ Do I always have to be the heavy? **2.** *mod.* important; profound; serious. ☐ This is a very heavy matter. ☐ This matter is too heavy. ☐ I have some heavy things to talk over with you, Sam. **3.** *mod.* really fine. ☐ Man, this is some heavy chocolate cake! ☐ This stuff is really heavy! ☐ This is a real heavy thing you're doing for me.

heavy artillery *n.* powerful or persuasive persons or things. ☐ Finally, the mayor brought out the heavy artillery and quieted things down. ☐ The heavy artillery seemed to know how to handle matters.

heavy bread **AND** **heavy money** *n.* a great deal of money. ☐ Man, that car cost some heavy bread. ☐ It takes heavy money to run a household like this.

heavy date *n.* an important date with someone; a date with someone important. ☐ Mary has a heavy date with Sam tonight. ☐ Pete and Sally were out on a heavy date together.

heavy-handed *mod.* tactless; forceful; unfair. ☐ Paul is a little heavy-handed at times, but mostly he's reasonable. ☐ That was a pretty heavy-handed thing to do.

heavy hash *n.* potent cannabis. (Drugs.) ☐ Man, you came up with some real heavy hash. ☐ This is heavy hash, and it will cost you.

heavy into someone or something *mod.* much concerned with someone or something; obsessed with someone or something. □ *Freddie was heavy into auto racing and always went to the races.* □ *Sam is heavy into Mary.*

heavy joint *n.* a marijuana cigarette tipped with phencyclidine (PCP). (Drugs.) □ *He said something about smoking a heavy joint just before he passed out.* □ *Bob found something on the sidewalk he called a heavy joint.*

heavy money Go to heavy bread.

heavy necking *n.* hugging and kissing, plus intimate caresses. □ *Mary and Sam are past heavy necking.* □ *The teacher caught them at some heavy necking in the closet.*

heavy scene *n.* a serious state of affairs; an emotionally charged situation. □ *Man, that meeting was really a heavy scene.* □ *Another heavy scene like that and I quit.*

heavy soul *n.* heroin. (Black.) □ *Tyrone is hung up on some heavy soul.* □ *That heavy soul will be on your back forever.*

heavyweight 1. *n.* an important person; a successful person; a leader. □ *Mr. Wilson is a heavyweight in local government.* □ *They'll bring out the heavyweights next time. Just wait and see.* **2.** *mod.* important; successful. □ *Vince is one of the heavyweight operators in this business.* □ *He's good, but he's no heavyweight.*

H-E-double-toothpicks *n.* hell. (A jocular euphemism. It is not usually written and can be spelled a number of different ways.) □ *Oh, H-E-double-toothpicks! I did it wrong again!* □ *Here she comes again. H-E-double-toothpicks!*

heebie-jeebies AND **heeby-jeebies** ['hibi'dʒibiz] *n.* an extreme case of anxiety or fear. □ *I have the heebie-jeebies whenever I go to the dentist.* □ *These movies give me the heebie-jeebies.*

heel *n.* a low and despicable man. □ *You are the most impossible heel!* □ *The guy is a heel, and he seems to work at it, too.*

heeled 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Sally was too heeled to drive home.* □ *Man, were those guys heeled!* **2.** *mod.* carrying

drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Bart is heeled and ready to deal.* □ *Gert was heeled when they arrested her.*

heesh [hiʃ] *n.* hashish; cannabis. (Drugs.) □ *Ernie started out on heesh and moved on from there.* □ *Who's dealing heesh around here?*

heinie *n.* the buttocks. □ *He fell down flat on his heinie.*

Heinz 57 (variety) [haɪnz...] *n.* a mongrel breed of dog. (From the trade name of a condiment company.) □ *We have one pedigreed dog and one Heinz 57 variety.* □ *My Heinz 57 is the greatest dog of all.*

heist [haɪst] **1.** *n.* a theft; a robbery; a lift. (Underworld.) □ *Lefty just had to pull one last heist.* □ *The heist went off without a hitch.* **2.** *tv.* to steal something; to rob a person or place; to lift something. (Underworld.) □ *The thugs heisted her and took her purse and watch.* □ *Lefty heisted a car and then drove around in it all evening.*

heister ['haɪstə] *n.* a drunkard. □ *Two old heisters were lifting drink after drink and tossing them down.* □ *Wally is getting to be quite a heister.*

helium head ['hiliəm 'hed] *n.* a fool; an air-head. □ *Well, what's that helium head done now?* □ *You can be such a helium head without even trying.*

hell 1. *n.* trouble. (Use caution with hell.) □ *I went through all sorts of hell to get this done on time.* □ *This day was real hell.* **2.** *exclam.* Damn! (Usually **Hell!** Use caution with hell.) □ *Oh, hell. I'm late.* □ *Hell, I'm too early.*

hellacious [həl'eɪʃəs] **1.** *mod.* wild; excellent. (Use caution with hell.) □ *What a hellacious good time we had!* □ *Sally throws one hellacious party.* **2.** *mod.* terrible. □ *The food was just hellacious. Yuck!* □ *The heat was hellacious, and the mosquitoes wouldn't leave us alone.*

hellbender ['hɛlbəndə] **1.** *n.* a drinking bout. (Use caution with hell.) □ *Jed is off on another of his hellbenders.* □ *One of his hellbenders can last for a week.* **2.** *n.* a heavy drinker; a drunkard. (The bender

refers to bending the elbow with a drink in hand. Use caution with **hell**.) □ *Wally is a hellbender from way back.* □ *Jed is a world-class hellbender.*

heller AND **hell raiser** *n.* a rowdy person; a hell-raising person. (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *Ernie was a real heller when he was younger.* □ *A bunch of hell raisers kept me up late last night.*

hellhole *n.* a hot and crowded place; any unpleasant place. (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *I want out of this hellhole.* □ *The theater was an over-crowded hellhole. Lucky there was no fire.*

Hello? *exclam.* Did you hear me?; Are you aware that I am talking to you? □ *A: I don't want any of that. B: Here, have some. A: Hello? No, I don't want any.*

hell of a mess *n.* a terrible mess. (See also **mell of a hess**. Use caution with **hell**.) □ *This is really a hell of a mess you've gotten us into.* □ *I never dreamed I'd come back to such a hell of a mess.*

hell of a note *n.* a surprising or amazing piece of news. (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *Well, that's a hell of a note!* □ *You forgot it. That's a hell of a note.*

hell of a someone or something AND **helluva someone or something** **1.** *n.* a very bad person or thing. (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *That's a hell of a way to treat someone.* □ *He's a hell of a driver! Watch out!* **2.** *n.* a very good person or thing. (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *He is one hell of a guy. We really like him.* □ *We had a helluva good time.*

hell-on-wheels *n.* a very impressive person or thing; an extreme type of person or thing. (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *Fred is really hell-on-wheels when it comes to getting those little jobs done on time.* □ *This little machine is hell-on-wheels for general woodworking purposes.*

hellpig *n.* a fat and ugly girl or woman. (Derogatory.) □ *Who was that hellpig you were out with last night?* □ *Comb your hair. You look like some hellpig!*

hell raiser Go to **heller**.

Hell's bells (and buckets of blood)! exclam. Dammit! (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *Oh, hell's bells and buckets of blood! I forgot my keys.* □ *Hell's bells! I'm late.*

helluva someone or something Go to **hell of a someone or something**.

hemp **1.** *n.* a smelly cigar. □ *Get that vile hemp out of here!* □ *Can you imagine somebody bringing an old hemp like that in here?* **2.** *n.* cannabis. (Drugs.) □ *The guy sort of smells like hemp.* □ *I smell hemp in here.*

hen fruit *n.* (chicken) eggs. □ *I always have hen fruit for breakfast.* □ *There's nothing like hen fruit and bacon.*

hen party *n.* a gossip party attended by women. □ *I have a hen party every few weeks. We love to get together.* □ *I wouldn't be caught dead at one of those hen parties.*

hep [hep] *mod.* aware; informed. □ *The chick is simply not hep.* □ *Fred is one of the most hep guys you're going to run into.*

hepped (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Wally is a little too hepped up to drive home.* □ *Harry's too hepped to stand up.*

herb AND **erb** *n.* marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *Sam is very fond of herb.* □ *Carl has found a way to synthesize the erb.*

Herb and Al *n.* marijuana and alcohol. □ *I'm afraid that Tom's best friends are Herb and Al.* □ *Wally asked us over to meet Herb and Al.*

Here's looking at you. *sent.* I salute you. (A polite drinking toast.) □ *Well, here's looking at you.* □ *Here's looking at you. Bottoms up!*

Here's mud in your eye. *sent.* I salute you. (A jocular drinking toast.) □ *Here's mud in your eye. Bottoms up!* □ *Well, here's mud in your eye. Care for another?*

Here's the deal. *tv.* This is the plan, scheme, or proposition. □ *Okay, here's the deal. You pass the ball to Bob, and I'll run in the opposite direction.*

hero (of the underworld) *n.* heroin. □ *Don says he knows the hero of the underworld well.* □ *Sam stays away from hero.*

herped up *mod.* infected with the *herpes simplex* virus. □ *Why do all the boys treat me like I was herped up or something?* □ *They say all those frat guys are herped up.*

herpie AND **herp** *n.* someone who is infected with herpes. □ *How would you like to find out you've been going out with a herp?* □ *If you want to end up a herpie for the rest of your life, go ahead.*

hey *interj.* hello. (A standard greeting in much of the South, and now, among the young.) □ *Hey, Walter. How are you?* □ *Hey, Chuck! Living large.*

Hey, bum! *interj.* hello. □ *Hey, bum! What's poppin'?* □ *Hey, bum! So good to see your smiling face.*

hickey AND **hicky** ['hɪki] **1.** *n.* a love bite; a mark on the skin caused by biting or sucking. (See also **monkey bite**.) □ *He's mad at her because she gave him a hicky.* □ *She wore a high collar to cover up a hickey.* **2.** *n.* a pimple, especially if infected. □ *There is a hickey on my nose!* □ *Wouldn't you know I'd get a hickey like this right when I have to have my picture taken!*

hiddy AND **hidi** ['hɪdi] **1.** *mod.* hideous. □ *That skirt is just hiddy! Get a life!* □ *What hidi wheels! That car's owner has more money than sense.* **2.** *mod.* hideously drunk; very drunk. □ *Fred was totally hidi. He fell asleep under the table.* □ *Susan was not just drunk, she was hiddy—you know, bombed.*

hide *n.* the skin. □ *I need to get some rays on my hide.* □ *Your hide looks pretty pale, all right.*

hides *n.* drums. (See also **skins**.) □ *Andy can really bang those hides.* □ *They say his hides are worth about 4,000 clams.*

hidi Go to hiddy.

high 1. *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Wally is a little high for so early in the evening.* □ *They went out for the evening to get high, and for no other reason.* **2.** *n.* a state of euphoria caused by drugs or alcohol. □ *His life is nothing but one high after another.* □ *Her only goal is a high.*

high and dry *mod.* abandoned; unsupported. (Like a ship beached or stranded ashore.) □ *He went off and left me high and dry.* □ *Here I sit high and dry—no food, no money, no nothing.*

highbrow 1. *n.* an intellectual person; a person with refined tastes. (Compare this with **lowbrow**. See also **longhair**.) □ *Sam used to be a highbrow, but he gave up his fancy ways.* □ *The highbrows usually congregate in there.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with an intellectual or a person with refined tastes. □ *I just don't care for highbrow music.* □ *Pete is sort of highbrow, but he's an okay guy.*

higher ups Go to high ups.

high five 1. *n.* a greeting where the palm of the hand is raised and slapped against another person's palm similarly raised. (Compare this with **low five**.) □ *They exchanged a high five and went on with the show.* □ *How about a high five, man?* **2.** *tv. & in.* to greet someone as described in sense 1. □ *They high fived and went off together.* □ *Ted high fived Sam, and they stopped to talk.*

highjinks AND **hijinks** ['haɪdʒɪŋks] *n.* tricks; capers. □ *Enough of your hijinks! Get busy.* □ *I like to hear about the kids and their latest hijinks.*

high mucky-muck [...'mʊkɪmʊk] *n.* an important person; the person in charge. □ *When the high mucky-mucks meet, they will decide what to do about the problem.* □ *Ted's father is a high mucky-muck at the gas company.*

high on something *mod.* excited or enthusiastic about something. □ *Tom is really high on the idea of going to Yellowstone this summer.* □ *I'm not high on going, but I will.*

high-res AND **hi-res** ['haɪ'rez] *mod.* good; satisfying. (From *high-resolution*, referring to the picture quality of a computer monitor. Compare this with **low-res**.) □ *This is a real high-res day for me.* □ *I sure feel hi-res today.*

high roller *n.* a big gambler who risks much money; anyone who takes risks. (Refers to rolling dice.) □ *Rocko is a high*

roller and isn't afraid to lose some money.

□ *He's a high roller from way back.*

high sign *n.* a hand signal meaning *okay*. (The tip of the index or middle finger touches the tip of the thumb, and the hand is raised into the air.) □ *Tom got the high sign and began to open the door.* □ *Give me the high sign when you want me to start.*

high ups AND **higher ups** *n.* the people in charge. □ *I have to speak to the high ups about the refund.* □ *One of the higher ups is coming down to talk to you.*

highway robbery *n.* a charge that is unbelievably high, but nonetheless unavoidable. (As if one had been accosted and robbed on the open road.) □ *But this is highway robbery. I demand to see the manager.* □ *Four thousand dollars! That's highway robbery!*

high, wide, and handsome *mod.* happy; carefree. □ *Wally is high, wide, and handsome after his great triumph.* □ *He sure looks high, wide, and handsome. I'm glad he's happy.*

hijinks Go to highjinks.

hike **1.** *n.* a monetary increase. □ *I need a pay hike.* □ *Another hike in the electric rates takes place this spring.* **2.** *tv.* to increase an amount of money. □ *I wanted them to hike my salary, but they refused.* □ *The utilities all hike their rates at least once a year.*

the **Hill** *n.* the U.S. Congress; the U.S. capitol building located on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. □ *I really can't tell what's happening up on the Hill.* □ *The Hill moves at its own speed.*

hincty ['hɪŋkti] *mod.* snobbish; fussy; aloof. (Black.) □ *Some of those people are so hincty.* □ *That hincty lady told me to turn my radio down.*

hip **1.** *mod.* informed; aware. (See also **hep**.) □ *The guy is just not hip. He's a nerd.* □ *Get hip, Tom!* **2.** *tv.* to tell someone; to inform someone. □ *Hey, man, hip me to what's going on!* □ *What's happening? Take a minute and hip me!*

hipe Go to hype.

hippy AND **hippie** ['hɪpi] *n.* a long-haired, drug-using youth of the 1960s and 1970s. □ *That guy looks like a hippy left over from the sixties.* □ *Who's that has-been hippie who just came in?*

hip-shooter *n.* someone who talks without thinking; someone who speaks very frankly. (See also **shoot from the hip**.) □ *He's just a loudmouthed hip-shooter. Pay no attention.* □ *The press secretary is a hyper and a hip-shooter. She won't last long.*

hipster ['hɪpstə] *n.* a youth of the 1950s, characterized by an interest in jazz and cool things. □ *Can you imagine your father as a hipster?* □ *Were the hipsters the ones with the big shoulder pads?*

hired gun *n.* a paid assassin. (Underworld.) □ *Bruno is Mr. Big's hired gun.* □ *The cops are holding a well-known hired gun until they can prepare charges.*

hi-res Go to high-res.

history *n.* someone or something in the past. (See also **ancient history**; **I'm history**.) □ *Dave? Oh, he's just history. I never go out with him anymore.* □ *Susan is just history. We're through.* □ *Don't make a move! If this gun goes off, you're history.*

hit **1.** *n.* a success; something that meets with approval. (Often with **with**.) □ *The play was a hit.* □ *The fudge with nuts in it was a great hit at the sale.* **2.** *n.* a successful result; something that is exactly as intended. □ *It was a hit—a real winner.* □ *Your idea was right on target—a hit for sure.* **3.** *n.* a drink of liquor; a dose of a drug. (See also **bop**.) □ *He had a hit of sauce and went out to finish his work.* □ *She popped a hit by the watercooler.* **4.** *tv.* to reach something; to achieve something. □ *The car hit ninety in no time at all.* □ *I hit sixty next month, and I'm going to retire.* **5.** *tv.* to kill someone; to assassinate someone. (Underworld.) □ *Sam was told to hit Bart.* □ *The thug set out to hit the mayor, but got nabbed first.* **6.** *tv.* to attack or rob someone or something. (Underworld.) □ *Lefty and his gang hit the bank for the second time.* □ *Can you believe that they tried to hit a block party on Fourth Street?* **7.** *n.* a robbery; an as-

sassination. (Underworld.) □ *There was a hit at the bank on Maple Street last night.* □ *Somebody died in the hit last night, but they don't know who yet.*

hit by the stupid stick *mod.* made to act really stupid. □ *Nobody can be that dumb. You must have been hit by the stupid stick.* □ *He can't do any better in math. He was hit by the stupid stick when he was a kid.*

hit by the ugly stick *mod.* made to be very ugly. □ *She is so lame. Looks like she was hit by the ugly stick till it broke!* □ *Go look in the mirror. It looks like you was hit by the ugly stick!*

hitched *mod.* married. (Folksy.) □ *Sam and Mary decided to get hitched.* □ *They went out of state to get hitched.*

hit it with someone *tv.* to copulate with someone. □ *Did she hit it with him, or what?*

hit list *n.* a list of people to whom something is going to happen. □ *Ralph is on my hit list for contributing money for the orphans.* □ *She's on our hit list for volunteers.*

hit man 1. *n.* a hired killer. (Underworld.) □ *Sam was the perfect hit man. Hardly any brains or conscience.* □ *To look at Rocko, you'd never believe he was a hit man.* **2.** *n.* a man hired by a helpless addict to inject drugs. (Drugs. See also **pinch hitter**.) □ *Gert needed a hit man when she was sick.* □ *Max refuses to be a hit man. He says that's not what he does best.*

Hit me. 1. **AND hit me again** *tv.* [in gambling] Deal me a card. □ *Hit me again, dealer!* □ *Okay, hit me.* **2.** *tv.* Give me the high five. □ *Hit me! Where you been? Hit me again!* □ *Long time, no see. Hit me, man.* **3.** **AND hit me again** *tv.* Serve me (another) drink. □ *Hit me again, bartender.* □ *It's empty. Hit me.*

hit me again Go to hit me.

hit me on the hip *tv.* call me on my pager. (Pagers are usually worn attached to one's belt or in a pants packet.) □ *When you need me, just hit me on the hip.*

hit on someone *in.* to flirt with someone; to make a pass at someone. □ *The women were all hitting on George, but he didn't complain.* □ *I just knew he was going to hit on me—but he didn't.*

hit on something *in.* to discover something. □ *She hit on a new scheme for removing the impurities from drinking water.* □ *I hit on it when I wasn't able to sleep one night.*

hit pay dirt **AND strike pay dirt 1.** *tv.* to discover something of value. □ *At last, we hit pay dirt.* □ *When we opened the last trunk, we knew we had hit pay dirt.* **2.** *tv.* to get to the basic facts of something. □ *Now we're beginning to hit pay dirt.* □ *When we figured out the code, we really struck pay dirt.*

hit someone below the belt *tv.* to deal with someone unfairly. (Boxing.) □ *Don't hit the guy below the belt!* □ *You were hitting Tom below the belt when you said that.*

hit someone (up) for something *tv.* to ask someone for something. □ *I hit Fred up for some help with the committee.* □ *He hit me up for a loan, but I said no.*

hit someone with something *tv.* to present someone with an idea, plan, or proposal. □ *Pete hit me with a great idea just before we left.* □ *Fred hit his boss with a plan to save a bundle in the front office.*

hit the books **AND pound the books** *tv.* to study hard. □ *I spent the weekend pounding the books.* □ *I gotta go home and hit the books.*

hit the booze Go to hit the bottle.

hit the bottle **AND hit the booze** *tv.* to go on a drinking bout; to get drunk. □ *Jed's hitting the bottle again.* □ *He's been hitting the booze for a week now.*

hit the bricks **AND hit the pavement 1.** *tv.* to start walking; to go into the streets. □ *I have a long way to go. I'd better hit the bricks.* □ *Go on! Hit the pavement! Get going!* **2.** *tv.* to go out on strike. □ *The workers hit the pavement on Friday and haven't been back on the job since.* □ *Agree to our demands, or we hit the bricks.*

hit the bull's-eye Go to hit the spot.

hit the ceiling AND **hit the roof** *tv.* to get very angry. □ *She really hit the ceiling when she found out what happened.* □ *My dad'll hit the roof when he finds out about this.*

hit the deck 1. *tv.* to get out of bed. □ *Come on, hit the deck! It's morning.* □ *Hit the deck! Time to rise and shine!* **2.** *tv.* to fall down; to drop down. □ *Hit the deck. Don't let them see you.* □ *I hit the deck the minute I heard the shots.*

hit the fan *tv.* to become publicly known; to become a scandal. (From the phrase *when the shit hit the fan.*) □ *I wasn't even in the country when it hit the fan.* □ *It hit the fan, and within ten minutes the press had spread it all over the world.*

hit the hay AND **hit the sack** *tv.* to go to bed. □ *I have to go home and hit the hay pretty soon.* □ *Let's hit the sack. We have to get an early start in the morning.*

hit the jackpot 1. *tv.* to win a large amount of money. □ *I hit the jackpot in the big contest.* □ *Sally hit the jackpot in the lottery.* **2.** *tv.* to be exactly right; to find exactly what was sought. □ *I hit the jackpot when I found this little cafe on Fourth Street.* □ *I wanted a small house with a fireplace, and I really hit the jackpot with this one.*

hit the panic button AND **press the panic button; push the panic button** *tv.* to panic. □ *She hit the panic button and just went to pieces.* □ *Don't press the panic button. Relax and keep your eyes open.*

hit the pavement Go to hit the bricks.

hit the road *tv.* to leave; to begin to travel on a road. (See also **smack the road.**) □ *We plan to hit the road about dawn.* □ *Let's hit the road. We have a long way to go.*

hit the roof Go to hit the ceiling.

hit the sack Go to hit the hay.

hit the skids *tv.* to decline; to decrease in value or status. □ *Jed hit the skids when he started drinking.* □ *The firm hit the skids when the dollar collapsed.*

hit the spot 1. AND **hit the bull's-eye** *tv.* to be exactly right. (See also **ring the bell.**) □ *You really hit the spot with that prediction.* □ *Pete's prediction hit the bull's-eye.* **2.** *tv.* to be refreshing. □ *This cold water really hits the spot.* □ *I want something hot—some coffee would really hit the bull's-eye.*

hit the trail *tv.* to leave. (As if one were riding a horse.) □ *I have to hit the trail before sunset.* □ *Let's hit the trail. It's late.*

hit under the wing *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **shot.**) □ *Jed got hit under the wing.* □ *Sally was a little hit under the wing, but she wasn't bad off at all.*

Hiya! ['hɑɪjə] *exclam.* Hi! (From *Hi, you!*) □ *Hiya! Good to see ya!* □ *Hiya! Where you been keeping yourself?*

hock 1. *tv.* to pawn something. □ *I tried to hock my watch to get some money.* □ *I've got nothing left to hock.* **2.** *n.* the state of having been pawned. (Usually with *in.*) □ *My watch is already in hock.* □ *Get it out of hock or go buy a new one.* **3.** *n.* a foot. □ *My hocks are sore from all that walking.* □ *Have you ever seen such humpous hocks?*

hock a luggie ['hak ə 'lʊgi] *tv.* to cough up and spit out phlegm. □ *Wayne hocked a luggie right outside the classroom door and the teacher sent him to the principal's office.* □ *Tom suppressed the urge to hock a luggie over the bridge railing.*

hockey AND **hocky** ['hɑki] *mod.* dung. (See also **horse hockey.**) □ *Watch out for that hocky there in the gutter.* □ *Don't step in the fresh hockey.*

hockshop *n.* a pawnshop. □ *We took the watch to a hockshop, but couldn't get enough money for it.* □ *The cops checked all the hockshops in town for the murder weapon.*

hocky Go to hockey.

hocus *tv.* to falsify something; to adulterate something. □ *Who hocused the check?* □ *Somebody has hocused the booze.*

hodad AND **hodaddy** ['hɒdæd AND 'hɒdædi] *n.* an obnoxious person; a repellent person. (California.) □ *Ted is a total ho-*

dad. □ *Who's the hodaddy in the plaid pants?*

hodaddy Go to **hodad**.

hoe *n.* a prostitute; a whore. □ *Get them hoes outa here!*

hog 1. AND **hog cadillac** *n.* a large car; a souped up car. (See also **road hog**.) □ *How do you like my new hog?* □ *That hog cadillac needs new shocks.* **2.** *n.* a police officer; a pig. □ *The hogs are on to you.* □ *Who called the hogs?* **3.** *n.* an addict who requires very large doses to sustain the habit. (Drugs.) □ *Gert isn't a hog. She tries to keep her habit small.* □ *Ernie is turning into a hog. He just can't get enough.* **4.** *n.* phencyclidine (PCP), an animal tranquilizer. (Drugs.) □ *We're glad to learn that the demand for hog is tapering off.* □ *Bart won't sell hog to kids these days.*

hog cadillac Go to **hog**.

hogwash 1. *n.* bad food or drink. □ *This stuff is hogwash. Take it away.* □ *How about some more of this high-quality hogwash?* **2.** *n.* nonsense. □ *Now that's just hogwash, and you know it.* □ *Hogwash! That's about enough of your lies!*

hog-wild *mod.* wild; boisterous. □ *All the kids were completely hog-wild by the time I got there.* □ *Things got sort of hog-wild while you were away.*

ho-hum ['hohəm] *mod.* dull; causing yawns. □ *Clare played another ho-hum concert at the music hall last night.* □ *It was a ho-hum lecture.*

hoist one *tv.* to have a drink. □ *Let's go out and hoist one sometime.* □ *Hey, Sam. Let's you and me hoist one.*

ho-jo(s) ['hɒdʒo(z)] *n.* a Howard Johnson's restaurant or hotel. (Collegiate. Often with *the*.) □ *Let's hit ho-jo's for some grub.* □ *We're going to meet the others at the ho-jo.*

hokey ['hoki] *mod.* contrived; phony. □ *What a hokey way to deal with a perfectly honest request.* □ *That idea is too hokey.* □ *That's a pretty hokey idea, but it may work.*

hokum ['hokəm] *n.* nonsense. □ *All that is just hokum.* □ *No more hokum. I want the truth.*

hold *tv. & in.* to possess drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Gert was holding coke when she was arrested.* □ *Bart is holding and wants to deal.*

hold all the aces *tv.* to be in control of everything. □ *The boss holds all the aces on this deal.* □ *I'll come out okay. I hold all the aces.*

Hold everything! *exclam.* Stop everything! □ *Hold everything! I forgot my wallet.* □ *Hold everything! My door isn't closed.*

Hold it! *exclam.* Stop right there! □ *Hold it! Stop!* □ *That's enough! Hold it!*

Hold it, Buster! *exclam.* Stop that, mister! (Sometimes said by women in repulsing an amorous male.) □ *Hold it, Buster! Who do you think you are?* □ *Hold it, Buster! Who do you think I am?*

hold one's high *tv.* to behave reasonably well under the influence of drugs. □ *Gert is having a harder and harder time holding her high.* □ *Ernie can't hold his high. What a creep!*

hold one's horses *tv.* to wait up; to relax and slow down; to be patient. (Usually a command.) □ *Hold your horses! Don't get in a hurry.* □ *Now, just hold your horses and let me explain.*

hold one's liquor *tv.* to be able to drink alcohol in quantity without ill effects. □ *Old Jed can sure hold his liquor—and a lot of it, too.* □ *I asked him to leave because he can't hold his liquor.*

Hold some, fold some. *sent.* to hold some of your stocks and sell some. (Securities markets.) □ *My best advice right now is to hold some, fold some. There is no real trend to the market.* □ *The stock market was so lackluster that I decided to hold some, fold some.*

hold the fort *tv.* to remain behind and take care of things. □ *Hold the fort. I'll be there in a while.* □ *I left John there to hold the fort.*

hold water *tv.* [for an idea, plan, etc.] to survive evaluation or scrutiny. □ *Nothing you've said so far holds water.* □ *Her story doesn't hold water.*

hole *n.* a despised person; an asshole. (Usually objectionable. Also a term of address.) □ *Sam is such a hole. He needs human being lessons.* □ *You stupid hole! Watch what you're doing!*

hole in the wall *n.* a tiny shop, not much wider than its doorway. □ *I went into this little hole in the wall where they had the nicest little gifts.* □ *His office is just a hole in the wall.*

hole up *in.* to hide (somewhere). □ *Lefty wanted to hole up somewhere till things cooled down.* □ *I just want to hole up until the whole matter is settled.*

holiday cheer *n.* liquor, especially liquor drunk at Christmas and New Year's. □ *I think he had a little too much holiday cheer.* □ *Would you care for a little holiday cheer?*

holier-than-thou *mod.* superior in piety; condescending. □ *She has such a holier-than-thou attitude.* □ *Tracy can act so holier-than-thou sometimes.*

Hollywood **1.** *mod.* having phony glitter. □ *Who is this Hollywood dame who just came in?* □ *This whole thing is just too Hollywood.* **2.** *n.* a gaudily dressed person in sunglasses. (Also a term of address.) □ *Hey, Hollywood! What's cooking?* □ *Ask Hollywood over there to take off his shades and make himself known.*

holmes [homz] *n.* one's pal or friend. (A variant of **homes**. See also **Sherlock**. Usually a term of address.) □ *Hey, holmes, how ya living?* □ *What do you think about that, holmes?*

Holy cow! *exclam.* Wow! □ *Holy cow! A red one!* □ *Give me a chance! Holy cow, don't rush me!*

holy Joe **1.** *n.* a chaplain; a cleric; a clergyman. □ *I went to see the holy Joe, and he was a lot of help.* □ *Old holy Joe wants to see all of us at services.* **2.** *n.* a very pious person. □ *Martin looks stuffy, but he's*

no holy Joe. □ *Don't let that holy Joe hear about what you've done.*

Holy mackerel! ['holi 'mækrəl] *exclam.* Wow! □ *Holy mackerel! What a day!* □ *Holy mackerel! What's this?*

Holy mole! ['holi 'moli] *exclam.* Wow! □ *Holy mole! A whole quarter!* □ *Look, here's another one! Holy mole!*

holy stink *n.* anything repellent. □ *You really created a holy stink with that silly remark.* □ *What is this holy stink about broken windows?*

holy terror *n.* a devilish person; a badly behaving child. □ *Jimmy has become a holy terror lately.* □ *Why is the boss such a holy terror today?*

hombre ['ambre] *n.* a man. (From Spanish.) □ *Who's that hombre who just came in?* □ *Now, he's a strange sort of hombre.*

homeboy AND **homegirl** *n.* a buddy; a pal. (Originally between blacks. Also a term of address. **Homeboy** is for males and **homegirl** is for females.) □ *Come on, homeboy. Help out a friend.* □ *She's my homegirl, and I'd do anything for her.*

home-brew *n.* homemade liquor or beer. □ *Is this your own home-brew, Wally?* □ *My uncle makes his own home-brew.*

homegirl Go to **homeboy**.

homegrown **1.** *mod.* local; folksy; amateur. □ *Everyone enjoyed Sally's homegrown humor.* □ *The homegrown talent at the fair was just as entertaining as anything could have been.* **2.** *n.* marijuana grown domestically or locally. (Drugs.) □ *She'd rather use homegrown than have to deal with Bart.* □ *This homegrown is from the pots in her room.*

homer ['homə] **1.** *n.* a home run in baseball. □ *Wilbur hit one homer after another.* □ *Another homer for our team!* **2.** *tv. & in.* to hit a home run. □ *Wilbur homered another one and brought in two runs with him.* □ *Sam has never homered in six years of playing.*

homes AND **homey; homie** *n.* a buddy; a pal. (Originally between blacks. Also a term of address. See also **holmes**.) □

Hey, homes! How's it going? □ Me and my homie want to go with you.

homeslice *n.* a homeboy; a homegirl. □ *Ask my homeslice over there if he wants to go with you. □ Well, homeslice, what now?*

homespun *n.* homemade liquor or beer. □ *Jed offered a little of his homespun round the table. □ How about a swig of homespun?*

homey Go to homes.

homie Go to homes.

homo **1.** *n.* a homosexual. (Usually a male. Rude and derogatory.) □ *Bob got fired for calling Bill a homo. 2. adj.* homosexual. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Have you ever been to a homo bar?*

honcho ['hantʃo] **1.** *n.* the head man; the boss. (Useable for either sex.) □ *The marketing honcho couldn't say when the product would be on the shelves. □ The top honcho at the water department was no help at all. 2. tv.* to manage or boss something. □ *Who's supposed to honcho this affair? □ I'll honcho it until Larry gets here.*

honest injun ['ʌnəst 'ɪndʒən] *interj.* It is true. □ *You actually did that? Honest injun? □ Sure I did, honest injun.*

honey ['həni] *n.* beer. □ *Let's stop at the happy shop and get some honey. □ You want another can of honey?*

honeybunch *n.* a sweetheart. (Also a term of address.) □ *Look, honeybunch, let's hurry up. We're late. □ I can't wait to get back and see my honeybunch.*

honeycakes Go to babycakes.

honey cart Go to honey wagon.

honey fuck *n.* a gentle and loving act of sexual intercourse. (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) □ *I told him I'd prefer a honey fuck to a bunny fuck any day.*

honeymoon (period) AND **honeymoon stage** *n.* an early stage in any activity, before problems set in. □ *Of course, this is still the honeymoon stage, but everything seems to be going all right. □ The honeymoon is over, Carl. You have to produce now.*

honeymoon stage Go to honeymoon (period).

honey of a something *n.* a very special something; an excellent example of something. □ *This is a honey of a car. Wanna drive it? □ Now here's a honey of a little stereo receiver.*

honey wagon **1.** AND **honey cart** *n.* any vehicle used for or designed for carrying excrement: a farm manure wagon; a tank truck used to pump out septic tanks; a tank truck used to pump out airplane toilets; a portable latrine truck used in movie making. □ *I drove a honey wagon in Hollywood for a year. How's that for glamour? □ The honey cart was stalled with a flat tire in front of the plane. 2. n.* a beer truck. □ *What time does the honey wagon bring in new supplies? □ I drove a honey cart in the city for a while.*

Hong Kong dog ['hɒŋ 'kɒŋ 'dɒg] *n.* diarrhea; a case of diarrhea. □ *Andy has a touch of the Hong Kong dog and needs some medicine. □ I got rid of the Hong Kong dog by meditating.*

honk **1.** *n.* a drinking spree; a toot. □ *Jed's last honk lasted nearly a week. □ The guys went off on the honk to end all honks. 2. n.* a white male; a honky. (Black. Not necessarily derogatory.) □ *Who's the honk who keeps driving by? □ There are mainly honks where I work. 3. in.* to vomit. (Onomatopoeic.) □ *I can hear someone in the john honking like mad. □ Who honked on the driveway? 4. tv.* to vomit something. □ *He honked up his whole pizza.*

honked AND **honkers** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Wally was too honked to stand up. □ Man, is that guy honkers!*

honker **1.** *n.* a goose. (Juvenile.) □ *A whole flock of honkers settled on our pond. □ Can we have honker for Thanksgiving dinner? 2. n.* a strange or eccentric person. □ *Clare is a real honker these days. Is she all right? □ Martin is a classic honker. 3. n.* the nose. □ *Look at the honker on that guy. How can he see around it?*

honkers **1.** *n.* a woman's breasts. (Jocular. See also hooters. Usually objectionable.)

□ *Look at the honkers on that dame!* **2.** Go to **honked**.

honky AND **honkey; honkie; hunky** **1.** *n.* a Caucasian. (Black. Not necessarily derogatory. Probably a pronunciation variant of **hunky**.) □ *The honkies are taking over this neighborhood.* □ *Some honky was around asking for you.* **2.** *mod.* in the manner of a Caucasian; white-like. □ *Where'd you get that honky car?* □ *That's honky music. I want to hear soul.*

honyock ['hanjak] *n.* someone, usually a male, who acts like a peasant; a crude or unsophisticated person; a rustic oaf. (Old. Also a rude or playful term of address.) □ *Steve seems like such a honyock until you get to know him.* □ *Come here, you silly honyock.*

hooch AND **hootch** [hutʃ] *n.* hard liquor; any alcoholic beverage, especially if illicitly obtained. □ *Let's go guzzle some hooch.* □ *More hootch for you?*

hooched (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Sally is too hooched to drive.* □ *She got herself hooched up and couldn't give her talk.*

hoocher AND **hootcher** *n.* a drunkard. □ *Ernie isn't a hoocher, you can say that for him.* □ *A hootcher staggered in and staggered right out again.*

hooch head Go to **hooch hound**.

hooch hound AND **hooch head** *n.* a drunkard. □ *Jed is a classic hooch hound. He lives for the stuff.* □ *The party turned into a drinking session for hooch heads.*

hood **1.** *n.* a hoodlum. □ *A couple of hoods hassled us on the street.* □ *That hood should be behind bars.* **2.** *n.* the neighborhood; the ghetto; any neighborhood. □ *Back in the hood, Bob's considered an important guy.*

hood rat *n.* someone who hangs around the [black] neighborhood. □ *Sam's just a wimpy hood rat. He never sees any action.*

hooley ['hui] *n.* nonsense. □ *The whole newspaper is nothing but hooley today.* □ *What's all this hooley about getting a new car?*

hooper *n.* a (professional) dancer. □ *Clare was a hooper when she was younger and lighter.* □ *She was a hooper on Broadway.*

hoofing *n.* walking; running. □ *My car's in the shop, so I'm hoofing for a few days.* □ *Two or three of the kids were hoofing around the mall, so I joined them.*

hoof it **1.** *tv.* to run away. □ *I saw them coming and hoofed it home.* □ *Lefty hoofed it when he saw the uniform.* **2.** *in.* to walk instead of ride. □ *My car's broken down, so I had to hoof it to work today.* □ *Let's hoof it over to the library.*

hoo-ha ['huha] **1.** *n.* a commotion. □ *What is all this hoo-ha about?* □ *A deer created quite a hoo-ha by running frantically through the department store.* **2.** *n.* nonsense. □ *What is all this hoo-ha about your leaving the company?* □ *Stop talking hoo-ha and tell the truth.*

hook **1.** *tv.* to cheat someone. □ *Watch the clerk in that store. He might try to hook you.* □ *They hooked me on the car deal.* **2.** *tv.* to steal something. □ *Lefty hooked a couple of candy bars just for the hell of it.* □ *What did they hook last night?* **3.** *tv.* to addict someone (to something). (Not necessarily drugs.) □ *The constant use of bicarb hooked him to the stuff.* □ *The pot hooked him.* **4.** *n.* the grade of C. □ *I didn't study at all and I still got a hook!* □ *I got three hooks and a D this semester.* **5.** *tv.* to earn or pull the grade of C on something in school. □ *History? I hooked it without any trouble.* □ *If I can just hook algebra, I'll stay off probation.*

hooked (on someone or something) *mod.* preferring someone or something; enamored of someone or something. □ *I'm really hooked on chocolate anything.* □ *Sam is hooked on Mary for good.*

hooked (on something) **1.** *mod.* cheated. □ *I really got hooked on this travel deal.* □ *You were hooked all right.* **2.** *mod.* addicted (to a drug). □ *Gert is hooked on horse.* □ *Everybody knows she is hooked.*

hooker *n.* a prostitute. (Usually a female, but of either sex. This has to do with *hooking* men into a situation where they can be exploited sexually or robbed. It

has nothing to do with a certain General Hooker.) □ *She's a model by day and a hooker by night.* □ *This neighborhood has a few hookers who hang around on the street corners.*

hook, line, and sinker *mod.* totally. □ *She fell for it hook, line, and sinker.* □ *They believed every word hook, line, and sinker.*

hooks *n.* the hands. (See also **meathooks**.) □ *Get your hooks off my newspaper!* □ *Don't stand there with your hooks in your pocket. Get busy!*

hook shop *n.* a brothel. (See also **hooker**.) □ *Guess who I saw coming out of a hook shop?* □ *There is a secret hook shop over on Maple Street.*

hook something down *tv.* to swallow something down. □ *He hooked a drink down and turned to face his brother.* □ *Hook down one of these cookies and see what you think about them.*

hoopla ['huplə or 'huplə] *n.* an outcry; a fuss or a **to-do**. □ *What's all this hoopla about?* □ *There is too much hoopla in these elections.*

hoops *n.* the game of basketball. □ *You wanna go play some hoops?* □ *Welcome to another evening of college hoops, brought to you by the Nova Motor Company.*

hoosegow ['husgau] *n.* a jail. □ *Learning to read can shorten one's time in the hoosegow.* □ *The judge threw the punk in the hoosegow for a few days.*

hoot 1. *in.* to laugh loudly. □ *The audience screamed and hooted with their appreciation.* □ *They howled and hooted. I know they just loved it.* **2.** *n.* a joke; something laughable. □ *The whole business was a terrific hoot.* □ *The skit was a hoot, and everyone enjoyed it.* **3.** *in.* to boo at someone's performance. □ *The audience hooted until the performer fled the stage in disgrace.* □ *They hooted for a few minutes after she left the stage.*

hootch Go to **hooch**.

hootcher Go to **hoocher**.

hoo(t)chfest *n.* a drinking bout; a drinking party. □ *We stopped by Sally's to join*

in the hoochfest for a while. □ *Let's throw a big hootchfest next month.*

hooted *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Jed got himself good and hooted.* □ *Ted is too hooted to drive.*

hooter 1. *n.* a nose; a big nose. □ *I sort of wish my hooter wasn't so doggoned big.* □ *He blew his hooter and went back to his reading.* **2.** *n.* a drink of liquor. □ *He tossed back a big hooter of booze and stood there a minute.* **3.** *n.* cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *Albert is known for his high-quality hooter.* **4.** Go to **hooters**.

hooters *n.* a woman's breasts. (Jocular. Usually objectionable.) □ *Look at the hooters on that dame!*

hoover *tv.* to perform oral sex on the penis. (Usually objectionable. From the name of the vacuum cleaner manufacturer, in reference to suction. See also a **hoovering**.) □ *Man, would I like to hoover you!* □ *She hoovered him twice and then left.*

a **hoovering** *n.* an abortion. (From the suction used, referring to the vacuum cleaner.) □ *She said she thought a hoovering would make things right.*

hop 1. *n.* beer. □ *Pretty good hops, Tom.* □ *How about some hop with your hamburger?* **2.** *n.* a dancing party for young people. □ *The kids are out at some school-sponsored hop.* □ *The hop was a lot of fun.* **3.** *tv.* to get aboard a plane or train. □ *I'll hop a plane and be there in a couple of hours.* □ *Hop a train or anything, but get here as soon as you can.*

hopfest *n.* a beer-drinking party. □ *We went to a big hopfest over at Wally's, but it broke up early.* □ *That was some hopfest! No potato chips!*

hophead 1. *n.* an alcoholic or a drunkard. □ *I'm afraid that Wally is becoming a hophead.* □ *Ernie is a well-established and incurable hophead.* **2.** *n.* a drug user; someone under the effects of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *The hopheads are taking over this part of town.* □ *What happens to these hopheads when they grow up?*

hopped up **1.** *mod.* stimulated by drugs. (Drugs.) □ *The two of them were hopped up most of the time.* □ *Two hopped up kids were hunkered down in the alley.* **2.** *mod.* [of a car] customized and speeded up. □ *As soon as I get this hog hopped up, you'll see some real speed.* □ *Sam drives a hopped up old Ford.* **3.** *mod.* excited. □ *Paul is certainly hopped up about something.* □ *Why are you so hopped up?*

hopping mad *mod.* very angry; angry and jumping up and down. □ *I was hopping mad about the broken window.* □ *The boss was hopping mad at the secretary.*

Hop to it! *exclam.* Get moving!; Hurry up! □ *Hop to it! I don't pay you to stand around.* □ *I need it now! Hop to it!*

horizontal *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *The boss was horizontal at the Christmas party.* □ *Stewed? No, he's totally horizontal!*

hork **1.** *in.* to vomit. □ *God! I think I'm going to hork!* **2.** *in.* to spit. □ *Don't you hork on my driveway, you slob!*

horn **1.** *n.* the nose. □ *He scratched his horn with his pencil and opened his mouth to speak.* □ *He had the most humongous horn I have ever seen on man or beast.* **2.** *n.* the telephone. □ *Get Mrs. Wilson on the horn, please.* □ *She's on the horn now. What'll I tell her?* **3.** *tv.* to sniff or snort a narcotic. (Drugs.) □ *Ernie horned a line and paused for a minute.* □ *He'd rather horn it than shoot it.*

horner **1.** *n.* a heavy drinker; a drunkard. □ *Wally is a real horner. He has an enormous capacity.* □ *Jed is the king of horners around here.* **2.** *n.* a cocaine user. (Drugs.) □ *Sure, Bart is a horner. He sells the stuff to support his own habit.* □ *I think the new employee is a horner.*

horny *mod.* sexually aroused; in need of sexual release. (Refers to the horns of the goat, not a car horn. The goat is a symbol of lust. Usually objectionable.) □ *God, I'm horny! I need of piece of something.* □ *He said he was so horny he could honk. What did he mean?*

horrors **1.** *n.* the delirium tremens. □ *The old wino had the horrors all the time.* □ *He has a bad case of the horrors.* **2.** *n.*

frightening hallucinations from drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Once he had gone through the horrors, he swore off for good.* □ *Pete had the horrors and had to be hospitalized.*

horse **1.** *n.* heroin. (Drugs.) □ *Now, horse is all that Gert will touch.* □ *Horse is still very popular in the big cities.* **2.** *n.* horse dung. □ *I use horse on my vegetables.* □ *I got a job shoveling horse out of the stables.*

horse around *in.* to work inefficiently; to goof around. □ *Stop horsing around and get busy.* □ *You guys are always horsing around.*

horse cock *n.* a large sausage. (Usually objectionable. Military.) □ *Whack me off a piece of that horse cock, would ya, Clyde?* □ *Oh, not horse cock again tonight!*

horsed **AND** **on the horse** *mod.* under the effects of heroin; addicted to heroin. (Drugs.) □ *Gert was totally horsed.* □ *How long have you been on the horse?*

horse doctor *n.* a doctor. (Derogatory. Originally referred to a veterinarian.) □ *That horse doctor says there's nothing wrong with me.* □ *My horse doctor says everything is wrong with me.*

Horsefeathers! *exclam.* Phooey!; Nonsense! □ *Oh, horsefeathers! You're nuts!* □ *Horsefeathers! I did no such thing!*

horse hockey **1.** *n.* horse dung. □ *I try to get horse hockey for my garden.* □ *You don't see horse hockey in the streets anymore.* **2.** *n.* nonsense. □ *I've heard enough of your horse hockey.* □ *The guy specializes in producing horse hockey for the gossip columns.*

horse laugh *n.* a mocking and sarcastic laugh. □ *He came out with a horse laugh that caused some eyebrows to raise.* □ *The horse laugh from the back of the room did not go unnoticed.*

horse opera *n.* a Western movie. (See also oater.) □ *They're showing a series of old horse operas at the theater tonight.* □ *Haven't I seen this horse opera before? About a hundred times maybe?*

horseradish *n.* heroin. (See also **horse**.) □ *Bart can get you some horseradish.* □ *Gert is hooked on horseradish.*

horses *n.* horse power, as in an engine. □ *How many horses does this thing have?* □ *Isn't 400 horses a lot for just one car?*

horse's ass *n.* a fool. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *My ex-husband was a real horse's ass.* □ *Stop being such a horse's ass and listen to some sense.*

horseshit **1.** *n.* the dung of the horse. (Usually objectionable.) □ *After the parade, the street was littered with horseshit.* **2.** *n.* nonsense; **bullshit**. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I've heard enough of your horseshit!* □ *That's just a lot of horseshit!*

hose **1.** *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He held his hands over his hose and ran for the bedroom.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to copulate [with] a woman. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You don't like her, you just want to hose her!* **3.** *tv.* to cheat or deceive someone; to lie to someone. □ *Don't try to hose me! I'm onto you!* □ *He's just hosing you! Ignore him.*

hoser **1.** *n.* a good guy or buddy. □ *Old Fred is a good hoser. He'll help.* **2.** *n.* a cheater or deceiver. □ *You dirty lying hoser!* **3.** *n.* a moron; a stupid acting person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Come here, you hoser. I'll show you how to do it.* □ *Bob is such a hoser! He never gets anything right.*

hose someone down *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld. From the image of spraying someone with bullets.) □ *Mr. Big told Bruno to hose Max down.* □ *The thugs tried to hose down the witness.*

hoska Go to (ma)hoska.

hot 1. AND **hot under the collar** *mod.* angry. □ *Don't get so hot under the collar. Chill, man.* □ *What a hot dude!* □ *Gee, that guy is really hot. What did I do?* **2.** *mod.* wanted by the police. (Underworld.) □ *Lefty is hot because of his part in the bank job.* □ *Willie was hot and wanted somebody to hide him.* **3.** *mod.* stolen. □ *This watch is hot. Keep it.* □ *Rocko won't touch a hot watch or anything else hot.* **4.** *mod.* carrying contraband and

subject to arrest if caught. □ *Albert was hot and on the run.* □ *Lefty was hot and needed a place to stay.* **5.** *mod.* having a run of good luck in gambling. □ *I'm hot tonight! Here I go again.* □ *I was hot when I started. I'm broke now.* **6.** *mod.* of great renown; doing quite well for the time being. □ *The opera tenor was hot, and even the lowbrows would pay to hear him.* □ *The dancer was hot and was offered movie roles and all sorts of things.* **7.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Wally was too hot to stand up.* **8.** *mod.* selling well. □ *These things are really hot this season.* □ *Now, here's a hot item.* **9.** *mod.* sexy; sexually arousing. □ *Wow, who was that hot hunk you were with?*

hot air *n.* boasting; lying; nonsense. □ *I've heard enough of your hot air.* □ *That's just a lot of hot air. Ignore it.*

hotbed of something *n.* a nest of something; a gathering place of something. □ *This office is a hotbed of lazy people.* □ *My class is a hotbed of nerds.*

hot check *n.* a bad check. □ *The crook got picked up after passing a hot check.* □ *The clerk got in trouble for taking a hot check.*

Hot diggety (dog)! ['hət 'dɪɡədi ('dɒɡ)] *exclam.* Wow! □ *Hot diggety dog! I won!* □ *I made it on time. Hot diggety!*

Hot dog! *exclam.* Wow! □ *Hot dog! It's my turn.* □ *Look at that! Hot dog! It's coming this way!*

hotdog *in.* to show off. □ *The coach said, "Stop hotdogging and play ball, you guys."* □ *It's just like Wayne to hotdog when he should be paying attention to the game.*

hot head *n.* a person with a bad or quick temper. □ *Bart is a hot head. Watch out.* □ *Don't be such a hot head, Chuck.*

hot item **1.** *n.* an item that sells well. □ *This little thing is a hot item this season.* □ *Now here's a hot item that everybody is looking for.* **2.** *n.* a romantically serious couple. □ *Sam and Mary are quite a hot item lately.* □ *A hot item like Bill and Clare isn't likely to show up for the party.*

hotkey *n.* one or more keys on a computer keyboard that will bring forth a special

computer applications program. (Computers.) □ *The hotkeys for my thesaurus are control and F2.* □ *Press the hotkey to bring up a calendar.*

hot number 1. *n.* an exciting piece of music. □ *Now here's a hot number by the Wanderers.* □ *Another hot number after this message.* **2.** *n.* an attractive or sexy girl or woman. □ *She's quite a hot number.* □ *Who's that hot number I saw you with last night?*

hot paper *n.* bad checks; a bad check. (Underworld. See also **hot check**.) □ *Tracy got caught passing hot paper.* □ *That teller can spot hot paper a mile away.*

hot potato *n.* a difficult problem. □ *I sure don't want to have to deal with that hot potato.* □ *This one is a hot potato. Ignore it for a while.*

(hot) rod *n.* a car that has been customized for power and speed by the owner. □ *My rod'll outrun yours any day.* □ *Is that a hot rod or a junk heap?*

hot seat *n.* the electric chair. (Underworld. See also **in the hot seat**.) □ *Lefty, you're headed for the hot seat.* □ *The hot seat is just waiting for you, Lefty.*

hot shit *n.* a male who thinks he is the greatest person alive; a conceited male. (Probably also used for females. Used with or without *a*. Usually objectionable.) □ *You're not such a hot shit!* □ *The jerk thinks he is real hot shit.*

hotshot 1. *n.* an important and energetic person. (Often used sarcastically. Also a term of address.) □ *If you're such a hot-shot, why not straighten out the whole thing?* □ *Look, hotshot, get busy, will you?* **2.** **AND** **hot-shot** *mod.* brilliant; great. □ *Wally is becoming a real hot-shot tenor with the local opera company.* □ *So, you're the hot-shot guy who's going to straighten this place out?*

(hot) skinny *n.* inside information. □ *What's the skinny on the tower clock?* □ *I've got the hot skinny on Mary and her boyfriend.*

hot stuff *n.* a person who acts superior (to others). (Also a term of address.) □ *What*

makes you think you're such hot stuff? □ *Hey, hot stuff, come down here and say that.*

hotsy-totsy ['hatsi'tatsi] *mod.* fine; great. □ *Well, isn't that just hotsy-totsy.* □ *I don't feel so hotsy-totsy.*

hottie *n.* a sexually attractive person. □ *He's a real hottie! I wonder if he's taken.*

hot tip *n.* a special bit of information that ought to be reliable. □ *Ted got a hot tip on a horse.* □ *I phoned in a hot tip about a news story to the papers.*

hot under the collar Go to **hot**.

hot wire *tv.* to start a car without a key. □ *Lefty hot wired the car and used it for an hour or two.* □ *Isn't it illegal to hot wire a car?*

Hot ziggy! ['hat 'zɪgədi] *exclam.* Wow! □ *Hot ziggy! I made it!* □ *The plane's on time! Hot ziggy!*

house moss *n.* little blobs of lint. (See also **ghost turd**.) □ *There is some house moss under the sofa.* □ *Sweep up this house moss, please.*

house of many doors *n.* a prison. □ *Bart faced a sentence of a few years in the house of many doors.* □ *Sam just got out of the house of many doors and is looking for somebody to pull a job with.*

How does that grab you? *interrog.* What do you think of that? □ *Looks good, okay?* *How does that grab you?* □ *How does that grab you? Enough salt?*

howdy *interj.* hello. (Folksy.) □ *Howdy, friend.* □ *Well, howdy. Long time, no see.*

How goes it? *interrog.* How are you?; How are things going? □ *Nice to see you. How goes it?* □ *How goes it? Everything okay?*

howl 1. *n.* something funny. □ *What a howl the surprise party turned out to be when the guest of honor didn't show up.* □ *The gag was a real howl.* **2.** *in.* to laugh very hard. □ *Everybody howled at my mistake.* □ *John howled when the joke was told.*

howler *n.* a serious and funny mistake. □ *Who is responsible for this howler on the*

Wilson account? □ *That howler cost us plenty.*

howling (drunk) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; loudly drunk. □ *Wally got howling drunk and ran in the streets with his coat off.* □ *He was just howling!*

How('re) they hanging? *interrog.* <an inquiry calling for a report of the state of a male's testicles.> (See also **Getting any?** Usually objectionable.) □ *How they hanging, Fred?* □ *You're looking okay. How're they hanging?*

how the other half lives *n.* how poorer people live; how richer people live. □ *Now I am beginning to understand how the other half lives.* □ *Most people don't care how the other half lives.*

How ya living? *interrog.* How are you doing? (The response is **Living large.**) □ *How ya living, man?* □ *Yo! How ya living?*

HTH *n.* hometown honey, a sweetheart from home or still at home. (Initialism. Collegiate.) □ *Wally is my HTH, but I think I've outgrown him.* □ *I heard that Mary is Sam's HTH.*

hubbas *n.* crystallized cocaine; crack. (Drugs.) □ *A ten-year-old died yesterday from hubbas.* □ *They arrested an eight-year-old for selling hubbas.*

hubby ['həbi] *n.* a husband. □ *My hubby will be late tonight.* □ *Where is your hubby tonight?*

huffer ['həfə] *n.* a person (teenager) who inhales glue vapors or some other solvent for a high. (Drugs.) □ *The age of the huffers has come to an end. Now they start out on crack.* □ *His school work suffered because he was a huffer.*

huffy *mod.* angry; haughty. □ *Now, don't get huffy. I said I was sorry, didn't I?* □ *Who's the huffy old lady?* □ *She was so huffy about it.*

hughie ['hjuɪ] *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (See also **cry hughie.**) □ *I gotta go hughie.* □ *Oo, who hughied?*

hug the porcelain god(dess) AND **hug the throne** *tv.* to vomit; to vomit while holding on to the toilet seat. □ *The girls*

drank a lot of beer and two of them spent the night hugging the porcelain god. □ *I don't want to get drunk and have to hug the porcelain goddess all night.*

hug the throne Go to hug the porcelain god(dess).

humdinger AND **hummer** ['həm'dɪŋə AND 'həmə] *n.* someone or something excellent. □ *Now, this one is a real humdinger.* □ *Yup, he's a hummer all right.*

hum job *n.* a sexual act involving holding the penis in the mouth while humming. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He asked for a hum job, so she gave him a lullaby.* □ *The hooker wanted \$30 for a hum job.*

hummer Go to humdinger.

humongous [hju'məŋgəs] *mod.* huge. (See also **mongo.**) □ *She lives in a humongous house on the hill.* □ *Wally has a humongous nose.*

hump 1. *tv.* & *in.* to copulate [with] someone. (Refers to male arching his back in copulation, as in *fornicate*. Usually objectionable.) □ *The sailor spent his entire leave drinking and humping.* **2.** *n.* an act of copulation. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The sailor said he needed a hump and left the ship for the port.* **3.** *n.* a person who will copulate without much persuasion. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He's okay as a hump, but he can't dance.* □ *She's just a hump. They're not hard to find these days.*

hump (along) *in.* to move along in a hurry. □ *I guess I'd better hump along over there.* □ *Come on, move it! Hump to the main office and be fast about it!*

hump it (to somewhere) *tv.* to move rapidly (to somewhere). □ *I have to hump it over to Kate's place right now.* □ *You'll have to hump it to get there in time.*

humpy *mod.* sexually aroused; horny. (See also **hump.** Usually objectionable.) □ *I'm so humpy, I could screw a cow.* □ *She gets humpy when she watches those movies.*

hung 1. *mod.* hungover. □ *John is really hung this morning.* □ *I'm miserable when I'm hung.* **2.** *mod.* annoyed. □ *Fred is hung and looking for somebody to take it*

out on. □ How can you get so hung about practically nothing? **3.** Go to well-hung.

hung like a bull *mod.* having large testicles or genitals in general, like a bull. (Said of a male. Usually objectionable.) □ *Old Chuck is hung like a bull, but he don't care much for women.* □ *Well, he's not exactly hung like a bull, or anything else for that matter.*

hangover *mod.* having a hangover from too much alcohol. □ *John is really hungover today.* □ *I can't eat when I'm hungover.*

the **hungries** *n.* hunger. (See also (blind) munchies.) □ *Jimmy's crying because he's got the hungries.* □ *I get the hungries about this time every day.*

hungry **1.** *mod.* eager to make money. □ *He doesn't sell enough because he's not hungry enough.* □ *When he gets hungry for wealth, he'll get busy.* **2.** *mod.* ambitious. □ *He gets ahead because he's hungry.* □ *We like to hire the hungry ones.*

hunk *n.* a strong and sexually attractive male. □ *Larry is a real hunk.* □ *Who was that hot hunk I saw you with?*

hunk of ass Go to piece of ass.

hunk of tail Go to piece of ass.

hunky Go to honky.

hunky-dory ['hʌŋki'dɔri] *mod.* fine; okay. □ *As a matter of fact, everything is just hunky-dory.* □ *That is a hunky-dory idea all right.*

hurl **1.** *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (Like the throw in throw up.) □ *I think I gotta go hurl.* **2.** *n.* vomit. □ *There's hurl all over the bathroom floor!*

hurry up and wait *in.* to be alternately rushed and delayed in a hectic situation. (Often with the force of a modifier.) □ *I hate to hurry up and wait.* □ *It's always hurry up and wait around here.*

hurt **1.** *mod.* very ugly; damaged and ugly. (Black. Similar to hurting.) □ *Man, are you hurt!* □ *That poor girl is really bad hurt.* **2.** *mod.* drug intoxicated. (Black.) □ *Gert was really hurt and nodding and*

drooling. □ *One hit of that horse trunk and he was really hurt.*

hurt for someone or something *in.* to long after someone or something; to need someone or something. □ *Sam really hurts for Mary.* □ *I sure am hurting for a nice big steak.*

hurting **1.** *mod.* very ugly; in pain from ugliness. (Similar to hurt.) □ *That dog of yours is something to behold. It's really hurting.* □ *Man, is she hurting!* **2.** *mod.* seriously in need of something, such as a dose of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Gert is hurting. She needs something soon.* □ *When Ernie is hurting, he takes barbs.*

hush-hush ['hʌʃ'hʌʃ] **1.** *mod.* secret; undercover. □ *The matter is so hush-hush I can't talk about it over the phone.* □ *What is all this hush-hush stuff?* **2.** *mod.* secretly. □ *They did it so hush-hush that no one knew for a long time.* □ *What are all these hush-hush plans you have made?*

hush money *n.* money paid to buy someone's silence. □ *They paid enough hush money to silence an army.* □ *There was some hush money paid to someone in city hall.*

hush someone up **1.** *tv.* to make someone be quiet. □ *Please hush your baby up!* **2.** *tv.* to kill someone. □ *Nobody knew how to get to Mr. Big to hush him up.* □ *Mr. Big told Sam to hush up Bart.*

hush something up *tv.* to keep something a secret; to try to stop a rumor from spreading. □ *We just couldn't hush it up.* □ *We wanted to hush up the story, but there was no way to do it.*

husky ['hʌski] *n.* a strong man; a thug. □ *Tell your husky to lay off, Bruno.* □ *A couple of huskies helped me get my car unstuck.*

hustle ['hʌsl] **1.** *in.* to move rapidly; to hurry. □ *Come on, hustle, you guys.* □ *It's late. I've got to hustle.* **2.** *n.* hurried movement; confusion. □ *All the hustle and confusion made it hard to concentrate.* □ *I can't work when there is all this hustle around me.* **3.** *n.* a scheme to make money; a special technique for making money. (Underworld. This includes drug

dealing, prostitution, and other vice activities.) □ *Each of these punks has a hustle—a specialty in crime.* □ *We all know what Bart's hustle is.* **4. in.** to use one's special technique for making money. □ *He's out there on the streets hustling all the time.* □ *I gotta go hustle. I need some bread.* **5. tv.** to use a scheme on a person to try to make money; to **con** someone. □ *Don't try to hustle me, sister. I know which end is up.* □ *Sam is always trying to hustle people.* **6. tv.** to attempt to seduce someone. □ *Bart is hustling Tracy.* □ *I think that Tracy's hustling Max.*

hustler ['hʌslə] **1. n.** a gambler in a pool hall. □ *Wasn't he the guy who played the hustler in that famous movie?* □ *He made a lot of money as a hustler.* **2. n.** a swindler; a **con** artist. □ *The chick is a real hustler. I wouldn't trust her at all.* □ *The hustler conned me out of a month's pay.* **3. n.** a prostitute. □ *Gert almost became a hustler to pay for a habit.* □ *A lot of hustlers are hooked on horse.* **4. n.** a **stud**; a man who is notoriously good with women. □ *That guy's a hustler. Watch out.* □ *He thinks he's a hustler. The chicks think he's a wimp.*

hut *n.* a house. □ *I've got to go to my hut and pick up some bills.* □ *Where's your hut? I'll come and visit you.*

hype [haɪp] **1. n.** publicity; sales propaganda; promotion, especially if blatant and aggressive. □ *There was so much hype before the picture was released that the picture itself was a letdown.* □ *There is hype for the election all over the place.* **2. tv.** to publicize or promote someone or something aggressively; to overpraise someone or something. □ *Don't hype the thing to death.* □ *Let's hype it until everyone in the country has heard about it.* **3. AND hype** *n.* a hypodermic syringe and needle. (Drugs.) □ *She forgot to clean the hype.* □ *He got an infection from a dirty hype.* **4. n.**

an injection of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Ernie needed a hype real bad.* □ *Bart told him who could help him with a hype.* **5. n.** a drug addict who injects drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Gert's been a hype for about a year.* □ *The hypes have a rough time in prison.* **6. mod.** really good; excellent. □ *Now this is a truly hype pizza!* □ *This rally is really hype!*

hype artist *n.* someone who produces aggressive promotional material for a living. □ *She is a hype artist for a public relations firm.* □ *How much does a hype artist get paid for all that junk?*

hyped (up) **1. mod.** excited; stimulated. □ *They were all hyped up before the game.* □ *She said she had to get hyped before the tennis match.* **2. mod.** contrived; heavily promoted; falsely advertised. □ *I just won't pay good money to see these hyped up movies.* □ *If it has to be hyped so much, it probably isn't very good.* **3. mod.** drug intoxicated. (Drugs.) □ *Gert is happiest when she's hyped.* □ *Here comes another hyped up musician.*

hyper ['haɪpə] **1. mod.** excited; overreacting. □ *I'm a little hyper because of the doctor's report.* □ *Here's another hyper patient.* □ *Now, now, don't get hyper.* **2. n.** a person who praises or promotes someone or something. □ *She's a hyper, and she doesn't always tell things the way they are.* □ *As a hyper, she is a whiz.* **3. n.** a person who is always overly excited or hyperactive. □ *Pat is such a hyper. Just can't seem to relax.* □ *My dad is a hyper.* **4. n.** a drug user who injects drugs with a hypodermic syringe. (Drugs.) □ *How long have you been a hyper, Gert?* □ *Bart has been a hyper since he was twenty-four.*

hype something up *tv.* to overpraise something; to propagandize something. □ *They hyped it up too much.* □ *Why do they hype up an election?*

I

IAC Go to IAE.

IAE AND **IAC** *interj.* in any event; in any case. (Initialisms. Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ **IAE** *I will give you the answer tomorrow.* □ *I will be there IAC.*

I am so sure! *exclam.* I am right! (California.) □ *You are way rad! I am so sure!* □ *This is too much. I am so sure!*

(I-)beam ['aɪbɪm AND bɪm] *n.* IBM, International Business Machines stock shares. (Securities markets. See also **big blue**.) □ *I-beam fell out of bed and took the market with it.* □ *How much beam do you own?*

IC *in.* I see; I understand. (Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *Okay. IC now.* □ *IC, but I can't help you.*

ice 1. *n.* diamonds; jewels. (Underworld.) □ *That old dame has tons of ice in her hotel room.* □ *Look at the ice on her!* **2.** *n.* cocaine; crystalline cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *Max deals mostly in ice, but can get you almost anything.* □ *This ice isn't good enough.* **3.** *tv.* to kill someone; to kill an informer. (Underworld. See also **chill**.) □ *Mr. Big ordered Sam to ice you-know-who.* □ *Somebody set out to ice Tracy—the dirty squealer.* **4.** *tv.* to ignore someone. (Underworld. See also **chill**.) □ *Bart iced Sam for obvious reasons.* □ *The members of the gang iced Bruno, and that really made him worry.* **5.** *tv.* to embarrass someone; to make someone look foolish. □ *Don't ice me in front of my friends.* □ *Why does she feel like she has to ice everybody?* **6.** *n.* money given as a bribe, especially to the

police. (Underworld.) □ *Did you give Ervine the ice?* □ *A lot of those cops take ice.* **7.** *mod.* excellent; very cool. □ *Her answer was ice, and she really put down that guy.* □ *Man this stuff is ice!*

iceberg *n.* a cold and unemotional person. □ *Sally can be such an iceberg!* □ *What an insensitive iceberg!*

iceberg slim 1. *n.* a pimp. □ *When iceberg slim came by in his pimpmobile, Jed made a rude sign at him.* □ *No iceberg slim is gonna push me around!* **2.** *n.* a person who exploits others; a cold, heartless person. □ *The guy's a regular iceberg slim.* □ *Rocko is a perfect example of an iceberg slim. He's heartless.*

iced *mod.* settled once and for all; done easily. □ *I've got it iced. Nothing to it.* □ *The whole business is iced. Don't fret.*

iceman *n.* a killer. (Underworld. See also **ice**.) □ *It's hard to believe that Rocko is a professional iceman.* □ *The mob employs a number of icemen.*

ice palace *n.* a jewelry store. (From **ice**.) □ *What do they sell in that ice palace that you could afford to buy?* □ *He dropped in at a little ice palace to buy his wife a diamond bracelet. He's made of money.*

ice queen *n.* a cold and haughty woman. □ *Tracy is not exactly an ice queen, but comes close.* □ *It's Kim who's the ice queen.*

icicles ['aɪs sɪkəlz] *n.* pure cocaine in a crystallized form. (Drugs.) □ *Are icicles the same as crack?* □ *Icicles are probably more pure than crack.*

icing on the cake *n.* an extra enhancement. □ *Oh, wow! A tank full of gas in my new car. That's icing on the cake!* □ *Your*

coming home for a few days was the icing on the cake.

ick [ɪk] **1.** *n.* any nasty substance. □ *What is this ick on my shoe?* □ *That's not ick; it's good clean mud.* **2.** *exclam.* *Nasty! (Usually **ick!**)* □ *Oh, ick! What now?* □ *ICK! I'm late!* **3.** *n.* a disliked person. □ *Tell that ick to leave. He's polluting the place.* □ *Oh, Todd, don't be an ick.*

icky ['ɪki] *mod.* distasteful; nasty. □ *What is this icky old stuff?* □ *This is icky.* □ *This was an icky day.*

icky-poo ['ɪkɪpu] **1.** *mod.* disgusting. □ *I don't like all this icky-poo talk.* □ *What is that icky-poo stuff in the soup bowl?* **2.** *exclam.* *Nasty! (Usually **icky-poo!**)* □ *Icky-poo! What a mess!* □ *Oh, icky-poo! I missed my bus!*

I could(n't) care less. *sent.* *I don't care! (The affirmative version does not make sense, but is widely used, nonetheless.)* □ *So you're late. I couldn't care less.* □ *I could care less if you fell off a cliff.*

ID **1.** *n.* some kind of identification card. (Initialism.) □ *Can you show me an ID?* □ *I don't have any ID on me.* **2.** *tv.* to determine the identity of someone; to check someone for a valid identification card. □ *They IDed us at the door.* □ *I hate being IDed.* □ *The cops IDed the driver in less than thirty minutes.*

idea box *n.* the head; the brain. □ *You talk so fast you make my idea box ache.* □ *You got a good solution up there in your idea box by any chance?*

idiot box *n.* a television set. □ *You spend too much time watching the idiot box.* □ *What's on the idiot box tonight?*

idiot card *n.* a large card that shows people on television what to say. □ *The floor director held up an idiot card so I could read out the telephone number.* □ *I couldn't read the number off the idiot card.*

idiotic *Go to idiot juice.*

idiot juice **AND** **idiotic** ['ɪdiət dʒʊs **AND** ɪdi'ɑːk] *n.* a mixture of ground nutmeg and water. (Prisons.) □ *Somehow a bunch of these guys got hold of some idiot juice.*

□ *He drank about a gallon of idiotic to get the kick of one beer.*

idiot light *n.* a light (instead of a meter) on a car's dashboard that indicates the state of various things concerning the operation of the car. □ *I don't want idiot lights. I want meters!* □ *The idiot light went on, and I knew I was in some sort of trouble.*

idiot oil *n.* alcohol. □ *She drinks too much of that idiot oil.* □ *Idiot oil can wreck you as much as smack does.*

idiot pills *n.* barbiturates. (Drugs.) □ *Lay off those idiot pills, why don't you?* □ *She takes idiot pills every night.*

I don't believe this! *exclam.* *What is happening right now is unbelievable!* □ *Gross! I don't believe this!* □ *I don't believe this! It can't be happening.*

I don't know. *sent.* *I disagree.* □ *I don't know. I like it. What's wrong with it?* □ *I don't know. It looks good to me.*

I don't mean maybe! *exclam.* *I am not kidding!* □ *You get over here right now, and I don't mean maybe!* □ *I will spank you if you ever do that again, and I don't mean maybe.*

iffy ['ɪfi] *mod.* marginally uncertain. □ *Things are still sort of iffy, but we'll know for sure in a few days.* □ *It's sort of an iffy matter, but things will get straightened out.*

if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times *phr.* *I know I have told you many, many times.* □ *If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times, don't lean back in that chair.* □ *If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times, wipe your feet!*

if one knows what's good for one *phr.* *one had better do what is expected of one.* □ *You'd better be on time if you know what's good for you.* □ *If you know what's good for you, you'll call and apologize.*

if one's a day *phr.* *<a phrase attached to an expression of someone's age.>* □ *She's fifty if she's a day!* □ *I'm sure he's forty-five if he's a day.*

if push comes to shove Go to when push comes to shove.

if that don't fuck all! *exclam.* an exclamation of surprise. (An elaboration of the colloquial *If that don't beat all!* See also **Fuck it all!** Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *If that don't fuck all! You broke it, and it's my last one!* ☐ *My uncle left me \$40,000! If that don't fuck all!*

if you can't stand the heat, keep out of the kitchen. *sent.* If you cannot accept the problems of involvement, do not get involved. ☐ *Yes, it's difficult to be a candidate. If you can't stand the heat, keep out of the kitchen.* ☐ *Relax. If you can't stand the heat, keep out of the kitchen.*

if you'll pardon the expression *phr.* excuse the expression I am about to say. ☐ *This thing is—if you'll pardon the expression—loused up.* ☐ *I'm really jacked, if you'll pardon the expression.*

I hear what you are saying. 1. AND I hear you. *sent.* I know just what you are trying to say. ☐ *Yes, yes. I hear what you are saying, and I'm with you.* ☐ *Yeah! I hear you!* **2. sent.** I understand your position, but I am under no obligation to agree. ☐ *I hear you. So do what you want.* ☐ *I hear you, but it doesn't matter.*

I hear you. Go to I hear what you are saying.

I kid you not. *sent.* I am not kidding. (Attributed to the entertainer Jack Paar.) ☐ *She is a great singer. I kid you not.* ☐ *I kid you not. This is the best.*

ill 1. mod. lame; dull; bad. ☐ *That broad is truly ill and has a face that would stop a clock.* **2. AND illing; illin' mod.** excellent; cool. ☐ *Her smile is so illin'!* ☐ *We had an ill time at your party.*

I'll bite. *sent.* You want me to ask what or why, so, what or why? ☐ *Okay, I'll bite. What's the answer?* ☐ *I'll bite. Why did the chicken cross the road?*

illin' ['ɪlən] 1. mod. being ill; being sick. ☐ *She was illin' big time and could not come to class.* ☐ *I was illin' so I called in sick.* **2. mod.** ill-behaved. ☐ *You are most illin' and you are bugging me, Kim. Stop it!* ☐

She is the most illin' homeslice I know. **3. in.** behaving badly. ☐ *Stop illin' and pay attention.* ☐ *You are always illin'!* **4. mod.** upset. ☐ *What are you illin' about? Everything is ice.* ☐ *Tom was illin' and angry about the broken window.* **5. Go to ill.**

illuminated *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (A play on lit.) ☐ *Paul is a bit illuminated.* ☐ *He's too illuminated to drive home.*

(I) love it! *exclam.* That is wonderful! (A catchphrase.) ☐ *It's wonderful, Ted. I love it!* ☐ *Love it! More, more!* ☐ *You're so clever! Love it! Love it!*

I'm history. *sent.* Good-bye, I am leaving. (See also **history.**) ☐ *I'm history. See you tomorrow.* ☐ *Later. I'm history.*

IM(H)O *interj.* in my (humble) opinion. (Initialism. Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud. See also **IYHO.**) ☐ *IMHO, you are dead wrong.* ☐ *She is the person to choose, IMO.*

I'm listening. *sent.* Keep talking.; Make your explanation now. ☐ *You did it wrong. I'm listening.* ☐ *I'm sure there's an explanation. Well, I'm listening.*

I'm not kidding. *sent.* I am telling the truth. ☐ *Get over here now! I'm not kidding.* ☐ *I'm not kidding. It was this big!*

IMO Go to **IM(H)O.**

I'm outa here. Go to I'm out of here.

I'm outie. Go to I'm out of here.

I'm out of here. AND I'm outa here.; I'm outie. *sent.* I am leaving this minute. ☐ *In three minutes I'm outa here.* ☐ *I'm out of here. Bye.*

impaired *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Borrowed from the euphemistic *impaired physician.*) ☐ *Don is a bit impaired because he drinks like a fish.* ☐ *He was so impaired he couldn't see his hand in front of his face.* ☐ *The impaired driver was arrested.*

I'm shaking (in fear). *sent.* You don't really frighten me at all. (A mocking response to a threat.) ☐ *Oh, what you said! I'm shaking. Not!* ☐ *Your threats really scare me. I'm shaking in fear.*

I'm there! *sent.* I will accept your invitation and I will be there. ☐ *Sounds like it will be a great rally. I'm there!* ☐ *If you and Tom are going to get together and watch the game, I'm there!*

in 1. *mod.* current; fashionable. ☐ *This kind of thing is in now.* ☐ *What's in around here in the way of clothing?* **2.** *mod.* private. ☐ *Is this in information?* ☐ *If it's in or something, I'm sure they won't spread it around.* **3.** *n.* someone in a special position; someone who is serving in an elective office. ☐ *Well, now that I am an in, there's going to be some changes.* ☐ *When Ralph is one of the ins, he'll throw the crooks out.* **4.** *n.* a ticket or means of getting in (someplace). ☐ *I lost my in. Can I still see the show?* ☐ *Lemme see your in or give me a buck.*

in a bad way Go to in bad shape.

in a big way *mod.* very much; urgently. ☐ *I'm really interested in her in a big way.* ☐ *He plays to win—in a big way.*

in a blue funk *mod.* sad; depressed. ☐ *I've been in a blue funk all week.* ☐ *Don't be in a blue funk. Things'll get better.*

in a cold sweat *mod.* in a state of fear. ☐ *He stood there in a cold sweat, waiting for something to happen.* ☐ *I was in a cold sweat while they counted the ballots.*

in action 1. *mod.* healthy and getting around. ☐ *After I got well, I was in action again immediately.* ☐ *When will she be in action again?* **2.** *mod.* selling or using drugs. (Drugs.) ☐ *Bart is in action about twenty hours a day.* ☐ *In this neighborhood, somebody is in action twenty-four hours a day.*

in a dither *mod.* confused; undecided. ☐ *Mary is sort of in a dither lately.* ☐ *Don't get yourself in a dither.*

in a familiar way *mod.* pregnant. (Euphemistic for in a family way.) ☐ *Tracy is in a familiar way, have you heard?* ☐ *In a familiar way again?*

in a family way **AND in the family way** *mod.* pregnant. ☐ *I hear that Tracy is in a family way.* ☐ *Is she in the family way again?*

in a flash *mod.* right away; immediately. (See also **flash**.) ☐ *Get over here in a flash, or else.* ☐ *I'll be there in a flash.*

in a heap *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *Poor Jed's in a heap again.* ☐ *The guys were all in a heap after the blast.*

in a jam *mod.* in a difficult situation. ☐ *I think I'm sort of in a jam.* ☐ *Sam is in a jam.*

in a jiff(y) *mod.* right away; immediately. (See also **jiffy**.) ☐ *I'll be there in a jiffy.* ☐ *The clerk'll be with you in a jiff.*

in a snit *mod.* in a fit of anger or irritation. ☐ *Don't get in a snit. It was an accident.* ☐ *Mary is in a snit because they didn't ask her to come to the shindig.*

in a tizzy *mod.* in a state of mental disorder. ☐ *Fred is all in a tizzy.* ☐ *The whole office is in a tizzy today.*

in a twit *mod.* upset; frantic. ☐ *She's all in a twit because she lost her keys.* ☐ *Pete was in a twit and was quite rude to us.*

in a twitter *mod.* in a giddy state; silly. ☐ *Don't get yourself in a twitter.* ☐ *We were all in a twitter over the upcoming event.*

in bad shape **AND in a bad way 1.** *mod.* injured or debilitated in any manner. ☐ *Fred had a little accident, and he's in bad shape.* ☐ *Tom needs exercise. He's in bad shape.* **2.** *mod.* pregnant. ☐ *Tracy's in bad shape again, I hear.* ☐ *Yup, she's in bad shape all right—about three months in bad shape.* **3.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *Two glasses of that stuff and I'm in really bad shape.* ☐ *Fred is in bad shape. I think he's going to toss his cookies.*

in business *mod.* operating; equipped to operate. ☐ *We're in business now, and things are running smoothly.* ☐ *Now it works. Now we're in business.*

incense *n.* marijuana. (Drugs.) ☐ *I think I smell some incense somewhere in this building.* ☐ *Hank likes to burn a little incense every now and then.*

incentive *n.* cocaine. (Drugs. See also **initiative**.) ☐ *Maybe a little of that incentive would make me work harder.* ☐ *That's pretty expensive incentive.*

in cold blood *mod.* without feeling; with cruel intent. □ *Rocko kills in cold blood and never gives it a thought.* □ *The prof flunked me in cold blood.*

in cold storage *mod.* dead; in a state of death. □ *Rocko gets paid for putting his subjects in cold storage.* □ *Poor old Jed is in cold storage.*

incy-wincy ['intsi'wintsi] *mod.* tiny. (See also *itty-bitty*; *itsy-bitsy*.) □ *Just give me an incy-wincy bit. I'm on a diet.* □ *Well, maybe an incy-wincy bit more wouldn't hurt.*

in deep **1.** *mod.* deeply involved (with someone or something). □ *Mary and Sam are in deep.* □ *Bart is in deep with the mob.* **2.** *mod.* deeply in debt. (Often with *with* or *to*.) □ *Sam is in deep with his bookie.* □ *I'm in deep to the department store.*

in deep doo-doo *mod.* in real trouble. (*Doo-doo* = dung.) □ *See what you've done. Now you are in deep doo-doo.* □ *I broke the window. Now I'm in deep doo-doo.*

in drag *mod.* wearing the clothing of the opposite sex. (Usually refers to women's clothing.) □ *Two actors in drag did a skit about life on the farm.* □ *Gary looks better in drag than he does in a suit.*

in dribs and drabs *mod.* in small portions; bit by bit. □ *I'll have to pay you what I owe you in dribs and drabs.* □ *The whole story is being revealed in dribs and drabs.*

in Dutch *mod.* in trouble. □ *I think I'm in Dutch with my folks.* □ *I didn't want to get in Dutch with you.*

in fine feather **1.** *mod.* well dressed; of an excellent appearance. □ *Well, you are certainly in fine feather today.* □ *I like to be in fine feather when I have to give a speech.* **2.** *mod.* in good form; in good spirits. □ *Mary is really in fine feather tonight.* □ *I feel in fine feather and ready to go!*

initiative *n.* cocaine. (Drugs. See also *incentive*.) □ *Maybe I need some more of that initiative to get me going.* □ *That kind of initiative is pretty expensive.*

ink **1.** *n.* cheap red wine. □ *The old wino prefers ink to anything else.* □ *All I have is some ink. Is that okay?* **2.** *n.* publicity; print media coverage of someone or something. □ *The movie star's divorce got a lot of ink for a few days.* □ *The new president managed to get some ink every day, but it wasn't always good.*

ink slinger *n.* a professional writer; a newspaper reporter. □ *The ink slingers have been at the candidates again.* □ *The problem is that there are too many ink slingers around.*

innie Go to *insy*.

in nothing flat *mod.* immediately. □ *I'll be there in nothing flat.* □ *She changed the tire in nothing flat.*

in one's blood *mod.* inborn; part of one's genetic makeup. □ *It's in my blood. I can't help it.* □ *Running is in his blood. He loves it.*

in one's something mode *phr.* behaving in a specified mode. (The *something* can be replaced by *work*, *sleep*, *hungry*, *angry*, etc.) □ *I'm not very alert because I'm still in my sleep mode.* □ *Todd is always in his play mode when he should be working.*

in orbit **1.** *mod.* ecstatic; euphoric. □ *She was just in orbit when she got the letter.* □ *Pete was in orbit over the promotion.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Gary is in orbit and can't see a hole in a ladder.* □ *After having a six-pack all to herself, Julie was in orbit.*

in play **1.** *mod.* being played; inbounds. (Said of a ball in a game.) □ *The ball's in play, so you made the wrong move.* □ *No, it wasn't in play, you twit!* **2.** *mod.* having to do with a company (or its stock) that is a candidate for acquisition by another company. (Securities markets.) □ *The company was in play, but nobody was buying it.* □ *These deal stocks—which are in play right now—offer excellent buying opportunities.*

in rare form **1.** *mod.* well-tuned for a good performance; at one's best. □ *He is in rare form today.* □ *We are not exactly in rare form on Monday mornings.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Gert is in rare form, but*

she'll have time to sleep it off. □ *When Harry was finally in rare form, he slid beneath the table.*

ins and outs *n.* the fine points (of something); the details; the intricacies. □ *I'm learning the ins and outs of this business.* □ *My father taught me the ins and outs of hog calling.*

inside dope *n.* the inside story; special or privileged information. (See also **(hot) skinny**.) □ *Can you give me the inside dope on Marty?* □ *What's the inside dope on the candidate's drug addiction?*

inside job *n.* a crime perpetrated against an establishment by someone associated with the victimized establishment. (Underworld.) □ *The cops figured that it was an inside job.* □ *It was an inside job all right. The butler did it.*

inside out *mod.* drunk. □ *Wayne spends every weekend inside out.* □ *Beavis looked forward to the day he could go out and get inside out.*

in someone's face *mod.* irritating someone. (See also **get in someone's face**; **Get out of my face!**; **in-your-face**.) □ *You are in my face too much, and I don't like it.* □ *I wish that the coach wasn't always in my face about something.*

in spades *mod.* in the best way possible; extravagantly. □ *He flunked the test in spades.* □ *They won the championship in spades.*

insy AND **innie** ['Inzi] *n.* a navel that recedes and does not protrude. (Compare this with **outsy**.) □ *Is yours an insy or an outsy?* □ *It's an outsy. So what?*

in tall cotton *mod.* successful; on easy street. □ *I won some money at the track, and I'm really in tall cotton.* □ *We were in tall cotton until the IRS caught up with us.*

intense *mod.* serious; heavy. □ *That man is so intense!* □ *This is an intense matter.* □ *Oh, wow! Now that's what I call intense!*

in the bag **1.** *mod.* cinched; achieved. □ *It's in the bag—as good as done.* □ *The election is in the bag unless the voters find out about my past.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol in-

toxicated. (See also **bagged**.) □ *Kelly looks like he is in the bag.* □ *John is in the bag and mean as hell.*

in the black *mod.* financially solvent; profitable; not in debt. □ *Now that the company is in the black, there's a good chance it will become a deal stock.* □ *We're in the black now and making a profit.*

in the buff *mod.* naked. □ *You-know-who sleeps in the buff.* □ *You can save hundreds of dollars in a lifetime by not buying pajamas and sleeping in the buff instead.*

in the catbird seat *mod.* in a dominant or controlling position. □ *Sally's in the catbird seat—telling everybody where to go.* □ *I hold all the aces. I'm in the catbird seat.*

in the chips *mod.* wealthy; with lots of money. □ *I'm in the chips this month. Let's go squander it.* □ *If I was in the chips, I'd buy a jag.*

in the driver's seat *mod.* in control. □ *She's just not comfortable unless she's in the driver's seat.* □ *I'm in the driver's seat now, and I get to decide who gets raises.*

in the family way Go to **in a family way**.

in the grip of the grape *mod.* drunk on wine; drunk. □ *Wayne was in the grip of the grape and couldn't talk straight.* □ *Sue was in the grip of the grape after only three glasses of wine.*

in the groove *mod.* cool; groovy; pleasant and delightful. □ *Man, is that combo in the groove tonight!* □ *Get in the groove! Relax.*

in the gun *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **shot**.) □ *Ted is in the gun again.* □ *When Fred is in the gun, he's mean.*

in the hole *mod.* in debt; running a deficit. □ *Looks like we are in the hole again this month.* □ *We always end the month in the hole.*

in the (home) stretch *mod.* in the last stage of the process. (From horse racing.) □ *We're in the homestretch with this project and can't change it now.* □ *We're in the stretch. Only three more days till we graduate.*

in the hopper *mod.* in process; in line to be processed. (A hopper is an *in-basket* for incoming work.) □ *It's in the hopper. I'll get to it.* □ *Your job is in the hopper, and your turn is next.*

in the hot seat *phr.* in a situation where one is being scrutinized or asked questions. (See also **hot seat**.) □ *I was in the hot seat for about an hour, but they didn't learn anything from me.* □ *This new information puts Tom in the hot seat, doesn't it?*

in the know *mod.* knowledgeable (about something); having inside knowledge (about something). □ *Ask Harry. He's usually in the know.* □ *Sure I'm in the know. But I'm not telling.*

in the O-zone *mod.* dead; on the verge of death; showing the **O-sign**. (With the mouth hanging open, like the letter O.) □ *This patient is in the O-zone. Ready to go at any minute.*

in the ozone *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Four beers and Tom is in the ozone.* □ *We were in the ozone, but we still made a lot of sense.*

in the pink 1. *mod.* feeling quite well; feeling on top of the world. □ *I'm in the pink today. Feeling great.* □ *When she's in the pink again, she'll give you a ring.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Pete is in the pink and singing at the top of his lungs.* □ *When he's in the pink, he's a handful.*

in the pipeline *mod.* backed up somewhere in a process; in process; in a queue. □ *There are a lot of goods still in the pipeline. That means no more orders for a while.* □ *Your papers are in the pipeline somewhere. You'll just have to wait.*

in the Q-zone *mod.* dead; on the verge of death; with the mouth showing the **Q-sign**. □ *Look at that tongue hanging out. This guy's in the Q-zone.*

in there *mod.* sincere; likeable. □ *Martha is really in there. Everybody likes her.* □ *I like a guy who's in there—who thinks about other people.*

in the soup *mod.* in trouble. □ *Now you're in the soup.* □ *I'm in the soup with the boss.*

in the suds *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Fred is in the suds and can't see.* □ *When Bob is in the suds, he's mean.*

in the tube 1. *mod.* in the “tube” or arch of a large wave. (Surfing.) □ *Pete is in the tube and looks great.* □ *On a day like today, I want to be out there in the tube.* **2.** *mod.* at risk. □ *He's in the tube now, but things should straighten out soon.* □ *If you find yourself in the tube in this matter, just give me a ring.*

the in thing to do *n.* the fashionable or orthodox thing to do. (See also **in**.) □ *Cutting your hair short on the sides is the in thing to do.* □ *Smoking is no longer the in thing to do.*

in-your-face *mod.* confrontational. □ *I'm really tired of this in-your-face attitude of yours.* □ *Fred is just an in-your-face kind of guy. He means no harm.*

IOW *interj.* in other words. (Initialism. Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *IOW, you are angry at me.* □ *I have heard enough on this point. IOW, shut up.*

iron 1. *n.* a gun; a revolver. (Underworld.) □ *Rocko never carries iron unless he's going to use it.* □ *What kind of iron do you carry?* **2.** *n.* computer hardware. (See also **big iron**.) □ *What kind of iron are you people running over there?* □ *This is good old compatible iron.*

Irv AND **Ervine; Irvine** *n.* a police officer. (Black. See also **Charlie Irvine**.) □ *Irv is after you, did you know?* □ *Tell Ervine to go catch a speeder or something.*

Irvine Go to **Irv**.

I smell you. *sent.* I understand you. □ *I smell you. No need to go on and on.* □ *That's enough. I smell you. Don't go on and on.*

It cuts both ways. Go to **It cuts two ways**.

It cuts two ways. AND **It cuts both ways.** *sent.* There are two sides, you know;

There are two people involved.; You are being selfish and one-sided. ☐ *You have to help, too. It cuts two ways.* ☐ *It cuts two ways, you know. It can't always all be my fault.*

It don't make (me) no nevermind. *phr.* It doesn't matter to me. ☐ *Go ahead! Do it! It don't make me no nevermind.*

It's been a slice! *sent.* It's been good. ☐ *Good-bye and thank you. It's been a slice!* ☐ *It's been a slice. I hope to see you again some day.*

(It's) not my dog. *phr.* It's not my problem. ☐ *So what! It doesn't matter! Not my dog.*

itsy-bitsy Go to itty-bitty.

It's your funeral! *exclam.* If you do it, you will suffer all the consequences! ☐ *Go if you want. It's your funeral!* ☐ *Go ahead, swim to Cuba. It's your funeral!*

itty-bitty AND **itsy-bitsy** ['ɪdi'bɪdi AND 'ɪtsɪ'bɪtsɪ] *mod. tiny.* ☐ *What an itty-bitty car!* ☐ *Give me an itsy-bitsy piece. I'm on a diet.*

It will be your ass! *sent.* It will cost you your ass!; You will pay dearly! (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *If you do that again, it will be your ass!* ☐ *It will be your ass if it isn't done right this time.*

I've been there. *sent.* I know from experience what you are talking about. ☐ *I*

know what you mean. I've been there. ☐ *I've been there. You don't need to spell it out for me.*

I('ve) gotta fly. Go to I've got to fly.

I've got to fly. AND **I('ve) gotta fly.** *sent.* I have to leave right now. ☐ *Time's up. I've got to fly.* ☐ *I've gotta fly. See you later.*

I've got to split. *sent.* I have to leave now. ☐ *See you later. I've got to split.* ☐ *I've got to split. Call my service.*

ivories ['aɪvɪz] **1.** *n.* the teeth. (See also **china**.) ☐ *I gotta go brush my ivories.* ☐ *Look at those nice white ivories!* **2.** *n.* piano keys. (From when piano keys were made from real elephant ivory.) ☐ *She can really bang those ivories.* ☐ *I'd say she has mastered the ivories.*

ivory tower *n.* an imaginary location where aloof academics are said to reside and work. ☐ *Why don't you come out of your ivory tower and see what the world is really like?* ☐ *Better yet, stay in your ivory tower.*

IYHO *interj.* in your humble opinion. (Initialism. Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud. See also **IM(H)O**.) ☐ *Things are in bad shape IYHO, but I think they are great.* ☐ *IYHO, everyone else is wrong!*

J

J. AND jay *n.* a marijuana cigarette; marijuana. (Drugs. From the initial letter of joint.) □ *Toss me a jay, huh?* □ *A jay is two clams.*

jabber ['dʒæbɜː] **1.** *n.* mindless chatter. □ *Stop all this jabber and get to work.* □ *I've heard enough of your jabber.* **2.** *in.* to chatter. □ *Come over and we'll jabber about things over coffee.* □ *What are those kids jabbering about?* **3.** *n.* a drug addict who injects drugs. (Drugs.) □ *The guy's a jabber. Look at those tracks.* □ *These scars show that the victim was a jabber.*

jab pop ['dʒæb'pɒp] *in.* to inject (drugs). (Drugs.) □ *Gert was jab popping when she died.* □ *Jab popping is a ticket to cement city.*

jack 1. *n.* money. □ *I don't have the jack for a deal like that.* □ *How much jack will it take?* **2.** *n.* tobacco for rolling cigarettes. □ *You got some jack I can bum?* □ *I don't use jack at all.* **3.** *n.* anything. (Probably from jackshit.) □ *This new television program isn't worth jack!* □ *Your last idea wasn't worth jack. Do I pay you to come up with stuff that bad?* **4.** *n.* a strange person; an annoying person. (Possibly from jackass or jackshit.) □ *Wally, stop acting like such a jack!* □ *Ted is a total jack. He doesn't know his head from a hole in the ground.*

jackal *n.* a low and devious person. □ *You are nothing but a slimy jackal!* □ *What does that jackal want here?*

jack around *in.* to waste time; to mess around. □ *Stop jacking around and get busy.* □ *The gang was jacking around and broke your window.*

jacked Go to jacked up.

jacked (out) *mod.* angry; annoyed. □ *Boy was that old guy jacked out at you.* □ *Yup, he was jacked all right.*

jacked up 1. AND **jacked** *mod.* excited. □ *Don was really jacked up about the election.* □ *The gang was jacked up and ready to party.* **2.** *mod.* arrested. (Underworld.) □ *What time did Sam get himself jacked up?* □ *He was jacked up at midnight.* **3.** *mod.* upset; stressed. □ *I was really jacked up by the bad news.* □ *Don't get jacked up. It'll work out.* **4.** *mod.* high on drugs. □ *He's jacked up, and he may have ODed.* □ *The poor kid is jacked up most of the time now.*

jack off Go to beat off.

jack-shit 1. *n.* a stupid and worthless person. (Usually refers to a male. Usually objectionable.) □ *Don't be such a stupid jack-shit!* □ *What a jack-shit! Not a brain in his head!* **2.** *n.* anything; anything at all. (Always in a negative expression.) □ *This whole thing isn't worth jack-shit!* □ *I wouldn't give you jack-shit for that!*

jack someone around *tv.* to hassle someone; to harass someone. (See also jerk someone around.) □ *The IRS is jacking my brother around.* □ *The boss was jacking around Gert, so she just walked out.*

jack someone up 1. *tv.* to motivate someone; to stimulate someone to do something. □ *I'll jack him up and try to get some action out of him.* □ *What does it take to jack up that lazy guy?* **2.** *tv.* to beat or stab someone. (Underworld.) □ *They really jacked up Bobby. He almost died.*

jack something up 1. *tv.* to raise the price of something. □ *They kept jacking the price up with various charges, so I walked.* □ *How can they jack up the published*

price? **2.** *tv.* to mess something up. □ *Who jacked up the papers on my desk?*

jack-ups *n.* capsules of a barbiturate drug. (Drugs.) □ *Walter took a few jack-ups and went on to work.* □ *Gert took her jack-ups with whiskey. She's gonna get pifted.*

JAFDIP *acronym.* just another fucking day in paradise. (A sarcastic expression for a bad day or a day in an unhappy situation. Usually objectionable.) □ *Everything is going wrong. What do you expect. JAFDIP!*

jag 1. *n.* a Jaguar automobile. □ *What I really want is a jag.* □ *How much will a jag set me back?* **2.** *n.* a drinking bout; a prolonged state of alcohol or drug intoxication. □ *Is he off on another jag, or is this the same one?* □ *One more jag will kill her. Try to keep her away from the stuff.* **3.** *n.* a prolonged state of emotional excess. □ *I've been on a jag and can't get my work done.* □ *She's off on a jag again.* **4.** *n.* a drug rush. (Drugs.) □ *This stuff has no jag at all.* □ *How big a jag do you want?*

jagged *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Man, is that chick jagged!* □ *Let's go out and get jagged.*

jag off *Go to beat off.*

jagster *n.* someone on a drinking spree; a heavy drinker. □ *Gary is a typical jagster. Drunk for a week and sober for three.* □ *There's not a lot that a doctor can do for a jagster like that.*

jake 1. *n.* a toilet; a men's restroom. □ *Where's the jake?* □ *The jake is around the corner.* **2.** *n.* a stupid person, usually a male. □ *Some loony jake told me we are going the wrong way.* □ *Who's the jake in the plaid pants?* **3.** *mod.* okay; satisfactory. □ *All right? Then everything is jake with me.* □ *If you get here by nine, it'll be just jake.* **4.** *n.* illegal liquor. (Prohibition.) □ *You know where I can get some jake?* □ *Why, there's no jake around here. There's a law against it, you know.*

jam 1. *n.* a problem; trouble. □ *I hear you're in a bad jam.* □ *Well, it's not a bad jam.* **2.** *in.* [for musicians] to play together, improvising. □ *They jammed until the neighbors complained.* □ *Come over and*

let's jam, okay? **3.** *tv. & in.* to force a basketball into the basket; to **slam dunk** a basketball. □ *He tried to jam it, but blew it.* □ *Andy broke the rim by trying to jam.*

4. *n.* an act of forcing a basketball into the basket; a **slam dunk**. □ *The jam didn't work, and Fred's team rebounded the ball.* □ *One more jam for Wilbur!* **5.** *in.* to depart. □ *It's time to jam. Let's go.* □ *I gotta jam, Tom. See ya.*

jambled ['dʒæmbld] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Jerry was too jambled to stand up.* □ *Let's go out and get good and jambled.*

jammed ['dʒæmd] **1.** *mod.* arrested. (Underworld.) □ *Willie got jammed for speeding.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I'm a little jammed, but I think I can still drive.* **3.** *Go to jammed up.* **4.** *mod.* upset; annoyed. □ *He's really jammed because he flunked the test.*

jammed up 1. *AND jammed* *mod.* in trouble. □ *He got himself jammed up with the law.* □ *I'm sort of jammed and need some help.* **2.** *mod.* gluttled; full of food or drink. □ *I'm jammed up. I can't eat another bite.* □ *After dinner, I am so jammed up that I need a nap.*

jamming *mod.* excellent. □ *This music is really jamming.* □ *What a jamming class session.*

jampacked *AND jam-packed* *mod.* full. □ *This day has been jampacked with surprises.* □ *The box was jam-packed with goodies.*

jan [dʒæn] *n.* January in the financial futures markets. (Securities markets.) □ *The bean futures for jan fell out of bed yesterday.* □ *Are these figures jan or March?*

jane 1. *n.* marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *You got any jane?* □ *Bart has jane coming out of his ears.* **2.** *n.* a women's restroom; the **ruth**. □ *Where's the jane around here?* □ *The jane is upstairs.*

Jane Doe ['dʒen 'do] *n.* a general term for a woman. (The mate of **John Doe**.) □ *A Jane Doe was pulled out of the river this morning.* □ *There was an accident involving a Jane Doe.*

Jane Q. Public ['dʒen 'kju 'pəblɪk] *n.* a general term for a female representative of the public. (The mate of **John Q. Public**.)
 □ *And what does Jane Q. Public think about all this?* □ *Jane Q. Public doesn't care at all.*

jarhead *n.* a U.S. Marine. □ *The jarheads got there first and let them know what was what.* □ *Do you want to spend a few years as a gravel-pounder or a jarhead? You get free clothes with both jobs.*

java ['dʒavə] *n.* coffee. □ *How about a cup of java?* □ *Some black java would be real good.*

jaw 1. *n.* a chat. □ *Come over for a jaw this weekend.* □ *I could use a good jaw with my old friend.* **2.** *in.* to chat. □ *Stop jawing and get to work.* □ *Come over, and we can jaw for a while.* **3.** Go to **jaw(bone)**.

jaw(bone) *tv.* to try to persuade someone verbally; to apply verbal pressure to someone. □ *They tried to jawbone me into doing it.* □ *Don't jaw me. I won't do it.*

jay Go to **J**.

jazzed (up) 1. *mod.* alert; having a positive state of mind. □ *I am jazzed up and ready to face life.* □ *Those guys were jazzed and ready for the game.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Dave was a bit jazzed up, but not terribly.* □ *Gert was jazzed out of her mind.* **3.** *mod.* enhanced; with something added; having been made more enticing. □ *The third act was jazzed up with a little skin.* □ *It was jazzed enough to have the police chief around asking questions.* **4.** *mod.* forged or altered. (Underworld. See also **tinseled**.) □ *This check is jazzed. Deep six it!* □ *Better not try to cash a jazzed check at this bank.*

jazz someone or something up *tv.* to make someone or something more exciting or sexy; to make someone or something appeal more to contemporary and youthful tastes. □ *Let's jazz this up a little bit.* □ *They jazzed up the old girl till she looked like a teenager.* □ *Don't jazz up the first number too much.*

jazzy ['dʒæzi] *mod.* stimulating; appealing.
 □ *That's a jazzy sweater you got.* □ *He's a real jazzy guy.*

JCL Go to **Johnnie-come-lately**.

JD 1. *n.* Jack Daniels whiskey. (Initialism. Jack Daniels is a protected trade name for a brand of whiskey.) □ *He poured a little JD into a glass, set it aside, and drank all of what was in the bottle.* □ *Then he poured the glass of JD back into the bottle.* **2.** *n.* a juvenile delinquent. (Initialism.) □ *Some JD broke my window.* □ *The JDs are taking over the neighborhood.*

J. Edgar (Hoover) ['dʒe 'edgə ('huvə)] *n.* the police; federal officers. (Underworld.) □ *Max got out of town when he heard that the J. Edgars were on his tail.* □ *Well, J. Edgar Hoover, looks like you got me!*

Jeepers(-creepers)! ['dʒi:pəz 'kri:pəz] *exclam.* Wow! □ *Jeepers-creepers! I'm sorry!* □ *Jeepers, she's wonderful!*

Jeez! Go to **Jesus!**

jeff [dʒef] **1.** *n.* a Caucasian; a white person. (All senses originally black. From Jefferson Davis. Potentially derogatory.) □ *The jeffs are coming around more often.* *What's up?* □ *Those jeffs like you, man.* **2.** *n.* a boring or square person. □ *That jeff bugs me.* □ *Don't be a jeff, man!* **3.** *tv.* to persuade or deceive someone. □ *The guy tried to jeff me!* □ *You're just jeffing us!* **4.** *in.* to gentrify; to take on the ways of whites. □ *Cool it man; stop your jeffing.* □ *I'm not jeffing.*

jel [dʒel] *n.* a stupid person. (Someone who has gelatin where brains ought to be.) □ *The guy's a jel. Forget him.* □ *Oh, Wallace, don't act like such a jel.*

jellies Go to **jelly shoes**.

jelly babies *n.* an amphetamine tablet or capsule. (Drugs.) □ *You got any jelly babies?* □ *Are there any jelly babies in this neighborhood?*

jelly sandals Go to **jelly shoes**.

jelly shoes **AND jellies; jelly sandals** *n.* colorful shoes made from soft, flexible plastic. (From *jelly bean*.) □ *It's too cold*

to wear jelly shoes. □ *Jellies will crack in this weather.*

jerk *n.* a stupid or worthless person. (Now both males and females.) □ *What a loony jerk!* □ *You are such a classic jerk!*

jerk around *in.* to waste time. □ *Stop jerking around and get to work.* □ *All you do is jerk around. Get a move on!*

jerker **1.** *n.* a drunkard; an alcoholic. (Because of visible shaking.) □ *Some of the jerkers have the DTs.* **2.** *n.* a heavy user of cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *The new guy is a jerker. You can see it in his eyes.* □ *The jerkers who need immediate treatment are sent from ER up to detox.* **3.** *n.* a male who masturbates habitually. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He's a jerker. He doesn't need women.*

jerk off *in.* to masturbate. (See also **beat off**. Usually objectionable.) □ *That kid spends all his time jerking off.*

jerks *n.* the delirium tremens. □ *The old guy has the jerks.* □ *What can they do for the jerks—other than hospitalize the victims?*

jerk someone around **AND** **jerk someone over** *tv.* to hassle someone; to waste someone's time. □ *Stop jerking me around and give me my money back.* □ *They sure like to jerk around people in that music shop.*

jerk someone over *Go to* **jerk someone around.**

jerkwater *mod.* backwoods; insignificant. (See also **one-horse town**.) □ *I'm from a little jerkwater town in the Midwest.* □ *He's sort of the jerkwater type.*

jerry-built *mod.* carelessly and awkwardly built. □ *This is an old, jerry-built house, but we love it.* □ *The lawyer's case was jerry-built, but the jury bought it anyway.*

Jesus! **AND** **Jeez!** ['dʒizəs **AND** 'dʒiz] *exclam.* Wow! (Use caution with *Jesus* in profane senses.) □ *Jesus, what a jerk!* □ *Jesus! I'm late.*

Jesus boots *n.* sandals. (Use caution with *Jesus* in profane senses.) □ *Jesus boots are*

okay in the summer. □ *Who is the kook in Jesus boots?*

jet *in.* to leave a place rapidly; to go somewhere fast. □ *I will jet to Tom's house and show him these pictures.* □ *Let's jet. It's late.*

jet-set(ters) *n.* young and wealthy people who fly by jet from resort to resort. □ *The jet-set doesn't come here anymore.* □ *Jet-setters have turned to other kinds of excitement.*

jibe [dʒaɪb] *in.* to agree; to be in harmony. (See also **track**.) □ *Your story just doesn't jibe with the facts.* □ *These things just don't jibe.*

jiffy ['dʒɪfi] *n.* a very short time. (See also **in a jiff(y)**.) □ *That was a pretty long jiffy I had to wait!* □ *Just a jiffy, I'll be there.*

jig [dʒɪg] *tv. & in.* to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He's telling everybody that he didn't jig her.* □ *She's claiming they jiggered twice.*

jigger **1.** *n.* a drink of whiskey. (The standard term for a small container used for measuring the right amount of liquor for a drink.) □ *How about another jigger of that shine?* □ *Okay, I'll have a jigger.* **2.** *n.* a cigarette. □ *You got a jigger I can bum?* □ *Here's a pack of jiggers. Help yourself.* **3.** *n.* a gadget. □ *Toss me one of those copper jiggers there in the box.* □ *This kind of jigger?*

jiggered **1.** *mod.* damned. □ *Get that jiggered cat out of here!* □ *Well, I'll be jiggered!* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **jigger**.) □ *Todd was more than just a little jiggered.* □ *Bill was too jiggered to stand up.*

The **jig is up.** *phr.* the game is ended; the scheme has been found out. □ *Okay, you kids. The jig's up!* □ *Who says the jig is up?*

jillion ['dʒɪljən] *n.* an enormous, indefinite number. □ *I've got a jillion things to tell you.* □ *This car cost me about a jillion bucks.*

jimmy *n.* the penis. (From the proper name *Jimmy* or from the name for a short crowbar.) □ *He made some joke about his jimmy, but nobody laughed.* □ *The*

streaker covered his jimmy and ran across the field.

jimmy cap *n.* a condom. (Streets. See also **jimmy**.) □ *You better get a jimmy cap on that.*

jingle **1.** *n.* a buzz or tingle from alcohol. □ *He had a little jingle, but he wasn't even tipsy.* □ *This stuff gives me a little jingle, but that's all.* **2.** *n.* a drinking bout. □ *Jack was out on a jingle all night.* □ *The guys planned a big jingle for Friday.* **3.** *n.* a call on the telephone. (See also **buzz**.) □ *Give me a jingle when you get into town.* □ *I got a jingle from Gert today.*

jingled *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She was a little jingled, but not worse than that.* □ *Let's go out and get good and jingled.*

jingler *mod.* a drunkard; an alcoholic. □ *The jinglers have taken over the streets.* □ *Where do all these jinglers sleep?*

jism AND **chism**; **gism**; **gizzum**; **jizz**; **jiz-zum** *n.* semen. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Do you think jism is alive?* □ *This weird doctor took a sample of my gizzum and put it on a microscope slide.*

the **jitters** ['dʒɪdɜːz] *n.* the nervous shakes. □ *I get the jitters when I have to talk in public.* □ *Too much booze gives me the jitters.*

jive [dʒaɪv] **1.** *n.* drugs; marijuana. (Drugs. See also **gyve**.) □ *Stop using all that jive all the time.* □ *That jive is gonna be the end of you.* **2.** *n.* back talk. □ *Cut the jive, man!* □ *Don't you give me any of that jive!* **3.** *n.* lies; deception; nonsense. □ *No more of your jive. Talk straight or don't talk.* □ *I've listened to your jive for years. You'll never change.* **4.** *mod.* deceptive; insincere. □ *Don't give me all those jive excuses.* □ *I listened to her little jive speech and then fired her.*

jive-ass *mod.* foolish. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You can tell that jive-ass jerk to forget it.* □ *Don't pay any attention to that jive-ass jeff.*

jivestick AND **gyvestick** *n.* a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *Bart flipped a jivestick to Bruno and smiled.* □ *He had a gyvestick stuck behind his ear.*

jive talk *n.* slang; contemporary fad words. □ *I like to hear jive talk. It's like trying to work a puzzle.* □ *He stands by the window with a pad of paper and takes down the jive talk he hears.*

jive turkey *n.* a stupid person. □ *What jive turkey made this mess?* □ *Get that jive turkey out of here!*

jizz Go to **jism**.

jizzum Go to **jism**.

job **1.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *What does this old job want besides a drink?* □ *Give the job a drink and make somebody happy today.* **2.** *n.* a theft; a criminal act. (Police and underworld. See also **pull a job**.) □ *Bart and Lefty planned a bank job over in Adamsville.* □ *Who did that job at the old mansion last week?*

jobber AND **jobby** ['dʒɒbə AND 'dʒɒbi] **1.** *n.* a gadget. □ *Where is the little jobber I use to tighten this?* □ *Do you mean this little jobber?* **2.** *n.* a bowel movement. (Juvenile.) □ *Don't forget to jobber, Jimmy.* □ *Mommy, I gotta jobby.*

jobby Go to **jobber**.

jobber as a sudge ['dʒɒbə æz ə 'sʌdʒ] *mod.* sober. (A deliberate spoonerism on **sober as a judge**.) □ *Me? I'm as jobber as a sudge.* □ *What I mean to shay is that I am shertainly as jobber as a sudge!*

jock **1.** *n.* an athlete. (See also **strap**; **jockstrap**. Now of either sex.) □ *The jocks are all at practice now.* □ *She's dating a jock who has to be home by ten.* **2.** *n.* an athletic supporter (garment). □ *Somebody dropped a jock in the hall.* □ *Whose jock is that out there on Tracy's clothesline?*

jock(e)y *n.* an addictive drug. (Drugs. Because such a drug rides one like a jockey rides a horse.) □ *That jockey rode her for years.* □ *She fought that jocky, and it finally won.*

jockstrap **1.** AND **jockstrapper** *n.* an athlete. (From the name of the supporting garment worn by male athletes.) □ *The jockstrappers are all at practice now.* □ *Here comes one of the best jockstrappers on the team.* **2.** *in.* to work as a professional athlete. □ *I jockstrapped for a few years*

and then lost my interest in it. □ I made a lot of money jockstrapping.

jockstrapper Go to jockstrap.

joe 1. *n.* coffee. □ *How about a cup of joe?* □ *Yeah, a cup of black joe would be great.*

2. *n.* an ordinary man. □ *What does the everyday joe make of all this nonsense?* □ *Do you know even one everyday joe?*

Joe Blow AND **Joe Doakes** ['dʒo 'blo AND 'dʒo 'doks] *n.* a typical or average male American citizen. □ *What do you think Joe Blow really thinks about all this?* □ *According to surveys, Joe Doakes can hardly read.*

Joe Citizen ['dʒo 'sɪtəzən] *n.* a general term for a male representative of the public. (See also **John Q. Public**.) □ *Joe Citizen hasn't spoken yet.* □ *Joe Citizen is watching TV.*

Joe College *n.* a typical or average male college student. □ *You sure look like Joe College from the good old days.* □ *Joe College never had a computer or a laser-powered record player in the good old days.*

Joe Doakes Go to Joe Blow.

Joe Schmo ['dʒo 'ʃmo] *n.* a jerk. □ *Joe Schmo doesn't really care.* □ *Let's say Joe Schmo wants a new car. What does he do?*

Joe Six-pack *n.* the average guy who sits around drinking beer by the six-pack. □ *Joe Six-pack likes that kind of television program.* □ *All Joe Six-pack wants is a good game on TV.*

john 1. *n.* a toilet; a bathroom. □ *Somebody's in the john.* □ *Is there another john around here?* **2.** *n.* a man. □ *Some john was around asking for you.* □ *This john came up and asked if I had seen the girl in a picture he had.* **3.** *n.* a prostitute's customer. □ *She led the john into an alley where Lefty robbed him.* □ *The john looked a little embarrassed.* **4.** *n.* a victim of a crime or deception; a sucker. □ *The john went straight to the cops and told the whole thing.* □ *Clobber the john a good one when he turns around.*

John Doe ['dʒən 'do] *n.* a general term for a man. (The mate of **Jane Doe**.) □ *John Doe was the name at the bottom of the*

check. □ *Oh, you mean John Doe isn't his real name?*

John Hancock *n.* one's signature. (Refers to the signature of John Hancock, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.) □ *Put your John Hancock right here, if you don't mind.* □ *Mr. Wilson's John Hancock is worth about thirty million.*

Johnnie-come-lately AND **JCL** *n.* someone new to a situation or status. □ *This Johnnie-come-lately doesn't know what it was like in the old days.* □ *I'm just a Johnnie-come-lately, but I'm eager.*

Johnny-be-good *n.* a police officer. □ *Here comes Johnny-be-good, so be good.* □ *Johnny-be-good went through my pockets.*

John(ny) Law *n.* a law officer. □ *Johnny Law is supposed to be your friend.* □ *John Law showed up with a piece of paper that says you are in trouble.*

John Q. Public ['dʒən 'kju 'pəblɪk] *n.* a general term for a male representative of the public. (The mate of **Jane Q. Public**.) □ *John Q. Public doesn't seem to like the new tax forms.* □ *John Q. Public tends not to like regimentation.*

johnson 1. *n.* a thing. (See also **jones**.) □ *What is this johnson about you snitching?* □ *He's got this smack johnson riding him.* **2.** *n.* a penis. (Again, a thing. Usually objectionable.) □ *Zip up, or your johnson'll get out.* □ *He covered his johnson and ran for the dressing room.*

joined at the hip *mod.* closely connected; as thick as thieves. (As Siamese twins are joined.) □ *Those two are joined at the hip.* □ *They are always together.* □ *Sam and Martha are joined at the hip.*

joint 1. *n.* a tavern; a speakeasy. (Prohibition.) □ *Lefty has his own joint over on Fourth Street.* □ *I wanted to open a joint, but I don't have the cash.* **2.** *n.* a low-class establishment; a dive. □ *Let's get out of this crummy joint.* □ *This joint bores me.* **3.** *n.* a tobacco cigarette. □ *You got a filter joint on you?* □ *Why are beggars being choosers about their joints all of a sudden?* **4.** *n.* a marijuana cigarette. □ *He always has a joint with him.* □ *The joint*

wasn't enough to carry him very long. **5.** *n.* a penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He told some joke about a joint, but people just turned away.* □ *He covered his joint and ran for the dressing room.* **6.** *n.* a jail; a prison. (Underworld.) □ *Lefty just got out of the joint.* □ *He learned a lot in the joint that he was anxious to try out.*

joke *tv.* to tease someone; to make fun of someone. □ *Everybody was joking my roommate because of her accent.* □ *Don't joke me, man. I do the best I can.*

joker *n.* a man; a guy. □ *Who was that joker I saw you with last night?* □ *Some joker was at the door selling something.*

jollies *n.* a charge or thrill; a sexual thrill; kick. □ *He got his jollies from skin flicks.* □ *This gyvestick gives Ernie all the jollies he wants.*

jollop ['dʒəlɒp] *n.* a drink of liquor □ *She poured a big jollop into each of the glasses and then drank them one by one.* □ *"Have another jollop," she said to herself.*

jolly *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; tipsy. □ *Everybody was jolly and singing by the time the food arrived.* □ *Kelly was a little too jolly, and her sister told her to slow down.*

jolly-well *mod.* certainly. □ *You jolly-well better be there on time.* □ *I jolly-well will.*

jolt **1.** *n.* the degree of potency of the alcohol in liquor. □ *It doesn't have much of a jolt.* □ *Watch out. This stuff has quite a jolt.* **2.** *n.* a drink of strong liquor. □ *Can you give me a little jolt of shine?* □ *He knocked back a jolt and asked for another.* **3.** *n.* a portion or dose of a drug. (Drugs.) □ *How about a little jolt as a taste?* □ *A jolt costs.* **4.** *n.* the rush from an injection of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *This stuff doesn't have much jolt.* □ *What kind of jolt do you want?*

jones **1.** *n.* a thing. (See also **johnson**.) □ *There's a big turf jones down on the corner.* □ *This get-rich-quick jones will land you in the joint, Lefty.* **2.** *n.* a drug habit; drug addiction. (Drugs. See also **skag jones**.) □ *That jones is really riding that guy.* □ *He's got a real bad jones with that dust.* **3.** *n.* a desire for someone or some-

thing; a craving. □ *He has a real jones for chocolate.* **4.** *tv.* to crave something. □ *He's jonesing chocolate pretty bad.*

joog [dʒuɡ] *tv.* to stab someone. (Prisons.) □ *Lefty jooged the screw.* □ *Man, who'd you joog?*

jork *n.* a worthless person; a combination jerk and dork. □ *What a jork! How stupid can you get?*

josh [dʒɔʃ] *tv.* & *in.* to tease someone; to kid someone. □ *Stop joshing. Be serious.* □ *You're just joshing me!*

joybox *n.* a piano. (See also **tinklebox**.) □ *Can you play this joybox at all?* □ *Your joybox needs some tuning.*

joy dust Go to joy flakes.

joy flakes AND **joy dust** *n.* powdered or crystallized cocaine. (Drugs. See also **crack**.) □ *Is joy flakes the same as crack?* □ *Joy dust is sort of crack without the press coverage.*

joy juice *n.* liquor; beer. □ *Joy juice makes Ted sad.* □ *Can I pour some more of this joy juice?*

joy ride **1.** *n.* a drinking bout or party. □ *There's a little joy ride over at Tom's.* □ *Some joy ride! They ran out of booze.* **2.** *n.* a state of euphoria from drug use. (Drugs.) □ *This stuff is a real joy ride.* □ *Ernie's on a little joy ride right now and can't come to the phone.* **3.** *n.* a ride where the passenger does not return alive. (Underworld.) □ *Mr. Big wanted Sam to take Max on a joy ride.* □ *You're going on a little joy ride with me. Now, get moving.*

joystick **1.** *n.* the vertical lever used to control smaller aircraft. □ *She pulled back on the joystick and the plane took off.* **2.** *n.* an electronic control device for computer games and other program control. (From sense 1.) □ *The ship's first officer used a tiny joystick to control the computer program that guided the ship to the next port.* **3.** *n.* the erect penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He couldn't seem to stop playing pocket pool with his joystick.*

joy water *n.* liquor; strong liquor. □ *How about some more joy water?* □ *No more joy water for me, thanks.*

jug 1. *n.* jail. (Usually with *the*.) □ *Take it easy. I don't want to end up in the jug.* □ *A couple of days in the jug would do you fine.* **2.** *n.* a jug of liquor; a jar of **moonshine**; a can of beer. □ *Where's my jug? I need a swig.* □ *Pass her the jug, Sam.* **3.** **AND jug up** *in.* to drink heavily. (See also **jigger**.) □ *Let's jug up and have a good time.* □ *We jugged till about noon and then went to sleep.* **4.** *n.* a glass vial of liquid amphetamine intended for injection. (Drugs.) □ *His mother found a jug and took it to a drugstore to find out what it was.* □ *Any kid can get jugs just by asking around.* **5.** *n.* the jugular vein, used for the injection of narcotics. (Drugs.) □ *He's even got scars on his jugs.* **6.** *n.* a breast. (Usually plural. Usually objectionable.) □ *Look at the jugs on that babe!*

jugged (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I'm not jugged up. I'm not even tipsy.* □ *Fred was too jugged to drive home.*

jigger *n.* an alcoholic; a drunkard. □ *A couple of old jiggers sat in the alley, trying to figure out how to get some more.* □ *He's a jigger, and he will never change.*

jughead 1. *n.* a stupid person. □ *You can be such a jughead!* □ *I guess I'm sort of a jughead lately.* **2.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *Buy the jughead a drink. That'll shut him up.* □ *You don't see jugheads at parties as much as you used to.*

jug up *Go to jug.*

jug wine *n.* cheap wine that is sold in volume, usually in gallon jugs. □ *We're having a little do tomorrow—nothing special. A little jug wine and chips.* □ *Can you stop by the juice shop and nick some jug wine?*

juice 1. *n.* liquor; wine. □ *Let's go get some juice and get stewed.* □ *You got any juice in your room?* **2.** *in.* to drink heavily. □ *Both of them were really juicing.* □ *Stop juicing and listen to me.* **3.** *n.* electricity. □ *The juice has been off since dawn.* □ *Turn on the juice, and let's see if it runs.* **4.** *n.* energy; power; political influence. □ *The boss has the juice with the board to make the necessary changes.* □ *Dave left the president's staff because he just didn't have the juice anymore to be useful.* **5.** *n.*

orange juice futures market. (Securities markets. Usually with *the*.) □ *The juice opened a little high today, but fell quickly under profit taking.* □ *It's time to sell the juice and buy bellies.* **6.** *n.* anabolic steroids. □ *Fred used too much juice and is growing witch tits.*

juice freak *n.* someone who prefers alcohol to drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Freddy is a juice freak. He won't touch dolls.* □ *Juice freaks end up with addictions, too.*

juicehead **AND juicer** *n.* a heavy drinker; a drunkard. □ *Hank is turning into a regular juicehead.* □ *The tavern is always filled with juicers on Friday night.*

juice house *n.* a liquor store. □ *Would you stop by the juice house for some foam?* □ *The juice house was held up last night.*

juice joint *n.* a liquor establishment; a speakeasy. (Prohibition.) □ *His grandfather ran a juice joint during prohibition.* □ *The cops raided the juice joints over and over.*

juicer *Go to juicehead.*

juice racket *n.* a racket where exorbitant interest is charged on loans. (Underworld.) □ *The cops got one of the leaders of the juice racket.* □ *The juice racket is no picnic, I guess.*

juice something back *tv.* to drink alcohol. □ *He's been juicing it back since noon.* □ *Juice back your drink, and let's go.*

juicy *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Mary is just a little bit juicy, I'm afraid.* □ *She's so juicy she can't stand up!*

jump 1. *tv.* to attack someone. (General slang.) □ *The gang jumped the old man and robbed him.* □ *The dope addicts will jump anybody for a few bucks to buy drugs.* **2.** *tv.* to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He was so horny, I just knew he was gonna try to jump me.*

jump bail *tv.* to fail to show up in court and forfeit bail. □ *Lefty jumped bail, and now he's a fugitive.* □ *Once you've jumped bail, everybody is after you.*

jump smooth *in.* to give up illegal activities; to become **straight**. (Underworld.)
☐ *Freddy jumped smooth just in time.* ☐ *After a night in the junk tank, I knew I had to jump smooth.*

jump-start 1. *n.* the act of starting a car by getting power—through jumper cables—from another car. ☐ *I got a jump-start from a friend.* ☐ *Who can give me a jump-start?* **2.** *tv.* to start a car by getting power from another car. ☐ *I jump-started her car for her.* ☐ *I can't jump-start your car. My battery is low.*

jump-start someone *tv.* to get someone going or functioning. ☐ *I need to jump-start Bill early in the morning to get him going in time to get on the road by a decent hour.*

jump (street) *n.* the beginning; the start (of something). (Prisons and streets.) ☐ *I knew from jump that you were going to be trouble.* ☐ *Way back at jump street, I spotted you as a troublemaker.*

jump the gun *tv.* to start too soon; to start before the starting signal. ☐ *Don't jump the gun again. Wait till I tell you.* ☐ *The secretary jumped the gun and gave out the letters too soon.*

jumpy *mod.* nervous. ☐ *I'm a little jumpy today, and I don't know why.* ☐ *Now, don't be jumpy. Everything will be all right.*

jungle *n.* a vicious area of confusion; the real world. ☐ *The place is a jungle out there. You'll grow up fast out there.* ☐ *Once you're out in that jungle, you'll appreciate home more.*

jungled *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; affected by **jungle juice**. ☐ *Pete is a little jungled.* ☐ *He was jungled before he came here.*

jungle juice *n.* homemade liquor; any strong liquor. ☐ *This jungle juice will knock you for a loop.* ☐ *Jungle juice will do in a pinch.*

jungle mouth *n.* a case of very bad breath; breath like the rotting jungle floor. ☐ *My husband woke up with jungle mouth, and I could hardly stand to be around him.* ☐ *Wow, Wayne really has a bad case of jungle mouth.*

juniper juice *n.* gin. (From the juniper berry flavoring of gin.) ☐ *He just lived for his daily ounce of juniper juice.* ☐ *Tracy used to like juniper juice before she went on the dust.*

junk 1. *n.* heroin; drugs. ☐ *Is Sam still on junk? It will kill him.* **2.** *n.* a Caucasian. (Rude and derogatory.) ☐ *Those cops are junk and they hate my guts.*

junk bond *n.* a low-rated corporate bond that pays higher interest because of greater risk. (Parallel to **junk food**.) ☐ *Don't put all your money into junk bonds.* ☐ *Junk bonds pay a lot of interest.*

junk fax *n.* an unwanted and irritating fax message. ☐ *We got nothing but a whole pile of junk faxes today.* ☐ *I wish they would outlaw junk faxes.*

junk food *n.* food that is typically high in fats and salt and low in nutritional value; food from a fast-food restaurant. ☐ *Stay away from junk food. It's bad for you.* ☐ *Junk food tastes good no matter how greasy it is.*

junk heap *n.* a dilapidated old car; a dilapidated house or other structure. ☐ *They lived in that junk heap for thirty years and never painted it.* ☐ *Why don't you fix up that junk heap?*

junkie AND **junky** ['dʒʌŋki] **1.** *n.* a drug dealer. (Drugs.) ☐ *Bart is a junkie.* ☐ *Junkies should be put into the jug.* **2.** *n.* a drug user; an addict. (Drugs.) ☐ *The junkies can be helped, you know.* ☐ *Junkies have to steal to support their habits.*

Junk it! *exclam.* Throw it away! ☐ *This is taking up too much space. Junk it!*

junk mail *n.* unwanted or annoying advertising mail. ☐ *All we got was junk mail today.* ☐ *I read everything that comes in the mail, even the junk mail.*

junk squad *n.* police who enforce the narcotics laws. (Underworld.) ☐ *The junk squad has more than it can handle trying to keep up with the hard stuff.* ☐ *We need a bigger junk squad in this part of town.*

junk tank *n.* a jail cell where addicts are kept. (See also **drunk tank**.) ☐ *That junk*

tank is a very dangerous place. □ Nobody sleeps in the junk tank.

just off the boat *mod.* freshly immigrated and perhaps gullible and naive. (See also **FOB**.) □ *I'm not just off the boat. I know what's going on.* □ *He may act like he's just off the boat, but he's all right.*

just the ticket *n.* just the perfect thing. □ *This little jigger is just the ticket.* □ *A nice cup of tea will be just the ticket.*

just what the doctor ordered *n.* exactly what is needed. □ *This nice cool beer is just what the doctor ordered.* □ *A nice chat*

with friends is just what the doctor ordered.

juvie ['dʒuvi] **1.** *n.* a police officer concerned with juveniles. (Underworld.) □ *I'm a juvie in the Shakespeare district.* □ *The juvies have to know juvenile law cold.* **2.** *n.* a youth; a teenager under age eighteen. (Underworld.) □ *I work with juvies a lot. I try to get them back on the track.* □ *They brought in a juvie and charged him with shoplifting.* **3.** *mod.* juvenile. □ *That was sort of a juvie thing to do.* □ *Don't be so juvie.* □ *She still has a lot of juvie attitudes.*

K

K. [ke] **1.** AND **kee; key; ki** [ki] *n.* a kilogram of cannabis. (Drugs.) □ *You want a whole K.?* □ *Well, how much is a ki?* **2.** *n.* ketamine hydrochloride, a drug similar to LSD. (Drugs.) □ *You want to try this K. stuff?* □ *What is this K. anyway?* **3.** *n.* a thousand (of anything, such as dollars, bytes, etc.). □ *This car is worth at least twenty K.* □ *I have 64 K. memory in my computer.*

kack Go to cack.

kafooster [kə'fustə] *n.* nonsense. □ *We've heard enough of your kafooster.* □ *This kafooster about me being a cheater is too much.*

kak Go to cack.

kaka Go to caca.

kangaroo court **1.** *n.* a bogus or extra-legal court. □ *Is this a newspaper office or a kangaroo court?* □ *You have turned this interview into a kangaroo court.* **2.** *n.* a legally convened court operating unjustly. □ *"Let me out of this kangaroo court," muttered Fred.* □ *The judge held Fred in contempt for calling the proceedings a kangaroo court.*

kayo Go to KO.

kee Go to K.

keep cool *in.* to keep calm. □ *Now, keep cool. It's going to be all right.* □ *Just keep cool, man. Chill.*

keeper *n.* something that can be kept; something that qualifies. □ *This fish is a keeper. Throw the others out.* □ *The chipped one is not a keeper.*

Keep in touch. *sent.* Good-bye. (Sometimes a sarcastic way of saying good-bye to someone one doesn't care about.) □

Nice talking to you. Keep in touch. □ *Sorry, we can't use you anymore. Keep in touch.*

Keep it real! *exclam.* Be serious! □ *Come on, you jokers. Keep it real!* □ *Come on! Stop that jive! Keep it real!*

keep one's cool *tv.* to remain calm and in control. (See also **keep cool**. Compare this with **lose one's cool**.) □ *Relax, man! Just keep your cool.* □ *It's hard to keep your cool when you've been cheated.*

keep one's head right *tv.* to maintain control of oneself. □ *Chill, man, chill. You've got to keep your head right.* □ *I can keep my head right. I'm mellow.*

keep one's nose clean *tv.* to keep out of trouble, especially trouble with the law. □ *Okay, chum. Keep your nose clean.* □ *I can keep my nose clean. Don't worry.*

Keep on trucking. *sent.* Keep doing what you are doing.; Keep taking care of business. □ *See ya, man. Keep on trucking.* □ *Keep on trucking. Things'll get better.*

Keep out of this! *exclam.* Mind your own business! □ *This is not your affair. Keep out of this!* □ *Keep out of this! I'll settle it.*

Keep the faith (baby)! *exclam.* a statement of general encouragement or solidarity. □ *You said it! Keep the faith, baby!* □ *Keep the faith! See ya later.*

Keep your hands to yourself. **1.** *sent.* Do not touch things that are not yours.; Do not touch breakable things. (Said to a child.) □ *You can look, but don't touch. Keep your hands to yourself.* □ *Put that down and keep your hands to yourself.* **2.** *sent.* Don't poke or hit other children. (Said to a child.) □ *Jimmy! Leave him alone and keep your hands to yourself.* □

Keep your hands to yourself when you go to school. **3.** *sent.* No intimate caressing is allowed. (Said to an adult, usually a male.) □ *Keep your hands to yourself, Buster.* □ *Just keep your hands to yourself or take me home.*

Keep your nose out of my business! Go to Get your nose out of my business!

Keep your pants on! Go to Keep your shirt on!

Keep your shirt on! AND **Keep your pants on!** *exclam.* Just wait a minute! □ *I'll be right with you. Keep your shirt on!* □ *Keep your pants on! You're next.*

keester AND **keyster**; **kiester** ['kistə] **1.** *n.* a chest; a suitcase. □ *The old lady was hauling the most enormous keester.* □ *The keester was full of cash.* **2.** *n.* the buttocks; the anus. □ *Get your keester over here!* □ *He fell flat on his keyster.*

keg *n.* a beer belly. □ *If you didn't drink so much beer, you wouldn't have such a keg.*

kegger **1.** *n.* a party where beer is served from a keg. (Teens and collegiate.) □ *Tiffany is having a kegger, and a few of her intimates are invited.* □ *Isn't there a kegger somewhere tonight?* **2.** AND **keggers** *n.* a keg of beer. (Collegiate.) □ *We need another kegger. It's only nine o'clock.* □ *We came here because somebody said there was keggers.*

keggers Go to kegger.

keg party *n.* a party where liquor, especially beer, is served. □ *There is a free keg party at Freddy's.* □ *The keg party ended early owing to the arrival of uninvited nabs.*

Kentucky fried *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (An elaboration of *fried*. Based on the trade name *Kentucky Fried Chicken*.) □ *Man, is that guy really Kentucky fried!* □ *I've never seen anybody so downright Kentucky fried on six beers.*

kevork *tv.* to kill someone. (Based on the name of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, the physician who practices assisted suicide.) □ *This guy looked mean—like he was gonna kevork me.*

kewl *mod.* <an alternate spelling of *cool*.>; excellent, neat, and good. □ *Man this is really kewl, I mean truly phat!*

key Go to K.

keyed (up) **1.** *mod.* nervous; anxious. □ *Sally was a little keyed up before the meet.* □ *When I get keyed, I meditate.* **2.** AND **keyed up to the roof** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *He was a mite keyed, but still technically sober.* □ *She was so keyed up she could hardly stand up.*

keyed up to the roof Go to keyed (up).

key figure *n.* an important person in an event; a person central to an event. □ *Wally is a key figure in the investigation.* □ *Sam is not exactly a key figure, but he can lead us to Mr. Big.*

key grip *n.* the head laborer on a movie set. (Filmmaking.) □ *The key grip has a complaint that could hold up production.* □ *What is the key grip's beef?*

keyster Go to keester.

ki Go to K.

kibosh ['kaɪbʌʃ or kə'baʃ] **1.** *tv.* to end something; to squelch something. □ *Please don't try to kibosh the scheme this time.* □ *Fred kiboshed our plan.* **2.** *n.* the end; the final blow; the thing that terminates something. (Usually with *the*. See also **put the kibosh on something**.) □ *The kibosh was a real corker.* □ *They thought the kibosh was overdone.*

kick **1.** *n.* a charge or good feeling (from something); pleasure or enjoyment from something. (See also **get a kick out of someone or something**.) □ *That song really gives me a kick. I love it!* □ *What a kick that gives me!* **2.** *n.* the jolt from a drug or a drink of strong liquor. □ *This stuff really has a kick.* □ *The kick nearly knocked Harry over.* **3.** *tv.* to break a drug addiction voluntarily. (Drugs.) □ *I knew I had the guts in me somewhere to kick juice.* □ *It's hard to kick that stuff.* **4.** *n.* a complaint. □ *What's the kick, man?* □ *You got another kick, troublemaker?* **5.** *in.* to complain. □ *Why are you always kicking?* □ *Ernie kicks about everything.* **6.** Go to **kicks**.

kick around Go to knock around.

kick-ass AND **bust-ass** **1.** *mod.* powerful and vigorous. □ *The guy's a real kick-ass bastard!* **2.** *mod.* really fine; excellent; cool. □ *That was a real kick-ass party you had the other night!*

kick-ass on someone *in.* to give someone a hard time; to try to dominate or overwhelm someone. □ *Don't kick-ass on me! I'm not the one you're after.*

kick back **1.** *in.* to relax (and enjoy something). □ *Now you just kick back and enjoy this.* □ *I like to kick back and listen to a few tunes.* **2.** *n.* money received in return for a favor. (Usually **kickback**.) □ *The kickback the cop got wasn't enough, as it turned out.* □ *You really don't believe that the cops take kickbacks!* **3.** *in.* [for an addict] to return to addiction after having been detoxified and withdrawn. (Drugs.) □ *Gert stopped and kicked back a number of times.* □ *They may kick back a dozen times before it takes.*

kick cold (turkey) *in.* to stop taking drugs without tapering off. (Drugs.) □ *Tracy tried to kick cold turkey, but it was just too much.* □ *Kicking cold may be the only way to do it.*

kick down with something *in.* to give forth with something; to dole out a portion of something. □ *Hey, man. Kick down with my share of the brewsters!* □ *Kick down with the pizza!*

kicken Go to kickin'.

kicker *n.* a clever but stinging remark; a sharp criticism; a **zinger**. □ *I waited for the kicker, and finally it came.* □ *The kicker really made me mad.*

kick freak *n.* a nonaddicted drug user. (Drugs.) □ *Ernie used to be a kick freak, but all that has changed.* □ *Yeah, the kick freak became a junky.*

kickin' AND **kicken** *mod.* wild; super; excellent. □ *Your rally was really kickin'.* □ *I don't know where you get your clothes, but that jacket's kickin'.*

kick in the ass Go to kick in the (seat of the) pants.

kick in the butt Go to kick in the (seat of the) pants.

kick in the guts *n.* a severe blow to one's body or spirit. □ *The news was a kick in the guts, and I haven't recovered yet.* □ *I didn't need a kick in the guts like that.*

kick in the rear Go to kick in the (seat of the) pants.

kick in the (seat of the) pants AND **kick in the ass; kick in the butt; kick in the teeth; kick in the rear** *n.* a strong message of encouragement or a demand. (Use **ass** and **butt** with discretion.) □ *All he needs is a kick in the seat of the pants to get him going.* □ *A kick in the butt will get her moving.*

kick in the teeth Go to kick in the (seat of the) pants.

kick in the wrist *n.* a drink of liquor. □ *You want another kick in the wrist?* □ *I'll take another kick in the wrist.*

kick it *tv.* to relax. □ *I need a few minutes to kick it, then I'll get back in the game.*

kick (off) *in.* to die. □ *We've been waiting for years for that cat to kick off.* □ *The old girl finally kicked.*

kick party *n.* a party where some drug is used. (Drugs.) □ *The kick party broke up early with the help of Johnny-be-good.* □ *There was a kick party at one of the crack houses, and even little children went in.*

kicks *n.* cleats or shoes; gym shoes. (Collegiate. See also **kick**.) □ *Don't you dare wear those kicks in here!* □ *Take your kicks off before coming in.*

kick some ass (around) *tv.* to take over and start giving orders; to raise hell. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Do I have to come over there and kick some ass around?* □ *Bruno is just the one to kick some ass over there.*

kick the bucket *tv.* to die. □ *I'm too young to kick the bucket.* □ *The cat kicked the bucket last night.*

kick the habit *tv.* to voluntarily end any habit or custom, especially a drug habit. (See also **knock the habit**.) □ *She tried*

and tried to kick the habit. ☐ It's hard to kick the habit.

kick the shit out of someone Go to beat the shit out of someone.

kick up a storm *tv.* to create a disturbance; to put on an angry display. ☐ My dad will just kick up a storm when he finds out. ☐ The demand made us all kick up a storm.

kicky *mod.* exciting and energetic. ☐ Man, what a kicky idea! ☐ She is a real kicky gal.

kidney-buster 1. *n.* a rough ride; a rough road. ☐ This road is a kidney-buster. I wish they'd fix it. ☐ That kidney-buster damaged my car. **2.** *n.* an uncomfortable or poorly built seat in a vehicle. ☐ I have to get this kidney-buster replaced. ☐ This kidney-buster is going to ruin my back.

kid stuff *n.* marijuana, a drug for beginners. (Drugs.) ☐ That grass is kid stuff. ☐ He's still using kid stuff.

kid-vid ['kɪdvɪd] *n.* children's television; television programming aimed at children. ☐ Kid-vid isn't good for anything other than selling cereal. ☐ I don't know. Kid-vid is fun.

kiester Go to keester.

kill 1. *tv.* to be very successful with an audience; to perform very well for an audience. ☐ She really killed them with that last joke. ☐ She killed them, and they died with laughter. **2.** *tv.* to eat all of something; to drink all (of a bottle) of something. ☐ Kill this bottle so we can get another. ☐ We finally killed the last of the turkey. **3.** *tv.* to douse a light. ☐ Kill that light! ☐ Would you kill the light so they can't see we're home? **4.** *tv.* to stop or terminate something; to quash a story; to stop a story from being printed in a newspaper. ☐ Kill that story. It's got too many errors. ☐ This issue has gone to press. Too late to kill it.

killed (off) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. (Drugs.) ☐ The team went out drinking and came home killed off. ☐ Man, were those guys killed.

killer 1. *n.* a marijuana cigarette. ☐ How about a killer, Bart? ☐ He's always smoking a killer. **2.** *n.* a very funny joke. ☐

That last one was a killer! ☐ She told a killer about a red-nosed juicer. **3.** *n.* something extraordinary. ☐ That jacket is a real killer! ☐ That car is a killer. I like it! **4.** *mod.* extraordinary; great. ☐ What a killer jacket you're wearing! ☐ This is a killer hamburger all right.

killer-diller *n.* an excellent thing or person. ☐ She is just a real killer-diller. ☐ This story is a real killer-diller.

killer weed 1. *n.* very potent marijuana. (Drugs.) ☐ Wow, this stuff is killer weed! ☐ This killer weed is oregano, I think. **2.** *n.* phencyclidine (PCP), an animal tranquilizer. (Drugs.) ☐ Killer weed seems to be a favorite around here just now. ☐ Killer weed, KJ—it's all exactly the same stuff.

killing *n.* a great financial success. ☐ Sally made a real killing in the stock market. ☐ Fred made a killing in real estate.

killjoy *n.* a person who takes the fun out of things for other people; a party-pooper. ☐ Don't be such a killjoy! ☐ Larry is such a killjoy when he gets nervous.

kilobucks *n.* a tremendous sum of money. (See also megabucks.) ☐ These boondoggles waste kilobucks! ☐ How many kilobucks does a set of wheels like that cost?

King Grod [...grad] *n.* a very repellent male. (California.) ☐ You are just King Grod! So gross! ☐ Ralph is almost King Grod!

King Kong pills AND **King Kong specials** *n.* barbiturates. (Drugs. See also gorilla biscuits.) ☐ Watch out for those King Kong pills. ☐ Don't mix these King Kong specials with booze.

King Kong specials Go to King Kong pills.

kingpin *n.* a major figure in organized crime. (Underworld.) ☐ Mr. Big is not your typical kingpin. He likes to play the stock market, too. ☐ The drug kingpins are well protected.

kink 1. *n.* a strange person; a kinky person. ☐ The guy's a kink. Watch out for him. ☐ There are kinks all over this place. **2.** *n.* a sexually deviant person. ☐ He was a kink,

and I broke up with him. □ The kinks congregate two streets over.

kinky AND **bent**; **twisted** **1.** *mod.* having to do with someone or something strange or weird. □ The guy is so kinky that everyone avoids him. □ Who is that twisted dame in the net stockings? **2.** *mod.* having to do with unconventional sexual acts or people who perform them. □ She seems to have a morbid interest in kinky stuff. □ He showed her a picture of some kind of bent sexual thing.

kip *in.* to sleep. □ He's upstairs kipping. Can he call you back? □ He'll kip for about another hour.

kipe *tv.* to steal something. □ Where did you kipe this thing? □ The punk kiped a newspaper just for the heck of it.

kiper ['kaipe] *n.* a thief; someone who steals. □ The punk is a two-bit kiper and needs to be taught a lesson. □ You dirty little kiper. Give it back!

kiss-ass **1.** *n.* someone who is servile and obsequious. (Rude and derogatory.) □ I'm fed up with that kiss-ass! □ Don't be such a sniveling kiss-ass! **2.** *mod.* servile and obsequious. (Usually objectionable.) □ He can be so kiss-ass. It makes me sick. □ That's a silly kiss-ass way to go about something. **3.** *in.* to act subservient (to someone). (Usually objectionable.) □ Stop kiss-assing around and stand up to your employer. □ That guy will kiss-ass his way to the top.

kisser *n.* the face; the mouth. (See also **right in the kisser**.) □ I poked him right in the kisser. □ There he stood with a bloody kisser.

Kiss my ass! *tv.* Drop dead!; Go to hell! (Usually objectionable.) □ Kiss my ass, you creep! □ You can just kiss my ass!

kiss of death *n.* the direct cause of the end of someone or something. □ The ordinance was the kiss of death for our budding jazz band. □ Your attitude was the kiss of death for your employment here.

kiss off *n.* the dismissal of someone or something. (Usually **kiss-off**.) □ The kiss-off was when I lost the Wilson con-

tract. □ Pete got the kiss off and is now looking for a new job. **2.** *n.* death. (Usually **kiss-off**.) □ When the time comes for the kiss-off, I hope I'm asleep. □ The kiss-off came wrapped in lead, and it was instant. **3.** *in.* to die. □ The cat is going to have to kiss off one of these days soon. □ The cat kissed off after eighteen years of joy and devotion.

kiss someone or something off *tv.* □ John had instructions to kiss Bart off. □ Max wanted to kiss off John, too.

kiss someone's ass *tv.* to fawn over someone; to flatter and curry favor with someone. (Usually objectionable. Use **ass** with discretion.) □ What does he expect me to do? Kiss his ass? □ I won't kiss your ass for anything.

kiss someone's hind tit Go to suck someone's hind tit.

kiss something good-bye *tv.* to face and accept the loss of something. □ Well, you can kiss that 100 bucks good-bye. □ I kissed my chance for success good-bye.

kiss something off *tv.* to forget about something; to ignore something. □ Just kiss it off. You've lost your chance. □ Just kiss off any idea you might have had about running for office.

kiss the dust *tv.* to fall to the earth, because of death or because of being struck. (Western movies. See also **bite the dust**.) □ I'll see that you kiss the dust before sunset, cowboy! □ You'll kiss the dust before I will, Sheriff.

kiss the porcelain god *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ He fled the room to kiss the porcelain god, I guess. □ Who's in there kissing the porcelain god?

kiss up to someone *in.* to flatter someone; to make over someone. □ I'm not going to kiss up to anybody to get what's rightfully mine. □ If I have to kiss up to her, I guess I will.

kissyface ['kɪsɪfɛs] **1.** *n.* kissing. □ There was a lot of kissyface going on in the back-seat. □ They're mostly involved with kissyface at this age. **2.** *mod.* feeling the need to kiss and be kissed. □ I feel all kissyface.

□ *They were both sort of kissyface, so they left.*

kit and caboodle ['kɪt ɲkə'budl] *n.* everything; all parts and property. (Often with *whole*.) □ *I want you out of here—kit and caboodle—by noon.* □ *She moved in to stay, kit and caboodle.* □ *She plunked her whole kit and caboodle right in my way.*

kite 1. *n.* a drug user who is always high. (Drugs.) □ *The guy's a kite. He won't make any sense no matter what you ask him.* □ *Gert is a kite, and she's getting worse.* **2.** *tv.* to write worthless checks; to raise the amount on a check. (Underworld. See also **fly kites**.) □ *Chuck made a fortune kiting checks.* □ *He kited a check for \$50,000.* **3.** *n.* a worthless check. (Underworld.) □ *He finally wrote one kite too many, and they nabbed him.* □ *She passed kites from one end of town to the other, then dyed her hair, took off her glasses, and did it all over again.*

kited *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (From *high as a kite*.) □ *Tracy was too kited to see her hand in front of her.* □ *Both guys were kited by midnight.*

kitsch [kɪtʃ] *n.* any form of entertainment—movies, books, plays—with enormous popular appeal. □ *This kitsch sells like mad in the big city.* □ *Most people prefer kitsch to art.*

kitschy ['kɪtʃi] *mod.* trivial in spite of enormous popular appeal. □ *A lot of people like kitschy art.* □ *This stuff is too kitschy for me.*

klepto ['kleptə] *n.* a kleptomaniac; one who steals small things obsessively. □ *The cops thought Gert was a klepto until she showed them her receipts.* □ *The jury awarded Gert five grand for being falsely arrested as a klepto.*

klotz Go to **klutz**.

kluck Go to **cluck**.

kludge AND **kluge** [klɒdʒ OR kludʒ] **1.** *n.* a patch or a fix in a computer program or circuit. □ *This is a messy kludge, but it will do the job.* □ *Kluges that are invisible don't bother anybody.* **2.** *tv.* to patch or fix a computer program circuit. □ *I only*

have time to kludge this problem. □ *The kid kluded a program for us in an hour.*

kludgy ['klɒdʒi OR 'kludʒi] *mod.* having to do with an inefficient or sloppily written computer program. □ *This program is too kludgy to be acceptable.* □ *Who wrote this kludgy mess?* □ *I don't care if it's kludgy. Does it work?*

kluge Go to **kludge**.

klutz AND **klotz** [klɒts AND klɒts] *n.* a stupid and clumsy person. □ *Don't be a klutz!* □ *Some klotz put mustard in the stew.*

klutzy ['klɒtsi] *mod.* foolish; stupid. □ *That was really a klutzy thing to do.* □ *You are so klutzy!* □ *Whose klutzy idea was this?*

knee-deep in something *mod.* having lots of something. (See also **up to one's knees**.) □ *We are knee-deep in orders and loving it.* □ *Right now, we are knee-deep in trouble.*

knee-deep navy *n.* the U.S. Coast Guard. (Jocular and derogatory.) □ *Join the knee-deep navy and see the beach!*

knee-high to a grasshopper *mod.* of very short stature. (Folksy.) □ *I knew you when you were knee-high to a grasshopper.* □ *I was knee-high to a grasshopper when I first heard that joke.*

knee-jerk *mod.* automatic; quick and without thought. □ *That was only a knee-jerk response. Pay no attention.* □ *My knee-jerk response is that you should not go.*

knock *tv.* to criticize someone or something. □ *Don't knock it if you haven't tried it.* □ *The papers are knocking my favorite candidate again.*

knock around 1. *in.* to waste time. □ *Stop knocking around and get to work!* □ *I need a couple of days a week just for knocking around.* **2.** AND **kick around** *in.* to wander around; to **bum around**. □ *I think I'll knock around a few months before looking for another job.* □ *We're just knocking around and keeping out of trouble.*

knock back a drink *tv.* to drink a beer; to have a quick drink of liquor. □ *He*

knocked back three beers in a row. □ *Let's knock back another one or two and leave.*

knock boots *tv.* to copulate. □ *He said he wanted to knock boots with her.*

knockdown drag-out fight *n.* a prolonged and hard fight. □ *Trying to get my proposal accepted was a knockdown drag-out fight.* □ *I don't want to get involved in a knockdown drag-out fight over this business.*

knocked in *mod.* arrested. (Underworld.) □ *Would you believe that Rocko has never been knocked in?* □ *When Lefty was knocked in, they found his heater on him.*

knocked out **1.** *mod.* exhausted. □ *We were all knocked out at the end of the day.* □ *I'm knocked out after just a little bit of work.* **2.** *mod.* overwhelmed. □ *We were just knocked out when we heard your news.* □ *Were we surprised? We were knocked out—elated!* **3.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *They were all knocked out by midnight.* □ *Gary was knocked out when we dropped by, so we tried to sober him up.*

knocked up **1.** *mod.* battered; beaten. □ *Sally was a little knocked up by the accident.* □ *This book is a little knocked up, so I'll lower the price.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Bill was knocked up and didn't want to drive.* □ *Wow, was that guy knocked up!* **3.** *mod.* pregnant. □ *Tracy got knocked up again.* □ *Isn't she knocked up most of the time?*

knockers **1.** *n.* the breasts. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Nice knockers, huh?* □ *All you think about is knockers.* **2.** *n.* the testicles. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Pow, right in the knockers. Ye gods, it hurt!* □ *He turned sideways to protect his knockers.*

Knock it off! *exclam.* Be quiet!; Shut up! □ *Hey, you guys! Knock it off!* □ *I'm trying to sleep! Knock it off!*

knock off (work) *in.* to quit work, for the day or for a break. □ *What time do you knock off work?* □ *I knock off about five-thirty.*

knock one back Go to knock one over.

knock one over *AND knock one back* *tv.* to take a drink of liquor. □ *He knocked one over right away and demanded another.* □ *He knocked back one and belched grossly.*

knockout **1.** *n.* something that is quite stunning. □ *Your new car is a knockout.* □ *Isn't her dress a knockout?* **2.** *n.* a good-looking man or woman. □ *Your date is a real knockout.* □ *Who is that knockout I saw you with last weekend?* **3.** *mod.* very exciting. □ *It was a real knockout evening.* □ *What a knockout idea!*

knock some heads together *tv.* to scold some people; to get some people to do what they are supposed to be doing. □ *Do I have to come in there and knock some heads together, or will you kids settle down?* □ *I knocked some heads together and got the proposal out on time.*

knock someone dead *tv.* to put on a stunning performance or display for someone. □ *She knocked us dead with her stunning performance.* □ *Go out on that stage and knock them dead, Sally.*

knock someone off *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld. See also **bump someone off.**) □ *The mob knocked the witnesses off.* □ *The cops would be happy if someone wanted to knock off Mr. Big.*

knock someone out *tv.* to surprise someone. □ *Her stunning beauty knocked us all out.* □ *The news knocked out the entire crowd.*

knock someone's block off *tv.* to hit someone hard in the head. (See also **block.**) □ *Wilbur almost knocked Tom's block off by accident.* □ *He threatened to knock my block off if I didn't do as I was told.*

knock someone some skin *tv.* to shake hands with someone. □ *Hey, man, knock me some skin!* □ *Pete knocked Sam some skin, and they left the building together.*

knock someone's socks off *tv.* to surprise or startle someone; to overwhelm someone. □ *Wow, that explosion nearly knocked my socks off.* □ *This news'll knock your socks off.*

knock someone up *tv.* to make a woman pregnant. (See also **knocked up**. Crude.)

□ *They say it was Sam who knocked her up.* □ *He did not knock up Tracy. I did.*

knock something down **1.** *tv.* to drink a portion of liquor. □ *Here, knock this down and let's go.* □ *He knocked down a bottle of beer and called for another.* **2.** *tv.* to earn a certain amount of money. □ *I'm lucky to knock down twenty thousand.* □ *She must knock down about twenty thousand.*

knock something into a cocked hat *tv.* to demolish a plan, a story, etc. □ *I knocked his plans into a cocked hat.* □ *You've knocked everything into a cocked hat.*

knock something off **1.** *tv.* to manufacture or make something, especially in haste. (See also **knock something together**.) □ *I'll see if I can knock another one off before lunch.* □ *They knocked off four window frames in an hour.* **3.** *tv.* to lower the price of something; to knock off some dollars or cents from the price of something. □ *The store manager knocked 30 percent off the price of the coat.* □ *Can't you knock something off on this damaged item?*

knock something out **AND** **knock something off** *tv.* to write something quickly. □ *Would you please knock a speech out for the senator?* □ *I'll knock out a letter explaining the whole thing.*

knock something together **AND** **throw something together** *tv.* to assemble something—such as a meal—at the last moment. □ *I'll see if I can throw something together.* □ *I knocked together a vegetable dish at the last minute.*

knock the habit *tv.* to stop using drugs; to break a drug addiction. (Drugs. See also **kick the habit**.) □ *I just can't knock the habit.* □ *He tried to knock the habit by drinking lots of booze.*

knock the shit out of someone *Go to beat the shit out of someone.*

knothead *n.* a stupid person. □ *Don't be such a knothead!* □ *You're no knothead. You're just great!*

know all the angles *tv.* to know all the tricks and artifices of dealing with someone or something. □ *Ask my mouthpiece about taxes. He knows all the angles.* □ *Rocko knows all the angles. That's how he keeps out of the slammer.*

know from something *in.* to know about something. (See also **not know from nothing**.) □ *Do you know from timers, I mean how timers work?* □ *I don't know from babies! Don't ask me about feeding them!*

know-how *n.* the knowledge of how to do something. □ *I don't have the know-how to do this job.* □ *You'll get the know-how on the job.*

know-it-all *n.* someone who gives the impression of knowing everything. □ *Pete is such a know-it-all!* □ *That know-it-all isn't of much use to our committee.*

knowledge-box *n.* the head. □ *Now, I want to get this into your knowledge-box once and for all.* □ *My knowledge-box is just spinning with all this information.*

know one's ass from a hole in the ground *tv.* to be knowledgeable; to be alert and effective. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That stupid son of a bitch doesn't know his ass from a hole in the ground.* □ *She is so dumb, she doesn't know her ass from a hole in the ground.*

know shit from Shinola **AND** **tell shit from Shinola** [...ʃar'nolə] *tv.* to know what's what; to be intelligent and aware. (Always in the negative. Shinola is a brand of shoe polish. A person who doesn't know shit from Shinola is very stupid. See also **No Shinola!**) □ *Poor Tom doesn't know shit from Shinola.* □ *Fred can't tell shit from Shinola, and he's been made my boss.*

know the score *tv.* to know the way things work in the hard, cruel world. □ *Don't try to con me. I know the score.* □ *She knows the score. She wasn't born yesterday.*

know what's what *tv.* to be aware of what is going on in the world. □ *Heidi knows what's what. She can help.* □ *We don't know what's what around here yet.*

know where it's at *tv.* to know the way things really are. □ *I know where it's at. I don't need to be told.* □ *We know where it's at, and we want to change it.*

know where one is coming from *tv.* to understand someone's motivation; to understand and relate to someone's position. □ *I know where you're coming from. I've been there.* □ *We all know where he's coming from. That's why we are so worried.*

know which end is up *tv.* to be alert and knowledgeable. □ *Don't try to hustle me, sister. I know which end is up.* □ *Poor Jed doesn't even know which end is up.*

knuckle bones *n.* dice. (Streets. An elaboration of bones.) □ *Roll them knuckle bones and tell me that your expense needs earth pads.* □ *You're not supposed to play with them knuckle bones at school!*

knuckle down (to something) *in.* to get busy doing something. □ *Please knuckle down to your studies.* □ *You have to knuckle down if you want to get ahead.*

knuckle-dragger *n.* a strong and stupid man. (Like an ape.) □ *Call off your knuckle-draggers. I'll pay you whatever you want.*

knucklehead *n.* a stupid person. □ *Oh, I feel like such a knucklehead!* □ *Don't worry, you're not a knucklehead.*

knuckle sandwich *n.* a blow struck in the teeth or mouth. □ *How would you like a knuckle sandwich?* □ *He threatened to give me a knuckle sandwich.*

knuckle under (to someone or something) *in.* to give in to or accept someone or something. □ *She always refused to knuckle under to anyone.* □ *You have to knuckle under to the system sometimes.*

KO AND **kayo** ['ke'o] **1.** *n.* a knockout. (The abbreviation is an initialism. Boxing.) □ *It was a quick KO, and Wilbur was the new champ.* □ *It was a classic kayo. It was quick and effective.* **2.** *tv.* to knock someone out. (See also **KOed**. Boxing.) □ *Wilbur planned to KO Wallace in the*

third round. □ *Wilbur usually kayos his opponent.*

KOed ['ke'od] **1.** *mod.* knocked out. (Initialism. Originally from boxing.) □ *Wilbur was KOed and got a cut over his eye.* □ *He stayed KOed for about two minutes.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. (Initialism.) □ *Both guys were KOed and spent the night.* □ *How could anybody get so KOed on a six-pack?*

Kojak ['kodzæk] *n.* a police officer. (From the television character of the same name.) □ *Ask Kojak in for a cup of coffee.* □ *Here comes Kojak. Beat it!*

kong [kŋ] *n.* strong whiskey; illicit whiskey. (From the movie ape King Kong.) □ *How about a big swallow of that kong?* □ *Here, have some kong.*

konk Go to **konk**.

konk-buster Go to **konk-buster**.

kook [kuk] *n.* a strange person. □ *She seems like a kook, but she is just grand, really.* □ *Todd's a kook, but I love him.*

kookish ['kukɪʃ] *mod.* strange; eccentric. □ *There's a lot of kookish things going on around here.* □ *He is just too kookish.* □ *Who is the kookish one over there with the purple shades?*

koshe Go to **kosher**.

kosher ['koʃə OR 'koʒə] **1.** AND **koshe** *mod.* acceptable; cricket. (From Hebrew *kasher*, 'proper,' via Yiddish. **Koshe** is a slang clipping.) □ *Is it kosher to do this?* □ *Of course, it's kosher. Everybody does it.* **2.** *tv.* to make something acceptable. □ *Do you want me to kosher it with the boss for you?* □ *Look, if you can kosher this stuff with my parents, I agree.* **3.** *mod.* having to do with undiluted alcohol. □ *I'll take mine kosher with a little ice.* □ *Do you want this kosher or with soda?*

kvetch AND **quetch** [kvɛtʃ AND kʌɛtʃ] **1.** *in.* to complain. (From German *quetschen*, 'to squeeze,' via Yiddish.) □ *Quit your kvetching!* □ *He quetches from dawn to dusk.* **2.** *n.* a complainer. □ *What a kvetch you are!* □ *We don't need another kvetch around here.*

L

L7 ['el 'sevn] **1.** *n.* a **square**; a dull person. □ *That guy is an L7.* □ *Who is that L7 in the wingtip shoes?* **2.** *mod.* dull; **square**. □ *This guy was real, like, you know, L7.* □ *Who is the most L7 person you know?*

L8R *mod.* later. (L + eight + R. Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *Bye, CU L8R.* □ *L8R, gator.*

label mate *n.* someone who records on the same label (as the speaker). (Record industry.) □ *Frank Duke is my label mate, and we like to get together and gossip about the record industry.* □ *I feel like a real success because my label mates are so good.*

labonza [lə'banzə] **1.** *n.* the buttocks. □ *Good grief, what a gross labonza!* □ *She fell flat on her labonza.* **2.** *n.* the pit of the stomach. □ *That kind of beautiful singing really gets you right in the labonza.* □ *She experienced the kind of gut-wrenching anger that starts in your labonza and cuts through right to the tip of your noggin.* **3.** *n.* the belly. □ *I feel the effects of last night's celebration in my wallet and in my labonza.* □ *Look at the labonza on that creep! He's gonna deliver triplets.*

lace **1.** *tv.* to add alcohol to coffee or tea; to add alcohol to any food or drink. □ *Who laced the punch?* □ *I think I'll lace my coffee with a little whisky.* **2.** *tv.* to add a bit of one drug to another; to add drugs to any food or drink. (Drugs.) □ *Somebody laced the ice cubes with acid.* □ *This gag is laced with opium.* **3.** *n.* money. (Underworld.) □ *You got any lace in those pockets?* □ *My lace won't reach that far. I can't afford it.*

lacy *mod.* feminine; effeminate. □ *He's sort of lacy, but when he settles down to work,*

the sparks fly. □ *This place is too lacy.* □ *The hotel lobby is a little lacy, but it's clean.*

ladies' room *n.* the women's restroom. □ *Is there a ladies' room somewhere close?* □ *Sally has gone to the ladies' room.*

lady bear *n.* a female officer of the law. (See also **Smokey (the Bear)**; **mama bear**.) □ *This lady bear asks me if I'm going to a fire.* □ *These two lady bears walked in and took a booth by the door.*

ladyfinger *n.* a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *Sam knows how to roll a ladyfinger.* □ *Hell, any old joint is a ladyfinger. Don't be so particular.*

lady-killer *n.* a man who is very successful with women. □ *Bruno is anything but a lady killer.* □ *We saw an old-time lady-killer with a close-cut black mustache and everything.*

Lady Snow *n.* cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *I spent the afternoon with Lady Snow.* □ *Lady Snow is about the only friend I have left.*

lah-di-dah ['la'di'da] **1.** *mod.* casual; relaxed and uncaring. □ *He is so lah-di-dah with financial matters.* □ *She's not all that calm about her possessions, but she is very lah-di-dah with men.* **2.** *interj.* a jeer; a mocking response. □ *So you have a new car! Well, lah-di-dah.* □ *Lah-di-dah! Excuse me!*

laid **1.** AND **layed** *mod.* drug intoxicated. (See also **laid out**.) □ *Man, did I get myself laid.* □ *Are you too layed to drive home?* **2.** *mod.* copulated with. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Well, you look laid, all right.* □ *If you come home laid, don't say I didn't warn you.*

laid back **1.** *mod.* calm and relaxed. □ *Sam is not what I would call laid back.* □ *You*

are really one laid back guy! **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. ☐ *He's a little laid back and can't come to the phone.* ☐ *How can those guys work when they are laid back by noon?*

laid out 1. *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. ☐ *Man, you got yourself laid out!* ☐ *I'm too laid out to go to work today.* **2.** *mod.* well-dressed. ☐ *Look at those silks! Man are you laid out!* ☐ *She is all laid out in her Sunday best.* **3.** *mod.* dead; having to do with a corpse arranged for a wake. (Not slang.) ☐ *When the remains were laid out, the children were allowed to come in.* ☐ *When I'm laid out and ready to be planted, make sure this little book is in my hand.* **4.** *mod.* knocked down (by a punch). ☐ *He was down, laid out, and the cowboy just stood there panting.* ☐ *There he was, laid out on the sidewalk, and no one made a move to help him.*

laid to the bone 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *He got himself laid to the bone.* ☐ *We were all laid to the bone by midnight.* **2.** AND **silked to the bone** *mod.* naked. ☐ *I was all silked to the bone, getting ready for a shower, when the phone rings.*

laine Go to lame.

lambasted *n.* drunk. ☐ *He went out and got himself lambasted, then he wrecked his car.*

lame AND **laine; lane 1.** *mod.* inept; inept; undesirable. ☐ *That guy's so lame, it's pitiful.* ☐ *This mark is about as lame as they come.* **2.** *n.* a square person. (Streets. Underworld.) ☐ *Let's see if that lame over there has anything we want in his pockets.* ☐ *He won't drink anything at all. He is such a lame!* **3.** *n.* an inept person. ☐ *The guy turned out to be a lame, and we had to fire him.* ☐ *Maybe the lane can work in the front office answering phones or something.*

lamebrain AND **lame-brain 1.** *n.* a fool. ☐ *Please don't call me a lamebrain. I do my best.* ☐ *What a lame-brain! She put scallops in scalloped potatoes!* **2.** AND **lame-brained** *mod.* foolish. ☐ *No more of your lamebrain ideas!* ☐ *My last scheme*

looked lamebrained at first, but it worked, didn't it?

lamebrained Go to lamebrain.

lame duck 1. *n.* someone who is in the last period of a term in an elective office. ☐ *You can't expect much from a lame duck.* ☐ *As a lame duck, there's not a lot I can do.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with someone in the last period of a term in an elective office. ☐ *You don't expect much from a lame duck president.* ☐ *Lame duck Congresses tend to do things they wouldn't dare do otherwise.*

lamp *tv.* to look at someone or something. (The "lamps" are the eyes.) ☐ *I lamped the paper and then threw it away.* ☐ *Here, lamp this tire for a minute. It's low isn't it?*

lamps *n.* the eyes. (Crude.) ☐ *His lamps are closed. He's asleep or dead.* ☐ *Look at them blue lamps that dame's got.*

land a blow 1. *tv.* to strike someone. ☐ *He kept moving, and I found it almost impossible to land a blow.* ☐ *The boxer landed a blow to the face of his opponent.* **2.** *tv.* to make a point. ☐ *I think I really landed a blow with that remark about extortion.* ☐ *The point about justice landed a blow.*

land a job *tv.* to find a job and be hired. ☐ *As soon as I land a job and start to bring in some money, I'm going to get a stereo.* ☐ *I managed to land a job at a factory.*

land office business *n.* a large amount of business done in a short period of time. ☐ *We always do a land office business at this time of year.* ☐ *We keep going. Never do land office business—just enough to make out.*

landowner ['lændənə] *n.* a corpse; a dead person. (See also **buy the farm**.) ☐ *Now old Mr. Carlson was a landowner for real.* ☐ *"How would you like to become a landowner?" snarled the mugger.*

lane Go to lame.

lap of luxury *n.* a luxurious situation. ☐ *I rather enjoy living in the lap of luxury.* ☐ *You call this pigpen the lap of luxury?*

lapper *n.* a drunkard. □ *The street was empty except for an old lapper staggering home.* □ *The party was ruined by the antics of a few lappers.*

lard *n.* the police. (Streets. Derogatory. See also **bacon**; **pig**; **pork**.) □ *Here comes the lard!* □ *If the lard catches you violating your parole, you're through.*

lard ass **1.** *n.* someone with very fat buttocks. (Rude and derogatory. See also **crisco**.) □ *Here comes that lard ass again.* □ *Get moving, lard ass! You've got to keep going!* **2.** *n.* very large buttocks. □ *I'm gonna have to do something about this lard ass of mine.*

lardhead **1.** *n.* a stupid person. □ *What a lardhead! Where are your brains?* □ *I'm not a lardhead. I dwell in a different dimension.* **2.** *mod.* foolish. □ *Now here's something from the lardhead department.* □ *No more of those lardhead ideas!*

last roundup *n.* death. (Western.) □ *To everyone's surprise, he clutched the wound and faced the last roundup with a smile.* □ *When I know I'm headed for the last roundup, I'll write a will.*

last straw *n.* the final act or insult; the act that finally calls for a response. □ *This is the last straw. I'm calling the police.* □ *Someone's leaving the egg shells in the sink was the last straw.*

latch onto something **1.** *in.* to obtain something. □ *I have to latch onto a hundred bucks by Friday night.* □ *I latched onto a good book about repairing plumbing.* **2.** *tv.* to begin to understand something. □ *When Fred finally latched onto the principles of algebra, he began to get better grades.* □ *Sue doesn't quite latch onto the proper stance in golf.*

Later. AND **Late.;** **Later.** *interj.* Good-bye. □ *It's time to cruise. Later.* □ *Late. Gotta go.*

lathered ['læðəd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *The two brothers sat there and got lathered.* □ *She is too lathered to drive.*

latrine lips [lə'trin 'lips] *n.* a person who uses dirty language. □ *Hey, latrine lips!*

Cool it! □ *When old latrine lips finishes shocking everyone, I have something to say.*

latrine rumor [lə'trin 'rumər] *n.* any rumor, especially one that is alleged to spread at the latrine [general toilet facilities]. (Military.) □ *Somebody started spreading a latrine rumor about the Colonel's wife.* □ *That's just a latrine rumor. The Colonel isn't married.*

latrine wireless [lə'trin 'waɪə-ləs] *n.* the free exchange of information and gossip at the general toilet facilities. (See also **latrine rumor**.) □ *It came over the latrine wireless this morning. We're all shipping out.* □ *The latrine wireless was virtually silent while you were in sick bay.*

latrino(gram) [lə'trino(ɡræm)] *n.* a latrine rumor. □ *There was a latrino yesterday about the Colonel and his golf game.* □ *There's another latrinogram that says we're moving out.*

lats [læts] *n.* the *latissimus dorsi*; the muscles of the back. (Bodybuilding.) □ *Your lats are coming along fine. Now let's start working on your delts.* □ *Nice lats on that guy.*

laugh at the carpet *in.* to vomit; to vomit on a carpet. □ *Tom bent over and laughed at the carpet, much to the embarrassment of the entire group.* □ *Wayne laughed at the carpet, and people moved away—not knowing what he was going to do next.*

laughing academy *n.* a mental hospital; an insane asylum. □ *About four years in the laughing academy would get you straightened out.* □ *I'm not ready for the laughing academy. A little while longer around here and I will be, though.*

laughing soup AND **laughing water** *n.* liquor; champagne. □ *Laughing soup flowed like fury at the reception.* □ *How about some more laughing water?*

laughing water *Go to laughing soup.*

launch (one's lunch) *tv. & in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *When I saw that mess, I almost launched my lunch.* □ *Watch out! She's going to launch!*

launder *tv.* to conceal the source and nature of stolen or illicitly gotten money by

moving it in and out of different financial institutions. (Underworld. See also **greenwash**.) □ *The woman's sole function was to launder the money from drug deals.* □ *When you finish laundering the last job, we want you to do another.*

laundry list *n.* any long list of things. (See also **shopping list**.) □ *He came to the interview with a laundry list of things.* □ *Now I have a laundry list of items we have to discuss.*

the **law** *n.* the police. □ *She is in a little trouble with the law.* □ *Mrs. Wilson finally called the law in on her old man.*

lawn *n.* poor quality marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *This isn't good grass; it's lawn.* □ *Put this lawn in your pipe and smoke it.*

lay **1.** *tv.* to copulate [with] someone. (Crude. Usually objectionable.) □ *She laid him on the spot.* □ *He said he was going to lay her. I thought he was just talking tough.* **2.** *n.* a sexual act. (Crude. Usually objectionable.) □ *I could use a good lay about now.* □ *All the shipwrecked sailor could think about was a lay.* **3.** *n.* a person considered as a potential sex partner. (Crude. Usually objectionable.) □ *He actually said that she was a good lay.* □ *If anybody said I was a good lay, I'd sue—probably.*

lay a guilt trip on someone Go to lay a (heavy) trip on someone.

lay a (heavy) trip on someone **1.** *tv.* to criticize someone. □ *There's no need to lay a trip on me. I agree with you.* □ *When he finally does get there, I'm going to lay a heavy trip on him like he'll never forget.* **2.** *tv.* to confuse or astonish someone. □ *After he laid a heavy trip on me about how the company is almost broke, I cleaned out my desk and left.* □ *After Mary laid a trip on John about her other self, he sat down and stared at his feet.* **3.** **AND** **lay a guilt trip on someone** *tv.* to attempt to make someone feel very guilty. □ *Why do you have to lay a guilt trip on me? Why don't you go to a shrink?* □ *Of course, she just had to lay a trip on him about being bossy, self-centered, and aloof.*

lay an egg **1.** *tv.* [for someone] to do something bad or poorly. □ *I guess I really laid an egg, huh?* □ *The cast laid an egg in both performances.* **2.** *tv.* [for something] to fail. □ *The community theater laid an egg last night with the opening performance of Death of a Salesman.* □ *The film was fun to make, but it laid an egg at the box office.* **3.** *tv.* to laugh very hard; to cackle long and loudly. (As if one were a chicken.) □ *Half the audience laid an egg when I told this one.* □ *I didn't know whether to cry or lay an egg.*

lay down *in.* to give up. □ *Do you expect me to just lay down?* □ *You really think I should just lay down and let them walk all over me?*

laid Go to laid.

lay it on the line *tv.* to speak very frankly and directly. □ *I'm going to have to lay it on the line with you, I guess.* □ *Go ahead; lay it on the line. I want to know exactly what you think.*

lay off (someone or something) *in.* to stop bothering or harming someone or something; to stop being concerned about someone or something. □ *Lay off the booze for a while, why don't ya?* □ *Lay off me! I didn't do anything!*

lay one on Go to tie one on.

layout **1.** *n.* a place; a place to live. (See also **setup**.) □ *How much does a layout like this set you back a month?* □ *This is a nice layout you got here.* **2.** *n.* a floor plan. □ *Let's see if the layout is what we want.* □ *The layout looks awkward and wasteful of space.* **3.** *n.* a scheme. (Underworld.) □ *Now here's the layout. Lefty goes in this side, and Ratface comes in the other way.* □ *The layout's no good. The cops are wise to your style, boss.*

lay someone out **1.** *tv.* to scold someone severely. (See also **laid out**.) □ *Don't lay me out! I didn't do it!* □ *She really laid out the guy but good. What did he do, rob a bank?* **2.** *tv.* to knock someone down with a punch. □ *I can't wait to get into that ring and lay the guy out.* □ *The boxer laid out his opponent with a blow to the head.* **3.** *tv.* to prepare someone for bur-

ial. (See also **laid out**. Not slang.) □ *The undertaker did not lay Aunt Fanny out to my satisfaction.* □ *The women of the town helped the young widow lay out her husband.*

lay someone out in lavender *tv.* to scold or rebuke someone severely. □ *She really laid him out in lavender for that.* □ *No need to lay me out in lavender. I wasn't there.*

lay (some) rubber *tv.* to spin one's car tires when accelerating, leaving black marks on the street. (See also **burn rubber**.) □ *At that age all they want to do is get in the car and lay some rubber.* □ *You wanna know how well I can lay some rubber in this thing?*

lay some sweet lines on someone AND **put some sweet lines on someone** *tv.* to speak kindly to someone; to **soft** soap someone. □ *I just laid some sweet lines on her, and she let me use her car.* □ *If you put some sweet lines on him, maybe he won't ground you.*

lay something on someone **1.** *tv.* to present a plan or an idea to someone. □ *Here is this century's greatest idea. Let me lay it on you.* □ *I'm going to lay a great idea on you.* **2.** *tv.* to attempt to make someone feel guilty about something. □ *Don't lay that stuff on me. Face your own problem.* □ *Every week she calls up to lay a guilt trip on me about something or other.*

lay something out **1.** *tv.* to spend some amount of money. □ *I can't lay that kind of money out every day!* □ *She laid out about \$24,000 for that beemer.* **2.** *tv.* to explain a plan of action or a sequence of events. □ *Let me lay it out for you.* □ *Lay out the plan very carefully, and don't skip anything.*

lazybones *n.* a lazy person. □ *I'm just a lazybones, but I don't eat much.* □ *That lazybones is out there sleeping in the shade.*

LBO *n.* leveraged buy-out. (Initialism. Securities markets.) □ *The money used for the LBO came from the issuance of junk bonds.* □ *Mr. Boone specializes in LBOs. He's made a fortune at it.*

leadfoot *n.* a speeder in an automobile. □ *There is a leadfoot driving behind me and wanting to pass.* □ *Tom was a real leadfoot until he got a few speeding tickets.*

lead poisoning *n.* death caused by being shot with a lead bullet. (Underworld.) □ *He pifted because of a case of lead poisoning.* □ *The fourth mobster to die of lead poisoning this month was buried today in a private service.*

leaf *n.* cocaine. (Sometimes with *the*. Cocaine is extracted from the leaves of the coca plant.) □ *Sure I like plants. I am especially fond of the leaf.* □ *The entire shipment of leaf was seized by the feds.*

lean and mean *mod.* capable and ready for hard, efficient work. □ *Ron got himself lean and mean and is ready to play in Saturday's game.* □ *The management is lean and mean and looks to turn a profit next year.*

leapers *n.* amphetamines. (Drugs.) □ *You can tell Sam's on leapers. He's wired as hell.* □ *He needs some barbs to balance the leapers, or maybe he just ought to go cold turkey and go straight.*

leave someone cold *tv.* to leave someone unaffected. □ *He said it was dull, and it left him cold.* □ *The music's good, but the story left the producer cold.*

leeky store ['liki stor] *n.* a liquor store. (Black. From *liquor*. See also **take a leak**.) □ *Get me some grapes at the leeky store.* □ *The leeky store is closed till 10:00 A.M.*

leerics ['liriks] *n.* sexually suggestive song lyrics. □ *For those of you out there who go in for leerics, listen carefully to this tune.* □ *A group of parents has banded together in the eastern suburbs to fight the naughty leerics of some of the current hot rock tunes.*

left-handed monkey wrench *n.* a nonexistent tool. (New workers are sometimes sent to fetch nonexistent tools. See also **sky hook**.) □ *Hand me the left-handed monkey wrench, huh?* □ *Do you think you can dig up a left-handed monkey wrench?*

legal-beagle AND **legal-eagle** ['ligl'bigl AND 'ligl'igl] *n.* a lawyer. □ *I've got a le-*

gal-beagle who can get me out of this scrape. □ *She keeps a whole bunch of legal-eagles to handle that sort of thing.*

legal-eagle Go to legal-beagle.

legit [lə'dʒɪt] *mod.* honest; legal. (From *legitimate*.) □ *If she's not legit, I won't work with her.* □ *Is this deal legit?*

leg work *n.* the physical work accompanying a task. □ *I don't mind making the phone calls if you do the leg work.* □ *I have a gopher to do the leg work for me.*

lemme ['ləmi] *phr.* let me. (Eye-dialect. Typical spoken English. Used in writing only for effect. Used in the examples of this dictionary.) □ *Do you wanna gimme the thingy and lemme go ahead with my work?* □ *If you won't give me one of my own, make him lemme use his.*

let a fart Go to cut a fart.

Let her rip! AND **Let it roll!** *exclam.* Let it go! Let it start! □ *Time to start. Let her rip!* □ *There's the signal! Let it roll!*

let it all hang out *tv.* to be yourself, assuming that you generally are not. □ *Come on. Relax! Let it all hang out.* □ *I let it all hang out, but I still feel rotten.*

Let it roll! Go to Let her rip!

let off (some) steam Go to blow off (some) steam.

let one Go to cut a fart.

Let's bump this place! *exclam.* Let's get out of this place! Let's leave! □ *Time to go. Let's bump this place!* □ *Let's bump this place! It's dead here.*

Let's do lunch (sometime). *sent.* Let us have lunch together sometime. □ *Great seeing you, Martin, absolutely great. Let's do lunch.* □ *Let's do lunch sometime so we can catch up.*

Let's dump. *interj.* Let's go. □ *It's late. Let's dump.* □ *Let's dump. I've still got a lot to do at home tonight.*

Let's have it! *exclam.* Please tell (us) the news! □ *What's happened? Let's have it!* □ *Don't beat around the bush. Let's have it!*

let something ride *tv.* to let something remain as is; to ignore something (for a while). □ *Don't bother with it now. Let it ride for a day or two.* □ *Let it ride. It's not that important.*

let's say *phr.* introduces an estimate or a speculation. □ *I need about—let's say—twenty pounds.* □ *Let's say I go over and talk to him. What do you think?*

lettuce *n.* money. □ *Put your lettuce on the table; then we'll talk.* □ *How much lettuce do you have left?*

level best *n.* one's very best effort. □ *I will do my level best to find your husband.* □ *Don't go to a whole lot of trouble. Your level best is good enough.*

level one's locks Go to level the locks.

level the locks AND **level one's locks** *tv.* to comb one's hair. (Streets.) □ *Just give me a minute to level my locks.* □ *You go level your locks. You look like a truck hit you.*

level with someone *in.* to speak truly and honestly with someone. □ *Okay, I'm gonna level with you. This thing is a steal at this price!* □ *I want you to level with me. Did you do it?*

libber ['libə] *n.* a woman who advocates woman's liberation movements; a feminist. (Usually derogatory.) □ *She sure sounds like a libber.* □ *This libber on the radio says men are unnecessary.*

liberate *tv.* to steal something. (Originally military.) □ *We liberated a few reams of paper and a box of pens.* □ *The privates liberated a jeep and went into town.*

library *n.* a bathroom; an outhouse. □ *John is in the library at the moment.* □ *He keeps stuff like that to read in the library.*

a lick and a promise *n.* a very casual treatment. □ *A lick and a promise isn't enough. Take some time and do it right.* □ *She gave it a lick and a promise and said she was done.*

licker *n.* a tongue. (Streets.) □ *Why is your licker hanging out? You thirsty?* □ *Yeouchh! I bit my licker.*

lickety-split [lɪkɪdi'splɪt] *mod.* very fast. □ *They ran across the field lickety-split.* □ *We were there lickety-split in my new car.*

lick something into shape **AND** **whip something into shape** *tv.* to put something into good condition, possibly with considerable effort. □ *I've got about two days more to lick this place into shape so I can sell it.* □ *I want to whip this house into shape for Saturday night.*

licorice stick ['lɪkrɪʃ stɪk] *n.* a clarinet. (Jazz musicians.) □ *Man, can he play the licorice stick.* □ *Frank makes the old licorice stick talk.*

lid 1. *n.* an eyelid. □ *Her lids began to close, and the professor raised his voice to a roar.* □ *Pop your lids open! It's morning!* **2.** *n.* one half to one ounce of marijuana. (Drugs. An amount that will fill a Prince Albert tobacco can lid. Often plural.) □ *How much a lid?* □ *It looks like a matchbox to me. Why do they call it a lid?* **3.** *n.* a hat. □ *Where did you get that silly lid?*

lid poppers Go to lid proppers.

lid proppers **AND** **lid poppers** *n.* amphetamine tablets or capsules. (Drugs. Refers to the eyelids.) □ *Kelly has to have a couple of lid proppers each morning.* □ *Are lid poppers habit-forming?*

lie doggo ['laɪ 'dɒɡo] *in.* to remain unrecognized (for a long time). (See also **doggo**. Old, but standard English.) □ *This problem has lain doggo since 1967.* □ *If you don't find the typos now, they will lie doggo until the next edition.*

lifer ['laɪfə] *n.* someone who is attached to an institution for life, such as a lifetime soldier or a prisoner serving a life sentence. (Prisons and military.) □ *Me a lifer? Not in this army!* □ *The lifers begin to accept their fate after a few years.* □ *Most of the lifers are kept in this cell block.*

LIFO *phr.* last in, first out. (Computers. Acronym. Refers to the order of data put in and returned from the processor.) □ *I can't remember whether the stack is LIFO or FIFO.* □ *This one is LIFO.*

lift 1. *n.* the potency of alcohol in liquor. □ *This stuff doesn't have much lift!* □ *Now,*

this imported stuff has enough lift to raise the dead. **2.** *n.* a brief spiritual or ego-lifting occurrence. □ *Your kind words have given me quite a lift.* □ *I could use a lift today. I am glummer than usual.* **3.** **AND** **lift-up** *n.* drug euphoria; a rush. (Drugs.) □ *This stuff'll give you quite a lift.* □ *The lift-up from the shot jarred her bones.* **4.** *tv.* to steal something. □ *She had lifted this ring. We found it on her when we arrested her.* □ *Some of these really young kids will lift something just because they like it.* **5.** *tv.* to take something away. □ *It was his third offense, so they lifted his license.* □ *They lifted the rule about not having two different jobs.* **6.** *n.* a tall heel on shoes that makes someone seem taller. (Usually plural.) □ *I feel better in my lifts.* □ *Some people wear lifts just to make them a little more confident.* **7.** *n.* a surgical face-lift. □ *He had a lift on his vacation, but his face still looked two sizes too big.* □ *We've got three lifts and a nose job in OR this morning.* **8.** *n.* a device—worn under the hair at the temples—that provides some of the effects of a surgical face-lift. □ *Do you think she's wearing a lift?* □ *Lift, hell, she's got a damn pair of cranes under that hairdo.* **9.** *n.* a ride; transportation. □ *Can you give me a lift?* □ *Would you like a lift over to your apartment?*

lifted *mod.* drunk; high. □ *He was acting a little lifted. He only had 12 beers.*

lift one's elbow Go to bend one's elbow.

lift-up Go to lift.

light 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I began to feel a little light along about the fourth beer.* □ *I feel a little light. You'd better drive.* **2.** *n.* an eye. (Crude. Usually plural.) □ *You want I should poke your lights out?* □ *Open your lights and watch for the turn off sign.* **3.** *n.* a police car. □ *A couple of lights turned the corner just as the robbers were pulling away.* □ *We could see the lights coming down the expressway behind us, so we pulled over to the right and let them pass.*

light bulb *n.* a pregnant woman. (Jocular. Refers to the shape of a pregnant woman.) □ *Who's the light bulb on the sofa?* □ *I can't possibly fit that light bulb*

out there. She'll have to wait a few months before buying expensive clothing.

lighten up (on someone or something)

in. to reduce the pressure (on someone or something); to calm down (about someone or something). □ *Cool it, man. Lighten up! We all gotta get along here. □ Lighten up on the guy. He only stepped on your toe.*

light into someone *Go to sail into someone.*

lightning rod *n.* someone, something, or an issue that is certain to draw criticism.

□ *Why write such a boastful introduction to your book? It will just be a lightning rod for criticism. □ We didn't hire him for the part since his opinionated comments make him such a lightning rod.*

lights out 1. *n.* bedtime. □ *It's lights out, kids. Radios off, too! □ I was finished with it by lights out. 2. n.* death; time to die. (Underworld.) □ *It's lights out for you, chum. □ When it's lights out, I want it to be fast.*

light stuff 1. *n.* low-proof liquor. □ *The light stuff is okay for parties, but not for serious drinking. □ Poor Sam is trying to cut down by drinking the light stuff. He drinks twice as much, though. 2. n.* marijuana and nonaddictive drugs. □ *Sure, it's innocent. Sure, they're just kids. Do you know what kids do when they get through with the light stuff? They do coke, they shoot H., and they do the big one somewhere in an alley! □ The cops just found some light stuff in his pockets. They let him go.*

lightweight 1. *mod.* inconsequential. □ *This is a fairly lightweight matter. □ We need an executive here, not just a lightweight flunky. 2. n.* an inconsequential person; someone who accomplishes very little. □ *Don't worry about her. She's just a lightweight. □ Those lightweights don't know how to run things right.*

like 1. *interj.* an emphatic or meaningless word that, when said frequently, marks the speaker as speaking in a very casual or slangy mode. (See also **like, you know**. Used in writing only for effect.) □ *This*

is, like, so silly! □ She is like, so, like, way rad! 2. interj. a particle meaning roughly saying. (Always with some form of *be*. Never used in formal writing.) □ *Tiffany was like, "Wow!" □ And I'm like, "Well, you should have put your hat on!"*

like a bat out of hell *mod.* very fast or sudden. (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *The cat took off like a bat out of hell. □ The car pulled away from the curb like a bat out of hell.*

like a million (dollars) *mod.* very good or well. (Usually with *feel*.) □ *This old buggy runs like a million dollars. □ Man, I feel like a million.*

like a ton of bricks *mod.* like something very ponderous and heavy. □ *The whole thing hit me like a ton of bricks. □ Hitting the back end of that truck was like hitting a ton of bricks.*

like crazy AND **like mad** *mod.* furiously; very much, fast, many, or actively. □ *They're buying tickets like crazy. □ Look at those people on the bank. They're catching fish like mad!*

like death warmed over *mod.* horrible; deathlike. □ *Oh, my God! You look like death warmed over! □ A tall, black-garbed gentleman lay there, looking like death warmed over.*

like gangbusters *mod.* with great excitement and fury. (From the phrase **come on like gangbusters**. "Gangbusters" was a radio show that came on with lots of sirens and gunshots.) □ *She works like gangbusters and gets the job done. □ They are selling tickets like gangbusters.*

Like hell! *exclam.* That is not true!; I do not believe you! (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *You're going to a Dead concert! Like hell! □ Like hell, you are!*

Like I care. *phr.* You are telling me this news like it matters to me. (Nonchalant and sarcastic.) □ *So, there's problems in South America. Like I care.*

Like it or lump it! *exclam.* Give up!; Shut up!; Accept it or go away! (See also **Lump it!**) □ *If you don't want to do it my way,*

like it or lump it! □ *Too bad! Like it or lump it!*

Like it's such a big deal. *phr.* You are making an incredible fuss over some minor issue. □ *So I broke the table. Like it's such a big deal.*

like mad Go to **like crazy**.

like nobody's business *mod.* very well; very much. □ *She can sing like nobody's business. What a set of pipes!* □ *My mom can cook chocolate chip cookies like nobody's business.*

like stink *mod.* rapidly. (As fast as a smell spreads.) □ *Those kids moved through the whole test like stink. Real eager-beavers.* □ *As long as she can run like stink, swim like stink, and smell like a flower, she gets my support.*

like there was no tomorrow *mod.* as if there would never be another opportunity. □ *She was drinking booze like there was no tomorrow.* □ *He lived like there was no tomorrow.*

like the white on rice AND **as the white on rice** *phr.* as close as anything can be. □ *Those two are really close—like the white on rice.* □ *They are inseparable as the white on rice.*

like, you know *interj.* a combining of the expressions **like** and **you know**. (Never used in formal writing.) □ *She is, well, like, you know, PG.* □ *This is, well, like, you know, too much!*

lily-livered *mod.* cowardly. □ *Don't be so lily-livered. Give it a try.* □ *That lily-livered guy is up hiding under his bed till this blows over.*

limbo Go to **lumbo**.

limejuicer AND **limey** *n.* a British sailor; and British citizen, typically a male. (The first one is old. Both are a little derogatory.) □ *Some limey answered the telephone and I could hardly understand what she was saying.*

limey Go to **limejuicer**.

(limp) dishrag *n.* a totally helpless person; a cowardly and spineless person. □ *He's*

sweet, but he's a dishrag. □ *A limp dishrag is no help at all in a crisis.*

line 1. *n.* a story or argument; a story intended to seduce someone. (See also **lines**.) □ *I've heard that line before.* □ *Don't feed me that line. Do you think I was born yesterday?* **2.** *n.* a dose of finely cut cocaine arranged in a line, ready for insufflation or **snorting**. □ *Let's you and me go do some lines, okay?* □ *See these lines here? Watch what happens to them.*

line one's own pocket(s) *tv.* to make money for oneself in a greedy or dishonest fashion. □ *They are interested in lining their pockets first and serving the people second.* □ *You can't blame them for wanting to line their own pockets.*

lines *n.* words; conversation. (See also **line**.) □ *I like your lines, but I don't have the time.* □ *We tossed some lines back and forth for a while and then split.*

lineup *n.* a row of suspects arranged at a police station so that a witness can identify one of them. (Underworld.) □ *I had to stand in the lineup with this bunch of yahoos.* □ *When they round up all the likely suspects and put them in the lineup, they always stick in a desk sergeant to spy on the rest.*

lingo *n.* language; special vocabulary. □ *When you catch on to the lingo, everything becomes clear.* □ *If you don't like the lingo, don't listen.*

lion's share *n.* the largest portion. □ *I earn a lot, but the lion's share goes for taxes.* □ *The lion's share of the surplus cheese goes to school cafeterias.*

lip 1. *tv. & in.* to kiss someone intimately. □ *The two of them were in the corner, lip-ping intently.* □ *Hey, honeycakes, I really want to lip you.* **2.** *n.* a lawyer. (Underworld. See also **mouth**.) □ *So I brought in my lip, and he got me off the rap.* □ *How much do you pay your lip?* **3.** AND **fat lip** *n.* back talk; impudent talk. □ *Don't give me any more of your lip!* □ *I've had enough of her lip.*

lip gloss *n.* lies; deception; exaggeration; BS. (From the name of a lipstick-like cosmetic.) □ *Everything he says is just lip*

gloss. He is a liar at heart. □ *She doesn't mean it. Her words are just lip gloss.*

LIQ *n.* a liquor store. (Initialism or acronym.) □ *Let's stop at the LIQ and get some berries.* □ *I got a headache already. I don't need anything from any LIQ to make it worse.*

liquefied *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Ten beers and I am absolutely liquefied!* □ *She is too liquefied to walk, let alone drive.*

liquidate *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld.) □ *The boss wants me to liquidate Mr. Bruno.* □ *They used a machine gun to liquidate a few troublesome characters.*

liquid cork *n.* a medicine that stops diarrhea. □ *This nasty tasting stuff is a good liquid cork for what you have.* □ *This liquid cork isn't so bad if you get it good and cold before you take it.*

liquid laugh *n.* vomit. □ *If you drink much more, you're gonna come out with a liquid laugh.* □ *There's some liquid laugh on your shoe.*

listen up *in.* to listen carefully. (Usually a command.) □ *Now, listen up! This is important.* □ *Listen up, you guys!*

lit 1. *n.* literature, as a school subject. □ *I'm flunking English lit again.* □ *I hate lit. Give me numbers any day.* **2.** *AND lit up mod.* drunk. □ *She was always lit by bedtime.* □ *Todd was lit up like a Christmas tree at our office party.*

little black book *n.* a book containing the names and addresses of acquaintances who are potential dates, usually put together by men. □ *I've got a nice collection in my little black book.* □ *Am I in your little black book, or can you already tell that I wouldn't go out with you?*

little boy blue *n.* a (male) police officer. □ *I hear that little boy blue is looking for you.* □ *Little boy blue is coming this way, and he's mad.*

little boys' room *n.* the boys' restroom; the men's restroom. □ *Can you tell me where the little boys' room is?* □ *Ted's in the little boys' room. He'll be right back.*

little girls' room *n.* the girls' restroom; the women's restroom. □ *Can you please tell me where the little girls' room is?* □ *Is there an attendant in the little girls' room?*

(little) pinkie *AND (little) pinky n.* the littlest finger on either hand. □ *Ouch! I smashed my pinky.* □ *My little pinkie nearly froze because there's a hole in my glove.*

little shit *n.* a stupid and insignificant person. (Rude and derogatory. Usually refers to a male.) □ *What's a little shit like him doing running a big company like this one?*

lit up *Go to lit.*

live *mod.* cool; great. □ *Everything's live! No problem!* □ *It's live and ice. No problem, man.*

liveware ['laɪvweɪ] *n.* the human component of computer use. (Patterned on software and hardware.) □ *The hardware is okay. It's the liveware that's bad.* □ *If I don't get some sleep, you're going to see a liveware crash.*

(live) wire *n.* an energetic and vivacious person. □ *Tracy is a real live wire.* □ *With a wire like Tracy in charge, things will get done, that's for sure.*

Living large. *phr.* Doing okay. (The response to **How ya living?**) □ *I'm living large. How you doing?* □ *Living large. So, how's it with you?*

load 1. *n.* as much liquor as one can hold. (See also **loaded**.) □ *Harry had quite a load of booze.* □ *Mary is carrying a load.* **2.** *n.* a drink of liquor. □ *Can I have a load from your bottle?* □ *Help yourself to a load.* **3.** *n.* a dose of drugs; an injection of drugs. (See also **loaded**. Drugs.) □ *She shoots a load every day or two.* □ *He scored enough for a load only yesterday.* **4.** *n.* a drug supply; a **stash**. (Drugs.) □ *My load is up in the closet.* □ *If his load dwindles, he gets more easily.* **5.** *n.* a large purchase of heroin. (Drugs.) □ *I've scored a load that'll last me a few days.* □ *That load must be worth about \$50,000.* **6.** *n.* an automobile. (See also **heap**.) □ *Whose junky old load is that parked in front of the house?* □ *I'm saving money so I can replace this load with a new car.*

loaded 1. *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated.

□ *If you're loaded, don't drive.* □ *I'm not loaded. I'm just a little tipsy.* **2.** *mod.* spiked with liquor; containing much alcohol. □ *There's a little rum in the eggnog, but it's certainly not what I would call loaded.* □ *Wow, this punch is loaded!* **3.** *mod.* having all available accessories. (Said of a car.) □ *Did you want to see a car that's loaded, or is this to be a budget car?* □ *Now, this little gem is loaded with everything.* **4.** *mod.* wealthy; loaded with money. □ *Mr. Wilson is loaded, but he is also generous with his money.* □ *My Uncle Fred is loaded, but he's going to take it all with him.*

loaded for bear 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He is loaded for bear and anything else.* □ *He's been drinking mule since dawn, and he's loaded for bear.* **2.** *mod.* ready for the hardest problems. □ *Bring on the hard cases. I'm loaded for bear.* □ *I'm loaded for bear, and that's good because this is going to be a rough day.* **3.** *mod.* very angry. □ *By the time he finished talking, I was loaded for bear.* □ *I had been loaded for bear when I came into the room, and I left as meek as a lamb.*

loaded question *n.* a question to which an honest answer will reveal things the speaker might otherwise wish to conceal. □ *Now, that's a loaded question, and I don't think I have to answer it.* □ *I didn't mean it to be a loaded question.*

loaded remark *n.* a remark containing important implications. □ *Your loaded remark did not go over well with the host.* □ *In spite of your numerous loaded remarks, I do hope you will return sometime when it is convenient.*

loaded to the barrel Go to loaded to the gills.

loaded to the gills **AND** **loaded to the barrel** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He's loaded to the gills. Couldn't see a hole in a ladder.* □ *Man, he's loaded to the barrel and fighting mad.*

loady **AND** **loadie** ['lodi] *n.* a drinker or drug user. (Teens and collegiate. One who gets loaded frequently.) □ *I hear*

that Wally is a loady. Is that true? □ *These loadies are all very difficult to deal with.*

local yokel ['lok] ['jok] *n.* a local resident of a rural place. (Mildly derogatory.) □ *One of the local yokels helped me change the tire.* □ *The local yokels all listen to the same radio station.*

loco ['loko] *mod.* crazy. (From Spanish.) □ *Who is that loco kid jumping up and down in the front seat?* □ *This zit is gonna drive me loco.*

LOL *interj.* laughing out loud. (Indicates that one is laughing in response to a previous remark. Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *I'm LOL about the last remark you made.* □ *LOL at your last message.*

lollapalooza [lələpə'luzə] **1.** *n.* something very big; something wondrous. □ *Look at that bump on your head. That's a lollapalooza!* □ *Her singing voice is a real dandy—a lollapalooza.* **2.** *n.* a big lie. □ *She just told a lollapalooza.* □ *What a lollapalooza! You expect me to believe that?*

lommix Go to lummoX.

lone wolf *n.* a man who stays to himself. □ *Fred is sort of a lone wolf until he has a few drinks.* □ *It's the lone wolves you read about in the paper when they pull a drowning person from the river.*

long arm of the law *n.* the police; the law. (See also *arm*.) □ *The long arm of the law is going to tap you on the shoulder some day, Lefty.* □ *The long arm of the law finally caught up with Gert.*

long bread **AND** **long green** *n.* money. □ *Man, that must have cost you some long bread!* □ *Look at the long green you get for doing the job!*

long dozen *n.* thirteen; a baker's dozen. □ *Don't you sell a long dozen anymore?* □ *They used to give you a long dozen in that bakery.*

long green Go to long bread.

longhair 1. *n.* a highbrow with long hair; especially a musician. □ *There were a few longhairs at the bar, but none of the reg-*

ulars. ☐ *I am sort of a longhair, but I still watch TV.* **2.** *mod. highbrow; [of music] classical.* ☐ *I don't care for longhair music.* ☐ *It's too longhair.* ☐ *Longhair stuff like symphonies and art galleries bores me to tears.* **3.** *n. a hippy; a long-haired youth of the 1960s. (Usually derogatory.)* ☐ *Tell that longhair to get out of here.* ☐ *There are fewer longhairs around here than there were in the sixties.*

long knife 1. *n. an assassin. (Underworld.)* ☐ *The boss sent one of his long knives to kill the guy.* ☐ *Some long knife showed up, but Marty took him out before he made his move.* **2.** *n. a destroyer; a hatchet man.* ☐ *The secretary was acting as a long knife for the President.* ☐ *One of his long knives came over to pressure us into cooperating.*

long shot *n. a wild guess; an attempt at something that has little chance of succeeding.* ☐ *Well, it was a long shot, but I had to try it.* ☐ *You shouldn't expect a long shot to pay off.*

long story short *phr. to make a long story short.* ☐ *Okay, long story short: everything that goes up comes down, okay?* ☐ *Then the guy comes over, and—long story short—"You got a match?"*

long-tall-Sally *n. a tall girl or woman.* ☐ *Isn't she a gorgeous long-tall-Sally?* ☐ *She's quite a long-tall-Sally.*

Long time no see. *phr. I haven't seen you in a long time.* ☐ *Hey, John! Long time no see!* ☐ *Long time no see! How ya been?*

loo *n. toilet. (Originally and primarily British.)* ☐ *I gotta use the loo. Be with you in a minute.*

look after number one *in. to take care of oneself first. (See also number one.)* ☐ *You gotta look after number one, right?* ☐ *It's a good idea to look after number one. Who else will?*

Look alive! *exclam. Move faster!; Look and act alert!* ☐ *There's work to be done! Look alive!* ☐ *Look alive! It's a long, hard day ahead!*

Look (at) what the cat dragged in! *exclam. Well, look who has just arrived!* ☐

Look what the cat dragged in! I thought you would never get here.

looker *Go to (good) looker.*

look-see *n. a look; a visual examination.* ☐ *Let's go and have a look-see at this monster of yours.* ☐ *Take a look-see at this one and see if you like it.*

Look who's talking! *exclam. You are just as guilty!; You are just as much at fault!* ☐ *Me a tax cheat? Look who's talking!* ☐ *Look who's talking! You were there before I was.*

loony AND looney; loonie 1. *n. a crazy person. (From lunatic.)* ☐ *I'm beginning to feel like a loonie the longer I stay around here.* **2.** *mod. crazy.* ☐ *That is a loony idea. Forget it.* **3.** *mod. alcohol intoxicated.* ☐ *She's acting a little loonie. Let's get her home before she's sick.*

loony bin *n. an insane asylum; a mental hospital.* ☐ *I feel like I'm about ready for the loony bin.* ☐ *Today's loony bins are far different from those of just a few decades ago.*

looped AND loopy *mod. alcohol intoxicated.* ☐ *Sam is too looped to drive.* ☐ *She got loopy very quickly and had to be helped to a chair.*

loop-legged *mod. alcohol intoxicated.* ☐ *He's too loop-legged to drive.* ☐ *She has this strange tendency to get a little loop-legged when she has four or five drinks.*

loopy *Go to looped.*

loose *mod. very drunk.* ☐ *Mary was a little loose and had to be driven home.* ☐ *Don is too loose to stand up.*

loose cannon *n. a loudmouth; a braggart.* ☐ *As it turned out, he's not just a loose cannon. He makes sense.* ☐ *Some loose cannon in the State Department has been feeding the press all sorts of crap as a diversion.*

loot 1. *n. stolen goods; stolen money.* ☐ *The loot was stashed in the trunk of the getaway car.* ☐ *Where's the loot? I want my piece.* **2.** *n. money in general.* ☐ *I left home without any loot.* ☐ *It takes too much loot to eat at that restaurant.*

Lord love a duck! *exclam.* Wow! □ *Lord love a duck! It's Mary!* □ *Lord love a duck, I'm tired!*

lo-res Go to low-res.

lorg [lɔrg] *n.* a stupid person. □ *Why is Frank such a lorg? Can't he get with it?* □ *Tell that lorg to find his own chair.*

lose a bundle *tv.* to lose a lot of money. (See also **bundle**. Compare this with **make a bundle**.) □ *Don lost a bundle on that land purchase.* □ *I know I would lose a bundle if I got on a riverboat and gambled.*

lose (all) one's marbles *tv.* to become crazy. (See also **have all one's marbles**.) □ *Have you lost all your marbles?* □ *She acts like she lost her marbles.*

lose it 1. *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (Collegiate.) □ *Oh, God! I think I'm going to lose it!* □ *Go lose it in the bushes.* **2.** *tv.* to get angry; to lose one's temper. □ *It was too much for him. Ted lost it.* □ *I sat there calmly, biting my lip to keep from losing it.*

lose one's cool *tv.* to lose control; to lose one's temper. (Compare this with **keep one's cool**.) □ *Now, don't lose your cool. Relax.* □ *I'm trying not to lose my cool, but it's hard.*

lose one's doughnuts Go to blow one's doughnuts.

lose one's grip AND **lose one's hold** *tv.* to lose one's control over something. □ *When I begin to lose my grip, I will just quit.* □ *I'm losing my hold. It must be time to chuck it.*

lose one's hold Go to lose one's grip.

lose one's lunch Go to blow (one's) lunch.

lose one's shirt *tv.* to go broke; to lose everything of value, even one's shirt. □ *I lost my shirt on that bank deal.* □ *Try not to lose your shirt in the market again.*

loser ['luzə] *n.* an inept person; an undesirable or annoying person; a social failure. □ *Dave is a real loser.* □ *Only losers wear clothes like that.* □ *Those guys are all losers. They'll never amount to anything.*

losing streak *n.* a period of bad luck, especially in gambling. □ *After a prolonged losing streak, Diamond Jane retired and opened some sort of manicure parlor outside Las Vegas.* □ *I've been on a three-year losing streak in my business. I'm just about done.*

lost-and-found badge *n.* a military identification tag; a military dog tag. (From the Persian Gulf War.) □ *Ted's lost-and-found badge was stolen while he was on leave.* □ *My father still keeps his lost-and-found badge from the Korean War.*

lost cause *n.* a hopeless or worthless thing or person. □ *The whole play began to wash out during the second act. It was a lost cause by the third.* □ *Bart is just a lost cause. Just forget about him.*

lost in the sauce *mod.* alcohol intoxicated and bewildered. □ *Bill spends many days lost in the sauce.* □ *Sally got lost in the sauce at the party and made quite a spectacle of herself.*

Lots of luck! 1. *exclam.* Good luck! □ *I'm glad you're giving it a try. Lots of luck!* □ *Lots of luck in your new job!* **2.** *exclam.* You don't have a chance!; Good luck, you'll need it! (Sarcastic.) □ *Think you stand a chance? Lots of luck!* □ *You a senator? Lots of luck!*

loudmouth *n.* a person who talks too much or too loudly. □ *I try not to be a loudmouth, but I sometimes get carried away.* □ *There are a number of loudmouths in here who are competing with one another.*

louse [laus] *n.* a thoroughly repellent person, usually a male. □ *You can be such a louse!* □ *Bart turned out to be a louse, and his wife of two weeks left him.*

louse something up *tv.* to botch something up. □ *Please don't louse the typewriter ribbon up this time.* □ *Jack loused up my effort to win approval for my plan.*

lousy ['lauzi] *mod.* rotten; poor; bad. □ *This is a lousy day.* □ *This mushy stuff is lousy. Do I have to eat it?*

lousy with someone or something *mod.* having lots of someone or something. (Like an infestation of lice.) □ *Old Mr.*

Wilson is lousy with money. □ Tiffany is lousy with jewels and furs, but she's got bad teeth.

love bombs *n.* affirmations of affection. □ *These two were dropping love bombs on each other, even though they hate each other's guts. □ What a phony bunch of kooks. They were throwing love bombs all over the place!*

(love) handles *n.* rolls of fat around the waist that can be held on to during love-making. □ *Ted worked out daily, trying to get rid of his love handles. □ Not only did he grow a belly, but he's got handles on his handles.*

love-in **1.** *n.* an event during the 1960s where one or more couples made love in a public place. □ *My uncle was at one of those love-ins, and he said if anything was going on, it was going on under blankets. □ I think the only people who went to love-ins were reporters.* **2.** *n.* an event in the 1960s where everyone became euphoric—with the help of marijuana—about love and respect for their fellow humans. □ *The meeting was no love-in, but we got along. □ Everyone at the annual company love-in was throwing love bombs around at each other.*

Love it! Go to (I) love it!

Love you! *exclam.* You are great! (Almost meaningless patter.) □ *See ya around, Martin. Let's do lunch! Love ya! Bye-bye. □ Nice talking to you, babe. Love you!*

low blow *n.* an unfair blow. (See also **hit (someone) below the belt**.) □ *No fair! That was a low blow. □ Coming in like that unannounced was a pretty low blow.*

lowbrow ['ləbraʊ] **1.** *n.* a nonintellectual person; an anti-intellectual person. □ *Some lowbrow came in and made a stink about not being able to find any Gene Autry records. □ Not that Gene Autry is lowbrow. The guy who came in was.* **2.** *mod.* nonintellectual; anti-intellectual. □ *I like my lowbrow music and my lowbrow friends! □ What's lowbrow about soft rock?*

lowdown **1.** *mod.* rotten; bad. □ *What a dirty, lowdown thing to do. □ You are a lowdown rat!* **2.** *n.* the facts on something;

the **scuttlebutt** about something. □ *What's the lowdown on that funny statue in the park? □ Give me the lowdown on the project we just started.*

low five *n.* the slapping of hands at waist level as a greeting. (Compare this with **high five**.) □ *They turned to each other, throwing a quick low five as they passed. □ The two eight-year-olds tried to give each other a low five, but they both hurt their hands.*

low-key *mod.* not obvious. □ *Let's try to keep this low-key so as not to upset the family. □ It was a very low-key meeting, but we got a lot done.*

low-life **1.** *n.* a low person; a repellent person. □ *This low-life smells like bacon. □ Hey, low-life, keep out of my way.* **2.** *mod.* mean; belligerent. □ *Don't be so low-life, man! □ We don't need any low-life characters around here.*

low rent **1.** *n.* a low person; someone without grace or spirit. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Look, low rent, where is what you owe me? □ This low rent here thinks he can push Sam around, huh?* **2.** *mod.* cheap; unfashionable. □ *This place is strictly low rent. □ Why don't you go live with some of your low rent friends?*

low-res AND **lo-res** ['lə'rez] *mod.* poor; unpleasant. (From *low resolution* in a computer terminal. Compare this with **high-res**.) □ *I feel sort of low-res today. □ The party is lo-res. Let's cruise.*

LSD *n.* lysergic acid diethylamide, a hallucinogenic drug. (Initialism. Drugs. A mainstay of the 1960s and 1970s drug culture.) □ *Is there much LSD still around? □ LSD isn't the problem it used to be, but it's far from gone.*

LT *in.* living together. (Initialism and euphemism.) □ *Guess who're LT? □ They have been LT for some time.*

lube *n.* butter. □ *Pass the lube, will ya, huh? □ We're outa lube.*

lubricated *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *They are sufficiently lubricated for the night. □ He's not fit to talk to until he's lubricated a bit.*

lubrication *n.* liquor. □ *A little lubrication would help this party a lot.* □ *Wally has had a little too much lubrication.*

lucci *n.* money. (Possibly from *lucre*, “money, reward” as in *filthy lucre*.) □ *Can you loan me some of that lucci?*

luck of the draw *n.* the results of chance; the lack of any choice. □ *Why do I always end up with the luck of the draw?* □ *The team was assembled by chance. It was just the luck of the draw that we could work so well together.*

luck out *in.* to be fortunate; to strike it lucky. □ *I really lucked out when I ordered the duck. It's excellent.* □ *I didn't luck out at all. I rarely make the right choice.*

lucky dog *n.* a lucky person, perhaps undeserving. (Also a term of address.) □ *You lucky dog!* □ *Bart was a lucky dog because he won the football pool.*

lude *n.* a capsule of Quaalude™, a tranquilizer. (Drugs.) □ *A couple of ludes put Max in a better mood.* □ *I don't know what he gave me. Mary said it was a lude or something.*

lug [lɒg] *n.* a stupid male. □ *Is this lug bothering you, lady?* □ *Some lug on a tractor was holding up traffic.*

lughead *n.* a stupid person. (Also a term of address.) □ *What a lughead! How can you be so dumb?* □ *Hey, lughead! Watch where you are going.*

a **lulu** *n.* someone or something extraordinary. □ *Man, that car's a lulu!* □ *Your fiend there is a real lulu.*

lumbo AND **limbo** ['lɒmbo AND 'limbo] *n.* Colombian marijuana. (Drugs. See also **lum(s)**.) □ *He showed up with a bag of lumbo.* □ *Hey, Bart! You are just in time with the limbo, man.*

lummox AND **lommix**; **lummux** ['lɒmɒks AND 'lɒmɒks] *n.* a heavy, awkward, stupid person. □ *He looks like a big lummox,*

but he can really dance. □ *Sam is what you would call a lummux—but not to his face, of course.*

lummux Go to **lummox**.

lump *n.* a stupid clod of a man. □ *I am not a lump! I am just sedate and pensive.* □ *Who is that lump leaning over the bar?*

Lump it! *exclam.* Forget it!; Go away! (See also **Like it or lump it!**) □ *Well, you can just lump it!* □ *Lump it! Drop dead!*

lumpus ['lɒmpəs] *n.* a stupid oaf. □ *You are a silly lumpus!* □ *Is this lumpus giving you any trouble, ma'am?*

lum(s) [lɒm(z)] *n.* cannabis from Colombia. (The *lum* is based on the misspelling *Columbia*.) □ *Bruno preferred lums, but he would take what he could get.* □ *If it weren't for lum, our trade deficit wouldn't be so bad.*

lung-butter *n.* vomit. □ *God, you got lung-butter on my shoe!*

lunger *n.* a large and nasty mass of phlegm coughed up from the lungs and spat out. (See also **nose-lunger**.) □ *Wayne loved to pretend that he was going to plant a lunger on somebody's shoe.*

lurker *n.* someone who reads the messages in an Internet new group without out responding or participating. (Sometimes considered derogatory.) □ *These lurkers read everything but never contribute.*

lush 1. *n.* liquor. □ *Who's bringing the lush to the party?* □ *Lead me to the lush.* **2.** AND **lush up** *in.* to drink alcohol to excess. □ *Come over sometime, and we'll lush.* □ *We sat lushing up for an hour waiting for the plane.* **3.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *I was afraid of it for some time, but now I know. Tracy is a lush.* □ *There were four confirmed luses at the party, but they all passed out and didn't bother us much.*

lush up Go to **lush**.

M

Ma Bell *n.* AT&T, the American Telephone and Telegraph Company; any telephone company. (See also **Baby Bell**.) □ *I forgot to pay Ma Bell this month.* □ *Ma Bell is still one of the largest firms in the nation.*

mace someone's face [mes...] *tv.* to do something drastic to someone, such as spraying mace in the face. (Chemical Mace™ is a brand of tear gas sold in pressurized cans for personal protection.) □ *Do you want me to mace your face? Then shut up!* □ *I look at him, and suddenly I just want to mace his face or something.*

macho ['matʃo] **1.** *mod.* masculine; virile. (From Spanish. Used as a derogation by feminists.) □ *Does the world really need one more macho man?* □ *He's hardly macho.* □ *You know—that bright-eyed macho type.* **2.** *n.* a masculine or virile male. □ *He's such a macho. He even chews tobacco.* □ *Watch out for that macho over there. He's cruising for a bruising.*

Mac(k) [mæk] *n.* a generic name for a man. (Also a term of address.) □ *Look, Mac, you want to make some big money?* □ *Hey, Mack! Come here a minute.*

mack *n.* a pimp. (From *mackerel*, a form of which once had the meaning “broker.”) □ *This gal's mack was slapping her silly when the police came.*

mack daddy *n.* a man who is popular with the ladies. □ *Sam is a real mack daddy. Sure knows how to treat the ladies.*

mack on someone **1.** *in.* to make a sexual proposition to someone. □ *You try to mack on anything that wears a skirt!* **2.** *in.* to **make out** with someone. □ *Sam is in the back room macking on Mary.*

mac out *in.* to overeat, especially the type of food served at McDonald's fast-food restaurants. (From the Big Mac™ sandwich. See also **Big Mac attack**. See also **blimp out**; **pig out**; **pork out**; **scarf out**.) □ *I've been in Europe for a month, and I just want to get home and mac out.* □ *I mac out every weekend. It's like going to church.*

madam *n.* the female keeper of a brothel. □ *The madam was caught in a sting operation.* □ *The cops led the madam away, followed by a parade of you-know-whats.*

Madison Avenue **1.** *n.* the style or image of the major U.S. center for advertising agencies. (The agencies are located on Madison Avenue in New York City.) □ *It's too much like Madison Avenue. We want a calm, sincere mood.* □ *This is plain old Madison Avenue. I want something more subtle.* **2.** *mod.* in the manner of intense promotion; propagandalike. □ *More and more people simply do not respond to Madison Avenue hype.* □ *Can Madison Avenue techniques sell a political candidate?*

mad money *n.* money to be spent in a frivolous fashion. □ *This is my mad money, and I'll do with it as I please.* □ *I got \$100 in mad money for my birthday.*

mag *n.* magazine. □ *I gotta stop and get a computer mag.* □ *I've seen your face in the mags, haven't I?*

maggot **1.** *n.* a cigarette. (Probably a play on **faggot**.) □ *Can I bum a maggot off of you?* □ *Get your own maggots.* **2.** *n.* a low and wretched person; a vile person. □ *You maggot! Take your hands off me!* □ *Only a maggot would do something like that.*

maggot(t)y *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; very drunk. (A play on **rotten**.) □ *Rotten, hell. They were absolutely maggotty!* □ *How can anybody reach the state of being maggoty on three beers?*

magic bullet Go to silver bullet.

magic mushrooms AND **sacred mushrooms** *n.* mushrooms of the genus *Psilocybe*, which cause visions or hallucinations when eaten. (Drugs.) □ *Magic mushrooms are okay because they are natural, or something like that.* □ *This is the so-called sacred mushroom, named for its use in Amerindian ritual.*

magpie *n.* a person who chatters; a person who annoys others by chattering. □ *Sally is such a magpie!* □ *Why do those horrendous magpies all go to the same movies I go to?*

(ma)hoska [mə'haskə] **1.** *n.* narcotics; any contraband. (Underworld.) □ *The tall pinstriper asked where he could get some mahoska.* □ *The hoska must be for a friend. He's a blower if I ever saw one.* **2.** *n.* energy; strength; **moxie**. □ *The guy's got mahoska and guts!* □ *She's quick and has lots of mahoska.*

mail *n.* money. □ *The bills are due. I need some mail.*

main drag *n.* the main street. □ *I have a shop over on the main drag.* □ *The main drag is solid with traffic on Saturday nights.*

main squeeze **1.** *n.* one's boss; the person in charge. □ *The main squeeze has a lot of responsibility.* □ *The main squeeze is out of town for a week.* **2.** *n.* one's steady girlfriend or boyfriend. (Possibly related to **crush**.) □ *My main squeeze is coming over to talk tonight.* □ *She plans to marry her main squeeze.*

main stash *n.* the home of a drug user described in terms of where one's major store of drugs is kept. (Drugs. See also **stash**.) □ *His apps are in his main stash.* □ *My main stash is on Maple, but I'm usually not there.*

major *mod.* excellent; serious; severe. (Collegiate.) □ *This rally is, like, major!* □ *Wally is one of the most major beach guys!*

make **1.** *tv.* to identify someone. (Underworld.) □ *We tried to make him down at the station but came up with nothing.* □ *Given another second or two I could have made the guy—but he covered his face.* **2.** *n.* an identification. (Underworld.) □ *We ran a make on her. She's got two priors.* □ *The make didn't come through until after she was released.* **3.** *tv.* to arrive at a place; to cover a distance. □ *Can we make Boston by sunset?* □ *We made forty miles in thirty minutes.* **4.** *tv.* to achieve a specific speed. □ *See if this thing can make ninety.* □ *This buggy will make twice the speed of the old one.*

make a boo-boo *tv.* to make an error. (See also **boo-boo**.) □ *Everybody makes a boo-boo every now and then.* □ *Whoops! I made a boo-boo.*

make a bundle AND **make a pile** *tv.* to make a lot of money. (See also **bundle**.) □ *I made a bundle off that last deal.* □ *I want to buy a few stocks and make a pile in a few years.*

make a federal case out of something *tv.* to exaggerate the importance of an error; to overdo something. □ *Do you have to make a federal case out of everything?* □ *I only spilled my milk. Why make a federal case out of it?*

make a killing *tv.* to make an enormous profit; to become an enormous success. □ *The company made a killing from the sale of its subsidiary.* □ *I wanted to make a killing as a banker, but it didn't work out.*

Make a lap! *exclam.* Sit down! □ *Hey, make a lap and get out of the way!* □ *Pull up a chair and make a lap!*

make a mountain AND **pitch a tent** *n.* to have a morning erection that raises the covers; to have an erection that makes a bulge in one's clothing; to get an erection. □ *Bobby makes a mountain almost every morning.*

make a pig of oneself *tv.* to overeat; to take more of something than anyone else gets; to be selfish. □ *Please don't make a*

pig out of yourself. □ *I have a tendency to make a pig of myself at affairs like this.*

make a pile Go to make a bundle.

make a score *tv.* to do a criminal act: to buy or sell drugs, to rob someone, to perform a scam. (Underworld.) □ *We made a score with that bank job in Adamsville, didn't we?* □ *They made quite a score off that junky.*

make a stink (about someone or something) Go to raise a stink (about someone or something).

make book on something *tv.* to make or accept bets on something. □ *Well, she might. But I wouldn't make book on it.* □ *Don't make book on my success in this game.*

make for somewhere *in.* to set out for somewhere; to run or travel to somewhere. □ *Bart made for Philadelphia when he heard the pigs in the Big Apple were after him.* □ *Barlowe made for the stairs, but two shots rang out, and he knew it was all over for Mary.*

make hamburger out of someone or something AND **make mincemeat out of someone or something** *tv.* to beat someone or something to a pulp; to destroy someone or something. □ *The puppy made mincemeat out of my paper.* □ *They threatened to make hamburger out of me.*

make it 1. *tv.* to achieve one's goals. (See also **make (it) big**.) □ *I can see by looking around this room that you have really made it.* □ *I hope I make it someday. But if not, I tried.* **2.** *tv.* to copulate [with] someone. □ *There was no doubt in his mind that those bedroom eyes were telling him their owner wanted to make it.* □ *She wanted to make it, but he convinced her they should wait.*

make (it) big *tv.* & *in.* to become successful, especially financially. □ *I always knew that someday I would make it big.* □ *My brother made big, but it has just led to tax problems.*

make it hot for someone *tv.* to make things difficult for someone; to put

someone under pressure. (Note the variation in the examples.) □ *The cops were making it hot for him, so he blew town.* □ *The boss is making it a little hot for me, so I had better get to work on time.*

Make it snappy! *exclam.* Hurry up!; Make it fast! □ *We're late, Tracy. Make it snappy!* □ *Make it snappy, Fred. The cops are headed up the walk now.*

make like a tree and leave *in.* to leave; to depart. (A pun on the leaf of a tree.) □ *I have to leave now. It's time to make like a tree and leave.* □ *Hey, Jane. Don't you have an appointment somewhere? Why don't you make like a tree and leave?*

make like someone or something *in.* to act like someone or something. □ *Why don't you make like a bunny and run away? Beat it!* □ *Would you please make like a butler and hold the door open for me?*

make mincemeat out of someone or something Go to make hamburger out of someone or something.

Make my day! *exclam.* Go ahead, do what you are going to do, and I will be very happy to do what I have to do! (A catchphrase said typically by a movie police officer who has a gun pointed at a criminal. The police officer wants the criminal to do something that will justify pulling the trigger, which the police officer will do with pleasure. Used in real life in any context, and especially in sarcasm.) □ *Move a muscle! Go for your gun! Go ahead, make my day!* □ *Make my day. Just try it.*

Make no mistake (about it)! *sent.* <an expression signifying the sincerity of the speaker's previous statements.> □ *Make no mistake! This is the real thing.* □ *This is a very serious matter. Make no mistake about it.*

make one's bed *tv.* to be the cause of one's own misery. □ *Well, I guess I made my own bed. Now I have to lie in it.* □ *"We all make our own beds," said the minister.*

make oneself scarce *tv.* to leave; to be in a place less frequently. □ *Here come the boys in blue. I'd better make myself scarce.*

□ *I suggest that you make yourself scarce before she returns.*

make out 1. *in.* to neck and pet. □ *I still like to make out, but it's hard with dentures.* □ *He started making out when he was twelve.* **2.** *in.* to succeed. □ *How did you make out?* □ *I hope I make out okay tomorrow.*

make-out artist *n.* a seducer; a lecher, usually a male. (See also **lady-killer**.) □ *The guy thinks he's a make-out artist, but the women all think he's a nerd.* □ *He might have been a make-out artist in his youth, but I doubt it.*

make someone *tv.* to identify someone. □ *The cop stared at Bart and tried to make him, but failed to identify him and let him go.* □ *The cops took Sam downtown where the police chief made him for the third time in a month.*

make the scene 1. *tv.* to attend an event. (See also **scene**.) □ *We plan to make the scene, but you know how things are.* □ *I hope everybody can make the scene.* **2.** *tv.* to understand a situation; to appreciate the situation. (Underworld. See also **make**.) □ *I can't quite make the scene, but it looks like Sam punched the guy over here. Then he moved to the window over here, and that's when the old dame across the street saw him.* □ *I can make the scene. It's just like you said, except Bruno came in and found the guy laid out on the floor.*

make tracks *tv.* to move out of a place fast. □ *I gotta make tracks home now.* □ *Let's make tracks. We gotta hit Adamsville before noon.*

make waves *tv.* to cause difficulty. (Often in the negative.) □ *Just relax. Don't make waves.* □ *If you make waves too much around here, you won't last long.*

make with the something *in.* to make something visible; to use something. □ *Come on, make with the cash.* □ *I want to know. Come on, make with the answers!*

malark(e)y [mə'lɑrkɪ] *n.* nonsense; flattery. □ *Don't give me that malarkey.* □ *What ridiculous malarkey!*

male chauvinist pig Go to MCP.

mallet *n.* a police officer. □ *Sam was struck by a mallet this noon.* □ *Some mallet is going around asking questions about you.*

mama bear *n.* a policewoman. (See also **lady bear**.) □ *As we came under the bridge, we saw a mama bear sitting in a pigmobile.* □ *A mama bear pulled the trucker over.*

man 1. *n.* one's friend; a buddy, not necessarily male. (Also a term of address.) □ *Look, man, take it easy!* □ *Hey, man. That one's mine!* **2.** *exclam.* Wow! (Usually **Man!**) □ *Man, what a bundle!* □ *Man, what an ugly mug.* **3.** *AND the* **man** *n.* a drug seller or pusher. (Drugs.) □ *The man won't give you credit, you numskull!* □ *When your man doesn't show, there's always a good reason.* **4.** *AND the* **man** *n.* the police; the establishment. □ *You better check with the man before you get seen with me.* □ *We are about to rap a little with my man.*

the **man** Go to **man**.

M. and M.s *n.* capsules of Seconal™, a barbiturate. (From the brand name of a type of brightly colored candy pellets.) □ *Is there somewhere around here I can get some M. and M.s?* □ *No M. and M.s for me. I'm on blues.*

manicure 1. *tv.* to trim and clean marijuana for smoking. (Drugs.) □ *Sam never would manicure the stuff. Some people would buy it anyway.* □ *Max wants to manicure his own dope.* **2.** *n.* good-quality, cleaned marijuana. □ *Ah, this manicure should bring some good coin.* □ *You got any high Q. manicure?*

man on the street 1. *n.* the common man; just anyone selected at random. □ *But what does the man on the street think about all this?* □ *The man on the street really doesn't care about most of what you think is important.* **2.** *mod.* common; everyday. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ *These man-on-the-street interviews all seem sort of phony.* □ *The man-on-the-street opinion spots are fun to make, but we can't show half of them.*

man-size(d) *mod.* large-size, especially in reference to the size of servings of food.

□ *This is a man-sized steak! That's what I want.* □ *For a man-size meal, open a can of Wallace's Chili tonight!*

map 1. *n.* one's face. □ *There was fear and hatred all over his map.* □ *With a map like that, she could really go somewhere.* **2.** *n.* sheet music. (Jazz musicians. See also **chart**.) □ *Check my map and see where you come in.* □ *I left the map at home. Can I look at yours?*

Marble City Go to **marble orchard**.

marble dome *n.* a stupid person. (Someone who has marble where brains should be.) □ *The guy's a marble dome. He has no knowledge of what's going on around him.* □ *Is this marble dome giving you any trouble?*

marble orchard AND **Marble City** *n.* a cemetery. □ *I already bought a little plot in a marble orchard.* □ *When I take a trip to Marble City, I want truckloads of flowers.*

marine officer Go to **marine (recruit)**.

marine (recruit) AND **marine officer** *n.* an empty beer or liquor bottle. (See also **dead soldier**; **dead marine**.) □ *Every now and then the gentle muttering of the customers was accented by the breaking of a marine as it hit the floor.* □ *The guy in a uniform tossed the marine officer in the barrel and giggled.*

mark *n.* a **dupe**; a victim selected for a theft or a swindle. (Underworld.) □ *I bumped the mark on the shoulder, and he put his hand on his wallet just like always.* □ *We picked the marks out of the crowd in front of the two-dollar window.*

marker *n.* a personal promissory note; an IOU. □ *Bart signed a marker for \$3,000 and handed it to Sam.* □ *Bruno said that he held Bart's marker for three grand.*

marksman *n.* a serious college student who works hard to get good marks (grades). □ *Sally is a marksman. She's always studying.* □ *Bill kept saying that Todd was a geek and a marksman, until Todd flunked algebra.*

mark time *tv.* to wait; to do nothing but wait. □ *I'll just mark time till things get*

better. □ *Do you expect me to just stand here and mark time?*

Mary J. Go to **Mary Jane**.

Mary Jane 1. AND **Mary J.**; **Maryjane** *n.* marijuana. (Drugs. See also **jane**.) □ *I can't live another day without Mary Jane!* **2.** *n.* a plain-looking girl. □ *She's just a Mary Jane and will never be a glamour girl.*

mash *in.* to neck and pet. (Collegiate.) □ *Who are those two mashing in the corner?* □ *I can't spend every evening mashing with you!*

mashed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Both guys were totally mashed. I called my brother, who came and rescued me.* □ *Sam was mashed, but he wouldn't let anyone else drive.*

massive *mod.* excellent. (California.) □ *The bash at Tiffany's was, like, massive!* □ *That was a totally massive party, Tiff.*

massively *mod.* excellently; totally. □ *Max showed up for the meeting massively stoned and singing at the top of his lungs.* □ *Robert presented us with a massively gross belch that actually made the window rattle a little.*

maven AND **mavin** ['meɪvən] *n.* an expert; a self-proclaimed expert. (From Hebrew *mevin* via Yiddish.) □ *A maven in the stock market you are not.* □ *Harriet—a well-known clothing mavin in Rochester—keeps giving pointers on fabrics, but I don't listen.*

mavin Go to **maven**.

maw [mɔ] *tv.* & *in.* to kiss and pet; to smooch. (Probably from *maul*.) □ *Come on, don't maw me. You've been watching too many movies—or too few.* □ *Let's go out somewhere and maw.*

max *n.* the maximum. (See also **to the max**.) □ *Is this the max I can have?* □ *I want the max. I'm hungry.*

maxed out 1. *mod.* exhausted; tired. □ *I am just maxed out. I haven't been getting enough sleep.* □ *I had to stop work because I was too maxed.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Sam was maxed out and*

seemed happy enough to sit under the table and whimper. □ I hadn't seen Barlowe so maxed out in years. He was nearly paralyzed.

maxin' *in.* relaxing. □ *I spent Saturday just maxin' around the house and doing some tunage. □ I spent all day maxin' and drinking beer.*

max out *in.* to reach one's maximum in something, such as weight in weight lifting or credit on a credit card. □ *Andy finally maxed out at 300 pounds. □ Randy just knew when he had maxed out. Something in his body told him to stop.*

mayo ['meo] *n.* mayonnaise. □ *You want mayo or mustard? □ I'll take both mayo and mustard, thank you.*

mazulla Go to mazuma.

mazuma AND **mazulla** [mə'zumə AND mə'zulə] *n.* money. (From Hebrew *mezu-man* via Yiddish.) □ *How much mazuma do you want for this? □ She's got more mazuma than she knows what to do with.*

mañana [mə'njanə] *mod.* tomorrow; in the future, not now. (Spanish.) □ *It's always mañana with you. Isn't there any "today" or "now" in your vocabulary? □ He's a mañana kind of guy. You know—real laid back.*

McCoy Go to (real) McCoy.

McDoc(s) Go to McDoctor(s).

McDoctor(s) AND **McDoc(s)** *n.* <a jocular term for a walk-in, emergency medical clinic as found in shopping malls.> (See also **doc(s)-in-a-box**.) □ *They took the kid to McDoctors, or whatever it is, over in the mall. □ McDocs is not cheap, but it's handy.*

McD's AND **McDuck's** *n.* McDonald's, the franchised fast-food restaurant. (Teens and collegiate. The *duck* is a play on the Walt Disney character *Donald Duck*.) □ *Can you take McD's tonight, or do you want some slow food? □ I can always handle McDuck's.*

McDuck's Go to McD's.

McFly ['mɪk'flaɪ] **1.** *n.* a stupid person; a simpleton. (Also a term of address.) □

Oh, Donna, you are such a McFly! □ Hey, McFly. What do you think you are doing?
2. *mod.* stupid; simple-minded. □ *That was a McFly thing to do. □ Wayne is so McFly!*

MCP AND **male chauvinist pig** *n.* a male who acts superior to and aggressively toward women. (From the woman's liberation movements of the 1970s.) □ *The guy is just a male chauvinist pig, and he'll never change. □ Don't you just hate walking through a room filled with MCPs and just knowing what they are thinking about you?*

meadow muffin *n.* a mass of cow dung. □ *Jill stepped in a meadow muffin while she was bird-watching. □ Andy's mom gathered dried meadow muffins to put in her flower garden.*

meals rejected by Ethiopians Go to MRE.

meals rejected by the enemy Go to MRE.

mean *mod.* having to do with someone or something that is very good; cool. □ *This music is mean, man, mean. What a great sound! □ This is the meanest wine I ever drank.*

mean business *tv.* to be very, very serious. □ *Stop laughing! I mean business. □ I could tell from the look on her face that she meant business.*

a **mean something** *mod.* having to do with an excellent example of the art of doing something well habitually. □ *John plays the piano quite well. Fred says that John plays a mean piano. □ You may say that your mother bakes delicious pies, but all my friends say she bakes a mean pie. □ Tom says that his father plays a mean game of golf.*

meany AND **meanie** *n.* a mean or grouchy person. □ *Come on! Don't be such a meany. □ I don't want to be a meany, but if you don't turn down that radio, I don't know what I'll do.*

meat 1. *n.* the penis. □ *He held his hands over his meat and ran for the bedroom. 2.* *n.* the genitals of either sex; the sexual parts of either sex. □ *I don't want to see your meat! What kinda creep do you think*

I am? **3.** *n.* a person of either sex considered sexually. □ *If she doesn't manage to wrap her legs around that big hunk of meat within the next twenty minutes, I'd lose my bet.*

meathead *n.* a stupid oaf. □ *Don't call him a meathead. He does his best.* □ *Is this meathead bothering you, miss?*

meatheaded *mod.* stupid; simple-minded. □ *Of all the meatheaded ideas. This one takes the cake!* □ *How meatheaded!* □ *When someone conducts a meatheaded operation like this, we tend to lose faith in the whole system.*

meathooks *n.* the hands. (See also *hooks*.) □ *Get your meathooks off my car!* □ *If your meathooks so much as brush by my jacket again, you are finished!*

meat wagon *n.* an ambulance. □ *The meat wagon showed up just as they were pulling what was left of Marty out of what was left of her car.* □ *When the meat wagon stops at all the traffic lights on the way to the hospital, you know somebody's pifted.*

medico ['mediko] *n.* a doctor. (From Spanish.) □ *The medico says I should lose some weight.* □ *It's hard to take it seriously when a fat medico tells you to shed a few pounds.*

meet *n.* a meeting or an appointment. (Mostly underworld.) □ *If this meet works out, we could score a cool million.* □ *What time is the meet?*

meeting of the minds *n.* a consensus; an agreement. □ *At last we've reached a meeting of the minds.* □ *This meeting of the minds is nothing more than a truce.*

mega ['megə] *mod.* large; serious. □ *Some mega beast boogied down to the front of the auditorium and started screaming.* □ *You see I have this, like, mega problem, ya know.*

megabitch *n.* a truly obnoxious bitch. □ *Bob, you are such a megabitch!* □ *Anne called herself a megabitch and said she didn't care what people thought of her.*

megabucks *n.* a lot of money; big bucks. (See also *kilobucks*.) □ *A stereo that size*

must cost megabucks. □ *Mr. Wilson has megabucks in pharmaceutical stocks.*

megadork ['megədork] *n.* a very stupid person. (See also *dork*.) □ *What a wimpy megadork!* □ *Tiffany, you are, like, such a megadork!*

megillah [mə'gɪlə] *n.* a long and complicated story. (From Hebrew *megillah* via Yiddish.) □ *He struggled through this megillah and nobody believed him.* □ *Here you come in here with this megillah about a flat tire and how your brother-in-law stole your jack and how your arthritis is kicking up—what do you think I am, some sort of shoulder to cry on?*

mell of a hess *n.* hell of a mess. (A deliberate spoonerism.) □ *What a mell of a hess you've gotten us into this time.* □ *Have you ever seen such a mell of a hess?*

mellow 1. *mod.* relaxed; untroubled; laid back. □ *Being mellow is my only goal in life.* □ *She is the mellowest fox I know.* **2.** *mod.* slightly alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *I got mellow and stopped drinking right there.* □ *I'm only mellow, but you drive anyway.*

mellow out 1. *in.* to calm down; to get less angry. □ *When you mellow out, maybe we can talk.* □ *Come on, man, mellow out!* **2.** *in.* to become generally more relaxed; to grow less contentious. □ *Gary was nearly forty before he started to mellow out a little and take life less seriously.* □ *After his illness, he mellowed out and seemed more glad to be alive.*

melons *n.* large breasts. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Look at the melons on that babe!*

meltdown *n.* a total collapse of anything. (From the term used to describe the self-destruction of a nuclear reactor.) □ *There seems to have been a meltdown in the computer center, and all our records were lost.* □ *The meltdown in the securities markets was caused by a combination of things.*

melvin ['mɛlvən] **1.** *n.* a studious or unattractive male. (Teens and collegiate.) □ *Gary is such a melvin!* □ *Do you think I would go out with that melvin?* **2.** *n.* a sit-

uation where one's underpants ride up high between the buttocks. (Named for a person so stupid and unaware that he is comfortable with this arrangement. See also **give someone a melvin**.) □ *Look at that twit with the melvin.* □ *How could anybody go around all day with a melvin like that?*

men in blue AND **boys in blue** *n.* the police; policemen. (See also **blue boys**.) □ *The men in blue are looking for you.* □ *You can depend on the boys in blue to clean things up in this town.*

mensh [mentʃ] *n.* a mature and responsible person. (From German via Yiddish.) □ *Now there goes a real mensh!* □ *I am honored to invite such a mensh into my home.*

men's room *n.* a men's restroom. □ *Where's the men's room, please?* □ *I gotta use the men's room.*

mental 1. *mod.* mentally retarded. (Usually objectionable. Derogatory.) □ *The girl's mental. Leave her alone.* □ *Everybody in this ward is mental.* **2.** *n.* a mentally retarded person. (Usually objectionable. Derogatory.) □ *He's a mental. He'll need some help.* □ *Who doesn't need help? Mentals are normal on that point.* **3.** *n.* a stupid person. □ *You're such a mental lately.* □ *Don't be a mental.*

mental giant *n.* a genius. □ *I'm no mental giant, but I do know trouble when I see it.* □ *Don was a mental giant but didn't ever take advantage of it.*

mental midget *n.* a stupid person. □ *I hate to seem like a mental midget, but what's so great about that?* □ *This mental midget here thinks he can solve it for us.*

mep(s) *n.* meperdine, Demerol™, a painkiller. (Drugs and hospitals.) □ *The nurse was sneaking a little meps now and then.* □ *For some people, mep is highly addictive.*

merchandise *n.* any contraband. (Underworld.) □ *The merchandise is still at the boss's place.* □ *How much of the merchandise can you deliver by midnight?*

merger-mania *n.* an apparent need for companies to merge with one another. (Securities markets and journalism.) □ *Merger-mania is in the news again tonight with Ford's offer to take over GMC.* □ *The market meltdown put an end to merger-mania.*

mesc [mesk] *n.* mescaline, a hallucinatory substance. (Drugs.) □ *Tiffany is totally hooked on mesc. I don't know where she gets it.* □ *Jerry refuses to take mesc or any other dope.*

mesh *n.* a crosshatch or octothorp, #. (See also **pigpen**.) □ *Put a mesh on each end of your formula.* □ *What does the mesh stand for in this equation?*

meshuga AND **meshugah** [mə'ʃugə] *mod.* crazy. (From Hebrew *meshuggah* via Yiddish.) □ *What a meshuga day!* □ *This guy is meshugah!*

mess 1. *n.* a hopeless, stupid person. □ *Harry has turned into a mess.* □ *The guy's a mess!* **2.** *n.* dung. (Usually with *a*.) □ *There is a dog mess on the lawn again this morning.* □ *There's a mess in Jimmy's diapers, Mom.*

mess about (with someone) Go to mess around (with someone).

mess about (with something) Go to mess around (with something).

mess around (with someone) AND **mess about (with someone); monkey around (with someone)** **1.** *in.* to play with someone sexually. □ *Those two have been messing around.* □ *Pete was messing around with Maria, and now she's storked.* **2.** *in.* to waste someone's time. □ *Don't mess around with me. Just answer the question, if you please.* □ *I don't have the time for this. Stop messing around.* **3.** *in.* to waste time with someone else. □ *I was messing around with John.* □ *John and I were monkeying around.*

mess around (with something) **mess about (with something); AND monkey around (with something)** *in.* to play with or fiddle with something. □ *Don't mess around with the ashtray.* □ *You'll break it if you don't stop monkeying around with it.*

messed up **1.** *mod.* confused. □ *I'm sort of messed up since my divorce.* □ *Most kids are sort of messed up at this age.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Somehow I must have got messed up. What caused it, do you think?* □ *Everybody at the party was too messed up to drive home.*

mess someone or something up *tv.* to put someone or something into disorder. (See also **messed up**.) □ *You messed me up a little bit, but I know you didn't mean to bump into me.* □ *Who messed up this place?*

mess someone's face up *tv.* to beat someone around the face. (Underworld.) □ *I had to mess his face up a little, boss, but he's been real cooperative since then.* □ *You want me to mess up your face, or do you want to come along quietly?*

mess someone up *tv.* to beat someone up. (Underworld.) □ *The boss says me and the boys is supposed to mess you up a little.* □ *Is that your job—going around messing up people?*

mess up *in.* to make an error; to do something wrong; to flub (up). □ *I hope I don't mess up on the quiz.* □ *You really messed up!*

mess with someone or something **AND** **monkey with someone or something** *in.* to bother or interfere with someone or something. □ *Come on, don't monkey with it.* □ *Don't mess with me unless you want trouble.*

meth **1.** *n.* denatured alcohol; methyl alcohol. (Streets and underworld.) □ *Oh, yeah, we drank meth. We drank anything we could get.* □ *Meth used to be pink. Now they put something in it to make you vomit.* **2.** *n.* methamphetamine. (Drugs.) □ *Usually meth is injected, having almost an immediate effect.* □ *Meth comes in little glass tubes.* **3.** *n.* methadone. (Drugs.) □ *Sometimes meth means methadone, a drug used in drug treatment.* □ *Jerry gets meth from a clinic in the city.*

meth monster *n.* a habitual user of methamphetamine. □ *Sometimes a meth monster will do okay in school.* □ *These*

teenage meth monsters can be a real menace when they need juice.

metros ['metroz] *n.* the police; the metropolitan police. (Not used in all metropolitan areas.) □ *The metros took ten minutes to get to the scene of the crime, and the entire city is enraged.* □ *The metros showed up and managed traffic for the fire company.*

Mexican breakfast *n.* a cigarette and a cup of coffee or a glass of water. □ *After a Mexican breakfast, I went to Barlowe's hotel hoping to catch him before he went out.* □ *When some punk kid crosses the border into Mexico for a night of fun and games, all he can get to help him sober up and get out of the country the next day is a Mexican breakfast.*

mickey **AND** **micky** **1.** *n.* a hip flask for liquor. □ *He took a little swig out of a mickey he carries in his pocket.* □ *His micky made a clunk as he sat down.* **2.** *Go to Mickey (Finn).* **3.** *n.* a small bottle of wine. □ *See if you can get a mickey of something for a buck.* □ *The old guy just wants to get a micky to help with his wineache.* **4.** *n.* a tranquilizer. (Drugs.) □ *Whatever that mickey was you gave me, it helped.* □ *Maybe a little mickey would help me relax.*

Mickey D's *n.* McDonald's fast-food restaurant. (Teens and collegiate.) □ *Let's hit Mickey D's for chow this noon.* □ *We're going to Mickey D's for dinner, too.*

Mickey finished *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; totally drunk. (A play on **Mickey Finn**.) □ *I guess the old guy is about Mickey finished. He's plootered!* □ *What gets into guys that makes them want to get Mickey finished before they stop?*

Mickey (Finn) **1.** *n.* a drink containing chloral hydrate; a drink containing a fast-acting laxative. □ *He slipped her a Mickey Finn, but she switched glasses.* □ *Once you've had a Mickey, you'll never forget it.* **2.** *n.* chloral hydrate as put in drinks to knock people out. □ *There was a Mickey Finn in this drink, wasn't there?* □ *Now where would I get a Mickey?*

mickey mouse 1. *n.* nonsense; something trivial. (From the world-famous mouse character by the same name, owned by The Walt Disney Company.) □ *This is just a lot of mickey mouse.* □ *This mickey mouse is wasting my time.* **2.** *mod.* trivial; time wasting; lousy. □ *I want out of this mickey mouse place.* □ *No more mickey mouse questions if I agree to stay?* **3.** *n.* a police officer. (Streets.) □ *Mickey mouse is hanging around asking about you.* □ *Tell mickey mouse he knows where to find me.* **4.** *n.* a bit of blotter impregnated with LSD with a picture of The Walt Disney Company's Mickey Mouse on it. (Drugs.) □ *How much is the mickey mouse?* □ *The mickey mouse is more than you want to pay.*

mickey mouse ears *n.* the two lights found on top of a police car. □ *There were no mickey mouse ears, but the jerk inside looked like your average ossifer.* □ *I could see the outline of the mickey mouse ears on the blue and white behind me.*

mickey mouse habit *n.* a trivial drug habit. (Drugs.) □ *Nothing to it. Just a little mickey mouse habit. I can stop any time I want.* □ *I don't care if it is a mickey mouse habit. It's a habit, and it's illegal.*

micky Go to mickey.

middlebrow *mod.* middle-class; average or mediocre. (Between **highbrow** and **lowbrow**.) □ *She has average middlebrow tastes and drives a mid-sized Chevrolet.* □ *He's just too middlebrow.* □ *There are some who look down on middlebrow interests as trivial.*

middle of nowhere *n.* an isolated place. □ *I don't want to stay out here in the middle of nowhere.* □ *I was stranded in the middle of nowhere for an hour with a flat tire.*

midi ['mɪdi] **1.** *n.* a mid-length woman's garment. □ *Shall I wear my midi, or is it too hot?* □ *The midi is okay.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with a mid-length woman's garment. □ *This midi style is out, and the mini is back in.* □ *The midi length was just transitional. Who decides on these things anyway?*

miffed *mod.* angry. □ *She was a little miffed when I failed to show up, but she calmed down after a while.*

mifky-pifky (in the bushes) *n.* illicit sex; hanky-panky. □ *Jeff got caught again. Mifky-pifky in the bushes seems to be his style.* □ *Mifky-pifky is the way of the world in Hollywood.*

mil *n.* a million. □ *She rakes in about 3 mil a year.* □ *The government spent 40 mil on this building.*

milk 1. *tv.* to attempt to persuade an audience to laugh or applaud. □ *Mitzy tried to milk the audience for applause.* □ *She went on milking the crowd for adulation long after they had demonstrated their appreciation.* **2.** *tv.* to attempt to get recognition from an audience. □ *His performance was marred by an amateurish attempt to milk applause.* □ *If you're good, they'll let you know it. If not, don't milk cheers, applause, or laughter.*

milk a duck *tv.* to do [or not do] something totally impossible. □ *I can't do that. I could milk a duck before I could do that.* □ *She can't do that. That's harder than milking a duck.*

milled *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **cut**.) □ *She was cut up with all that booze—milled, I guess.* □ *She was too milled to drive and couldn't walk either.*

milquetoast ['mɪlktəst] *n.* a shy coward; an effeminate male. (See also **Caspar Milquetoast**.) □ *This little milquetoast goes up to the biker, looks at him sort of sad like, and then karate chops him into a quivering pulp.* □ *Some guy who looked like a milquetoast came in and asked for a set of brass knuckles.*

Milwaukee goiter AND **German goiter** [mɪl'wɑki 'ɡɔɪdər AND 'dʒɜmən 'ɡɔɪdər] *n.* a beer belly. (Refers to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a major beer-brewing city, and to Germany.) □ *By the time he was twenty-six, he was balding and had a Milwaukee goiter that would tip him over if he turned too fast.* □ *He was proud of his German goiter.*

mind-bender AND **mind-blower** *n.* a hallucinogenic drug, typically LSD. (Drugs.)

□ *You wanna try some mind-blower?* □ *That mind-bender takes a long time to wear off.*

mind-blower Go to mind-bender.

mind your own beeswax [...'bizwæks] *tv.* to mind one's own business. (Juvenile.) □ *You just mind your own beeswax!* □ *Lay off! Mind your own beeswax!*

mingy ['mindʒi] *mod.* mean and stingy. □ *Why can't you borrow it? I'm just mingy, that's all.* □ *What a mingy jerk!* □ *Aw, don't be so mingy!*

mini ['mini] **1.** *mod.* small; miniature. □ *I have a mini problem you can maybe help me with.* □ *This is just a mini office. I'll get a bigger one later.* **2.** *n.* a miniskirt. □ *I look pretty good in a mini.* □ *I'll try a mini this time. I was too plump the last time they were in style.*

mink *n.* a woman. (Black.) □ *I see your mink has some new silks, man.* □ *Take this home to your mink. She'll like it.*

Minnehaha [mini'haha] *n.* champagne. (From Longfellow's *Song of Hiawatha*. *Minnehaha* means "laughing waters.") □ *Have a glass of Minnehaha.* □ *Minnehaha tickles my nose.*

mint **1.** *n.* a lot of money. □ *He makes a mint. He can afford a little generosity.* □ *That kind of car costs a mint!* **2.** *mod.* good-looking; superior. (As in *mint condition*.) □ *Look at that guy. He's really mint, right?* □ *These tunes are mint, all right!*

mish-mash AND **mish-mosh** ['mɪʃmæʃ AND 'mɪʃməʃ] *n.* a mixture; a disorderly conglomeration. □ *What a mish-mash of colors and designs!* □ *There's no theme or focus. It's just a mish-mash.*

mish-mosh Go to mish-mash.

miss the boat *tv.* to have made an error; to be wrong. □ *If you think you can do that, you have just missed the boat.* □ *The guy's missed the boat. He's a lunkhead.*

mitt *n.* a hand. □ *Get your mitts off my glass.* □ *The kid's got mitts on him like a gorilla.*

mixed (up) **1.** *mod.* confused; mentally troubled. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ *I was a little mixed up after the accident.* □ *This kid's just a little mixed. She'll straighten out.* □ *She's a crazy mixed-up kid.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I'm just a little mixed-up, nothing serious. No reason you should be swaying around like that.* □ *Jerry's too mixed to drive home.*

mix it up (with someone) *tv.* to fight with someone; to quarrel with someone. □ *Bart and Sam mixed it up for a while, and then things calmed down.* □ *Max came out of the shop and began to mix it up with Bruno.*

mob [mab] *n.* the crime syndicate. (Underworld and journalistic.) □ *The mob has held this city in abject terror for years.* □ *One of the biggest fish in the mob was plucked from the river yesterday.*

moby ['mobi] **1.** *mod.* enormous; unwieldy. (Like Herman Melville's great white whale, *Moby Dick*.) □ *This is a very moby old car.* □ *Why does he let himself get so moby?* **2.** *n.* a megabyte, a measurement of computer memory size. (A megabyte is whale-sized compared to a kilobyte.) □ *My fixed disks give me a capacity of over seventy-five mobies.* □ *My new computer has one moby of random access memory.*

mod [mad] *mod.* contemporary and fashionable in clothing and ideas. □ *Your clothes are mod, but you're just a plain, old-fashioned prude.* □ *Your mod friends might appreciate this article in the paper.*

mod poser ['mad 'pozə] *n.* someone who looks mod in dress only. (Collegiate.) □ *Tiffany is such a mod poser. At home it's jeans and a T-shirt.* □ *The more extreme the style gets, the more mod posers there are.*

moist around the edges *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Charlie is more than moist around the edges. He is soused.* □ *Didn't that guy seem a little moist around the edges?*

mojo ['modʒo] **1.** *n.* heroin; morphine; cannabis. (Drugs. See also *on the mojo*.) □

This mojo is no good. □ *Why don't you try to kick the mojo?* **2.** *n.* a narcotics addict. (Drugs.) □ *These mojos will rob you blind if you don't keep an eye on them.* □ *Sam's no mojo, and if he was nobody'd mention it.*

moldy fig *n.* an old-fashioned person; a square. □ *Don't be a moldy fig! Lighten up!* □ *Some moldy fig objected to our music.*

mom *n.* a mother. (Also a term of address. Capitalized when used as the name of one's own mother.) □ *My mom is the greatest!* □ *Mom, can I have a bigger allowance?*

mondo ['mando] *mod.* totally; very much. (California.) □ *You are, like, mondo gross!* □ *This place is like, so, like, mondo beige.*

moneybags *n.* <a nickname for a wealthy person.> □ *When old moneybags does finally buy the farm, who gets the loot?* □ *When you get to be a big moneybags, don't forget those you left behind.*

money from home **1.** *n.* easily gotten money. (Underworld.) □ *There is nothing to a simple con job like this. It's money from home.* □ *This job is like taking candy from a kid. It's money from home.* **2.** *n.* something as welcome as long-awaited money from home. □ *This cool drink is money from home right now.* □ *Having you visit like this is like getting money from home, Tracy.*

money grubber *n.* a stingy person. □ *Why is he such a money grubber? Is he going to take it with him?* □ *The boss is such a money grubber. He still has his first paper clip.*

money talks *in.* money can buy cooperation; having money makes one influential. □ *I know that money talks, but I don't have the scratch to say anything with.* □ *Like they say, money talks, but don't try making it talk to a cop.*

mongo *mod.* greatly; hugely. (Probably akin to humongous.) □ *When I get some cash, I'm gonna buy me one mongo car with leather seats.*

moniker AND **monniker** ['manəkə] *n.* a nickname. □ *What's your moniker, chum?* □ *With a monniker like that, you must get in a lot of fights.*

monkey **1.** *n.* a playful child. (Also a term of address.) □ *Come here, you little monkey!* □ *Hey, monkey, where are you going?* **2.** *n.* a drug addiction. (Drugs. See also **have a monkey on one's back**.) □ *That monkey of mine is getting hungry again.* □ *Why don't you try to get rid of that monkey?*

monkey around (with someone) Go to mess around (with someone).

monkey around (with something) Go to mess around (with something).

monkey bite *n.* a kiss that leaves a blotch or mark. (See also **hickey**.) □ *Who gave you that monkey bite?* □ *Do you have some makeup that'll cover this monkey bite?*

monkey business AND **funny business** *n.* silliness; dishonest tricks. □ *That's enough monkey business. Now, settle down.* □ *Stop the funny business. This is serious!*

monkey-fart AND **fiddle-fart** *in.* to waste time; to do something ineffectually or inefficiently. (A blend of **monkey around** and **fart around**.) □ *Stop monkey-farting and get over here and get to work.* □ *He spent the day fiddle-farting with his motorcycle.*

monkeyshines *n.* tricks; small acts of mischief. □ *You and your silly monkeyshines!* □ *These kids are a lot of fun despite their monkeyshines.*

monkey swill *n.* inferior liquor; strong liquor. □ *This monkey swill will probably make me blind.* □ *Where did you get this monkey swill? This would kill a monkey anyway.*

monkey talk *n.* distorted speech, as uttered while drug intoxicated. (Drugs.) □ *Bart slapped the poor junky to get him to stop the monkey talk.* □ *Their pupils are pin-point-sized, and they talk monkey talk. That's how you can tell they're on H.*

monkey wagon *n.* drug addiction. (Drugs.) □ *I've been riding this monkey wagon long enough.* □ *Some of these treatment centers won't get you off the monkey wagon unless you have insurance.*

monkey wards *n.* Montgomery Wards, a department store chain. □ *I get that kind of stuff at monkey wards.* □ *They closed the monkey wards near us.*

monkey with someone or something *Go to mess with someone or something.*

monniker *Go to moniker.*

monolithic [mə'nə'lɪθɪk] *mod.* heavily drug intoxicated. (Drugs. A play on **stoned**.) □ *She's not just stoned, she's monolithic!* □ *I was monolithic—dead drunk.*

monster 1. *n.* any powerful drug affecting the central nervous system. (Drugs.) □ *This PCP is a monster. Why don't the cops put a stop to it?* □ *That monster just about did me in.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with a powerful or addictive drug. (Drugs.) □ *Where the devil did you get that monster dust?* □ *That is monster C., and it will make you its slave.*

monster weed *n.* cannabis; powerful marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *Where on earth does she get that monster weed she's been blowing?* □ *This is what they call monster weed. Stay away from it. It may have angel dust on it.*

Montezuma's revenge [məntə'zuməz rɪ'vendʒ] *n.* diarrhea; tourist diarrhea. (Refers to tourists in Mexico.) □ *I had a little touch of Montezuma's revenge the second day, but other than that we had a wonderful time.* □ *Most people blame Montezuma's revenge on the water.*

monthlies *n.* the period of menstruation. □ *It's her monthlies. You know how she feels then.* □ *The monthlies have struck again!*

mooch [mutʃ] **1.** *tv. & in.* to beg for money, liquor, or drugs in public places. □ *No mooching around here! Move along!* □ *Jed mooched drinks all evening.* **2.** *n.* a beggar. □ *The guy is a mooch. Get him out of here.* □ *I don't want to be a mooch, but could I borrow your lawn mower?* **3.** *n.*

narcotics. (Drugs. See also **hooch**.) □ *Mooch is what Minnie the Moocher is famous for.* □ *He's gonna have to work hard to get off the mooch.*

moocher 1. *n.* a beggar. □ *What do you usually give a moocher?* □ *I try to give every moocher a little change.* **2.** *n.* a drug addict. (Drugs.) □ *The guy's a moocher and can't be trusted.* □ *These moochers will do anything to get a few bucks for a load.*

moo juice AND **cow juice** *n.* milk. □ *How about another glass of moo juice?* □ *While you're at the store, get some more cow juice.*

moolah ['mʊlə] *n.* money. (Originally underworld.) □ *That is a whole lot of moolah!* □ *There was no moolah in that safe!*

mooley *n.* a clever person who does funny things. □ *What a mooley! Always making us laugh.*

moon 1. *n.* the buttocks. □ *He rubbed a plump moon where he had been kicked, but said no more.* □ *She fell square on her moon and slowly broke into a smile.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to show (someone) one's nude posterior through a window (usually of an automobile). (See also **moonier**; **gaucho**.) □ *When the plane flew over Cuba, this guy named Victor actually mooned a Russian MIG that flew by.* □ *The kids were mooning, and they got arrested for indecent exposure.*

moonier 1. *n.* a drunkard. (From **moonshine**.) □ *This old moonier from up in the hills wandered into town last Friday and died in the town square.* □ *There must be dozens of mooners who beg in town in the day and drink in the woods at night.* **2.** *n.* an idler who stares at the moon. □ *If he ever outgrows being a moonier, he may be all right.* □ *I feel like a moonier tonight. There is nothing better to do.*

moonlight 1. *n.* illicit liquor; moonshine. □ *Where's that bottle of moonlight you used to keep under the counter?* □ *How about a sip of moonlight?* **2.** *in.* to traffic in illicit liquor. (Best done under the cover of darkness.) □ *He moonlighted during prohibition.* □ *Jed was moonlight-*

ing around the clock. **3.** *in.* to work at a second job. □ *Larry had to moonlight to earn enough to feed his family.* □ *A lot of people have to moonlight to make ends meet.*

moonlight requisition *n.* a nighttime theft. (Military. See also **liberate**.) □ *It took a moonlight requisition to get the medicine we needed.* □ *They got the spare part on a moonlight requisition.*

moonlit *mod.* alcohol intoxicated, with moonshine. □ *He's on the jug again. See, he's all moonlit.* □ *He's too moonlit to drive.*

moonrock *n.* a form of **crack** that contains heroin. □ *Max was caught with a supply of moonrock on him.* □ *He was trying to start the little kids out on moonrock.*

moonshine **1.** *n.* nonsense; humbug. □ *That's just moonshine! I don't believe a word.* □ *He's a master at moonshine.* **2.** *n.* homemade whiskey; any cheap or inferior liquor. □ *This moonshine isn't the best you've made.* □ *Moonshine is supposed to be strong, not good.* **3.** *in.* to distill or traffic in illicit liquor. (See also **moonshiner**.) □ *Yeah, I moonshine a little. So what?* □ *You would be amazed at how much people moonshine back in the hills.*

moonshiner *n.* a maker of moonshine. □ *Moonshiners in the Georgia hills are using sophisticated electronic warning systems to keep one step ahead of the feds.* □ *I have an uncle who was a moonshiner for a while.*

moose *n.* a Japanese girlfriend; any girlfriend. (Crude. Military.) □ *She's my moose, and you'd better remember it!* □ *She's one fine moose, if you ask me.*

mop [map] **1.** *n.* a drinking bout. □ *She is off somewhere on another mop.* □ *This mop lasted about a day and a half.* **2.** *n.* a heavy drinker; a drunkard. □ *The guy's a mop. There is nothing you can do till he decides he's had enough.* □ *The mops hang out here looking for handouts.* **3.** *n.* hair; a hairdo. □ *How do you like my new mop?* □ *Why don't you comb that mop?*

mope [mop] **1.** *n.* a tired and ineffectual person. □ *I can't afford to pay mopes around here. Get to work or get out!* □ *I feel like such a mope today.* **2.** **AND** **mope around** *in.* to move around slowly and sadly. □ *I feel like moping and nothing else.* □ *He just mopes around all day and won't eat anything.*

mope around Go to mope.

mopped **AND** **moppy** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Jack was a little moppy to be driving.* □ *He's not mopped; he's sloshed.*

mopping-up operation *n.* a clean-up operation; the final stages in a project where the loose ends are taken care of. □ *It's all over except a small mopping-up operation.* □ *The mopping-up operation should cost just under twenty million.*

moppy Go to mopped.

mop the floor up with someone **AND** **wipe the floor up with someone** *tv.* to beat someone to a pulp. (Also with other verbs: *clean, dust, etc.*) □ *One more crack like that, and I'll have Sam wipe the floor up with you.* □ *Bruno's job is dusting up the floor with people who don't wipe off their feet before coming in.*

more than one bargained for *n.* (getting) more than one expected. □ *This is certainly more than I bargained for!* □ *Trouble and more trouble. I'm getting more than I bargained for when I took the job.*

the **morning after (the night before)** *n.* a hangover. □ *Do worries about the morning after keep you from having a good time at parties?* □ *She's suffering from the morning after the night before.*

mossback ['mɒsbæk] *n.* an old square; a stick in the mud. □ *Walter, you are such an old mossback.* □ *I enjoy appearing to be a mossback. People expect so little from you.*

the **most** *n.* something that is the best. □ *This noodle stuff is the most, Mom!* □ *Sally is the most! Can she dance!*

mother **1.** *n.* marijuana. (Drugs. See also **mother nature(s)**.) □ *She grows her own mother in a pot in her room.* □ *This mother is way rad!* **2.** *n.* a drug dealer;

one's own drug dealer upon whom one depends. (Drugs.) ☐ *Sam is my mother.*
☐ *If you can't trust your mother, who can you trust?*

mother nature(s) *n.* marijuana. (Drugs.)
☐ *No chemicals for me. I find that mother nature is everything I need.* ☐ *See if you can get some of mother nature's.*

motion-lotion *n.* gasoline; motor fuel. (Citizens band radio.) ☐ *Let's stop up ahead for some motion-lotion.* ☐ *I'm about out of motion-lotion.*

motor *in.* to depart. ☐ *Well, let's motor, you guys. It's getting late.* ☐ *I've got to motor. It's a long walk home.*

motor-mouth Go to **ratchet-mouth**.

Motown ['motaʊn] *n.* motor town, Detroit, Michigan. ☐ *Have you ever been to Motown?* ☐ *We went to Motown to buy a car once.*

(mountain) dew 1. *n.* Scotch whiskey. ☐ *Mountain dew is best when it's from the old country.* ☐ *The real mountain dew is smoky-tasting and amber.* **2.** *n.* illicit liquor; any liquor. ☐ *Mountain dew is what I want. As long as it's not store bought.* ☐ *My pappy made his own mountain dew.*

mouse potato *n.* someone who spends a great amount of time using a computer. (Based on **couch potato**.) ☐ *Every since we got the new computer, Jane has turned into a regular mouse potato.*

a **mouth 1.** *n.* a hangover. ☐ *I've got quite a mouth this morning. I guess I overdid it.* ☐ *What a mouth! It tastes like a bird slept in it!* **2.** Go to **mouth(piece)**.

mouth-breather *n.* a stupid-acting person. ☐ *I always end up with a mouth-breather on a blind date.* ☐ *Who's the mouth-breather with Fred?*

mouthful 1. *n.* a true statement. ☐ *You said a mouthful, and I agree.* ☐ *That is a mouthful, and I know it took courage to say it.* **2.** *n.* a tirade. ☐ *Paul really gave me a mouthful. I didn't know I hurt his feelings.* ☐ *She sure had a mouthful to say to you!*

mouth full of South *n.* a southern accent. ☐ *You sure do have a mouth full of South.* ☐ *I just love to hear a man with a mouth full of South.*

mouth off 1. *in.* to give (someone) back talk. ☐ *If you mouth off, I will ground you for three weeks.* ☐ *Don't mouth off at me, buster!* **2.** *in.* to speak out of turn. ☐ *Don't just mouth off. Wait your turn.* ☐ *Hold up your hand. I won't deal with people who mouth off.*

mouth(piece) *n.* a lawyer specializing in criminal cases. (Underworld.) ☐ *The guy hired a mouthpiece and beat the rap.* ☐ *I won't answer anything without my mouth right here by me.*

mouthwash *n.* liquor; a drink of liquor. ☐ *I could use a shot of that mouthwash.* ☐ *You could use a little mouthwash after that long trip, I bet.*

move on someone *in.* to attempt to pick up someone; to attempt to seduce someone. (Collegiate.) ☐ *Don't try to move on my date, old chum.* ☐ *Harry is trying to move on Tiffany. They deserve each another.*

movers and shakers *n.* people who get things done; organizers and managers. ☐ *The movers and shakers in this firm haven't exactly been working overtime.* ☐ *Who are the movers and shakers around here?*

movies *n.* a case of diarrhea. ☐ *A case of the movies kept me going all night.* ☐ *I can't go too far from the little boys' room. I got the movies.*

mow one's lawn Go to **mow the lawn**.

mow the lawn AND **mow one's lawn** *tv.* comb one's hair. ☐ *I'll be with you as soon as I mow the lawn.* ☐ *You better mow your lawn if you're goin' out with me.*

moxie ['maksɪ] *n.* energy; spunk; spirit. ☐ *Now here's a gal with real moxie.* ☐ *Come on. Show some moxie!*

Mr. Big *n.* an important man; the boss man. ☐ *So you're Mr. Big. I thought you'd be taller.* ☐ *The office suite of Acme's Mr. Big was cold and ostentatious, as was its occupant.*

MRE *n.* meals ready to eat, prepackaged food used by the armed forces in combat. (Also reinterpreted as **meals rejected by Ethiopians; meals rejected by the enemy.**) □ *Where is my MRE? I'm tired of living.*

Mr. Hawkins *n.* the winter wind. (Originally black. See also **hawk.**) □ *We have an appointment with Mr. Hawkins in January.* □ *Put something on your head, or Mr. Hawkins will cut you down.*

Mr. Nice Guy *n.* a friendly, forgiving fellow. □ *You'll find that I am Mr. Nice Guy as long as you play fair with me.* □ *Oh, my boss is Mr. Nice Guy. He'll let me off, I'm sure.*

Mr. Right *n.* the one man who is right for a woman. □ *Some day Mr. Right will come along and sweep you off your feet.* □ *I'm tired of waiting for Mr. Right. Where is Mr. Maybe?*

Mrs. Murphy *n.* a bathroom. □ *Whose turn is it at Mrs. Murphy's?* □ *When will Mrs. Murphy be free?*

Mr. Whiskers AND **Uncle Whiskers; whiskers (man)** *n.* a federal agent. (Underworld. From the whiskers of Uncle Sam.) □ *Mr. Whiskers is trying to get me to pay tax on those few bucks.* □ *Mr. Whiskers is on our tail. Let's blow town.*

MT *n.* an empty bottle. (Initialism.) □ *Put your MTs in the garbage.* □ *Here's another MT for your collection.*

mu *n.* marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *This mu is stale.* □ *Are mu and bu the same thing?*

mucho ['mutʃo] *mod.* very. (Spanish.) □ *This is a mucho happy young man.* □ *We are mucho disgusted with your performance.*

muck something up *tv.* to mess something up; to ruin something. □ *Try not to muck it up this time.* □ *You seem to have mucked up this one, too.*

mudbud *n.* homegrown marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *Mudbud, hell! It's garbage.* □ *If you sell your mudbud, you're a pusher!*

muddled (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I've had a little too much muddler, I think.*

Anyway, I'm muddled. □ *Larry is too muddled up to drive.*

muddler *n.* liquor. □ *I've had a little too much muddler, I think. Anyway, I'm muddled.* □ *Let's stop here for some muddler.*

mud duck *n.* an ugly person. □ *Sam is a real mud duck, but the women seem to like him.*

mug **1.** *n.* the face. (Crude.) □ *Wipe that smile off your mug!* □ *What a gorgeous mug!* **2.** *n.* a thug; a goon. (Underworld.) □ *Call off your mugs. I'll come peacefully.* □ *Sam is just another one of the mugs from the mob.* **3.** *tv.* to attack and rob someone. □ *Somebody jumped out of an alley and tried to mug me.* □ *Some punk mugged Mrs. Lopez last night.*

mugger *n.* someone, usually a male, who attacks and robs people. □ *I clobbered the mugger with a tire iron I carry just for such occasions.* □ *The muggers have the downtown almost to themselves after dark.*

muggy ['mægi] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *George is just a little muggy. It doesn't take much anymore.* □ *I'm too muggy to drive.*

mug shot *n.* a photograph of one's face taken for police records. (Underworld.) □ *I'm going to have to ask you to come down to the station and go through some mug shots.* □ *How can a professional photographer take a portrait that looks like a mug shot?*

mule *n.* someone who delivers or smuggles drugs for a drug dealer. (Drugs.) □ *The jerks use a twelve-year-old kid for a mule!* □ *A car drove by, and suddenly the mule was riddled with machine gun bullets.*

munchies **1.** Go to (blind) munchies. **2.** *n.* snacks, such as potato chips; any casual food. □ *What kind of munchies are we going to have?* □ *The munchies at the party were great!*

munchkin ['mʌntʃkən] *n.* a small or insignificant person. □ *You're not going to let that munchkin push you around, are you?* □ *Who is the munchkin holding the clipboard?*

munch out *in.* to eat ravenously. (Drugs. See also **pig out.**) □ *I had to munch out*

after the party. *I can't imagine why.* □ *I can munch out for no reason at all.*

mung 1. AND **MUNG** [mʌŋ] *n.* something that is *mashed until no good*; anything nasty or gloppy. (An acronym, but possibly a coinage before it became an acronym.) □ *Get this mung off my plate.* □ *This mung is cruel and unusual punishment. I demand to see the warden.* **2.** *tv.* to ruin something. □ *You munged my car!* □ *Look at it! You munged it!*

mung something up *tv.* to mess something up. □ *Don't mung it up this time.* □ *The team munged up the play, and the coach blasted them but good.*

mungy ['mʌŋi] **1.** *mod.* gloppy; messy. □ *Get that mungy stuff off my plate!* □ *The spaghetti was cold and mungy by the time it was served.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with an oily feeling of the face of a person who has taken LSD. (Drugs.) □ *I feel so mungy after I take the stuff. Yuck!* □ *I can do without the mungy feeling and the flashbacks.*

murder AND **slaughter** *tv.* to overwhelm; to beat someone in a sports contest. □ *The other team murdered us.* □ *We went out on the field prepared to slaughter them.*

murphy ['mɜːfi] **1.** *n.* a potato. □ *I spent half my tour of duty peeling murphies.* □ *Look, this murphy looks like my mother-in-law.* **2.** *n.* a breast. (Crude. Usually plural. Usually objectionable.) □ *Look at the murphies on that dame!* □ *She stood about six feet tall and was turned in the light so her murphies stood out in silhouette.*

musclehead *n.* a stupid man; a man who has muscle where there should be brains. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Look, musclehead, do exactly what I tell you!* □ *An overstuffed musclehead waddled over and offered to bend me in half if I didn't beat it.*

muscleman 1. *n.* a strong bully; a goon. (Underworld.) □ *Bruno is a muscleman for the kingpin of a local drug ring.* □ *Tell your muscleman to lay off.* **2.** *n.* a man who builds muscles through bodybuild-

ing exercises. □ *That muscleman doesn't have a single ounce of fat on him.* □ *Being a muscleman requires most of your time.*

mush 1. *n.* nonsense. □ *What mush! Come on, talk straight!* □ *That's just mush. Don't believe it.* **2.** *n.* romance; lovemaking; kissing. □ *I can't stand movies with lots of mush in them.* □ *When an actor looks at an actress like that, you just know that there's gonna be some mush.* **3.** *n.* one's face. (Crude.) □ *Put some paint on your mush, and let's get going.* □ *With a mush like that, you ought to be in pictures. Maybe another King Kong remake.*

mushhead *n.* a stupid person. □ *Oh, good grief, I'm such a mushhead!* □ *Who is the mushhead in the cowboy boots?*

mushmouth *n.* a person who does not or cannot speak clearly. □ *Don't be a mushmouth. Talk plainly.* □ *How can a mushmouth like that get a job reading news on network television?*

musical beds *n.* acts of sexual promiscuity; sleeping with many people. (From the name of the game *musical chairs*.) □ *Mary has been playing musical beds for about a year.* □ *She thinks that playing musical beds is the way to get ahead.*

must Go to (must) do.

a **(must) do** AND **must** *n.* something that someone ought to do. □ *Seeing the Eiffel tower is a must do in Paris.* □ *This is a do when you're in town.*

mutant *n.* a total jerk; a social outcast. (Also a term of address.) □ *Sam, you act like such a mutant!* □ *Hey, mutant! Get out of the way!*

My bad. *phr.* It's my fault and I'm sorry. □ *My bad. It won't happen again.*

my dawg Go to my dog.

my dog AND **my dawg** *n.* my friend; my "pet" and companion. □ *Jane's my dawg. We cruise together.* □ *Hey, my dog. Wuzup?*

My foot! *exclam.* I do not believe it!; Like hell! (An exclamation of contradiction.)

□ *You're the best in town, my foot!* □ *She's going to marry you? My foot!*

My mama didn't raise no dummy. *sent.* I'm not stupid. □ *Sure I know the difference between good and bad. My mama didn't raise no dummy.*

my man *n.* my brother or buddy. (Originally black.) □ *This is my man Sam who's gonna show you how to boogie.* □ *Come on, my man, we have to be taking care of business.*

MYOB. *tv.* Mind your own business. □ *This doesn't concern you. MYOB.*

mystery meat *n.* any unidentified meat. (Collegiate.) □ *What is the mystery meat tonight?* □ *There are no hints as to what this mystery meat is—except its strange pinkish color.*

mystic biscuit *n.* a chunk of peyote cactus. (Drugs.) □ *Wally thought he got a piece of mystic biscuit, but it was just a moldy raisin.* □ *Bart was selling mystic biscuit to the college kids.*

my tenda *n.* my sweetheart; my lover. (My tender one.) □ *Come here, my tenda. I want some kissing.*

N

nab [næb] **1.** *tv.* to arrest someone. (See also **nabbed**.) □ *They nabbed Tom with a stolen watch on him.* □ *I knew they would nab him sooner or later.* **2.** AND **nabber** *n.* a police officer; a cop. □ *The nabs got him, and he had the evidence on his person.* □ *There's a nabber at the door who wants to talk to you.*

nabbed *mod.* caught by the police; arrested. □ *He got nabbed last night with a stolen watch on him.* □ *She's down at the police station. She's nabbed.*

nabber Go to **nab**.

nabe [neb] **1.** *n.* a neighborhood; one's own neighborhood. □ *I can't wait to get back to my own nabe.* □ *Hey, man, welcome back to the old nabe!* **2.** *n.* a neighborhood theater. □ *Do I have to go downtown to see that movie, or is it playing at the nabes yet?* □ *Why drive all the way out there when you can see it at the nabe for half the cost?*

nada ['nada] *n.* nothing; none. (Spanish.) □ *I asked him, but he didn't say nada.* □ *The score was nada to nada.*

nads *n.* the testicles. (From *gonads*.) □ *He got hit in the nads in the football game.*

nag **1.** *tv.* to pester someone constantly. □ *Stop nagging me!* □ *I'll nag him until he remembers on his own.* **2.** *n.* a worn-out horse. □ *I bet a week's pay on that nag. Look what happened!* □ *The cowboy came riding into town on an old gray nag.*

nail **1.** *tv.* to arrest someone. (See also **nailed**.) □ *The cops nailed him right in his own doorway.* □ *"I'm gonna nail you," said the officer.* **2.** Go to **coffin nail**. **3.** *tv.* to identify someone. □ *They nailed him from his picture.* □ *The officer nailed*

Freddy, thanks to the description the victim provided.

nailed **1.** *mod.* correctly identified. □ *The thugs sure got nailed fast.* □ *The killer was nailed with the help of the FBI.* **2.** *mod.* arrested. (See also **nail**.) □ *Okay, chum. You are nailed. Let's go.* □ *Why am I nailed? I didn't do anything.*

nail-em-and-jail-em AND **nailer** *n.* the police in general; a police officer. □ *The nailers caught Freddy last night.* □ *Old nail-em-and-jail-em is going to be knocking at your door any day now.*

nailer Go to **nail-em-and-jail-em**.

nail someone('s hide) to the wall Go to **nail someone to a cross**.

nail someone to a cross AND **nail someone('s hide) to the wall** *tv.* to punish or scold someone severely. (Literally, to crucify someone or to nail someone's skin to the wall like that of a captured animal.) □ *That guy was really mad. He really nailed you to a cross.* □ *She must hate your guts. She sure nailed your hide to the wall.*

naked *mod.* undiluted; having to do with neat liquor, especially gin. (See also **raw**.) □ *No ice, please. I want mine naked.* □ *Give me a naked whisky, if you don't mind.*

naked truth *n.* the complete, unembellished truth. □ *Sorry to put it to you like this, but it's the naked truth.* □ *I can take it. Just tell me the naked truth.*

Nam *n.* Vietnam. □ *How long were you in Nam?* □ *Things were pretty bad in Nam.*

namby-pamby ['næmbi'pæmbi] *mod.* overly nice; effeminate and weak, when said of a male. □ *Fred is too namby-pamby when it comes to making up his*

mind. □ *A real namby-pamby guy.* □ *What a namby-pamby guy!*

the **name of the game** *n.* the way things are; the way things can be expected to be. □ *The name of the game is money, money, money.* □ *I can't help it. That's the name of the game.*

Name your poison. *sent.* State what you want to drink. (Refers to alcoholic drinks only.) □ *Okay, friend, name your poison.* □ *Step up to the bar and name your poison.*

narc Go to **nark**.

narc(o) [nɑrk AND 'nɑrko] **1.** *n.* a narcotic. (See also **nark**.) □ *She's been taking narcs.* □ *How long has he been on narcs?* **2.** *mod.* having to do with narcotics. □ *Does he have a narc problem?* □ *She is a narco officer.* **3.** *n.* a federal narcotics agent; any narcotics enforcement officer. □ *The narcs caught him.* □ *There is a narco at our school.*

nark AND **narc** [nɑrk] **1.** *n.* a police informer. □ *Fred is a nark. He squealed.* □ *I'm going to get that narc for squealing.* **2.** *in.* to inform (on someone) to the police; to **squeal**. (Often with *on*.) □ *Don't nark on me!* □ *All right. Who narked?* **3.** *tv.* to annoy someone. (See also **narked**.) □ *Stop narking me!* □ *Why are you always narking someone?* **4.** *n.* any unpleasant person. □ *Tell that narc to get lost.* □ *Stop being such a narc. Beat it!*

narked [nɑrkt] *mod.* annoyed. (Usually with *at* or *with*.) □ *He's really narked at us.* □ *She is narked with you and your car.*

narky ['nɑrki] *n.* a narcotic drug. □ *They caught him with a lot of narky in his pockets.* □ *The mugger wanted money to buy some narky.*

narly Go to (g)narly.

narrow squeak *n.* a success almost not achieved; a lucky or marginal success; a problem almost not surmounted. □ *That was a narrow squeak. I don't know how I survived.* □ *Another narrow squeak like that and I'll give up.*

natch [nætʃ] *interj.* yes; naturally. □ *I guess it's okay. She said natch.* □ *Natch, you can borrow my car.*

natural *n.* someone with obvious natural talent. □ *That guy is a natural!* □ *Can she ever dance! What a natural!*

natural-born *mod.* born with talent or skill. □ *She is really a natural-born dancer.* □ *Mary is a natural-born artist.*

nature's call AND **call of nature** *n.* the feeling of a need to go to the toilet. □ *I think I feel nature's call coming on.* □ *A call of nature forced us to stop along the way.*

nature stop *n.* a stop to use the toilet, especially during road travel. (Euphemistic.) □ *I think I need a nature stop when it's convenient.* □ *I left my comb back at the last nature stop.*

nause someone out *tv.* to nauseate someone. □ *That horrible smell really nauseates me out.* □ *Things like that nause me out, too.*

naw *interj.* no. □ *Naw, I didn't do that.* □ *Naw, I won't go.*

nay *mod.* ugly; unfavorable. (From *nasty*.) □ *She is really nay.* □ *What a nay thing to say.*

NBD *interj.* no big deal. (Initialism.) □ *Don't worry. NBD.* □ *So you're a little late. NBD.*

NBT *n.* no big thing. (Initialism.) □ *Hey, man! Don't make a fuss! It's NBT.* □ *Listen up, Fred. This is NBT, but listen anyway.*

neanderthal [ni'ændəθəl] *n.* a large and ugly male. □ *Tell that neanderthal to get out of here.* □ *Tom, don't act like such a neanderthal.*

near-beer *n.* beer with less than 1/2 percent alcohol content. (Originally from the Prohibition era.) □ *I read in the paper that near-beer is making a comeback.* □ *You can drink a lot of near-beer without getting drunk.*

neat **1.** *mod.* great; cool; fine. □ *What a neat idea!* □ *That was not a very neat thing to do.* **2.** *exclam.* Wow! (Usually

Neat! □ *Neat! I'm glad you came.* □ *Five of them! Neat!*

neato (canito) ['nito (kə'nito)] *exclam.* really fine. □ *Look at this! Neato canito!* □ *What a great present. Neato!*

neb(bish) ['neb(ɪʃ)] *n.* a dull person; a jerk. (From Yiddish.) □ *Tracy is such a nebbish. Why doesn't she just give up?* □ *You are such a neb!*

Nebraska sign *n.* a flat EEG indicating the death of the patient being monitored. (See also **flatline**. Medical.) □ *The lady in 203 is giving the Nebraska sign. I think she's boxed.* □ *I saw the Nebraska sign on my monitor, and knew it must not be hooked up right.*

the **necessary** *n.* money; an income. □ *I can always use more of the necessary.* □ *I gotta have more of the necessary, man.*

neck *in.* to cuddle and kiss. (Always in reference to lovers or boy-girl relationships.) □ *There are some teenagers in the back room, necking.* □ *Let's go somewhere quiet and neck.*

neck and neck *mod.* almost even. (See also **nip and tuck**.) □ *The horses were neck and neck at the finish line.* □ *They ran neck and neck for the entire race.*

needle *tv.* to annoy someone. □ *Tom is always needling Frank.* □ *Stop needling me!*

needle candy *n.* narcotics that are taken by injection. (Drugs. See also **nose (candy)**.) □ *Max likes needle candy best of all.* □ *Some people prefer needle candy to food.*

negative *n.* any drawback or bad thing about someone or something. □ *There are too many negatives associated with your plan.* □ *I know another negative you didn't mention.*

negatory *mod.* no; negative. □ *Q: Are you going to leave now? A: Negatory.*

nerd AND **nurd** [nɜːd] *n.* a dull and bookish person, usually a male. □ *Fred can be such a nerd!* □ *That whole gang of boys is just a bunch of nurds.*

nerd magnet *n.* a girl or woman who attracts dull males. □ *Oh, Kim, sometimes*

I feel like such a nerd magnet. □ *Sally is weary of dating total drips. She is a classic nerd magnet.*

nerd mobile *n.* a full-sized, uninteresting car; a family car. □ *My father always buys some kind of stupid nerd mobile.* □ *There is nothing but nerd mobiles on our block.*

nerd pack *n.* a plastic sheath for holding pens in a pocket, protecting the cloth from ink. (This is the classic symbol of a bookish nerd.) □ *A lot of engineers have nerd packs.* □ *A real nerd wears a nerd pack in the pocket of a dirty shirt.*

nerds Go to nurts.

nervous Nellie *n.* any nervous person, male or female. □ *Sue is such a nervous Nellie. She should calm down.* □ *Relax! Don't be such a nervous Nellie.*

nerve 1. *mod.* nervous. □ *Mary is so nervy. Anything will set her off.* □ *Now, don't get nervy.* **2.** *mod.* daring; courageous. □ *What a nervy guy!* □ *Don't get nervy with me!*

nest egg *n.* money saved for some important purpose, such as retirement. □ *I lost most of my nest egg in the market crash.* □ *It takes years to build up a nest egg.*

net result *n.* the final result after all the assets and liabilities have balanced out. □ *The net result was that I was fired.* □ *I don't care about the little things. What is the net result?*

never mind *phr.* Forget it.; It doesn't matter anymore. □ *Never mind. I forget what I was going to say.* □ *Oh, never mind. Nobody really cares anyway.*

newshound *n.* a newspaper reporter who pursues a story with the same diligence used by a bloodhound. □ *If the newshounds get hold of this story, we'll never have any peace.* □ *Tell that newshound that I'll sue her if she prints that!*

newt *n.* a stupid person; a dull and uninteresting person. □ *Look, you silly newt, you are wrong!* □ *Don't act like such a newt.*

New York's finest *n.* a New York City police officer. □ *One of New York's finest*

gave me a parking ticket. □ Three of New York's finest were standing there at my door with my lost dog.

nibble 1. *n.* a cautious or preliminary response to something. (See also *nybble*.) □ *My advertisement got three nibbles this morning. □ We will see if anyone else gives it a nibble. 2. in.* to reply cautiously or tentatively to something. □ *Someone nibbled at your want ad. □ I hope someone who wants to buy my car nibbles at the description I posted on the Internet.*

nice meeting you *tv.* it is nice to have met you. (Said when leaving someone whose acquaintance you have just made.) □ *I must go now, Fred. Nice meeting you. □ Well, nice meeting you. I must get home now.*

nice talking to you *in.* it's been pleasant, good-bye. (A leave taking formula, sometimes with an air of dismissal.) □ *Do tell. Well, nice talking to you. □ Nice talking to you. Call my service.*

nick 1. *tv.* to arrest someone. (See also *nicked*.) □ *The cops nicked Paul outside his house. □ They are going to nick Joe, too. 2. tv.* to steal something. □ *The thugs nicked a couple of apples from the fruit stand. □ Don't ever nick anything! Do you hear me? 3. tv.* to get or take something. □ *Would you please nick me a slice of bread? □ Tom nicked a copy of the test for Sam, who also needed one.*

nicked *mod.* arrested. □ *Paul was nicked last night. □ "Now I'm nicked," he said.*

nickel and dime someone (to death) *tv.* to make numerous small monetary charges that add up to a substantial sum. □ *Those waiters nickel and dined me to death. □ Just give me the whole bill at one time. Don't nickel and dime me for days on end.*

nifty *mod.* neat; smart. □ *That is a pretty nifty car you have there. □ Yes, it is nifty.*

night person *n.* a person who prefers to be active in the nighttime. (The plural is with *people*. Compare this with *day person*.) □ *I can't function in the morning. I'm strictly a night person. □ Night people prefer to sleep in the daytime.*

nimrod ['nimrad] *n.* a simpleton; a *nerd*. □ *Susan is a total nimrod. She does such dumb things! □ What stupid nimrod left the lid off the cottage cheese?*

nineteenth hole *n.* a place to buy an alcoholic beverage after a golf game. (Likely to be filled with golfers who have played eighteen holes of golf.) □ *All off us gathered at the nineteenth hole to celebrate a great match. □ I hit a hole-in-one on the first hole and went straight to the nineteenth hole to celebrate.*

nine-to-five *mod.* typical in terms of working hours; structured and scheduled, starting and ending at set times. (From the expression from *nine to five*, normal working hours.) □ *I work nine-to-five. □ I really wanted a nine-to-five job until I finally got one. □ I can't stand the nine-to-five rat race.*

nip 1. *n.* a small, quick drink of liquor. □ *Here, have a nip of this stuff. □ One nip is enough. That is powerful! 2. in.* to take small drinks of liquor periodically. (See also *nipped*.) □ *Paul has been nipping since noon. □ After nipping all day, Fred was pretty well stewed by dinnertime. 3. tv.* to steal something. □ *The thief nipped my purse. □ The punk kid nipped two candy bars from the drugstore.*

nip and tuck *mod.* so close as to be almost the same; *neck and neck*. □ *They ran nip and tuck all the way to the finish line, but Tom won the race. □ It was too close to call—nip and tuck all the way.*

nipped *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also *nip*.) □ *All four of them went out and got nipped. □ How can anybody be so nipped on four beers?*

nippers *n.* handcuffs; leg fetters. □ *The cops put the nippers on the crooks. □ No, not the nippers. They hurt my arms.*

nippy *mod.* [of weather] cold. (A play on *nippy* [weather] and what such weather may do to the human nipples.) □ *It's a little nippy out this morning.*

niter ['naitɹi] *n.* a nightclub. □ *We'll hit a few niteries and then come back to my place. □ There is a cheap niterie over on Twelfth Street where Chuck has a job.*

nit-picker *n.* a person who is hypercritical. □ *Mary is such a nit-picker.* □ *Nit-pickers drive me crazy.*

nit-picking *n.* too much minor criticism; overly particular criticism; nagging. □ *I am tired of all your nit-picking.* □ *Enough nit-picking! What are the major problems?*

nitty-gritty ['nɪdi 'grɪdi] *n.* the essence; the essential points. (Usually in **get down to the nitty-gritty**.) □ *What's the nitty-gritty about the broken window?* □ *Once we are down to the nitty-gritty, we can begin to sort things out.*

nitwit *n.* someone who behaves stupidly. (Also a term of address.) □ *You are such a nitwit!* □ *Please stop acting like a nitwit all the time.*

nix [nɪks] (All senses from German *nichts*.)

1. *interj.* no. □ *The man said nix, and he means nix.* □ *Nix, I won't do it.* **2.** *exclam.* No!; Stop it!; I disagree! (Usually **Nix!**) □ *Nix! I won't do it.* □ *"Nix," said Paul. "I can't permit that."* **3.** *n.* nothing. □ *What did I get for all my trouble? Nix!* □ *I got nix for a tip. And after I was so helpful!* **4.** *tv.* to put a stop to something; to say no to something; to ban something; to turn something down. □ *The boss nixed my plan.* □ *I wanted to say a certain word in my speech, but the management nixed it.*

no-account **1.** *mod.* worthless; no-good. □ *Her uncle is a no-account gambler.* □ *She is a no-account part-time dealer at the casino.* **2.** *n.* a worthless person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Ask that no-account to come over here and explain himself.* □ *Look, you no-account! Take your problems and go away!*

no bargain *n.* not an especially good person or thing. □ *Fred is okay, but he's no bargain.* □ *This car gets me to work and back, but it's no bargain.*

no big deal **AND** **no biggie; no big whoop** *n.* (something) not difficult or troublesome. (See also **NBT.**) □ *Don't worry. It's no big deal.* □ *No problem. It's no biggie.*

no biggie Go to **no big deal**.

no big whoop Go to **no big deal**.

a **nobody** *n.* an insignificant person. (Compare this with **somebody**.) □ *Don't pay any attention to him. He's just a nobody.* □ *That silly girl is a nobody and a pest.*

no-brainer *n.* an easy question that takes no thinking to answer; a simple problem that requires no intellect to solve; a dilemma that requires no pondering to resolve. □ *Of course, the question is a no-brainer. The answer has to be yes.* □ *His proposal of marriage was a no-brainer. She turned him down flat on the spot.*

no brand cigarette Go to **cigarette with no name**.

no-brow *n.* a stupid person. (Patterned on **lowbrow**.) □ *Sam is a complete no-brow. No culture, no sense of style, and no money.* □ *Bart is a total drip. No-brow and a phony.*

no can do *phr.* It can't be done.; I can't do it. □ *Sorry. No can do.* □ *Lend you \$200? No can do.*

nodded out *mod.* in heroin euphoria; under the influence of heroin. (Drugs.) □ *Max nodded out after his fix.* □ *He is upstairs nodded out.*

no dice *interj.* no; not possible. □ *When I asked about a loan, he said, No dice.* □ *No. It can't be done, no dice.*

no earthly reason *n.* no conceivable reason. □ *There is no earthly reason for your behavior.* □ *I can think of no earthly reason why the repairs should cost so much.*

no end of something *n.* an endless supply of something. □ *Have some candy. I have no end of chocolate drops.* □ *I've had no end of trouble ever since I bought this car.*

No fair! *exclam.* That's not fair! □ *No fair! I saw it first!* □ *That's no fair! We paid full price to see this movie.*

no go ['no 'go] *mod.* negative; inopportune. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ *We're in a no-go situation.* □ *Is it go or no go?*

no-good **1.** *n.* a worthless person. □ *Tell that no-good to leave.* □ *The no-good is*

back again. **2.** *mod.* worthless; bad. ☐ *Get that no-good jerk out of here!* ☐ *I have never heard of such a no-good car dealer-ship before.*

no-goodnik [no'gudnik] *n.* someone who is no good. (The *nik* is from Russian via Yiddish.) ☐ *That no-goodnik is pestering me again.* ☐ *Tell the no-goodnik to leave quietly, or I will call the police.*

no great shakes *phr.* someone or something not very good. (There is no affirmative version of this.) ☐ *Your idea is no great shakes, but we'll try it anyway.* ☐ *Ted is no great shakes when it comes to brains.*

no holds barred *mod.* without restriction. (There is no affirmative version of this.) ☐ *I want you to get that contract. Do anything—no holds barred.* ☐ *Try anything that will work, no holds barred.*

noid *n.* a paranoid person. ☐ *Some of those noids write hilarious letters to the editor.* ☐ *Who's the noid screaming about Big Brother?*

noise **1.** *n.* empty talk; nonsense. ☐ *I've had enough of your noise. Shut up!* ☐ *That's nothing but noise. I want the truth.* **2.** *n.* heroin. (Drugs.) ☐ *Man, I need some noise now! I hurt!* ☐ *Bart is hooked on noise.*

No kidding! *exclam.* I am not kidding.; You are not kidding (are you)? ☐ *No kidding! I never thought she would do that.* ☐ *No kidding, he's really going to join the Air Force.*

No lie! *exclam.* Honest!; No kidding! ☐ *I really did it! No lie!* ☐ *I was there on time. No lie! Ask my sister.*

no name cigarette Go to cigarette with no name.

non compos ['nan 'kampos] **1.** *mod.* out of one's mind; *non compos mentis*. ☐ *She is strictly non compos!* ☐ *Don't pay any attention to her. She's non compos.* **2.** AND **non compos poopoo** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *That gal isn't just drunk. She's non compos poopoo.* ☐ *Two glasses and he was non compos.*

non compos poopoo Go to non compos.

none of someone's beeswax [...'biz-wæks] *n.* none of someone's business. ☐ *It's none of your beeswax. I'm not telling.* ☐ *You'll never know. The answer is none of your beeswax.*

no-no ['nono] *n.* something that is not (to be) done. (Essentially juvenile.) ☐ *You can't smoke in here. That's a no-no.* ☐ *She seems to delight in doing all the no-nos.*

No nukes! ['no 'nuks OR 'no 'njuks] *exclam.* a cry against nuclear energy, weapons, submarines, etc. ☐ *The marchers kept chanting, "No nukes! No nukes!"* ☐ *No nukes! Make my electricity the old-fashioned way.*

noodge Go to nudge.

noodle *n.* (one's) head. ☐ *That's using your noodle.* ☐ *Put your hat on your noodle, and let's go.*

noogie *n.* a painful rubbing of someone's scalp with the knuckles. ☐ *Bob gave Bill a noogie and Bill punched him in the gut.*

nope *interj.* no. ☐ *I won't do it! Nope. I won't!* ☐ *She asked him to do it, but he said, "Nope."*

No problem. AND **No prob.;** **NP** *phr.* All is well.; There is no problem, so don't worry or fret. (Often said after someone else says *I'm sorry*.) ☐ *A: Gee! I'm sorry! B: No prob.*

no sale *interj.* no. ☐ *I wanted to go to Florida for the holidays, but my father said, "No sale."* ☐ *No sale. You can't do it.*

nose-burner AND **nose-warmer** *n.* a marijuana cigarette stub; a roach. (Drugs.) ☐ *Hey, man! Can I have a hit of that little nose-burner?* ☐ *The cops found a nose-warmer under the chair.*

nose (candy) *n.* powdered drugs that are inhaled, primarily cocaine, sometimes heroin. (Drugs. See also **needle candy**.) ☐ *Bart has some nose candy for sale.* ☐ *Hey, man! Where can I get some nose?*

nosedive *n.* a great drop; a great decline. (As with a bird or an airplane diving—nose first—toward the ground. See also **take a nosedive**.) ☐ *This year our prof-*

its have taken a nosedive. □ *Confidence in the government took a sudden nosedive.*

nose habit *n.* an addiction to sniffed drugs, usually heroin or cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *Bart is suffering with his nose habit.* □ *One sniff of that white powder and she'll get a nose habit, for sure.*

nose hit *n.* marijuana smoke taken through the nose from the burning end of the cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *Bart likes to take nose hits.* □ *Come on, Bart. Give me a nose hit!*

nose job *n.* a plastic surgery operation to change the appearance of one's nose. □ *How much does a nose job cost?* □ *I don't want a nose job. What I got is good enough.*

nose-lunger ['nozlŋə] *n.* a mass of nasal mucus. (See also **lunger**.) □ *Wayne blew a nose-lunger onto the wall and giggled.* □ *Beavis thought the funniest thing in the world was having a nose-lunger dangling from his chin.*

nose-warmer 1. *n.* a short tobacco pipe. □ *Fred smokes a nose-warmer, especially in the winter.* □ *His nose-warmer almost set his mustache on fire once.* **2.** Go to **nose-burner**.

nosh [nɑʃ] **1.** *n.* a snack. (From German via Yiddish.) □ *How about a little nosh?* □ *I don't want a nosh. I need a whole meal.* **2.** *in.* to snack. □ *You nosh too much.* □ *Every time I see you, you're noshing.*

nosher ['nɑʃə] *n.* someone who is always eating snacks. (See also **nosh**.) □ *I don't know of a single nosher who's not fat.* □ *Fred's a nosher. He's always eating.*

No Shinola! [...ʃaɪ'nɒlə] *exclam.* You are kidding! No shit! (A play on the expression indicating that a stupid person doesn't know shit from Shinola. Shinola is a brand of shoe polish.) □ *So taxes are too high? No Shinola!* □ *He's late again? No Shinola!*

No shit! *exclam.* You are kidding me, aren't you! (Usually objectionable.) □ *You're really gonna do it? No shit!* □ *No shit! She let you go all the way?*

nosh on something ['nɑʃ...] *in.* to make a snack of something. □ *After Thanks-*

giving, we noshed on turkey for three days. □ *Who's been noshing on the chocolate cake?*

no show AND **no-show** *n.* someone who doesn't show up for something, such as an airline flight. □ *The flight was cancelled because there were too many no-shows.* □ *I have never been a no show, but my brother does it all the time.*

no soap *interj.* no. □ *I can't do it. No soap.* □ *No soap, I don't lend anyone money.*

no stress *interj.* no problem; no bother. □ *Don't worry, man, no stress.* □ *Relax. No stress. It doesn't bother me at all.*

no sweat *interj.* no problem; Don't worry; it is no problem. □ *It's no big deal. No sweat.* □ *No sweat, don't fret about it.*

nosy parker ['nozi 'pɑrkə] *n.* a nosy person. (Also a term of address.) □ *Mary can be such a nosy parker.* □ *Look, you nosy parker, mind your own business.*

Not! *interj.* Not really so! (A tag phrase added to the end of a statement, changing it from affirmative to negative. There is usually a pause before **Not!**, which is said on a level pitch somewhat higher than the sentence that comes before.) □ *Of course I'm going to pay \$100 a ticket to see a rock concert. Not!* □ *I am deeply in love with Kim. Not!*

not a chance *interj.* no. □ *Me lend you money? Not a chance!* □ *I won't go, not a chance. Don't ask.*

not all that *phr.* not all that much. (Streets.) □ *A: She can run like the wind. B: She can run fast but not all that.* □ *We are almost as good as you say, but not all that.*

not all there *mod.* crazy; stupid acting. □ *Tom's not all there. Really dense.* □ *You can't depend on Paul for much help. He's really not all there.*

notch *tv.* to count up something; to add up or score something. □ *Well, it looks like we notched another victory.* □ *The crooks notched one more theft before they were caught.*

not cricket *mod.* unfair; illegitimate; unorthodox. (See affirmative examples at **cricket**.) □ *You can't do that! It's not cricket!* □ *What do you mean it's not cricket? You do it.*

not enough room to swing a cat *tv.* very crowded or cramped; [of a room] small, □ *It's really crowded in here. Not enough room to swing a cat.*

not grow on trees *in.* not to be abundant; not to be expendable. (Usually said about money.) □ *I can't afford that. Money doesn't grow on trees, you know.* □ *Don't waste the glue. That stuff doesn't grow on trees, you know.*

Nothing doing! *exclam.* No! □ *Me, go to the opera? Nothing doing!* □ *Nothing doing! I refuse to do it.*

Nothing to it! *exclam.* It is very easy! □ *Look, anybody can do it! Nothing to it!* □ *Changing a light bulb is easy. Nothing to it!*

nothing to sneeze at *n.* no small amount of money; something not inconsequential. □ *It's not a lot of money, but it's nothing to sneeze at.* □ *She worked hard and did not accomplish much, but it's nothing to sneeze at.*

nothing to write home about *n.* something small or inconsequential. □ *I got a little bit of a raise this year, but it was nothing to write home about.* □ *The party was nothing to write home about.*

nothing upstairs *phr.* no brains; stupid. □ *Tom is sort of stupid acting. You know—nothing upstairs.* □ *I know what's wrong with you. Nothing upstairs.*

not just whistling Dixie [...ˈdɪksi] *tv.* not talking nonsense. (Folksy. Refers to a song titled *Dixie*.) □ *Man, you are right! You're not just whistling Dixie.* □ *When you say she is wrong, you're not just whistling Dixie.*

not know beans (about something) *tv.* to know nothing about something. □ *Don't pay any attention to her. She doesn't know beans.* □ *I don't know beans about fixing cars.*

not know from nothing *in.* to be stupid, innocent, and naive. (Usually with *don't*, as in the examples. Always in the negative.) □ *Tom don't know from nothing. He is really dense.* □ *Don't pay any attention to her. She don't know from nothing.*

not know one's ass from a hole in the ground *tv.* not to be knowledgeable; not to be alert and effective. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That stupid son of a bitch doesn't know his ass from a hole in the ground.* □ *She is so dumb, she doesn't know her ass from a hole in the ground.*

not know shit about something *tv.* not to know anything about something. □ *He doesn't know shit about women.* □ *You've worked here for a month, and you don't know shit about this job!*

not know shit from Shinola *tv.* to know what's what; to be knowledgeable in the ways of the world. (See also **No Shinola**! Usually objectionable.) □ *That jerk doesn't know shit from Shinola! Don't even ask him about it!*

Not my dog. Go to (It's) not my dog.

not too shabby **1.** *mod.* [with emphasis on *shabby*] nice; well done. □ *Is that your car? Not too shabby!* □ *That play was not too shabby.* **2.** *mod.* [with emphasis on *too*] very shabby; very poor indeed. (Sarcastic.) □ *Did you see that basket she missed? Not too shabby!* □ *What a way to treat someone. Not too shabby!*

Not to worry. *phr.* Don't worry. □ *You lost your ticket? Not to worry. I'll give you mine.* □ *Not to worry. Everything will be all right.*

not worth a damn *mod.* worthless. □ *This pen is not worth a damn.* □ *When it comes to keeping score, she's not worth a damn.*

not worth a plugged nickel *mod.* worth little or nothing. □ *This new battery is not worth a plugged nickel.* □ *Mary isn't worth a plugged nickel at baseball.*

not worth beans *mod.* worthless. □ *This paint is not worth beans. I'll have to buy another can.* □ *Sue, you're not worth beans as a painter.*

No way! *exclam.* No! (Compare this with **Way!**) □ *Me join the Army? No way!* □ *She can't do that. No way!*

now generation *n.* the (once current) generation of young people who seemed to want only instant gratification. □ *All those people in the now generation want to start out with fancy cars and nice houses.* □ *What will happen to the now generation when times are hard?*

nowhere *mod.* bad; no good; dull. □ *This place is really nowhere. Let's go.* □ *I want to get out of this nowhere party.*

no-win situation *n.* a situation in which there is no hope of success. □ *I find myself in a no-win situation again.* □ *The team—in a no-win situation—punted.*

Now what? *interrog.* What is wrong now? □ *I ran into the room and stopped in front of Tom. "Now what?" asked Tom.* □ *I see you standing there. Now what?*

Now you're talking! *exclam.* What you are saying is making sense! □ *Now you're talking! You've got a great idea!* □ *"Now you're talking!" said the coach when I told him I was going to win.*

NP Go to **No problem.**

nudge AND **noodge** [nʊdʒ] **1.** *n.* someone who nags. □ *Sally can be such a nudge!* □ *I really can't stand a noodge.* **2.** *in.* to nag. □ *Don't noodge all the time.* □ *Stop always noodging.* **3.** *tv.* to nag someone. □ *Stop nudging me about that.* □ *I'll noodge him a little to remind him.*

nudie ['nudi] *n.* a movie featuring nudes. (See also **skin flick.**) □ *There is a nudie playing over at the Roxie Theater.* □ *I didn't know this movie was a nudie!*

nudnik ['nʊdnɪk] *n.* a bore; a pest; a crank. (From Russian via Yiddish. Also a term of address.) □ *Tell that nudnik to stay away from here. He is such a pest.* □ *Heidi can be such a nudnik!*

nuggets *n.* the testicles. □ *Man, my nuggets are cold! Let's hurry up and get back in the car.* □ *I know this kid with three nuggets—a pair and a spare.*

nuke 1. *n.* a nuclear weapon. □ *Are there nukes aboard that ship?* □ *The military establishment is working on a number of new nukes.* **2.** *tv.* to destroy someone or something. (As with a nuclear weapon.) □ *Your cat ran through my garden and totally nuked my flowers!* □ *I'm going to nuke that cat the next time I see it.* **3.** *tv.* to microwave something. □ *I have to nuke my dinner and then I will be right over.* □ *Let's nuke a bag of popcorn before we watch the movie you rented.*

Nuke it! *tv.* Throw it away! □ *You don't need this thing. Nuke it!*

nuke oneself [n(j)uk...] *tv.* to tan oneself at a tanning salon. □ *I nuke myself once a week in the spring so I will be ready for the summer bikini season.* □ *Leonard nuked himself in the middle of winter, and everyone thought he had been to Florida.*

nuker ['n(j)ukə] *n.* a microwave oven. □ *I tried to do a turkey in the nuker once and made a real mess of it.* □ *Who left the soggy bacon in the nuker?*

numbed out *mod.* nearly paralyzed by phencyclidine (PCP). (Drugs.) □ *The teenager was nearly numbed out when they brought her in.* □ *Bart was totally numbed out on angel dust.*

A number 1 Go to **A-1.**

number 1. *n.* a girl or woman; a sexually attractive girl. □ *Who is that cute little number I saw you with?* □ *She is really some number.* **2.** *n.* a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *Bart lit up a number just as the boss came in.* □ *Can I have a hit off your number?* **3.** *n.* any person or thing. □ *This is an interesting little number. You attach it to your bicycle handlebars.* □ *Yes, Tom can be a strange number when he wants.* **4.** *n.* an act or performance; a performance specialty. □ *Ann did her number and left the stage.* □ *I'll talk to you after my number.*

number-cruncher 1. *n.* someone who works with figures; an accountant. □ *The number-crunchers are trying to get the annual report ready.* □ *I enjoy being a number-cruncher. Math doesn't scare me.* **2.** *n.* a large and powerful computer. (Com-

puters.) □ *They traded in the old computer for a powerful number-cruncher.* □ *The small one is reserved for minor projects. The really big and important jobs are run on the number-cruncher.*

number crunching *n.* using a computer to solve enormously complicated or complex mathematical problems. □ *I don't do a lot of number crunching, so I don't need a terribly fast machine.* □ *I use the big mainframe computer for number crunching.*

number one **1.** *mod.* top rate; best; closest. (See also **numero uno**.) □ *We heard the number one high school band in the whole state last night.* □ *This is my number one buddy, Tom.* **2.** *n.* oneself. □ *I don't know who will pay for the broken window, but old number one isn't!* □ *Everything always comes back to number one. I have to solve everybody's problems.* **3.** *n.* urination; an act of urination. □ *Jimmy made a mess in his pants. But don't worry. It's just number one.*

number two *n.* defecation; an act of defecation. □ *Mommy! I gotta do a number two.* □ *God, what's that smell? Number two?*

numbnuts *n.* a jerk; a worthless person. (Usually a male.) □ *Hey, numbnuts! What did you do that for?*

numero uno ['numəʊ 'uno] **1.** *n.* number one; the best. (Spanish. See also **number one**.) □ *This coffee is numero uno in my book.* □ *Mary is numero uno in our office. You'll have to ask her.* **2.** *n.* oneself; **number one**. □ *I always look out for numero uno.* □ *What's in it for numero uno?*

nummy ['nəmi] *tasty; yummy.* (Also juvenile or baby talk.) □ *This cake is just nummy.* □ *Here, Jimmy, don't you want a spoon of this nummy food?*

nurd Go to **nerd**.

nurts AND **nerts** [nɜːts] **1.** *n.* nonsense. □ *Don't talk that kind of nurts to me!* □ *Oh, that's just nerts. I don't believe a word of it.* **2.** *interj.* <a mild expression of distress or dismay.> (Usually **Nerts!**; **Nurts!**.) □ *Oh, nerts! I forgot my wallet.* □ *Nerts! I dropped my keys.*

nut **1.** *n.* an odd or strange person; a crazy person. □ *Who is that nut over there in the corner?* □ *Some nut is going to try to fly from the top of one building to another.* **2.** *n.* (one's) head. □ *A brick fell and hit him on the nut.* □ *The baseball came in fast. Clonk! Right on the nut!* **3.** *n.* an enthusiast (about something). □ *Paul is a nut about chocolate cake.* □ *Mary is a party nut.*

nutcake *n.* a stupid person. (See also **fruitcake**.) □ *Stop acting like such a nutcake all the time.* □ *My sister can be a real nutcake if she tries.*

nut factory Go to **nuthouse**.

nut-foundry Go to **nuthouse**.

nuthatch Go to **nuthouse**.

nuthouse AND **nut factory; nut-foundry; nuthatch** *n.* an insane asylum. □ *The judge spent three years in the nuthouse.* □ *They're going to send you to the nut-foundry some day.*

nutpick *n.* a psychoanalyst. □ *Bill pays a nutpick about \$100 an hour just to listen.* □ *What do you have to know to be a nutpick?*

nuts **1.** *mod.* crazy. □ *You're nuts if you think I care.* □ *That whole idea is just nuts!* **2.** *exclam.* No!; I don't believe you!; I don't care! (Usually **Nuts!**) □ *Nuts! You don't know what you are talking about.* □ *Oh, nuts! I forgot my wallet.* **3.** *n.* the testicles. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Chuck got kneed in the nuts in a football game.* □ *She tried to kick him in the nuts, like she'd seen on television, but he turned too quickly.*

nuts and bolts **1.** *n.* the mundane workings of something; the basics of something. □ *I want you to learn how to write well. You have to get down to the nuts and bolts of writing.* □ *She's got a lot of good, general ideas, but when it comes to the nuts and bolts of getting something done, she's no good.* **2.** *n.* the subject of psychology in college. □ *I took a class in nuts and bolts and didn't learn anything at all about what makes me tick.* □ *Tom is flunking nuts and bolts because he won't participate in the required "experiments."*

Nuts to you! *exclam.* Go away!; Drop dead!

□ *Well, nuts to you! You are just plain rude!* □ *Nuts to you! I will NOT lend you money!*

nutter *n.* a nutty person. □ *Sally is such a nutter. She would forget her head if it wasn't screwed on.* □ *That guy is a real nutter. Thinks he can get a cab at this hour.*

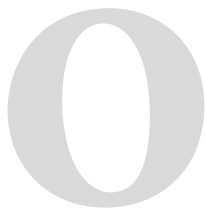
nuttery *n.* an insane asylum; the place where nuts are kept. (See also **nut**.) □ *If you keep acting so odd, we'll have to put you in a nuttery.* □ *This place is a nuttery! I've never seen so many silly people.*

nutty *mod.* silly; giddy; stupid. □ *What a nutty idea!* □ *That's nutty!* □ *Mary is a real nutty girl, but she is my best friend.*

nutty as a fruitcake *mod.* very silly or stupid. □ *The whole idea is as nutty as a fruitcake.* □ *Tom is as nutty as a fruitcake. They will put him in a nuttery someday.*

nut up *in.* to go crazy; to go nuts. □ *I've got to have a vacation soon, or I'm going to nut up.* □ *Poor Sue nutted up and had to take it easy for a few months.*

nybble ['nɪb] *n.* four bits of computer memory. (Literally, one half of a bite, i.e., a byte.) □ *My program wouldn't work just because I had one silly little nybble wrong!* □ *You don't program a nybble! It's just half a byte.*



oak(s) [oks] *mod.* OK; satisfactory; worthy. (Prisons.) □ *That guy's oaks.* □ *This stuff is oak.*

oasis [o'esəs] *n.* a place to buy liquor. □ *Let's go into this oasis here and pick up a few bottles.* □ *There is an oasis on almost every corner in this district.*

oater ['odə:] *n.* a Western movie. (From the oats that the horses eat. See also **horse opera**.) □ *I don't want to see an oater.* *Isn't anything else showing?* □ *Let's go out and see a good old-fashioned oater.*

ob [ab] *mod.* obvious. □ *Of course I understand it. It's completely ob.* □ *It's pretty ob that you are just trying to start something.*

obliterated *mod.* drunk. □ *Fred was obliterated and couldn't walk to his car, let alone drive it.* □ *Three beers and Sally became obliterated.*

obno(c) ['ab'nak AND 'abno] *mod.* obnoxious; disgusting. □ *I wish you weren't so obnoc all the time!* □ *Beavis is totally obno, and he loves being that way.*

occifer Go to **ossifer**.

OD 1. *n.* an overdose of a drug. (Initialism. Drugs.) □ *Bart took an OD and was sent to the hospital.* □ *If you take an OD and no one is around, you may end up dead.* **2.** *in.* to purposely or accidentally give oneself a fatal dose of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Bart ODeD on heroin.* □ *I knew he would OD someday.* **3.** *in.* to die from an overdose of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Two kids at my school ODeD last weekend.* □ *I think Max may OD in a week or two.* **4.** *n.* a person who has taken an overdose of drugs. (Hospitals.) □ *This OD has just stopped breathing.* □ *How many ODs did you get in here last weekend?*

oddball 1. *n.* an eccentric person. □ *Tom is sure an oddball. He ordered a pineapple and strawberry milkshake.* □ *We oddballs love concoctions like that.* **2.** *mod.* strange; peculiar. □ *What an oddball combination of things!* □ *It's too oddball for me.* □ *Your oddball ideas have cost us too much money.*

odd bird AND **strange bird** *n.* a strange or eccentric person. □ *Mr. Wilson certainly is an odd bird.* □ *What a strange bird you are.*

odd-bod ['adbəd] **1.** *n.* a strange person. □ *Who is that odd-bod over in the corner?* □ *Ralph can be sort of an odd-bod now and then.* **2.** *n.* a person with a strange body. □ *I am such an odd-bod that it's hard to find clothes that fit.* □ *I've never seen anyone so tall. What an odd-bod!* **3.** *n.* a peculiar body. □ *I have such an odd-bod that it's hard to find clothes.* □ *With an odd-bod like that, he'll never make good in the movies.*

odds-on *mod.* having to do with the thing or person favored to win. □ *My horse is an odds-on favorite to win.* □ *My plan is odds-on to be selected.*

Of all the nerve! *exclam.* I am shocked by your domineering and high-handed behavior. □ *You want me to do your laundry? Of all the nerve!* □ *Of all the nerve! Asking me to do a thing like that.*

off 1. *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *She is truly off.* □ *Tom is so off he can't stand up.* **2.** *tv.* to dispose of someone or something; to kill someone. □ *The crooks offed the witness before the trial.* □ *Forget the whole idea! Just off it once and for all.* **3.** *in.* to die. (See also **outed**.) □ *The guy just falls down and offs, right there on*

Main Street. □ *I don't want to off before my time.*

off artist Go to (rip-)off artist.

off base *mod.* off target; wrong; not relevant. (See also **way off (base).**) □ *Your answer was completely off base. Try again.* □ *You are off base. I will have to deal with someone else.*

offbeat *mod.* strange; unconventional. □ *That is really an offbeat idea.* □ *Tom is sort of offbeat. Well, he's weird.*

off-brand cigarette *n.* a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *Bart smokes nothing but those off-brand cigarettes.* □ *I smell an off-brand cigarette in here.*

off color *mod.* dirty or smutty; raunchy. (Usually hyphenated before a nominal.) □ *That joke was sort of off color.* □ *Tom told an off-color joke that embarrassed everyone.*

offed Go to outed.

off one's chump *mod.* crazy; nuts. □ *You silly clown. You're off your chump.* □ *Am I off my chump, or did that car suddenly disappear?*

off one's nut 1. *mod.* crazy; out of one's head. □ *Shut up! You're off your nut!* □ *Don't pay any attention to her. She's off her nut.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Those guys are really off their nuts!* □ *She just sat there and got more and more off her nut.*

off one's rocker *mod.* silly; giddy; crazy. (See also **rocker.**) □ *That silly dame is off her rocker.* □ *You're off your rocker if you think I believe that!*

off one's trolley *mod.* silly; eccentric. □ *Don't mind Uncle Charles. He's a bit off his trolley.* □ *That silly old man is just off his trolley.*

off the hook 1. *mod.* no longer in jeopardy; no longer obligated. □ *I'll let you off the hook this time, but never again.* □ *We're off the hook. We don't need to worry anymore.* **2.** *mod.* crazy. (Referring to the telephone—disconnected.) □ *She's so ditzy—really off the hook.*

off-the-shelf *mod.* readily available; purchasable without any special difficulties or delays. □ *This is just plain old off-the-shelf hand lotion. Isn't it great?* □ *Is it off-the-shelf?* □ *I don't use off-the-shelf software in my computer. I write my own.*

off the track *mod.* not on a productive course; following the wrong lead. □ *You are off the track just a little. Let me help you.* □ *I was off the track for a while, but now everything is OK.*

off the wagon 1. *mod.* drinking liquor after a period of abstinence. □ *Poor John fell off the wagon again. Drunk as a skunk.* □ *He was off the wagon for a year the last time before he sobered up.* **2.** *mod.* back on drugs after a period of abstinence. □ *Max is off the wagon and shooting up again.* □ *He can't be off the wagon, because he has never stopped using, even for a day.*

off-the-wall *mod.* strange; improbable; nonsensical. □ *What an off-the-wall guy!* □ *Your ideas are generally off-the-wall, but this one makes sense.*

Oh, boy! *exclam.* Wow! □ *Oh, boy! What a mess!* □ *Oh, boy! That was a great play!*

Oh, yeah? ['o 'jæə] *exclam.* Is that what you think?; Are you trying to start a fight? □ *Oh, yeah? What makes you think so?* □ *Oh, yeah? You want to start something?* □ *Tom said, "Bill, you are a numskull." Bill whirled around, saying, "Oh, yeah?"*

OIC *phr.* Oh, I see. (Initialism.) □ *OIC. That's very interesting.* □ *OIC. So that's how it's done.*

oiled *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Will this stuff make me really oiled?* □ *She's not just drunk; she's totally oiled.*

oilhead *n.* a drunkard; an alcoholic. □ *There is an old oilhead over there on the street corner.* □ *Paul gave the oilhead a quarter, knowing it would be spent on cheap wine.*

oil it *tv.* to study all night. (Literally, *burn the midnight oil.*) □ *I have a test tomorrow, and I really have to oil it tonight.* □ *If you studied all semester long, you would still have to oil it before final exams.*

oink [oɪŋk] *n.* a police officer. (A play on pig.) □ *There is an oink following us on a motorcycle.* □ *Here come the oinks!*

oinker *n.* a very fat person. (Refers to the fatness of a pig.) □ *Sally is getting to be quite an oinker, don't you think?* □ *Who is that oinker who just came into the cafeteria? There won't be any food left for the rest of us.*

oink out *in.* to overeat. □ *I oink out every weekend.* □ *This Thursday starts a four-day weekend, and I plan to oink out every day.*

OJ 1. *n.* orange juice. (Initialism.) □ *I like to have a big glass of fresh OJ every morning.* □ *The price of OJ is going to go up again soon.* **2.** Go to **overjolt**.

OK AND okay 1. *interj.* accepted; agreed. (Initialism. This may be originally from a jocular *oll kerrect*.) □ *OK, I'll do it.* □ *You want me to lend you \$100? Okay.* □ *So, he said, like, "okay," and, like, I go "okay." So we both go "Okay." Okay?* **2.** *mod.* acceptable. □ *Fred is an OK guy.* □ *This cake is okay, but not what I would call first rate.* **3.** *mod.* acceptably. □ *She ran okay—nothing spectacular.* □ *They usually do it okay.* **4.** *n.* (someone's) acceptance. □ *I won't give the final okay until I see the plans.* □ *We got her OK and went on with the job.* **5.** *tv.* to approve something. □ *She refused to okay our plans.* □ *Please OK this bill so I can pay it.*

ok Go to **ak**.

okay Go to **OK**.

okee-dokey ['oki'doki] *interj.* yes; OK. (Folksy.) □ *Okey-dokey, I'll be there at noon.* □ *Okey-dokey. You sure can.*

old flame *n.* a former sweetheart or lover. □ *Mary's old flame, Tom, will be at the party.* □ *It is best to forget an old flame.*

old fogey *n.* an old-fashioned person; an old man. □ *My uncle is an old fogey. He must be the most old-fashioned man in the world.* □ *Don't be such an old fogey.*

old girl *n.* an old lady; a lively old lady. □ *That old girl is still going.* □ *What makes an old girl like that so feisty?*

old hand (at something) *n.* someone experienced at doing something. □ *I'm an old hand at fixing cars.* □ *Do you need help with your painting? I'm an old hand.*

old hat *n.* an old-fashioned thing or person; an outmoded thing or person. □ *That's just old hat. This is the modern world!* □ *Her latest work is nothing but old hat. She's through.*

old heave-ho ['old 'hiv'ho] *n.* a dismissal; a physical removal of someone from a place. □ *I thought my job was secure, but today I got the old heave-ho.* □ *You had better act right, or my friend will give you the old heave-ho.*

oldie but goodie *n.* something (or even someone) that is old but still likeable. □ *I love that piece of music. It's an oldie but goodie.* □ *Mary is an oldie but goodie. I'm glad she's still around.*

old lady AND old woman 1. *n.* (one's) mother. □ *I'll ask my old lady if I can go.* □ *What time does your old lady get home?* **2.** *n.* (one's) wife. □ *I wonder what my old lady is cooking for dinner tonight.* □ *My old lady doesn't like for me to go out without her.* **3.** *n.* (one's) girlfriend. □ *My old lady and I are getting married next week.* □ *I got my old lady a bracelet for her birthday.*

old man 1. *n.* (one's) father. □ *I'll ask my old man if I can go.* □ *What time does your old man get home?* **2.** *n.* (one's) husband. □ *My old man is downstairs fixing the furnace.* □ *My old man is sick and can't come with me.* **3.** *n.* (one's) boyfriend. □ *Ask your old man to come to the party, too.* □ *I got my old man to take me to see that movie I told you about.* **4.** the **old man** *n.* the boss; a high-ranking officer. (Always with *the* in this sense.) □ *The old man says do it, so you had better do it.* □ *Quiet! Here comes the old man.*

the **old one-two 1.** *n.* a series of two punches delivered quickly, one after another. □ *Tom gave Bill the old one-two, and the argument was ended right there.* □ *Watch out for Tom. He's a master of the old one-two.* **2.** *n.* any destructive assault on an idea, thing, or person. □ *By the*

time the committee had given the plan the old one-two, there was nothing left I could do. □ I gave his proposal the old one-two. Next time he will be better prepared.

old skool *mod.* old fashioned; out-of-style; no longer trendy. □ *Man, your haircut is strictly old skool.*

old soldier **1.** *n.* a cigarette or cigar butt; a hunk of tobacco. □ *The tramp bent over to pick up an old soldier off the pavement.* □ *He's never had anything but an old soldier for a smoke.* **2.** *n.* an empty liquor bottle; an empty beer bottle or can. □ *Larry hid all his old soldiers under the bed.* □ *Bill hit Tom over the head with an old soldier.*

old-timer *n.* an old person; an old man. (Also a term of address.) □ *Hey, old-timer, how's it going?* □ *Ask that old-timer over there if it has always been this bad around here.*

old woman Go to **old lady**.

on a roll *mod.* in the midst of a series of successes. (See also **roll**.) □ *Don't stop me now. I'm on a roll.* □ *Things are going great for Larry. He's on a roll now.*

on a shoestring *mod.* on practically no money; on a very tight budget. (See also **shoestring**.) □ *I run my business on a shoestring. I never know from day to day whether I will survive.* □ *We live on a shoestring—hardly any money at all.*

on a tank Go to **on the tank**.

on a tight leash **1.** *mod.* under very careful control. □ *My father keeps my brother on a tight leash.* □ *We can't do much around here. The boss has us all on a tight leash.* **2.** *mod.* addicted to some drug. □ *Bart is on a tight leash. He has to have the stuff regularly.* □ *Gert is kept on a tight leash by her habit.*

once and for all *mod.* permanently. □ *I'm gonna take care of you once and for all!* □ *I would like to get this ridiculous problem settled once and for all.*

once in a blue moon *mod.* rarely. □ *I do this only once in a blue moon.* □ *Once in a blue moon I have a little wine with dinner.*

the **once-over** *n.* a visual examination, especially of a person of the opposite sex. □ *The way she was giving him the once-over, I knew she would say something to him.* □ *Tom, you are always giving the girls the once-over.*

once over lightly **1.** *mod.* quickly and superficially; carelessly; cursorily. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ *He looked at it once over lightly and agreed to do it.* □ *It needs more than a once-over-lightly look.* **2.** *n.* a perfunctory examination; a quick glance. □ *Please give it more than the usual once over lightly.* □ *Once over lightly is not enough.*

one *mod.* having to do with something unique or special. (Similar to a definite article.) □ *Tracy is one fine cook.* □ *He was left with one powerful hangover.* □ *Hank? Now there is one ugly son of a gun for you.*

one and one *mod.* having to do with the use of both nostrils in snorting a drug, usually cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *Max always takes it one and one. It's the only way he can get enough.* □ *He does it one and one because it hits him faster that way.*

one and only *n.* one's lover or sweetheart. □ *I bought a gift for my one and only.* □ *She's my one and only, and I love her.*

on easy street *mod.* in a state of financial independence and comfort. (See also **easy street**.) □ *I want to live on easy street when I grow up.* □ *When I get this contract signed, I'll be on easy street.*

one brick shy of a load *mod.* stupid; dense. □ *Joyce has done some stupid things. Sometimes I think she is one brick shy of a load.* □ *Ted is one brick shy of a load. He can't seem to do what he is told without messing up.*

one-eyed pants mouse Go to **bald-headed hermit**

one for the road *n.* a drink; a drink before a journey. □ *Let's have one for the road.* □ *Don't have one for the road if you are going to be the driver.*

one-horse town *n.* a very small town; a small and backward town. □ *I refuse to*

spend a whole week in that one-horse town! ☐ *I grew up in a one-horse town, and I liked it very much.*

one jump ahead of someone or something *n.* in advance of someone or something; a step ahead of someone or something. ☐ *I try to be one jump ahead of the problems.* ☐ *You have to keep one jump ahead of the boss in order to succeed.*

one-man show **1.** *n.* a performance put on by one person. ☐ *It was a one-man show, but it was very entertaining.* ☐ *For a one-man show, it was very long.* **2.** *n.* an exhibition of the artistic works of one person. ☐ *She is having a one-man show at the Northside Gallery.* ☐ *I'm having a one-man show next weekend. Come and see what I have done.*

one-night stand **1.** *n.* a performance lasting only one night. ☐ *The band did a series of one-night stands down the East Coast.* ☐ *You can't make a living doing one-night stands.* **2.** *n.* a romance or sexual relationship that lasts only one night. ☐ *It was not a romance, just a one-night stand.* ☐ *It looked like something that would last longer than a one-night stand.*

one of the faithful *n.* a drunkard. ☐ *Here comes Mr. Franklin—one of the faithful—staggering down the street.* ☐ *I saw one of the faithful standing at the bar.*

one's bag *n.* one's preferences; one's talents. ☐ *Working crossword puzzles is my bag.* ☐ *Hey, Tom, what's your bag? What do you like to do?*

one's best shot *n.* one's best attempt (at something). ☐ *That was his best shot, but it wasn't good enough.* ☐ *I always try to give something my best shot.*

one smart apple *n.* a smart or clever person. ☐ *That Sue is one smart apple.* ☐ *My brother is one smart apple.*

one too many *n.* one drink of liquor too many, implying drunkenness. ☐ *I think I've had one too many. It's time to stop drinking.* ☐ *Don't drive if you've had one too many.*

one-track mind *n.* a (person's) mind obsessed with only one thing. ☐ *When it*

comes to food, Tom has a one-track mind. ☐ *Mary has a one-track mind. All she thinks about is Tom.*

on fire **1.** *mod.* very attractive or sexy. ☐ *She is really on fire!* ☐ *Look at those jet-set people! Each one of them is just on fire.* **2.** *mod.* doing very well; very enthusiastic. ☐ *Jill's new book is really on fire. Everyone is buying it.* ☐ *Fred is on fire in his new job. He'll get promoted in no time.*

on ice *mod.* in reserve. ☐ *That's a great idea, but we'll have to put it on ice until we can afford to put it into action.* ☐ *I have two boyfriends. One I see every weekend, and the other I keep on ice for a rainy day.*

on it *mod.* really good. ☐ *Man, Weasel is really on it! What a rad lad!* ☐ *Susan is on it, and getting lots of attention for her running style.*

only way to go *n.* the best way to do something; the best choice to make. ☐ *Get a four-wheel drive car. It's the only way to go.* ☐ *That's it! A new house. It's the only way to go.*

on one's ass Go to (flat) on one's ass.

on one's high horse *mod.* in a haughty manner or mood. ☐ *Larry is on his high horse again, bossing people around.* ☐ *The boss is on her high horse about the number of paper clips we use.*

on one's last legs **AND on its last legs** *mod.* about to expire or become non-functional. ☐ *This car is on its last legs. We have to get a new one.* ☐ *Poor old Chuck is on his last legs.*

on one's own hook *mod.* all by oneself. ☐ *I don't need any help. I can do it on my own hook.* ☐ *She did it on her own hook without having to call on anyone.*

on someone's tail *mod.* following someone closely. ☐ *There is a huge truck on my tail. What should I do?* ☐ *Keep on her tail and don't let her out of your sight.*

on someone's watch *mod.* while someone is on duty. ☐ *I am not responsible since it didn't happen on my watch.* ☐ *I guess I have to bear the blame since it happened on my watch.*

on tap 1. *mod.* having to do with beer sold from a barrel or keg. □ *Do you have any imported beers on tap here?* □ *I like beer on tap. The canned stuff tastes funny to me.* **2.** *mod.* immediately available. □ *I have just the kind of person you're talking about on tap.* □ *The cook has any kind of food you might want on tap.*

on-target *mod.* timely; exact; incisive. □ *Your criticism is exactly on-target.* □ *We are on-target for a December completion date.*

on the back burner *mod.* out of the way; aside and out of consideration. (See also **on the shelf**.) □ *We will have to put this on the back burner for a while.* □ *She kept her boyfriend on the back burner until she decided what to do about him.*

on the ball 1. *mod.* knowledgeable; competent; attentive. □ *This guy is really on the ball.* □ *If you were on the ball, this wouldn't have happened.* **2.** *mod.* in one's head or brain; at one's disposal. (Especially with *have* a lot.) □ *He sure has a lot on the ball.* □ *When you've got it on the ball the way she does, things generally go right.*

on the bandwagon *mod.* with the majority; following the latest fad. (Often with *hop*, *get*, *climb*, or *jump*.) □ *Come on! Hop on the bandwagon! Everyone else is joining.* □ *Tom always has to climb on the bandwagon. He does no independent thinking.*

on the beam 1. *mod.* homing in on an aviation radio beam. (No longer a major navigational device.) □ *The plane was on the beam and landed safely in the fog.* □ *I couldn't get on the beam, and I flew right over the airfield.* **2.** *mod.* on the right course or track. (From sense 1.) □ *That is exactly right. You are right on the beam.* □ *You're on the beam. You will finish this with no problems.* **3.** **AND** **beaming** *mod.* under the effects of marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *Walter is on the beam again. How can he hold a job?* □ *The only time that Bart is happy is when he is beaming.* **4.** *mod.* smart; clever. □ *That was well done, Tom. You're on the beam.* □ *She is really on the beam. Glad she came along.*

on the bean Go to **on the button**.

on the bird *mod.* available on the TV satellite channels. □ *There is a whole lot of good stuff on the bird, but you need a receiving dish to get it.* □ *I get a huge book every month listing what programs are on the bird.*

on the bleeding edge *phr.* having the most advanced technology; knowing about the most advanced technology. (Jocular. More advanced than *on the cutting edge*.) □ *This gadget is brand new. It's really on the bleeding edge.* □ *Tom is on the bleeding edge when it comes to optical storage technology.*

on the blink 1. *mod.* out of order; ill. (See also **on the fritz**.) □ *I was a little on the blink yesterday and decided to stay at home.* □ *My refrigerator is on the blink again.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; on a drinking spree. □ *They all went out and got on the blink.* □ *My brother is a little bit on the blink this morning.*

on the button **AND** **on the bean** *mod.* exactly the right time or place. □ *He was there on time, right on the button.* □ *I want to see you here at noon—on the bean.*

on the chopping block *mod.* in serious and threatening straits. □ *Our whole future is on the chopping block.* □ *Until this is resolved, our necks are on the chopping block.*

on the DL *mod.* as a secret; secretly; **on the QT**. (From *down low*.) □ *He told me on the DL, so keep it under your hat.* □ *She'll get in trouble because they did it on the DL.*

on the double *mod.* very fast; twice as fast. (Originally military. Refers to *double time* in marching.) □ *Get over here right now—on the double!* □ *She wants to see you in her office on the double.*

on the fly *mod.* while something or someone is operating or moving. □ *I'll try to capture the data on the fly.* □ *Please try to buy some aspirin somewhere on the fly today.*

on the fritz 1. *mod.* not functioning properly. ☐ *This TV is on the fritz again.* ☐ *My watch is on the fritz.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *Sue is a bit on the fritz.* ☐ *She drank till she was totally on the fritz.*

on the horse Go to horsed.

on the juice *mod.* drinking heavily; on a drinking bout. (See also **juice**.) ☐ *Fred spent the whole week on the juice.* ☐ *She won't be able to return your call. I'm afraid she's on the juice again.*

on the junk *mod.* on drugs; addicted to drugs. (See also **junk**.) ☐ *Max has been on the junk for all of his adult life.* ☐ *He's not really on the junk. He's only addicted to cigarettes.*

on the lam [...læm] *mod.* running from the police. (Underworld.) ☐ *Bart has been on the lam for a week now.* ☐ *When the boss found out you was on the lam, he got real mad.*

on the level *mod.* honest; straightforward. ☐ *Come on now. Be on the level with me.* ☐ *Is the ad on the level?*

on the make *mod.* ambitious; attempting to be great. ☐ *That young lawyer is sure on the make.* ☐ *This university is on the make.*

on the mojo [...'modʒo] *mod.* addicted to morphine; using morphine. (Drugs. See also **mojo**.) ☐ *How long you been on the mojo?* ☐ *How can you hold a steady job if you're on the mojo?*

on the money *mod.* exactly as desired; at the right amount of money. ☐ *Your new idea is right on the money.* ☐ *The bid for the new hospital came in on the money.*

on the natch [...nætʃ] *mod.* free of drugs; natural and straight. ☐ *Max says he wants to get on the natch, but I don't believe it.* ☐ *I have been on the natch for almost a year.*

on the needle *mod.* addicted to injectable drugs. (Drugs.) ☐ *My sister's on the needle, and I want to help her.* ☐ *Once you're on the needle, you've had it.*

on the nose *mod.* exactly on time; exactly as planned. ☐ *I want you there at noon on*

the nose. ☐ *All three of them were at the appointed place right on the nose.*

on the outs (with someone) *mod.* in a mild dispute with someone; sharing ill will with someone. ☐ *Tom and Bill are on the outs again.* ☐ *Tom has been on the outs with Bill before. They'll work it out.*

on the pill *mod.* taking birth control pills. ☐ *Is it true that Mary is on the pill?* ☐ *She was on the pill, but she isn't now.*

on the prowl *mod.* looking for someone for sexual purposes, in the manner of a prowling cat. ☐ *Tom looks like he is on the prowl again tonight.* ☐ *That whole gang of boys is on the prowl. Watch out.*

on the QT *mod.* in secret; secretly. (From QuieT.) ☐ *Do it on the QT and try not to get caught.* ☐ *He said it on the QT so no one else knows except you and me.*

on the rag 1. *mod.* menstruating. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Kim's on the rag and in a bad mood.* ☐ *Sue doesn't go swimming when she's on the rag.* **2.** *mod.* ill-tempered. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *Bill is on the rag and making trouble for everyone.* ☐ *Wow, Wayne, you are on the rag. What's eating you?*

on the road *mod.* traveling from place to place, not necessarily on the highways. (See also **get the show on the road**.) ☐ *I was on the road with the circus for six months.* ☐ *I don't work in the main office anymore. Now I'm on the road.*

on the rocks 1. *mod.* (of an alcoholic drink) with ice cubes. (See also **rocks**.) ☐ *I'd like mine on the rocks, please.* ☐ *Give me a scotch on the rocks, please.* **2.** *mod.* in a state of ruin or bankruptcy. (Like a ship that has gone aground on the rocks and cannot be moved.) ☐ *That bank is on the rocks. Don't put your money in it.* ☐ *My finances are on the rocks just now.*

on the run 1. *mod.* while one is moving from place to place. ☐ *I will try to get some aspirin today on the run.* ☐ *I will think about it on the run.* **2.** *mod.* running from the police. ☐ *Bart is on the run from the cops.* ☐ *The gang of crooks is on the run. Probably somewhere in Florida.*

on the safe side *mod.* taking the risk-free path. □ *Let's be on the safe side and call first.* □ *I think you should stay on the safe side and call the doctor about this fever.*

on the same page *mod.* have the same understanding or amount of knowledge. (As if people were reading from the same page.) □ *We're not on the same page. Listen carefully to what I am telling you.* □ *Everyone in the room was on the same page, so the meeting went very smoothly.*

on the same wavelength *mod.* thinking in the same pattern. □ *We're not on the same wavelength. Let's try again.* □ *We kept talking until we were on the same wavelength.*

on the sauce *mod.* drinking regularly; alcohol intoxicated. □ *Poor old Ron is on the sauce again.* □ *He is on the sauce most of the time.*

on the shelf **1.** *mod.* not active socially; left to oneself in social matters. □ *I've been on the shelf long enough. I'm going to make some friends.* □ *She likes being on the shelf.* **2.** *mod.* postponed. (See also **on the back burner.**) □ *We'll have to put this matter on the shelf for a while.* □ *I have a plan on the shelf just waiting for an opportunity like this.*

on the side **1.** *mod.* extra, such as with a job or a side order of food. □ *I would like an order of eggs with toast on the side, please.* □ *She is a bank teller and works as a waitress on the side.* **2.** *mod.* extra-marital; in addition to one's spouse. □ *He is married, but also has a woman on the side.* □ *She has boyfriends on the side, but her husband knows about them.*

on the skids *mod.* on the decline. (See also **put the skids under someone or something.**) □ *My newly started business is on the skids.* □ *Her health is really on the skids, but she stays cheery anyway.*

on the sly *mod.* secretly and deceptively. □ *She was stealing little bits of money on the sly.* □ *Martin was having an affair with the maid on the sly.*

on the squiff [...skwif] *mod.* on a drinking bout. (See also **squiff.**) □ *Bob is out*

on the squiff again. □ *Bart is always on the squiff, except when he's shooting dope.*

on the street **1.** *mod.* using drugs; selling drugs; looking for drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Fred spent a year on the street before he was arrested.* □ *Max will be on the street all his life.* **2.** *mod.* engaged in prostitution. □ *Mary said, "What am I supposed to do—go on the street?"* □ *All three of them went on the street to earn enough money to live.* **3.** *mod.* widely known. □ *Sue put it on the street, and now everyone knows.* □ *It's on the street. There isn't anyone who hasn't heard it.* **4.** *mod.* on Wall Street or elsewhere in the New York City financial districts. (Similar to sense 3, except that it refers to a specific street. Usually with a capital s.) □ *I heard on the Street today that Apple is buying IBM.* □ *It's on the Street that the market is due to crash again.* **5.** *mod.* at discount prices; as available from discounters. (As if some item were being sold on the street by a peddler.) □ *It lists at \$2200 and can be got for about \$1650 on the street.* □ *On the street it goes for about \$400.*

on the take *mod.* taking bribes. (Underworld.) □ *I heard that the mayor is on the take.* □ *Everyone in city hall is on the take.*

on the tank **AND** **on a tank** *mod.* on a drinking bout. □ *All the guys were on the tank last Saturday.* □ *Paul spent all weekend on a tank.*

on the up-and-up *mod.* legitimate; open and aboveboard. □ *Is this deal on the up-and-up? What's the catch?* □ *Everything I do is on the up-and-up. I am totally honest.*

on the wagon *mod.* not now drinking alcoholic liquor. □ *How long has John been on the wagon this time?* □ *He's on the wagon again.*

on the warpath *mod.* very angry. □ *The boss is on the warpath again. Watch out!* □ *I am on the warpath about setting goals and standards again.*

onto a good thing *mod.* having found something that is to one's advantage, such as something easy, profitable, inexpensive, etc. □ *I think that Bill got onto*

a good thing when he opened his own store.
☐ *I won't quit now. I'm onto a good thing, and I know it.*

onto someone or something *mod.* alerted to or aware of a deceitful plan or person.
☐ *The cops are onto your little game here.*
☐ *Bart thought he was safe, but the fuzz was onto him from the beginning.*

On your bike! AND **Go to your room!** *imperative.* Get out of here! Get on your motorcycle and get out! ☐ *What a bad joke! No puns allowed here! On your bike!*
☐ *That was a ridiculous remark. Go to your room!*

on your six *phr.* behind you. (At one's six o'clock.) ☐ *Look out! On your six!*

oodles ['udlɪz] *n.* lots (of something). ☐ *My uncle has just oodles and oodles of money.*
☐ *I don't have oodles, but I have enough to keep me happy.* ☐ *When I have spaghetti, I just love oodles of noodles.*

oof [uf] **1.** *exclam.* the sound one makes when one is struck in the abdomen. (Usually **Oof!**) ☐ *So, then Bob hit him in the belly. Oof!* ☐ *"Oof!" cried Tom. He couldn't talk any more after that.* **2.** *n.* the potency of the alcohol in liquor; the effect of potent alcohol. ☐ *This stuff really has oof. How old is it?* ☐ *Beer doesn't have enough oof for her anymore.*

oomph [ʊmpf] **1.** *n.* energy; drive and vitality. ☐ *Come on, you guys. Let's get some oomph behind it. PUSH!* ☐ *You need more oomph if you want to work at heavy labor.* **2.** *n.* sex appeal. (Euphemistic.) ☐ *She had a lot of oomph, but didn't wish to become a movie star.* ☐ *No amount of oomph can make up for a total lack of talent.*

open (up) one's kimono *in.* to reveal what one is planning. (From the computer industry, referring especially to the involvement of the Japanese in this field.) ☐ *Sam isn't one to open his kimono much when it comes to new products.* ☐ *Even if Tom appears to open up his kimono on this deal, don't put much stock in what he says.*

OPP *n.* other people's property. ☐ *You ain't got respect for OPP.*

OPs ['o'pɪz] *n.* other people's cigarettes; begged or borrowed cigarettes. (Initialism.) ☐ *My favorite kind of cigarettes is OPs. They're the cheapest, too.* ☐ *Ted only smokes OPs.*

oreo *n.* an American of African descent who behaves more white than black. (Like the Oreo brand cookie, the person is black on the outside and white on the inside. Rude and derogatory.) ☐ *They called Sam an oreo because he wears a suit and works downtown.* ☐ *I'm not an oreo, I'm just doing my best with what God gave me.*

org [org] **1.** *n.* the rush caused by potent drugs. (Drugs. From *orgasm*.) ☐ *Bart hated the vomiting when he first took it, but he loved the org.* ☐ *Does this stuff give you a real org?* **2.** *n.* an organization. ☐ *She's a member of the org and can't be expected to use independent judgment.* ☐ *Come on, join the org.*

organic *mod.* great. ☐ *This is one fine, organic rally! I'm glad I stopped by.* ☐ *Wow, this whole day was organic!*

ork-orks ['orkorks] *n.* the delirium tremens. ☐ *He has the ork-orks. He's a real drunk.* ☐ *Whenever he gets the ork-orks, he gets himself arrested and put in jail where he can sober up.*

or what? *phr.* or what else can it be? (Part of a special formula that asks if something is a good example or specimen of something. The expected answer is yes. The question "Is this an X or what?" means "If this isn't a really great X, what is it then?") ☐ *Look at what I am wearing! Is that a great jacket or what?* ☐ *That's my son. Is he a superman or what?*

O-sign *n.* the rounded, open mouth of a dead person. (A semi-jocular usage. Hospitals. See also **Q-sign**.) ☐ *The guy in room 226 is giving the O-sign.* ☐ *That's the third O-sign we've gotten since noon.*

ossifer AND **occifer** ['ʊsəfə] *n.* a police officer. (Also an ill-advised term of address.) ☐ *Look here, ossifer, I was just having a little fun.* ☐ *Ask the occifer there if he wants to step outside and discuss it.*

ossified ['ʌsəfaɪd] *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. (From **stoned** (**out**).) □ *How can anybody be so ossified on four beers?* □ *I've never seen anybody so ossified.*

Otis ['ɒtɪs] **1.** *n.* a drunkard. (From the name of a television character who is the town drunk. Also a term of address.) □ *Look at Otis over there, propped up against the wall.* □ *Have another beer, Otis?* **2.** *mod.* drunk. □ *Gary was completely Otis and couldn't walk straight.* □ *Fred was Otis by midnight and began looking like he was going to barf.*

OTL ['oʊtiːl] *phr.* **out to lunch**; **spacy**; **giddy**. (An initialism.) □ *Wally is the most OTL guy I have ever seen.* □ *Sue is OTL. She seems witless all the time.*

OTOH *phr.* on the other hand. (An initialism. A computer abbreviation, not pronounced.) □ *That's one good idea. OTOH, there must be many other satisfactory procedures.* □ *OTOH, everyone is a little forgetful now and then.*

out 1. *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. (Probably from **far out**.) □ *Those guys are really out!* **2.** *mod.* out of fashion. (The opposite of **in**.) □ *That kind of clothing is strictly out.* **3.** *tv.* to make someone's homosexuality public. (Can be reflexive.) □ *He outed himself at the party last Friday.*

outa ['aʊdə] *phr.* out of. (Eye-dialect. Used in writing only for effect. Used in the examples of this dictionary.) □ *Get outa here!* □ *In two minutes I'm outa here!*

out-and-out *mod.* complete or total; blatant. □ *Fred was an out-and-out liar.* □ *Don't be such an out-and-out stinker!*

out cold 1. *mod.* unconscious. □ *Paul was out cold when we found him.* □ *Who knocked him out cold?* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Four beers and he was out cold.* □ *He sat in his chair at the table, out cold.*

outed 1. **AND offed** *mod.* dead; killed. □ *The witness was outed before a subpoena could be issued.* □ *The guy was offed when we found him.* **2.** *mod.* having had one's homosexual identity made public. (Not

prenominal.) □ *Yes, he's outed, but he hasn't told his parents.*

outfit 1. *n.* a group of people; a company. □ *That outfit cheated me out of my money.* □ *I will never deal with that outfit again.* **2.** *n.* a set of clothing. □ *You look lovely in that outfit.* □ *Should I wear my gray wool outfit?* **3.** *n.* a set of things; the items needed for some task. □ *I got a fine chemistry outfit for my birthday.* □ *My tool kit has everything I need. It's the whole outfit.*

out in left field *mod.* wrong; off base; loony. □ *Don't pay any attention to her. She's out in left field as usual.* □ *That guy is out in left field—a real nut.*

out like a light 1. *mod.* unconscious or sleeping soundly. □ *I fell and hit my head. I was out like a light for two minutes, they tell me.* □ *I closed my eyes and was out like a light in no time at all.* **2.** *mod.* heavily alcohol intoxicated. □ *Those guys are really out like a light!* □ *All four of them drank till they were out like a light.*

out of it 1. *mod.* not in with the real world. □ *You never pay attention to what's going on. You're really out of it.* □ *Fred is out of it most of the time. He even looks dull.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Two drinks and she was totally out of it.* □ *When they are out of it, they are quite dangerous.*

out of kilter 1. *mod.* not functioning properly; on the fritz; out of w(h)ack. □ *My car's engine is out of kilter and needs some repair work.* □ *My coffeepot is out of kilter, so I have to make coffee in a pan.* **2.** *mod.* out of square. □ *That picture is out of kilter. Please straighten it.* □ *That corner is not square, and the wall even looks out of kilter.*

out of left field *mod.* suddenly; from an unexpected source or direction. □ *Most of your ideas are out of left field.* □ *All of his paintings are right out of left field.*

out of line *mod.* not in accord with what is appropriate or expected, especially in price or behavior. □ *Your behavior is quite out of line. I shall report you.* □ *Your price is out of line with the other stores.*

out of luck *mod.* unfortunate; in a hopeless position. □ *If you think you are going to get any sympathy from me, you're just out of luck.* □ *I was out of luck. There were no eggs left in the store.*

out of one's skull *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Oh, man, I drank till I was out of my skull.* □ *Two beers and he was out of his skull.*

out of pocket *mod.* out from under someone's control; not manageable. □ *The guy is wild. Completely out of pocket.*

out of sight **1.** *mod.* heavily alcohol or drug intoxicated; **high.** □ *They've been drinking since noon, and they're out of sight.* □ *Man, is she ever out of sight!* **2.** *mod.* very expensive; high in price. □ *Prices at that restaurant are out of sight.* □ *The cost of medical care is out of sight.*

out of sync [...sɪŋk] *mod.* uncoordinated; unsynchronized. □ *Our efforts are out of sync.* □ *My watch and your watch are out of sync.*

out of the picture *mod.* no longer relevant to a situation; departed; dead. □ *Now that Tom is out of the picture, we needn't concern ourselves about his objections.* □ *With her husband out of the picture, she can begin living.*

out of the way **1.** *mod.* dead; killed. □ *The crooks put the witness out of the way before the trial.* □ *Now that her husband was out of the way, she began to get out and about more.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She spends a lot of time out of the way.* □ *After a few more drinks, Bill will be out of the way.*

out of the woods *mod.* freed from a previous state of uncertainty or danger; no longer critical. □ *As soon as her temperature is down, she'll be out of the woods.* □ *We're out of the woods now, and things aren't so chancy.*

out of this world **1.** *mod.* wonderful and exciting. □ *This pie is out of this world.* □ *My boyfriend is just out of this world.* **2.** *mod.* drug intoxicated. □ *Man, is she ever out of this world! What did she drink?* □ *He drank until he was out of this world.*

out of w(h)ack *mod.* out of adjustment; inoperative. (See also **out of kilter**.) □ *My watch is out of whack.* □ *I think my left eye is out of wack a little. Maybe I need glasses.*

outsy AND **outy** ['aʊtsi, 'aʊtɪ] *n.* a navel that protrudes. (Compare this with **insy**.) □ *Is yours an insy or an outsy?* □ *I have an outsy. Why on earth do you ask?*

out the gazoo [...gə'zu] *phr.* in great plenty; everywhere. (**Gazoo** = anus. Usually objectionable.) □ *We have old magazines out the gazoo here. Can't we throw some of them away?* □ *Go away. I have problems out the gazoo. I don't need any more of them from you!*

out the window *mod.* gone; wasted. □ *All that work gone out the window.* □ *My forty dollars—out the window. Why didn't I save my money?*

out to lunch *mod.* absentminded; giddy; stupid acting. (See also **OTL**.) □ *Old Ted is so out to lunch these days. Seems to be losing his mind.* □ *Don't pay any attention to my uncle. He's out to lunch.*

outy Go to outsy.

overamped *mod.* high on amphetamines; overdosed with amphetamines. (Drugs.) □ *Max is overamped again.* □ *Two students were overamped and got sent to the counselor.*

overjolt AND **OJ** **1.** *n.* an overdose of drugs, especially of heroin. (The abbreviation is an initialism. Drugs.) □ *Ted is suffering from a serious OJ.* □ *That overjolt nearly killed her.* **2.** *in.* to take an overdose of drugs, especially of heroin. (Drugs.) □ *She overjolted once too often.* □ *If you OJ again, you will probably die.*

overkill *n.* too much. □ *That is enough. Any more is just overkill.* □ *Your policy of overkill is wasteful and expensive.*

over my dead body *phr.* not if I can stop you; you won't be able to do something if I am alive to prevent you. □ *You'll drop out of school over my dead body!* □ *Get married and move to Arizona? Over my dead body!*

over one's head *mod.* confusing; too difficult to understand. □ *This stuff is too hard. It's over my head.* □ *Calculus is all over my head.*

overserved *mod.* having to do with a drunken person in a bar; alcohol intoxicated. (Euphemistic.) □ *Four customers were overserved and had to leave.* □ *The overserved guy there in the corner is going to be sick.*

over the hill 1. *mod.* escaped from prison or the military. (See also **AWOL.**) □ *Two*

privates went over the hill last night. □ *They broke out of jail and went over the hill.* **2.** *mod.* too old (for something). □ *You're only fifty! You're not over the hill yet.* □ *Some people seem over the hill at thirty.*

over the hump 1. *mod.* drug intoxicated. □ *Bart is over the hump now. He is stoned.* □ *This stuff makes you sick at first. Then suddenly you are over the hump and floating.* □ *Things should be easy from now on. We are over the hump.* □ *When you get over the hump, life is much better.*

P

package **1.** *n.* a combination of a variety of related things; a unified set of things. (See also **package deal**.) □ *You can't buy just one part. It comes as a package.* □ *The first college I applied to offered me a good aid package, so I went.* **2.** *n.* a lot of money; a **bundle**. □ *She made quite a package on that bank deal.* □ *I came away from the dog track with a nice little package.* **3.** *n.* someone who is cute or sexually attractive. (Primarily refers to females as bundles of sexual charms. Similar in meaning to sense 1.) □ *How do you like that little package who just came in?* □ *She's quite a package, if you like the giggly type.* **4.** *tv.* to position or display someone or something, as in marketing, to good advantage. □ *The agent packaged the actress so that everyone thought she only did dramatic roles.* □ *If you package your plan correctly, the committee will accept it.*

packaged *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Man, Bart was really packaged last night!* □ *By midnight she was totally packaged.*

packing a gun *tv.* carrying a gun. □ *The crook was packing a gun and carrying a knife in his hand.*

pack of lies *n.* a whole collection or series of lies. □ *I've heard you talk about this before, and it's all a pack of lies.* □ *Her story is nothing but a pack of lies.*

pad **1.** *n.* a place to live; one's room or dwelling. □ *Why don't you come over to my pad for a while?* □ *This is a nice pad you've got here.* **2.** *tv.* to lengthen a piece of writing with unnecessary material. (See also **padded**.) □ *This story would be better if you hadn't padded it with so much*

chitchat. □ *I think I can pad the report enough to make it fill twenty pages.*

padded *mod.* plump or fat. □ *He didn't hurt himself when he fell down. He's well padded there.* □ *Your clothes would fit better if you weren't so—ah—padded.*

paddy *n.* a police officer, especially an Irish police officer. (Usually derogatory. Also an ill-advised term of address.) □ *Tell that paddy to go catch a crook or something.* □ *Look here, paddy, I wasn't doing anything.*

paddy wagon *n.* a police van used to take suspected criminals to the police station. □ *It took two paddy wagons to carry away the people they arrested.* □ *The cop put the woman in handcuffs and then called the paddy wagon.*

pad out *in.* to go to bed or to sleep. (See also **pad**.) □ *Man, if I don't pad out by midnight, I'm a zombie.* □ *Why don't you people go home so I can pad out?*

padre ['padre] *n.* any male religious cleric: priest, monk, or chaplain. (From Spanish. Typically military. Also a term of address.) □ *I went to see the padre for some advice.* □ *Hey, padre, anything new on the religion front?*

pafisticated [pə'fɪstəkədəd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (A corruption of *sophisticated*.) □ *Whenever I drink champagne, I get totally pafisticated.* □ *Look at her drive. She is a real pafisticated lady.*

paid *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I think I'll go out and get paid tonight.* □ *Tom went to the tavern and spent all his money on getting paid.*

pain *n.* a bother; an irritating thing or person. □ *That woman is such a pain.* □ *Those long meetings are a real pain.*

pain in the ass AND **pain in the butt; pain in the rear** *n.* a very annoying thing or person. (Usually objectionable. An elaboration of **pain**. Use caution with **ass**. **Butt** is less offensive. **Rear** is euphemistic.) □ *That guy is a real pain in the ass.* □ *Things like that give me a pain in the butt.* □ *You are nothing but a pain in the rear.*

pain in the butt Go to **pain in the ass**.

pain in the neck *n.* a difficult or annoying thing or person. (See also **pain in the ass**.) □ *This tax form is a pain in the neck.* □ *My boss is a pain in the neck.*

pain in the rear Go to **pain in the ass**.

painkiller *n.* liquor. (See also **feeling no pain**.) □ *Pass that bottle of painkiller over here. My throat hurts.* □ *He should look happy. He's full of painkiller.*

paint remover *n.* strong or inferior whiskey or other spirits. □ *That paint remover you gave me nearly burned out my throat.* □ *What do you call that paint remover anyway? It sure is powerful.*

paint the town (red) *tv.* to go out and celebrate; to go on a drinking bout; to get drunk. □ *I feel great. Let's go out and paint the town.* □ *They were out painting the town red last night.*

pal [pæl] **1.** *n.* a close, male friend or buddy. □ *Be nice to him. He's my pal.* □ *Hey, be a pal. Give me a match.* **2.** *n.* a term of address for a stranger, usually a male. □ *Hey, pal. Got a match?* □ *Look, pal, I was in line in front of you!*

pal around (with someone) *in.* to be friends with someone; to move about socially with someone. □ *Tom and Heidi have palled around for years.* □ *Young people like to pal around with one another.*

palimony ['pæləmoni] *n.* alimony—living expenses—paid to a common-law wife or to a former girlfriend. □ *He left her, and she took him to court to try to get him to pay palimony.* □ *With a good lawyer, she*

got more palimony than she could ever have gotten as alimony if they had been married.

pally (with someone) *mod.* friendly or overly friendly with someone. □ *I don't know why Sue acts so pally. I hardly know her.* □ *She doesn't seem pally with me.*

palm *tv.* to conceal something in the hand as in a theft or the performance of a magic trick; to receive and conceal a tip or a bribe. □ *The kid palmed the candy bar and walked right out of the store.* □ *The waiter palmed the twenty-dollar bill and led us to a table.*

palm-oil *n.* a bribe; a tip. □ *How much palm-oil does it take to get this deed recorded in reasonable time?* □ *The messenger seemed to move his legs faster after an application of palm-oil.*

palm-presser Go to **flesh-presser**.

palm someone or something off (on someone) *tv.* to transfer some unwanted person or thing to another person. □ *Don't palm her off on me. I don't want her.* □ *My uncle palmed off his old clothes on me.*

palm something off on someone *tv.* to succeed in spending counterfeit money; to succeed in cashing a bad check. (Underworld.) □ *Max palmed four phony twenties off in less than an hour.* □ *Somebody palmed off a rubber check on me yesterday.*

palooka AND **paluka** [pə'lukə] *n.* a stupid person; an unskilled prizefighter; any mediocre person. (Also a term of address. From the name of the comic-strip prizefighter Joe Palooka.) □ *Tell that stupid palooka to sit down and shut up.* □ *Get out of here, you paluka. You're just in the way.*

palsy-walsy ['pælzi'wælzi] **1.** *n.* a good friend, **pal**, or buddy. (Also a term of address.) □ *Look here, palsy-walsy, let's you and me get out of here.* □ *Meet my old palsy-walsy, John. We've known each other since we were kids.* **2.** *mod.* friendly; overly friendly. (Often with *with*.) □

Why is Tom so palsy-walsy with everyone?
☐ *That guy is a little too palsy-walsy.*

paluka Go to palooka.

pan *n.* the face. (See also **deadpan**.) ☐ *Look at that guy! I've never seen such an ugly pan in my life.* ☐ *I stared her right in the pan and told her to shut up.*

panic *n.* a very funny or exciting person or thing. ☐ *John's party was a real panic.* ☐ *Paul is a panic. He tells a joke a minute.*

pan out *in.* [for something] to work out or turn out all right. ☐ *Don't worry. Everything will pan out okay.* ☐ *Nothing seems to pan out for me anymore.*

pants rabbits *n.* lice. (See also **seam-squirrels**.) ☐ *Bart is sure scratching a lot. Do you think he's got pants rabbits?* ☐ *I don't want to be around people who have pants rabbits and stuff like that.*

paper 1. *n.* a written document; written evidence supporting something. (Often with *some*.) ☐ *Send me some paper. Let's make this official.* **2.** *n.* a forged check. (See also **paper-pusher**; **paper-hanger**.) ☐ *She was arrested for passing paper.* **3.** *n.* money. ☐ *You don't get the goods till I get the paper.*

paper-hanger *n.* someone who tries to pass bad checks. (Underworld. See also **paper**; **paper-pusher**.) ☐ *The cops caught the paper-hanger red-handed.* ☐ *He's wanted as a paper-hanger in four states.*

paperhanging *n.* writing and spending bad checks. (Underworld.) ☐ *She was accused of paperhanging and didn't even know what the cops were talking about, so they let her go.* ☐ *She is good at both paperhanging and acting.*

paper over something *tv.* to try to conceal something unpleasant; to try to cover up a misdeed. ☐ *You can't paper this over. It has to be dealt with now!* ☒ *This is a severe social problem. Don't try to paper over it.*

paper-pusher 1. *n.* a bureaucrat; a clerk in the military services; any office worker. (See also **pencil-pusher**.) ☐ *If those paper-pushers can't get their work done on time, make them stay late.* ☐ *I*

don't want to talk to some paper-pusher, I want to talk to the boss. **2.** *n.* someone who passes bad checks. (See also **paper**; **paper-hanger**.) ☐ *The bank teller spotted a well-known paper-pusher and called the cops.* ☐ *The old lady was charged as a paper-pusher and sent to jail.*

paperweight *n.* a serious student; a hard-working student. ☐ *What a jerk! Nothing but a paperweight.*

parboiled *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **boiled**.) ☐ *Sally stayed at the bar just long enough to get parboiled.* ☐ *She's not really stewed, just parboiled.*

pard *n.* partner; friend. (From *pardner*. Also a term of address.) ☐ *Come on, pard, let's go find some action.* ☐ *This is my old pard, Clarence.*

Pardon me for living! Go to (Well,) **pardon me for living!**

Pardon my French. **AND Excuse my French.** *sent.* Excuse my use of swear words or taboo words. (Does not refer to real French.) ☐ *Pardon my French, but this is a hell of a day.* ☐ *What she needs is a kick in the butt, if you'll excuse my French.*

(parental) units *n.* parents. (Teens. Also a term of address. See also **rent(al)s**.) ☐ *I don't think my parental units will let me stay out that late.* ☐ *Hey, units! I need to talk to you about something really important.*

park in. to neck or to make love, especially in a parked car. ☐ *Do kids still park, or do they just watch television?* ☐ *They still park, but they don't have a name for it anymore.*

park it (somewhere) *tv.* sit down somewhere; sit down and get out of the way. ☐ *Hey, park it! You're in the way.* ☐ *Bart, park it over there in the corner. Stop pacing around. You make me nervous.*

parting shot *n.* the last word; a final comment before departing. ☐ *For a parting shot, she called me a miser.* ☐ *His parting shot concerned some comments about my ability to do simple math.*

party 1. n. <a combining form used in expressions to refer to certain kinds of activity carried on in groups or in pairs.> (For examples, see **coke party**, **free base party**, **grass party**, **hen party**, **keg party**, **kick party**, **pot party**, **stag-party**, **tailgate party**, **tea party**.) **2. in.** to drink alcohol, smoke marijuana, or use other drugs. (May also include sexual activity.) ☐ *Come on, man! Let's party!* ☐ *If you didn't party so much, you'd get better grades.*

party animal n. someone who loves parties. ☐ *My boyfriend and I are real party animals. Let's party!* ☐ *If you weren't such a party animal, you'd have more time for studying.*

party bowl n. a marijuana pipe large enough to serve a number of smokers. (Drugs.) ☐ *When they arrested Max, he had two pipes and a party bowl with him.* ☐ *The cops thought the party bowl was a flower vase!*

party down Go to party hearty.

party hearty AND **party down in.** to have a great time; to celebrate. (Also as an exclamation: **Party down!**) ☐ *Let's get some stuff and party hearty.* ☐ *The whole class decided to celebrate and party hearty.*

Party on! exclam. That's right! ☐ *Party on, Beavis! You are totally right!* ☐ *Party on, Waldo! You said it!*

party-poooper n. the first person to leave a party; someone who ruins a party because of dullness or by leaving early. ☐ *Don't leave! Don't be a party-poooper!* ☐ *Don't invite Martha. She's such a party-poooper.*

pass 1. n. a passing grade or mark on a test. (Compare this with **fail**.) ☐ *Did you get a pass or a fail?* ☐ *This is my third pass this semester.* **2. in.** to decline something; to decline to participate in something. ☐ *No, thanks. I pass.* ☐ *I'll have to pass. I am not prepared.* **3. n.** an act of declining something. ☐ *I'll have to take a pass.* ☐ *Can I have a pass on that one? There is nothing I can do.* **4. n.** a sexual advance or invitation. (Usually with **make**.) ☐ *He made a pass at me, so I slapped him.* ☐ *When he made a pass at me, he got a pass*

right back. **5. tv.** to succeed in spending counterfeit money; to succeed in cashing a bad check. ☐ *Beavis passed one bad check after another.* ☐ *He was arrested for passing bad checks.*

pass for something in. to pay for something; to treat someone by paying for something. ☐ *Come on. Let's go out. I'll pass for dinner.* ☐ *I'll pass for drinks if you want.*

pass go tv. to complete a difficult or dangerous task successfully. (From *pass go and collect \$200* in the game Monopoly™.) ☐ *Man, I tried to get there on time, but I just couldn't pass go.* ☐ *You had better pass go with this job, or you've had it.*

passion-pit n. a drive-in movie theatre; any place where young people go to neck, such as an area where teenagers park. (Dated but still heard.) ☐ *She wanted me to drive down to the passion-pit, but I said I had a headache.* ☐ *My mother used to tell me about her trips to the passion-pit.*

pass the buck tv. to shift the responsibility for something to someone else; to evade responsibility. (See also **buck-passer**.) ☐ *When things get a little tough, do what I do. Pass the buck.* ☐ *Don't pass the buck. Stand up and admit you were wrong.*

passy n. a baby's pacifier. (Baby talk.) ☐ *Does little Johnnie want his passy?* ☐ *Mommy, Mary threw her passy on the floor.*

paste 1. tv. to strike someone, especially in the face. (See also **paste someone one**.) ☐ *I hauled off and pasted him right in the face.* ☐ *He tried to paste me, but I ducked.* **2. tv.** to defeat a person or a team, usually in a game of some type. (See also **pasting**; **pasted**.) ☐ *The Warriors pasted the Rockets, 70-49.* ☐ *They really pasted our team in last week's game.*

pasted 1. mod. alcohol or drug intoxicated. (From **paste**.) ☐ *Poor Tom is totally pasted.* ☐ *Bart got pasted on beer.* **2. mod.** beaten; outscored. ☐ *Our team really got pasted.* ☐ *He sure looked pasted the last time I saw him.*

paste someone one *tv.* to land a blow on someone. (See also **paste**.) □ *I pasted him one right on the nose.* □ *Next time you do that, I'll paste you one!*

pasting *n.* a beating; a defeat in a game. (See also **paste**.) □ *Our team took quite a pasting last weekend.* □ *I gave him a pasting.*

patsy ['pætsi] *n.* a victim of a scam. (Underworld. See also **dupe**.) □ *That guy over there looks like a perfect patsy.* □ *We got nearly twenty-five hundred bucks off that patsy.*

patter of tiny feet *n.* the sound of young children; having children in the household. □ *I really liked having the patter of tiny feet in the house.* □ *Darling, I think we're going to be hearing the patter of tiny feet soon.*

paw 1. *n.* someone's hand. (Jocular.) □ *Get your paws off me!* □ *That dog bit my paw.*

2. *tv.* to feel someone or handle someone sexually. □ *If you paw me again, I'll slap you!* □ *I can't stand men who paw you to pieces.*

3. *tv.* to touch someone more than is necessary or desired, without any sexual intent. □ *I don't like for people to paw me while they're shaking hands. There is no reason to shake my shoulder, too.* □ *Tom doesn't realize that he paws people and that it annoys them.*

PAX *n.* passenger(s). (Travel industry abbreviation.) □ *How many PAX will that ship hold?* □ *The two PAX missed the flight.*

pay a call *tv.* to go to the toilet; to leave to go to the toilet. (See also **call of nature**; **nature's call**.) □ *Excuse me. I have to pay a call.* □ *Tom left to pay a call. He should be back soon.*

payback *n.* retribution. □ *You hit me, I hit you. That's your payback.*

payola [pe'olə] *n.* a bribe. (Originally a bribe paid to a **disk jockey** by record producers to get extra attention for their records.) □ *The announcer was fired for taking payola.* □ *There was a big scandal of payola in the 1950s.*

pay one's dues *tv.* to serve one's time in a menial role. (See also **pay one's dues (to society)**.) □ *I spent some time as a bus boy, so I've paid my dues in the serving business.* □ *You have to start out at the bottom. Pay your dues, and then you'll appreciate better what you have.*

pay one's dues (to society) *tv.* to serve a prison or jail sentence. □ *I served ten years in prison. I've paid my dues to society. The matter is settled.* □ *I took my medicine and paid my dues. Stop trying to punish me more.*

pay the water bill *tv.* to urinate. □ *I'll be with you as soon as I pay the water bill.*

p-crutch *n.* a police car. (Streets. See also **crutch**.) □ *Hey, bro, there's a p-crutch behind you.* □ *I think the man in the p-crutch wants you to pull over.*

PDQ *mod.* pretty damn quick; very fast; very soon. (Initialism.) □ *You get those papers over here PDQ!* □ *They had better get this mess straightened out PDQ if they know what's good for them.*

peace out *in.* to depart; to leave. □ *It's late. Time for me to peace out.* □ *Let's peace out. It's too hot in here.*

peach *n.* someone or something excellent. (Usually a person.) □ *That guy's a real peach.* □ *This is a peach of a car!*

peachy (keen) *mod.* fine; excellent. □ *Your idea is really peachy!* □ *What a peachy keen idea!*

peanut head *n.* an oaf; a nerd. □ *You are so silly, Kim. You're a real peanut head!* □ *What peanut head left the door open? It's freezing in here!*

peanuts *n.* practically no money at all; **chicken feed**. □ *They want me to do everything, but they only pay peanuts.* □ *The cost is just peanuts compared to what you get for the money.*

pecker 1. *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He held his hands over his pecker and ran for the bedroom.* **2.** *n.* a stupid or obnoxious male. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You stupid pecker! Get out of here!*

peckerhead **1.** *n.* the head or end of the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He said he had a little red sore on his peckerhead.*
2. *n.* a stupid and ignorant male. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *You stupid peckerhead! Why'd you do that?*

peckish *mod.* hungry. □ *I'm just a little peckish right now. I need a bite to eat.* □ *Wow, you look peckish!*

pecks AND **pecs; pects** [pekks AND pekts] *n.* the pectoral muscles. (From weightlifting and bodybuilding.) □ *Look at the pecks on that guy!* □ *With pects like that he needs a bra.*

pecs Go to **pecks**.

pects Go to **pecks**.

pee'd *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Euphemistic for **pissed**.) □ *This old boy is really pee'd.* □ *His old lady gets pee'd after a few beers.*

pee'd off *mod.* extremely angry. (Euphemistic for **pissed (off)**.) □ *I certainly was pee'd off!* □ *I've never been so pee'd off in my life!*

peel *in.* to strip off one's clothing. □ *I had to peel for my physical examination.* □ *She stood up on the stage and peeled right down to nothing!*

peep **1.** *n.* a noise; an utterance. □ *Don't you make another peep!* □ *I don't want to hear another peep out of you.* **2.** *n.* people. (Often plural, **peeps**.) □ *How many peeps were there?*

peepers *n.* the eyes. □ *Come on, use your peepers. Take a good look.* □ *My peepers are tired.*

peg-leg *n.* <a rude nickname for someone with a wooden peg for a leg.> (Now used primarily in reference to theatrical pirates.) □ *See that peg-leg over there? He lost his foot to a shark.* □ *Hey, peg-leg. Race you to the bar!*

peg someone *tv.* to gossip about someone. □ *Kim is always pegging Jill. What's her problem?* □ *Don't peg me all the time. I've never done anything to you!*

pen *n.* a penitentiary; prison. (Underworld.) □ *Bart got sent to the pen for fifteen years.* □ *After a few years in the pen, he began to appreciate freedom.*

pencil-pusher *n.* a bureaucrat; a clerk; an office worker. (See also **paper-pusher**.) □ *Look here, you lousy pencil-pusher, I want to talk to your boss!* □ *City Hall is filled with a bunch of over-paid pencil-pushers.*

Pennsy *n.* Pennsylvania. □ *I went to a conference in Pennsy last year.* □ *My cousin lives in Pennsy.*

penny *n.* a police officer. (A play on **copper**. See the note at **copper**.) □ *The penny over on the corner told the boys to get moving.* □ *We better get going before the pennies get here.*

penny-ante *mod.* trivial; cheap. (See also **ante**.) □ *I'm sick of this penny-ante stuff. Let's get serious.* □ *Max moved from penny-ante crimes into drugs.*

penny-pincher *n.* someone who is very miserly; someone who objects to the expenditure of every penny. □ *If you weren't such a penny-pincher, you'd have some decent clothes.* □ *Let's elect some penny-pinchers to Congress.*

peonied *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Related to **pee'd** and **pissed**.) □ *Man, was she peonied! Really stoned.* □ *Let's go get peonied, just for the hell of it.*

people watching *n.* observing different kinds of people as a pastime. □ *Let's eat at the greasy spoon over on Maple. The food is gross, but the people watching is good.* □ *I enjoy people watching, especially at airports.*

pepped (up) AND **peppy** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (A euphemism. See also **perked (up)**.) □ *That guy looks a little pepped up. Don't give him any more booze.* □ *I feel sort of pepped up. Time to stop drinking.*

pepper-upper *n.* an amphetamine tablet or capsule; a **pep pill**. □ *I need me a little pepper-upper. Can I have a prescription?* □ *You need more sleep, not a pepper-upper.*

pep pill *n.* a stimulant pill or capsule, such as an amphetamine. □ *The doctor prescribed some kind of pep pills, but I refused to take them.* □ *Got any pep pills or anything?*

peppy **1.** *mod.* vigorous; energetic. (See also **perky**.) □ *She's such a peppy thing.* □ *I sure don't feel very peppy right now.* **2.** Go to **pepped (up)**.

pep talk *n.* an informal speech of encouragement. □ *The coach gave the team a good pep talk, but they lost anyway.* □ *The pep talk grew into a real gripe session.*

Period! *exclam.* . . . and that's final! (A way of indicating that there will be no more discussion or negotiation.) □ *I don't want to hear any more about it! Period!* □ *My final offer is \$30.00. Period!*

perk *n.* an extra financial benefit; a monetary inducement or reward. (From *perquisite*. See also **benies**.) □ *I don't get paid much, but the perks are good.* □ *I don't get paid much, and I don't get any perks!*

perked (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **pepped (up)**.) □ *Three beers and he's perked.* □ *No more. She's done. She's perked up for good.*

perking *mod.* intoxicated. □ *The guys are really perking. They've had too much to drink.*

perky *mod.* energetic; alert. (See also **peppy**.) □ *Most poodles are quite perky.* □ *A perky hostess keeps parties alive.*

perp [pəp] *n.* a perpetrator; someone who does something, such as committing a crime. □ *The cops were almost sure that Bart was the perp in this job.* □ *The perp left a good set of prints on the doorknob.*

perpetrate ['pəpətreɪt] *in.* to pose; to pretend. □ *Terry is always walking around perpetrating. He sure wants people to think he's somebody.* □ *Look at her clothes. Have you ever seen anyone perpetrate like that?*

persuader *n.* a gun or other weapon used to threaten someone. (Underworld.) □ *He pulls out this persuader, see, and aims it right at me, see.* □ *Maybe my little per-*

suader will help you remember where the money is.

pesky *mod.* annoying; bothersome. □ *I am going to kill that pesky fly!* □ *I've had a pesky headache all day.*

Peter Jay *n.* <a nickname for a police officer.> □ *You walk straight, or Peter Jay is going to bust you.* □ *Here comes Peter Jay in his pigmobile.*

peter out *in.* to give out; to wear out. □ *I'm about to peter out. I need a rest.* □ *What'll we do when the money peters out?*

pet peeve *n.* a major or principal annoyance or complaint. □ *Dirty dishes in restaurants are my pet peeve.* □ *He has no pet peeve. He hates everything.*

petrified *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Literally, turned into stone. Another way of saying **stoned**.) □ *She's not drunk; she's petrified.* □ *He drank moonshine till he was petrified.*

petting-party *n.* a session of kissing and caressing. □ *I just want to watch the movie. I didn't come here for some teenage petting-party!* □ *We went to the passion-pit for a petting-party.*

PFD *n.* a potential formal date; someone who looks good enough to be a date to a formal affair. (Initialism. Collegiate.) □ *That gal is a real PFD.* □ *Mike is no PFD, but he is a great friend anyway.*

PFM *n.* pure fucking magic, absolutely astounding. □ *The whole evening was PFM! I had a great time!*

PG *mod.* pregnant. (Initialism.) □ *Do you think Sally's PG?* □ *I think I'm PG. You know, pregnant.*

phased Go to **phazed**.

phat AND **PHAT** **1.** *mod.* good; excellent. (This is essentially a respelling of **fat**, and can have all the senses that **fat** has. Also explained as *pretty, hot, and tempting*.) □ *His new car is really phat.* □ *Who is that phat chick you were with?* **2.** *phr.* pretty hips and thighs. (Initialism. A reinterpretation of the spelling.) □ *Now, that's what I like, PHAT.* □ *PHAT is what it's all about.*

phat-phree *mod.* not cool; not PHAT. (A play on *fat-free*.) □ *This place is strictly phat-phree.* □ *We had to read some stupid, phat-phree play by some old homie called Jakespeer.*

phazed AND **phased** [fezd] *mod.* intoxicated with marijuana. □ *Man, I was phazed out of my mind!* □ *How much booze does it take you to get really phased?*

phedinkus [fɪ'dɪŋkəs] *n.* nonsense. □ *Stop your silly phedinkus!* □ *That's just phe-dinkus. No one will believe you.*

phfft [ffft] **1.** *mod.* finished; done for. (See also **piFFT**.) □ *There is my cat, and zoom comes a car. My cat is phfft.* □ *Yup. Deader than a doornail. Phfft!* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *You won't wake him up for hours yet. He's phfft.* □ *Three beers and she's phfft, for sure.*

Philly *n.* Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. □ *We stopped off in Philly for a day.* □ *We left Philly for the Big Apple at noon.*

phony **1.** *mod.* bogus; fake. □ *This money looks phony to me.* □ *I can't stand phony vanilla flavoring.* **2.** *n.* someone or something bogus. □ *That guy is a real phony!* □ *Look here, you phony, get out of my office!* □ *This is a phony. Get me a real one.* **3.** *n.* a phone call where the caller hangs up the minute the telephone is answered. □ *No one was on the telephone. It was just a phony.* □ *We have had phony after phony all evening.*

phony as a three-dollar bill AND **queer as a three-dollar bill** *mod.* phony; bogus. □ *This guy's as phony as a three-dollar bill.* □ *The whole deal stinks. It's as queer as a three-dollar bill.*

phooey AND **fooeey** **1.** *n.* nonsense. □ *Your story is just a lot of phooey.* □ *I've heard enough foeey. Let's get out of here.* **2.** *exclam.* <an expression of disgust, disagreement, or resignation.> (Usually **Phooey!** or **Fooeey!** Used typically when something smells or tastes bad.) □ *Who died in here? Phooey!* □ *This is the worst food I ever ate. Fooeey!*

phreak *n.* <a respelling of *freak*.> □ *You stupid phreak! Why'd you do that?*

phumfed ['fəm(p)ft] *mod.* drug intoxicated. □ *You can't get your work done when you are totally phumfed.* □ *She gets phumfed on pot every afternoon.*

phunky Go to funky.

phutz AND **futz** [fəts] *tv.* to rob, swindle, or cheat someone. □ *Don't futz me! Tell the truth!* □ *The muggers phutzed his wallet and watch.*

pickled *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Very common.) □ *She's usually pickled by noon.* □ *It only takes a few drinks to get him pickled.*

picklepuss *n.* a person who has a puckered up mouth; a child who is about to cry. □ *Don't be such a picklepuss. Smile!* □ *She is such a picklepuss. Nothing seems to please her.*

pickler *n.* a drunkard; an alcoholic. (See also **pickled**.) □ *What a pickler. He could drink all night.* □ *The cops brought in about thirty picklers last night.*

pick-me-up *n.* any food or drink that boosts energy, such as a drink of liquor, candy, soda pop. □ *I'm pooped. I really need a pick-me-up.* □ *I can't finish the day without a little pick-me-up at lunch.*

pickup **1.** *n.* something eaten or drunk to boost energy; a **pick-me-up**. □ *Bartender, I need a little pickup.* □ *She stopped at a candy machine for a pickup.* **2.** *n.* a sudden increase in something, such as speed or tempo in music. □ *We need a bit of a pickup at measure forty-three.* □ *There will be a pickup in sales during the Christmas season.* **3.** *mod.* spontaneous; unplanned. (Especially with ball games where the members of the team are picked up from whoever is available. See also **scratch**.) □ *He stopped at the basketball court for a pickup game with the boys.* □ *A pickup game can be fun if the sides are evenly matched.* **4.** *n.* an arrest. (Underworld.) □ *Send Sergeant Townsend out to make the pickup.* □ *The cop made a pickup right across the street.* **5.** *n.* someone whose acquaintance is made solely for sexual purposes. □ *She's no date. She's just a pickup.* □ *She had the gall to show up at the dance with a pickup in*

street clothes. **6. n.** the power of a car's engine as reflected in the car's ability to reach a high speed quickly. □ *This car has more pickup than I really need.* □ *Little cars hardly ever have enough pickup.*

pick up on something *in.* to become alert to something; to take notice of something; to learn or catch on to something. □ *She's real sharp. She picks up on everything.* □ *The cop picked up on the word "persuader."*

picky **1. mod.** choosy. □ *Don't be so picky. They're all the same.* □ *Red, blue, green! What's the difference? You are too picky.* **2. mod.** overly critical. □ *Complain, complain! What a picky old lady.* □ *I have to do it exactly right. My boss is very picky.*

picnic *n.* a good time; an easy time. □ *What a great class! Every day was a real picnic.* □ *Nothing to it. A real picnic.* □ *It wasn't a terrible day, but it was no picnic.*

piddle **1. in.** to urinate. (Said of children and pets.) □ *Mommy! Jimmy's got to piddle!* □ *Please, Jimmy, don't piddle on the floor.* **2. n.** urine. □ *Where's the dog? There's piddle on the carpet.* □ *Don't step in the puppy's piddle.* **3.** Go to piddle (around).

piddle (around) *in.* to waste time; to work aimlessly or inefficiently. □ *Stop piddling around! Get to work!* □ *Can't you get serious and stop piddling?*

piddler *n.* someone who wastes time. □ *Bob is such a piddler. He can't seem to get organized and get down to work.* □ *That piddler will never get anywhere in life.*

piddling *mod.* inadequate; meager; tiny. (See also **piss-poor**; **piddle**.) □ *What a piddling amount of money! I can't live on that.* □ *That is a piddling steak. I want a big one.*

piece **1. n.** a sexually attractive (young) woman. (Crude.) □ *She's a real piece!* □ *Who's that piece I saw you with last night?* **2. n.** a gun, especially a revolver. (Underworld.) □ *Is that guy carrying a piece?* □ *Okay, this gun is aimed at your head. Drop your piece.* **3. n.** a tiny ponytail worn by males. □ *Even the little boys—*

six and seven years old—want to wear a piece. □ *Tony pointed out that lots of pirates wore pieces.*

piece of ass **AND** **hunk of ass; hunk of tail; piece of snatch; piece of tail** **1. n.** someone considered as a partner in copulation. (Usually a female. Usually objectionable.) □ *Man, isn't she a fine looking piece of ass?* □ *Man, isn't he a fine looking piece of snatch?* **2. n.** an act of copulation; copulation with someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *If Todd doesn't get a hunk of tail once a day, he's real grouchy.*

piece of cake **1. n.** something easy to do. □ *No problem. When you know what you're doing, it's a piece of cake.* □ *Glad to help. It was a piece of cake.* **2. exclam.** It's a piece of cake! It's easy! (Usually **Piece of cake!**) □ *No problem, piece of cake!* □ *Rescuing drowning cats is my specialty. Piece of cake!*

piece of snatch Go to piece of ass.

piece of tail Go to piece of ass.

piece (of the action) **AND** **bit of the action; slice of the action** *n.* a share in the activity or the profits. (Especially gambling activity.) □ *If you get in on that real estate deal, I want a piece, too.* □ *Deal Tom in. He wants a piece of the action.* □ *Don't be selfish. Give me a slice of the action.*

pie-eyed **1. mod.** wide-eyed with amazement. □ *He didn't cry out. He just stood there pie-eyed.* □ *Why are all those people pie-eyed? What happened?* **2. mod.** alcohol intoxicated. □ *That guy is really pie-eyed. Send him home.* □ *We've got a pie-eyed bus driver. I want to get off!*

pie hole Go to word hole.

pie in the sky **1. n.** a reward; a special heavenly reward. □ *Don't hold out for pie in the sky. Get realistic.* □ *If he didn't hope for some heavenly pie in the sky, he would probably be a real crook.* **2. mod.** having to do with a hope for a special reward. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ *Get rid of your pie-in-the-sky ideas!* □

What these pie-in-the-sky people really want is money.

piffed [pɪft] **1.** AND **pifted** ['pɪftəd] *tv.* killed. (Past tense only. See also **phfft**.) □ *He piffed his goldfish by mistake.* □ *The speeding car pifted the cat yesterday.* **2.** AND **pifted** ['pɪftəd] *mod.* dead. □ *What will I do with a pifted cat?* □ *He's as piffed as they come.* **3.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **piffled**.) □ *That guy is really piffed.* □ *How can anybody get that piffed on four beers?*

piffle ['pɪfl] **1.** *n.* nonsense. □ *What utter piffle!* □ *The entire report was piffle from beginning to end.* **2.** *exclam.* a mild exclamation or expression of distress. (Usually **Piffle!**) □ *You a stockbroker? Piffle!* □ *She finished her story, and I looked her straight in the eye and said, "Piffle!"*

piffled ['pɪflɪd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Three glasses of booze and she was totally piffled.* □ *He was so piffled he couldn't talk!*

piff(ly)icated ['pɪf(l)əkədəd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *How can anybody drink so much and not get totally pifflicated?* □ *Get that pifflicated stuffed shirt out of here!*

pifted Go to **piffed**.

pig 1. *n.* someone who eats too much; a glutton. □ *Stop being a pig! Save some for other people.* □ *I try to cut down on calories, but whenever I see red meat I make a pig of myself.* **2.** *n.* an ugly and fat woman. □ *Clare is a pig. Why doesn't she lose a ton or two?* □ *Every girl in that sorority is a pig.* **3.** *n.* a dirty or slovenly person. □ *Bart is a pig. I don't think he bathes enough.* □ *Jimmy, change your clothes. Look at that mud, you little pig!* **4.** *n.* an officer; a police officer or a military officer. (Used mostly for a police officer. Widely known since the 1960s.) □ *The pigs are coming to bust up the fight.* □ *The pigs who aren't in pig heaven are driving around in pigmobiles busting innocent people like me.* **5.** *n.* a Caucasian. (Black.) □ *Why do those pigs think they can walk in here like that?* □ *Who do those pigs think they are, tourists?*

pigeon 1. *n.* a dupe; a sucker; someone singled out to be cheated. (See also **patsy**.) □ *There's our pigeon now. Don't let him see us sizing him up.* □ *Be alert for pickpockets. Don't be some crook's pigeon.* **2.** *n.* a cute girl or woman. □ *What a cute little pigeon.* □ *Who was the dreamy little pigeon I saw you with last night?* **3.** Go to **stool** (**pigeon**).

pigeon-eyed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *How can anyone get so pigeon-eyed on so little booze?* □ *Who is that pigeon-eyed guy over there who is having such a hard time standing up?*

pighead *n.* someone who is both stupid and stubborn. (See also **pigheaded**.) □ *Stop acting like such a pighead!* □ *She'll never change her mind. She's a real pighead.*

pigheaded *mod.* stupidly stubborn. (From the notion that pigs are immovable.) □ *You are unbelievably pigheaded!* □ *What a stupid pigheaded position to take.*

pig heaven *n.* a police station. (Chiefly black.) □ *The man came and took my brother to pig heaven.* □ *All the bacon eventually goes home to pig heaven.*

pigmobile *n.* a police car. (See also **pig**.) □ *Look out, here comes the pigmobile.* □ *Hey, man! Have you ever ridden in a pigmobile?*

pig out *in.* to overeat; to overindulge in food or drink. (See also **blimp out**; **mac out**; **pork out**; **scarf out**.) □ *I always pig out on Fridays.* □ *I can't help myself when I see ice cream. I have to pig out.*

pigpen *n.* a crosshatch or octothorp, #. (Computers. See also **mesh**.) □ *Put a pigpen just after the gear.* □ *There is nothing on my printout but a whole string of pigpens.*

piker ['paɪkə] **1.** *n.* a miser; a cheapskate. (Also a term of address.) □ *You cheap little piker! Beat it!* □ *A 5 percent tip? You piker!* **2.** *n.* a lazy person; a shirker. □ *All right, you pikers. Pick up your shovels and get back to work.* □ *Come on, you lazy piker. There's plenty left for you to do.*

pile *n.* a large amount of money. □ *She really made a pile in the stock market.* □ *That old lady has a pile of money stashed in the bank.*

pile of shit **1.** *n.* a mass of lies. (Refers to bullshit. Usually objectionable.) □ *He came in and told me this great pile of shit about how his alarm clock was in the shop.* □ *Don't give me that pile of shit! I know the truth!* **2.** *n.* any worthless structure or device. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Take this pile of shit back where you bought it and get your money back.* **3.** *n.* a totally worthless person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Todd, you are the biggest pile of shit I've ever seen.* □ *Don't be such a pile of shit!*

pileup *n.* a wreck; a vehicular crash where more than one vehicle is heavily damaged. □ *There is a serious pileup on the expressway.* □ *My car was ruined in a pileup on the highway.*

pilfered ['pilfərd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I've had too much. I'm beginning to feel pilfered.* □ *That old boy is really pilfered.*

pill **1.** the **pill** *n.* a birth control pill. (Always with *the* in this sense.) □ *Is Sally on the pill?* □ *The pill has really changed my life.* **2.** *n.* a tobacco cigarette; a marijuana cigarette. □ *Hey, toss me a pill, huh?* □ *I'll trade you a pill for a match.* **3.** *n.* a drug in capsule form. □ *Stop taking those pills!* □ *The doctor prescribed these pills.* **4.** *n.* a football. □ *Hank tossed the pill to Wally, who promptly dropped it.* □ *Fred kicked the pill through the goal and won the game.*

pill-dropper Go to pill-popper.

pill freak Go to pillhead.

pillhead AND **pill freak** *n.* a drug user who prefers drugs in pill or capsule form. (Drugs.) □ *You pill freaks should try some of this stuff.* □ *I don't smoke. I'm strictly a pillhead.*

pillowed *mod.* pregnant. (Refers to the swelling in a pregnant woman's abdomen.) □ *She does look a bit pillowed, doesn't she?* □ *I think I'm more than a bit pillowed.*

pill-peddler Go to pill-pusher.

pill-popper AND **popper; pill-dropper** *n.* anyone who takes pills frequently or habitually. □ *Poor Sue is a pill-popper.* □ *I knew she was always ill, but I didn't know she was a pill-dropper.* □ *The pill-popper thought she wouldn't get hooked.*

pill-pusher AND **pill-roller; pill-peddler** *n.* <a nickname for a physician.> □ *That pill-peddler charges too much.* □ *I went to the infirmary, but the pill-pusher wasn't in.*

pill-roller Go to pill-pusher.

pimp *n.* a man who solicits business for a prostitute. (Use caution with **pimp** and the topic.) □ *The guy with the diamond rings looks like a pimp.* □ *The cops took in three hookers and their pimp.*

pimpish ['pimpɪʃ] *mod.* flamboyant in dress and manner, as with a **pimp**. (Use caution with **pimp** and the topic.) □ *Where did you get that pimpish hat, Ron?* □ *Take the feathers off it, and it won't look quite so pimpish.*

pimpmobile *n.* a gaudy automobile, as might be driven by a **pimp**. (Use caution with **pimp**.) □ *You call that pimpmobile a car? Why all the chrome?* □ *He drove up in a pimpmobile and shocked all the neighbors.*

pimp steak *n.* a hot dog; a wiener. (See also **tube steak**.) □ *Oh, no! Not pimp steak again tonight.*

pimpstick *n.* a typical cigarette made by mass production. (Use caution with **pimp**. From an earlier time when **pimps** were likely to smoke machine-made cigarettes rather than the rugged roll-your-own type.) □ *Hey, chum. Why do you smoke those pimpsticks? Can't you roll one yourself?* □ *Real cowboys never smoke pimpsticks, and they don't have tattoos, either.*

pin **1.** *n.* someone's leg. (Usually plural.) □ *My pins are a little wobbly.* □ *Stand up on your pins and speak your mind.* **2.** *n.* an important criminal leader. (From **kingpin**.) □ *The pin sent me. He says you're to come with me.* □ *The mob's get-*

ting careless. The cops think they caught the pin this time.

pinch 1. *n.* a small amount of a powdered substance, such as salt, snuff, a spice, etc. (Not slang.) □ *He put a pinch under his lips and walked up to home plate.* □ *Do you have any oregano? I need a pinch.* **2.** *tv.* to arrest someone. □ *The cops pinched her in front of her house.* □ *The police captain pinched her for passing bad checks.* **3.** *n.* the arrest of someone. □ *They made the pinch in front of her house.* □ *The pinch was for forgery.* **4.** *tv.* to steal something. (See also **cop**.) □ *The kid pinched a candy bar right off the counter.* □ *I pinched these paper clips from my office.*

pinched *mod.* arrested. (See also **cop**; **pinch**.) □ *I got pinched for speeding.* □ *Sam got pinched for a parole violation.*

pinch hitter 1. *n.* a substitute batter in the game of baseball. □ *Sam is a pinch hitter for Ralph, who broke his wrist.* □ *Time to send in a pinch hitter.* **2.** *n.* any substitute person. □ *In school today we had a pinch hitter. Our teacher was sick.* □ *I want my own doctor, not a pinch hitter!*

pinked *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; tipsy. □ *She's sitting there looking a bit pinked.* □ *I want to get pinked. Fill it up, bartender.*

pink elephants AND **pink spiders 1.** *n.* the delirium tremens. □ *He's screaming with pink elephants again.* □ *He was shaking something awful from the pink spiders.* **2.** *n.* hallucinatory creatures seen during the delirium tremens. (See also **seeing pink elephants**.) □ *He said pink elephants were trying to kill him. He's really drunk.* □ *If you ever find yourself surrounded with pink elephants, you've got the DTs.*

pinkie Go to (little) pinkie.

pinko 1. *n.* a communist. (Popular during the 1950s.) □ *Get out of here, you pinko!* □ *He called me a pinko, so I left.* **2.** *mod.* having communist tendencies; in the manner of a communist. □ *Get that pinko jerk out of here!* □ *Take your old pinko laws and go to hell.*

pink slip 1. *n.* a piece of paper giving notice of dismissal from employment; any dismissal from employment. □ *I got a pink slip today. I guess I had it coming.* □ *I hope I don't get a pink slip. I need this job.* **2.** *tv.* to dismiss someone from employment. (See also **pink-slipped**.) □ *They pink slipped the whole office force today.* □ *If your work doesn't improve, I will be forced to pink slip you.* **3.** *n.* a learner's permit for driving an automobile. (In some U.S. states.) □ *You can't even drive in your own driveway without a pink slip.* □ *He wrecked the car one day after getting his pink slip.*

pink-slipped *mod.* fired; dismissed from employment. □ *I guess I've done it. I'm pink-slipped.* □ *Now I'm a member of the young and pink-slipped crowd.*

pink spiders Go to pink elephants.

pinky Go to (little) pinkie.

pinned *mod.* arrested. (Underworld.) □ *The boys in blue pinned him and took him away.* □ *He had a gun in his belt when they pinned him.*

pin someone's ears back 1. *tv.* to scold someone severely. □ *She really pinned his ears back.* □ *The teacher pinned the kids' ears back for chewing gum.* **2.** *tv.* to beat someone, especially about the head. □ *Lefty says I'm supposed to pin your ears back.* □ *You do something like that again, and I'll pin your ears back.*

pinstriper *n.* a businessman or businesswoman wearing a pinstriped suit. (See also **suit**; **vest**.) □ *Who's the pinstriper driving the beemer?* □ *Wall Street is nothing but wall-to-wall pinstripers.*

pint-sized *mod.* small; miniature. □ *I won't fit into one of those pint-sized cars.* □ *My car is not pint-sized.* □ *Tell that little pint-sized guy to beat it.*

pip 1. *n.* a pimple; a zit. □ *Good grief, I've got ear-to-ear pips!* □ *Do you ever outgrow pips?* **2.** *n.* postindustrial person. (Usually **PIP**. Acronym. Refers to a person as a member of a group that has become useless because of technological change.) □ *The world really doesn't really need*

more PIPs, except as consumers, of course.
 □ Not so! The world needs plenty of PIPs to pay taxes.

pipe *n.* an easy course in school. □ Take this course. It's a pipe. □ I don't want a full load of pipes. I want to learn something.

pipe down *in.* to become quiet; to cease making noise; to shut up. (Especially as a rude command.) □ Pipe down! I'm trying to sleep. □ Come on! Pipe down and get back to work!

pipped (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ I'm not drunk. Just a little pipped up. □ She's pipped and ready to get sick.

pipsqueak *n.* a small or timid man or boy. (Also a term of address.) □ Shut up, you little pipsqueak, or I'll hit you. □ I may be a pipsqueak, but I am a gentleman.

piss 1. *in.* to urinate. (Usually objectionable.) □ Who pissed on the floor of the john? **2.** *n.* urine. (Usually objectionable.) □ You got piss on your pants leg. **3.** *n.* bad beer; bad liquor; any bad-tasting or poor quality liquid. (Usually objectionable.) □ How about another can of that piss you serve here?

pissant AND **piss-ant 1.** *n.* a wretched and worthless person. □ Look, you silly pissant, beat it! □ Wally is such a little pissant! **2.** *mod.* worthless. □ I don't want this little pissant piece of pie. Give me a real piece. □ Who is this pissant shithead who thinks he can tell me what to do?

piss around *in.* to waste time; to be inefficient at something. (Usually objectionable.) □ She's just pissing around. She'll never finish. □ I can't piss around here all day! Let's get going!

piss blood 1. *tv.* to experience great anxiety. (Usually objectionable. See also **sweat blood**.) □ He made me piss blood before he agreed. **2.** *tv.* to expend an enormous amount of energy. (Usually objectionable. See also **sweat blood**.) □ I pissed blood to come in first in the race.

piss-cutter AND **piss-whiz** *n.* an extraordinary person; someone who can do the impossible. (Usually objectionable.) □ Sam is a real piss-cutter when it comes to

running. □ Tod's no piss-whiz as a batter, but he can really pitch!

pissed 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Usually objectionable.) □ He was really pissed. □ He was so pissed he could hardly stand up. **2.** *mod.* angry. (Potentially offensive, even though it is heard widely. See also **piss someone off**.) □ I was so pissed I could have screamed. □ He's come back, and he's sure pissed.

pissed off about someone or something
 Go to pissed (off) (at someone or something).

pissed (off) (at someone or something)
 AND **pissed off about someone or something** *mod.* very angry with or about someone or something. (Usually objectionable.) □ She's always pissed off about something. □ Man, is that guy pissed off!

piss elegant *mod.* very pretentious; overly elegant. (Usually objectionable.) □ Man, this place is piss elegant. Look at them lamp shades! □ I ain't never seen such a piss-elegant bathroom!

pisser 1. *n.* a urinal; a place [room, restroom] to urinate. (Usually objectionable.) □ Who keeps missing the pisser? **2.** *n.* a remarkable thing or person. (Usually objectionable.) □ Man, isn't he a real pisser! Have you ever seen anybody bat like that? □ She's no pisser, but she can get the job done. **3.** *n.* a terribly funny joke. (You laugh so hard you wet your pants. Jocular. Usually objectionable.) □ He told a real pisser and broke up the entire class. □ Hey, you wanna hear a real pisser?

piss factory *n.* a bar, tavern, or saloon. (Usually objectionable.) □ I stopped in at the piss factory for a round or two. □ Fred spends far too much time at the piss factory.

pisshead 1. *n.* a wretched and disgusting person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ Hey, pisshead! Clean up that mess! □ How can you even think of going out with a pisshead like Sam? **2.** *n.* a drunkard; a drunken person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ Some old pisshead in the gutter must have given

you that hat. □ *The cops hauled in a couple of pissheads and locked them up.*

pissing *mod.* worthless; minimal. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I'll be there in one pissing minute. Be quiet.* □ *I got a pissing amount of coffee for a buck and a quarter.*

pissing-match *n.* an argument; a pointless competition. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Let's call a halt to this pissing-match and get to work.* □ *That was no meeting. It was a silly pissing-match.*

piss in the wind *in.* to do something that is futile and counter-productive; to waste one's time doing something. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Shut up! You're just pissing in the wind!* □ *I'm tired of pissing in the wind. I'm gonna look for a new job.*

piss off AND **PO** *in.* to depart; to go away. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Piss off, you jerk! Get out!* □ *PO! Get out!*

Piss on it! *in.* To hell with it! (Usually objectionable.) □ *Oh, piss on it! I've had enough!*

piss on someone or something **1.** *in.* to urinate on someone or something. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That dog pissed on my shoe!* □ *Hey, watch out! Don't piss on me!* **2.** *in.* to degrade or denigrate someone or something. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He spent three paragraphs pissing on the play, then he said to go see it.* □ *He pissed on me, and then said I tried my best. What does that mean?*

piss-poor **1.** *mod.* of very poor quality. (Usually objectionable.) □ *This is piss-poor coffee. Pay the bill and let's go.* □ *That's one piss-poor car you got there.* **2.** *mod.* without any money; broke. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I'm so piss-poor, I can't afford a newspaper.* □ *Tell those piss-poor jerks to go beg somewhere else.*

piss someone off *tv.* to make someone angry. (Potentially offensive, even though it is widely used. See also **pissed (off)**.) □ *She really pissed me off!* □ *That's enough to piss off anybody.*

piss something away *tv.* to waste all of something, such as time or money. (Us-

ually objectionable.) □ *He pissed away the best possible chances.*

piss-whiz Go to piss-cutter.

pistol *n.* a person who is bright, quick, or energetic. (Implying *hot as a pistol* or *quick as a pistol*.) □ *She's a bright kid. A real pistol.* □ *Ask that pistol to step over here for a minute, would you?*

PITA *n.* [a] pain in the ass. (Initialism. A computer abbreviation, not pronounced.) □ *The SYSOP here is a real PITA. I wish he would leave us alone.* □ *Who is the PITA who keeps asking the same question over and over?*

pitch a bitch *tv.* to make a complaint. (Crude.) □ *You really love to pitch a bitch, don't you? What makes you happy?* □ *Complain, complain! You could pitch a bitch all day long.*

pitch a tent Go to make a mountain.

pitchcharacter *n.* a person, animal, or cartoon character who delivers the major selling message in an advertisement. □ *You can't use a frog for a pitchcharacter in a beer commercial!* □ *I think we had better hire a celebrity for the pitchcharacter.*

pitch in (and help) *in.* to volunteer to help; to join in completing a task. □ *Come on, you guys! Pitch in.* □ *If more people would pitch in and help, we could get this job done in no time at all.*

Pitch it! *exclam.* Throw it away! □ *We don't need it. Pitch it!*

pitch (the) woo *tv.* to kiss and caress; to woo (someone). (Old but still heard.) □ *They were out by the barn pitching woo.* □ *Old Ted can hardly see any more, but he can still pitch the woo.*

pits **1.** *n.* the armpits. (Usually crude.) □ *Man, you have a problem in your pits.* □ *Who's got the smelly pits in here?* **2.** the **pits** *n.* anything really bad. (Always with *the* in this sense.) □ *Life is the pits.* □ *This whole day was the pits from beginning to end.* **3.** the **pits** *n.* the depths of despair. (Always with *the* in this sense. Often with *in* as in the example.) □ *It's always the pits*

with him. □ *She's depressed and in the pits.*

pit stop **1.** *n.* a pause in a journey (usually by car) to urinate. (From the name of a service stop in automobile racing.) □ *I think we'll pull in at the next rest area. I need a pit stop.* □ *Poor Max needs a pit stop every thirty miles.* **2.** *n.* an underarm deodorant. (Because it *stops* armpit odor.) □ *Man, do you need some pit stop!* □ *Can I borrow your pit stop? I need it bad.*

pix [piks] *n.* pictures; photographs. □ *I got my pix back from the drugstore.* □ *Hold still and let me get your pix taken. Then you can jump around.*

pixilated AND **pixelated** **1.** *mod.* bewildered. □ *That little old lady is pixilated.* □ *She seems a bit young to be so pixelated.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; tipsy. □ *She seems a bit pixilated. She's probably been drinking.* □ *Martha, you mustn't drive. I think you are pixilated.*

pixelated Go to **pixilated**.

pizza-face Go to **crater-face**.

pizza-puss Go to **crater-face**.

pizzazz [pə'zæz] *n.* punch; glitter and excitement. □ *Listen to the way she put pizzazz into that song!* □ *This script lacks pizzazz.*

PJs *n.* pajamas. (Initialism. Usually juvenile.) □ *Get your PJs on and get into bed right now.* □ *I can't find my PJs. Where are they?*

plant **1.** *tv.* to strike a blow (to a particular place on someone). □ *I planted one right on his nose.* □ *The boxer planted a good blow on his opponent's shoulder.* **2.** *n.* a spy who secretly participates in criminal activities in order to inform on the criminals. □ *The crooks discovered the plant and fed him bogus information.* □ *Don't tell everything you know. You don't know who's a plant and who isn't.*

plant something on someone **1.** *tv.* to hide incriminating evidence on a person for later discovery and use in prosecution. (Drugs. Allegedly a police practice

used to entrap drug offenders. See also **flake**.) □ *The cops planted snow on Bart and then arrested him for carrying it.* □ *Don't touch me! You'll plant something on me!* **2.** *tv.* to conceal narcotics or other contraband on an unsuspecting person for the purpose of smuggling. (This person will bear the risk of discovery and arrest.) □ *The crooks planted the stuff on a passenger, but couldn't find him when the plane landed.* □ *Someone had planted coke on me, and the airport security officer found it.*

plastered *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She's really plastered.* □ *She's so plastered she can't see.*

plastered to the wall *mod.* heavily alcohol intoxicated. (An elaboration of **plastered**.) □ *He's not just drunk; he's plastered to the wall!* □ *How can anybody get plastered to the wall on just four beers?*

plastic **1.** *mod.* phony; false. □ *She wears too much makeup and looks totally plastic.* □ *I'm tired of living in such a plastic society.* **2.** *n.* a plastic credit card. □ *Our economy depends on plastic.* □ *I don't carry any cash, just plastic.* **3.** *mod.* having to do with credit cards and their use. □ *This plastic economy is dangerous.* □ *There is too much plastic debt in most households.*

plastic punk *n.* falsely stylish. □ *Most music videos are just plastic punk.* □ *Isn't all punk really plastic punk?*

plate Go to **platter**.

platter **1.** AND **plate** *n.* home base or home plate in baseball. (Usually with *the*.) □ *The batter stepped up to the platter.* □ *The ump dusted off the plate.* **2.** *n.* a phonograph record. (Old but still heard.) □ *Now, here's an interesting platter.* □ *They call it a platter because it looks like a serving platter.*

play **1.** *n.* a strategy; a plan of action. □ *That was a bad play, Bill. We lost the account.* □ *Here's a play that worked for us last year at this time.* **2.** *n.* an attractive investment; a way to make some money in the securities markets. □ *I just heard about a good play in the options market.*

□ *Buying bonds at a discount is an interesting play.*

playa *n.* a player; a womanizer. □ *Sam is a real playa and already has 8 kids.*

play around (with someone) **1.** *in.* to waste time; to waste someone's time. □ *Stop playing around and get to work.* □ *Don't play around with me!* **2.** *in.* to flirt or have an affair with someone. □ *Those two have been playing around for months.* □ *She only wants to play around with me.* **3.** *in.* to tease, deceive, or try to trick someone. □ *You're playing around with me. Leave me alone.* □ *Don't pay any attention to them. They're just playing around.*

play ball (with someone) *tv.* to cooperate with someone. □ *Are you going to play ball, or do I have to report you to the boss?* □ *You will be better off if you will play ball with me.*

play fast and loose (with someone or something) *in.* to treat someone or something carelessly or unfairly. □ *The broker played fast and loose with our money. Now we are nearly broke.* □ *He was playing fast and loose with his girl, so she left him.*

play for keeps *in.* to take serious and permanent actions. (Refers to playing a game where the money won is not returned at the end of the game.) □ *Wake up and face the fact that she's playing for keeps. She wants to get married.* □ *I always play for keeps.*

play freeze-out *tv.* to open windows and doors, or turn down a thermostat, making someone cold. (See also **freeze someone out**.) □ *Wow, it's cold in here! Who's playing freeze-out?* □ *Is someone trying to play freeze-out?*

play hardball (with someone) *tv.* to act strong and aggressive about an issue with someone. □ *Things are getting a little tough. The president has decided to play hardball on this issue.* □ *If he wants to play hardball with us, we can play that way, too.*

play hell with someone or something **AND** **play the devil with someone or something** *tv.* to cause difficulty for someone or something. □ *You know that this cake is going to play hell with my diet.* □ *Your decision plays hell with all my friends.*

play hide the sausage *tv.* to perform an act of copulation. (Jocular. Usually objectionable.) □ *Then he said he wanted to play hide the sausage.* □ *The last time we played hide the sausage, I knew where it was all the time.*

play hooky [...'huki] *tv.* to not go to school; to not keep an appointment. □ *I played hooky today and did not go to work.* □ *Tommy is probably playing hooky from school again.*

play in the big leagues *in.* to become involved in something of large or important proportions. □ *You had better shape up if you want to play in the big leagues.* □ *The conductor shouted at the oboist, "You're playing in the big leagues now. Tune up or ship out."*

play it cool **1.** *tv.* to do something while not revealing insecurities or incompetence. (See also **cool**.) □ *Play it cool, man. Look like you belong there.* □ *If the boss walks in, just play it cool.* **2.** *tv.* to hold one's temper. □ *Come on now. Let it pass. Play it cool.* □ *Don't let them get you mad. Play it cool.*

play someone for a fool *tv.* to treat someone like a fool; to act as if someone were a fool. □ *I know what you're trying to do. Don't try to play me for a fool.* □ *We played her for a fool, and she never knew it.*

play the devil with someone or something *Go to play hell with someone or something.*

play the dozens **AND** **shoot the dozens** *tv.* to trade insulting remarks concerning relatives with another person. (Chiefly black. See also (**dirty**) dozens.) □ *They're out playing the dozens.* □ *Stop shooting the dozens and go do your homework.*

play tonsil hockey *tv.* to kiss deeply, using the tongue. □ *Kids sit around in cars, playing tonsil hockey all evening.* □ *Sally's mother caught her playing tonsil hockey with George and grounded her.*

play with a full deck *in.* to operate as if one were mentally sound. (Usually in the negative. One cannot play cards with a partial deck.) □ *That guy's not playing with a full deck.* □ *Look sharp, you dummies! Pretend you are playing with a full deck.*

play with fire *in.* to do something dangerous or risky. □ *When you talk to me like that, you're playing with fire.* □ *Going out at night in a neighborhood like that is playing with fire.*

pleasantly plastered *mod.* mildly alcohol intoxicated; mellow with drink. (And elaboration of **plastered**.) □ *He wasn't really stoned. Just pleasantly plastered.* □ *I get to the point that I am pleasantly plastered, and then I stop.*

[please] Go to Puh-leez!

plonk *n.* white wine; cheap wine; any liquor. (From French *blanc*.) □ *That plonk is really hard on the gut.* □ *How about a bottle of plonk?*

plonked (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **plonk**; **blank**.) □ *He sure is plonked up.* □ *She is totally plonked.*

plonko *n.* a drunkard. (See also **plonk**.) □ *Get that smelly plonko out of here!* □ *He's a plonko if I ever saw one.*

plooter ['pludəd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *We went out and got totally plooter.* □ *How can anyone get so plooter on a bottle of wine?*

plop 1. *n.* the sound of dropping something soft and bulky, such as a hunk of meat. □ *When the roast fell on the floor, it made a nasty plop.* □ *When I heard the plop, I looked up and saw our dinner on the floor.*
2. *tv.* to put or place something (somewhere). □ *I don't mind cooking a turkey. You only have to plop it in the oven and forget about it.* □ *I plopped my books on the table and went straight to my room.*
3. *tv.* to sit oneself down somewhere; to

place one's buttocks somewhere. (The *it* in the examples is the buttocks.) □ *Come in, Fred. Just plop it anywhere you see a chair. This place is a mess.* □ *Just plop it down right there, and we'll have our little talk.*

plotzed ['platst] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; really drunk. □ *They all came home plotzed.* □ *Two bottles and she was plotzed.*

plowed (under) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *She was plowed under for a week.* □ *They went out and got ploughed.*

pluck AND **plug** *n.* wine; cheap wine. (Originally black.) □ *Where can I get some plug?* □ *You spilled plug all over my car seat.*

plug 1. *n.* a bite-sized, pressed mass of chewing tobacco. □ *He put a plug in his cheek and walked away.* □ *Hey, gimme a piece of that plug!* **2.** *n.* a drink of beer; a slug of beer. □ *Let me have a plug out of that bottle.* □ *I just want a plug, not the whole thing.* **3.** *n.* a free advertisement or a commercial boost from someone for a product. (See also **plugola**.) □ *I managed to get a plug on the Mike Michael show.* □ *How about a free plug during your introduction?* **4.** *tv.* to give an advertisement or commercial boost for something without having to pay for it. □ *I want to get on that TV program and plug my new book.* □ *I can't plug your product until I have a sample I can test.* **5.** Go to **pluck**.

plugged in *mod.* excited by drugs; having to do with the drug culture; **turned on**. (Drugs.) □ *Those guys are really plugged in.* □ *That punker is plugged in, for sure.*

plugola [plæg'olə] *n.* a bribe paid to get a free advertising **plug** (worth far more than the amount of the bribe). □ *How much plugola did you have to pay for that mention?* □ *The announcer was charged with accepting plugola.*

plug-ugly *mod.* very ugly. (See also **pug-ugly**.) □ *Your dog is just plug-ugly.* □ *My plug-ugly dog happens to be pedigreed.*

plum *n.* a prize or reward; something that can be considered the spoils of a political office. □ *That appointment was quite*

a plum. □ *My plum for getting elected was a big new office.*

plumb loco ['pləm 'loko] *mod.* completely crazy. (Folksy. *Loco* is from a Spanish word meaning “mad.”) □ *You're plumb loco if you think I'll go along with that.* □ *All those people were running around like they were plumb loco.*

PMJI *interj.* Pardon me for jumping in. (This indicates that someone is responding to a message directed to someone else. Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *PMJI, but I have some information that would help you with your problem.* □ *PMJI. As long as we are talking about vacations, does anyone know the price of admission to EP-COT Center in Orlando, Florida?*

PO Go to piss off.

pocket pool *n.* the act of a male playing with his genitals with his hand in his pants pocket. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Stop playing pocket pool and get to work.*

pocket-rocket *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He held his hands over his pocket-rocket and ran for the bedroom.*

Podunk ['podəŋk] **1.** *n.* an imaginary rural town where everything and everyone is backward, old-fashioned, and inferior. □ *I don't want a job in Podunk.* □ *This is the big city, not Podunk.* **2.** *mod.* rural and backward. (Usually **podunk**.) □ *I want out of this podunk town.* □ *This podunk place is driving me crazy.*

POed *mod.* pissed-off. □ *I get so POed at you!* □ *The teacher was POed at the whole class.*

poindexter ['poindəkstɜː] *n.* a bookish person; a well-mannered good student, usually male. □ *Charles is a poindexter, but he's a good guy.* □ *I'm no poindexter. In fact, my grades are pretty low.*

point man **1.** *n.* a ballplayer who habitually scores points. □ *Fred is supposed to be point man for our team, but tonight he is not doing so well.* □ *Paul is our favorite point man.* **2.** *n.* anyone whose job it is to score successes against the opposition.

□ *The president expects the secretary of defense to be point man for this new legislation.* □ *I am a diplomat, not a point man. Ask someone else to play your little games.*

pointy-head *n.* a studious thinker; an intellectual. (See also **conehead**.) □ *The pointy-heads seem to be living in a world of their own.* □ *Why do pointy-heads spend so much time arguing about nothing?*

poison **1.** *mod.* wicked; evil. □ *Stay away from her. She's poison.* □ *What a poison personality.* **2.** *n.* an alcoholic drink. □ *Name your poison.* □ *How about a drink of that poison there?*

poison pill *n.* an element introduced into the restructuring of a corporation so that it becomes undesirable for another corporation to take over. □ *Acme Corporation approved a poison pill to prevent a hostile takeover.* □ *Mr. Boone would have bought the company if it weren't for the poison pill.*

poke **1.** *n.* a puff of a marijuana cigarette or pipe. (Drugs. See also **toke**.) □ *Can I have a poke of that?* □ *Hey! One poke is enough!* **2.** *tv.* [for a male] to copulate (with a female). (Crude. Usually objectionable.) □ *They say he poked her.* □ *Your dog poked my dog, then ran away.*

pokey Go to poky.

poky AND **pokey** **1.** *n.* jail; a jail cell. (Usually with *the*.) □ *She spent a day in the poky.* □ *Have you ever been in the pokey?* **2.** *mod.* slow; lagging and inefficient. □ *Hurry up! Don't be so poky.* □ *What a poky old horse.*

pol [pəl] *n.* a politician. □ *The pols are spending my taxes like mad again.* □ *How many pols does a democracy require anyway?*

polecat *n.* a mean and deceitful person, usually male. (Folksy. *Polecat* is another U.S. word for skunk. See also **skunk**; **stinker**.) □ *You dirty polecat!* □ *Tell that polecat I want to talk to him.*

polished (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **waxed**.) □ *One glass of that*

stuff and I was polished up. □ How much of that do I have to drink to get good and polished?

polluted *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ Those guys are really polluted. □ Madam, you are polluted!

pond scum *n.* a mean and wretched person; a worthless male. (Collegiate. An elaboration of **scum**, less crude than **scumbag**. Also a rude term of address.) □ Tell that pond scum to beat it. □ Get your hands off me, you pond scum!

poo 1. AND **poo-poo** *n.* fecal material. (See also **poop**. Mostly juvenile. Usually objectionable.) □ Don't step in that dog poo! □ There's poo on your shoe, I think. **2.** *in.* to defecate. (Usually objectionable.) □ That old dog poed on our lawn. □ Don't let your dog poo here! **3.** *n.* nonsense. (From sense 1. See also **poo(h)-poo(h)**.) □ Don't give me that poo! □ I've heard enough of your poo. **4.** *n.* champagne. (From **shampoo**.) □ How about another glass of poo? □ Oh, I just love poo! **5.** Go to **poo(h)-poo(h)**.

pooch *n.* a dog. (Also a term of address to a friendly dog.) □ Hello, pooch. My goodness, you're friendly. □ Please take your pooch out of my garden.

poohead *n.* an obnoxious person. □ Wally, don't be such a poohead! □ What poohead left the window open?

poo(h)-poo(h) ['pu'pu] *tv.* to belittle someone or something. □ He tends to pooh-poo things he doesn't understand. □ Don't always poo-poo me when I express my opinions!

pool-hopping *n.* sneaking into private or public swimming pools at night or during the off-hours. □ The kids went pool-hopping, and one of them nearly drowned. □ Pool-hopping is illegal.

poop 1. *n.* information; the detailed knowledge of something. □ What's the poop on the broken glass in the hall? □ Tell me all the poop. **2.** *n.* fecal matter. (Usually objectionable. See also **poo**.) □ Don't step in the poop. □ There's poop on the sidewalk. **3.** *in.* to defecate. □ Your dog

pooped on my lawn. □ I tried to chase the cat away while it was pooping.

pooped (out) **1.** *mod.* exhausted; worn-out. (Said of a person or an animal.) □ I'm really pooped out. □ The horse looked sort of pooped in the final stretch. **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ How much of that stuff does it take to get pooped? □ He's been drinking all night and is totally pooped out.

pooper-scooper *n.* a device used to pick up and carry away dog feces from public places. □ I never leave home without my pooper-scooper. □ Tracy actually got a ticket for walking her dog without a pooper-scooper in sight!

poophead *n.* a person who acts very stupidly. (Also a term of address.) □ Sometimes you act like such a poophead. □ Look here, poophead, you're making a fool of yourself.

poopied *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (A euphemism for **shit-faced**.) □ She was so poopied that she giggled all the way home. □ They got real poopied last night.

poo-poo Go to **poo**; **poo(h)-poo(h)**.

poop out *in.* to quit; to wear out and stop. (See also **pooped (out)**.) □ He pooped out after about an hour. □ I think I'm going to poop out pretty soon.

poop sheet *n.* a sheet containing information. □ Where is the poop sheet on today's meeting? □ You can't tell one from the other without a poop sheet.

poor-mouth 1. *tv.* to speak ill of someone. (See also **bad-mouth**.) □ Please don't poor-mouth my brother. □ There's no need to poor-mouth your clothing. **2.** *in.* to speak repeatedly of how little money one has; to plead poverty. □ She's got money, but she's always poor-mouthing anyway. □ Spend more time looking for a job and less time poor-mouthing.

pop 1. *tv.* to hit or strike someone. □ Please don't pop me again. □ She popped him lightly on the shoulder. **2.** *mod.* popular. □ This style is very pop. □ I don't care for pop stuff. **3.** *n.* popular music. □ I like most pop, but not if it's too loud. □ Pop is

the only music I like. **4.** a **pop** *n.* a time; a try; apiece. (Always with *a* in this sense.) □ *Twenty dollars a pop is too much.* □ *I love records, but not at \$15.98 a pop.* **5.** *tv.* to take or swallow a pill, tablet, or capsule. □ *Here, pop a couple of these.* □ *He pops uppers from dawn to dusk.*

popcorn pimp *n.* a pimp who runs a small operation. (Streets. *Popcorn* here means small; as in *popcorn shrimp*.) □ *Reggie is nothing but a popcorn pimp. He'll never amount to much.* □ *That bird Reggie is just a popcorn pimp trying to fake the funk.*

pop-eyed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated, with bulging eyes. □ *What's he been drinking? He's pop-eyed as hell.* □ *She drank until she was totally pop-eyed.*

pop for something *in.* to pay for a treat (for someone). (See also **spring for something**.) □ *Let's have some ice cream. I'll pop for it.* □ *It's about time you popped for coffee.*

pop off **1.** *in.* to make an unnecessary remark; to interrupt with a remark; to sound off. □ *Please don't pop off all the time.* □ *Bob keeps popping off when he should be listening.* **2.** *in.* to lose one's temper. (See also **pop one's cork**.) □ *Now, don't pop off. Keep cool.* □ *I don't know why she popped off at me. All I did was say hello.* **3.** *in.* to die. □ *My uncle popped off last week.* □ *I hope I'm asleep when I pop off.* **4.** *in.* to leave; to depart in haste. □ *Bye, I must pop off.* □ *Got to pop off. I'm late.*

pop one's cork *tv.* to release one's anger; to blow one's top. □ *I'm just about to pop my cork.* □ *She tried to hold it back, but suddenly she popped her cork.*

popped **1.** *mod.* arrested. (Similar to **busted**.) □ *Tom got popped for speeding.* □ *He was popped for hardly anything at all.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *She looks glassy-eyed because she's popped.* □ *They went out last night and got good and popped.*

popper **1.** AND **popsie** *n.* an ampoule of amyl nitrite, a drug that is inhaled when

the ampoule is broken. (Drugs. Often plural.) □ *You got any poppers I can have?*

2. Go to **pill-popper**. **3.** *n.* a handgun. (Underworld. From the sound of a gunshot.) □ *He carries his popper under his coat.* **4.** *n.* a can of beer (in a pop-top can). □ *You ready for another popper, Tom?*

popping *in.* happening. □ *Is anything popping around here?* □ *Things are always popping at the gym.*

poppycock *n.* nonsense. (From Dutch.) □ *I've heard enough of your poppycock.* □ *That's nothing but poppycock.*

pops *n.* one's father; any older man. (Also a term of address.) □ *Hey, pops! How you doing?* □ *Well, pops, what do you think?*

popsie Go to **popper**.

popskull *n.* fiery liquor; inferior whiskey; moonshine. □ *This popskull will burn a hole in you.* □ *Where is that jug of popskull?*

pop (some) tops *tv.* to drink beer. □ *Wanna go out tonight and pop some tops?* □ *We are going to pop tops and watch the B-ball game.*

pop the question *tv.* [for a man] to ask a woman to marry him. (Could also be used by a woman asking a man.) □ *She waited for years for him to pop the question.* □ *Finally she popped the question.*

pop wine *n.* a cheap, flavorful, sparkling wine drink. □ *Even if you don't like fine wines, you'll like pop wine.* □ *They were drinking pop wine like it was water.*

pork **1.** *n.* the police in general; a pig. (Underworld.) □ *Keep an eye out for the pork.* □ *The pork hauled all of them to the station.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He's telling everybody that he porked her.* □ *They pork all the time, just like bunnies.*

porked *mod.* copulated with; [of a female] deflowered. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Well, have you been porked?*

porker *n.* a fat person. □ *Sally is not exactly a porker, but she is not skinny either.* □ *I was a porker until I started exercising.*

pork out *in.* to overindulge in food and drink. (A play on **pig out**.) □ *Whenever I see french fries, I know I'm going to pork out.* □ *We porked out on pizza.*

porky *mod.* fat; obese; pig-like. □ *You are beginning to look a little porky.* □ *See that porky man over there?*

pository *mod.* yes; positive. □ *Q: Is this the right one? A: Pository.*

posse ['pasi] *n.* the group of teenagers or children that one plays with or hangs out with. □ *Hank and his posse are in the backyard playing.* □ *A whole posse of kids just ran through my flower garden.*

pot 1. *n.* a toilet. (Usually with *the*.) □ *Jimmy's on the pot, Mommy.* □ *Where's the pot around here?* **2.** *n.* a drinking vessel. (Old but still heard.) □ *How about a pot of beer?* □ *Care for another pot?* **3.** *in.* to drink heavily; to use a **pot** (sense 2) to excess. □ *He's been potting since dusk.* □ *Let's sit here and pot for a while.* **4.** *n.* a vessel, hat, basket, etc., used to collect or receive contributions. □ *Please pass the pot.* □ *How much is left in the pot?* **5.** *n.* a sum of money collected; a pool of money. □ *Clare won the whole pot.* □ *How large is the pot this month?* **6.** *n.* cannabis; marijuana. (Originally drugs, now widely known.) □ *She had pot on her when she was arrested.* □ *The cops found pot growing next to city hall.*

potato *n.* the head. □ *I got a nasty bump on my potato.* □ *Put your hat on your potato, and let's get out of here.*

potatohead *n.* a stupid person. (See also **potato**.) □ *Stop acting like a potatohead.* □ *Look, potatohead, go home!*

potato soup *n.* vodka. □ *Have a bit of this potato soup, why don't you?* □ *Those Russians make fine potato soup.*

potbelly *n.* a big belly. □ *He got a potbelly from eating fried chicken.* □ *Everyone in her family has a potbelly.*

pot boiler *n.* a book or other literary work of no value except for the money it earns. □ *I can write one pot boiler every six months or so.* □ *Can you produce anything but pot boilers?*

pot hound AND **pot sniffer** *n.* a dog trained to sniff out cannabis. (Drugs.) □ *The pot hound at the airport is always busy finding marijuana.* □ *How do they train pot sniffers to find cannabis?*

pot party *n.* a communal marijuana smoking session; a party where marijuana is smoked. (Drugs.) □ *I didn't know you were taking me to a pot party!* □ *There was a bust at Bart's pot party.*

POTS *n.* plain old telephone service [for a computer connection to the Internet]. (As opposed to connection through a TV cable or high-speed telephone line.) □ *Even in 5 years, most people will still rely on POTS to get connected to the Internet.* □ *Cable modems, POTS, IDSN! What does it matter if you can't afford a computer?*

potshot *n.* a sharp criticism; a wild shot of criticism. (Usually with *take*.) □ *Please stop taking potshots at me!* □ *He took a potshot at my old car.*

pot sniffer Go to **pot hound**.

potted *mod.* drunk. □ *He's not sleepy! He's totally potted!*

potty 1. *n.* a small toilet. (Usually juvenile.) □ *Mommy, I've got to go to the potty.* □ *I need to use the potty.* **2.** *in.* to use the toilet. (Always juvenile.) □ *I've got to potty.* □ *Be sure to potty before we leave.* **3.** *mod.* crazy. □ *She is acting a little potty.* □ *Who is that potty old man?* □ *He got more potty as he grew older.*

potty mouth AND **toilet mouth** *n.* someone who uses obscene or profane language in most social settings. (Also a term of address.) □ *That potty mouth is offending people again.* □ *Hey, toilet mouth! Cool it!*

pound *tv.* to drink something quickly. (See also **pound a beer**.) □ *Dan said he could pound the cup of coffee in thirty seconds.* □ *You don't have to pound your milk. Take your time.*

pound a beer AND **pound some beers; hammer a beer; hammer some beers; slam a beer; slam some beers** *tv.* to drink a beer; to drink a beer fast. □ *On*

a hot day like this, I want to go home and pound a beer. □ *Let's go down to the tavern and pound some beers.* □ *We went out and hammered some beers.*

pounder *n.* a police officer; a cop on the beat. □ *The pounder gave me a parking ticket.* □ *Most pounders get sore feet.*

pound one's ear *tv.* to sleep. □ *I've got to spend more time pounding my ear.* □ *She went home to pound her ear an hour or two before work.*

pound one's meat Go to beat the dummy.

pounds *n.* dollars; money. □ *How many pounds does this thing cost?* □ *I don't have any pounds on me.*

pound some beers Go to pound a beer.

pound someone's head in *tv.* to beat someone. □ *Talk nice to him, or he'll pound your head in.* □ *I was afraid that the cop was going to pound my head in.*

pound something out **1.** *tv.* to play something loudly on the piano, perhaps with difficulty. □ *Here, pound this one out. A little softer, please.* □ *She was pounding out a nice little tune.* **2.** *tv.* to type something on a typewriter. □ *I have finished writing it. Can I borrow your typewriter so I can pound it out?* □ *All the reporters were pounding out stories for the next edition of the paper.*

pound the books Go to hit the books.

pour cold water on something *tv.* to put an end to something; to dampen something. □ *I hate to pour cold water on your plan, but it won't work.* □ *I wanted to go to the party, but my brother poured cold water on that by taking the car.*

powdered (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Those guys are powdered up.* □ *Most of the bums in the gutter are really powdered.*

powder monkey *n.* a specialist in the use of dynamite. (See also **grease monkey**.) □ *I won't stay around while the powder monkey is working.* □ *How long do powder monkeys usually live?*

powder one's face Go to powder one's nose.

powder one's nose **1.** *AND powder one's face* *tv.* to depart to the bathroom. (Usually said by women, or jocularly by men.) □ *Excuse me, I have to powder my nose.* □ *She just went out to powder her face.* **2.** *tv.* to use cocaine. □ *John is in the bedroom powdering his nose. What a habit!* □ *The cops caught the guys powdering their noses and collared them all.*

powder room **1.** *n.* a small bathroom without bathing facilities in a private home, usually located for the convenience of guests. □ *Can I use your powder room?* □ *Excuse me, where is the powder room?* **2.** *n.* the ladies' restroom in a public place, especially a restaurant; the place women go to powder their noses. (The emphasis is on comforts other than toilet facilities, such as mirrors, places to rest, and even a maid to help with emergency repairs of makeup or clothing.) □ *The ladies went to the powder room. They'll be back in a minute.* □ *She went to the powder room to clean the spill off her dress.*

powder up *in.* to drink heavily; to get drunk. □ *Let's go out and powder up.* □ *He's at the tavern powdering up.*

power hitter *n.* a batter in the game of baseball who can hit the ball great distances. □ *Ted is a real power hitter. They'll try to walk him.* □ *I'm no power hitter, but I can run like mad.*

powerhouse *n.* a very big strong person, usually a male. □ *Ted is a real powerhouse. I'd hate to have him mad at me.* □ *Each member of the football team is a powerhouse.*

power tool *n.* a student who studies most of the time. (An elaboration of **tool**.) □ *Willard is a power tool if there ever was one. Studies most of the night.* □ *All the power tools always get the best grades.*

pow-wow **1.** *n.* a meeting; a conference. (From an Amerindian word.) □ *There's a big pow-wow about money at the home office.* □ *Let's have a pow-wow on that issue.* **2.** *in.* to hold a meeting or a conference. □ *Let's pow-wow on that tomorrow.*

□ *The senators were pow-wow-ing on how to get the law passed.*

pratfall *n.* a fall on the buttocks; a fall on the buttocks done as part of a comedy act. □ *I took a pratfall right on the sidewalk.* □ *If you want to be in musical comedy, you should learn to take a pratfall.*

prat(t) *n.* the buttocks. □ *Get out before I kick you in the pratt.* □ *Your father will spank your prat.*

prayerbones *n.* the knees. □ *Okay, down on your prayerbones.* □ *He pushed one of his prayerbones into my gut.*

pray to the enamel god Go to pray to the porcelain god.

pray to the porcelain god AND **pray to the enamel god** *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (Refers to being on one's knees [praying] in front of a porcelain toilet bowl.) □ *Boy, was I sick. I was praying to the porcelain god for two hours.* □ *Wayne was in the john, praying to the enamel god.* □ *I think I'd better go home and pray to the porcelain god.*

preemie *n.* a premature baby. (Medical.) □ *There were two preemies born today.* □ *I was a preemie.*

preg *mod.* pregnant. □ *Doesn't Sally look a little preg?* □ *Nobody is ever just a little preg.*

prelims *n.* preliminary examinations. (Collegiate.) □ *I hope I pass my prelims.* □ *What do you have to do to get the degree after you pass your prelims?*

preppie AND **preppy** **1.** *mod.* in the manner or style of a student at a preparatory school. □ *I just love your preppy coat.* □ *Preppy clothes are almost out of style.* **2.** *n.* a young person who dresses and acts like a student at a preparatory school. □ *Those preppies are having fun now, but how will they support themselves?* □ *Do all preppies become yuppies?*

preserved *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **pickled**.) □ *He's really preserved.* □ *He drank a quart of vodka and is totally preserved.*

press (the) flesh *tv.* to shake hands. (See also **flesh-presser**.) □ *Hey, chum! Glad to press flesh with you!* □ *He wanted to press the flesh, but I refused even to touch him.*

press the panic button Go to hit the panic button.

pretty *mod.* very. □ *Bob's a pretty nice guy.* □ *I'm pretty busy at the moment.*

pretty penny *n.* a sizeable amount of money. □ *I imagine that your jacket cost you a pretty penny.* □ *This watch cost me a pretty penny, and I intend to take care of it.*

prexy *n.* a president. □ *The prexy broke the tied vote.* □ *This year's prexy will retire in March.*

pric(e)y *mod.* expensive. □ *This stuff is too pricey.* □ *That's a pretty pricy car.* □ *Do you have anything less pricy?*

prick **1.** *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He held his hands over his prick and ran for the bedroom.* **2.** *n.* a stupid or obnoxious male. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You stupid prick! Get out of here!*

primed *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *The entire fraternity got primed.* □ *The whole college was primed by midnight.*

primo ['primo] **1.** *mod.* great; first-class. □ *This pizza is really primo.* □ *Sally is primo.* *You can't do better than Sally.* **2.** Go to (el) primo.

Prince Albert *n.* cannabis in general, especially marijuana sold or transported in a Prince Albert™ pipe tobacco can. (From the 1960s, but still heard.) □ *I've heard that Max smokes Prince Albert.* □ *Where can I get a can of Prince Albert?*

prior *n.* a prior arrest. (Underworld.) □ *This guy has about fifteen priors.* □ *Have you ever had a prior, young man?*

private eye *n.* a detective who is licensed to work privately rather than for a police department. □ *I worked for a while as a private eye.* □ *The cops don't like private eyes much.*

privy *n.* an outdoor toilet; any toilet. □ *Uncle Paul was out in the privy.* □ *Where's the privy around here?*

pro **1.** *n.* a professional (at anything); someone as good as a professional. □ *I'm a pro at photography.* □ *When it comes to typing, he's a pro.* **2.** *mod.* professional. □ *I hope to play pro ball next year.* □ *This is not what I'd call a pro hammer.* **3.** *n.* a prostitute. □ *Do you think she's a pro or just overly friendly?* □ *This pro comes up to me and acts like she's met me before.*

Probablee. *mod.* probably. (As an answer to a question. The last syllable is accented and drawn out.) □ *Q: Will you be there when I get home? A: Probablee.*

prod **1.** *n.* a reminder. □ *She gave me a little prod about the report that is due Monday.* □ *Call me up and give me a little prod so I won't forget.* **2.** *tv.* to remind someone (about something). □ *Call me up and prod me just before the due date.* □ *Stop prodding me about these minor matters.*

prof *n.* a professor. (Collegiate.) □ *The prof was dull and the room was hot, and I kept closing my eyes.* □ *Who's the prof for that course?*

(pro)file *in.* to walk about and show something off; to walk carefully in a way that gets attention. (As if showing one's profile.) □ *Look at Albert profiling along! What a nerd.* □ *All those guys are filing and styling like they were a bunch of peacocks.*

pronto *mod.* fast; immediately. (From Spanish. Common in Western movies.) □ *You get over here, pronto.* □ *I want to see you in my office, pronto.*

proofed Go to **carded**.

props *n.* evidence of respect; one's proper respect. □ *You gotta give me my props.*

prosty AND **prostie** *n.* a prostitute. □ *The cops haul in about forty prosties a night from that one neighborhood alone.* □ *This one prosty was high on something and started screaming.*

pseudo ['sudo] **1.** *mod.* false; bogus. □ *This is a very pseudo position that you are tak-*

ing. □ *She is just too pseudo.* □ *What a pseudo hairdo!* **2.** *n.* a phony person. □ *Randy is such a pseudo! What a fake!*

psyched (out) **1.** *mod.* excited; overwhelmed; thrilled. □ *She's really psyched out.* □ *That's great. I'm really psyched!* □ *What a psyched out way to talk!* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. (Drugs.) □ *She's just lying there psyched out.* □ *Two beers and a red devil and he was psyched out.*

psyched (up) *mod.* completely mentally ready (for something). □ *I'm really psyched for this test.* □ *The team isn't psyched up enough to do a good job.*

psycho *n.* a psychopathic person; a crazy person. □ *Get that psycho out of here!* □ *Pat is turning into a real psycho.*

psych out *in.* to have a nervous or emotional trauma; to go mad for a brief time. (See also **freak (out)**.) □ *Another day like this one and I'll psych out for sure.* □ *He looked at the bill and psyched out.*

psych someone out *tv.* to try to figure out what someone is likely to do. □ *Don't try to psych me out.* □ *The batter tried to psych out the pitcher, but it didn't work.*

psych someone up *tv.* to get someone excited or mentally prepared for something. (See also **psyched (up)**.) □ *I psyched myself up to sing in front of all those people.* □ *The coach psyched up the team for the game.*

ptomaine-domain AND **ptomaine-palace** ['to'men...] *n.* any institutional dining facility; a mess hall; a cafeteria. □ *I can't stand the food at the ptomaine-domain.* □ *Time to go over to the ptomaine-palace and eat—if you can call it that.*

ptomaine-palace Go to **ptomaine-domain**.

puddinghead *n.* someone, usually a male, who acts very stupid. □ *Please stop being such a puddinghead.* □ *That puddinghead sold my antique table for junk!*

puddle jumper *n.* a small airplane. □ *I'm not going to fly 200 miles in that puddle*

jumper! □ *My uncle has his own puddle jumper.*

puff *in.* to get drunk. □ *Those guys go out and puff every Friday night.* □ *I've been puffing since dinnertime, and I'm done.*

puffer *n.* a cigar. □ *Who's smoking that foul puffer?* □ *Can you imagine anyone smoking a puffer like that in a restaurant?*

pugged **1.** *mod.* exhausted; bewildered. □ *I have had a long day, and I'm really pugged.* □ *Who is that pugged old man?* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *When he started pouring his drink down his collar, I knew he was pugged.* □ *The whole gang got pugged last night.*

pug-ugly **1.** *mod.* having to do with a very ugly person. □ *He is so pug-ugly.* □ *What a pug-ugly cat you have there!* **2.** *n.* a very ugly person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Ask that pug-ugly to leave. He will frighten the children.* □ *Hey, pug-ugly, try plastic surgery!*

Puh-leez! [pəə 'li:iz] *exclam.* Please!; That is enough! You can't expect me to accept that! (A long drawn-out way of saying *Please!* The tone of voice shows exasperation and disgust. The spelling is highly variable.) □ *I am the one who's at fault? Puuuleeze!* □ *Puh-leez! Don't try to make me believe that!*

puke **1.** *in.* to vomit. □ *I thought I would puke when I smelled it.* □ *Who puked in the john?* **2.** *n.* vomit. □ *There's puke on the bathroom wall.* □ *Tod put a big hunk of fake plastic puke on the teacher's desk.* **3.** *n.* a totally disgusting and obnoxious person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *God, I hate you, you puke!* □ *What an ugly puke. Make him leave! Make him handsome!*

puke hole ['pjuk...] **1.** *n.* a tavern. □ *Let's go in this puke hole and get a cold one.* □ *Carl spends almost every evening at the local puke hole.* **2.** *n.* a toilet. □ *Bart tried to flush the dope down the puke hole, but the cops caught him.* □ *Who didn't flush the puke hole?* **3.** *n.* a mouth. (Rude.) □ *Shut your puke hole and listen to what I am telling you!* □ *Do you want me to punch you in the puke hole?*

the **pukes** *n.* the feeling of nausea; the feeling of impending vomiting. (Especially with *have, get.*) □ *Oh my God, I've got the pukes.* □ *I hate having the pukes.*

pukey AND **pukoid** *mod.* disgusting; repellent. □ *Who is that pukey looking guy?* □ *Gosh, it's pukoid!* □ *What a pukey day!*

pukish *mod.* nauseated. (Folksy.) □ *Oh, I feel so pukish.* □ *That old pukish feeling came over me, and I just let go.*

pukoid Go to **pukey**.

pull **1.** *n.* a drink; a **swig**; a drink from a flask. □ *He took another pull and kept on talking.* □ *Can I have a pull?* **2.** *tv.* to take a drink or a mouthful of liquor from a bottle or other container. □ *He pulled a slug from the bottle.* □ *She pulled a mouthful and then spat it out.* **3.** *n.* a mouthful of smoke from a cigarette; a **drag** on a cigarette. □ *A couple of pulls and she crushed out the cigarette.* □ *After a big pull, she blew an enormous smoke ring.* **4.** *tv.* to smoke a cigarette. □ *He pulled a long filter job and then went back to work.* □ *He stopped for a minute and pulled one.* **5.** *in.* to **pull one's punches**. (Martial arts.) □ *See, he pulled just at the last minute.* □ *If you pull during a fight, you're through as a fighter.*

pull a boner *tv.* to make a silly error. □ *That was dumb. You really pulled a boner.* □ *Tom is always pulling boners.*

pull a fast one *tv.* to outwit or outsmart someone by a clever and timely maneuver. □ *Don't try to pull a fast one on me.* □ *So you think you can pull a fast one?*

pull a job *tv.* to carry out a crime, especially a robbery. (Police and underworld. Note the variations in the examples.) □ *Bart decided that it was not a good time to pull a bank job.* □ *Ziggy and Bart left town after they pulled the job.*

pull an attitude *tv.* to be haughty; to put on airs. □ *Don't pull an attitude with me, chum!* □ *Mary pulled an attitude and sat around pouting all evening.*

pull chocks *tv.* to depart. (Chocks are used to block the wheels of a vehicle or a

plane.) ☐ *Let's pull chocks and get out of here.*

pull down an amount of money *tv.* to earn a stated amount of money. (*An amount of money* is expressed as a figure or other indication of an actual amount.)
☐ *She pulls down about \$40,000 a year.*
☐ *They pull down pretty good salaries.*

pull jive *tv.* to drink liquor. (See also **jive**.)
☐ *Let's go pull jive for a while.* ☐ *Don't you ever do anything but pull jive?*

pull one's belt in (a notch) Go to take one's belt in (a notch).

pull oneself off Go to beat off.

pull one's pud Go to beat the dummy.

pull one's punches **1.** *tv.* to pull back during a boxing punch just before the full force of a blow is felt; to land lighter blows than normal upon an opponent. (Boxing and related sports.) ☐ *The boxer started pulling his punches, and the ref ended the fight.* ☐ *He got fined for pulling his punches.* **2.** *tv.* to hold back in one's criticism; to attenuate the intensity of one's remarks. (Also with *any* in the negative.) ☐ *I won't pull my punches with you. This is lousy.* ☐ *He never pulls any punches. He always talks straight.*

pull one's wire Go to beat the dummy.

pull out all the stops *tv.* to use everything available; to not hold back. (Refers to pulling out all of the stops on an organ so that it will sound as loud as possible.)
☐ *Then the mayor decided to pull out all the stops.* ☐ *Don't pull out all the stops in the first round. Wait till he's tired in the third and clobber him good.*

pull someone's chain Go to yank someone's chain.

pull someone's leg *tv.* to kid someone; to tease someone. ☐ *They're just pulling your leg. Relax!* ☐ *Stop it! I don't believe you! You're pulling my leg.*

pull something off *tv.* to make something happen. ☐ *I didn't think he could pull it off.* ☐ *It takes a lot of skill to pull off something like that.*

pull the plug (on someone or something) *tv.* to put an end to someone or something as a problem; to defuse a problem caused by someone or something. (As if one were disconnecting an electrical appliance.) ☐ *It's time to pull the plug on this problem.* ☐ *I've heard enough from Mr. Jones. It's time to pull the plug on him.*

pummelled *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Collegiate.) ☐ *Can you imagine getting pummeled on peppermint schnapps?* ☐ *They get pummeled every Friday night.*

pump 1. *tv.* to press someone for an answer or information. ☐ *Pump him until he talks.* ☐ *Don't pump me! I will tell you nothing!* **2.** *n.* the heart. (See also **ticker**.)
☐ *He has the pump of a forty-year-old.* ☐ *My pump's getting sort of weak.* **3.** *n.* a pumped up muscle. (Bodybuilding.) ☐ *Look at the size of that pump.* ☐ *He's tired and can't quite make a pump.*

pumped 1. *mod.* pregnant; impregnated. (Crude.) ☐ *She was so pumped, she was out to here.* ☐ *Look at her! She's pumped and looks due any minute.* **2.** Go to pumped (up).

pumped (up) *mod.* excited; physically and mentally ready. (Sports.) ☐ *The team is really pumped up for Friday's game.* ☐ *She really plays well when she's pumped!*

pump iron Go to pump (some) iron.

pump ship 1. *tv.* to urinate. (Crude. From an expression meaning to pump the bilge water from a ship.) ☐ *He stopped and pumped ship right in the alley.* ☐ *I'll be with you after I pump ship.* **2.** *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (Crude. Less well known than the previous sense.) ☐ *After I pumped ship, I felt better.* ☐ *Oh, man! I think I gotta pump ship!*

pump (some) iron *tv.* to lift weights. ☐ *Andy went down to the gym to pump some iron.* ☐ *Mary's hobbies are pumping iron and running.*

pump (someone) up *tv. & in.* to excite someone; to make someone enthusiastic.
☐ *The coach gave a pep talk to pump the*

players up for the big game. □ Tom pumped us up at the sales meeting.

pump something up *tv.* to flex and tense a muscle until it is expanded to its fullest size, as with thighs and forearms. (Body-building.) □ He really can pump up his pecs. □ She pumped up her thighs and struck a pose.

pump up Go to pump (someone) up.

punch-drunk AND **punchy** *mod.* unstable; stupid acting; bewildered. (From a term describing a boxer suffering from brain damage.) □ I feel sort of punch-drunk after a roller coaster ride. □ Who is that punchy jerk? □ I feel punchy when I drink too much coffee.

punch someone out *tv.* to knock someone out. (See also **punch someone's lights out**.) □ He threatened to punch me out. □ The thug punched out the cop and ran down an alley.

punch someone's lights out *tv.* to knock someone out; to close someone's eyes with a hard blow. □ Shut up, or I'll punch your lights out. □ He threatened to punch my lights out. □ You want me to punch out your lights?

punchy Go to punch-drunk.

punk 1. AND **punk kid** *n.* an inexperienced boy or youth. (Derogatory. Also a term of address.) □ Ask that punk to come over here. □ Look here, punk, I need some help. **2.** *n.* a petty (male) hoodlum; a (male) juvenile delinquent. □ We know how to deal with punks like you. □ The jails are packed with crooks who were just punks a few years ago. **3.** *mod.* poor; dull and inferior. □ The party turned punk, and we left. □ This is pretty punk food. **4.** *mod.* having to do with **punkers** or their music. □ I am tired of your red punk hair. Try it brown for a change. □ This music sounds too punk for me.

punker *n.* a punk rocker; a young person who dresses in the style of punk rockers. □ It's not safe to walk on the street with all those weird punkers out there. □ The punkers don't even have a sense of rhythm.

punk kid Go to punk.

punk out 1. *in.* to chicken out. □ He was supposed to ask her out, but he punked out at the last minute. □ Come on! Stick with it! Don't punk out! **2.** *in.* to become a punker. □ If I punked out, my parents would probably clobber me. □ If my kids ever punked out and looked like that, I think I'd clobber them.

punt [pʌnt] *in.* to do something different in a pinch; to improvise. (From the act of kicking the ball in order to gain ground in football.) □ When all else fails, punt! □ Everyone expected me to lose my temper, so I punted. I cried instead of getting mad.

puppy 1. *n.* a wimp; a softie. □ That silly puppy is still waiting outside your door. □ Oh, Paul, you're such a puppy! **2.** *n.* a thing; a piece or part of something. □ Put this little puppy right here. □ Where is that puppy?

puppy love *n.* mild infatuation; infatuation as in a crush. □ Is it really love or just puppy love? □ Look at them together. It may be puppy love, but it looks wonderful.

pure and simple *mod.* basically; simply; essentially. □ Bart is a crook, pure and simple. □ It's a pure and simple fact. The guy is a bum.

purr (like a cat) *in.* [for an engine] to run well and smoothly. □ My car really purred after I got it tuned up. □ New spark plugs and this old heap will really purr like a cat.

push 1. *tv.* to approach a particular age (in years). □ She looked like she was pushing forty-eight or fifty. □ He's only pushing thirty, but he looks much older. **2.** *in.* to recruit new drug users and sell drugs to them; to deal in drugs. □ He was pushing for two years before the cops got him. □ Man, look at that guy push. He hooks two new kids every day. **3.** *tv.* to hype something or someone; to pressure something or someone. □ She's always pushing her own interests. □ The clerk was pushing one brand so hard that I finally bought it.

pushed 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ Tom is a little pushed and can't walk very

straight. □ *How can you be so pushed on so little booze?* **2.** *mod.* addicted to a drug. (Drugs. See also **push.**) □ *He's pretty pushed, and he needs some stuff now!* □ *He used H. for years before he really got pushed.*

pusher *n.* a drug dealer who works hard to establish new addicts and customers. (Drugs. See also **push.**) □ *That pusher over on Eighth Street was just mobbed by a group of angry parents.* □ *They said that pushers should be locked up forever.*

pushing up daisies *mod.* dead and buried. (Folksy. Usually in the future tense.) □ *I'll be pushing up daisies before this problem is solved.* □ *If you talk to me like that again, you'll be pushing up daisies.*

push money *n.* extra money paid to a salesperson to sell certain merchandise aggressively. (See also **spiff.**) □ *The manufacturer supplied a little push money that even the store manager didn't know about.* □ *I got about \$300 last month in push money for selling some low-grade sweaters.*

push off AND **shove off** *in.* to leave. (As if one were pushing away from a dock.) □ *Well, it looks like it's time to push off.* □ *It's time to go. Let's shove off.*

push the panic button Go to hit the panic button.

pushy *mod.* very aggressive in dealing with other people. □ *Stop being so pushy! Who do you think you are?* □ *Who is that pushy dame?* □ *If she weren't so pushy, she would get more cooperation.*

puss [pus] *n.* the face. □ *I ought to poke you right in the puss!* □ *Look at the puss on that guy! What an ugly face!*

pussy **1.** *n.* the female genitals; the vulva. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He said he wanted to get into her pussy.* **2.** *n.* women considered as a receptacle for the penis. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Man, I gotta get me some pussy.*

pussycat **1.** *n.* a woman or young woman; one's girlfriend. (Also a term of address.) □ *Hi, pussycat. Don't I know you from somewhere?* □ *Who was that yummy pussycat I saw you with last Friday?* **2.** *n.*

a timid male; a mild-mannered and passive male. □ *That guy is a wimp, a real pussycat.* □ *He seems mean, but underneath he's a pussycat.*

pussy fart Go to cunt fart.

pussyfoot (around) *in.* to behave in a very cautious manner; to (metaphorically) tread softly; to hedge or equivocate. □ *Come on and say what you mean! Stop pussyfooting.* □ *You can depend on the mayor to pussyfoot around while the crisis is on.*

put a con on someone *tv.* to attempt to deceive someone; to attempt to swindle someone. (Underworld.) □ *Don't try to put a con on me, Buster! I've been around too long.* □ *I wouldn't try to put a con on you. I'm not that dumb.*

Put a cork in it! Go to Stuff a sock in it!

put a damper on something *tv.* to reduce the intensity of something, such as a problem. □ *The death of the chief put a damper on the ceremony.* □ *I hate to put a damper on your party, but you are too loud!*

put a smile on someone's face *tv.* to please someone; to make someone happy. □ *We are going to give Andy a pretty good raise, and I know that'll put a smile on his face.* □ *I was able to pay a few dollars down, and that put a smile on the clerk's face.*

Put a sock in it! Go to Stuff a sock in it!

put balls on something *tv.* to make something more masculine or powerful; to give something authority and strength. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Come on, sing louder. Put some balls on it.* □ *This story is too namby-pamby. Put some balls on it.*

put-down *n.* an insult; an intentionally cruel and deflating insult. □ *Another put-down like that and I'm going home.* □ *Don't cry. It was just a little friendly put-down.*

put oneself straight *tv.* to take a needed dose of drugs. (Drugs. See also **straight.**) □ *I gotta get some stuff and put myself*

straight. ☐ Here take this and put yourself straight.

put one's nose in (where it's not wanted) AND stick one's nose in (where it's not wanted) *tv.* to interfere in someone else's business. ☐ Why do you always have to stick your nose in? ☐ Please don't put your nose in where it's not wanted!

put on the dog AND **put on the ritz** *tv.* to make things extra special for a special event. ☐ Frank's really putting on the dog for the big party Friday night. ☐ They really put on the ritz for us.

put on the feedbag AND **put on the nosebag; tie on the nosebag** *tv.* to prepare to eat; to eat a meal. (Refers to a bag of feed tied under a horse's mouth.) ☐ I'm starved. Must be time to put on the feedbag. ☐ Let's go tie on the nosebag. It's nearly noon.

put on the nosebag Go to put on the feedbag.

put on the ritz Go to put on the dog.

putrid *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also rotten.) ☐ That guy is stinking drunk. Putrid, in fact. ☐ They went out last night and got putrid.

put some distance between someone and someone or something *tv.* to lengthen the distance or time between oneself and someone or something (including a place). ☐ I gotta put some distance between me and that cop, fast. ☐ You need to put some distance between you and your brother's death. ☐ She needed enough money to put some distance between herself and her hometown.

put someone away **1.** *tv.* to put someone in prison for a long time. (Underworld.) ☐ They put Bart away for fifteen years. ☒ The judge put away the whole gang. **2.** *tv.* to knock someone unconscious. ☐ One tap on the head and I put him away. ☐ The cowboy slugged the rancher in the jaw and put him away for a while.

put someone on **1.** *tv.* to tease or deceive someone innocently and in fun. ☐ Come on! You're just putting me on! ☐ He got

real mad even though they were only putting him on. **2.** *tv.* to introduce someone to cannabis use, usually smoking. (Drugs.) ☐ Where did you get that stuff? Who put you on? ☐ My brother uses it, and he put me on.

put someone or something out of the way *tv.* to remove someone or something as a barrier. ☐ I will put the whole problem out of the way. ☐ Yes, she is a problem, but you'll just have to put her out of the way and concentrate on this issue.

put someone out of the way *tv.* to kill someone. ☐ The crooks tried to put the witness out of the way. ☐ Sorry, my friend, we no longer need you. Ziggy is going to have to put you out of the way.

put someone's nose out of joint *tv.* to cause someone to feel slighted; to cause someone to take offense. (See also **get one's nose out of joint**.) ☐ I'm sorry we didn't invite you. We didn't mean to put your nose out of joint. ☐ Now, now, that shouldn't put your nose out of joint. We're sorry.

put someone to bed with a shovel *tv.* to bury someone; to kill and bury someone. (See also **put to bed with a shovel**.) ☐ Shut up! You want me to put you to bed with a shovel? ☐ The leader of the gang was getting sort of tired and old, so one of the younger thugs put him to bed with a shovel.

put someone up *tv.* to provide someone with temporary shelter; to let someone stay the night. ☐ Can you put me up for a few days? ☒ I could put up a football team, there's so much room here.

put some sweet lines on someone Go to lay some sweet lines on someone.

put something away *tv.* to eat something. ☐ Are you going to put this cake away? ☒ Did you put away that whole pizza?

put something on the street *tv.* to make something known publicly; to tell everyone one's troubles. ☐ Man, can't you keep a secret? Don't put everything on the street. ☐ She gets a little problem, and she puts it on the street right away!

Put that in your pipe and smoke it! *exclam.* Take that!; See how you like that! □ *Everybody thinks you're a phony! Put that in your pipe and smoke it!* □ *You are the one who made the error, and we all know it. Put that in your pipe and smoke it!*

put the arm on someone **1.** *tv.* to demand something of someone, especially money. □ *I know Tom wants some money. He put the arm on me, but I said no.* □ *She put the arm on her roommate for a loan.* **2.** *tv.* to arrest someone. (Underworld.) □ *They put the arm on Bart for pushing pills.* □ *They're gonna put the arm on the whole gang at once.*

put the bite on someone *tv.* to try to get money out of someone. □ *You're always putting the bite on me for a few bucks. Go away.* □ *Don't put the bite on me. I'm broker than you are.*

put the chill on someone **AND** **put the freeze on someone** *tv.* to ignore someone. □ *She was pretty snooty till we all put the chill on her.* □ *Let's put the freeze on Ted until he starts acting better.*

put the finger on someone *tv.* to identify someone (for someone else, such as the police). (Underworld.) □ *The old lady put the finger on the punk who mugged her.* □ *Tyrone put the finger on the killer, then got out of town fast.*

put the freeze on someone *Go to put the chill on someone.*

put the heat on someone *Go to put the screws on someone.*

put the kibosh on something *tv.* to squelch something. □ *The mayor put the kibosh on the whole deal.* □ *Tom was starting his presentation when Bob put the kibosh on the plan.*

put them together for someone *tv.* to applaud someone. (To put hands together clapping.) □ *Please put your hands together for Ronald and his great musicians!*

put the moves on someone *tv.* to attempt to seduce someone. (With any in the negative.) □ *At least he didn't try to put any moves on me.* □ *If somebody doesn't try*

to put the moves on her, she thinks she's a failure.

put the pedal to the metal *tv.* to press a car's accelerator to the floor; to floor it. □ *Let's go, man. Put the pedal to the metal.* □ *Put the pedal to the metal, and we're out of here.*

put the screws on someone **AND** **put the heat on someone; put the squeeze on someone** *tv.* to pressure someone; to threaten someone to achieve something. □ *He told everything about the plan when they put the screws on him.* □ *The cops put the squeeze on Harry, and he spilled the beans.*

put the skids under someone or something *tv.* to cause someone or something to fail. (See also on the skids.) □ *The mayor put the skids under my plan.* □ *Tom tried to talk, but the boss put the skids under him.*

put the squeeze on someone *Go to put the screws on someone.*

put to bed with a shovel **1.** *mod.* dead and buried. (From *put someone to bed with a shovel*.) □ *You wanna be put to bed with a shovel? Just keep talking that way.* □ *Poor old Jake. He was put to bed with a shovel last March.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (From sense 1.) □ *He wasn't just tipsy. He was put to bed with a shovel!* □ *Dead drunk? Yes, put to bed with a shovel.*

put to it *mod.* in trouble or difficulty; hard up (for something such as money). (As if one's back were put to the wall.) □ *Sorry, I can't lend you anything. I'm a bit put to it this month.* □ *What a day. I'm really put to it.*

put too much on it *tv.* to make too much fuss over something. □ *Come on, man. Lighten up. Don't put too much on it.*

putt-putt *n.* a small motorized vehicle, especially a small car. □ *I hear him coming in his putt-putt now.* □ *That's not a motorcycle; it's just a little putt-putt.*

puttyhead *n.* a stupid person. (As if the person's head were soft as putty. Also a term of address.) □ *Look, you silly putty-*

head, shut up! □ *Stop acting like a putty-head.*

put-up job *n.* a deception; a deceptive event. □ *That's really phony. A put-up job if I ever saw one.* □ *No put-up job is clever enough to fool me.*

Put up or shut up! *exclam.* Speak now or remain silent for good! □ *I'm tired of your whining. What's your problem? Put up or shut up!* □ *Now is your chance. Put up or shut up!*

Put your money where your mouth is! *exclam.* Stop talking big and make a bet! (From gambling. Can also be said to someone giving investment advice.) □ *You want me to bet on that horse? Did you? Why don't you put your money where your*

mouth is? □ *If this is such a good stock, you buy it. Put your money where your mouth is!*

putz 1. *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He held his hands over his putz and ran for the bedroom.* **2.** *n.* a stupid or obnoxious male; a stupid person. (Usually objectionable.) □ *What a stupid putz!* □ *Don't be a putz. Come on over here!*

putz around AND **futz around** *in.* to waste time; to do something ineffectually. (**Putz** is probably **putz** sense 1.) □ *Get busy and stop putzing around.* □ *I spent the whole day just futzing around.*

pythons *n.* large, muscular biceps. □ *Look at the pythons on that guy! He could lift a piano!*

Q

Q. *n.* a quart bottle of liquor. (An abbreviation.) □ *While you're there, get me a Q. of whiskey.* □ *She can knock off a Q. a day.*

Q-sign *n.* the rounded, open mouth of a dead person with the tongue hanging out like the tail of a capital Q. (A semi-jocular usage. Hospitals. See also **O-sign**; in the **Q-zone**.) □ *The old lady in the corner room is giving the Q-sign.* □ *I can't handle another Q-sign today.*

quack *n.* a fraudulent physician; a derogatory term for a physician. □ *I won't go back to that quack ever again!* □ *Tell that quack to heal himself!*

quaff a brew ['kwaf ə 'bru] *tv.* to drink a beer. (See also **brew**.) □ *I went down to the bar to quaff a brew.* □ *Let's go somewhere and quaff a brew.*

quail *n.* any girl or woman, especially considered sexually. (Crude.) □ *Look at that cute little quail over there.* □ *Who was the quail I saw you with last night?*

qual [kwəl] *n.* qualitative analysis. (Scientific.) □ *We'll have to turn to qual for that answer.* □ *She worked in qual for a while and then went on to management.*

quality Joe *n.* an innocent or straight (male) person. (Underworld.) □ *Lefty is not what I would call your average quality Joe.* □ *These quality Joes just don't understand how it is on the street.*

quan Go to quant.

quant 1. AND **quan** *n.* quantitative analysis. (Scientific and collegiate.) □ *I didn't study enough for my quant test.* □ *I flunked quan twice.* **2.** *n.* a technician who works in securities market analysis. □ *He was a quant on Wall Street for two*

years. □ *The quants have been warning us about the danger for a month.*

quarterback *tv.* to manage, lead, or direct someone or something. □ *Who is going to quarterback this organization after you go?* □ *I quarterbacked the whole company for more years than I care to remember.*

quartzed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Related to **stoned (out)**.) □ *She is really quartzed!* □ *How can anybody get so quartzed on a bottle of wine?*

queen *n.* a homosexual male. □ *Tom is getting to be such a queen.* □ *What kind of a queen is Tom?*

queer 1. *mod.* counterfeit. □ *This bill is queer.* □ *I don't want any queer money.*

2. *n.* illicit liquor, especially whiskey. (Prohibition era.) □ *Can you get me a bottle of queer?* □ *This isn't queer; it's left over from before prohibition.* **3.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *After a glass or two, he got a little queer.* □ *She was so queer she could hardly stagger home.* **4.** *tv.* to spoil something. □ *Please don't queer the deal.* □ *I was afraid his dirty look would queer his chances.* **5.** *mod.* homosexual. (Rude and derogatory. But now in wider use in a positive sense.) □ *She doesn't like being called queer.* **6.** *n.* a homosexual male, occasionally a female. (Rude and derogatory. But now in wider use in a positive sense.) □ *Tell that queer to get out of here.* □ *She came to the dance with a queer.*

queer as a three-dollar bill 1. Go to phony as a three-dollar bill. **2.** *mod.* definitely or obviously homosexual. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That guy is as queer as a three-dollar bill.* □ *He's wearing makeup. He's queer as a three-dollar bill.*

queer-beer **1.** *n.* bad beer; beer of low alcohol content. □ *I hate this queer-beer. Get out the good stuff.* □ *Please don't serve me any of your queer-beer.* **2.** *n.* any strange person. (Also a term of address.) □ *Look, queer-beer, stop that right now!* □ *What does that queer-beer think he's doing?* **3.** *mod.* having to do with homosexuals; homosexual. (Usually derogatory. Resented by homosexuals.) □ *I won't wear that queer-beer outfit!* □ *Don't call me a queer-beer fruitcake!* **4.** *n.* a homosexual male, possibly a female. (See sense 3.) □ *They say she's a queer-beer.* □ *That queer-beer is staring at you.*

queered *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (In the sense *made bogus*.) □ *I feel sort of queered.* □ *How can anybody get so queered on two beers?*

queer fish *n.* a strange person; an aloof person. □ *She's a bit odd. Sort of a queer fish.* □ *He's a queer fish. Don't you agree?*

queer for something *mod.* in the mood for something; desiring something. □ *I'm queer for a beer right now.* □ *She's queer for him because of his money.*

quencher ['kwentʃə] *n.* a drink of liquor or beer. □ *I could really use a quencher about now.* □ *How about a nice cold quencher?*

Que pasa? [ke 'pasə] *interrog.* Hello, what's going on? (Spanish.) □ *Hey, man! Que pasa?* □ *What's happening? Que pasa?*

quetch Go to kvetch.

quick-and-dirty *mod.* rapidly and carelessly done. □ *I'm selling this car, so all I want is a quick-and-dirty repair job.* □ *They only do quick-and-dirty work at that shop.*

quick buck AND **fast buck** *n.* a quickly or easily earned profit. □ *I'm always on the lookout to make a fast buck.* □ *I need to make a quick buck without much effort.*

quicker than hell *mod.* very fast. □ *You get over here quicker than hell.* □ *Be careful*

in the stock market. You can lose all your money quicker than hell.

quick fix **1.** *n.* a quick and probably none too permanent or satisfactory solution to a problem. □ *The quick fix isn't good enough in this case.* □ *He's a master of the quick fix.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with a temporary or unsatisfactory solution or repair. (Usually **quick-fix**.) □ *Frank is a master of the quick-fix solution.* □ *This is no time for quick-fix efforts.*

quickie Go to quick one.

quick one AND **quickie** **1.** *n.* a quick drink of booze; a single beer consumed rapidly. □ *I could use a quick one about now.* □ *I only have time for a quickie.* **2.** *n.* a quick sex act. (Usually objectionable.) □ *They're in the bedroom having a quick one.* □ *I'm tired of quickies. I want to be loved!*

quimp [kwɪmp] *n.* a total jerk; a social outcast. (Also a term of address.) □ *I don't want to live in a dorm full of quimps.* □ *Who is the quimp who packed this thing wrong?*

quitter *n.* someone who gives up easily. □ *Don't be a quitter. Get in there and finish the job.* □ *Dave has a reputation as a quitter.*

quit while one is ahead *in.* to stop doing something while one is successful. □ *When will I learn to quit while I'm ahead?* □ *Get into the market. Make some money and get out. Quit while you're ahead.*

Quit your bellyaching! *exclam.* Stop complaining! □ *You've been bitching all day! Quit your bellyaching!*

quote, unquote *phr.* a parenthetical expression said before a word or short phrase indicating that the word or phrase would be in quotation marks if used in writing. □ *So I said to her, quote, unquote, it's time we had a little talk.* □ *I think my quote, unquote reputation is ruined.*

R

rabbit food *n.* lettuce; salad greens. □ *I think I need a little more rabbit food in my diet.* □ *Rabbit food tends to have a lot of vitamin C.*

rabbit punch *n.* a quick little punch. (Boxing and general slang.) □ *That couldn't have hurt you! It was just a little rabbit punch.* □ *She battered him with about forty rabbit punches on the arm. Boy, is he ever sore!*

rack 1. *n.* a bed. □ *I need some more time in the rack.* □ *You don't get to see the rack very much in the army.* **2.** Go to rack (out). **3.** *n.* a pair of [female] breasts. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Look at the rack on that dame! How can she stand up-right?*

rack duty Go to rack time.

racked *mod.* struck in the testicles. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The quarterback got racked and didn't play the rest of the quarter.*

racked (up) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. (See also **rack up**.) □ *They drank till they were good and racked.* □ *Man, are you racked. What did you drink? A gallon?* □ *They all got racked up last weekend.*

racket 1. *n.* noise. □ *Cut out that racket! Shut up!* □ *Who's making all that racket?* **2.** *n.* a deception; a scam. □ *He operated a racket that robbed old ladies of their savings.* □ *This is not a service station; it's a real racket!* **3.** *n.* any job. □ *I've been in this racket for twenty years and never made any money.* □ *I'm a stockbroker. What's your racket?*

rack face *n.* one's face after sleeping in a bed or "rack."

rack (out) *in.* to go to sleep or to bed. (See also **rack**.) □ *What time do you rack out?* □ *I've got to rack out or drop from exhaustion.* □ *If I don't rack by midnight, I'm dead the next day.*

rack something up 1. *tv.* to accumulate something; to collect or acquire something. □ *They all racked a lot of profits up.* □ *We racked up twenty points in the game last Saturday.* **2.** *tv.* to wreck something. □ *Fred racked his new car up.* □ *He racked up his arm in the football game.*

rack time AND **rack duty** *n.* time spent in bed. (Military.) □ *I need more rack time than I'm getting.* □ *I was on rack duty for my entire leave.*

rack up *in.* to become alcohol intoxicated. (See also **racked (up)**.) □ *Let's go down to the tavern and rack up.* □ *I think I'll rack up.*

rad [ræd] **1.** *n.* a radical person. (California.) □ *He's such a rad! For sure!* □ *My brother is a rad, but he's a good guy.* **2.** *mod.* great; wonderful; excellent; exciting. (California. From **radical**.) □ *Oh my God, that's, like, really rad!* □ *What a rad swimsuit!*

radical *mod.* great; excellent. (California.) □ *It's so, like, radical!* □ *My boyfriend, he's, like, so radical!*

radioland *n.* an imaginary place where radio listeners dwell. □ *Hello out there in radioland. This is Martin Jones speaking.* □ *All you folks in radioland who enjoy country music will like this next one.*

rag 1. *n.* a newspaper. □ *I'm tired of reading this rag day after day. Can't we get a different paper?* □ *What a rag! It's only good for putting in the bottom of*

bird cages! **2.** *n.* ugly or badly styled clothing; an ugly garment. ☐ *I can't wear that rag!* ☐ *I need some new clothes. I can't go around wearing rags like these.* ☐ *I wouldn't be seen in last season's rags.* **3.** *n.* any clothing, even the best. (Always plural.) ☐ *Man, I got some new rags that will knock your eyes out!* ☐ *You got soda pop all over my new rags!* **4.** *n.* a sanitary napkin; a tampon. (For use in the menstrual cycle. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *God, I've got to change this rag!*

the **rage 1.** *n.* the current fad; an irresistible fad. (Often with *all*. Old but recurrent.) ☐ *Get a haircut like mine! It's all the rage!* ☐ *One rage after another. Can't I find something that will stay the same for a while?* **2.** *in.* to party; to celebrate. (Collegiate.) ☐ *Man, are we going to rage tonight!* ☐ *Fred and Mary were raging over at the frat house last weekend.*

rag on someone AND **rake on someone** *in.* to bother someone; to irritate someone; to criticize and humiliate someone. ☐ *I wish you would stop ragging on me. I don't know why you are so annoyed at me.* ☐ *Stop raking on me!*

rag out *in.* to dress up. ☐ *I like to rag out and go to parties.* ☐ *I hate to rag out. I like comfortable clothes.*

ragtop *n.* a convertible car. ☐ *The ragtop is making a comeback.* ☐ *I wanted a ragtop, but they cost nearly \$3,000 more.*

ragweed *n.* inferior marijuana. (Drugs.) ☐ *This stuff is ragweed. You can have it!* ☐ *Bart just sells ragweed except to his friends.*

rah-rah ['ra'ra] *mod.* having to do with college and college enthusiasm. ☐ *That gal is so rah-rah. What energy!* ☐ *It was sort of a rah-rah party.*

railroad tracks 1. *n.* dental braces. ☐ *I can't smile because of these railroad tracks.* ☐ *My railroad tracks cost nearly \$1,200.* **2.** *n.* rows of needle scars on the veins of the arms. ☐ *Look at those railroad tracks on his arm. That means he shoots drugs.* ☐ *Max has railroad tracks on both arms.*

rails *n.* powdered cocaine arranged into lines. (Drugs.) ☐ *Max makes the rails too*

messy. ☐ *Bart put the rails on something smooth.*

rainbow *n.* a bowlegged person. (Also a rude term of address.) ☐ *Hey, rainbow! Are you a cowboy?* ☐ *Ask that rainbow if he has to have special trousers made.*

rain on someone or something Go to rain on someone's parade.

rain on someone's parade AND **rain on someone or something** *in.* to spoil something for someone. ☐ *I hate to rain on your parade, but your plans are all wrong.* ☐ *She really rained on our parade.* ☐ *Did anyone rain on the meeting?*

rain pitchforks *tv.* to rain very hard and heavy. ☐ *It rained pitchforks all day long.* ☐ *Every time I go out to rake leaves, it rains pitchforks.*

raise a stink (about someone or something) AND **make a stink (about someone or something)** *tv.* to make a big issue about someone or something. ☐ *You can depend on Fred to raise a stink.* ☐ *I hope you don't plan to make a stink about the problem.*

raise Cain [...ken] *tv.* to make a lot of trouble; to raise hell. ☐ *Fred was really raising Cain about the whole matter.* ☐ *Let's stop raising Cain.*

raise hell 1. *tv.* to make a lot of trouble; to go on a rampage. ☐ *Stop raising hell so much of the time!* ☐ *Quiet! Don't raise hell around here.* **2.** *tv.* to go on a drinking spree and get drunk. ☐ *Let's go out and really raise hell.* ☐ *The boys went out to raise hell.*

raise hell (with someone) Go to raise the devil (with someone).

raise hell (with something) Go to raise the devil (with something).

raise the devil (with someone) AND **raise hell (with someone)** *tv.* to confront someone and complain or scold. ☐ *I really raised the devil with my brother for being late.* ☐ *It won't do any good to raise hell with me.*

raise the devil (with something) AND **raise hell (with something)** *tv.* to cause

trouble with something. □ *That idea raises hell with my plan.* □ *The onions raised the devil with my stomach.*

rake on someone Go to **rag on someone**.

rake something in *tv.* to take in a lot of something, usually money. □ *Our candidate will rake votes in by the thousand.* □ *They were raking in money by the bushel.*

rally ['ræli] **1. n.** get-together of some kind; a party, usually informal, possibly spontaneous. □ *There's a rally over at Tom's tonight.* □ *The rally was a flop. Everyone left early.* **2. in.** to hold a get-together of some kind; to **party**. (Collegiate.) □ *Let's rally tonight about midnight.* □ *They rallied until dawn.*

ralph AND **rolf** [rælf AND rɒlf] *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (Teens and collegiate. See also **cry ruth**.) □ *She went home and ralphed for an hour.* □ *I think I'm going to rolf.*

ralph something up *tv.* to vomit (something). (Teens and collegiate.) □ *The doctor gave him some stuff that made him ralph it up.* □ *He ralphed up his dinner.*

rambo(ize) ['ræmbo(aɪz)] *tv.* to (figuratively) annihilate someone or something; to harm someone or something. (Collegiate. From the powerful film character Rambo.) □ *The students ramboed the cafeteria, and the cops were called.* □ *Please don't rambo the other team. Just win the game.*

rammy ['ræmi] *mod.* sexually excited or aroused. (Refers to the ram, a symbol of arousal.) □ *Fred was looking a little rammy, so I excused myself and left.* □ *Your rammy boyfriend is on the telephone.*

ramrod *tv.* to lead something; to act as the driving force behind something. □ *Who is going to ramrod this project?* □ *Don't ramrod us into something we don't really want.*

ram something down someone's throat *tv.* to force something upon someone. (Not literal.) □ *Don't try to ram that nonsense down my throat.* □ *They're always trying to ram something down our throats.*

ranch **1. n.** semen. (Similar in appearance and consistency to Ranch [salad] dressing. Usually objectionable.) □ *God! There's ranch on the bathroom floor!* **2. in.** to ejaculate. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Just looking at her makes me want to ranch.*

randy ['rændi] *mod.* sexually excited or aroused. □ *The town is full of randy sailors when the fleet's in.* □ *Wow, does he look randy!* □ *There is a randy looking guy at the door asking for you.*

rank *tv.* to give someone a hard time; to **hassle** someone. □ *Stop ranking me!* □ *The dean was ranking the boys for pulling the prank.* □ *When he finished with the boys, he started ranking their parents.*

rank and file *n.* the common members of something. □ *What will the rank and file think of the proposal?* □ *The rank and file will vote on it tomorrow.*

rank on someone *in.* to attack someone verbally; to gossip about someone. □ *Please stop ranking on my family!* □ *Tom keeps ranking on Jennifer, and she is really mad about it.*

rank someone (out) *tv.* to annoy or chastise someone. (See also **rank**.) □ *He really ranks me out. What a pest!* □ *I ranked out the whole gang, but good!*

rap **1. in.** to talk or chat about something. □ *Something wrong? Let's rap about it.* □ *The kids sat down and rapped for an hour or so.* **2. n.** a conversation; a chat. □ *How about a rap?* □ *Let's have a rap sometime.* **3. n.** sweet talk; seductive talk; **line**. □ *I like your rap, but that's all I like about you.* □ *Don't lay that rap on me! You're not my type.* **4. n.** a criminal charge; the blame for something. (Underworld.) □ *I won't take the rap for something you did.* □ *The cops tried to make the rap stick, but they didn't have enough evidence.*

rap session *n.* an informal conversation session. □ *The kids settled down for a long rap session.* □ *The rap session was interrupted by a fire drill.*

(rap) sheet *n.* a criminal record listing all recorded criminal charges. (See also **rap**.) □ *This guy has a rap sheet a mile long.* □

The sergeant asked if there was a sheet on the prisoner.

rare bird *n.* an unusual person; a person with rare talents or abilities. ☐ *An interesting kind of rare bird is the man who can take long vacations and still make money.* ☐ *She is a rare bird who enjoys opera and can understand most of it, too.*

rare old time *n.* a fine and enjoyable time at a party or something similar. (Folksy.) ☐ *That was a rare old time at Tom's the other night.* ☐ *I haven't had a rare old time like that in years.*

raring to go *mod.* anxious and eager to go. ☐ *Come on, I'm raring to go!* ☐ *The whole family is raring to go on vacation.*

raspberry ['ræzberi] *n.* the Bronx cheer. ☐ *The entire audience gave the performer the raspberry.* ☐ *The performer gave them a raspberry right back.*

rasty ['ræsti] *mod.* having to do with a harsh-looking young woman. (Collegiate.) ☐ *Who is that rusty dame I saw you with?* ☐ *That dark lipstick makes you look a little rusty.*

rat 1. *n.* a wretched acting person. (Also a term of address.) ☐ *You dirty rat, you!* ☐ *Stop acting like a dirty rat!* **2.** *Go to rat (on someone).*

rat around *in.* to waste time loafing around; to kick around. (Collegiate.) ☐ *I didn't do anything but rat around all summer.* ☐ *If kids don't have jobs, they just rat around.*

rat-bastard *n.* a really wretched or despised person. (Rude and derogatory.) ☐ *You dirty rat-bastard! I could kill you!* ☐ *Stay away from Albert, he's a real rat-bastard when he's drunk.*

ratchet-mouth AND **motor-mouth** *n.* someone who talks incessantly. (Also a term of address.) ☐ *Tell that ratchet-mouth to shut up!* ☐ *Hey, motor-mouth, quiet!*

rat fink *n.* an informer. (Also a term of address. See also **rat**.) ☐ *That guy is nothing but a rat fink. A dirty squealer!* ☐ *Fred told the teacher about the plot, and every-*

body called him a rat fink for the next two years.

rathole 1. *n.* a run-down place; a dump or a joint. ☐ *I refuse to live in this rathole any longer.* ☐ *Why don't you clean up this rathole?* **2.** *n.* a bottomless pit. (Typically with *throw and down* as in the examples.) ☐ *Why do they keep throwing money down that rathole?* ☐ *That rathole will absorb as much money as they can supply.* ☐ *The transportation system is beyond help. Giving it more subsidies is just throwing money down a rathole.*

rat (on someone) *in.* to inform (on someone). ☐ *Bill said he was going to rat on that punk.* ☐ *If you rat on me, I'll get you!* ☐ *Who ratted?*

rat out *in.* to quit; to fink out (on someone or something). ☐ *It's too late to rat out.* ☐ *He tried to rat out at the last minute.*

rat race *n.* a dull and repetitive situation; a dull and unrewarding job. (See also **daily grind**.) ☐ *I am really tired of this rat race—day after day.* ☐ *She dropped out of the rat race and moved to Vermont, where she opened a barber shop.*

Rats! *exclam.* Oh, damn! ☐ *Rats! I broke a nail!* ☐ *Oh, rats! I'm late.*

the **rats** *n.* the delirium tremens. ☐ *The way he was shaking, I knew he had the rats.* ☐ *Most of those old guys down on Fourth Street have the rats.*

rattlebones *n.* <a nickname for a very skinny person.> (Also a term of address.) ☐ *Hey, rattlebones, come over here a minute.* ☐ *Ask rattlebones over there to have a seat.*

rattlebrain *n.* a stupid person. ☐ *Is that rattlebrain here again?* ☐ *Please try not to be such a rattlebrain! Pay attention to what you are doing.*

rattled 1. *mod.* confused; bewildered. ☐ *He tends to get a little rattled at minor things.* ☐ *Try not to get her rattled.* **2.** *mod.* tipsy; alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *After an hour of drinking, Bill was more than a little rattled.* ☐ *Being rattled from beer, I stopped drinking beer and began on the rum.*

rattle-trap *n.* a rattly (old) car; any rattly vehicle. □ *I hear Ted's rattle-trap in the driveway.* □ *I bought a rattle-trap for \$400.*

rattling *mod.* excellent. (Collegiate. See also **rocking**.) □ *Her party was really rattling.* □ *What a rattling place to live!*

raunch someone out [rɒntʃ...] *tv.* to disgust someone. (From **raunchy**.) □ *These dirty socks absolutely raunch me out!* □ *Wayne and Beavis enjoy raunching people out.*

raunchy AND **raunchie; ronchie** ['rɒntʃi]
1. *mod.* crude; tasteless; bad. □ *He told a very raunchy story at the party.* □ *Don't be so ronchie.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Those guys were raunchy as hell.* □ *Let's go out and get good and ronchie.* **3.** *mod.* sick; ill. □ *I feel sort of ronchy.* □ *After I ate dinner, my stomach felt a little raunchie, so I went home.* **4.** *mod.* untidy; unclean; crude; tasteless. □ *Get your ronchie socks out of the living room.* □ *We decided to leave the raunchy movie about halfway through.*

rave *n.* a party; a wild celebration. □ *What a rave! A real fine party.* □ *Let's have a little rave next Friday.*

raw **1.** *mod.* inexperienced; brand new. □ *The raw recruit did as well as could be expected.* □ *She'll get better. She's just a little raw.* **2.** *mod.* vulgar; crude; raucous; untamed. □ *I've had enough of your raw humor.* □ *That joke was a little raw.* **3.** *mod.* [of alcoholic spirits] undiluted; neat. □ *No ice, please. I prefer it raw.* □ *I'll drink it raw—just the way it is now.* **4.** *mod.* [of alcoholic spirits] unaged; fiery and strong. □ *My gosh, this stuff is raw! It'll burn a hole in me.* □ *Give me something to drink that isn't quite so raw.*

a **raw deal** *n.* an unfair deal; unfair treatment. □ *You really got a raw deal.* □ *My last job was a raw deal. I hope this is better.*

rays *n.* sunshine. (Collegiate.) □ *I'm going to go out and get some rays today.* □ *I've had too many rays. I'm cooked.*

razz [ræz] *tv.* to tease someone. □ *Please stop razzing me.* □ *I was just razzing you. I didn't mean any harm.*

razzamatazz Go to **razzamatazz**.

razzle-dazzle ['ræz]'dæz] *n.* flamboyant publicity; **hype**. □ *After all the razzle-dazzle dies down, we'll see what things are really like.* □ *Hollywood is filled with razzle-dazzle and excitement.*

razzamatazz AND **razzamatazz** ['ræzmə-'tæz AND 'ræzəmə'tæz] *n.* deceptive talk; **hype**. □ *Cut out the razzamatazz. How dumb do you think I am?* □ *Don't give me all that razzamatazz!*

reach for the sky **1.** Go to **aim for the sky**. **2.** *in.* (a command) to put one's hands up, as in a robbery. □ *Okay, you guys, reach for the sky!* □ *The bank teller reached for the sky without having to be told.*

reader *n.* a piece of paper with writing on it; a note; a prescription; an IOU. (Underworld.) □ *Max has my reader for \$500.* □ *I got a reader for some morphine.*

Read my lips! Go to **Watch my lips!**

real *mod.* very; really. □ *This is a real fine party.* □ *You did a real good thing.*

real bitch *n.* a very difficult or annoying thing or person. (Can refer to male or female.) □ *This math problem is a real bitch.* □ *Fred is a true problem. A real bitch.*

real gone *mod.* really cool; mellow and pleasant. (See also **gone**.) □ *Man, this music is real gone.* □ *That's a real gone drummer.*

the **(real) McCoy** **1.** *n.* something authentic. □ *This is the real McCoy. Nothing else like it.* □ *This is no copy. It's the McCoy.* **2.** *n.* pure drugs or alcohol. □ *Is this stuff the McCoy?* □ *If it's not the real McCoy, I don't want it.*

ream someone out *tv.* to scold someone severely. □ *The teacher really reamed him out.* □ *The coach reamed out the whole team.*

rear (end) *n.* the tail end; the buttocks. (Euphemistic.) □ *She fell right on her rear.* □ *The dog bit her in the rear end.*

rear-ender AND **back-ender** *n.* an automobile wreck where one car runs into the back of another. (See also **fender-**

bender.) □ *It wasn't a bad accident, just a rear-ender.* □ *My neck was hurt in a back-ender.*

red gravy *n.* blood. □ *Your nose bleeding? You got red gravy on your face.* □ *If you're gonna pick your scabs, keep your red gravy and stuff off me!*

red hot *1. mod.* important; in great demand. □ *This is a red hot item. Everybody wants one.* □ *The stock market is a red hot issue right now.* *2. n.* a hot dog; a frankfurter. □ *"Get your red hots right here!" shouted the vendor.* □ *In Chicago they never eat red hots with catsup!*

red-hot mama *n.* an exciting woman; a sexually exciting or excited woman. □ *Clare is really a red-hot mama!* □ *I'm no red-hot mama, just a country girl.*

red ink *n.* debt; indebtedness as shown in red ink on a financial statement. □ *There is too much red ink in my financial statement.* □ *Too much red ink and the company will collapse.*

red-letter day *n.* an important day that might well be marked in red on the calendar. □ *Today was a red-letter day in our history.* □ *It was a red-letter day for our club.*

redneck *1. n.* a stereotypic southern bigot. (Derogatory. Also a term of address.) □ *Those rednecks can hardly read.* □ *Look, you stupid redneck, try to understand.* *2. mod.* in the manner of a southern bigot. □ *I don't follow that kind of redneck thinking.* □ *The candidate didn't want the redneck vote.*

red tape *n.* bureaucratic annoyances; bureaucratic forms and procedures. (Typically with *cut* as in the example.) □ *If you deal with the government, you will have to put up with lots of red tape.* □ *I have a friend who knows how to cut through red tape.*

red tide *n.* a menstrual period. (Punning on the name of a tidal phenomenon where the water appears reddish owing to the presence of certain kinds of microscopic creatures.) □ *Sorry, she's down with the red tide and really prefers to stay home.*

reef Go to reefer.

reefer ['rifə] *1. n.* a refrigerator. □ *Please put the milk in the reefer.* □ *A new reefer costs nearly \$1000!* *2. AND reef n.* cannabis; a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *He had a reefer in his hand when he was busted.* □ *Don't stall the reefer. Pass it on.*

ref [ref] *1. n.* a referee. (Also a term of address.) □ *Hey, ref! Get some glasses!* □ *The ref did a fine job.* *2. tv.* to referee something, such as a game. □ *Are you going to ref this one, or am I?* □ *I don't like to ref night games.*

regs *n.* regulations. □ *Follow the regs or pay the penalty.* □ *There is a list of regs posted on the back of your door.*

reinvent the wheel *tv.* to make unnecessary or redundant preparations. □ *You don't need to reinvent the wheel. Read up on what others have done.* □ *I don't have time to reinvent the wheel.*

rent(al)s *n.* one's parents. (Teens. See also (parental) units. Also a term of address.) □ *I'll have to ask my rents.* □ *Hey, rentals, let's go out for dinner.*

rents Go to rent(al)s.

rep [rep] *1. n.* a representative, usually a sales representative. □ *Please ask your rep to stop by my office.* □ *Our rep will be in your area tomorrow.* *2. n.* someone's reputation. □ *I hope this doesn't ruin my rep.* □ *I've got my own rep to think about.* *3. n.* repertory theater. □ *He spent a year in rep on the East Coast.* □ *Rep is the best place to get experience, but not to make connections.*

repo ['ri:pə] *1. n.* a repossessed car. □ *It's a repo, and I got it cheap.* □ *I'd rather have a plain used car than a repo.* *2. tv.* to repossess a car. □ *Some guy came around and tried to repo my car.* □ *She's good at repoing family cars.*

repo man ['ri:pə 'mæn] *n.* a man who repossesses cars for a living. □ *What kind of guy is lower than a repo man?* □ *I'd rather beg than get a job as a repo man.*

ret [ret] *n.* a tobacco cigarette. (Collegiate.) □ *You got a ret I can bum?* □ *Give my buddy a ret, will you?*

retard ['ritard] **1.** *n.* a rude nickname for a retarded person. (Derogatory and unkind.) □ *That retard is having a rough time.* □ *Don't call my brother a retard!* **2.** *n.* a stupid person. (Also a term of address.) □ *Don't be a retard! Get with it!* □ *Look, you retard, get busy.*

retread ['ritrɛd] *n.* a burned-out person; a made-over person. □ *Chuck is just a retread. He's through.* □ *I need somebody fresh and alive, not some tired retread.*

reverse gears *tv.* to wretch as a prelude to vomiting. □ *The cat is reversing gears. Throw her out the back door.* □ *Beavis is reversing gears and might be going to vomit. You never know with Beavis.*

rev something up *tv.* to speed up an engine in short bursts. □ *Rev it up a few times and see if it stalls.* □ *Tom sat at the traffic light revving up his engine.*

revved (up) *mod.* excited, perhaps by drugs. □ *Bill is revved from too much dope.* □ *The kids were all revved up, ready to party.*

rhoid *n.* a bothersome person; a person who is a pain in the ass. (Streets. From *hemorrhoid*.) □ *Get away from me, you rhoid!* □ *These rhoids are driving me crazy!*

rhubarb ['rubarb] *n.* a brawl, especially in a baseball game. □ *There's a noisy rhubarb down on the field.* □ *Ted got punched around a little bit in that rhubarb last week.*

rib 1. *n.* a joke; an act of teasing. □ *I didn't mean any harm. It was just a little rib.* □ *That's a great rib, Sam!* **2.** *tv.* to tease someone. □ *Please don't rib me any more tonight. I've had it.* □ *Let's go rib Jennifer.*

rib-tickler *n.* a joke; something very funny. □ *That was a real rib-tickler. I'll remember that joke.* □ *She told a rib-tickler, and everybody laughed.*

ricockulous *mod.* ridiculous. (Streets. Word play based on *dick = cock*.) □ *What a stupid thing to say! That is ricockulous!* □ *Your silly laugh is ricockulous and it makes me sick.*

ride *n.* a car. □ *What time are you coming by in your ride?* □ *Do you care if I leave my ride parked in your driveway?*

ride shotgun *tv.* to accompany and guard someone or something. (A term from the days of stagecoaches and their armed guards. See also *shotgun*.) □ *I have to take the beer over to the party. Why don't you come along and ride shotgun?* □ *Who's going to ride shotgun with Bill?*

ride the porcelain bus Go to drive the big bus.

rif [rif] **1.** *tv.* to dismiss an employee. (From the euphemism *reduction in force*.) □ *They're going to rif John tomorrow.* □ *Who'll they rif next?* **2.** *n.* a firing; a dismissal. □ *Who got the rif today?* □ *There's a rif in your future.*

riff 1. *n.* a short, repeated line of music played by a particular performer. □ *Jim just sat there and forgot his riff.* □ *Listen to this riff, Tom.* **2.** *n.* a digression while speaking. (From sense 1.) □ *Excuse the little riff, but I had to mention it.* □ *If she didn't make so many riffs while she spoke, we could understand her better.*

riffed 1. *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *That guy is really riffed!* □ *I can't keep getting riffed every night like this.* **2.** **AND** **rifft** *mod.* fired; released from employment. (From *RIF*, "reduction in force.") □ *Poor Walter got riffed Friday.* □ *Most of the sales force was riffed last week.*

rifft Go to riffed.

rig 1. *tv.* to arrange or tamper with the results of something. □ *The crooks rigged the election.* □ *Somebody rigged the contest so no one got first prize.* **2.** *n.* a large truck; an *eighteen-wheeler*. □ *Jim drives a really big rig.* □ *There were three rigs sitting in the parking lot when we got there.*

right as rain *mod.* completely correct. (Folksy. Often with *as*.) □ *Yes, indeed! You are right as rain!* □ *She was right as rain about the score.*

righteous ['raitʃəs] *mod.* good; of good quality. (Originally black.) □ *She is a righteous mama.* □ *Bart told me about*

some righteous grass he's got. □ *This stuff is really righteous!*

righteous collar *n.* a justifiable arrest. (As opposed to a **setup** or a **frame**.) □ *Ziggy was taken in, and the gang agreed it was a righteous collar. Bruno was caught red-handed.* □ *"I can't complain," said Ziggy. "It was a righteous collar."*

right guy *n.* a good guy; a straight guy. □ *Tom is a right guy. No trouble with him.* □ *I'm glad you're a right guy. I can trust you.*

right in the kisser *mod.* right in the mouth or face. (See also **kisser**.) □ *Max poked the cop right in the kisser.* □ *He caught one right in the kisser.*

(right) up one's alley *mod.* exactly one's kind of thing; exactly what one is best equipped to do. □ *That job is right up her alley.* □ *It's not exactly up my alley, but I'll try it.*

ring a bell *tv.* to stir something in someone's memory. □ *Yes, that rings a bell. I seem to remember it.* □ *Maybe the name Marsha will ring a bell!*

ringer (for someone) *Go to (dead) ringer (for someone).*

ring off the hook *in.* [for a telephone] to ring endlessly or constantly. □ *The phone was ringing off the hook when I came in.* □ *We've been busy today. The phone's been ringing off the hook.*

ringtailed snorter *n.* someone or something energetic and powerful. □ *Old Charlie is a real ringtailed snorter.* □ *Ask that ringtailed snorter to calm down and come over here for a minute.*

ring the bell *tv.* to be just what is needed; to hit the spot. □ *This cold water really rings the bell.* □ *A good hot bowl of soup would ring the bell about now.*

rinky-dink ['rɪŋki'dɪŋk] *mod.* cheap; inferior; broken down. □ *I sold my rinky-dink old car yesterday.* □ *What a rinky-dink job! I quit!*

riot ['raɪət] *n.* someone or something entertaining or funny. □ *Tom was a riot last night.* □ *Her joke was a real riot.*

rip 1. *n.* a drinking bout. (See also **tear**.)

□ *All four of them went out on a rip.* □ *Fred had another rip last night. He's rotten now.* **2.** *n.* the loot from a **rip-off**. □ *I want my share of the rip, now!* □ *Give him some of the rip and tell him to beat it.* **3.** *n.* a theft; a **rip-off**. □ *The crooks pulled a rip on Fourth Street last night.* □ *That was the third rip there this week.* **4.** *n.* a tear in the flesh of the hand, as in an athletic event where the flesh comes in contact with solid material, such as in gymnastics and weightlifting. □ *I keep getting rips from the bar.* □ *Sally has a rip on her palm.*

ripe 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Yes, they were ripe all right. Stinking drunk.* □ *Bill was so ripe that they took him home.* **2.** *mod.* foul; smelly. □ *Whooley! This place is ripe. What died?* □ *Get your ripe old socks out of here!* □ *The fish seems quite ripe.* **3.** *mod.* crude; **raunchy**. □ *Your jokes are a bit ripe.* □ *That was a ripe one!* □ *Stop acting so ripe.*

rip-off 1. *n.* a theft; a deception; an exploitation. (See also **rip**.) □ *This sandwich is a rip-off!* □ *What a rip-off! I want my money back.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with theft and deception. □ *I consider myself to be rip-off champion of North America.* □ *All I hear is rip-off stories. Isn't anybody honest?*

(rip-)off artist *n.* a con artist. □ *Fred is such an off artist.* □ *Beware of the rip-off artist who runs that shop.*

rip on someone *in.* to give someone a hard time; to **hassle** someone. □ *Fred was ripping on me, and I heard about it.* □ *Stop ripping on my friend!*

ripped 1. *mod.* intoxicated on drugs or alcohol. □ *I don't know what I drank, but I'm really ripped.* **2.** *mod.* muscular. □ *I worked and worked to get ripped, but I'm just not made that way.*

ripped (off) *Go to ripped (up).*

ripped (up) AND ripped (off) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated; under the effects of marijuana. □ *Why do you have to get ripped up like that?* □ *Bart was ripped out of his mind on uppers.*

rip snorter *n.* a remarkable person or thing; a hilarious joke. (Folksy.) □ *Old Fred is a real rip snorter.* □ *Her new car is a rip snorter, I tell you.* □ *Let me tell you a rip snorter about a farmer and his cow.* □ *Judy can tell some rip snorters.*

rip someone off *tv.* to assault, kill, beat, rob, rape, or cheat someone. □ *They ripped me off, but they didn't hurt me.* □ *Man, they ripped me off for three hundred dollars.*

rip something off *tv.* to steal something. □ *They ripped them all off.* □ *The crooks ripped off the hubcaps of my car.*

Rise and shine! *exclam.* Get up and get going! □ *Get up! Rise and shine! It's late.* □ *Okay, you guys, rise and shine!*

ritzy ['ritsi] *mod.* elegant; flamboyant. □ *That is a real ritzy car.* □ *It's really ritzy!* □ *What a ritzy coat! Is it new?*

rivets ['rivəts] *n.* dollars; money. (From **copper rivets**.) □ *You got enough rivets on you for a snack?* □ *Who can come up with that many rivets?*

roach 1. *n.* a police officer. (Derogatory. From **cockroach**.) □ *Watch out! The roaches are coming.* □ *A roach caught him while he was at work.* **2.** *n.* the butt end of a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *The cops found a roach on the bathroom floor.* □ *Hey, give me that roach!* **3.** *n.* an ugly girl or woman. (Derogatory. From **cockroach**.) □ *Who was that roach you were with last night?* □ *That dame is a real roach.*

roach clip AND **roach pick** *n.* a device to hold a **roach** and make it smokable. (Drugs.) □ *When the cops find a roach clip on you, you've had it.* □ *They found two roach picks and a pipe.*

roach-coach *n.* a mobile snack truck. (The term was revived in the Persian Gulf War.) □ *Let's go get a sandwich at the roach-coach.* □ *Here comes the roach-coach! Let go spend some coin.* □ *The roach-coach pulled up in front of the dorm every night about eleven.*

roached *mod.* hungover; exhausted. □ *I'm roached. I feel lousy.* □ *What a day! I've never been so roached.*

roach pick Go to **roach clip**.

road apple *n.* a lump of horse excrement. (See also **alley apple**.) □ *Don't step on the road apples.* □ *There must be horses around here. I see road apples.*

road hog *n.* someone who takes too much space on a road or highway; someone who seems to run other people off the road. □ *Get over! Road hog!* □ *A road hog nearly ran me off the road.*

roadie AND **roady 1.** AND **roadster** *n.* someone who helps rock groups set up for performances. □ *I want to be a roadie when I grow up.* □ *I was a roadster for a while, but I didn't like it.* **2.** AND **roadster** *in.* to help rock groups set up. □ *Let's go downtown and roadie tonight. The Red Drips are in town.* □ *I hate to roady. It's, like, work!* **3.** *mod.* eager to travel; eager to get on the road. □ *I get a little roady when the weather gets warm.*

road pizza *n.* a dead animal on the road. □ *Every morning the highway is littered with road pizza.* □ *A bunch of crows were feasting on road pizza when we drove by.*

roadster Go to **roadie**.

roadtrip *n.* a sudden trip in a car. (Sometimes yelled, **Roadtrip!** to indicate an impending jaunt in an automobile.) □ *Let's make a little roadtrip to get some beer.* □ *"Roadtrip!" hollered Ken. "We're gonna go out and get some dames!"*

roady Go to **roadie**.

roast 1. *tv.* to put on an entertaining program, usually with a dinner, where the guest of honor is teased and insulted. □ *They roasted Dave when he retired.* □ *If they roast me at the dinner, I'll cry.* **2.** *n.* an entertaining program where the guest of honor is insulted all in fun. □ *It was a wonderful roast. The guest of honor was pleased with the quality of the insults.* □ *It was a little too polite for a real roast.*

roasted *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He was stewed, roasted, and boiled.* □ *He's out getting roasted with the boys.*

rob someone blind **1.** *tv.* to steal freely from someone. ☐ *Her maid was robbing her blind.* ☐ *I don't want them to rob me blind. Keep an eye on them.* **2.** *tv.* to overcharge someone. ☐ *You are trying to rob me blind. I won't pay it!* ☐ *Those auto repair shops can rob you blind if you don't watch out.*

rock **1.** **AND** **rock candy** *n.* **crack**, a crystallized form of cocaine. (Drugs. See also **rocks**.) ☐ *Some call it rock, and some call it crack.* ☐ *Rock is pretty expensive.* **2.** *n.* a crystallized form of heroin used for smoking. (Drugs.) ☐ *Max is hooked on rock—the kind that you smoke.* ☐ *Powder is everywhere, but you can hardly find rock anymore.* **3.** *n.* a diamond or other gemstone. ☐ *Look at the size of that rock in her ring.* ☐ *How many rocks are there decorating the edges of your watch?* **4.** *Go to* **rocks**. **5.** *n.* a baseball; a basketball. ☐ *Michael passed the rock to Scottie who turned and dropped it in the basket.* ☐ *Hank hit the rock with the bat and broke the bat in half.* **6.** *in.* to be really great. ☐ *This party really rocks!* ☐ *The concerts didn't rock, but we had a good time throwing chairs.*

rock bottom **1.** *n.* the lowest point or level. ☐ *The value of the goods is at rock bottom right now.* ☐ *Prices have reached rock bottom.* **2.** *mod.* absolute lowest, especially in reference to price. ☐ *Prices are rock bottom this month.* ☐ *I am offering you the rock bottom price.* ☐ *You can't beat these rock bottom deals.*

rock candy *Go to* **rock**.

rock **1.** *n.* a rocking chair. (Not slang.) ☐ *I love to spend a sunny afternoon in my rocker.* ☐ *Children love rockers, but they can tip over in them.* **2.** *n.* a rock and roll singer, song, or fan. (See also **off one's rocker**.) ☐ *Do all rockers have red hair?* ☐ *Let's listen to a good rocker.*

rockhead *n.* someone who seems to have rocks in the head; a hardheaded or stubborn person. ☐ *What a rockhead! That's a stupid thing to do.* ☐ *Why do you always have to be such a rockhead?*

rocking *mod.* excellent. (Collegiate.) ☐ *Man, what a rocking party!* ☐ *This set is really rocking.* ☐ *We had a rocking time!*

rock-jock *n.* a mountain or rock climber. ☐ *The serious rock-jocks practice in North Wales.* ☐ *The sides of every mountain are covered with rock-jocks.*

rocks **1.** *n.* ice cubes. ☐ *Can I have a few rocks in my drink, please?* **2.** *n.* Xerox Inc. (Securities markets, New York Stock Exchange.) ☐ *When she says, "Buy me a thousand rocks at the market," that means she wants one thousand shares of Xerox at whatever the market price is at the moment.* **3.** *n.* money; a dollar. (Underworld.) ☐ *How many rocks do you want for that?* ☐ *Twenty rocks for that?* **4.** *n.* the testicles. (See also **stones**. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *I was afraid I'd get kicked in the rocks, so I stayed back.*

rod **1.** *n.* a gun; a revolver. (Underworld.) ☐ *I got a rod in my pocket. Don't move.* ☐ *I don't have any bullets for my rod.* **2.** *Go to* (**hot**) **rod**.

ROF *Go to* **RO(T)F(L)**.

roger ['rɒdʒə] *interj.* okay; That is correct. ☐ *Roger, I'll do it.* ☐ *Roger. Will do.*

rolf *Go to* **ralph**.

roll **1.** *n.* a bankroll; lots of money. ☐ *I earned a roll off that last deal.* ☐ *He's got a roll right there in his pocket.* **2.** *tv.* to rob a drunkard. ☐ *The muggers found a drunk and rolled him.* ☐ *Those punks can't get much money by rolling drunks.* **3.** *n.* a sustained period of luck or productivity. (See also **on a roll**.) ☐ *I'm doing great! What a roll!* ☐ *The fantastic roll that this performer is on is truly exciting.* **4.** *in.* to leave, perhaps in a car. ☐ *I can't wait around any longer. Let's roll.* ☐ *We have to roll, now. It's late.*

roller *n.* a police car. ☐ *There are rollers in the next block, driving slow, looking for someone.* ☐ *The roller pulled up in front of the boys, and two officers got out.*

roll in **1.** *in.* to pull in; to drive up; to arrive. ☐ *The car rolled into the parking lot at a high speed.* ☐ *Four station wagons rolled in at the same time.* **2.** *Go to* **turn in**.

rolling buzz *n.* a long-lasting drug high. (Drugs.) □ *What I want is a nice rolling buzz.* □ *That stuff will give you a rolling buzz without putting you to sleep.*

ronchie Go to **raunchy**.

roni *n.* pepperoni, as used in pizza. □ *I want roni and shrooms on my pizza.*

rook [rʊk] *tv.* to cheat someone. □ *She tried to rook me when I paid my bill.* □ *Don't go into that store. They'll rook you.*

rookie AND **rooky** ['rʊki] **1.** *n.* a person new at something; a neophyte, especially a police officer or a ballplayer. □ *Tom is a rookie on the police force.* □ *The rookie tackled the old-time player and earned a lot of cheering and applause.* **2.** *mod.* new; inexperienced. □ *Fred is a rookie first baseman for the home team.* □ *A rooky cop can make arrests just like the other cops.*

room for rent *n.* a person who acts very stupid. (Also a term of address. This implies that one's head is so empty of brains that the space could be rented out.) □ *Hey, room for rent, wake up and pay attention.* □ *My brother is a room for rent if I ever saw one. What a dope!*

rooster ['rustə] *n.* the posterior; one's butt end. (Old. Because one *roosts* on it.) □ *Don't just sit there on your rooster. Get to work.* □ *I fell down smack on my rooster.*

root **1.** *n.* a cigarette or a cigar. □ *That root you're smoking sure stinks.* □ *You got a root I can borrow?* **2.** *in.* to eat food like a pig. □ *Don't root. Slow down and enjoy your food.* □ *Bart is downstairs rooting now. It won't take that slob long to eat.*

rooting-tooting *mod.* exciting; renown; famous; illustrious. (A vague adjective of praise.) □ *We really had a rooting-tooting time last weekend.* □ *She's a rooting-tooting dancer from Omaha.*

rope someone in **1.** *tv.* to cause someone to get involved in some project. □ *She's always trying to rope me into her club.* □ *Let's rope in someone to help with cleaning up.* **2.** Go to **take someone in**.

roscoe ['rasko] *n.* a pistol, especially a revolver. (Underworld.) □ *He's got a roscoe*

in his pocket. □ *I'm going down there to talk to Max, and I'm taking my roscoe.*

rosy *mod.* good; satisfactory. □ *Things are looking rosy now that the economy is improving.* □ *Doesn't look like a very rosy future.* □ *When the stock market crashed, nothing looked rosy.*

rot *n.* nonsense. □ *Don't give me any more of your rot. Speak straight with me.* □ *That's just rot. Don't believe any of it!*

RO(T)F(L) *interj.* rolling on the floor laughing. (Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *I was ROTFL when I read your note. That was too much.* □ *Your comment had me ROTF.*

rotgut **1.** *n.* strong or inferior liquor, especially whisky. (Folksy.) □ *Where is that jug of rotgut you used to keep around here?* □ *The old man nearly went blind drinking all that rotgut.* **2.** *mod.* [of liquor] strong or fiery. □ *You've got to stop drinking that rotgut liquor and think of your health.* □ *I won't pay for this rotgut whisky. Give me something better.* **3.** *n.* weak or otherwise inferior beer. □ *I need a can of beer, and you give me this rotgut?* □ *She can afford something better, but she drinks nothing but cheap rotgut.*

rotorhead *n.* a helicopter pilot or member of a helicopter crew. (Military. Also a term of address.) □ *Radio those rotorheads and tell them to get back to the base, now!* □ *Hey, rotorhead, where's your egg beater?*

rotsee ['ratsi] *n.* ROTC, the Reserve Officers Training Corps. □ *I joined rotsee to help pay my way through school.* □ *How long have you been in the rotsee program?*

Rots of ruck! ['ratsə'rək] *exclam.* Lots of luck! (Mocking a Japanese pronunciation.) □ *Have a good trip, and rots of ruck!* □ *Good-bye, and rots of ruck!*

rotten **1.** *mod.* smelly; disgusting. (Not slang.) □ *What is that rotten smell?* □ *Something rotten is under that board.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (From sense 1. See also **putrid**.) □ *It takes a case of beer to get Wilbur rotten.* □ *When he gets rotten, he's sort of dangerous.* **3.** *mod.* poor

or bad. (From sense 1.) □ *We have nothing but one rotten problem after another.* □ *This is the most rotten mess I've ever been in.*

rotten apple *n.* a single bad person or thing. □ *There always is a rotten apple to spoil it for the rest of us.* □ *Tom sure has turned out to be the rotten apple.*

rotten egg *n.* a bad or despised person; a stinker. □ *That guy is a real rotten egg.* □ *She sure has turned out to be a rotten egg.*

rotten luck *n.* bad luck. □ *Of all the rotten luck!* □ *I've had nothing but rotten luck all day.*

rotten to the core *mod.* really bad. (See also **rotten apple**.) □ *That lousy punk is rotten to the core.* □ *The entire administration is rotten to the core.*

rough and ready *mod.* vigorous and eager. □ *After a good night's sleep, I feel rough and ready—I could take on a bear.* □ *My friend is the rough and ready type. I'd rather sit and think about things.*

rough and tumble *mod.* disorderly; aggressive. □ *That was a rough and tumble football game.* □ *George is too rough and tumble for me. He doesn't know how to act around civilized people.*

roughhouse AND **roughneck** **1.** *n.* a mean kid; a boisterous child, usually male. □ *Jimmy! Stop acting like such a roughhouse.* □ *Tell that young roughneck to straighten up and behave.* **2.** *in.* to be boisterous. □ *Stop roughnecking in my living room.* □ *The boys broke the lamp when they were roughnecking around in the family room.*

rough it *tv.* to live for a short period of time in a relatively primitive state. □ *We went camping and had to rough it for a week.* □ *With no electricity in our house, I roughed it by burning candles.*

roughneck Go to roughhouse.

rough someone up *tv.* to beat someone up; to maltreat someone. □ *Am I going to have to rough you up, or will you cooperate?* □ *The crooks roughed up the old lady before taking her purse.*

rough stuff *n.* unnecessary roughness; physical violence or threats of violence. □ *Okay, let's cut out the rough stuff!* □ *There was too much rough stuff in Friday's game.*

rough time *n.* a hard time; a bad time. □ *I didn't mean to give you such a rough time. I'm sorry.* □ *What a rough time we had getting the car started!*

roundhouse punch *n.* a punch to the head made by swinging the arm in an arc rather than by a jabbing punch. □ *Jim knocked Ted down with a roundhouse punch.* □ *He let him have a roundhouse punch that would have cracked a two-by-four.*

round the bend Go to (a)round the bend.

round tripper *n.* a home run in baseball. □ *Ted is responsible for four round trippers in Saturday's game.* □ *He hit a round tripper in the fourth inning.*

roundup *n.* a collection or summary of news items, such as a weather roundup, news roundup, etc. □ *Tune in at eleven for a roundup of the day's news.* □ *Now for a weather roundup.*

roust [raʊst] **1.** *tv.* [for a police officer] to bother or interfere with someone; to arrest someone. (See also **rousted**. Underworld.) □ *The cops rousted the gang without warning.* □ *I was walking along doing nothing, and this cop rousts me.* **2.** *tv.* to raid someone's residence; to **bust** a person or place. (Underworld.) □ *They rousted Bart's place last night.* □ *That bar was rousted last week.* **3.** *n.* a raid or a bust. □ *Okay, stand still. This is a roust!* □ *They pulled a big roust down on Fourth Street.*

rousted ['raʊstəd] *mod.* arrested. (Underworld.) □ *Bart got rousted last night.* □ *The cops rousted the dealers, but that didn't even slow down the drug trade.*

royal pain *n.* someone or something irritating; a severe annoyance. □ *You are a royal pain!* □ *Her questions were a royal pain, but I had to answer them as part of my job.*

R. & R. *n.* rest and recuperation; rest and relaxation. (Originally military.) □ *I could use about three years of R. & R. after that battle.* □ *I'll need a lot of R. & R. to recover from that stuff they fed us.*

RSN *interj.* real soon now. (Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *I will post the rest of my trip report RSN.* □ *I will be finished RSN. I'll let you know.*

rubber 1. *n.* automobile tires; the rubber of automobile tires left on the street from spinning tires. □ *This car has some fine rubber on it.* □ *The rubber on my car is practically ruined.* **2.** *Go to rubber (check).* **3.** *n.* a condom. □ *Bill has carried a rubber in his wallet since he was 12. The same rubber!* □ *He always carries a rubber "just in case."*

rubber (check) *n.* a check that bounces; a forged check. (See also **bounce**.) □ *The bank says I wrote a rubber check, but I'm sure there was enough money on deposit.* □ *One rubber check after another! Can't you add?*

rubberneck 1. *n.* one who stares at something or someone; a tourist. □ *At noon the sidewalks are crowded with rubbernecks.* □ *See if that rubberneck over there has the correct time.* **2.** *in.* to stare (at something or someone). □ *What are all those people rubbernecking at?* □ *Traffic is stalled because of all the drivers who are rubbernecking.*

rubber sock *n.* a timid person; a passive and compliant person. □ *What a rubber sock. She's afraid of her own shadow.* □ *Come on! Stand up for your rights. Don't be such a rubber sock!*

rubbish *n.* nonsense. (Also an exclamation.) □ *I'm tired of listening to your rubbish.* □ *Rubbish! That's the stupidest thing I've ever heard.*

rub someone out *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld.) □ *The gunman was eager to rub somebody out.* □ *The crooks tried to rub out the witness.*

rub someone's nose in something *tv.* to remind someone of something con-

stantly; to make a big issue about someone's mistake. (From the practice of training a puppy by rubbing its nose in the messes it makes.) □ *So I made a mistake! I wish you'd stop rubbing my nose in it.* □ *Rubbing my nose in it is not going to correct the mistake.*

ruckus ['rʌkəs] *n.* a commotion; an uproar. □ *Quiet, please. Don't raise such a ruckus.* □ *The boss kicked up quite a ruckus when I came in late.*

rude 1. *mod.* undesirable; unpleasant. □ *The prof in my history class is a rude dude, for sure.* □ *What a rude idea!* **2.** *mod. cool; pleasant.* □ *Man, that's a rude bike!* □ *Sally is a rude-looking girl!*

rug *n.* a wig or toupee. (See also **divot**.) □ *Is that guy wearing a rug, or does his scalp really slide from side to side?* □ *I wear just a little rug to cover up a shiny spot.*

rug rat **AND** **ankle biter** *n.* a child. □ *You got any ankle biters at your house?* □ *Hey, you cute little rug rat, come over here.*

rule *in.* to dominate; to be the best. (Slang only in certain contexts. Typical in graffiti.) □ *The rockets rule!* □ *Pizza rules around here.*

ruley *mod.* ideal; excellent. (See also **rule**.) □ *Her idea is ruley! She knows what we ought to do!*

rumble 1. *in.* to fight. □ *The gangs are rumbling over on Fourth Street.* □ *We're going to rumble tomorrow night.* **2.** *n.* a fight; a street fight; a gang fight. □ *If there is a rumble, get out of there fast.* □ *My brother was hurt in a gang rumble.*

rumdum **AND** **rum-dum** ['rʌm'dʌm] **1.** *n.* a drunkard; a ruined alcoholic. □ *Get that smelly rumdum out of here.* □ *I don't want to end up like a dirty rum-dumb.* **2.** *n.* a stupid person. □ *Hey, rumdum, wise up and do what you are told.* □ *Don't be such a rum-dum.* **3.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *The old lady got rumdum on gin.* □ *Two glasses and she was rumdum and asleep.*

rummed (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Sailors like to go into town and get rummed up.* □ *Those boys are really rummed.*

rummy ['rəmi] **1.** *n.* a drunkard; an alcoholic; an alcoholic hobo. □ *Ask that rummy to leave before he throws up.* □ *There is a rummy at the door asking for a handout.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She's rummy, and she's going to be sick.* □ *Who's the rummy old girl?* □ *How long does it take a heavy drinker like Bob to get rummy?* **3.** *mod.* habitually confused and inept. □ *I get more rummy as I grow older.* □ *That rummy old man is here again.*

rump **1.** *n.* the hindquarters; the buttocks; the posterior. □ *He fell on his rump.* □ *A dog doesn't have much rump.* **2.** *tv.* to flog someone on the buttocks. □ *They rumped him and made him run around the frat house.* □ *I'm going to get rumped when my dad gets home.*

rumpus ['ræmpəs] *n.* a commotion. □ *Please don't make such a rumpus.* □ *There was quite a rumpus in Jim's room.*

rumpus room *n.* a family recreation room. (Old but still heard.) □ *Our rumpus room has a pool table.* □ *If you kids are going to play rough, you'll have to go down to the rumpus room.*

run **1.** *n.* a session or period of time spent doing something; a period of time when something happens. □ *The market had a good run today.* □ *We all have enjoyed a good run of luck.* □ *Bart takes amphetamines and was on a run all week.* □ *A run like that can kill.* **2.** *tv.* to transport contraband, alcohol, or drugs. □ *Max used to run booze during prohibition.* □ *The soldiers were caught running guns.* **3.** *n.* an act of transporting contraband. □ *Four soldiers were killed during a run.* □ *In their final run the cocaine smugglers made over four million dollars.*

run a make on someone *tv.* to perform an identity check on someone. (Underworld.) □ *The cops ran a make on Lefty and learned about his prison record.* □ *We tried to run a make on him and came up with nothing.*

run amok ['rən ə'mək] *in.* to go awry. (From a Malay word meaning to run wild in a violent frenzy.) □ *Our plan ran*

amok. □ *The whole company ran amok after the market crashed.*

runaround *n.* a wild-goose chase. (Especially with give, as in the example.) □ *The IRS gave us the runaround when we asked for a review.* □ *The customer will never get a runaround at my store!*

rundown *n.* a summary bringing someone up to date. □ *Can you give me a rundown on what's happened since noon?* □ *I need a rundown on the current situation in Alaska.*

run down some lines **1.** *in.* to converse (with someone). □ *I was running down some lines with Fred when the bell rang.* □ *Hey, man, let's run down some lines.* **2.** *in.* to try to seduce someone; to go through a talk leading to seduction. (See also **run one's rhymes**.) □ *Go run down some lines with someone else.* □ *I was just standing there running down some lines with Mary when those guys broke in.*

run it down *tv.* to tell the whole story; to tell the truth. □ *Come on! What happened? Run it down for me!* □ *I don't care what happened. Run it down. I can take it.*

runner **1.** *n.* a messenger. □ *Send a runner over to the other office for supplies.* □ *I work as a runner in the financial district.* **2.** *n.* a person who transports contraband. (Underworld.) □ *The cops caught the runner red-handed.* □ *The runners got away, but we have the goods.*

run off *in.* to have diarrhea. □ *Jimmy has been running off since midnight.* □ *At least I'm not running off anymore.*

run off at the mouth *in.* to talk too much; to have diarrhea of the mouth. □ *I wish you would stop running off at the mouth.* □ *Tom runs off at the mouth too much. I wish he would temper his remarks.*

run-of-the-mill *mod.* average; typical. (Referring to the typical quality of a product that comes out of a mill.) □ *He is just a run-of-the-mill guy.* □ *I don't want just run-of-the-mill ice cream.* □ *This stuff is just run-of-the-mill.*

run on all cylinders **1.** *in.* to run well and smoothly. □ *This department is running*

on all cylinders now. □ *My plan is now running on all cylinders.* **2.** *in.* to operate sensibly and intelligently. □ *Pay attention to what you are doing. Start running on all cylinders.* □ *She doesn't run on all cylinders this early in the morning.*

run one's rhymes *tv.* to say what you have to say; to give one's speech or make one's plea. (Collegiate.) □ *Go run your rhymes with somebody else!* □ *I told him to run his rhymes elsewhere.*

run out of gas *in.* to lose momentum or interest. □ *His program is running out of gas.* □ *I hope I don't run out of gas before I finish what I set out to do.*

the **runs** *n.* a case of diarrhea. □ *That stuff we ate gave me the runs.* □ *I can't believe those cute little hamburgers could give anybody the runs.*

run scared *in.* to act panicked. □ *All the politicians are running scared.* □ *Don't panic. There is no reason to run scared.*

run someone in *tv.* to arrest someone; to take someone to the police station. □ *Don't argue with me, or I'll run you in.* □ *The cops ran in everybody in sight.*

runt *n.* a small person; someone whose growth has been stunted. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *He can't play basketball. He's just a runt.* □ *Hey, runt. Come here!*

Run that by (me) again. **AND Run that by (me) one more time.** *sent.* Please tell it to me again. □ *I can't believe my own ears. Can you run that by again, please?* □ *It's noisy in here. Please run that by me one more time.*

Run that by (me) one more time. Go to Run that by (me) again.

run-up *n.* a movement upward in the value of one or more securities. (Securities markets.) □ *The market's had a good run-up in the last week.* □ *I'm afraid that if it has a run-up to 3,000, it will fall to zero.*

rush 1. *n.* a quick print of a day's shooting of a film. (Film-making. Usually plural.) □ *After today's shooting, we'll watch yesterday's rushes.* □ *Rush these rushes right over to Mr. Hitchcock's office.* **2.** *n.* a period of time when fraternities and sororities are permitted to pursue new members. (Collegiate.) □ *When does rush start this year?* □ *I've got to be at school in time for rush.* **3.** *tv.* [for a fraternity or sorority member] to try to persuade someone to join. □ *The frat tried to rush me, but I'm too busy.* □ *They can't rush anyone except during rush week.* **4.** *tv.* to court or date someone, usually a woman. (From sense 3.) □ *Tom's trying to rush Betty, but she's not interested.* □ *He spent some time trying to rush her, but had to give up.* **5.** *n.* a burst of energy or good feeling from a drug; the explosive euphoria of some kinds of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Man, this stuff really gives me a rush.* □ *What kind of rush does this have?* **6.** *n.* any excitement; any burst of good feeling. (From sense 5.) □ *I got a real rush from helping out.* □ *The wonderful ending to the movie gave me a rush.*

rust belt *n.* the industrial north of the U.S. (Patterned on **sun belt**.) □ *The economy in the rust belt is slowing down.* □ *The salt they put on the roads in the winter made my car all rusty. I guess that's why they call this area the rust belt.*

rust bucket *n.* a naval destroyer; any ship. (Military.) □ *I'm anxious to get off this old rust bucket.* □ *Why don't I ever get assigned to a new ship? It's always some crummy rust bucket!*

rusty-dusty *n.* the posterior; the buttocks. (See also **duster**.) □ *I fell down right on my rusty-dusty.* □ *I almost kicked him in the rusty-dusty.*

ruth [ruθ] **1.** *n.* a women's restroom. (See also **john**.) □ *Where's the ruth?* □ *Point me toward the ruth!* **2.** *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (See also **cry ruth; ralph**.) □ *I gotta go ruth!* □ *I just can't stand to ruth.*

S

sack 1. *n.* a bed. □ *I was so tired I could hardly find my sack.* □ *Somebody put a spider in my sack.* **2.** *tv.* to dismiss someone from employment; to fire someone. □ *The boss sacked the whole office staff last week.* □ *If I do that again, they'll sack me.* **3.** the **sack** *n.* a dismissal. (Always with *the* in this sense.) □ *The boss gave them all the sack.* □ *The sack is what I am afraid of.* **4.** *tv.* to tackle someone in football. □ *I tried to sack him, but he was too fast.* □ *Sack that guy or else!* **5.** *n.* the completion of a tackle in football. □ *Andy made the sack on the ten-yard line.* □ *Who failed to make the sack?*

sacked out *mod.* asleep. □ *Mary is sacked out in her room.* □ *Here it is ten o'clock, and you are still sacked out!*

sack out *in.* to go to bed or go to sleep. (See also **sacked out**.) □ *It's time for me to sack out.* □ *Let's sack out early tonight.*

sack rat *n.* someone who spends a lot of time in bed; someone who does not ever seem to get enough sleep. □ *Tom is such a sack rat. He can't seem to get enough sleep.* □ *Mary is such a sack rat that she misses classes.*

sack time 1. *n.* a period of time spent in bed. □ *I need more sack time than most people.* □ *How much sack time do you get?* **2.** *n.* time to go to bed. □ *Okay, gang, it's sack time. Go home so I can get some sleep!* □ *When is sack time around here?*

sacred mushrooms Go to magic mushrooms.

sad *mod.* poor; undesirable. □ *This is a sad excuse for a car!* □ *That was a sad pitch there at the end of the last inning.* □ *This steak is really sad.*

saddled with someone or something *mod.* burdened with someone or something. □ *I've been saddled with the children all day. Let's go out tonight.* □ *I don't want to be saddled with your work.*

sad sack *n.* a sad person; a listless or depressed person. □ *Tom always looks like such a sad sack.* □ *Who is that sad sack moping in the corner?*

sail into someone **AND** **light into someone** *in.* to beat or scold someone. □ *Jimmy's mother really sailed into him for breaking the window.* □ *Jimmy lit into the cat for getting in the way.*

sail (right) through something *in.* to get through something easily. □ *I sailed right through my homework.* □ *We sailed through the examination with no difficulty.*

salt *n.* a sailor. (Especially with *old*.) □ *A couple of salts came ashore and asked if they could buy some beer.* □ *I've sailed a little, but you could hardly call me an old salt.*

salt and pepper 1. *n.* a black and white police car. □ *There is a salt and pepper around the corner waiting for speeders.* □ *There is a salt and pepper behind you, and it's too late to slow down.* **2.** *mod.* interracial, including black and white. □ *It was sort of a salt and pepper meeting, with representatives from all neighborhoods.* □ *We achieved a salt and pepper agreement that made everyone happy.*

salt horse *n.* corned or salted beef. □ *We had salt horse on toast for dinner.* □ *We made spaghetti sauce with salt horse because that was the only meat we could find.*

saltine *n.* a white person. (A play on a kind of salted white cracker (biscuit). A cracker is a derogatory term for a white person.) □ *What are those saltines doing in this neighborhood?*

Sam *n.* federal agents; federal narcotics agents. (Also a term of address. From **Uncle (Sam)**.) □ *Sam is on the trail of the dope smugglers.* □ *Sam is working hard to put an end to all this drug trouble.*

Sam and Dave *n.* the police; police officers. (Black.) □ *Mike got hit by Sam and Dave last night.* □ *And there at the door were my old buddies Sam and Dave with a warrant.*

same difference *n.* the same; no difference at all. □ *Pink, fuchsia, what does it matter? Same difference.* □ *Whether you go or I go, it's the same difference.*

same here *phr.* me too; I agree. □ **MARY:** *I think I'll have the broiled halibut.* **JANE:** *Same here.* □ **BILL:** *I feel sort of cold.* *What about you?* **SUE:** *Same here.*

same old story *n.* an often repeated story or situation. □ *It's the same old story. Boy meets girl, girl gets consumption, girl dies.* □ *One after one they came in. It's the same old story with each of them, "Not enough time to do my homework."*

same o(l)' same o(l)' ['səmo(l) 'səmo(l)] *n.* the same old thing. □ *I'm getting tired of the same ol' same ol'.* □ *Why not something different? Do you like the same o' same o'?*

sand *n.* sugar. □ *Please pass the sand.* □ *Do you use sand in your coffee?*

sandbag **1.** *tv.* to force someone to do something. □ *I don't want to have to sandbag you. Please cooperate.* □ *Don't let them sandbag you into buying something you don't need.* **2.** *tv.* to deceive someone; to fool someone about one's capabilities. □ *Don't let them sandbag you into expecting too little.* □ *The guy sandbagged me, and I wasn't expecting him to shoot the ball.*

sap **1.** *n.* a stupid person. □ *That poor sap thinks he can convince them.* □ *Who is that miserable looking sap in the corner?* **2.**

n. a blackjack. (Underworld.) □ *The thug bopped him on the head with a sap.* □ *Bart had a sap in his pocket when they arrested him for possession.*

Saturday night special *n.* a small, easily obtainable pistol. □ *There was another killing last night with a Saturday night special.* □ *That's the tenth shooting done with a Saturday night special this week.*

sauce *n.* liquor; any alcoholic beverage. (See also **on the sauce**.) □ *Those guys have had too much sauce again.* □ *Did you bring the sauce? Can't have a good party without lots of sauce.*

sauced *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She went out and got herself sauced.* □ *Man, do you look sauced.*

sauce parlor *n.* a tavern. □ *You spend too much time in the sauce parlor, Fred.* □ *I wouldn't be caught dead in that sauce parlor.*

savage *mod.* excellent. (Collegiate.) □ *This is really a savage piece of music.* □ *Man, Fred is a totally savage guy.* □ *Wow, is he savage!*

saved by the bell *mod.* saved by the timely intervention of someone or something. □ *I was going to have to do my part, but someone knocked on the door and I didn't have to do it. I was saved by the bell.* □ *I wish I had been saved by the bell.*

Save it! *exclam.* Be quiet! □ *Save it! Keep quiet until this is over.* □ *I don't care what you think you have to say. Save it!*

savvy ['sævi] **1.** *tv. & in.* to understand (someone or something). (Adapted from Spanish *sabe*, *he knows*.) □ *Do you savvy?* □ *Can you savvy at all what I am trying to tell you?* □ *I just can't savvy stuff like that.* **2.** *n.* knowledge; know-how. □ *She really has savvy when it comes to clocks.* □ *I don't have the savvy necessary to do the job.* **3.** *mod.* knowledgeable. □ *What a savvy gal!* □ *She is truly savvy!* □ *He is one of the most savvy directors in New York.*

sawbones *n.* a doctor. (Folksy. Referring to someone who amputates limbs.) □ *Call*

the sawbones. This is an emergency. □ Is there a sawbones in this town?

sawbuck *n.* a ten-dollar bill. (From the time when the 10 was indicated by the Roman numeral X, which looks like the crosspiece that supports wood that is being sawed.) □ *It cost me a sawbuck to have my car pulled out of the mud. □ Can I borrow a sawbuck till payday?*

sawed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Perhaps an elaboration of **cut**.) □ *I got sawed last weekend, and I still have a headache. □ She drank a lot, but never got sawed.*

sawed-off *mod.* short of stature. □ *Mike is sawed-off. □ Tom called Mike a sawed-off little runt. □ Well, Mike is a sawed-off runt, isn't he?*

Say cheese! *exclam.* Please smile! (A phrase said by a photographer who is trying to get someone to smile for a photograph.) □ *Come on, now. Say cheese! □ Say cheese for the camera, please.*

Says me! AND **Sez me!** *exclam.* a formulaic answer to **Says who?** □ TOM: *Says who?* FRED: *Says me, that's who!* □ TOM: *You?* FRED: *You got it, buster. Says me!*

say-so *n.* a command; an authorization. □ *I can't do it just on your say-so. □ We can begin as soon as we get the boss's say-so.*

Says who? AND **Sez who?** *interrog.* a formulaic challenge indicating disagreement with someone who has said something. (See also **Says you!**) □ TOM: *Says who?* FRED: *Says me, that's who!* □ *She drew herself up to her full height, looked him straight in the eye, and said, "Says who?"*

Says you! *exclam.* That's just what you say! You don't know what you are talking about! □ FRED: *You are fat and ugly.* TOM: *Says you!* □ MARY: *People who go around correcting other people were found to be very annoying in a recent survey.* BILL: *Says you!*

say uncle *tv.* to admit defeat; to give up. □ *He held me down until I said uncle. □ I never say uncle. I just keep right on going.*

Say what? *interrog.* What did you say? □ *Say what? I didn't hear that. □ The old*

man held his hand to his ear and said, "Say what?"

scabbed ['skæbd] *mod.* cheated in a drug deal; having been sold bogus or inferior drugs. □ *Bart got scabbed by a dealer who got arrested the next day. □ This junk is junk. I've been scabbed.*

scads [skædz] *n.* lots (of something). □ *I have just scads and scads of paper. □ Aunt Mary has scads of money.*

scag Go to **skag**.

scag jones Go to **skag jones**.

scale *n.* the regular union rate of pay; union wages. □ *Even the big stars work for scale. □ We pay scale and not a penny more. I don't care who you think you are!*

scam [skæm] **1. n.** a swindle; a hustle. □ *I lost a fortune in that railroad scam. □ What a scam! I'm calling the cops. 2. tv.* to swindle someone; to deceive someone. □ *They were scammed by a sweet-talking southern lady who took all their money. □ She scammed them for every cent they had. 3. in.* to seek out and pick up young women, said of males. (Collegiate.) □ *Bob was out scamming last night and ran into Clare. □ Those guys are always scamming around. 4. in.* to copulate. □ *All you ever want to do is scam. □ I think those people over there are scamming. 5. in.* to fool around and waste time. □ *Quit scamming and get busy. □ You'd get better grades if you didn't scam so much.*

scammer ['skæmə] **1. n.** a swindler; a hustler. □ *Max is a scammer if I ever saw one. □ There are a couple of scammers on the street corner. Watch out. 2. n.* a lecher; a fast worker with the opposite sex. □ *Bob thinks he's a great scammer, but he's just a wimp. □ Do scammers have a great future? What's for an encore?*

scammered *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She is scammered out of her mind. □ Two bottles of that stuff and she was scammered.*

scamp [skæmp] *n.* a small child. □ *Come here, you little scamp! □ There are three little scamps at the door saying, "Trick or treat!"*

scandal sheet *n.* a tabloid newspaper featuring lurid news. □ *I like to read a scandal sheet every now and then.* □ *I'm tired of this scandal sheet. Let's get a classy newspaper today.*

skank Go to skank.

scanless Go to skanless.

scared shitless *mod.* very frightened. (Potentially offensive. Use caution with **shit**.) □ *He wasn't just frightened. He was scared shitless!* □ *He had to go to court and was scared shitless about it.*

scared stiff *mod.* frightened; unable to move from fear. □ *The poor little kid stood there—scared stiff.* □ *I was scared stiff for hours after the accident.*

scare someone or something up *tv.* to find someone or something. (As if one were flushing wild game.) □ *I have to scare a date up for Friday night.* □ *See if you can scare up a clean tablecloth.*

scare the hell out of someone *tv.* to frighten someone badly. (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *These figures scare the hell out of me.* □ *The door blew shut and scared the hell out of me.*

scare the pants off someone *tv.* to frighten someone suddenly. □ *The piano lid fell and scared the pants off my parents.* □ *It takes a lot to scare the pants off a hardened criminal.*

scarf **1.** *tv.* to eat something. □ *Andy scarfed the whole pie.* □ *Are you going to scarf the whole thing?* **2.** *in.* to eat. □ *I'll be with you as soon as I scarf.* □ *I gotta go scarf now.* **3.** *n.* food. □ *I want some good scarf. This stuff stinks.* □ *No more fried scarf for me.* **4.** *tv.* to steal or swipe something. □ *The kid scarfed a candy bar, and the store owner called the cops.* □ *The plumber's assistant had been scarfing copper for months before they figured out what was going on.* **5.** *tv.* to discard something. □ *Scarf that thing. It's no good.* □ *Bill scarfed his girl. She was seeing somebody else at the same time.*

scarf out *in.* to overeat. (See also **blimp out**; **pig out**, **mac out**.) □ *I scarf out*

every weekend. □ *My brother scarfs out every day—around the clock!*

scarf something down *tv.* to eat something, perhaps in a hurry; to swallow something, perhaps in a hurry. □ *Are you going to scarf this whole thing down?* □ *Here, scarf down this sandwich.*

scary *mod.* [of women] ugly. □ *Man, is she scary!* □ *Why do I always end up with a scary woman?*

scat [skæt] **1.** *n.* nonsense syllables sung to music. (Refers to a [primarily black] jazz practice in the jazz era.) □ *She used to do scat but moved on to blues.* □ *He could sing scat like nobody's business.* **2.** *exclam.* Go away! (Usually **Scat!** Often said to a cat to get it to go away.) □ *Get out! Scat! Beat it, cat!* □ *Scat, you wretched animal!* **3.** *in.* to leave. □ *It's midnight. I gotta scat.* □ *You guys scat now. I have to go to work.* **4.** *n.* heroin. (Drugs. From an old term for dung. See also **shit**.) □ *Bart is trying to sell scat in the neighborhood again.* □ *That scat's gonna get that man killed.* **5.** *n.* inferior whiskey. □ *That rotten scat nearly choked me.* □ *You got anything better than that scat, bartender?*

scatterbrain *n.* a forgetful person; someone who is mentally disorganized. □ *I'm getting to be such a scatterbrain, I think.* □ *Aunt Martha is a real scatterbrain. She always forgets where her glasses are.*

scattered *mod.* drug intoxicated; confused by drug use. (Drugs. See also **scat**.) □ *Those poor kids are so scattered, they can't even get themselves to class.* □ *Fred must spend half his life scattered and sleeping.*

scene [sin] **1.** *n.* a place; a setting. (See also **make the scene**.) □ *This scene is no good. Let's split.* □ *I need a different scene. Life is too hectic here.* **2.** *n.* the drug-use environment; the drug scene. □ *The longer you spend in a scene like this, the harder it is to sober up and go straight.* □ *This coke scene is a bad one. It will shorten your life.* **3.** *n.* one's preference. (See also **bag**.) □ *This nine-to-five stuff just isn't my scene. I quit.* □ *Your scene doesn't seem to involve much in the way of hard work.*

schicker Go to shicker.

schickered Go to shicker.

schizo ['skizo OR 'skitso] **1.** *mod.* schizophrenic. □ *That gal is sort of schizo, isn't she?* □ *I have never dealt with such a schizo type before.* **2.** *n.* a schizophrenic person. □ *That guy is an absolute schizo!* □ *Keep that schizo away from me.*

schiz(z) out [skiz...] *in.* to freak out; to lose mental control. □ *What a day! I nearly schizzed out.* □ *I schizzed out during the test.* Got an F.

schlemazel AND **schlemozzle; shlimazl** [ʃlə'mazl] *n.* an awkward, bumbling person; a **loser**. (Yiddish.) □ *And this poor schlemazel tries to get me to help him paint his fence!* □ *That schlemozzle is afraid of his own shadow.*

schlemiel AND **schlemihl; shlemiel** [ʃlə'mil] *n.* a gullible person; a **loser**. (From Hebrew Shelumiel via Yiddish.) □ *See if you can get that schlemiel to buy the Brooklyn Bridge.* □ *The stupid schlemiel says he already bought it yesterday.*

schlemihl Go to schlemiel.

schlemozzle Go to schlemazel.

schlep AND **shlep** [ʃlep] **1.** *tv.* to drag or carry someone or something. (From German *schleppen* via Yiddish.) □ *Am I supposed to schlep this whole thing all the way back to the store?* □ *I am tired of schlepping kids from one thing to another.* **2.** *n.* a journey; a distance to travel or carry something. □ *It takes about twenty minutes to make the schlep from here to there.* □ *That's a ten-mile schlep, and I won't go by myself.* **3.** *n.* a stupid person; a bothersome person. (Literally, a **drag**.) □ *What a schlep! The guy's a real pain.* □ *Ask that shlep to wait in the hall until I am free. I'll sneak out the back way.*

schlepper AND **shlepper** [ʃlepə] *n.* an annoying person who always wants a bargain or a favor. (See also **schlep**.) □ *Why am I surrounded by people who want something from me? Is this a schlepper colony or what?* □ *Tell the shleppers that they'll get their money after I close the sale on my wife and kids.*

schlock [ʃlak] **1.** *n.* inferior merchandise. (From German *schlacke*, “dregs” via Yiddish.) □ *That store has nothing but schlock.* □ *For this schlock I should pay good money?* **2.** AND **schlocky** [ʃlɒki] *mod.* cheap; junky; inferior. □ *Schlocky stuff like this I can get from a no overhead mail order.* □ *That place is nothing but a schlock shop.* □ *This thing is really schlock.*

schlocky Go to schlock.

schloomp AND **schlump; shlump** [ʃlump OR ʃlump] *n.* a stupid and lazy person. (From German via Yiddish.) □ *Tell that schloomp to get busy or get out.* □ *Do you work hard? I don't hire any schlumps.*

schlub AND **zhlub** [ʃləb OR ʒləb] *n.* a dull, unpolished person, usually a male. (Yiddish.) □ *I spent the whole evening listening to that schlub from New Hampshire.* □ *Hank's no zhlub. He's just eccentric.*

schlump Go to schloomp.

schmaltz AND **shmaltz** [ʃmaltz] *n.* extreme sentimentality; corny sweetness. (From a Yiddish word meaning fat or oil.) □ *I didn't like that movie. Too much schmaltz.* □ *You aren't playing this piece right. It needs a little schmaltz.*

schmaltzy AND **shmaltzy** [ʃ'maltsi] *mod.* overly sweet and sentimental. (See also **schmaltz**.) □ *This movie is too schmaltzy for me.* □ *What a schmaltzy movie!*

schmegegge AND **schmegeggy** [ʃmə'gegi] **1.** *n.* a stupid person. (Yiddish.) □ *Who is that schmegegge in the plaid pants?* □ *Ask the schmegegge standing over by the workbench if he's seen my sky hook.* **2.** *n.* nonsense. □ *I've heard enough of your schmegegge. Out!* □ *I don't hear anything but schmegeggy coming out of Washington.*

schmegeggy Go to schmegegge.

schmendrick AND **shmendrick** [ʃ'men drik] *n.* a stupid and ineffectual nobody. (Yiddish.) □ *Some schmendrick from downstairs asked if you could turn down your stereo.* □ *Tell the schmendrick to drop dead.*

schmo AND **shmo; shmoe; schmoe** [ʃmo] *n.* a foolish and naive person, usually a male. (Yiddish. See also Joe Schmo.) □

What a schmo! He thinks I caused the problem. □ Tell the silly schmoe to beat it.

schmoose Go to schmooze.

schmooze AND **shmooze**; **schmoose** **1.** *in.* to chat; to chew the fat. (From Hebrew *schmuos* via Yiddish.) □ You were schmoozing when you should have been listening. □ We were schmoozing before quitting time, and then the boss walked by. **2.** *n.* a session of chatting or conversing. □ Come over, and let's have a schmoose before you go. □ A good schmoose is what you need.

schmooser *n.* someone who chats or converses well. □ Clare can't sing a note, but what a schmooser! □ Two old schmoosers sat muttering to one another all afternoon by the duck pond.

schmuck [ʃmæk] **1.** *n.* a jerk; a repellent male. (Also a rude term of address. Yiddish.) □ Who is that stupid schmuck over there? □ Ask that schmuck how long he will be on the phone. **2.** *n.* a penis. (Yiddish. Usually objectionable.) □ If I hear that joke about a camel's schmuck one more time, I'm going to scream. □ There are probably better names than schmuck for what you are talking about.

schnockered AND **schnoggered**; **shnockered**; **snoggered** ['ʃnəkəd AND 'ʃnagəd] *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ How can anybody be so schnockered on four beers? □ I've never seen anybody so schnockered.

schnoggered Go to schnockered.

schnook AND **schnuck**; **shnook** [ʃnɒk] *n.* a naive person; a dope. (Yiddish.) □ The guy's a schnook with a heart of gold. □ What's a good-looking dame like her doing with a shnook like him?

schnorrer ['ʃnɒrə] *n.* a beggar; a person who sponges off of friends and relatives. (Yiddish.) □ Here comes that schnorrer from down the street. Look poor. □ Buy your own ciggies if you don't like mine. Schnorrers can't be choosers.

schnozz AND **schnozzle**; **schnozzola**; **shnozz** [ʃnɒz AND ʃnɒz], [ʃnɒ'zɒlə, ʃnɒz] *n.* the nose. (From German *Schnauze* via

Yiddish.) □ Look at the schnozz on that guy! □ With a schnozzola like that he should be in the circus.

schnozzle Go to schnozz.

schnozzola Go to schnozz.

schnuck Go to schnook.

schoolboy Scotch *n.* wine. □ Give me a pint of that schoolboy Scotch. □ Man, she is stoned out of her mind on schoolboy Scotch!

school someone *tv.* to teach someone something, usually as a demonstration of power. (As in *I'll teach you a thing or two* which suggests violence.) □ Am I gonna have to school you in how to act?

schtick AND **shtik** [ʃtɪk] *n.* a routine or act that is the trademark of an entertainer, especially in vaudeville. (Yiddish.) □ His schtick was a trained dog and cat act. □ Their shtik is so old! Maybe nobody will remember whose it was.

schttoonk AND **shtoonk** [ʃtuŋk] *n.* a detestable person. (Yiddish.) □ The schtoonk from downstairs was here to talk to you. I told him you died. □ Who needs a shtoonk like that?

Schwing! [ʃmɪŋ] *exclam.* How exciting!; How stimulating!; Wow! (Originally said on seeing an extremely good-looking or sexually attractive girl. The word is onomatopoeic for the imaginary whishing sound of instant arousal. Many users are not aware of the origins. Potentially offensive.) □ Did you see her? Schwing! □ Nice car. Schwing!

Sco. *in.* Let's go. □ It's late. Sco.

scoff [skɒf] **1.** *tv.* & *in.* to eat (something). (See also *scarf*.) □ He's upstairs scoffing in his room. □ She scoffed three hamburgers and a large order of fries. **2.** *n.* food. □ This scoff is gross! □ I want some good old American scoff.

scooch [skutʃ] **1.** *in.* to move (oneself), while seated, forward, backward, or sideways by sliding. □ Scooch over here by me. □ Why don't you scooch over here? **2.** *tv.* to push or move something. □ Scooch your chair over where the light is better.

□ Scooch the potted palm to the edge of the deck and push it overboard.

scoop **1.** *n.* a news story gathered by a reporter before any other reporter hears of it. □ *I got a great scoop! I was right there when it happened.* □ *That was no scoop at all. It was on live television. Didn't you see the cameras?* **2.** *tv.* to beat someone—such as another reporter—in the race to get a news story first. □ *They scooped the other paper on both stories.* □ *Larry scooped me twice last month.* **3.** *n.* a general roundup and arrest of criminals; a bust. (Underworld.) □ *Bart got picked up in that big drug scoop last month.* □ *There are some people who get dragged in every time there is a scoop. It cannot just be a coincidence.* **4.** *n.* liquor; a glass of beer. □ *I could use a good cold scoop about now.* □ *A little scoop helps pass the time when you're waiting.* **5.** *n.* a folded matchbook cover used to snort cocaine or heroin. □ *I need a scoop. It's no good without one.* □ *I burned up the scoop by accident. Sorry.* **6.** *tv. & in.* to snort cocaine or heroin, using a folded matchbook cover. □ *Max is scooping for the fourth time today.* □ *He scooped two lines together.*

scoot *in.* to run or scurry quickly from one place to another. □ *I scooted from the bank to the cleaners and then on to the dentist's.* □ *The shoppers scooted from store to store spending money like it was going out of style.*

scooters ['skutəz] *mod.* crazy; confused. □ *It's days like this that make me think I'm scooters.* □ *You are driving me totally scooters with your constant beefing.*

the **scoots** *n.* a case of diarrhea. □ *Our vacation was ruined by a case of the scoots.* □ *I've got just the thing for the scoots. Stay at home.*

scoop (on) someone *tv. & in.* to evaluate a member of the opposite sex visually. □ *He scoped every girl who came in the door.* □ *He wouldn't like it if somebody scoped on him. Or would he?*

scoop someone out *tv.* to look someone over; to check someone out. □ *Nobody*

was scoping Dave out, though. □ *Dave was scoping out all the girls.*

scorched **1.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Who wants to go out and get scorched?* □ *How can anybody get so scorched on four beers?* **2.** **AND** **singed** [sɪndʒd] *mod.* having to do with hair burned while smoking marijuana. (Collegiate.) □ *Guess who scorched herself last night?* □ *If you go to sleep, you'll be singed for sure.*

scorcher **1.** *n.* a very hot day. □ *This is really a scorcher, isn't it?* □ *Wow! What a scorcher!* **2.** *n.* a caustic remark. □ *Bob made a real scorcher about Tom's shoes.* □ *He is a master at the rude scorcher.*

scorching **1.** *mod.* really hot; about to win something big. □ *Let me roll again. I'm really scorching.* □ *Here comes a scorching runner!* □ *He says he's scorching. Get out of his way.* **2.** *mod.* caustic. □ *That remark was really scorching.* □ *What a scorching glare you got from her!*

score **1.** *in.* to succeed. □ *I knew if I kept trying I could score.* □ *It takes hard work and luck to score.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to obtain something; to obtain drugs or sex. (Very close to sense 1.) □ *Albert spent an hour trying to score some pot.* □ *Fred is always trying to score with women.* **3.** *n.* the result of a scoring: drugs, loot, winnings, etc. □ *Where's the score? How much did you get?* □ *The crooks dropped the score as they made their getaway.* **4.** *in.* [for a male] to copulate with a female; [for a female] to copulate with a male. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Fred can't think about anything but scoring with Martha.* □ *He will spend his vacation trying to score.* **5.** *n.* the client of a male or female prostitute. □ *She conked the score over the head and robbed him.* □ *Three scores was a full day's work for Tracy.* **6.** *n.* a summary; a conclusion; the sum total. (See also **bottom line**.) □ *The score is that you are in trouble with the Internal Revenue Service.* □ *Okay, waiter, what's the score?*

scrag [skræg] **1.** *n.* the neck. (Underworld.) □ *The cop grabbed him by the scrag and pushed him along to the squad car.* □ *It's gonna be your scrag in the noose when this*

thing's over. **2.** *tv.* to kill someone or something. (Originally underworld to strangle.) □ *The gang decided that somebody was going to have to scrag the witness.* □ *A truck almost scragged Bart.*

scraggy ['skrægi] *mod.* bony. □ *That dame is too scraggy for me.* □ *Who is that scraggy dame?* □ *I lost weight till I was scraggy as a hungry bear.*

scram [skræm] *in.* to exit fast; to get out of a place in a hurry. □ *I gotta scam. I'm late.* □ *Go on, scam! Get out of here fast!*

scrambled eggs *n.* decorations on a military officer's uniform. □ *I know his rank is high because of the scrambled eggs, but I don't know how high.* □ *I'll be glad when I get some scrambled eggs on me.*

scrape the bottom of the barrel *tv.* to utilize the last or only things or people available, even if unsatisfactory. (See also **bottom of the barrel**.) □ *They were really scraping the bottom of the barrel when they picked you.* □ *You scraped the bottom of the barrel for this one. I want something better.*

scratch 1. *n.* money. □ *I just don't have the scratch.* □ *How much scratch does it take to buy a car like this one?* **2.** *tv.* to eliminate something from a list; to cancel something. □ *Scratch Fred. He can't make the party.* □ *We decided to scratch the idea of a new car. The old one will have to do.* **3.** *mod.* impromptu; temporary. (See also **pickup**.) □ *We started a scratch game of basketball, but most of the girls had to leave at dinnertime.* □ *This is just a scratch tape. After you use it for your computer program, someone else will write something over it.*

scratch sheet *n.* a daily horse-racing newsletter at the racetrack. □ *I picked up a scratch sheet from Lucky Louie and proceeded to lay down my life's savings on a horse named Felicity Anne.* □ *Even the cost of a scratch sheet is going up, and I'm trying to economize!*

a **scream 1.** *n.* someone or something very funny. □ *The joke Tom told was really a scream.* □ *Tom is always a scream at parties.* **2.** *n.* ice cream. (Collegiate.) □ *How*

about a nice big dish of scream? □ *It's too cold for scream. Ask me in June.*

scream bloody murder *tv.* to scream very loudly; to complain or protest loudly. □ *She screams bloody murder every time I get near her.* □ *Those guys scream bloody murder long before they're hurt.*

screamer 1. *n.* a newspaper headline. □ *Did you see the screamer in the paper today? "The King Died."* □ *I never read screamers.* **2.** *n.* an exclamation point. (Printing.) □ *Put a screamer at the end of the line.* □ *Clean up this copy. There are too many screamers. Looks like junior high stuff.* **3.** *n.* anything challenging. □ *What a horrible assignment I got. A classic screamer.* □ *Bring on the screamers. I can handle anything.* **4.** *n.* someone or something very exciting or attention getting. □ *This guy is a real screamer! Wait'll you meet him.* □ *Her political campaign is a real screamer.*

screaming-meemie AND **screamie-meemie** *n.* a screaming child or adult. □ *Oh, don't be such a screaming-meemie!* □ *Jennifer has been a terrible screamie-meemie all day long!*

screaming-meemies AND **screaming-meemies** *n.* the willies—a mental breakdown. □ *They sent Bart away with the screaming-meemies.* □ *I need some sleep. I'm about to come down with the screaming-meemies.*

screeching (drunk) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; very drunk. □ *How can anybody be so screeching drunk on four beers?* □ *She's not just drunk; she's screeching.*

screw 1. *tv. & in.* to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The sailor wanted to screw somebody bad.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to cheat or deceive someone. □ *The sales clerk screwed me on this watch.* □ *You can count on somebody screwing you at a traveling carnival.* **3.** *n.* an act of copulation. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The sailor said he needed a good screw.* **4.** *n.* a person with whom one can copulate. (Usually objectionable.) □ *His teeth are crooked and his hands are callused, but he's a good screw.* **5.** *n.* a jailer. (Underworld.) □ *See*

if you can get the screw's attention. □ I'm sick, screw! Let me out!

screw around 1. to engage in copulation. □ *She wants to talk about their relationship and he only wants to screw around. 2. in.* to waste time. □ *Stop screwing around and get busy. □ John's always screwing around and never does anything on time.*

screw around with someone or something *in.* to toy with, fiddle with or play around with someone or something. □ *Andy screwed around with his clock until he broke it. □ Look, chum! Don't screw around with me!*

screwball 1. *n.* an eccentric person; a clown or a dunce. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Tom is such a screwball! □ Look, you screwball, get out! 2. n.* [in baseball] a (pitched) ball that does not travel in a straight line. □ *Jim threw another screwball, but somehow the batter hit it. □ Larry always seemed to be able to hit a screwball, no matter what.*

screwed 1. *mod.* copulated with. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I got myself good and screwed, and I haven't felt better in months. 2. mod.* cheated. □ *Wow, you got screwed on that watch. 3. AND screwed tight mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She spends a lot of time screwed. □ She's not just drunk; she's screwed tight. 4. mod.* bested; defeated; cheated. □ *I really got screwed at the garage. □ If you don't want to get screwed by somebody, you have to do it yourself.*

screwed, blued, and tattooed ['skrʊd 'blʊd æn tæ'tʊd] **1.** *mod.* badly mistreated; badly screwed. □ *I got a bad deal. I got screwed, blued, and tattooed. □ When John bought his wreck of a car, he got screwed, blued, and tattooed. 2. mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Who wants to go out and get screwed, blued, and tattooed? □ All four of them went out and got screwed, blued, and tattooed.*

screwed tight Go to **screwed**.

screwed up *mod.* ruined; messed up. □ *This is a really screwed up schedule. Let's start over again. □ Your schedule is completely screwed up.*

screw someone or something up *tv.* to interfere with someone or something; to mess up someone or something. □ *Try again and don't screw it up this time. □ You really screwed up my brother by not being on time.*

screw someone out of something *tv.* to cheat someone of out something. □ *You are trying to screw me out of what is rightfully mine! □ I'm not trying to screw anybody out of anything!*

screw someone over *tv.* to give someone a very bad time; to scold someone severely. □ *Those guys really screwed you over. What started it? □ Let's get those kids in here and screw over every one of them. This stuff can't continue.*

screw up 1. *in.* to mess up. □ *I hope I don't screw up this time. □ The waiter screwed up again. 2. n.* a mess; a blunder; utter confusion. (Usually **screw-up**. See also **screwed up**.) □ *This is the chef's screw-up, not mine. □ One more screw up like that and you're fired.*

screwy 1. *mod.* crazy. □ *I've never heard such a screwy idea. □ It's really screwy. □ That's the screwiest looking hat I've ever seen. 2. mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *How can anybody be so screwy on five beers? □ I've never seen anybody so screwy.*

script(t) *n.* a note; any piece of paper with a written message. (Underworld.) □ *Hey, Mike, here's a script for you from the boss. □ Make him sign this script before you let him in on the deal.*

scrog [skrɔg] *tv. & in.* to have sex; to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You know what! I think those people over in the corner are scrogging! □ The movie showed scene after scene of this woman scrogging some guy.*

schronched [skrɔntʃt] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She just sat there and got schronched. □ He spends a lot of time totally schronched.*

scrooge [skrʊdʒ] *n.* a stingy person; a penny-pincher. (From the character in Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*.) □ *Ask scrooge over there if you can borrow a*

quarter to call the cops. □ Don't be such a scrooge! All I want is a buck!

scrounge (around (for someone or something)) [skrændʒ...] *in.* to look around for someone or something; to seek someone or something in every likely place. □ Try to scrounge around for somebody to go to the party with, why don't you? □ I don't think there is anybody who will go with me, but I'll scrounge around. □ Ask John to scrounge around for a wrench.

scrounge someone or something up *tv.* to get someone or something somehow. □ I scrounged a doctor up in the middle of the night. □ See if you can scrounge up a new carburetor by noon.

scrub *tv.* to cancel something. □ We had to scrub the whole plan because of the weather. □ The manager scrubbed the party because people wouldn't cooperate.

scrud *n.* a serious disease; a sexually transmitted disease. (Military.) □ Oh, hell! I think I got the scrud! □ Poor dumb Charlie can't tell scrud from crotch rot.

scruff(y) ['skrəf(i)] *mod.* sloppy; unkempt. □ Her boyfriend is a little scruffy, but he's got billies! □ Why don't you clean up this scruff car? It's—like—grody!

scrump [skræmp] *tv.* & *in.* to copulate [with] someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ You know what! I think those people over by the garage are scrumping! □ The movie showed a scene of some woman scrumping her lover.

scrumptious ['skræmpʃəs] *mod.* excellent; tasty. □ That cake is just scrumptious, Mary. What's in it? □ Who makes the most scrumptious chocolate chip cookies in the world—besides me, that is?

scrunch [skrəntʃ] *tv.* to crush or crunch. □ I sat on my cookies and scrunched them. □ I hate crowds. I am afraid people will scrunch me.

scrunge [skrændʒ] *n.* nastiness; gunk. □ What is this scrunge on my shoe? □ When you find some scrunge on your shoe or something, never try to find out what it is. Just wipe it off.

scrungy ['skrændʒi] **1.** *mod.* filthy. □ This place is too scrungy for me. I'm outa here. □ What a scrungy guy. Put him somewhere to soak for a day or two. **2.** *mod.* inferior; bad. □ I don't need scrungy merchandise like this. I'm going elsewhere. □ You have a very scrungy outlook on life. □ Life is scrungy.

SCSI AND scuzzy ['skəʒi] *n.* small computer system interface. (Computers. Acronym.) □ Come over and see my new SCSI. It lets me run a hard disc. □ Why do they call it a scuzzy? Why not just say what it is?

scum **1.** *n.* a totally worthless and disgusting person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ You scum! Get out of here! **2.** *n.* low-life in general; disgusting and worthless people. (Rude and derogatory.) □ Fourth Street is where all the scum in town hangs out. **3.** *n.* semen; seminal fluid. (Usually objectionable.) □ You'd better clean up the scum from the backseat before you take the car home.

scumbag **1.** *n.* a condom; a used condom. (Usually objectionable.) □ I saw a used scumbag in the school parking lot. □ Well, what the hell do you do with a scumbag, after? **2.** *n.* a totally disgusting person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ Oh, he's a scumbag. I wouldn't be seen dead with him!

scupper up *in.* to drink liquor, especially beer. □ Tom goes home to scupper up every evening. □ Come on, you guys. Scupper up, and let's get outa here.

scurvy ['skɜːvi] *mod.* repulsive; gross. (Collegiate.) □ Who is that scurvy guy who just came in? □ That class is scurvy. You'll wish you hadn't taken it.

scut [skət] *n.* a despicable person. (Teens and collegiate.) □ How can you be, like, such a scut? □ It's scuts like that who give all us really rad kids a bad name.

scuttlebutt *n.* gossip. □ What's the scuttlebutt on the steeple clock? Why did it stop? □ Don't pay any attention to the scuttlebutt around here.

scuz(z) [skəʒ] **1.** *n.* filth. □ What is this scuzz all over the floor? □ There is some scuzz on your shoe. **2.** *n.* a nasty person;

an undesirable person; a scraggly person.
 □ *And this scuzz comes up to me and asks me to dance, and I'm like, "What?"* □ *I told the scuz, like, I was feeling sick, so I couldn't dance with anybody.*

scuzzbag AND **scuzzbucket** *n.* a despicable person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Who is that scuzzbag who just came in?* □ *Look, scuzzbucket, we don't want your kind around here.*

scuzzbucket Go to **scuzzbag**.

scuzzo *n.* a repellent person. □ *There's the scuzzo who thinks I like him.* □ *How do you get rid of a scuzzo like that?*

scuzz someone out *tv.* to nauseate someone. □ *He had this unreal face that almost scuzzed me out!* □ *It's not nice to scuzz out people like that, especially when you hardly know them.*

scuzzy ['skəzi] **1.** *mod.* repellent; unkempt. □ *His clothes are always so scuzzy. He probably keeps them in a pile in his room.* □ *Whose scuzzy car is that in the driveway?* **2.** Go to **SCSI**.

sea *n.* cocaine. (Drugs. A spelling-out of C.) □ *There is a bunch using sea over at Fred's place.* □ *I never used sea before. I hear there's nothing like it.*

sealed (up) *mod.* settled; secured; cinched. □ *The matter was sealed by Monday morning.* □ *The contract was sealed up just in time.*

sealed with a kiss AND **SWAK** *mod.* written and sent with love and care. (The initialism is sometimes written on love letters. Also an acronym.) □ *All her letters come SWAK.* □ *I know they are sealed with a kiss, because she says so.*

seam-squirrels *n.* lice. (See also **pants rabbits**.) □ *I got an itch. Must be seam-squirrels.* □ *Where would you get seam-squirrels?*

Search me. *sent.* I don't know. (There is a heavy stress on both words.) □ **TOM:** *How do crickets make that chirping noise?* □ **BILL:** *Search me.* □ *You can search me. How should I know?*

seat *n.* the buttocks. □ *Bob fell down on his seat.* □ *I was so angry. I wanted to kick him in the seat as he left.*

sec [sek] **1.** *n.* a second. (See also **tick**.) □ *I'll be with you in a sec. Keep your pants on!* □ *Just a sec. I'm on the phone.* **2.** AND **secs** *n.* a Seconal™ barbiturate capsule. (Drugs.) □ *Max likes amies better than secs.* □ *I started taking sec in the hospital and just couldn't stop.*

second fiddle *n.* a person in a secondary role; the second best. (Frequently with *play*.) □ *I won't stay around here playing second fiddle for someone half my age and ability!* □ *There are worse things than being second fiddle.*

second sacker *n.* the second baseman in baseball. □ *The second sacker missed the throw, and the runner went on home.* □ *The shortstop and the second sacker crashed into one another trying to catch a ball.*

secs Go to **sec**.

see *tv.* to equal or raise someone's bet in poker. □ *I see your five and raise you ten.* □ *Well, can you see me or not?*

see a man about a dog *tv.* to leave a place for a mysterious reason, usually to go to the toilet. □ *I gotta see a man about a dog.* □ *Fred went to see a man about a dog. I hope he remembers to put the seat down.*

see eye to eye *in.* [for two or more people] to agree on something or view something the same way. □ *We never seem to see eye to eye.* □ *Gary and Walter see eye to eye on this question.*

seegar ['sigar] *n.* a cigar. (Folksy. The stress is on the first syllable.) □ *This dude came into this hamburger joint with a big seegar in his mouth, and the manager called the cops.* □ *There's nothing like a fine seegar after a nice bowl of hot chili.*

seeing pink elephants AND **seeing pink spiders; seeing snakes** *tv.* alcohol intoxicated; recovering from a drinking bout; having the delirium tremens. □ *When I got to the point of seeing pink elephants, I knew that something had to be*

done. □ *The old one who's shaking—he's probably seeing snakes.*

seeing pink spiders Go to seeing pink elephants.

seeing snakes Go to seeing pink elephants.

seen better days *tv.* showing signs of wear or exhaustion. (Always a past participle.) □ *This coat has seen better days.* □ *The pitcher has seen better days. He's about through on this team, I think.*

see no further than the end of one's nose **AND** **cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose** *in.* to be narrow-minded; to lack understanding and perception. □ *She is so selfish she can see no further than the end of her nose.* □ *You don't care about anyone but yourself. You can't see any further than the end of your nose.*

see red *tv.* to be angry. □ *When she hung up the phone, I saw red. I've never been so angry in my life.* □ *As he continued to talk, she began to see red.*

see stars *tv.* to be (knocked) unconscious. □ *If you talk to me like that again, you'll be seeing stars.* □ *I saw stars for a few seconds, and then someone threw cold water in my face.*

See ya. Go to See you.

seeyabye ['si:jə'baɪ] *interj.* bye. (California.) □ *Oh, that's, like, so, like, rad. Okay, seeyabye.* □ *Gotta go now. Seeyabye.*

See you. **AND** **See ya.** *interj.* Good-bye. □ *Good game, Tom. See ya.* □ *See you, old chum. Give me a ring.*

See you later. *interj.* Good-bye. (Common colloquial. Also said to people one knows one will never see again.) □ *Nice talking to you. See you later.* □ *Have a great trip, Mary. See you later.*

See you later, alligator. *interj.* Good-bye. (From the 1930s. Answered with *After a while, crocodile.*) □ **TOM:** Bye. **BILL:** See you later, alligator. □ **BILL:** See you later, alligator. **TOM:** After a while, crocodile.

self-propelled sandbag *n.* a U.S. Marine. (Persian Gulf War.) □ *Once those self-*

propelled sandbags hit the bars, you army guys had better just go home. □ *Those guys are just self-propelled sandbags. They are fearless.*

sell a wolf ticket **AND** **sell wolf tickets** *tv.* to boast, bluff, or lie. (Originally black. Compare this with **buy someone's wolf ticket**.) □ *Freddie is out selling wolf tickets again.* □ *Are you trying to sell me a wolf ticket?*

sell buicks *tv.* to vomit. □ *I hear somebody in the john selling buicks.*

sellout **1.** *n.* the event of selling all of something. (Advertising.) □ *Come to our gigantic sellout of all name-brand merchandise!* □ *This is the sellout of the century. Everything must go.* **2.** *n.* a betrayal. (See also **sell someone out**.) □ *Any one of you could have stood up for me. What a sellout!* □ *How can you pull such a sellout?*

sell someone out *tv.* to betray someone. □ *How could you sell me out like that?* □ *She would sell out her mother.*

sell wolf tickets Go to sell a wolf ticket.

send someone from pillar to post *tv.* to send someone from place to place; to give someone the runaround. □ *Red tape everywhere I went. They sent me from pillar to post until closing time.* □ *Nobody is in charge there. They send you from pillar to post, and you don't complain for fear they'll start you all over again.*

send someone or something up *tv.* to perform a parody of someone or something. (See also **send-up**.) □ *Last week, he sent the president up.* □ *In his act, he sends up famous people.*

send someone to glory **1.** *tv.* to kill someone. □ *One shot sent him to glory.* □ *You want me to send you to glory or something?* **2.** *tv.* to officiate at the burial services for someone. □ *The preacher sent him to glory amidst the sobs of six or seven former fans.* □ *The preacher probably gets fifty bucks for every stiff he sends to glory.*

send someone up the river *tv.* to send someone to prison. (Underworld. As done by a judge or indirectly by the po-

lice.) □ *They tried to send me up the river, but my lip got me off.* □ *I'm gonna send you up the river if it's the last thing I do.*

send-up *n.* a parody. □ *It was his delightful send-up of the current administration that catapulted Roger Rogers to national fame.* □ *I enjoy a good send-up, even if it is about me.*

sense (bud) Go to *sinse*.

sent 1. *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Two glasses and she's sent.* □ *He's not just sent; he's stoned.* **2.** *mod.* carried away by mellow music. □ *She's really sent. Look at her as she listens.* □ *All the musicians were sent. Maybe they were on something.*

serious *mod.* good; profound; excellent. (See also *heavy*.) □ *He plays some serious guitar.* □ *Man, these tunes are, like, serious.*

serious about someone *mod.* in love, or almost in love, with someone. □ *I'm afraid I'm getting serious about Bill.* □ *Bill, unfortunately, is pretty serious about Mary.*

serve someone right *tv.* to be just what someone deserves. □ *It would serve you right if you lost your money.* □ *He fell down. It serves him right.*

session 1. *n.* a drinking bout. □ *Your father's off on another session again.* □ *He was just sobering up from a session with the bottle.* **2.** *n.* a marijuana-smoking session; time spent on a drug high. (Collegiate.) □ *What a fine session that was!* □ *Bart was terribly hungry after the session.*

set 1. *n.* a period of time that a band plays without a break; a thirty-minute jam session. □ *I'll talk to you after this set.* □ *We do two sets and then take a twenty-minute break.* **2.** *n.* a party. □ *Your set was a totally major bash!* □ *Let's throw a set tonight and invite some chicks.*

set of pipes *n.* a very loud voice; a singing voice. □ *She has a nice set of pipes.* □ *With a set of pipes like that, she's a winner.*

set of wheels *n.* a car. □ *I need a new set of wheels.* □ *Man, look at that set of wheels that chick has!*

sets Go to *cets*.

set someone back *tv.* to cost someone. □ *That must have set you back a mint!* □ *This bracelet set me back plenty.*

set someone up (for something) *tv.* to set the scene for something to happen to someone. □ *His buddies set him up for the gag—which ended up injuring two of them severely.* □ *Who set me up for this anyway?*

settle someone's hash *tv.* to calm someone down, perhaps by threats or by violence. □ *If he comes in here, I'll settle his hash.* □ *Now, that ought to settle your hash.*

setup 1. *n.* a place to live. □ *She's got a little setup over on Maple.* □ *This is a pretty nice setup. What's the rent?* **2.** *n.* a scheme; a plot. (Underworld.) □ *Okay, what's the setup for the bank job?* □ *I got a good little setup for earning some money.* **3.** *n.* a person who is set up for some swindle; a mark. (Underworld.) □ *Is he the setup? He's a cop!* □ *The setup got wise at the last minute.* **4.** *n.* a glass with ice for an alcoholic beverage. (Usually plural.) □ *Can we have a couple of setups brought to our room, please?* □ *Who ordered the setups?*

seven-seven-three-aitch AND **773H** *n.* hell. (This is the based on printed word *hell* rotated 180 degrees. Jocular.) □ *What the seven-seven-three-aitch is going on around here?* □ *This place is one 773H of a mess!*

seven-year itch *n.* a real or imagined longing for other women in a man's seventh year of marriage. □ *Looks like Jack has the seven-year itch.* □ *The seven-year itch is just a rumor.*

sewed up 1. *mod.* completed. □ *I've just about got this contract sewed up.* □ *When we get it sewed up, we'll go out for a drink.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She's not just drunk; she's sewed up.* □ *Will this stuff get me sewed up?*

sewer hog *n.* a ditchdigger; a sewer worker. □ *A sewer hog doesn't get a lot of chances to pal around with the gentry, but the pay's plenty good.* □ *Fred worked as a sewer hog and made a fortune.*

sewermouth *n.* someone who uses vile language constantly. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *If you're going to be a sewer-mouth, I wish you would leave.* □ *Who's the sewermouth in the plaid jacket?*

sew something up *tv.* to finalize something; to conclude something. (See also **sewed up**.) □ *Let's sew this up and get out of here.* □ *I'm about ready to sew up this matter.*

sex goddess *n.* a sexy looking female movie or television star. □ *I wonder what these sex goddesses look like when they get up in the morning.* □ *Sex goddesses get up in the afternoon.*

sex kitten *n.* a woman with enormous sexual potential. □ *He thought he was getting a sex kitten, but she turned out to be just a plain cat.* □ *Clare does everything she can to look like a sex kitten.*

sex-machine *n.* a sexually promising person; a person obsessed with sex. □ *Heidi looks like such a sex-machine, but she is a real wallflower.* □ *John thinks of himself as a sex-machine, but no one else does.*

sex pot *n.* one who flaunts one's sexuality, usually a woman. □ *Tiffany is such a sex pot.* □ *About 20,000 young sex pots hit Hollywood every year hoping to be discovered.*

sexy 1. *mod.* having great sex appeal. □ *What a sexy chick!* □ *He's not what I would call sexy, but I suppose it's a matter of taste.* **2.** *mod.* neat; exciting. □ *That's a sexy set of wheels.* □ *You play really sexy music.* □ *Your idea is real sexy.*

Sez me! Go to **Says me!**

Sez who? Go to **Says who?**

SF *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Initialism. From **shit-faced**.) □ *Fred was really SF last night.* □ *How can that guy get so SF?*

sgo Go to **sko.**

shack up (with someone) 1. *in.* to have a one-night stand with someone; to copulate [with] someone. □ *Those two just wanted to shack up for a while.* □ *He only wanted to shack up with me.* **2.** *in.* to move in with someone temporarily, pre-

sumably for sexual purposes. □ *They shacked up for over a year until her parents found out and stopped sending her money.* □ *They decided to shack up.*

shades *n.* dark glasses. (See also **sunshades**.) □ *Where are my shades? The sun is too bright.* □ *The guy stood there—wearing shades and carrying a violin case.* *Barlowe grimaced.*

shaft 1. *n.* a bad deal; unfair treatment. □ *He really gave me the shaft.* □ *It's the shaft whenever you go into that place.* **2.** *tv.* to do wrong to someone. (See also **shafted**.) □ *The jerk shafted me, but good.* □ *We are going to shaft this guy in a way that he will remember.*

shafted *mod.* beaten; bested; cheated. □ *I really got shafted in that deal.* □ *I've been shafted!*

shag ass (out of some place) Go to **bag ass (out of some place).**

shagged *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She is mucho shagged!* □ *Nobody is not too shagged to drive—or something like that.*

shagged out *mod.* exhausted. □ *What a day! I'm shagged out!* □ *You guys look sort of shagged out.*

shag-nasty *mod.* nasty. □ *What a shag-nasty jerk!* □ *I want out of this shag-nasty mess.*

shag (off) *in.* to depart. □ *I gotta shag. It's late.* □ *Go on! Shag off!* □ *I gotta shag. Somebody's calling my name.*

shake *n.* a milkshake. □ *I'd like a chocolate shake, please.* □ *A shake only costs sixty cents.*

shake a leg 1. *tv.* to hurry; to move faster. (Often as a command.) □ *Let's shake a leg, you guys. We gotta be there in twenty minutes.* □ *She told me to shake a leg, so I hurried the best I could.* **2.** *tv.* to dance. □ *Let's shake a leg. The music's great.* □ *Hey, Tracy! You wanna shake a leg with me?*

shakedown *n.* an act of extortion. (Underworld.) □ *Mary was giving Bruno the shakedown, so he tried to put her out of the*

Shake it (up)!

way. □ *Those bums are masters at the shakedown.*

Shake it (up)! *exclam.* Hurry!; Move faster!
□ *Get going, chum! Shake it up!* □ *We're late. Shake it!*

shakeout *n.* an event that eliminates the weak or unproductive elements from a system. □ *After a shakeout that lasted a month, we went into full production.* □ *There was a big shakeout at the plant, and a whole lot of people got pink-slipped.*

shakes *n.* the delirium tremens. □ *I got the shakes again. That's what I get for putting soda water in my whisky.* □ *In the last stages, they have the shakes all the time.*

shake someone down **1.** *tv.* to blackmail someone. (Underworld.) □ *Fred was trying to shake Tracy down, but she got the cops in on it.* □ *The police chief was trying to shake down just about everybody in town.* **2.** *tv.* to put pressure on someone to lend one money. □ *We tried to shake them down for a few hundred, but no deal.* □ *If you're trying to shake me down, forget it. I got a case of the shorts.*

shake-up *n.* a reorganization. □ *After a shake-up like the one we've just been through, everybody's a little upset.* □ *Fred and Clare both survived the shake-up.*

shaky-cam *n.* a camera, used mainly in advertisements and documentaries, that is shaken and moved constantly to create a sense of excitement, urgency, or crisis. □ *We can't afford much in the way of costumes for the sequence, so we will use the shaky-cam and shoot it in dim light.* □ *They used the shaky-cam so much that I get seasick just watching the ads.*

sham Go to cham.

sham(m)us ['ʃeməs] *n.* a police officer or a detective. (Probably from Yiddish.) □ *One thing that a shamus always knows is when another shamus is following him.* □ *This is it, shammus, say your prayers.*

shammy Go to cham.

shampers Go to champers.

shampoo *n.* champagne. (See also **cham**; **champers**; **poo**.) □ *I just love this bub-*

bly shampoo! □ *There is nothing like shampoo to liven up a party!*

shank **1.** *n.* a knife. □ *The mugger pulled a shank on the victim.* □ *The cops found the shank in the bushes.* **2.** *in.* to dance. □ *They were busy shankin' and didn't hear the gunshots.* □ *We were all shankin' to a great reggae band.*

shank it *tv.* to use one's legs to get somewhere; to walk. □ *My car needs fixing so I had to shank it to work today.* □ *I like to shank it every now and then.*

shank's mare *n.* foot travel. □ *You'll find that shank's mare is the quickest way to get across town.* □ *Is there a bus, or do I have to use shank's mare?*

shape up **1.** *in.* to improve; to reform. □ *I want to get things shaped up around here.* □ *I guess I'd better shape up if I want to stay in school.* **2.** *in.* to assume a final form or structure. □ *The game plan for the election was beginning to shape up.* □ *Her objectives began to shape up in her senior year.*

shape up or ship out *in.* improve or get out. □ *I'll tell you one more time. Shape up or ship out!* □ *They told me I had to shape up or ship out.*

shark **1.** *n.* a swindler; a confidence operator. (Underworld.) □ *The sharks were lined up ten deep to get at the blue-eyed new owner of the bowling alley.* □ *The guy's a shark, and he's after your hard-earned money!* **2.** *n.* a lawyer. (Derogatory.) □ *Some shark is trying to squeeze a few grand out of me.* □ *Hire another shark to go after him.*

shark repellent *n.* something that prevents corporate takeovers. (Securities markets.) □ *Acme Systems tried again to get its board to approve a shark repellent to keep the Widget cartel from acquiring it.* □ *The shark repellent wasn't enough.*

sharp **1.** *mod.* clever; intelligent. □ *She's a real sharp chick! Got lots of savvy.* □ *She's sharp enough to see right through everything you say.* **2.** *mod.* good-looking; well-dressed. □ *You really look sharp today.* □ *That's a sharp set of wheels you got there.*

sharpie *n.* a clever operator; a clever person. □ *She's a real sharpie. She'll take you for everything you've got.* □ *A young sharpie in the first row got the answer right away.*

shave *tv.* to reduce or lessen something. □ *They shaved the waiting time to six months.* □ *The coach thought that the other team was shaving points, so he complained the next day.*

shaved *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I feel a tad shaved.* □ *So what if I'm a bit shaved? I still have all my shenses.*

shavetail *n.* a second lieutenant; a non-commissioned officer in the army; any inexperienced person. (Military. From a nickname for an untrained mule that is marked by a shaved tail.) □ *This shavetail here is trying to tell me my job.* □ *Who's the shavetail dancing with the Colonel's daughter?*

Shazzam! [ʃə'zæm] *exclam.* Wow!; Would you believe? □ *And there was my ring—Shazzam!—right on the sidewalk!* □ *Shazzam! I passed the test!*

sheen [ʃin] *n.* a car. (From *machine*.) □ *You have one fine sheen there.* □ *I have to get my sheen's oil changed today.*

sheepskin *n.* a high school or college diploma. □ *When you get that sheepskin on the wall, you'll feel like it was all worth something.* □ *Where is your sheepskin from?*

Sheesh! [ʃiʃ] *exclam.* Damn!; **Shit!** (A euphemism for **Shit!**) □ *Sheesh! What a mess!* □ *Sheesh! I'm getting out of here!*

sheet Go to (rap) sheet.

shekels ['ʃɛklz] *n.* dollars; money. □ *You got a few shekels you can spare?* □ *These things cost plenty of shekels.*

shellack [ʃə'læk] *tv.* to beat someone; to outscore someone. (See also **shellacked**; **shellacking**.) □ *We're gonna shellack those bums Friday night.* □ *We'll be shellacking every team in the league this year.*

shellacked **1.** *mod.* beaten; outscored. □ *They were shellacked, and they knew it.* □ *The team got shellacked in last week's*

game. **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; overcome by booze. □ *Ernie was so shellacked he couldn't see.* □ *How did he get so shellacked? I didn't see him drink anything.*

shellacking *n.* a beating. □ *We gave them a shellacking they'll never forget.* □ *Our team took a real shellacking.*

shell an amount of money out Go to shell out (an amount of money).

shell out (an amount of money) **AND shell an amount of money out** *tv. & in.* to spend a certain amount of money. □ *I'm not going to shell \$400 out for that!* □ *Come on. You owe me. Shell out!*

Sherlock **1.** *n.* <a term of address for someone who is clever or perceptive.> (Often sarcastic. Based on the name of fictional detective.) □ *Brilliant deduction, Sherlock. I never would have guessed!* **2.** *n.* one's pal or buddy. (A play on *Holmes* or *Sherlock Holmes*.) □ *Come on, Sherlock, let's go!* □ *What's happening, Sherlock?*

shicker ['ʃɪkə] **1.** **AND schicker; schick-ered** ['ʃɪkəd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (From Hebrew *shiqor* via Yiddish.) □ *It took her about ten minutes to get schicker and three days to get sober.* □ *He's schick-ered, and he's not going anywhere tonight.* **2.** *n.* liquor; beer. □ *Fill it up with shicker again.* □ *How do you know when you've had enough shicker?* **3.** *in.* to tippie; to become alcohol intoxicated. □ *I'm gonna go out and shicker till I'm silly.* □ *Fred is shickering again this weekend.*

shield *n.* a police officer's badge. □ *The fuzz flashed his shield, and I knew the game was over.* □ *If you're a cop, where's your shield?*

shill [ʃɪl] **1.** *n.* someone planted in the crowd to urge others to buy something, participate in something, etc. □ *The guy's a shill! Don't fall for this setup!* □ *There were more shills than suckers on the midway that day.* **2.** *in.* to advertise for something; to give a sales pitch for something. □ *Four stars of an old television show were there shilling for a major computer firm.* □ *They pay them a mint to shill like that.*

shindig ['ʃɪndɪg] *n.* a party; a dance. (Folksy.) □ *What a fancy shindig! They*

even have glass glasses! □ What time do we have to be at that shindig Saturday night?

shined *mod.* alcohol intoxicated, especially by moonshine. □ *Tipsy? He's shined from dawn to dusk. □ The old farmer seemed a bit shined.*

shiner *n.* a black eye. □ *Wow, look at Marty's shiner! □ I got this shiner by walking into a door.*

shine someone *tv.* to insult someone; to deceive someone. □ *Stop shining me. I'm cool, man, ice. □ Bill is always shining Carla.*

shit 1. *n.* dung. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Gee! I stepped in some shit! 2. in.* to defecate. (Usually objectionable.) □ *This dog needs to shit. Take it for a walk. 3. n.* any trash or unwanted material; junk; clutter. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Clean up this shit and don't let this place get so messy. 4. n.* a wretched person; a despised person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *You stupid shit! Look what you did! 5. n.* one's personal belongings. (See also **get one's shit together**. Usually objectionable.) □ *I gotta get my shit from the kitchen and get outa here. □ Is this your shit? Move it! 6. n.* lies; nonsense. (From **bullshit**. Usually objectionable.) □ *All I ever hear out of you is shit. 7. tv.* to deceive someone; to lie to someone. □ *Stop shittin' me, you bastard! □ You wouldn't shit me, would you? 8. n.* drugs, especially heroin or marijuana. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You are going to have to get off this shit or you're gonna die. 9. exclam.* a general expression of disgust. (Usually **Shit!** Usually objectionable.) □ *Oh, shit! What a mess! □ Shit! That's terrible.*

shit a brick *tv.* to be very upset; to be extremely angry. □ *I was so mad, I almost shit a brick! □ Don't shit a brick. Just calm down.*

shit-ass 1. *n.* a disgusting and wretched person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *The guy's a shit-ass. What're you gonna do? 2. mod.* pertaining to someone or something disgusting and wretched. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He's nothing but a shit-*

ass bastard! □ Help me move this shit-ass box of junk.

shit-bag 1. *n.* an unpleasant or inept person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *I don't want that shit-bag working for me anymore! □ Who is that shit-bag who just fell off the barstool? 2. n.* a collection of unpleasant problems or annoyances. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You can just take your whole shit-bag and bother somebody else with it. □ This place has been a regular shit-bag of grief this morning.*

shitcan 1. *n.* a toilet; an outhouse. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I gotta spend some time on the shitcan. 2. a trash can.* (Military. Usually objectionable.) □ *Just throw all this stuff in the shitcan. 3. tv.* to throw something in the garbage can. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Shitcan this thing, will you? □ Who shitcanned my dirty socks?*

shit-faced AND **shitty** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Usually objectionable. See also **pooped**; **SF**.) □ *I'm shit-faced, and I know it. □ Move over. You're too shitty to drive.*

Shit happens. *interj.* Bad things just happen. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Tough luck, but shit happens. □ Shit happens. There's nothing that can be done about it.*

shithead *n.* a stupid and obnoxious person, usually a male. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *You stupid shithead! Get out of my life! □ Who needs a shithead like him around?*

shit-hooks Go to **cunt-hooks**.

shit-house *n.* an outdoor toilet; an outhouse. (Usually objectionable.) □ *There is a hornet's nest in the shit-house. □ Some boys tipped over the shit-house, and I've got no place to go.*

shit-list AND **crap-list** *n.* a list of people who are as worthless as dung; a list of problem people. (The phrase with **crap** is milder. Usually objectionable.) □ *From now on you are on my shit-list! □ Trouble with Tom is that everybody he knows is on his crap-list.*

shitload Go to **buttload**.

shit on a shingle *n.* creamed chipped beef on toast. (See also **creamed foreskins**.)

Military. Usually objectionable.) □ *Oh, no, it's shit on a shingle again tonight.* □ *This shit on a shingle tastes like what it is.*

shit on someone **1.** *in.* to defecate on someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That damn cat shit on me!* □ *Watch out! That cow almost shit on you!* **2.** *in.* to treat someone very badly. (Usually objectionable.) □ *The prof shit on the whole class by assigning a paper due Monday morning.* □ *The Internal Revenue Service really shit on me this year.*

Shit or get off the pot! *in.* Do something or go away!; Do something or give someone else a chance!; Hurry up! (Usually objectionable.) □ *Hurry up with it, Fred! Shit or get off the pot!* □ *Shit or get off the pot! Make up your mind.*

the **shits** *n.* diarrhea. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I can't eat that stuff. It always gives me the shits.*

shitsky ['ʃɪtski] **1.** *n.* dung. (Usually objectionable.) □ *There's some shitsky on your shoe.* □ *Some rude dog has left a little pile of grade-A shitsky on the sidewalk.* **2.** *n.* a despicable person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *The stupid shitsky is back on skag again.* □ *With a shitsky like that on your side, who needs enemies?*

shitstick **1.** *n.* a wretched and undesirable person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Why are you such a shitstick all the time?* □ *Is that little shitstick giving you trouble, Doreen?* **2.** *n.* a rod of dung. (Usually objectionable.) □ *How would you like a shitstick in your lap?* □ *Who left the shitsticks floating in the john?*

shitty **1.** *mod.* covered or soiled with dung. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I got my shoes all shitty.* □ *Get that shitty shovel out of the garage and clean it.* **2.** *mod.* lousy; rotten. (Usually objectionable.) □ *This has been a real shitty trip for me.* □ *I'm tired of being treated like I'm some sort of shitty bum.* **3.** Go to **shit-faced**.

shitty end of the stick *n.* the bad side of a bargain; the troublesome part of a transaction. (Usually objectionable.) □ *If you don't want to get stuck with the shitty end of the stick, you'd better make your*

plans carefully. □ *Well, it looks like I got stuck with the shitty end of the stick again.*

shiv AND **chiv** [ʃɪv] **1.** *n.* a knife. (Underworld.) □ *Swiftly and silently his shiv found its way up under Rocko's ribs. All for a silly dame.* □ *I could tell from the way his cuff broke that there was a chiv strapped to his leg.* **2.** *tv.* to stab someone. (Underworld.) □ *He shivved Rocko, and Rocko deserved it.* □ *The boss told Ziggy to get Rocko one way or the other—shiv him, burn him, clobber him—but get him.*

shlemiel Go to **schlemiel**.

shlep Go to **schlep**.

shlepper Go to **schlepper**.

shlimazl Go to **schlemazel**.

shlump Go to **schloomp**.

shmaltz Go to **schmaltz**.

shmaltzy Go to **schmaltzy**.

shmen [ʃmɛn] *n.* freshmen. □ *A couple of shmen wandered by—looking sort of lost.* □ *The shmen are having a party all to themselves this Friday.*

shmendrick Go to **schmendrick**.

shmo Go to **schmo**.

shmoe Go to **schmo**.

shmooze Go to **schmooze**.

shnazz Go to **snazz**.

shnazzy Go to **snazzy**.

shnocked Go to **schnocked**.

shnook Go to **schnook**.

shnozz Go to **schnozz**.

shocker *n.* something shocking. □ *Now, here's a shocker for you.* □ *Her news was quite a shocker.*

shocks *n.* shock absorbers in an automobile. □ *That hog Cadillac needs new shocks.* □ *How much is a set of shocks for a buggy like this?*

shoe polish *n.* liquor; whiskey; inferior whiskey. □ *Why don't you give that cruddy shoe polish to the cat?* □ *The old*

lush would be delighted to get some of your shoe polish.

shoestring *mod.* low-cost; cheap. (See also on a shoestring.) □ *This is just a shoestring operation. There is no capital involved.* □ *We have nothing but a shoestring budget this year.*

shoo-in ['fuɪn] *n.* an easy winner. □ *She's a shoo-in. Nobody can touch her.* □ *My horse was a shoo-in. It won by a mile.*

shook up *Go to (all) shook up.*

shoot 1. *AND shoot up* *tv. & in.* to inject drugs, especially heroin. (Drugs.) □ *He actually had to leave the meeting to shoot.* □ *The two of them were shooting up skag.* **2.** *n.* an injection of heroin. (Drugs. Usually **shoot-up**.) □ *The way Ernie was yawning, I knew he needed a shoot-up.* □ *"Just one more shot. That's all. Then, never again!" moaned Ernie, rather unconvincingly.* **3.** *tv.* to spike a drink with liquor. □ *I'm gonna shoot the punch with rum.* □ *Harry shot his date's coke with vodka.* **4.** *in.* to begin to tell [something]. □ *We're ready. Go ahead. Shoot!* □ *Okay, shoot. I'm all ears.* **5.** *Go to Shoot!*

Shoot! *exclam.* Darn! (An exclamation or a very mild curse.) □ *Oh, shoot! I left my shades in the car.* □ *Shoot! I'm late!*

shoot 'em up 1. *n.* a Western action movie. □ *I like a good shoot 'em up every now and then.* □ *Most films are more sophisticated nowadays than the old shoot 'em ups.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with a Western action film. □ *He was a shoot 'em up star in the thirties.* □ *I like the good old shoot 'em up movies.*

shoot for the sky *Go to aim for the sky.*

shoot from the hip *in.* to speak quickly and without thinking. (See also hip-shooter.) □ *She has a tendency to shoot from the hip, but that's not really a problem.* □ *I shot from the hip when I spoke. I'm sorry.*

shooting iron *n.* a pistol. (Cowboy and folksy.) □ *Millard "Shorty" Wilson always carried his shooting iron with him, except for one fateful day back in '92—1892, that*

is. □ *He pulled out his shooting iron and got down to cleaning it.*

shoot one's breakfast *Go to shoot one's cookies.*

shoot one's cookies *AND shoot one's breakfast; shoot one's supper* *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *I think I'm gonna shoot my cookies.* □ *I shot my supper, and I was glad to get rid of it.*

shoot oneself in the foot *tv.* to cause oneself difficulty; to be the author of one's own doom. □ *I am a master at shooting myself in the foot.* □ *Again, he shot himself in the foot with his open and honest dealings with the press.*

shoot one's mouth off *tv.* to brag; to tell secrets. □ *Stop shooting your mouth off. Nobody believes you anymore.* □ *So you had to go and shoot off your mouth about the bankruptcy proceedings!*

shoot one's supper *Go to shoot one's cookies.*

shoot one's wad *tv.* to spend or use everything. □ *I shot my wad on junk food.* □ *I can't afford a cab. I shot my wad at the restaurant.*

shoot-out 1. *n.* a gunfight. □ *There was a big shoot-out at the end of the movie.* □ *In this shoot-out, there were no survivors—not even a horse!* **2.** *n.* an argument. □ *When the shoot-out was over, the boss—confident she had won—went back into her office.* □ *A big public shoot-out like that sours morale a lot.*

shoot someone down in flames *tv.* to ruin someone; to bring about someone's downfall. (See also go down in flames.) □ *It was a bad idea, okay, but you didn't have to shoot me down in flames.* □ *I didn't mean to shoot you down in flames.*

shoot someone or something down *tv.* to ruin someone or something; to debunk someone or something. (See also shot down.) □ *Just as I was making the final point, she shot me down with a simple fact I should have remembered.* □ *The boss shot down my plan immediately.*

shoot the breeze *tv.* to chat casually and without purpose. □ *We spent the entire*

afternoon just shooting the breeze. □ *It was good to shoot the breeze with you, Mary.*

shoot the bull AND **shoot the crap; shoot the shit** *tv.* to chat and gossip. (The same as **throw the bull**. Use caution with **crap; shit**.) □ *Let's get together sometime and shoot the bull.* □ *You spend too much time shooting the crap.*

shoot the cat *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *I must have shot the cat a dozen times during the night.* □ *Shooting the cat is no fun when you're weak and dizzy.*

shoot the crap Go to **shoot the bull**.

shoot the dozens Go to **play the dozens**.

shoot the shit Go to **shoot the bull**.

shoot the works **1.** *tv.* to do everything; to use everything; to bet all one's money. □ *Okay, let's go out to dinner and shoot the works.* □ *Don't shoot the works! Save some for a cab.* **2.** *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *Suddenly she turned sort of green, and I knew she was going to shoot the works.* □ *After she shot the works, she looked fine—but I was sort of pale.*

shoot up Go to **shoot**.

shoot up (on something) **1.** *in.* to inject (a drug). (Drugs. See also **shoot**.) □ *About that time we both began shooting up on skag.* □ *He couldn't wait to get home and shoot up.* **2.** *n.* an injection of narcotics. (Drugs. Usually **shoot-up**.) □ *Barlowe watched the dame do a shoot-up on H. and settle down so they could talk.* □ *A quick shoot-up was all she needed.*

shopping list *n.* a list of things, especially questions or things one wants. (See also **laundry list**.) □ *I have a shopping list of absolute musts.* □ *He showed up for the interview with a shopping list so long that it took two pages.*

short **1.** *n.* a small drink of hard liquor or of beer. □ *One short, bartender.* □ *I'll have a short and a pack of cigarettes.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with a single drink of undiluted liquor. □ *I'll take mine short, innkeeper.* □ *Who ordered a short one?* **3.** *n.* a purchase of drugs that counts or

weighs out less than the amount agreed upon. □ *You gave me a short. Fix it now, or this thing goes off accidentally in your ear.* **4.** *tv.* to give someone less of something than was agreed upon. □ *You shorted me!* □ *They shorted us on the last order, so we switched suppliers.* **5.** *n.* a car. (Streets.) □ *Man, that's some short you got!* □ *Max gets his money cracking shorts.* **6.** *n.* the sale of borrowed shares of stock; a short sale. (Securities markets.) □ *I think that IBM is a good short in here. The high-tech companies are in for a pullback.* □ *There is a lot of covering of shorts this week. After that the market is in for a steady decline.* **7.** *tv.* to sell borrowed stock. (Securities markets.) □ *I wouldn't short IBM. It's a long-term hold.* □ *The way the deficit is running, I'd short the whole market.*

the **short end of the stick** *n.* the burden, responsibility, blame, etc., for something. □ *Here I am stuck with the short end of the stick again.* □ *I am the one who plans all this stuff, and when you jerks drop the ball, I'm left holding the short end of the stick.*

short fuse *n.* a quick temper. □ *Fred's got a short fuse. Watch out.* □ *I knew she'd blow. She's got a short fuse.*

short one *n.* a small or quickly drunk drink of liquor, including beer. (Compare this with **tall one**.) □ *How about a short one, innkeeper?* □ *Give my friend here a short one.*

the **shorts** AND **case of the shorts** *n.* the lack of money. □ *Here I am with a case of the shorts again.* □ *The shorts always come around at the end of the month.*

short-snort *n.* a quick drink of whisky from a bottle, flask, or jug. □ *He grabbed a short-snort and went back to his carving.* □ *Jed offered the visitor a short-snort from a jar of shine.*

shot **1.** *n.* a try at something. □ *Go ahead. Give it another shot.* □ *Have a shot at this problem.* **2.** *mod.* exhausted; ruined. □ *I really feel shot today.* □ *Here's your pen back. It's shot anyway.* □ *This thing is shot. Let's get a new one.* **3.** *n.* a rocket launch-

ing. □ *The shot was canceled because of the weather.* □ *This shot, like the last, was a total failure.* **4.** *n.* a small or quickly drunk drink of liquor, usually whiskey. □ *Here, have a shot of this stuff.* □ *He stopped at every bar on the strip for a quick shot.* **5.** *n.* an injection of drugs. □ *Just one shot of that stuff and you're hooked for life.* □ *A shot of skag put the poor guy straight for a while.* **6.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *They are a little noisy, I guess, but after all they are shot, you know, plastered.* □ *I am half shot now. I'll quit before I'm shot.*

shot-away Go to shot-up.

shot down 1. *mod.* demolished; destroyed. □ *Her idea was shot down after all her work.* □ *I felt shot down, even though I was sure of what I was getting into.* **2.** *mod.* rejected by a young woman. □ *Tiffany is a cruel chick. I was shot down from day one.* □ *Fred's shot down, thanks to his best girl. He'll get over it.*

shotgun 1. *mod.* broad; general. □ *It was a shotgun attempt to include everyone.* □ *A shotgun approach to a problem like this is useless. You must get specific.* **2.** *exclam.* <a phrase called out by someone who claims the privilege of riding in a car's passenger seat.> (Usually **Shotgun!**) □ *"Shotgun!" cried Jimmy, heading for the car.* □ *Whoever yelled "shotgun" has to sit holding the cake all the way.*

shotgun wedding *n.* a forced wedding, presumably because the bride is pregnant. □ *It was a shotgun wedding, but they sure are in love.* □ *I thought shotgun weddings went out with feuds and things like that.*

shot in the arm 1. *n.* a drink of liquor. □ *I could use a little shot in the arm.* □ *How about a little shot in the arm, bartender?* **2.** *n.* an injection of narcotics. (The same as **bang in the arm.**) □ *You might say that I really needed this shot in the arm.* □ *It's nothing. Just a little shot in the arm.* **3.** *n.* a boost or act of encouragement. □ *The pep talk was a real shot in the arm for all the guys.* □ *The good test grade was a shot in the arm for Gary.*

shot in the dark *n.* a very general attempt; a wild guess. □ *It was just a shot in the dark. I had no idea I was exactly correct.* □ *Come on, try it. Even a shot in the dark may win.*

shot in the neck 1. *n.* a drink of straight whiskey. □ *Wally took a little shot in the neck before heading out into the cold.* □ *A shot in the neck was just what was needed.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He's shot in the neck, but he's not bleeding.* □ *What's wrong with Harry is that he's shot in the neck every day by supper.*

shot to hell *mod.* ruined; decimated. (An elaboration of **shot.**) □ *This thing is shot to hell. Let's get a new one.* □ *My car is shot to hell.*

shot to the curb *mod.* without money or a place to live; living in the gutter; down and out. □ *I'm totally out of bills, man.* *Shot to the curb.*

shot-up 1. AND **shot-away** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Well, you see, he's shot-up and can't come to the phone.* □ *How can anybody get so shot-away in so little time?* **2.** *mod.* severely injured by gunshots. □ *Tom got himself shot-up in a hunting accident.* □ *He was pretty badly shot-up in the police action.*

shouldn't happen to a dog *in.* describes something that is so bad that no creature deserves it. □ *Poor guy. That shouldn't happen to a dog.* □ *This cold I got shouldn't happen to a dog.*

shout *n.* an exclamation point. (See also **screamer; shriek.**) □ *Put a shout at the end of the line. Make this dull story more sexy.* □ *This gal uses shouts like they were salt and pepper.*

shove *tv.* to pass counterfeit money. (Underworld.) □ *She got sent up for three years for shoving funny-money.* □ *He got away with shoving the stuff for months before they got onto him.*

shove off Go to push off.

show and tell *n.* a session where objects are presented and described. (Essentially a kindergarten or grade school activity.) □ *It was a short lecture with lots of show*

and tell. □ *I can't take another show and tell session.*

show biz *n.* show business. □ *Well, that's show biz for you.* □ *Anybody who can make a living in show biz has to be clever and talented.*

shower scum *n.* a despised person; despised people. (See also **bathtub scum**; **pond scum**.) □ *Who is the shower scum who put a cigarette butt in my houseplant?* □ *I wish the shower scum of the neighborhood wouldn't throw trash in my yard.*

shpleef Go to **spliff**.

shredded *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Collegiate.) □ *We are all too shredded to drive home. What shall we do?* □ *I believe that each of us is shredded enough to fly home. Let's vote on that.*

shriek *n.* an exclamation point. (Printers. See also **screamer**; **shout**.) □ *Where is there a shriek at the end?* □ *Take off that shriek. You use too many of those things.*

shrimp *n.* a small person. □ *Who's the little shrimp over by the door?* □ *I'm such a shrimp. I just have short genes.*

shrink *n.* a psychoanalyst or psychotherapist. □ *I dropped a bundle on a shrink, but it didn't help me.* □ *The shrink says I have to take these pills to help me get off the drug habit.*

shroom [frum] *in.* to take or eat peyote cactus. (Drugs.) □ *They spent all afternoon shrooming.* □ *You shroom too much.*

shrooms [frumz] **1.** *n.* the tips of the peyote cactus that contain mescaline. (Drugs. From **mushrooms**. Not really a mushroom.) □ *I got some shrooms. Ya wanna come over?* **2.** *n.* mushrooms. □ *Do you want shrooms on your pizza?*

shtik Go to **schtick**.

shtoonk Go to **schtoonk**.

shuck [ʃək] **1.** *n.* an insincere person. □ *The guy's a shuck. Don't believe a thing he says!* □ *Who needs a shuck for a legislator?* **2.** *tv. & in.* to kid someone; to tease someone. □ *Cool it! I'm just shucking.* □ *Stop shucking me!* **3.** *tv.* to swindle someone; to deceive someone. □ *The con man*

shucked a number of people in the town before moving on. □ *He was going to shuck the mayor, but people were beginning to talk, so he blew town.* **4.** *n.* a hoax. □ *What a stupid shuck!* □ *How could you fall for that old shuck?* **5.** **AND** **shuck down** *tv. & in.* to undress oneself; to remove one's clothing. □ *He shucked himself quickly and jumped into bed.* □ *He shucked down and showered and was at work in twenty minutes.*

shuck down Go to **shuck**.

Shucks! Go to (Aw) **shucks!**

shuffler *n.* a drunkard; a tippler. □ *The tavern was full of aged shufflers hoping for a handout.* □ *Some shuffler barfed in the shrubbery.*

shush (up) *in.* to be quiet. □ *Shush! I want to hear the weather.* □ *Shush up and listen to the lecture.*

shut-eye *n.* sleep. □ *It's about time to get some shut-eye.* □ *I could use about another hour of shut-eye.*

shutout 1. *n.* a game where one team prevents the other from scoring any points at all. □ *He was still reveling from last week's shutout.* □ *It was another shutout at Alum Field House last night.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with a game where one team has no score. □ *Another shutout game gave the fans nothing to cheer about this afternoon.* □ *I was hoping for a shutout contest, and I got one.*

shutters *n.* the eyelids. □ *Her shutters dropped slowly, and she was asleep.* □ *She blinked those yummy shutters over those bedroom eyes, and my knees turned to mush.*

shut up *in.* to be quiet. □ *Shut up and listen!* □ *Shut up yourself.*

Shut your face! **AND** **Shut your mouth!;** **Shut your trap!** *exclam.* Shut up!; Be quiet! □ *Oh, shut your face. I've heard enough.* □ *Can't you shut your trap, you motor-mouth?*

Shut your mouth! Go to **Shut your face!**

Shut your trap! Go to **Shut your face!**

shwench [ʃˈmɛntʃ] *n.* a female freshman. (Collegiate.) □ *A couple of giggling shwenches showed up to cheer on the team.* □ *There's a shwench in my English class who knows more than the prof.*

shyster [ˈʃaɪstə] *n.* an unethical or unscrupulous lawyer. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Look, you cheap shyster, I paid you to help me, not ruin me!* □ *My ex-wife's shyster called again today to say she wants more money.*

Siberian express *n.* an enormous mass of very cold air moving from Siberia, across the North Pole, and down onto North America. □ *The country braced itself for a return Friday of the Siberian express with temperatures dropping to twenty below in many areas.* □ *The Siberian express seems to be aimed right at our state.*

sicks *n.* nausea; vomiting. □ *Oh man, I got the sicks.* □ *He's at home with the sicks.*

sick to death (of someone or something) *mod.* totally disgusted with someone or something. □ *I am sick to death of your constant bickering.* □ *This whole bribery business just has me sick to death.*

sick (up) *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *I think I'm going to sick up. Isn't there supposed to be a barf bag in one of these seat pockets?* □ *He's got to sick, and there's no air sickness bag. Help!*

sicky *n.* someone who seems mentally deranged. □ *The dame's a sicky. Watch out for yourself.* □ *Some sicky drew these obscene pictures on the wall.*

sid Go to **cid**.

side *n.* a side of a record. □ *Let's cruise over to Sam's pad and hear some sides.* □ *Now here's a side you may remember.*

sidewalk superintendent 1. *n.* someone who—out of curiosity—watches excavations being dug and buildings being built. □ *All day, the lines of sidewalk superintendents oozed by.* □ *I don't want any advice from a sidewalk superintendent.* **2.** *n.* any critic. □ *If another sidewalk superintendent comes in here and tries to tell me how to manage this office, heads will roll.*

□ *I hate to be a sidewalk superintendent, but this plan is all wrong.*

sidewalk surfing *n.* skateboarding. □ *Bill spent a lot of time sidewalk surfing until the town passed an ordinance against it.* □ *The little kids started the summer sidewalk surfing, but gave it up after a few weeks.*

sidewinder *n.* a sneaky and despicable man. (Western jargon. From the name of the sidewinder rattlesnake.) □ *You dirty, lowdown sidewinder! That's too much!* □ *What sidewinder spilled my drink?*

sidney *n.* the hallucinogenic drug LSD. (Drugs. Also capitalized. See also **cid**.) □ *Is Sidney working tonight?* □ *Sidney and I have a little business trip planned.*

sieg-heil someone [ˈsɪgˈhaɪl] *tv.* to show homage to someone; to salute and obey someone. (From German. Use caution with this reminder of Nazi Germany.) □ *The guy expects all his underlings to sieg-heil him and worship the ground he walks on.* □ *I won't sieg-heil her. She'll have to earn my respect.*

signify 1. *in.* to cause trouble for fun; to stir things up. (Black.) □ *Why's that dude signifying over there?* □ *What are all these cats signifying about anyway?* **2.** *in.* to try to look more important than one really is; to brag; to **strut one's stuff**. (Black.) □ *See that dude signify like somebody important?* □ *First you gotta learn to signify.*

silk *n.* a Caucasian. (Black.) □ *Some silk was over here, looking around sort of suspicious.* □ *He told his mama that if she doesn't treat him better, he's gonna bring some silk home for dinner and let her see what the neighbors think.*

silked to the bone Go to **laid to the bone**.

silks *n.* clothing. □ *Look at the silks on that dude!* □ *I gotta get some new silks before spring.*

silky *mod.* smooth; unctuous. □ *Beware of anybody that silky.* □ *What a silky character. He could talk his way into the heart of some unsuspecting chick.*

silo drippings *n.* alcohol allegedly obtained at the base of a silo containing fermenting corn. □ *You actually drink this stuff?*

This is silo drippings. □ *The old-timer called his moonshine “silo drippings.”*

silver *n.* money. □ *What kind of silver is that going to take?* □ *I have some silver stashed at home if you need it.*

silver bullet AND **magic bullet** *n.* a specific, fail-safe solution to a problem. (From the notion that a bullet made of silver is required to shoot a werewolf.) □ *I’m not suggesting that the committee has provided us with a silver bullet, only that their advice was timely and useful.* □ *Okay, I’ve got the silver bullet you need for this. Your vote on the pork storage units for my district would be greatly appreciated, of course.*

silver goose *n.* a proctoscope. (Medical. See also **goose**.) □ *The patient seems to have a real phobia about the silver goose.* □ *When the nurse brought in the silver goose, the patient nearly fainted.*

simmer (down) **1.** *in.* to reduce one’s anger. □ *Now, now! Just simmer! Cool it!* □ *Simmer down, you guys.* **2.** *in.* to get quiet. □ *I waited till things began to simmer down, and then I started.* □ *Hey, simmer down to a dull roar!*

simoleon [sɪˈmoliən] *n.* a dollar. (Underworld.) □ *How many simoleons is this going to cost me?* □ *For only one simoleon, you get a ticket to the greatest show on earth.*

Simon Legree [ˈsaɪmən ləˈɡri] *n.* a very hard taskmaster; a hard boss. (From the name of the slave driver in *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.) □ *She’s a regular Simon Legree.* □ *Ask Simon Legree if I will be able to stop work and go home for breakfast now.*

simp *n.* a simpleton. □ *You are such a simp!* □ *Why did some simp feel it necessary to do this?*

sin *n.* synthetic marijuana. (Drugs. From *synthetic*.) □ *Most of this stuff the kids put down good money for is not sin, but angel dust.* □ *Bart was caught up in the quest for sin.*

sin-bin *n.* a van fitted with bedding as a place for necking and lovemaking. □ *Wally said he was saving his money to buy*

a sin-bin so he could have more fun on dates. □ *Some rusty old sin-bin was parked in front of the house when I got there.*

sing *in.* to inform (on someone). (Underworld.) □ *Rocko knew the stoolie would sing. He had to do something to stop her.* □ *Ziggy would never sing. He’s a champ.*

singed Go to **scorched**.

single **1.** *n.* one dollar; a dollar bill. □ *I don’t have enough singles in the register to get me through the morning.* □ *I got a couple of singles I can lend you.* **2.** *n.* an unmarried person. (Usually plural.) □ *I’m holding a little party for singles.* □ *Todd’s a single—just recently.*

sink *tv.* to swallow some food or drink. □ *Here, sink a bite of this stuff.* □ *Larry stopped at a tavern to sink a short one.*

sinker *n.* a doughnut. □ *This sinker must be four days old.* □ *All our sinkers are brought in fresh on Monday.*

sink one’s teeth into something Go to **get one’s teeth into something**.

sinse AND **sense (bud)** [sɪnts AND ˈsents (bəd)] *n.* seedless marijuana. (Drugs. From Spanish *sinsemilla*, “seedless.”) □ *Where’s the sinse I was saving?* □ *Sense bud is all that Tiffany will touch.*

sip **1.** *n.* a puff of a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *How about a sip of your joint?* □ *He took a big sip and held it so long he almost turned blue.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to take a puff of a marijuana cigarette. □ *He sipped a big one, stopped a minute, then spoke.* □ *The alley was populated by a bunch of teeny-boppers sipping away the afternoon.*

sipster *n.* a tippler; a drunkard. □ *The old lady is a sipster who says she drinks a little wine to help her arthritis.* □ *Most sipsters have a really fine excuse like that.*

sis [sɪs] *n.* sister. (Also a term of address and a common pet name for one’s sister.) □ *Come on, sis. We’re going to be late.* □ *Well, sis, good luck.*

sissified ['sɪsɪfaɪd] *mod.* effeminate; sissy-style. □ *Don't act so sissified.* □ *I'm not comfortable in a sissified place like that.*

sister **1.** *n.* a (female) friend. (Originally underworld. Sometimes a term of address.) □ *Hi, sister! How ya doing?* □ *Come here, sister. I gotta have a word with you.* **2.** *n.* a fellow sorority member. □ *One of my sisters let me borrow her car.* □ *The junior sisters are putting on a skit.* **3.** *n.* a fellow feminist. □ *We can do this thing, sisters, we can do it!* □ *The sisters will be discussing it at tonight's meeting.* **4.** *Go to (soul) sister.*

sitcom ['sɪtkəm] *n.* a situation comedy as found on television. (See also **kid-vid**.) □ *These sitcoms are made for juvenile minds.* □ *Sitcoms can be fun.*

sitting duck *n.* someone who waits unsuspectingly for doom or destiny; an easy target for something bad. □ *Get out of the way! You're a sitting duck.* □ *The guy was a sitting duck for a mugging.*

sitting pretty *mod.* doing very nicely; in a very pleasant and secure position. □ *If I get the job, I'll be sitting pretty for a long time.* □ *She married a millionaire, and now she's sitting pretty.*

six-bits *n.* seventy-five cents. (A bit is equal to twelve and one-half U.S. cents.) □ *You got six-bits I can borrow?* □ *Just try one of these things. It's only six-bits.*

sixer *n.* a six-pack beverage container. (Usually refers to beer.) □ *Tom showed up with three sixers and a bushel of pretzels, and we all watched the game together.* □ *Please stop by the store and pick up a sixer.*

six feet under *mod.* dead and buried. □ *Fred died and is six feet under.* □ *They put him six feet under two days after he died.*

six-pack **1.** *in.* to while away a specified period of time drinking a six-pack of beer. (See also **Joe Six-pack**.) □ *He sat in front of the television and six-packed the entire afternoon.* □ *He's in the back—six-packing, as usual.* **2.** *n.* a well-muscle abdomen. □ *Tom's gut is a real six-pack. He must work out every day.* □ *What do you*

do with a six-pack like that? Walk around with your shirt open?

the **sixty-four-dollar question** *n.* the most important question; the question that everyone wants to know the answer to. □ *When? Now, that is the sixty-four-dollar question.* □ *Now for the sixty-four-dollar question. What's the stock market going to do this year?*

sixty-nine *n.* an act of mutual oral sex. (Based on the interlocking numerals in 69. Usually objectionable.) □ *The old lady caught them in the bushes doing a sixty-nine.* □ *He prefers 69. She prefers booze.*

sizzled *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **fried**.) □ *I'd like to go out tonight and get sizzled—maybe that would help me forget Tiffany.* □ *Harold got himself sizzled and couldn't drive to the dance.*

sizzler *n.* a very hot day. □ *Today will be another sizzler. A low pressure center over Alabama is pumping hot and humid air into the area.* □ *What a sizzler! I'm sweating like a horse.*

skag AND **scag** [skæg] **1.** *n.* a rotten thing or person. □ *Don't be such a skag. Who do you think you are?* □ *Gary has become more of a scag than I can stand.* **2.** *n.* a very ugly woman. (Collegiate.) □ *What a skag! I wouldn't be seen with her.* □ *She looks like a scag without makeup.* **3.** *n.* a tobacco cigarette; a tobacco cigarette butt. (Military.) □ *Can I bum a scag off you?* □ *Here, have a scag on me.* **4.** *in.* to smoke (a tobacco cigarette). □ *He stopped scagging for about a week.* □ *I'll scag till I die.* **5.** *n.* heroin, especially poor quality heroin; any powerful drug. (Drugs.) □ *Just lay off the skag—if you can.* □ *Scag has sent a lot of my friends to the bone orchard.* **6.** *n.* hard liquor. □ *No beer for me. Tonight it's scag.* □ *The two of them put away a quart of my finest skag.*

skagged out *mod.* drug intoxicated; very high. (Drugs. See also **skag**.) □ *Bart was rocking back and forth on the top step—skagged out, as usual.* □ *He got to the point where being skagged out was more important than eating.*

skag jones AND **scag jones** *n.* an addiction to heroin. (Drugs. Here *jones* is a “thing.”) □ *It’s the scag jones that’s got her down.* □ *She has a serious skag jones.*

skank AND **scank** [skæŋk] **1.** *n.* an ugly (young) woman. (Collegiate.) □ *What a skank she is! Give her a comb or something.* □ *Look at her! Is she a skank or what?* **2.** *in.* to appear ugly. □ *My face is skanking like mad. Must be the zits.* □ *Both sisters skank. Must be hereditary.*

skanky ['skæŋki] *mod.* ugly; repellent, usually said of a woman. (Collegiate.) □ *She is so skanky! That grody hairdo doesn’t help either.* □ *What’s wrong with being a little skanky? It’s what you can do with your brain that counts.* □ *She’s skanky, nonetheless.*

skanless AND **scanless** *mod.* scandalous. (Eye-dialect.) □ *Who did that? That skanless! Just skanless.*

skat [skæt] *n.* beer. □ *How about some skat, chum?* □ *You got any pretzels to go with the skat?*

skate **1.** *n.* a drinking bout. □ *He’s off on another three-day skate.* □ *Jerry hopes that this will be his last skate. He wants to dry out for good.* **2.** *n.* a drunkard; a person on a drinking spree. □ *Jerry’s a skate and he knows it.* □ *A couple of skates celebrating the new year ran into my car.* **3.** *n.* something really easy. □ *The test was a skate!* □ *Don’t sweat the game. It’ll be a skate.* **4.** *in.* to get drunk. □ *Jerry’s skating again. It’s his whole life.* □ *Let’s go out and skate, okay?*

skating *mod.* drug intoxicated. □ *He’s high all right—I’d say he’s skating.* □ *He took some wicked pills and is totally skating.*

skedaddle [skə'dædl] *in.* to get out; to leave in a hurry. (Folksy.) □ *Go on, skedaddle! Out!* □ *Well, I’d better skedaddle on home.*

skeet *n.* a blob of nasal mucus. (Collegiate. See also **skeet-shooting**.) □ *God, Fred, there’s a gross skeet hanging outa your nose!* □ *That wasn’t stew; that was skeets!*

skeeter ['skidə] *n.* a mosquito. (Folksy.) □ *A skeeter bit me on the arm.* □ *There are a lot of skeeters out tonight.*

skeet-shooting *n.* the act of blowing one’s nose by pinching one nostril and using no tissue or handkerchief. (See also **skeet**.) □ *There is nothing more disgusting than a bunch of college boys belching and skeet-shooting.*

skeevy ['skivi] *mod.* sleazy and disgusting. □ *This is a skeevy joint. Let’s get out.* □ *Your coat looks so skeevy. Is it old?*

skeez ['skizə] *n.* a weird person; a geek. (Also a term of address.) □ *Dave is a nice guy, but sort of a skeezer.* □ *Hey, skeezer, get out of the way!*

skid-lid *n.* a motorcycle helmet. □ *The law has no business telling me I gotta wear a skid-lid.* □ *Don’t you use a skid-lid?*

skid marks *n.* unclear, brownish marks on one’s underpants. □ *Just looking at him, you know he’s the type who has skid marks and enjoys popping zits.* □ *There is hardly anything a genteel person can say about skid marks that is acceptable in public.*

skid row *n.* the name for a place populated with ruined alcoholics and other down-and-out people. □ *I don’t want to end up on skid row. How can I get rid of this monkey?* □ *Just because they’re on skid row, it doesn’t mean they’re beyond help.*

skid row bum *n.* a down-and-out person; a low alcoholic beggar. □ *Do you want to end up a skid row bum?* □ *Even a skid row bum has some pride.*

skillion ['skiljən] *n.* an imaginary enormous number. □ *I have a skillion reasons why I won’t marry you.* □ *About a skillion people are running in the marathon.*

skin **1.** *n.* a dollar bill. □ *This ticket cost me a couple of skins—and it’s not worth it.* □ *You got a skin for the tollbooth?* **2.** AND **skinhead** *n.* someone with a shaved or bald head. (Some such persons may also engage in political violence.) □ *Who’s the skin with the earrings?* □ *That skinhead looks stoned.* **3.** *tv.* to cheat or overcharge someone. □ *The guy who sold me this car really skinned me.* □ *We skinned him on that stock deal.*

skin a goat *tv.* to empty one’s stomach; to vomit. □ *Ralph went out to skin a goat.*

□ *Was my cooking so bad that everybody had to skin a goat?*

skin flick *n.* a movie featuring nudity. (See also **nudie**.) □ *We took in a skin flick when we were in the city.* □ *Max likes skin flicks better than real girls.*

skinful *n.* an intoxicating quantity of liquor; enough liquor. (See also **have a skinful**.) □ *He's got a skinful and can't drive.* □ *She knows enough to stop drinking before she gets a skinful.*

skin game *n.* any swindle. (Underworld.) □ *Ziggy was mixed up in a skin game for a while.* □ *The con running the skin game got out of town.*

skinhead Go to **skin**.

Skin me! *exclam.* Give me some skin!; Shake my hand! (Originally black.) □ *Hey, man, skin me!* □ *Hey, old buddy. Don't walk on! Skin me!*

skinny Go to (hot) **skinny**.

skinny dip **1.** *in.* to swim in the nude. □ *We used to go skinny dipping when I was a kid.* □ *There was an old creek on the farm where we used to skinny dip.* **2.** *n.* a swim in the nude. □ *A nice skinny dip in a quiet glade takes you back to nature.* □ *Randy, who fears fish, didn't take a skinny dip with the others.*

skins *n.* drums. (Musicians. The same as **hides**.) □ *Andy can really make the skins talk.* □ *Buddy could beat those skins like nobody's business.*

skin-search *n.* a search of the naked body by legal authorities. (See also **strip-search**.) □ *These clowns were actually doing skin-searches on traffic offenders!* □ *Aren't there laws against frivolous skin-searches?*

Skip it! *exclam.* Forget it!; Never mind! □ *I won't bother you with my question again. Skip it!* □ *Oh, skip it! It doesn't matter.*

skip (out) *in.* to leave; to run away without doing something, such as paying a bill. □ *The guy skipped when I wasn't looking.* □ *Fred skipped out, leaving me with the bill.*

skirt *n.* a woman. □ *Some skirt comes up to me and asks where the police station is.* □ *Who's the skirt I saw you with last night?*

skivvies ['skɪvɪz] *n.* underpants; underwear. □ *He stood there chattering in his skivvies waiting for additional indignities.* □ *I don't have any clean skivvies!*

sko AND **sgo** ['sko AND 'sgo] *in.* Let's go. (Now considered current slang even though it has been informal colloquial for decades.) □ *Sko. We're going to be late.* □ *It's time to hit the road. Sgo.*

skosh *mod.* a bit more. □ *I need a skosh more room.* □ *Move down a skosh so I can sit down.*

skrag [skræg] *tv.* to murder someone. (Underworld.) □ *These thugs tried to skrag me, I swear.* □ *Barlowe wanted to skrag him right then and there.*

skrilla AND **skrill** *n.* money. □ *I'm totally outa skrilla, man. Shot to the curb.*

skrungy ['skrændʒi] *mod.* disgusting. □ *What is this skrungy stuff they are serving here?* □ *That movie was too skrungy for me.*

skull-buster AND **skull-popper** **1.** *n.* a difficult course in school or college. □ *The course was a skull-buster, and I had to drop it.* □ *All the courses in that department are skull-busters.* **2.** *n.* a police officer. □ *Two skull-busters came up and started asking questions.* □ *Watch out for the skull-buster over there.*

skullduggery ['skəl'dəgəri] *n.* deceitful doings; dirty work. □ *It took a lot of skullduggery to bring it off, but that was no problem for Janice.* □ *Without skullduggery, politics wouldn't be interesting.*

skulled *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *He's too skulled to drive.* □ *He had got himself skulled in less than twenty minutes.*

skull-popper Go to **skull-buster**.

skunk **1.** *n.* a mean and hateful person. (See also **polecats**; **stinker**.) □ *What a skunk!* □ *Must you be such a skunk in front of my friends?* **2.** *tv.* to outwit someone. □ *I*

skunked them. They'll never find me. □ That fish skunked me. I thought I caught him for sure this time.

skunk-drunk *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He was skunk-drunk and didn't want to be bothered. □ Some skunk-drunk character came in and started talking big.*

skunked **1.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Kelly got skunked on suds—very unusual for him. □ He was so skunked he couldn't find his house. 2. *mod.* outwitted; outscored; defeated. □ *The home team skunked the visitors for the third year in a row. □ I was skunked on this year's fishing trip. Not even a bite.**

skurf [skɜːf] *in.* to skateboard. (From the words *skate* and *surf*.) □ *He skurfed from city hall to the post office. □ My mom won't let me skurf anymore.*

sky *in.* to travel (to somewhere) in an airplane. □ *I decided to sky down to Orlando for the weekend. □ Let's sky to New York and then go on to London.*

sky hook *n.* an imaginary tool. □ *I can't get this thing outa here without a sky hook. □ Go get me a sky hook, would ya?*

sky-pilot *n.* a chaplain. □ *The sky-pilot says we can park in the church's lot, if we don't mess anything up or make too much noise. □ The sky-pilot's a good guy.*

sky rug *n.* a toupee; a man's wig. □ *I think he is wearing a sky rug. □ He looks better in his sky rug, but that's not necessarily good.*

the **sky's the limit** *phr.* there is no upper limit. □ *I can afford it. The sky's the limit. □ You can do anything you set your mind to, Billy. The sky's the limit.*

slacker *n.* someone who is lazy or who never completes a task or who fails at a task. (Standard English, but currently used as if it were recently invented.) □ *Micky is a slacker and a real jerk. □ Don't be such a big-ass slacker!*

slackmaster *n.* someone who slacks off a lot; someone who doesn't work hard enough or at all. □ *He never does his share. Nothing but a slackmaster!*

slam **1.** *tv.* to criticize someone or something. □ *Please don't slam my car. It's the best I can do. □ The secretary was slamming the boss in one room, and the boss was slamming the secretary in another. 2. *n.* a criticism. □ *Harry took another slam at the sales record the sales force had produced for the meeting. □ I don't want to hear another nasty and hateful slam at my sister. Is that clear? 3. *tv.* to drink something quickly. □ *Bart slammed a couple of beers and left. □ Don't slam your coffee. You'll burn yourself.***

slam a beer Go to pound a beer.

slam-bang *mod.* wild; exciting. □ *It was a slam-bang weekend, and I loved every minute of it. □ Wow, did we ever have a slam-bang time!*

slam dunk **1.** *tv. & in.* to force a basketball into the basket from above. (See also **jam**.) □ *Wilbur slam dunked another one, raising the score from 108 to 110. □ Wilbur slam dunked his way to fame and riches. 2. *n.* an act of making a basket as in sense 1. □ *Another slam dunk and Wilbur ties the score again! □ The rim will probably not withstand another slam dunk.**

slammer **1.** *n.* a jail. □ *I got out of the slammer on Monday and was back in by Wednesday. □ The slammer in this town is like a hotel. 2. *n.* a **slam dunk**. □ *He really has that slammer perfected! □ It's another slammer for Wilbur!**

slam some beers Go to pound a beer.

slant *n.* a biased view; a unique perception. □ *You can probably give us yet another slant on this problem. □ You provided us with a fresh slant on this question.*

slap-dab *mod.* directly. (See also **smack (dab) in the middle**.) □ *We put it slap-dab on his head. □ I found this pop bottle slap-dab on top of the car! How'd it get there?*

slap-dash *mod.* fast and careless. □ *I wish you hadn't done it in such a slap-dash fashion. □ This is a very slap-dash way to do something.*

slap happy *mod.* silly; giddy. ☐ *I get slap happy when I have to stay up this late.* ☐ *She's a little slap happy, but a tremendous dear.*

slap in the face *n.* an insult; a rejection. ☐ *That remark was a real slap in the face.* ☐ *Her departure was a slap in the face to the manager who had refused to give her a raise.*

slap someone on the wrist *Go to slap someone's wrist.*

slap someone's wrist **AND** **slap someone on the wrist** *tv.* to administer a minor reprimand. ☐ *The judge only slapped her wrist.* ☐ *The courts only slap them on the wrist and send them back out on the streets.*

slash *n.* a drink of liquor. ☐ *Just one slash, and I have to be going.* ☐ *How about a slash? You ready yet?*

slaughter *Go to murder.*

slaughtered *mod.* drunk. ☐ *Ted and Bill came home slaughtered and caught hell for it.* ☐ *Garth went out and got himself slaughtered again last night.*

slave away (at something) *in.* to work very hard (doing something). ☐ *I'm tired of slaving away at this and getting nowhere.* ☐ *I'm slaving away for \$7.00 an hour and have no prospects for the future.*

slave market *n.* a job market where many candidates for jobs come face to face with potential employers. ☐ *I gotta go to the annual slave market this year. We're hiring for a change.* ☐ *There was little hope at the annual slave market. There were six jobs and 432 applicants.*

slay *tv.* to overwhelm someone with one's performance or other excellence. ☐ *These jokes always slay the audience.* ☐ *Oh, you slay me with your silly remarks.*

sleaze **AND** **sleez** [slɪz] **1.** *n.* a low and despicable person. ☐ *God, what a sleaze! How can anybody be so skanky?* ☐ *You'd expect to find a sleaze like that in a sleazoid joint like this.* **2.** *n.* any junk. ☐ *I won't sell sleez like that! I won't even have it in my store.* ☐ *Look at this sleaze—and look at the price! Outrageous!* **3.** *in.* to act low;

to be sexually promiscuous. ☐ *She looks like the type who will sleaze and lie to get her own way.* ☐ *She earned quite a reputation sleazing around with just anybody.*

sleazebag *n.* a repellent person or place. ☐ *I won't go into a sleazebag like that.* ☐ *Who is the sleazebag leaning against the wall?*

sleazeball *n.* a repellent person. ☐ *He's okay if you're into sleazeballs.* ☐ *Who is that sleazeball with the earring?*

sleaze-bucket *n.* a repellent person, thing, or place. ☐ *Gad, what a sleaze-bucket! Let me out of here!* ☐ *Gee, Sue, your date's a real sleaze-bucket!*

sleazo **AND** **sleazoid** ['slɪzo **AND** 'slɪzɔɪd] *mod.* low; disreputable; sleazy. ☐ *Let's get out of this sleazo joint.* ☐ *This place is really sleazo.* ☐ *Who wants a sleazoid car with no backseat?*

sleazoid ['slɪzɔɪd] **1.** *n.* a sleazy person. ☐ *Who is this sleazoid?* ☐ *Who was that sleazoid I saw you with last night?* **2.** *Go to sleazo.*

sleeper **1.** *n.* a sleeping pill. ☐ *I just took one little sleeper.* ☐ *She took a handful of sleepers with a glass of booze, and that was it.* **2.** *n.* someone or something that achieves fame after a period of invisibility. ☐ *The movie "Red Willow" was undoubtedly the sleeper of the year, winning six awards.* ☐ *My candidate had been a sleeper, but he finally began to pull ahead in the polls.*

sleepfest *n.* something, such as a dull lecture, that induces a long period of sleep. ☐ *The history lecture today was a real sleepfest.* ☐ *The play was a sleepfest. Half the audience left before it was over.*

sleep it off *tv.* to sleep while the effects of drugs or alcohol wear off. ☐ *I'm polluted, I guess. Have to get home and shleep it off.* ☐ *She'll be okay when she sleeps it off.*

sleepwalk *n.* a movement toward something without effort. (A movement that could be done in one's sleep. See also **cakewalk**; **walk**.) ☐ *Getting the degree was a sleepwalk. Getting a job was hell.* ☐

It was no sleepwalk, but it didn't make me slave away either.

sleeze Go to sleaze.

slew **1.** *in.* to drink to intoxication. ☐ *They must have been slewing for an hour before one got up and left.* ☐ *Let's go out and slew till we forget who we are.* **2.** *AND* **slews** *n.* a lot; lots. ☐ *I have a whole slew of old computer programs at home in a box somewhere.* ☐ *She's got slews of money.*

slewed *AND* **slewy; slued; sloughed (up)** [*slud* *AND* 'slui, slud...] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *Wallace is too slewed to drive.* ☐ *She knows how to stop drinking before she gets slewy.*

slews Go to slew.

slewy Go to slewed.

slice of the action Go to piece (of the action).

slick **1.** *mod.* clever; glib. ☐ *He is a slick operator.* ☐ *His talk is slick, but his action is zotz.* **2.** *mod.* excellent. ☐ *This is a real slick setup you got here.* ☐ *That is a slick idea.* ☐ *The idea is not so slick!* **3.** *n.* a high-quality magazine printed on slick [coated] paper. ☐ *The slicks are all carrying ads for products and services that couldn't even be mentioned a few years ago.* ☐ *Most of the price increase for the slicks has been because of postage increases.* **4.** *n.* a racing tire. (Auto racing.) ☐ *That set of wheels has slicks. I wonder why.* ☐ *I have some slicks at home in the garage.*

slick-chick *n.* an attractive and cute girl. ☐ *Tiffany is a slick-chick. I wonder if she'd go out with me.* ☐ *Who was that slick-chick I saw you with the other night?*

slickum ['slɪkəm] *n.* hair dressing, especially if thick and heavy. ☐ *What kind of slickum do you have on your hair—bear grease?* ☐ *His hair was plastered down with slickum, and he looked like something in an old movie.*

slightly rattled **1.** *mod.* upset; confused. (See also **rattled**.) ☐ *Tom was slightly rattled by the trouble at the door.* ☐ *I'm slightly rattled. I'll get over it.* **2.** *mod.* tipsy; alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *He's only slightly rattled. He'll recover by morning.*

☐ *She can be stone blind and still seem only slightly rattled.*

slim *n.* a tobacco cigarette. (The same as **straight**, as opposed to a marijuana cigarette, which may be thicker.) ☐ *I'll take a slim and a little mist, thanks.* ☐ *You got a slim I can borrow?*

slime **1.** *n.* a worthless person; a low and wretched person. ☐ *What a slime that guy is!* ☐ *Who is the slime over there with the greasy hair?* **2.** *n.* degrading matters; corrupt people or situations. ☐ *I don't want to be involved in slime like that.* ☐ *The press uncovered even more slime at city hall.*

slimebag Go to slime bag.

slime bag *AND* **slime bucket; slimebag; slimeball** *n.* a despicable person, usually a male. (See also **slime**.) ☐ *Gee, a slime bag like that in the same room with me! Yuck!* ☐ *Who's the slime bucket in the 1962 Bonneville?*

slimeball Go to slime bag.

slime bucket Go to slime bag.

sling the cat *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. ☐ *Suddenly Ralph left the room to sling the cat, I guess.* ☐ *That stuff will make you sling the cat.*

Slip me five! Go to Give me (some) skin!

slip one's trolley *tv.* to become a little crazy; to lose one's composure. (See also **off one's trolley**.) ☐ *I was afraid I would slip my trolley.* ☐ *He slipped his trolley and went totally bonkers.*

slip someone a Mickey *tv.* to secretly put a Mickey Finn in someone's alcoholic drink. (This drug either makes the victim ill or causes immediate diarrhea.) ☐ *Somebody slipped Barlowe a Mickey and sent him into action.* ☐ *For a ten-spot, the bartender slipped Rocko a Mickey.*

slip someone five *tv.* to shake someone's hand. ☐ *Billy slipped me five, and we sat down to discuss old times.* ☐ *Come on, man, slip me five!*

slipstick *n.* a slide rule. ☐ *Who carries a slipstick these days?* ☐ *Who even knows what a slipstick is these days?*

slip (up) 1. *in.* to make an error. □ *Don't slip up and pay this bill twice, please.* □ *I slipped and gave the guy a 35 percent tip.*
 2. AND **slip(-up)** *n.* an error. □ *That was a silly slip-up. I'm sorry.* □ *That slip cost us nearly \$2,000.*

slob [slab] *n.* a rude, fat, and unpleasant person. □ *What a slob! Comb your hair, if you can get a comb through it!* □ *Why doesn't that slob go on a diet or something? Anything!*

slobber *n.* nonsense. (From the term for saliva running out of the mouth.) □ *I've heard enough of your slobber. Can it!* □ *Another hour of professorial slobber!*

slob up *in.* to eat. □ *What time do you people slob up around here?* □ *Fred stopped slobbering up long enough to change the channel on the TV set.*

slopped *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I've never seen a senior citizen so inelegantly slopped as was Walter.* □ *He was so slopped, he could walk without his cane.*

slop(s) *n.* bad beer; inferior liquor. □ *Why do we have to drink slops like this? Can't Tom afford to give his guests something decent?* □ *Tom's slop is better than water—dishwater anyway.*

slosh 1. *n.* beer; liquor. □ *How about a glass of slosh?* □ *No slosh for me. Just plain water.* 2. *tv. & in.* to drink liquor, including beer; to drink to excess. □ *Are you going to slosh gin all night?* □ *I slosh just because I like the taste.*

sloshed (to the ears) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Man, is he sloshed to the ears!* □ *He is as sloshed as they come.*

sloughed (up) Go to **slewed**.

slow burn *n.* the act of becoming angry very slowly or being resentful for a long period of time. (See also **do a slow burn**.) □ *His lips were pressed together and he was angry, but just having a slow burn.* □ *She wasn't angry yet, but she was doing a slow burn.*

sludgeball ['slədʒbɔl] *n.* a despicable and repellent person. □ *Mike is such a sludgeball! Why do you keep seeing him?* □ *He's no sludgeball; he's eccentric.*

slued Go to **slewed**.

sluff (off) *in.* to waste time; to goof off. □ *Watch him. He will sluff off if you don't keep after him.* □ *He won't sluff. I know I can trust him.*

slug 1. *n.* a drink of liquor; a shot of whiskey. □ *Have a slug of this stuff. It will—I'm sorry to say, ma'am—put hair on your chest.* □ *A couple more slugs and he was ready to face the huge bull-necked ruffian.*
 2. *n.* a bullet. □ *Barlowe sent a couple of slugs into Rocko's chest. Rocko crumpled soundlessly.* □ *The medico dug out the slugs like he had done it a thousand times—which he probably had.*

slugfest 1. *n.* a fight; a festival of slugging. □ *They went out in the alley for a real slugfest.* □ *You wanna see a slugfest, just stick around.* 2. *n.* a festival of arguing. □ *The slugfest went on until both sides were willing to compromise.* □ *The president emerged from the slugfest with control of the company still hers.*

slugged *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I'm slugged—skunked, you know, corned. And I think I am going to sick up.* □ *Ted realized that he was slugged out of his mind, but tried to get the bartender to serve him another drink.*

slug it out *tv.* to fight something out; to fight about something figuratively. □ *They finally went outside to slug it out.* □ *We'll just have to sit down in the conference room and slug it out.*

slumgullion ['sləm'gʊljən] *n.* a meat stew; any food. □ *What is this slumgullion tonight? It looks like what we had last night, only thinner.* □ *This is the best slumgullion I've ever had—which puts it right up there with dishwater.*

slummy ['sləmi] *mod.* lousy. □ *What a slummy place!* □ *This place is not slummy!* □ *That was a slummy trick to pull on her.*

slushed (up) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I hate to come home slushed and wake up everybody. I have to sing, you see.* □ *This chick is so slushed that she doesn't know her name.*

slush fund *n.* a fund of money that can be used for various unofficial and discretionary purposes. □ *How much is left in the slush fund?* □ *The slush fund is bankrupt.*

slush up *in.* to drink liquor; to get drunk. □ *They slushed up for a while and went out to look for some chicks.* □ *Don't you ever get tired of going out and slushing up with those guys?*

sly *mod.* excellent; cool. □ *Look at Jim's sly new ride.* □ *That is really a sly jacket you got there.*

smack (dab) in the middle *mod.* exactly in the middle. (See also **slap-dab**.) □ *I came in smack dab in the middle of the play.* □ *Not too big and not too small. Just smack in the middle.*

smacker **1.** *n.* the face. (See also **kisser**.) □ *What a gorgeous smacker on that chick.* □ *She ought to give that ugly smacker back to the horse before it runs into something.* **2.** *n.* a dollar. (Underworld.) □ *You got a couple of smackers for the toll booth?* □ *Don't waste your hard-earned smackers like that. Run on through.* **3.** *n.* a kiss. □ *He planted a smacker square on her lips. She kicked him in the shins for his trouble.* □ *Barlowe was greeted at the door by a lovely, cuddly chick in a nightie—eyes closed and lips parted for a better than average smacker. He really wished—just for a moment—that he hadn't rung the wrong doorbell.*

smack the road *tv.* to leave; to hit the road. □ *Time to smack the road! Sgo!* □ *Let's smack the road. I have to get up early.*

small beer *n.* nothing or next to nothing; an insignificant person. □ *The guy is just small beer. Pay him no mind.* □ *Small beer or not, he's my customer, and I will see that he is taken care of.*

small change *n.* an insignificant person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Look, small change, why don't you just move along?* □ *The guy you think is small change happens to own this building you seem to be guarding so well.*

small fortune *n.* a rather sizeable amount of money. □ *This set of wheels cost me a*

small fortune. □ *I've got a small fortune tied up in test equipment.*

small fry *n.* anything or anyone small or unimportant. (Fry are juvenile fish.) □ *Forget the small fry. I'm going after Mr. Big.* □ *Don't worry about the small fry. You have to please the fat-cats.*

small potatoes *n.* something or someone insignificant. □ *This contract is small potatoes, but it keeps us in business till we get into the real money.* □ *Small potatoes are better than no potatoes at all.*

small-time *mod.* insignificant; petty. □ *I was in a lot of small-time stuff at home, but never a Broadway hit before.* □ *Broadway is not small-time.* □ *Bart was involved in a lot of small-time crime when he was twelve.*

smarmy ['smarmi] *mod.* insincere and obsequious. □ *He's obnoxious but brazen rather than smarmy.* □ *He's a smarmy creep.* □ *The guy is so smarmy, I can't stand him.*

smart aleck ['smart 'ælək] *n.* someone who is saucy and acts cocky. □ *A smart aleck like you ought to have no trouble at all getting his face mashed in.* □ *Don't be such a smart aleck.*

smart ass *n.* someone who makes wise-cracks and acts cocky. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Some smart ass came in here and asked for a sky hook.* □ *Don't be such a smart ass!*

smart cookie *n.* a clever person. □ *She's really a smart cookie if you give her a chance.* □ *Fred is a smart cookie and really ought to go far.*

smart guy *n.* a man who acts cocky; a wise guy. □ *All right, smart guy, see if you like this one.* □ *Some smart guy put fresh paint on this bench.*

smart money *n.* money belonging to smart or clever people. □ *Most of the smart money is going into utility stocks right now.* □ *Watch and see what the smart money is doing.*

smart mouth *n.* someone who makes wise-cracks; a cocky person who speaks out of turn. □ *Don't be a smart mouth with*

me! □ *Mr. Atkins is going to get a reputation as a smart mouth.*

smarts *n.* intelligence. □ *She's got plenty of smarts but no spunk.* □ *I got the smarts to do the job. All I need is someone to trust me.*

smarty *n.* a cocky person. (Also a term of address.) □ *Well, if you're such a smarty, why aren't you rich?* □ *Okay, smarty, do it yourself.*

smarty-pants *n.* a cocky person; a smart aleck. □ *Look, smarty-pants, let's cut the clowning around.* □ *That smarty-pants is going to get herself into big trouble.*

smash *n.* wine. (Black. Because it is made from smashed grapes.) □ *I got a bottle of smash in my car.* □ *This is great smash for a buck twenty-five.*

smashed *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *He was so smashed he couldn't stand up.* □ *Tracy can drink a lot without ever getting smashed.*

smash hit *n.* a play, movie, musical, etc., which is a big success. □ *Her first book was a smash hit. The second was a disaster.* □ *A smash hit doesn't always make people rich.*

smashing *mod.* excellent; really tremendous. □ *We had a smashing time at your little do.* □ *This whole meal has been smashing.*

smear *tv.* to defeat someone; to outscore someone. □ *We smeared them 50-20.* □ *They said they would smear us, but we smeared them.*

smeared *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *I feel sort of smeared. Maybe I should have drunk less.* □ *Bob and Jim found themselves smeared at the end of the day.*

smell a rat *tv.* to suspect that something is wrong. □ *He smelled a rat the minute he came into the room.* □ *Keep everything normal. I don't want her to smell a rat. She has never had a surprise party before.*

smell blood *tv.* to be ready for a fight; to be ready to attack; to be ready to act. (Like sharks, which are sent into a frenzy by the smell of blood.) □ *Lefty was sur-*

rounded, and you could tell that the guys from the other gang smelled blood. □ *The lawyer heard the crash and came running—smelling blood and bucks.*

smeller *n.* (one's) nose. □ *I think my smeller's gone bad because of my cold.* □ *He's got a fine strawberry on the end of his smeller.*

smell fishy *in.* to seem suspicious. (See also **fishy**.) □ *Barlowe squinted a bit. Something smells fishy here, he thought.* □ *Something about the deal smelled fishy.*

smell it up AND **smell the stuff** *tv.* to sniff or snort powdered drugs, usually cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *One of those guys shoots it; the other smells it up.* □ *You don't breathe it in; you just smell the stuff.*

smell like a rose *in.* to seem innocent. □ *I came out of the whole mess smelling like a rose, even though I caused all the trouble.* □ *Tiffany pretended that she was the only one who should smell like a rose, but I knew different.*

smell the stuff Go to **smell it up**.

smell to (high) heaven **1.** *in.* to smell very bad. □ *This kitchen smells to high heaven. What besides garlic are you cooking?* □ *Where has this dog been? It smells to heaven.* **2.** *in.* to give signals that cause suspicion. □ *This deal is messed up. It smells to high heaven.* □ *Something's wrong here. Somebody blabbed. This setup smells to high heaven.*

smidgen ['smɪdʒɪn] *n.* a tiny bit. □ *I just want a smidgen of cake. I'm on a diet.* □ *Oh, come on, more than a smidgen. Just a little?*

smile AND **smiler; smiley** *n.* a drink of liquor; liquor. □ *Come over and join me for a smiley.* □ *Here, have a smiler on me.*

smiler Go to **smile**.

Smile when you say that. *sent.* Give some sort of a signal that you are only joking when you say something potentially offensive. □ *That's pretty rude. You'd better smile when you say that.* □ *I told him he'd better smile when he says that, or he's going to get in trouble.*

Smiley 1. *n.* a circular, smiling yellow face.

(The face appears in many forms, stick-on labels, pin-on buttons, hand-drawn, etc. It is possible to re-create the smiling face on any keyboard through the use of the punctuation symbols, as with :) or :-). All computer Smileys and their variants appear sideways. A major variant is the *Unsmiley*, which is basically :(or :-(. The following faces are a sample of the variants that can be seen in computer forum or news group messages and informal typewritten or word processed notes. This type of symbol is called an *emoticon* because it is intended to show *emotion* in what is otherwise a rather cold medium of communication. The typical use is to show that the writer is just joking or writing in good, well-intentioned spirits. The following Smileys are separated by slashes, and an equal sign separates the actual Smiley from its explanation.) :-] = Squarejaw Smiley / :-o = Singing Smiley; Shocked Smiley; Surprised Smiley / :-(= Sad Smiley / :-) = Happy Smiley / : -) = Smiley with a Big Mustache / :-)' = Drooling Smiley; Smoking Smiley / :-)8 = Smiley Wearing a Bow Tie / :-D = Big-mouth Smiley / :-# = Smiley with Sealed Lips / :-* = Pursed-lips Smiley; Shocked Smiley / :-s = Twisted-mouth Smiley (after hearing or saying something strange) / :-" = Smiley with Walrus Mustache / :-| = Smiley Making Dull Response; "Have-a-dull-day" Smiley / :-> = Wry-faced Smiley / :-0 = Loudmouth Smiley; Big-mouth Smiley / :-x = Sealed-lips Smiley / :-Q = Smoking Smiley; Drooling Smiley / :-> = Midget Smiley / ;-) = Winking Smiley / (-) = Smiley Needing a Haircut / ":-) = Smiley with its Hair Parted in the Middle / +:-) = Smiley Priest / *-(= Smiley Cyclops, Poked in the Eye / *:o) = Bozo Smiley / <:I = Dunce Smiley / @-) = Cyclops Smiley / @:I = Smiley Wearing a Turban / |-) = Gleeful Smiley / |-| = Sleeping Smiley; Bored Smiley / 0-) = Smiley Wearing a Scuba Mask / 8-) = Smiley in Glasses / 8:-) = A Smiley with Glasses on its Forehead / B-) = Smiley Wearing Horn-rim Glasses / o-) = Cyclops Smiley / [:-) = Smiley Happily Listening to a Walkman / [:-| = Robot Smi-

ley; Squarejaw Smiley Listening to a Walkman. **2.** Go to **smile**.

smithereens ['smɪðəɪnz] *n.* many tiny pieces or splinters. □ *The mirror was broken to smithereens.* □ *I broke my crystal bell to smithereens.*

smoke 1. *n.* a tobacco cigarette; a pipe of tobacco; a cigar. □ *I think I'll have a smoke now.* □ *You got a smoke I can owe you?* **2.** *n.* the act of smoking anything smokable, including drugs. □ *I need a smoke—of anything.* □ *I'm going to stop here for a smoke.* **3.** *n.* methyl alcohol; bad liquor; any liquor. □ *The old guy was drinking smoke, and it blinded him.* □ *They call it smoke because when you mix it with water and shake it, it's cloudy.* **4.** *n.* exaggeration; deception. (See also **blow smoke**; **smoke and mirrors**.) □ *That's not a report. That's just smoke.* □ *If the smoke is too obvious, they'll just get suspicious.* **5.** *tv.* to annihilate someone; to shoot someone. (Underworld.) □ *Rocko tried time and time again to smoke Barlowe, always without success.* □ *You want me to smoke you on the spot, or are you gonna cooperate?* **6.** *tv.* to beat someone in a contest; to outrun, outdistance, or outplay someone. □ *Jill smoked Dave in the bicycle race.* □ *I will smoke you in the race!*

smoke and mirrors *n.* a strategy of deception and cover up. □ *Her entire report was nothing but smoke and mirrors. Who could believe any of it?* □ *There is no plan. It's all just smoke and mirrors.*

smoke eater *n.* a firefighter. □ *A couple of off-duty smoke eaters wandered around the store doing a little shopping.* □ *The smoke eaters took a long time getting there.*

smoke-filled room *n.* a room where a small group of people make important decisions. (Usually used in reference to political parties.) □ *The smoke-filled rooms are still producing the candidates for most offices, even as we approach the year two thousand.* □ *The deal was cut in a smoke-filled room.*

smoke-in *n.* a young people's public gathering of the 1960s where marijuana was

smoked in open defiance of the law. □ *My uncle was at a smoke-in. He says the reporters were getting kids to pose for shots.* □ *They say you could get a high just by being near a smoke-in.*

smoke like a chimney *in.* to smoke a great deal of tobacco or other smokable substances. □ *My uncle smoked like a chimney when he was living.* □ *Somebody who smokes like a chimney in a restaurant ought to be thrown out.*

Smokey (the Bear) *n.* a highway patrol officer; a police officer. (Citizens band radio. See also **bear**, **lady bear**.) □ *A Smokey was hiding behind a billboard!* □ *Smokey the Bear is after you!*

smokin' ['sməkən] *mod.* really hot; overpowering. □ *Those threads on that dude are really smokin'.* □ *If you wanna hear some smokin' vinyl, just stay tuned.*

smoking gun *n.* the indisputable sign of guilt. □ *Mr. South was left holding the smoking gun.* □ *The chief of staff decided that the admiral should be found with the smoking gun.*

smooch [smu:tʃ] **1.** *in.* to kiss and neck. □ *Too much smooching in a movie ruins it for me.* □ *I like to smooch myself, but I don't enjoy watching somebody else.* **2.** *n.* a kiss. □ *I like a good smooch from my hubby.* □ *Hey, sweetie, how about a smooch?*

smoothie Go to **smooth operator**.

smooth operator AND **smoothie** *n.* a clever and quiet person, especially in reference to romantic involvement. □ *Clare is an old smoothie till she thinks she's got everything the way she wants. Then you see the real Clare.* □ *Hank is a smooth operator. The girls just love him.*

smurf [smɜ:f] **1.** *n.* someone who "cleans" ill-gotten money by buying cashier's checks at banks and shifting funds from place to place. (Underworld. From the name of a type of cartoon character. See also **greenwash**, **launder**.) □ *I think the guy at the first window is a smurf. He's in here twice a week with \$9,500 in cash each time.* □ *Did you get a good look at this alleged smurf?* **2.** *tv. & in.* to shift illicit

money from place to place to conceal its origin. (Underworld.) □ *I smurf for a living. It doesn't pay much, but you meet some very interesting people.* □ *I smurfed a fortune for a famous drug kingpin and got fourteen years up the river—with some very interesting people.*

smurfbrain ['smɜ:fbren] *n.* a simple-minded person. (A smurf is an innocent little cartoon character.) □ *You can be such a smurfbrain!* □ *You're not a smurf-brain, I suppose?*

smurfed [smɜ:ft] *mod.* having to do with a bank that has been used to launder money. (See also **smurf**.) □ *The teller came slowly into the office. "I think we were smurfed," she said.* □ *See that this dough is smurfed by Friday.*

snafu [snæ'fu] *n.* an accident; a foul-up. (Acronym. From *situation normal, all fouled (fucked) up*. Also capitalized.) □ *Your being last is not just a snafu. It's a disaster.* □ *What a SNAFU! All the power went off when you turned on the coffeepot.*

snag 1. *n.* a difficulty. □ *There's a little snag in our plan.* □ *We ran into a little snag, I'm sorry to say.* **2.** *n.* an ugly (young) woman. □ *She's not a snag! She's lovely.* □ *Who's the snag your brother is running around with?* **3.** AND **SNAG** *n.* a Sensitive New-Age Guy. □ *Tim is a wimp, a SNAG, a twit!* □ *There were only snags and bimbos at the rally, so I left.* **4.** *tv.* to procure, grab, or steal something. □ *Somebody snagged the jacket I just bought.* □ *See if you can snag a couple of good seats while I get the popcorn.*

snail-mail *n.* post office mail; regular mail as opposed to electronic mail. (Refers to the slowness of regular mail in comparison to electronic mail or faxes.) □ *I'll send you the full text by snail-mail.* □ *There are lots of color pictures in the article, so I will send you the original by snail-mail.*

snake 1. *in.* to scheme; to plot and plan. (Prisons.) □ *He spent a lot of time snaking about that job.* **2.** *tv.* to steal something. □ *Where did you snake that bike?*

snakebite medicine *n.* inferior whiskey; strong whiskey; homemade whiskey. □ *That old-time snakebite medicine is good for what ails you.* □ *Snakebite medicine is a tremendous protection against snakebites if you can get the snake to drink the stuff before it bites you.*

snake eyes *n.* the two in dice, one spot on each die. □ *Well, it's snake eyes again. That's all for me.* □ *The baby needs shoes, and all I get is snake eyes.*

snake in the grass *n.* a sneaky and despised person. □ *How could I ever have trusted that snake in the grass?* □ *John is such a snake in the grass.*

snap 1. *n.* a snapshot. □ *I got some good snaps of the fish you caught.* □ *Here's a snap of my brother.* **2.** *in.* to go crazy. □ *Suddenly Rocko snapped and began beating her savagely.* □ *His mind snapped, and he's never been right since.* **3.** a **snap** *n.* an easy thing to do. (Always with a in this sense.) □ *Nothing to it. It's a snap.* □ *The whole thing was a snap.*

snap course *n.* an easy course (in school). □ *I took a snap course in algebra and flunked it.* □ *I need at least one snap course a semester to pass.*

Snap it up! *exclam.* Hurry up! □ *We're late. Snap it up!* □ *Come on, snap it up! I don't have all day.*

snap one's cookies *tv.* to vomit; to regurgitate. □ *I think I'm gonna snap my cookies.* □ *Some jerk snapped his cookies on the sidewalk.*

snap out of something *in.* to recover from something. □ *I'll snap out of it in a while.* □ *It was an emotional blow, but he'll snap out of it in a while.*

snapped (up) 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Let's go out and get ourselves good and snapped.* □ *Pete was snapped up by eighty-thirty.* **2.** *mod.* arrested. □ *He got snapped up on a vag charge.* □ *The bacon busted the joint and snapped everybody in sight.*

snapper *n.* a strange person. □ *Wally is sort of a snapper, but a nice guy.* □ *Who is the snapper with the gumbey haircut?*

snappers *n.* the teeth. (Folksy.) □ *I couldn't talk to you on the phone till I got my snappers in.* □ *You got a mouthful of fine-looking snappers.*

snappy 1. *mod.* quick. □ *You can get there if you're snappy.* □ *Make it snappy. I'm in a hurry.* **2.** *mod.* sharp-looking. □ *That's a real snappy outfit you're wearing.* □ *Who's driving that snappy car over there?* □ *That car's not snappy!*

snap something up *tv.* to buy up something. (See also **snapped (up)**.) □ *People were snapping these things up like hot cakes.* □ *The customers snapped up all the humidifiers on the second day of the cold spell.*

snap to (attention) *in.* to come to attention; to look alert immediately. □ *When they realized what was happening, they began to snap to.* □ *Snap to attention when the sarge comes in!*

Snap to it! *exclam.* Get busy! □ *Come on, snap to it!* □ *Snap to it, we've got lots to do.*

snatch 1. *tv.* to kidnap someone. (Underworld.) □ *We're gonna snatch the kid when the baby-sitter comes out to see what happened.* □ *The mob snatched Mrs. Davis and held her for ransom.* **2.** *n.* a kidnapping. (Underworld.) □ *The Bradley snatch had the detectives up all night for weeks.* □ *The snatch went off without a hitch.* **3.** *tv.* to grab something; to steal something. □ *Snatch me the paper there on the table as you walk by, would you please?* □ *Somebody snatched my car.* **4.** *n.* a theft. (Underworld.) □ *The snatch went off without a hitch except that the safe was empty.* □ *Are you the guys who pulled off that First National snatch?* **5.** *n.* women considered as a receptacle for the penis. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *The sailor walked around the port, looking for some snatch.*

snatched *mod.* arrested. □ *Everybody in the crack house got snatched in the bust.* □ *Bruno was snatched for the umpteenth time yesterday.*

snatcher *n.* a police officer; a detective. (Underworld.) □ *One of the local snatchers came around to see if the door was*

locked. □ A snatcher hauled her away to the station.

snaved in [snevɪd...] *mod.* drug intoxicated.

□ The poor guy was as snaved in as they come. Really fried. □ By midnight they were so snaved in they couldn't walk.

snazz AND **shnazz** [snæz AND ʃnæz] *n.* class; glitter and excitement. □ The curtain opened on a dazzling display of snazz and bright lights. □ There was lots of snazz and glitz, but no real substance.

snazz something up *tv.* to make something classy or exciting. □ Come on, let's try to snazz this up. □ What can I do to snazz up my face?

snazzy AND **shnazzy** ['snæzi AND 'ʃnæzi] *mod.* elegant; classy. □ This is a snazzy place all right. □ This place is sure snazzy. □ Whose shnazzy new car is this?

sneak *n.* a sneak preview of a movie. □ There was a good sneak at the Granada last night. □ The sneak was better than the flick they had advertised.

sneaks *n.* sneakers. □ Are those sneaks new? □ She wore red sneaks and a mini.

sneaky *mod.* unfair and sly. □ That was a sneaky thing to do! □ Jerry is sneaky. Don't trust him.

snide remark *n.* a caustic, haughty, or insulting remark. □ You're really quick with the snide remark. Ever say anything nice to anybody? □ I did not appreciate that snide remark.

sniff *n.* a drink of liquor. (See also **snort**.) □ I'd like just a sniff of that Scotch. □ Sure, have a sniff of whatever you want.

snipe *n.* a cigarette or cigar butt. □ Down on skid row, a snipe won't be on the sidewalk for ten seconds. □ He saves a bunch of snipes until he gets enough for a real smoke.

snit [snɪt] *n.* a state of resentment. □ Don't work yourself into such a snit. □ She threw quite a snit.

snitch [snɪtʃ] **1.** *n.* an informer. □ Who needs a snitch? If he can't keep his mouth shut, he can beat it. □ The snitch went and told the teacher. **2.** *in.* to inform (on

someone). (Often with *on*.) □ The cops were waiting for us. Who snitched? □ Tracy snitched on Ziggy, and he nearly snuffed her. **3.** *tv.* to steal something. □ Who snitched my cake? □ Why don't you snitch the salt from one of the other tables? **4.** *n.* a theft. (Underworld.) □ The snitch went off without a hitch. □ How much loot did we get in the snitch?

snitcher ['snɪtʃə] *n.* an informer. (Originally underworld.) □ There's nothing worse than a snitcher. □ Clare is a snitcher. Watch what you say around her.

snitzy ['snɪtsi] *mod.* classy; ritzy. □ This is a pretty snitzy place—tablecloths and everything. □ Tiffany is too snitzy for me.

snoggered Go to **schnockered**.

snookered ['snʊkəd] *mod.* cheated; deceived. □ I was snookered skillfully and quickly. It was almost a pleasure. □ I got snookered at the service station.

snookums ['snʊkəmz OR 'snukəmz] *n.* <a nickname for a child or a lover.> (Also a term of address.) □ Now, now, snookums, it's all right. □ Does my little snookums want to play?

snoop 1. *in.* to prowl around looking for something. □ What are you snooping around here for? □ Somebody was around here snooping and asking questions. **2.** *n.* someone who prowls around looking for something. □ Don't be a snoop. □ Fred is just a snoop. He went through my desk!

snoot [snʊt] *n.* the nose. □ You wanna get bopped on the snoot? □ That's one fine zit you got on your snoot.

snooted ['snʊəd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ He got himself thoroughly snooted. □ She's snooted and will never get home by herself.

snooty *mod.* haughty; conceited. □ Don't be so snooty! □ Tiffany can be snooty if she wants to, and she usually wants to. □ What a snooty waiter!

snoozamoroed ['snʊzəmərʊd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ Man, was she snoozamoroed! □ He went and got himself snoozamoroed before the wedding.

snooze [snuz] **1.** *in.* to sleep; to take a little nap. □ *You can't snooze every afternoon!* □ *I snoozed a little bit before the party.* **2.** *n.* a little nap. □ *I need a little snooze.* □ *Why not go up and take a little snooze?* **3.** *n.* something that is boring enough to put someone to sleep. □ *The play was a snooze. I left before it was over.* □ *It wasn't a lecture; it was a snooze.*

snork [snork] *in.* to smoke marijuana or hashish. (Drugs.) □ *Let's get down to some serious snorking.* □ *They snorked until they could snork no more.*

snort **1.** *tv. & in.* to sniff (insufflate) a powdered drug, now usually cocaine. (Drugs.) □ *Here, snort this.* □ *You're snorting every time I see you.* **2.** *n.* a nasal dose of a drug, usually cocaine. □ *Here, take a snort.* □ *I don't want a snort. I'm clean, and I'm going to stay that way.*

snot **1.** *n.* nasal mucus. (Crude.) □ *Oh, God, there's snot on your cheek.* □ *He sneezed and got snot all over the newspaper.* **2.** *n.* a nasty person; an obnoxious person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *You needn't be such a snot about it.* □ *What a snot!*

snotnose(d) kid AND **snotnose** *n.* a young child; a relatively young person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *Some little snotnose swiped my wallet.* □ *A little snotnosed kid came in and asked for money.*

snotrag *n.* a handkerchief. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I guess I should use my snotrag.* □ *Don't you carry a snotrag?*

snotted *mod.* very drunk. □ *She gets totally snotted almost every night.* □ *That guy was really snotted!*

snotty AND **snottie** ['snɒdi] **1.** *mod.* nasty with nasal mucus. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Keep your snotty old handkerchief to yourself.* □ *Don't leave your snotty tissues all over the house!* **2.** *mod.* bitchy; rude. (Usually objectionable.) □ *What makes her so snotty?* □ *What a snotty waiter!* □ *Now, there's no reason to get snottie with me.*

snow **1.** *n.* deceitful talk; deception. □ *No snow, okay? I want straight talk.* □ *All I heard for an hour was snow. Now, what's*

the truth? **2.** *tv.* to attempt to deceive someone. (See also **snowed**.) □ *Don't try to snow me!* □ *You can try to snow me if you want, but I'm onto your tricks.* **3.** AND **snowball; snowflakes; snow stuff** *n.* a powdered or crystalline narcotic: morphine, heroin, or cocaine. (Now almost always the latter.) □ *Now, snow is almost old-fashioned.* □ *The price of snow has come down a lot as South America exports more of it.*

snowball **1.** *in.* to grow at an increasing rate. (As a snowball rolling down a hill might increase in size.) □ *The problem began to snowball, and we had to close down for a while.* □ *Offers to help with money and prayers began to snowball, and we had to get volunteers to help answer the phones.* **2.** Go to **snow**.

snowball's chance in hell *n.* a very poor chance. (Usually in the negative.) □ *She doesn't have a snowball's chance in hell of getting it done on time.* □ *I know I don't have a snowball's chance in hell, but I'll try anyway.*

snow bunny **1.** *n.* someone learning to ski. □ *This little slope is for snow bunnies.* □ *Most of the snow bunnies come here to socialize.* **2.** *n.* a female skier. □ *Some cute little snow bunny came over and sat beside me.* □ *This place is swarming with snow bunnies who have never even seen a ski.* **3.** *n.* a cocaine user. □ *How can these suburban snow bunnies afford such big habits?* □ *He used to smoke pot, now he's a snow bunny.*

snowed *mod.* deceived. □ *He was one snowed coach. He still doesn't know what really happened.* □ *We really had him snowed!*

snowflakes Go to **snow**.

snow job *n.* a systematic deception. □ *You can generally tell when a student is trying to do a snow job.* □ *This snow job you call an explanation just won't do.*

snow stuff Go to **snow**.

snozzled ['snɒzld] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *How can anybody be so snozzled on four beers?* □ *Those guys are really snozzled!*

snozzle-wobbles ['snaʒl'wablz] *n.* a hang-over; the delirium tremens. □ *Freddy had the snozzle-wobbles this morning. He has no idea what caused it.* □ *They say that a big glass of milk is good for the snozzle-wobbles.*

snuff 1. *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld.) □ *The mob tried to snuff Max, but he moved too fast for them.* □ *Somebody snuffed my cat!* **2.** *mod.* having to do with death or killing. □ *Those snuff acts ought to be outlawed.* □ *All this snuff stuff is for sickies.*

snuff film *n.* a film that records an actual death or killing. □ *Who would watch a snuff film anyway?* □ *Some of these snuff films have a loyal following of real sickies.*

snuff it *tv.* to die. □ *The cat leapt straight up in the air and snuffed it.* □ *I was so sick they thought I was going to snuff it.*

snuffy ['snəfi] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She was a little snuffy, but nothing debilitating.* □ *Who's the snuffy little guy in the corner booth?*

soak 1. *in.* to drink heavily; to get drunk. (See also **soaked**.) □ *The two old ladies put on their coats and went out to soak.* □ *They sat quietly soaking for an hour.* **2.** *n.* a drinking bout. □ *They sat there quietly enjoying their soak.* □ *Both guys declined to go out and stayed home and enjoyed a soak in front of the TV.* **3.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *Some old soak lay moaning in the gutter.* □ *Hank is getting to be a real soak.* **4.** *tv.* to overcharge someone; to extort money from someone. □ *They soaked me for twenty dollars for the parts, but at least it runs now.* □ *The cleaners soaked me for the cleaning job.*

soaked *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *All the guys came home soaked.* □ *Frank was too soaked to drive home.*

soaker *n.* a drunkard; a tippler. □ *Uncle Charlie was a soaker, and the family never realized it.* □ *Give the old soaker a drink to shut him up.*

soak one's face *tv.* to drink heavily. □ *They're down at the tavern soaking their faces.* □ *Well, I guess I'll go soak my face for a while.*

so-and-so *n.* <a euphemistic way of addressing someone with an insulting term of address.> (This is usually euphemistic for *son of a bitch*. However, it is also used for good friends, especially male to male, to show affection.) □ *This lousy so-and-so tried to take me for 400 bucks.* □ *Terry, you old so-and-so, how ya been?*

soap *n.* a soap opera. □ *She won't schedule anything when her soap is on.* □ *Soaps are very popular on college campuses these days.*

SOB *n.* a *son of a bitch*; a despised person, usually a male. (Initialism only. Crude. Also a rude and provocative term of address.) □ *Tell that SOB to mind his own business.* □ *Look here, you SOB, get out!*

so bad one can taste it *mod.* very much, indeed. □ *I want that car so bad I can taste it.* □ *He had to get to Philadelphia so bad he could taste it.*

sober as a judge *mod.* as sober (free from alcohol) as it is possible to be. □ *Kelly—who was starched as could be—claimed to be sober as a judge.* □ *The judge was not always sober as a judge, but he could get through his court call.*

sobersides *n.* a very serious person; a grumpy old man. □ *Old sobersides can't manage to laugh at anything.* □ *Some sobersides came over and asked us to watch our language.*

sober up *in.* to recover from alcohol or drug intoxication. □ *Barlowe had one hour to sober up and get to the station.* □ *It took him a while to sober up.*

sob sister *n.* a weak woman who is prone to crying. □ *Mary is a sob sister. She wears you out fast.* □ *I had another sob sister in the office today. Went through half a box of tissues.*

sob story *n.* a sad story that is likely to draw tears. □ *I've heard nothing but sob stories today. Isn't anybody happy?* □ *She had quite a sob story, and I listened to the whole thing.*

social disease *n.* a sexually transmitted disease. □ *Many people find things like—ah—social diseases difficult to discuss in*

public. □ Others talk about private matters like social diseases till you're sick to death of it.

sock *tv.* to punch someone or something.
□ Wally was so mad, he tried to sock Paul.
□ He socked the door with his fist and began to howl with pain.

socked *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ I don't know what was in that punch, but I was socked. □ She got socked out of her mind.

socked in *mod.* fogged in. □ The airport was completely socked in. □ We couldn't take off because we were socked in.

sock hop *n.* a dance party where everyone dances in stocking feet. (From the 1950s.) □ My mother told us about a sock hop she went to. It doesn't sound like fun at all. □ Sock hops were popular in schools that had new and expensive floors in their gymnasiums.

Sock it to me! *exclam.* Come on, let me have it! (Refers to bad news.) □ Come on! I can take it. Sock it to me! □ Sock it to me, man. I'm ready.

sofa spud ['sofə 'spʊd] *n.* someone who spends a great deal of time sitting and watching television. (A play on **couch potato**.) □ Sofa spuds have been getting a lot of attention in the newspapers. □ These sofa spuds usually watch sports on television.

soft 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ After a few hours at the party, it appeared that most people were getting soft. □ Hard liquor makes people soft. **2.** *mod.* having to do with nonaddictive drugs. (Compare this with **hard**.) □ The soft stuff just leads to hard stuff. □ This acid is not exactly soft. □ Soft drugs just take longer to turn you into a zombie. **3.** *mod.* stupid. □ The guy's soft in the head. He just can't think straight. □ She seems a little soft, but she's really bright.

soft berth *n.* an easy situation; employment at an easy job. □ Fred ended up with a real soft berth. □ I hope I can arrange a soft berth for my brother, who just applied for a job here.

soft core 1. *mod.* referring to a mild type of pornography. □ There are more and more soft core movies on cable television. □ This stuff I saw was just soft core. □ Now even the soft core stuff is getting harder to find at newsstands. **2.** *n.* mild pornography. □ They keep some soft core under the counter. □ The movie was a bit of soft core, but people still walked out.

soft-hearted *mod.* tender-hearted; sympathetic. □ She is too soft-hearted to handle this job. □ He is a soft-hearted guy who can help our cause a lot.

softie **AND** **softy 1.** *n.* a gentle person; a very agreeable person. □ He shouldn't give you much trouble. He's such a softie. □ The judge who tried the case was anything but a softie. **2.** *n.* a weakling; a coward. □ He's too much of a softie to fight back. □ Don't worry—he's a softie.

soft in the head *mod.* stupid; witless. □ George is just soft in the head. He'll never get away with his little plan. □ You're soft in the head if you think I'll go along with that.

soft money *n.* easy money; money obtained without much effort. □ Don't become dependent on soft money. □ There's not even very much soft money around now.

soft on someone *mod.* romantically attracted to someone. □ Fred is soft on Martha, I've heard. □ He looked like he was getting a little soft on Sally.

soft on someone or something *mod.* too easy on someone or something. □ The judge was viewed as being too soft on pushers. □ The cops are soft on speeders in this town.

soft pedal something *tv.* to play something down; to de-emphasize something. (Refers to the soft pedal on the piano.) □ Try to soft pedal the problems we have with the cooling system. □ I won't soft pedal anything. Everyone must know the truth.

soft sell *n.* a polite attempt to sell something; a very gentle sales pitch. □ Some people won't bother listening to a soft sell. You gotta let them know you believe in

what you are selling. □ *I tried the soft sell, but that didn't work.*

soft soap 1. *n.* flattering talk; sweet talk. □ *I don't mind a little soft soap. It won't affect what I do, though.* □ *Don't waste my time with soft soap. I know you don't mean it.* 2. *tv.* to attempt to convince someone (of something) by gentle persuasion. □ *We couldn't soft soap her into it.* □ *Don't try to soft soap her. She's an old battle-ax.*

soft touch 1. *n.* a gentle way of handling someone or something. □ *Bess has a soft touch and can bring both sides together.* □ *Kelly lacks the kind of soft touch needed for this kind of negotiation.* 2. *n.* a gullible person; a likely victim of a scheme. □ *John is a soft touch for a few bucks.* □ *Here comes the perfect soft touch—a nerd with a gleam in his eye.*

software rot *n.* an imaginary disease that causes computer programs to go bad over a long period of time. (Computers.) □ *I guess software rot finally got to my program!* □ *What you have here is not a bug, but just plain old software rot.*

softy Go to **softie**.

soggy ['sɑgi] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *The two old ladies got a little soggy, but nothing uncouth.* □ *They weren't sopping wet, just soggy.*

So gross! *exclam.* How disgusting! (California.) □ *He put chocolate syrup on his pie! So gross!* □ *He's barfing! So gross!*

sold cober ['sɒld 'kɒbər] *mod.* sober. (A spoonerism on **cold sober**. Similar to **jober as a sudge**.) □ *What do you mean drunk? Why, I'm sold cober.* □ *Ted is always as sold cober as the next guy.*

soldier 1. *n.* a liquor bottle; an empty liquor bottle. (See also **dead soldier**.) □ *Toss your soldier into the garbage, please.* □ *There was a broken soldier on the floor and a cap on the table.* 2. *n.* a whole tobacco cigarette. □ *The old man almost fell over trying to pick up the soldier from the sidewalk.* □ *"Look, Jed. A soldier. My lucky day!" said the old soak to his buddy.*

sold on someone or something *mod.* convinced of the value of someone or

something. □ *I'm not yet sold on your idea.* □ *The crowd was sold on Gary. Nothing he had done or could do would cool their enthusiasm.*

solid 1. *mod.* good; great; cool. □ *Man, this music is solid!* □ *Listen to that solid beat.* 2. *mod.* consecutive; consecutively. □ *Larry ate for four solid days.* □ *Then he "had the flu" for three days solid.*

So long. *interj.* Good-bye. □ *So long, see ya later.* □ *It's been good talking to you. So long.*

a **somebody** *n.* an important person. (Compare this with **nobody**.) □ *Aren't you a somebody?* □ *If she was somebody, you wouldn't have to ask.*

someone or something from hell *n.* someone or something very intense, annoying, or challenging. (As if the person or thing were a demon from hell.) □ *She is the nurse from hell and just loves to give shots.* □ *I just came back from a cruise from hell and have lots of horror stories to tell about the trip.* □ *I worked for three years at that job from hell, and I'm glad to be out of it.*

someone's ass is grass *phr.* someone has had it; It is the end for someone. □ *You do that again, and your ass is grass!* □ *If I don't get there on time, my ass is grass.*

some pumpkins AND **some punkins** *mod.* someone or something great or special. □ *That chick is some punkins!*

some punkins Go to **some pumpkins**.

Something's got to give. *sent.* Things cannot go on like this.; The stalemate will be broken. □ *The pressure on me is getting to be too much. Something's got to give.* □ *They keep arguing about money. Something's got to give.*

So much for that. *sent.* That is all for that. (Also in other variants as in the examples.) □ *It's gone, ruined, broken—so much for that.* □ *He's finished as a friend of mine. So much for him!* □ *So much for you! Good-bye!*

son of a bitch 1. *n.* a despicable person, usually a male. (Rude and derogatory. Abbreviated **SOB**.) □ *Tell that son of a*

bitch to get out of here, but fast. □ *Look, you son of a bitch. I'm going to paste you one.* **2. n.** old buddy. (Used between close male companions.) □ *Why, you old son of a bitch! How are you?* □ *Where you been keeping yourself, you son of a bitch?* **3. exclam.** Dammit! (Usually objectionable. Usually **Son of a bitch!**) □ *Look at that place burn. Son of a bitch!* □ *Son of a bitch! I didn't even see that car pull out.*

son of a gun 1. n. a despicable person, usually a male. (Euphemistic for **son of a bitch.**) □ *If that son of a gun thinks he can boss me around like that, he's got another think coming.* □ *Some son of a gun tried to sell me a used car with no engine.* **2. n.** old buddy. □ *You old son of a gun! How are you?* □ *I went to school with this son of a gun! He's my old buddy.* **3. exclam.** I am totally surprised!; I am shocked! (Usually **Son of a gun!**) □ *Son of a gun! He did it!* □ *The thing just blew up! Son of a gun!*

sop 1. n. a drunkard; an alcoholic. □ *What does the old sop want, a handout?* □ *Give the old sop a buck and tell him to beat it.* **2. tv. & in.** to guzzle (liquor). □ *Let's go out and do some serious sopping.* □ *You've sopped booze long enough. Go home.*

soph [sof] **n.** a sophomore. □ *The sophs are holding a meeting to decide on a plan.* □ *He's just a soph, so he still might grow a little.*

sopping (wet) AND sippy mod. alcohol intoxicated. (See also **wet.**) □ *After about six beers, Ralph found himself a little sippy.* □ *He's soused—you know, sopping wet.*

sippy Go to **sopping (wet).**

sore mod. angry. □ *Come on! Don't get sore! I was only kidding.* □ *She is one sore old lady. You should give her teeth back.*

sorehead 1. n. a grumpy person. (Also a term of address.) □ *She's sort of a sorehead right now. Wait a day or two and then ask her.* □ *The boss is a sorehead, but she's all we have.* **2. n.** a poor loser. □ *Don't be a sorehead. You knew what you're getting into.* □ *Some sorehead at the track tried to punch a cashier.*

sorry about that AND sorry 'bout that interj. sorry; whoops. (A gross understatement, said more as a self-deprecating joke than as an apology.) □ *You spill hot cocoa on my coat, and all you can say is "Sorry 'bout that"?* □ *When the passenger stepped on my toe, she said, "Sorry about that."*

sorry-ass(ed) 1. mod. sad and depressed. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Why do you look so sorry-assed?* □ *Man, old Charlie was about the most sorry-ass dude you ever saw.* **2. mod.** worthless; poor quality. (Usually objectionable.) □ *This is really a sorry-ass movie. I want my money back.* □ *How much longer do I have to drive this sorry-ass excuse for an automobile?*

sorry 'bout that Go to **sorry about that.**

sosh [soʃ] **n.** a (young female) socialite. □ *A young sosh in a beemer kept trying to get around me.* □ *Tiffany looks like a sosh, but she's just a working girl.*

so-so 1. mod. average; mediocre. □ *It was just so-so. Nothing to write home about.* □ *I don't need to pay \$7.50 to see a so-so movie.* **2. mod.** tipsy; alcohol intoxicated. □ *They were so-so after a while—in front of the television with all that beer and stuff.* □ *He's so-so, but he can still stand up.*

sossled Go to **sozzled.**

(So,) sue me! tv. So, if you are so bothered or offended, take me into court and sue me. (A way of saying *There is nothing you can do about it.*) □ *You don't like the way I talk? So, sue me!*

So's your old man! exclam. The same to you!; **Drop dead!** (A catchphrase indicating basic disagreement or hostility.) □ **BILL:** *You're acting like an idiot! TOM:* *So's your old man!* □ *I don't know what you said, but so's your old man!*

(soul) brother n. a black person's male, black friend. □ *Another brother took a fall last night.* □ *Terry's a soul brother, and I'll do anything for him.*

soul kiss 1. n. a kiss where the kissers' tongues interact; a **French kiss.** □ *He tried to give me a soul kiss, but I pulled*

away. □ Yes, a soul kiss sounds silly—till you try it with somebody you really like. **2.** in. [for two people] to kiss with interacting tongues. □ They were soul kissing and making noises. □ The creep had bad breath and wanted to soul kiss!

(soul) sister *n.* a black person's female, black friend. (See also **sister**.) □ One of the soul sisters dropped by to talk. □ A sister called, but didn't leave her name.

sound off (about something) **1.** in. to complain about something; to gripe about something. □ You are always sounding off about something that gripes your soul. □ Just sound off if you've got a beef. **2.** in. to speak out of turn about something. □ Who asked you to sound off about this? □ Don't just sound off without raising your hand. **3.** in. to announce something. □ Why did you have to go and sound off about the surprise party? □ Keep it a secret. Don't sound off about it.

sounds *n.* music; records. □ I got some new sounds. Ya wanna come over and listen? □ Man, these sounds are massive!

soup *n.* nitroglycerin, a liquid explosive. (Underworld.) □ Lefty was a master with the soup till he blew off his hand. □ Take care of that soup and treat it like eggs.

souped up *mod.* made more powerful. □ That souped up car of John's sure makes a lot of noise. □ Why do all cars driven by males under the age of twenty have to be souped up?

soup sandwich *n.* something impossibly messy or impossible to deal with. □ You're more trouble than a soup sandwich. □ This whole project is just a soup sandwich. I'll never get it straightened out.

soup something up *tv.* to increase the power of something. (See also **souped up**.) □ He souped his car up so it will do nearly 120. □ If only I could soup up this computer to run just a little faster.

Soup's on! *in.* Dinner is ready. □ Time to eat! Soup's on!

soup-strainer *n.* a mustache. □ Jerry had a big bushy soup-strainer that he was very

proud of. □ It's not a soup-strainer—just a neat little black line.

soupy ['supi] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; drunk and vomiting. □ Then he got sort of soupy and broke up the party. □ These young kids tend to get soupy rather than pass out.

sourpuss ['sauɹpʊs] *n.* a grouchy or frowning person. (See also **picklepuss**.) □ What a sourpuss! He makes King Kong look sweet. □ Don't be a sourpuss, baby-cakes.

souse [saus] **1.** in. to drink excessively; to go on a drinking bout; to get drunk. (From a word meaning "to soak or pickle." See also **soused**.) □ They sat sousing quietly in the corner. □ Let us retire from the table and souse in the parlor. **2.** *n.* a drinking bout. □ The souse lasted longer than anyone would have thought. □ That was one fine souse we had. **3.** *n.* a drunkard. □ The best thing you can do for a souse like John is to take away his car keys. □ It's hard to live with a souse.

soused *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **souse**.) □ We were really soused. □ All we need right now is a soused bus driver.

southern-fried *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (An elaboration of **fried**, referring to **fried chicken**.) □ Ted and Bill went out and got themselves southern-fried. □ When Bob came home southern-fried, his wife nearly killed him.

southpaw *n.* a left-handed person. □ Micky's a southpaw and writes sort of funny. □ My sister is a southpaw, but I'm not.

So what? *interrog.* What does it matter?; What is the point of what you are saying? □ So what if I'm too old? Did that stop Rudolph Drew from trying it? □ I'm a crook. So what?

sozzle ['sazl] *in.* to drink to excess. (See also **sozzled**; **sozzler**.) □ The guys are sozzling over at John's place. □ I wish you'd stop coming home every night and sozzling to oblivion.

sozzled AND **sossled**; **sozzly** ['sɒzld AND 'sɒzld, 'sɒzli] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Man, was she sozzled.* □ *She was so sozzly she didn't even know her name, or my name, or anybody's name.*

sozzler ['sɒzlə] *n.* a drunkard. □ *The sozzler leaned against the tavern window. I thought he would break it.* □ *A sozzler staggered by—reeking of gin.*

sozzly Go to sozzled.

space Go to space out.

space cadet **1.** *n.* a person who is always silly or giddy. □ *Mom, you are such a space cadet.* □ *Here comes a space cadet who looks like he has more money than he needs.* **2.** *n.* a person who is always high on drugs. □ *Bart has been a space cadet since he was twelve.* □ *The space cadets can usually be found sitting on a bench outside the principal's office.*

spaced (out) AND **spacy** *mod.* silly; giddy. □ *I have such spaced out parents!* □ *He's so spaced!* □ *I love my spacy old dad.*

space out **1.** *n.* a giddy person. (Usually **space-out**.) □ *Terry is becoming such a space-out!* □ *What a space out you are!* **2.** AND **space** *in.* to become giddy; to become disoriented. □ *She is spacing again. She doesn't even know where she is.* □ *I spaced out after the long climb.*

space someone out *tv.* to cause someone to become giddy. □ *The whole business just spaced me out.* □ *The spectacle spaced out the entire audience.*

spacy Go to spaced (out).

spam **1.** *n.* something disliked, typically, but not necessarily, food. (From the brand name of a canned meat product.) □ *I can't eat this spam. It could be spoiled.* □ *This book is spam! I refuse to read it.* **2.** *n.* one or a series of uninvited email messages advertising money-making schemes, pornography, or sales of any kind. □ *I never get any real messages. Only spam!* □ *If I don't recognize the sender, I assume the message is spam and I delete it.* **3.** *tv.* to clutter or fill someone's email account with spam (sense 2). □

Some jerk is spamming me with an advertisement for dirty pictures.

spanked *n.* drunk. □ *Those gals are spanked. Who served them all that booze?*

spanking new Go to (brand) spanking new.

spare tire **1.** *n.* a thickness in the waist; a roll of fat around one's waist. □ *I've got to get rid of this spare tire.* □ *The spare tire started when I was twenty-six.* **2.** *n.* an unneeded person; an unproductive person. □ *Gary is a spare tire. Send him home.* □ *You spare tires over there! Get to work.*

sparkler *n.* a diamond; gemstones. □ *Look at the sparklers on that old dame.* □ *Janice has a new sparkler on her finger.*

spastic *mod.* overly responsive; out of control. □ *She can get so spastic when I come in late.* □ *Tell the spastic jerk to shut up.* □ *My dad's spastic when it comes to drugs.*

spaz [spæz] **1.** *n.* a fit or an attack; a strong reaction to a bad or funny situation. □ *My father had a spaz when he heard.* □ *Take it easy! Don't have a spaz.* **2.** *n.* a total jerk; someone who overreacts to something. (Not used for a congenitally spastic condition.) □ *Some spaz is in the other room screaming about a stolen car.* □ *Relax! You don't need to be a spaz.*

spaz around *in.* to waste time; to mess around. □ *You kids are always spazzing around. Why don't you get a job?* □ *We're just spazzing around. Leave us alone.*

spaz down *in.* to relax. □ *Spaz down, man! Chill out!* □ *We tried to get the crowd to spaz down, but they were very excited.*

spaz out **1.** *in.* to overreact to something; to become overly excited about something. □ *I knew you would spaz out! It's not that bad!* □ *Come on, don't spaz out!* **2.** *n.* an emotional display. (Usually **spaz-out**.) □ *There's no need for a spaz-out!* □ *She threw a hell of a spaz-out.*

speakeasy *n.* a nightclub during prohibition. □ *My grandfather remembers speakeasies. They were pretty crude places.* □ *You weren't supposed to talk about*

speakeasies so their locations would remain a secret.

Speak it! *exclam.* Say it!; You said it!; That's telling them! □ *Speak it, sister! Tell him off!*

speak of the devil *in.* said when someone whose name has just been mentioned appears or is heard from. (A catchphrase.) □ *And speak of the devil, here's Ted now.* □ *Speak of the devil, that was Mary on the phone.*

speak someone's language *tv.* to say something that one agrees with or understands. □ *I gotcha. Now you're speaking my language.* □ *Mary speaks Fred's language. They get along fine.*

specs [speks] *n.* eyeglasses; spectacles. □ *I broke my specs.* □ *I need specs to find where I left my specs.*

speed 1. *n.* methamphetamine; amphetamine in general. (Drugs.) □ *Speed is a monstrous problem in some cities.* □ *Kids think that speed won't get them into trouble.* **2.** *in.* to use methamphetamine; to be high on methamphetamine or amphetamine. (Drugs.) □ *Kids who speed think it is a harmless blow-off.* □ *If they speed rather than study—speed is a problem.*

speedball *n.* [in baseball] a fast (pitched) ball. □ *The pitcher threw a speedball, and I didn't even see it!* □ *Tom can hit almost any speedball that Mike can throw.*

speed demon 1. *n.* a fast runner; a fast driver. □ *Tom is a speed demon. He qualified for the Olympics.* □ *Watch out, here comes another speed demon!* **2.** *n.* a habitual user of methamphetamine. (Drugs.) □ *A couple of speed demons mugged the old lady.* □ *When they are high, most speed demons don't know what they are doing.*

speeder 1. *n.* a speeding ticket. □ *The cop that gave Mary a speeder Wednesday gave her another one Friday.* □ *Actually, that's three speeders in one week counting the one she got Monday.* **2.** *n.* an amphetamine or methamphetamine tablet, capsule, or ampoule. (Drugs. See also **speed**.) □ *Somebody dropped some speeders on the floor of the car, and my father*

spazzed out. □ *Fred took a speeder before the exam, but he went to sleep anyway.* **3.** **AND speedster** *n.* a user of amphetamines or methamphetamine; a person who is hyperactive from amphetamine use. (Drugs.) □ *That kid is really hyped up—must be a speeder.* □ *The speeders can seem crazy when they're on a run.*

speed freak **AND speedhead** *n.* a drug user who injects methamphetamine; an amphetamine user. (Drugs and general slang.) □ *Hank is a speed freak, but he's not on skag.* □ *Speed freaks, not heroin addicts, account for a high proportion of drug-related crime.*

speedhead Go to speed freak.

speed merchant *n.* someone who does something fast: a runner, pitcher, swimmer, driver, etc. □ *Look at her go! What a speed merchant!* □ *What a pitch! That guy is a speed merchant for sure.*

speedster Go to speeder.

spending money *n.* cash, as opposed to money in the bank. □ *I'm a little short of spending money at the present. Could I borrow ten dollars?* □ *I don't have any spending money either.*

spew *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *After dinner, I suddenly had the urge to spew.* □ *Fred is up in the john spewing like mad.*

spew one's guts (out) 1. *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *Fred is spewing his guts out because of that lousy fish you served.* □ *He's spewing his guts because he has the flu, cabbagehead.* **2.** *tv.* to tell everything that one knows; to confess everything. (Underworld.) □ *Lefty was sitting there in the cop-shop spewing his guts out about the bank job.* □ *If he really is spewing his guts, the mob will cancel his Christmas.*

spiff *n.* extra money paid to a salesperson to sell certain merchandise aggressively. (See also **push money**.) □ *The manufacturer supplied a little spiff that even the store manager didn't know about.* □ *I got about \$300 last month in spiff for selling some low-grade shoes.*

spiffed out *mod.* nicely dressed up; decked out. □ *I like to get all spiffed out every now and then.* □ *Wow, you look spiffed out! Where are you going?*

spiffed up *mod.* dressed up, brushed up, and polished up nicely. □ *See if you can get yourself a little spiffed up before we get to the front door. We wouldn't want the Wilmington-Thorpes to think you only have one suit.* □ *The house doesn't have to be too spiffed up for the Franklins. They are used to clutter.*

spifflicated AND **spificated** ['spɪfləkədəd AND 'spɪfəkədəd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Mrs. Wilmington-Thorpe drank champagne until she was nearly spifflicated.* □ *Being spificated on champagne is not as bad as it sounds.*

spiffy ['spɪfi] *mod.* excellent. □ *This is a real spiffy place you've got here, Sam.* □ *Come have a look at my spiffy new car.* □ *Doesn't look so spiffy to me.*

spificated Go to spifflicated.

spike **1.** *n.* a hypodermic needle; a hypodermic syringe and needle; a medicine dropper and a needle. (Drugs.) □ *The addict caught some strange disease from a dirty spike.* □ *What'll I do? I broke my spike.* **2.** *tv.* to add ether or alcohol to beer, originally by injecting it through the cork with a hypodermic needle; to add alcohol to a nonalcoholic drink. (From prohibition times. See also **spiked**.) □ *He found a man who would spike his beer for a small fee.* □ *He spiked the beer with ether, which is a dangerous thing to do.* **3.** *tv.* to puncture an idea. □ *I explained the plan, but the boss spiked it immediately.* □ *I hate to see my ideas spiked like that.*

spiked **1.** *mod.* having to do with a drink with alcohol added; having to do with a punch with an alcoholic content. □ *Is the punch spiked? I want some without.* □ *We only have spiked punch.* □ *Bart's breakfast orange juice is usually spiked.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *I knew that Mrs. Wilmington-Thorpe was spiked when she belched like a real country thunder-boomer.* □ *Her old man was just as spiked,*

and he made worse noises. **3.** *mod.* having to do with hair that stands up straight. □ *His spiked hair wouldn't look so bad if it wasn't orange.* □ *Both orange and spiked is too much.* □ *Is spiked hair a fad or the way of the future?*

spill *in.* to confess. (Underworld.) □ *The cops tried to get her to spill, but she just sat there.* □ *The gang was afraid she would spill, but she's a tough old thing.*

spill one's guts on someone Go to spill one's guts (to someone).

spill one's guts (to someone) AND **spill one's guts on someone** *tv.* to tell all; to confess; to pour one's heart out to someone. (See also **spew one's guts (out)**.) □ *I had to spill my guts to someone about the broken window.*

spill the beans AND **spill the works** *tv.* to give away a secret or a surprise. □ *There is a surprise party for Heidi on Wednesday. Please don't spill the beans.* □ *Paul spilled the beans about Heidi's party.*

spill the works Go to spill the beans.

spinach *n.* money. (Because it is green. See also **cabbage**; **lettuce**.) □ *How much spinach you got on you?* □ *Look at this! One hundred dollars in good old American spinach!*

spin doctor *n.* someone who provides an interpretation of news or an event in a way that makes the news or event work to the advantage of the entity employing the **spin doctor**. (Usually in political contexts in reference to manipulating the news.) □ *Things were going bad for the president, so he got himself a new spin doctor.* □ *A good spin doctor could have made the incident far less damaging.*

spinner *n.* a bullet. □ *One shot sent a spinner into Lefty's gut.* □ *You can't buy spinners without a license in this state.*

spin one's wheels *tv.* to waste time; to remain in a neutral position, neither advancing nor falling back. □ *I'm just spinning my wheels in this job. I need more training to get ahead.* □ *The whole project was just spinning its wheels until spring.*

spit and polish *n.* orderliness; ceremonial precision and orderliness. ☐ *I like spit and polish. It comes from being in the military.* ☐ *There is no such thing as too much spit and polish.*

Spit it out! *exclam.* Say it! ☐ *Come on, don't be shy! Spit it out!* ☐ *Say what you have to say and leave. Hurry up! Spit it out!*

spizzerinktum [spɪzə'ɪŋktəm] *n.* energy; vitality. ☐ *The kid's got spizzerinktum! I like that.* ☐ *Put more spizzerinktum into it!*

spleef Go to spliff.

spliff AND **shpleef; spleef; splim** [splɪf AND ʃplɪf, splɪf, splɪm] *n.* marijuana; a marijuana cigarette; hashish. ☐ *They consume an enormous amount of spliff and try to sell it to the tourists.* ☐ *It's really high-quality splim.*

splim Go to spliff.

split *in.* to leave. ☐ *Look at the clock. Time to split.* ☐ *Let's split. We're late.*

split a gut **1.** *tv.* to laugh very hard. ☐ *He laughed until he nearly split a gut.* ☐ *The audience split a gut laughing.* **2.** *tv.* to work very hard. ☐ *I split a gut to get this place fixed up in a week.* ☐ *Don't split a gut for me. I love things that are falling apart.*

splitting headache *n.* a severe headache, as if one's head were splitting open. ☐ *I'm sorry, I can't. I have a splitting headache. Maybe Fred will play bridge with you.* ☐ *This splitting headache has been going on for hours.*

split up **1.** *in.* to separate. ☐ *The two split up and went their separate ways.* ☐ *They couldn't get along, so they split up.* **2.** *n.* an act of separating or breaking up. (Usually **split-up**.) ☐ *Everyone was mentally prepared for the company's split-up.* ☐ *The split-up caused neither surprise nor grief.*

splurge *in.* to indulge oneself with much spending or eating. ☐ *I have to splurge every now and then. I deserve it.* ☐ *I splurge every weekend.*

spoil *tv.* to kill someone. ☐ *It was Ziggy's job to make sure that nobody got close*

enough to Mr. Big to spoil him. ☐ *Rocko was determined to spoil Barlowe.*

spoiled rotten *mod.* indulged in; greatly spoiled. ☐ *This kid is spoiled rotten!* ☐ *I was spoiled rotten when I was a child, so I'm used to this kind of wasteful luxury.*

spoiling for a fight *in.* argumentative; asking for a fight. ☐ *They were just spoiling for a fight, and they went outside to settle the matter.* ☐ *She was grouchy, and you could tell she had been spoiling for a fight all day.*

spondulicks AND **spondulics; spondulix** [span'dulɪks] *n.* money. ☐ *How much spondulicks will this set me back?* ☐ *I don't have enough spondulix to swing the deal.*

spondulics Go to spondulicks.

spondulix Go to spondulicks.

sponge AND **sponge** **1.** *in.* to drink heavily. ☐ *She was sponging like there was no tomorrow.* ☐ *What can you do with a woman who sits and sponges all day long?* **2.** *n.* a drunkard; a tippler. (See also **blotter**.) ☐ *She was a sponge, and she wasn't going to do anything about it.* ☐ *Is there treatment for sponges like her?* **3.** *n.* a parasitic person. ☐ *Don't be a sponge. Get your own!* ☐ *Here comes that sponge, Wally. Hide your wallet, pencils, glasses, and any clothes in his size.*

sponged *mod.* thirsty. ☐ *I gotta get a drink, man. I'm sponged!*

sponge off someone *in.* to live off someone; to take advantage of someone by taking food and shelter from them without compensation. ☐ *Go get a job! Stop sponging off me!*

spoof [spuf] **1.** *n.* a parody. ☐ *The first act was a spoof of a Congressional investigation.* ☐ *The second act was a spoof of the first act.* **2.** *tv.* to make a parody of someone or something. ☐ *The comedian spoofed the executive branch by sitting in a big chair and going to sleep.* ☐ *I like to spoof myself. It helps break the ice at parties.*

spook **1.** *tv.* to frighten or startle someone or something. (See also **spooked**.) ☐ *Something I did spooked the teller, and she*

set off the silent alarm. ☐ Don't spook the cattle. They'll stampede. **2.** *n.* a spy; a CIA (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency) agent. ☐ I just learned that my uncle had been a spook for years. ☐ Fred is training to be a spook, but don't tell anybody.

spooked *mod.* frightened or startled. ☐ The guy looked sort of spooked. He was sweating and panting like someone had scared him to death. ☐ The horse was spooked and rolled its eyes and snorted a lot.

spook factory *n.* the CIA (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency) near Washington, D.C., where spies are said to be trained. ☐ Tom got a job in the spook factory. ☐ Does the spook factory pay very well?

spoon **1.** *in.* to neck and pet. ☐ They like to go out and spoon under the stars. ☐ Do you remember spooning with me years ago? **2.** Go to cokespoon.

spout *n.* friend; chum. (A term of address.) ☐ Well, sport, looks like we have a little problem here. ☐ Hey, sport, what's new?

spot **1.** *n.* a small drink of liquor. ☐ I'll just have a spot, please. ☐ Just a spot for me, too. **2.** *n.* a nightclub; a night spot. ☐ It was a nice little spot, with a combo and a canary. ☐ We went to a spot with a jukebox for entertainment.

spot market *n.* the open market where deals are made on the spot. (Securities markets.) ☐ Oil reached nearly twenty-five dollars a barrel on the spot market. ☐ Gold prices on the spot market finally reached \$600 per ounce and then promptly collapsed.

spot of lunch *n.* a small amount of lunch. ☐ How about a spot of lunch? ☐ I had a spot of lunch at my desk, thanks.

spot someone (something) **1.** *tv.* to give an advantage to someone. ☐ I'll spot you twenty points. ☐ No need to spot me. I'm the greatest! **2.** *tv.* to lend someone something. ☐ Can you spot me a few bucks? ☐ I can spot you a whole hundred!

sprain one's ankle *tv.* to become pregnant. ☐ She has, ah, sprained her ankle. ☐ From

the looks of her, she must have sprained her ankle some months ago.

spring chicken *n.* a young and naive person, especially a young woman. (Usually in the negative.) ☐ Well, I may not be a spring chicken, but I got some spizzerink-tum left. ☐ I am a spring chicken, but I lie about my age to get served in bars.

spring for something **AND bounce for something** *in.* to treat (someone) by buying something. (See also **pop for something**.) ☐ I'm bouncing for pizza. Any takers? ☐ Ralph sprang for drinks, and we all had a great time.

spring someone *tv.* to get someone out of jail on bond or permanently. ☐ My wife came down and sprung me; otherwise, I'd still be in the slammer. ☐ The guy's mouthpiece tried to spring him, but the DA nixed it.

sprout *n.* a child. ☐ Where are the sprouts? ☐ A little sprout came up and tried to sell me a ticket to a game.

sprout wings **1.** *tv.* to die and become an angel. ☐ I'm not ready to sprout wings yet. I've got a few more years. ☐ You wanna sprout wings, you just keep talking like that. **2.** *tv.* to be so good as to become an angel. ☐ The kid is not about to sprout wings, but he probably won't get into jail again. ☐ He was so good and helpful, I thought he would sprout wings.

spud [spəd] **1.** *n.* a potato. ☐ I'd like a few more spuds. ☐ Mashed spuds are the best of all. **2.** *n.* vodka. (Presumed to be made from potatoes.) ☐ How about a glass of spud? ☐ She keeps a big jug of spud in the reefer and drinks it like water. **3.** *n.* a vodka drunkard. ☐ That silly spud thinks we can't smell what's on her breath. ☐ The old spud on the third floor fell down a flight or two and broke his hip. **4.** *n.* a short person. (Also a term of address.) ☐ He can jump pretty high for a spud. ☐ Hey, spud! I almost didn't see you!

sponge Go to sponge.

spunk [spʌŋk] *n.* courage. ☐ Show some spunk. Get in there and stand up for your rights. ☐ I have the spunk, but I don't have the brains.

spunky ['spʌŋki] *mod.* gutsy; courageous.
 □ *I like a spunky girl—one who can really dance.* □ *The guy's a shrimp, but he's spunky.*

square 1. *mod.* old-fashioned; law-abiding; stodgy. □ *Man, you are really square.* □ *I come from a very square family.* **2.** *n.* a person who behaves properly. □ *You are a square if I ever saw one.* □ *Ask that square what her favorite kind of music is.* **3.** **AND square joint** *n.* a tobacco cigarette, compared to a marijuana cigarette. □ *You got a square on you?* □ *I'll take a reefer. I've heard that squares will give you cancer.* **4.** *tv.* to settle or to make something right. □ *Let's talk about squaring this matter.* □ *Will twenty bucks square the matter?* **5.** Go to **square (meal).**

square apple Go to **square john.**

squared away *mod.* straightened out. □ *I'm not really squared away on this stuff, but I'm beginning to see the light.* □ *We'll get everything squared away in a few days.*

squared up *mod.* no longer taking drugs. (Drugs.) □ *Walter is squared up now and spends a lot of time trying to help others.* □ *Max'll never get himself squared up.*

square john **AND square apple** *n.* someone who obeys the rules; a **square**. □ *Fred is a square john. There's no point in worrying about him.* □ *All those square apples can take care of themselves.*

square john broad *n.* an honest, straightforward woman. (Underworld.) □ *Betty is okay. She's a real square john broad.* □ *We need a square john broad to give this place a look of respectability.*

square joint Go to **square.**

square (meal) *n.* a good and nutritious meal. (Always with quantifier when **square** is used without *meal*.) □ *I need three squares a day—at least.* □ *The old soak looks like he could use a square meal.*

square off *in.* to prepare to fight; to prepare to argue or compete. □ *They were squaring off, so I asked them if they'd like to step outside.* □ *Let's square off and debate this thing properly.*

square peg (in a round hole) *n.* someone who does not fit in. □ *I'm a square peg in a round hole. Maybe I am meant to be eccentric.* □ *Kelly seems to be a square peg. What'll we do with him?*

square shooter *n.* an honest person. (See also **straight shooter**.) □ *I trust Sam. He's a square shooter.* □ *He wouldn't do anything shabby. He's a square shooter.*

square with someone *in.* to become honest with someone. □ *I want you to square with me. Tell the truth this time.* □ *Okay, I'll square with you. Terry did it.*

squat 1. *in.* to sit (down). □ *Come on in and squat for a while.* □ *Squat over here by the fire.* **2.** *n.* nothing. (See also **did-dly-squat**.) □ *I worked all day on this, and she didn't pay me squat.* □ *I earn just a little more than squat, but I am very pleased with my life.*

squawk 1. *in.* to complain. □ *Come on, don't squawk all the time!* □ *Some people squawk because they don't have anything else to do.* **2.** *n.* a complaint. □ *Here's another squawk from the lady on the third floor.* □ *I have a list of squawks from the mayor's office.* **3.** *tv. & in.* to reveal or blab something. □ *Watch Tracy. She may decide to squawk.* □ *She squawked the whole business to the fuzz.*

squawk box *n.* a public address system; a loudspeaker, especially if installed in a box or other housing. □ *A raspy voice came over the squawk box announcing the arrival of what we had been waiting for.* □ *The squawk box was strangely quiet through the night.*

squeaky clean *mod.* very clean. (Like a clean glass that squeaks when one rubs a finger on it.) □ *I got this floor squeaky clean. Don't spill anything on it.* □ *Somebody tracked mud on my squeaky clean floor!*

squeal *in.* to inform (someone about something). □ *Who squealed to the cops?* □ *Tracy squealed on us.*

squealer 1. *n.* an informer. (Underworld.) □ *Tracy is a terrible squealer.* □ *Some squealer let the cops know what was going to happen.* **2.** *n.* a pig; a piglet. □ *They*

sent their squealers to market at just the right time. □ I was horrified to learn that bacon comes from squealers.

squeeze **1.** *n.* liquor. (Black. See also **grape(s)**.) □ *Let's stop on the way and get some squeeze.* □ *Freddie, where is your squeeze?* **2.** *tv.* to put pressure on someone. □ *The mob began to squeeze Bart for money.* □ *The tight schedule squeezed us all.* **3.** *n.* a tight situation; a situation where pressure is felt. □ *I'm in sort of a squeeze. Can you wait a month?* □ *When the squeeze is over, we'll be able to get squared away.* **4.** *n.* one's lover. (See also **main squeeze**.) □ *I'll see if my squeeze wants to go.* □ *Get your squeeze, and let's go sink a few.*

(squeeze-)box *n.* an accordion. (See also **groan box**.) □ *My brother plays the squeeze-box—not very well, but who can tell?* □ *The band consisted of drums, clarinet, and a box. A real winner.*

squeeze play *n.* a special play in baseball where there is a runner on third base and the batter bunts. (With an early start the runner may reach home plate.) □ *They pulled off that squeeze play like the professionals they are.* □ *The crowd roared as the squeeze play paid off.*

squib [skwɪb] *n.* a notice; a small advertisement. □ *There was a squib in the paper about your project.* □ *I read a squib about that yesterday.*

squid [skwɪd] *n.* an earnest student; a collegiate wimp. (Collegiate. Refers to sliminess.) □ *This whole campus is populated by squids and nerds.* □ *I'm no squid. I went out on a date last month.*

squiff [skwɪf] *n.* a drunkard. (See also on **the squiff**.) □ *It's no fun living with a squiff.* □ *Is there anything that can be done for a confirmed squiff?*

squiffed AND **squiffy** [skwɪft AND 'skwɪfi] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She was a little squiffed, but still entertaining.* □ *The hostess was so squiffed she could hardly stand.*

squiff out *in.* to collapse from drink. □ *Hank squiffed out at midnight, right on*

the dot. □ *She kept from squiffing out because she didn't trust her date.*

squiffy Go to **squiffed**.

squiggle ['skwɪɡl] *n.* a wiggly mark. □ *What does this squiggle mean?* □ *That squiggle is my signature.*

squirrel **1.** *n.* a strange or eccentric person. □ *Martin can be such a squirrel.* □ *Freddie is a squirrel, but I love him.* **2.** *n.* a car engine's horsepower. □ *What kind of squirrels you got under the hood?* □ *I got 440 squirrels and a gaggle of carburetors.*

squirrel-food *n.* a nut; a loony person. □ *The driver of the car—squirrel-food, for sure—just sat there smiling.* □ *Some squirrel-food came over and asked for a sky hook.*

squirrel out of something *in.* to wiggle out of something; to manage to extricate oneself from a situation one does not wish to be in. □ *He will do anything he can to squirrel out of going to the dance.* □ *Don't try to squirrel out of it. Go through with it.*

squirrel something away *tv.* to hide something in reserve. □ *Here is some food. I squirreled it away in my suitcase.* □ *She had squirreled away quite a fortune.*

squirrely *mod.* loony. □ *Who wrote this squirrely play?* □ *Good old squirrely Tom! Isn't he a wonder?* □ *No, he's just squirrely.*

squirt **1.** *n.* a small person; a young child, especially a young boy. (Also a term of address.) □ *Hey, squirt, come over here.* □ *He sure is a cute little squirt.* **2.** *n.* beer or champagne. □ *I like squirt and things. It tickles my nose.* □ *How about a nice bubbly glass of squirt?*

the **squirts** *n.* a case of diarrhea. □ *He's got the squirts and can't go out.* □ *What do you take for the squirts?*

squooshy ['skwʊʃɪ AND 'skwʊʃi] *mod.* soft; squishy. □ *I can't stand squooshy food!* □ *Mush is supposed to be squooshy.* □ *I like to walk barefooted in squooshy mud.*

stache Go to **stash**.

stacked *mod.* having to do with a person with a sexually attractive body, usually a

female. □ *Wow, is she ever stacked!* □ *I like to see stacked dames like that starting to do business in this place.*

stack the deck *tv.* to arrange things secretly for a desired outcome. (From card playing where a cheater may arrange the order of the cards that are to be dealt to the players.) □ *The president stacked the deck so I would be appointed head of the finance committee.* □ *It's not fair when somebody stacks the deck.*

stag 1. *mod.* having to do with someone going to a party without a date. (Originally said of a male.) □ *He decided to ignore her and go stag.* □ *A bunch of the guys got together and went stag to the dance.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with a gathering for men only. □ *The party is stag, so Tom and I are going together.* □ *Stag parties cease to be fun after a while.*

staggers 1. *n.* liquor. □ *He couldn't seem to get enough staggers.* □ *She poured herself a huge glass of staggers and mumbled something about cough medicine.* **2.** the **staggers** *n.* drunkenness; the delirium tremens. (Always with *the* in this sense.) □ *He seems to have a little touch of the staggers.* □ *Larry's laid up with the staggers again.*

stag line *n.* a line of dateless men at a dance. □ *She looked over the stag line and saw nobody she knew.* □ *The guys in the stag line looked so forlorn. She suddenly wanted to do something to make them all happy.*

stag-party *n.* a party for men only. (Thought to be **raunchy**.) □ *Sally was hired to dance at a stag-party.* □ *They hired a stripper for the stag-party—you know, the kind that jumps out of a cake.*

stakeout 1. *n.* a person who is positioned to observe someone or something. (See also **stake someone or something out**.) □ *The stakeout stuck out like a sore thumb—standing there under the street-light reading a paper.* □ *The stakeout was one of Barlowe's best operatives.* **2.** *n.* a (police) assignment where someone is positioned to observe someone or something. □ *The two top cops were out on a*

stakeout. □ *The stakeout at the warehouse backfired. They only found cats.*

stake someone or something out 1. *tv.* to position a person so that someone or something can be observed or followed. □ *The cops staked the car out and made the arrest.* □ *Barlowe staked out the apartment building and watched patiently for an hour.* **2.** *tv.* to position a person to observe someone or something. □ *He staked his best operative out in front of the building.* □ *We staked out two men to keep watch.*

stake someone to something 1. *tv.* to lend or give someone money to buy something. □ *Can you stake me to a decent meal?* □ *Stake the man to a meal and a flop, and he'll tell us what we want to know.* **2.** *tv.* to treat someone to something. □ *Can I stake you to a drink to celebrate?* □ *Let me stake you to a big ice cream cone.*

stale drunk *n.* a long-standing and frequently renewed drunken state. □ *The guy's on a stale drunk. He is a mess.* □ *Are you on a stale drunk again, or is this the same one?*

stallion *n.* a tall, good-looking woman. □ *Dana is really a stallion!* □ *Who is the stallion with that dude?*

stamping ground *n.* one's favorite or customary location. □ *Adamsville is my old stamping ground. I was born there, you know.* □ *I like to go back and look at my old stamping ground every now and then.*

standee *n.* someone who must stand (at some event). □ *There were about forty standees in addition to the full house.* □ *Can I get in as a standee, or do I have to wait for the next showing?*

stand-in *n.* a substitute; a temporary replacement. □ *I was a stand-in for the lead soprano, who had the sniffles.* □ *The audience booed the stand-in. They had paid to hear a star.*

standoffish [stænd'ɔfɪʃ] *mod.* aloof. □ *Bob is sort of standoffish until he gets to know you.* □ *Don't be so standoffish! Join in the fun.* □ *I am a standoffish guy.*

stand-out *n.* an extraordinary thing or person. □ *Bob is a real stand-out in our bowling league.* □ *This car is a real stand-out as a speed machine.*

stand pat (on something) *in.* to stick firmly to one's position or opinions. □ *I am going to stand pat on this issue.* □ *I thought you would stand pat in the absence of new information.*

stand someone up *tv.* to break a date by not showing up. □ *She stood him up, and he was really angry.* □ *He stood up his date while he played basketball with the guys.*

stand tall *in.* to be brave and proud. □ *I can still stand tall. I'm innocent.* □ *Our athletes stand tall in the knowledge that they did their best.*

stand there with one's bare face hanging out *in.* to stand someplace looking helpless and stupid. □ *Say something. Don't just stand there with your bare face hanging out.* □ *She just stood there with her bare face hanging out while they took away everything she owned.*

stanza ['stænzə] *n.* an inning in baseball or some other division of a ball game. □ *He's doing better than he was in the last stanza.* □ *Jerry Clay is pitching again in this stanza.*

starched AND **starchy** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **stiff**.) □ *Man, was he starched!* □ *No, he wasn't quite stiff, but he was starched.*

starchy Go to **starched**.

stash **1.** AND **stache** *n.* a mustache. □ *Jerry has this enormous stash that he keeps waxed and trimmed.* □ *I cut my stash off because it was too much trouble to remember not to cut it off.* **2.** *tv.* to hide something (somewhere). □ *Stash this under the chair until I can think of a place to put it.* □ *Fred stashed his coat in a heap in the corner.* **3.** *n.* a concealed supply of drugs, especially marijuana; drugs and equipment to use them stored in a secret place. (Drugs.) □ *Albert's stash was never located by the fuzz.* □ *My stash is down to nothing.*

stat [stæt] **1.** *n.* a thermostat. (See also **stats**.) □ *Who turned down the stat?* □ *I'm afraid you need a new stat.* **2.** AND **STAT** *mod.* a medical notation meaning "immediately." (From Latin *statim* "immediately.") □ *Run these tests stat!* □ *The order is marked stat, so do it now.*

static *n.* complaints. □ *I don't expect any static because of the noise. I warned the neighbors about the party.* □ *Is this guy giving you any static?*

stats [stæts] *n.* statistics. □ *They're working out the stats now.* □ *The stats are expected to show that the trade balance is growing steadily worse.*

stay loose Go to **hang loose**.

Stay tuned. **1.** *sent.* Stay tuned in to this radio or television station. (A formula uttered before a commercial.) □ *I'll be right back after these announcements. Stay tuned.* □ *Stay tuned. Back in a minute.* **2.** *sent.* Continue to pay attention to this matter.; Watch for further developments. (From sense 1.) □ *Things are developing rapidly in this area. Stay tuned.* □ *Stay tuned. Pending legislation could change all this.*

steady *n.* a boyfriend or girlfriend. □ *She showed up with Tom, her steady for the last few months.* □ *My steady is laid up with a cold. I'll come alone.*

a **steal** *n.* a bargain. □ *At this price, it's a steal.* □ *This car wasn't exactly a steal at this price, but it's still a good value.*

steam **1.** *tv.* to anger someone. □ *She steamed him by being two hours late.* □ *The prof steamed the class with the long assignment.* **2.** *in.* to be angry. □ *She was absolutely steaming.* □ *They steamed for a while and then did as they were told.*

steamed (up) **1.** *mod.* angry. □ *Now, now, don't get so steamed up!* □ *She is really massively steamed.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated and fighting. □ *He was really steamed—and could hardly stand up.* □ *By midnight, Larry was too steamed to drive home, and he had to spend the night.*

steamroller *tv.* to force something to be approved; to force something to happen.

□ *He plans to steamroller this bill through Congress, but it just won't work.* □ *When you can't steamroller something, try soft soap.*

steam someone's beam *tv.* to make someone angry. □ *Being stood up really steams my beam!* □ *Come on, don't steam your beam. Remember how hard times are now.*

steam someone up **1.** *tv.* to get someone excited. □ *Steam yourselves up and get in there and win this game!* □ *The coach can really steam up those guys.* **2.** *tv.* to get someone angry. (See also **steamed (up).**) □ *This whole mess steamed me up but good.* □ *The long critical statement simply steamed up the opposition.*

steam up *in.* to drink heavily; to get drunk. (See also **steamed (up).**) □ *Fred and Mike were steaming up in the back room.* □ *Let's go down to the tavern and steam up, okay?*

steamy *mod.* lewd; sensuous; passionate. □ *They cut a couple of steamy scenes out of the movie because of complaints.* □ *Hank and Bess were having a steamy session on the couch.* □ *The session was really steamy.*

steelo *n.* style. □ *Man, she's got steelo!* □ *What you lack is steelo! Style! Class! You are dull!*

steenth [stintθ] *n.* one sixteenth, used in quoting securities prices. (Securities markets. See also **teenie.**) □ *This issue was only up a few steenth for the whole week.* □ *Acme Systems was down a steenth at midday.*

steep *mod.* [of a price] high; expensive. □ *Isn't that price sort of steep?* □ *I don't have steep prices here.* □ *Their prices are pretty steep, but their goods are of high quality.*

stellar ['stɛlə] *mod.* excellent; grand. □ *It was a stellar performance, and the applause was thunderous.* □ *Ronald Simpson gave us a stellar characterization of Boris, but the chorus was a disappointment.* □ *The chorus was stellar!*

stems *n.* legs. □ *Look at the stems on that dame!* □ *My feet are sore, and my stems ache all the time.*

step off the curb *in.* to die. □ *Ralph almost stepped off the curb during his operation.* □ *I'm too young to step off the curb.*

Step on it! *in.* Hurry up! (As if one were pressing down on the gas pedal. Not limited to vehicles, though.) □ *We're late. Come on! Step on it!*

step out on someone *in.* to betray one's lover by going out with someone else. □ *Hank has been stepping out on Bess, and she doesn't know it yet.* □ *She would never step out on him.*

step outside *in.* to leave the present area and go to another place, presumably to fight. □ *The two—who had been arguing—stepped outside to settle the matter.* □ *Do you want to step outside, smart ass?*

stepped on *mod.* having to do with diluted drugs. (Drugs.) □ *That smack you bought was really stepped on.* □ *This stuff is too stepped on. It's sugar, and it won't do.*

step right up *in.* come forward and do not be bashful. □ *There are still a few of these left. Step right up and get yours.* □ *Step right up and buy a ticket to the greatest show on earth!*

stern *n.* the posterior. □ *The little airplane crashed right into the stern of an enormous lady who didn't even notice.* □ *Haul your stern over here and sit down.*

stet [stet] *mod.* just as it was originally. (Proofreading.) □ *No, mark that one stet. It was right the way it was.* □ *This says stet, but it's wrong.* □ *This one should look just like the other one, so mark one stet and ignore the other.*

stew **1.** *n.* a drinking bout. □ *One more stew like that and I'll need a vacation to recover.* □ *These frequent stews must stop. You will ruin your health.* **2.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *Who is that stew in the corner?* □ *There are three stews sleeping in the alley.* **3.** Go to **stewed (up).** **4.** *n.* a stewardess or steward on an airplane. □ *The stew brought the coffee and rolls.* □ *My sister is a stew for a major airline.* **5.** *in.* to fret. □ *It's bad, but don't stew about it.* □ *I spent most of last night stewing about my job.* **6.** *n.* a fretful state. □ *Don't work yourself into a stew.* □ *Look at her face.*

That is the result of a dreadful stew. I wonder what's wrong.

stew bum *n.* a drunkard; an alcoholic. □ *You're going to end up a stew bum if you don't lay off the moonshine.* □ *Those stew bums could use a bath.*

stewed to the ears Go to **stewed to the gills**.

stewed to the gills AND **stewed to the ears** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Why does a grown man have to get stewed to the gills every night of his life if there isn't something a little wrong with him?* □ *Here's old Charlie—stewed to the ears, as always.*

stewed (up) AND **stew** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also sense 1 for **stew**.) □ *Gary was too stewed to remember his name.* □ *The kid was stewed up and scared to death of what his parents were going to do to him.*

stick 1. *n.* a baseball bat. (Baseball.) □ *He started to run and tripped over the stick.* □ *He holds the stick up higher than most batters.* **2.** *n.* a pool cue. □ *He drew the stick back slowly, sighted again, and gave the cue ball a sharp knock.* □ *The guy was so mad he broke the stick over his knee!* **3.** *n.* a golf club. □ *These aren't my sticks, and you aren't my caddy. What's going on around here?* □ *I wanted a new set of sticks for Christmas, but I got a snowmobile instead.* **4.** *n.* the lever that controls the horizontal and vertical surfaces of the tail of an aircraft. □ *The pilot pulled back on the stick, and the plane did nothing—being that he hadn't even started the engine or anything.* □ *You pull back on the stick, which lowers the tail and raises the nose, and up you go.* **5.** *n.* a gearshift lever in a car. (See also **stick shift**.) □ *I keep reaching for the stick in a car with automatic.* □ *Put the stick in reverse and move back slowly.* **6.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *Some stick threw up on my car.* □ *Get that stick out of here before he makes a mess.* **7.** *n.* a person's legs. (Always plural.) □ *Get those sticks moving! Get over here now!* □ *He's got good sticks under him, but he won't use them.* **8.** the **sticks** *n.* a rural or backwoods area. (Always with *the* in this

sense and always plural.) □ *I hated living in the sticks.* □ *You hear a lot about how things are in the sticks. They're worse.*

stick around *in.* to remain nearby. □ *Stick around. Things are bound to get better.* □ *I think if you'll stick around, you'll get a seat sooner or later.*

Stick 'em up! Go to **Hands up!**

sticker shock *n.* the shock at seeing just how much something new, usually an automobile, costs as determined by looking at the price tag or sticker. □ *I went to a car dealer today, and I am still suffering from sticker shock.* □ *If sticker shock is getting you down, think about getting a used car.*

stick in the mud *n.* a dull and old-fashioned person. □ *Don't be such an old stick in the mud.* □ *Some stick in the mud objected to the kind of music we wanted to play in church.*

stick it to someone *tv.* to give someone a problem; to confront someone. □ *They stuck it to me about the stopped up drain.* □ *He was late, and the boss really stuck it to him.*

stick like shit to a shovel Go to **cling like shit to a shovel**.

stick man *n.* a police patrol officer (who carries a stick). □ *The stick man is due here in about three minutes. Hurry.* □ *I was a stick man for a few years till my feet went bad.*

stick one's nose in (where it's not wanted) Go to **put one's nose in (where it's not wanted)**.

stick out like a sore thumb *in.* to be very obvious. □ *That zit really sticks out like a sore thumb.* □ *Do you think I would stick out like a sore thumb at the party if I wear this coat?*

sticks Go to **stick**.

stick shift 1. *mod.* having to do with a nonautomatic transmission or a car that has one. □ *I prefer a stick shift car—I don't know why.* □ *The stick shift models are cheaper—that's why.* □ *This one's stick shift.* **2.** *n.* a nonautomatic transmission.

□ *I can't drive a stick shift!* □ *My husband took the other car and stuck me with the stick shift.*

stick someone with something *tv.* to burden someone with something. □ *Please don't stick me with the stick shift again.* □ *He left town and stuck me with the bill.*

sticktoitiveness [stɪk'tʊɪtɪvnəs] *n.* tenacity. □ *The kid has sticktoitiveness. I like that in a kid.* □ *If I had more sticktoitiveness, maybe I could get a job.*

stickum ['stɪkəm] **1.** *n.* glue. □ *Put some stickum on this paper and paste it up where it can be seen.* □ *There's no stickum left on this stamp.* **2.** *n.* any thick and sticky substance, especially hair dressing. (See also **slickum**.) □ *Use some stickum on your hair!* □ *He uses too much stickum on his hair.*

sticky **1.** *mod.* gooey. (Standard English.) □ *This stuff sure is sticky.* □ *What is this sticky stuff on my shoe? Oh, no!* **2.** *mod.* chancy; awkward. □ *Things began to get a little sticky, and Barlowe began to move toward the door.* □ *When the going got sticky, Freddy disappeared.* **3.** *mod.* sentimental. □ *Things were getting a little sticky the more Harriet drank. She tried to kiss me, and I left.* □ *There's a sticky part in the movie, but other than that it's pretty good.* **4.** *mod.* having to do with hot and humid weather. □ *It's so sticky today!* □ *I can't take another sticky day like this.*

sticky fingers *n.* a tendency to steal. □ *Bruno has sticky fingers and likes wallets especially.* □ *Watch these young kids with sticky fingers who come in here "just looking."*

stiff **1.** *AND* **stiffed** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; dead drunk. □ *Kelly was too stiff to find his keys.* □ *She knows how to stop drinking before she gets stiff.* **2.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *Some stiff staggered by—belching clouds of some beery smell.* □ *The guy's a stiff, and you want to run him for mayor? Even in this town that's going too far.* **3.** *mod.* dead. (Originally underworld.) □ *He's stiff. There's nothing that can be done.* □ *Yeah, he's stiff. Don't hit him no more.*

4. *n.* a corpse. (Underworld.) □ *They pulled another stiff out of the river last night. Looks like another mob killing.* □ *They took me into a room full of stiffs to identify Rocko's bod.* **5.** *n.* a fellow worker; a fellow tramp. (Originally hobos.) □ *He's just another working stiff like me.* □ *This stiff wants some help finding a flop for the night.* **6.** *tv.* to fail to tip someone who expects it. □ *Ya know, you can tell right away when a guy's gonna stiff you—ya just know.* □ *I guess I get stiffed two—three times a day.* **7.** *tv.* to cheat someone. □ *The clown selling hot dogs stiffed me for about forty cents.* □ *I really got stiffed on that deal. Look at this cheap junk.*

stiffed *Go to stiff.*

sting **1.** *tv.* to cheat or swindle someone; to overcharge someone. □ *That street merchant stung me, but good.* □ *They are likely to sting you in any of those hockshops.* **2.** *n.* a well-planned scheme to entrap criminals. □ *The sting came off without a hitch.* □ *It was a well-planned sting and shouldn't have failed.* **3.** *tv.* to entrap and arrest someone. □ *The feebies stung the whole gang at once.* □ *"We've been stung!" they hollered.*

stinger *n.* the drawback; the catch; the hitch. □ *Now, here's the stinger.* □ *Sounds good, but what's the stinger?*

stink **1.** *in.* to be repellent. □ *This whole setup stinks.* □ *Your act stinks. Try another agent.* **2.** *n.* a commotion. (See also **raise a stink** (about someone or something).) □ *The stink you made about money has done no good at all. You're fired.* □ *One more stink like that and out you go.*

stinker **1.** *n.* an unpleasant or wicked person. □ *Jerry is a real stinker. Look what he did!* □ *What stinker messed up my desk?* **2.** *n.* a serious problem. □ *This whole business is a real stinker.* □ *What a stinker of a problem.*

stinking **1.** *Go to stinking (drunk).* **2.** *mod.* lousy; rotten. □ *What a stinking mess you've got yourself into.* □ *That was a mean stinking thing to do. Really stinking!*

stinking (drunk) *mod.* alcohol intoxicated.

□ *He was really stinking.* □ *She came within an inch of getting stinking drunk.*

stinking rich *mod.* very rich. □ *I'd like to be stinking rich for the rest of my life.* □ *Tiffany is stinking rich, and she acts like it.*

stinking with something *mod.* with lots of something. □ *Mr. Wilson is just stinking with dough.* □ *Those guys are stinking with grass.*

stink on ice *in.* to be really rotten. (So rotten as to reek even when frozen.) □ *This show stinks on ice.* □ *The whole idea stank on ice.*

stinkpot **1.** *n.* a baby with a dirty diaper. (Also a term of address.) □ *Jimmy's a stinkpot. Better change him.* □ *Come here, you little stinkpot. I'll fix you.* **2.** *n.* anything smelly. □ *What are you barbecuing in this old stinkpot?* □ *Why don't you drive this stinkpot into a service station and get it tuned?* **3.** *n.* a motorboat. (Because the engine smells bad, especially when compared to a sailboat.) □ *Those guys in their stinkpots sure make a lot of noise.* □ *Those stinkpots just have to be polluting the lake.*

stinky *mod.* bad. □ *That was a stinky thing to do.* □ *You have a very stinky attitude. Really stinky.*

stir *n.* prison. (Underworld.) □ *I can't stand being in stir!* □ *Stir is very dull—and dangerous.*

stir crazy *mod.* anxious and mentally disturbed from being confined, as in prison. (See also **stir**.) □ *I was going stir crazy in my little room, so I moved to a bigger place.* □ *I get sort of stir crazy in the winter.*

a **stitch** **1.** *n.* a very funny person. □ *Harry is a stitch. What a sense of humor!* □ *Clare is a stitch, too. Her jokes can slay you.* **2.** *n.* a sharp pain, usually in the side. □ *I got a stitch and had to drop out of the marathon.* □ *A stitch in the side can be very painful.*

stocking-stuffer *n.* a small gift that is suitable for putting inside a Christmas stocking. □ *This will make the perfect stocking-*

stuffer. □ *I got some little stocking-stuffers for the kids.*

stogie ['stogi] *n.* a cigar. □ *Then this guy pulls out a big stogie and starts to smoke it right there in the restaurant.* □ *Some activist type tried to get the customers to walk out if the manager didn't make the jerk put out his stogie.*

stoked (on someone or something) *mod.* excited by someone or something. (See also **stokin'**.) □ *We were stoked on Mary. She is the greatest.* □ *Everyone is stoked on spring.* □ *Now, don't get too stoked, you are the one who has to run.*

stoked out *mod.* exhausted. □ *I ran all the way and got stoked out.* □ *Alex is totally stoked out.*

stokin' *mod.* excellent; wild. □ *That car is really stokin'.* □ *We had a stokin' time at Fred's house.*

stomach *tv.* to tolerate someone or something. (Usually negative.) □ *Ziggy couldn't stomach the opera, and he left after the first ten minutes.* □ *I can't stomach movies like that.*

stomp (on) someone *tv. & in.* to beat someone; to misuse someone. □ *We are gonna stomp you guys next game.* □ *One team stomped on the other so hard and fast, the scoreboard couldn't keep up.*

stone *mod.* completely; totally. (See additional examples in the following entries.) □ *This lecture is stone dull.* □ *I am stone mad at you.*

stone blind *mod.* heavily alcohol intoxicated. □ *Jerry drank the sauce till he was stone blind.* □ *When he was stone blind, he drank some more.*

stone broke *mod.* completely broke. □ *I'm sorry, I'm stone broke. Can I send you a check?* □ *What could I do? She was stone broke.*

a **stone cold fox** *n.* a very fine and sexy woman. (Streets. See also **fox**.) □ *That Veronica is one stone cold fox, right?* □ *That dame is a stone cold fox. What's her phone number?*

stone (cold) sober *mod.* absolutely sober.

□ *I am stone cold sober, or I will be by morning anyway.* □ *I found the secret to being stone sober. Don't drink.*

stone dead *mod.* dead; unquestionably dead; long dead. □ *The cat was stone dead and stiff as a board by the time we got to him.* □ *Old Tom is stone dead and in the ground.*

stoned (out) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Fred is really stoned out.* □ *I have never seen anybody so stoned who could still talk.*

stoned out of one's gourd Go to **stoned out of one's head**.

stoned out of one's head AND **stoned out of one's gourd** *mod.* under the effects of marijuana. □ *Tiffany was stoned out of her head and started giggling.*

stoned out of one's squash *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Tracy will drink a little now and then, but she never gets stoned out of her squash.* □ *Well, she was stoned out of her squash last night!*

stoned silly *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *I hate to get stoned silly in public. At home—ah, that's a different matter.* □ *He got stoned silly at the rally, and for all I know is still there on the floor in the corner.*

stone fox *n.* an attractive woman; a very sexy woman. □ *She is a stone fox if I ever saw one.* □ *Who is that stone fox I saw you with last night?*

stone groove *n.* something really cool; a fine party or concert. □ *This affair is not what I would call a stone groove. Stone beige, maybe.* □ *Ted's do was a stone groove.*

stones **1.** *n.* the testicles. (Also a standard English euphemism. See also **rocks**.) □ *He got hit in the stones.* □ *You scared me so much, I almost lost my stones.* **2.** *mod.* courage; bravado. □ *Hey, man, you got no stones!* □ *Come on, Wally, show some stones!*

stone sober Go to **stone (cold) sober**.

stonewall **1.** *tv.* to obstruct something or someone. □ *And again, the mayor tried to stonewall the investigation.* □ *If you continue to stonewall, we'll call in the FBI.*

2. *n.* an obstructionist act. □ *His answer to the committee was another stonewall that caught them all by surprise.* □ *The stonewall they were faced with was almost too much.*

stonkered ['stɒŋkəd] **1.** *mod.* killed. □ *The car crashed into him and he was stonkered for sure.* □ *He was stonkered before the plane hit the ground.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *My buddy here is stonkered and needs a ride, and can I have one, too?* □ *Wally was stonkered beyond any help.*

stooge [studʒ] **1.** *n.* someone's pawn; someone controlled or maneuvered by someone else. □ *I'm not going to be your stooge!* □ *The guy's a stooge for the mob's Mr. Big. Ignore him.* **2.** *in.* to work as someone's underling; to serve as someone's pawn. □ *I'm not gonna stooge for you, no sirree!* □ *You will do what I tell you, and if it's stooging you will do it, and you will smile and say thank you.*

stoolie Go to **stool (pigeon)**.

stool (on someone) *in.* to inform (on someone). □ *Tracy would stool on anybody, even her own mother.* □ *Somebody stooled and ruined the whole layout.*

stool (pigeon) AND **stoolie** ['stul 'pidʒən AND 'stuli] *n.* an informer. (Originally underworld.) □ *Some stool spilled the works to the boys in blue.* □ *There's nothing I hate worse than a stoolie.*

stoop Go to **stupe**.

stop on a dime *in.* to stop immediately. □ *This thing will stop on a dime.* □ *Imagine a bus that could stop on a dime.*

Stop the music! *exclam.* Stop!; Stop whatever is happening! (From an old radio game show called *Stop the Music!*) □ *Stop the music! I have an announcement.* □ *"Stop the music!" hollered the conductor, making a little joke.*

storked *mod.* pregnant. □ *She got herself good and storked. Now what?* □ *I hear that Tracy is storked again.*

story stock *n.* shares in a company that are bought because of an appealing story about the company. □ *I never buy a story stock. By the time I hear about it, it's already gone up as much as it ever will.* □ *Acme Widgets is another story stock that I advise all my clients to buy.*

Stow it! *exclam.* Shut up! □ *Okay, stow it! I've heard enough.* □ *Stow it! That is enough of your applesauce.*

stozzled ['stəzld] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *My buddy is too stozzled to drive home. Can you give him a lift?* □ *Marty can drink and drink and never get stozzled or even tipsy.*

str8 *mod.* straight. (Streets.) □ *Now tell it to me str8!*

straddle the fence *tv.* to support both sides of an issue. □ *The mayor is straddling the fence on this issue, hoping the public will forget it.* □ *The legislator wanted to straddle the fence until the last minute, and that alone cost her a lot of votes.*

straight 1. *mod.* honest; unembellished. □ *This is the straight truth.* □ *Have I ever been anything but straight with you?* **2.** *n.* a tobacco cigarette; a tobacco cigarette butt. (As opposed to a marijuana cigarette. See also *slim*.) □ *No, I want a straight. That spliff makes me sneeze.* □ *Can I bum a straight off you?* **3.** *mod.* having to do with undiluted liquor. □ *I'll take mine straight.* □ *Make one straight with a little ice.* **4.** *mod.* relieved and satisfied by a dose of drugs. (Drugs.) □ *It only takes a few bucks and a little time to get straight.* □ *She will be straight for a few hours, and then the same struggle all over again—all through the night.* **5.** *mod.* off drugs; no longer addicted to drugs. □ *I'm straight now, and I'm gonna stay that way.* □ *I'm a straight guy.* □ *See how long you can stay straight, how 'bout it?* **6.** *n.* a square person (who does not use drugs, etc.). □ *The guy's a straight. He's gonna turn us over to the cops!* □ *The straights*

are putting pressure on city hall to clean up this neighborhood. **7.** *n.* a nonhomosexual; a heterosexual. (Often from the homosexual point of view.) □ *Walter invited a few straights to the affair, just to keep things calm.* **8.** *mod.* not homosexual; not having a homosexual orientation. □ *He wandered into a straight bar by mistake.* **9.** *mod.* excellent. □ *This news is truly straight and I am happy to hear it.* □ *You are a straight G.*

straight arrow *n.* an honest person; a law-abiding citizen. (See also **straight shooter**.) □ *Wally is really a straight arrow at heart—as long as he's not around Max.* □ *Max is not a straight arrow. Slime is more like it.*

straight dope *n.* the true information. □ *He gave us the straight dope.* □ *I want the straight dope. I can take it.*

straighten up and fly right *in.* to get serious and start behaving properly. □ *It's time for you to straighten up and fly right!* □ *Straighten up and fly right before you get into difficulty.*

straight-faced *mod.* with a serious, unsmiling face. □ *Mary couldn't stay straight-faced very long. It was just too funny.* □ *He was a very straight-faced prof, but he has a tremendous sense of humor.*

straight from the horse's mouth *mod.* directly from the source. (As if a racehorse were giving racing tips.) □ *Of course it's true. I got it straight from the horse's mouth.* □ *This came straight from the horse's mouth. It's Zeerocks Copy in the sixth race.*

straight from the shoulder *mod.* very direct, without attenuation or embellishment. □ *Okay, I'll give it to you straight from the shoulder.* □ *Right straight from the shoulder: clean out your desk; you're through.*

straight low *n.* the absolute truth; the true lowdown. (Prisons.) □ *Can you give me the straight low on this mess?* □ *Nobody ain't gonna tell no warden the straight low; you can be sure of that.*

straight man *n.* someone who sets up jokes or gags so that someone else can say the

punch line. □ *I need a straight man to pick up on all my jokes.* □ *I'm tired of being a straight man for a has-been comic.*

straight shooter *n.* an honest person. (See also **straight arrow**.) □ *I trust Mike; he's a straight shooter.* □ *We need a straight shooter in office who will work for the people rather than some political party.*

straight talk *n.* direct and honest talk. □ *It's about time for a little straight talk around here.* □ *If they want straight talk and can handle straight talk, give 'em straight talk.*

straight up **1.** *mod.* upright. □ *A fine guy—really straight up.* □ *She is one of the most straight up brokers in town.* **2.** *mod.* without ice; neat. □ *I'll have a bourbon, straight up, please.* □ *No, not straight up. Just a little ice.* **3.** *mod.* **sunny-side up;** having to do with eggs cooked with yellow yolks facing straight up. □ *Two eggs, straight up, and a cup of coffee.* □ *I like my eggs straight up, but the white part has to be cooked solid.*

strange bird Go to odd bird.

strap *n.* an athlete, not necessarily male. (From **jockstrap**.) □ *A whole gang of straps came in the bar and ordered milk.* □ *The guy's a strap all right, but he's not dumb.*

straphanger *n.* a subway passenger. □ *I didn't think I could get used to being a straphanger.* □ *Straphangers learn to blot out their surroundings.*

strapped **1.** *mod.* broke; short of money. □ *I'm sorry I can't pay you right now. I'm strapped.* □ *They're really strapped for money at the present time.* **2.** *mod.* wearing a gun holster. □ *Be careful. He's strapped. I see it under his jacket.*

strap someone with someone or something *tv.* to burden someone with someone or something. (Often passive.) □ *Don't you try to strap me with your baby brother!* □ *She was strapped with too many bills to pay each month.*

straw **1.** *n.* marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *He stood right on the corner, selling straw by the handful from a bucket at his feet—and no-*

body even called the cops. □ *This straw is not the best quality I've seen.* **2.** *n.* papers for rolling marijuana cigarettes. (Drugs.) □ *I need some straw.* □ *I can't manage the straw with one hand. How do these cowboys do it?*

strawberry *n.* a pimple from drinking excessively. (See also **toddy blossom**.) □ *His disability made itself manifest by the occasional strawberry.* □ *That's a fine strawberry on your snoot.*

straw boss *n.* a foreman; anyone who is second in command. □ *The straw boss gave the order, and off we went.* □ *I don't mind being a straw boss as long as they pay me.*

streak **1.** *in.* to move rapidly from one place to another. □ *The train streaked into the station and came to a stop just inches from the end of the track.* □ *I've got to streak over to the library in a big hurry.*

2. *in.* to run about in a public place naked. □ *This kid was streaking back and forth until the cops caught him.* □ *He streaked on a dare.* **3.** *tv.* to grace or ornament a public place or event with a naked run. □ *Charles streaked the baseball game, but nobody noticed him.* □ *I wanted to streak her party but decided against it.* **4.** *n.* a naked run in a public place. (See also **streaker**.) □ *There was a streak at the end of the game, but people were leaving then and didn't see it.* □ *That was no streak; that was the coach in his long underwear being chased by the owner of the team.* **5.** *n.* an exciting time; a wild party. □ *That rally was a streak!* □ *We had a streak at Tom's.*

streaker *n.* someone who runs naked in public places. □ *The streaker ran through a glass door and was severely injured.* □ *Streakers seemed to take over the whole country in 1973.*

the **street** **1.** *n.* the real, free world, as opposed to prison. □ *The street just isn't the same as stir.* □ *It's good to be back on the street.* **2.** *n.* Wall Street in New York City. (Usually capitalized.) □ *The Street doesn't seem to believe the policymakers in Washington.* □ *If you want excitement and stress, the Street is the place to be.*

street-casting *n.* selecting amateurs to be performers or models. □ *I do a lot of street-casting. Almost everybody can act a little.* □ *Street-casting is fun, and it's cheap.*

streeter *n.* an urban street person. □ *These streeters have to be bright and clever just to survive.* □ *A couple of streeters taught me how to get a meal for nothing.*

street people *n.* people who live in the streets; homeless people. □ *There are a lot of cold street people at this time of the year.* □ *Some of the street people prefer that kind of life.*

street pusher *n.* a drug dealer who works at the retail level on the streets. □ *It's the street pushers who take the risk and end up doing a few months in the pen.* □ *Bart was a street pusher until he got busted.*

street smart *mod.* wise in the ways of urban life; wise in the ways of tough neighborhoods. □ *Freddy was street smart at age eight.* □ *Bess wasn't street smart enough to survive by herself.*

street smarts *n.* the knowledge and ability to survive on the urban street. □ *If you don't have street smarts, you won't last long out there.* □ *You either pick up street smarts, or you don't.*

street sweeper *n.* a machine gun. □ *In my neighborhood, the sound of street sweepers is about as common as the sound of horns honking.*

street time *n.* time not spent in prison. (Underworld.) □ *I had three months street time; then they nailed me again.* □ *I want out of this place. I need a little street time to renew some old acquaintances.*

stress 1. *in.* to suffer annoyance; to experience stress. □ *I'm stressing again! Please don't annoy me!* □ *Clare finds that she is stressing more and more about little things.* **2.** *tv.* to annoy or bother someone. (See also **stressed**.) □ *Don't stress Wally! He's had a hard day.* □ *The whole affair about my beemer stressed me a whole lot.*

stressed *mod.* upset; annoyed. □ *Come on, man, don't get stressed! It's only a gag.* □ *I am really stressed. I need a vacation.*

stretch 1. *n.* a period of time. (Folksy.) □ *Let's talk here for a stretch and then go up and see if dinner's ready.* □ *I sat there for a stretch and then got up and kept going.* **2.** *n.* a prison term. □ *I was away for a stretch of about seven years.* □ *That's quite a stretch for tax evasion.* **3.** *in.* to hang (as with a death sentence). □ *You will stretch for this, Lefty!* **4.** *tv.* to cut or dilute a drug. □ *Let's stretch this stuff, sell it, and then blow town.* **5.** *n.* <a nickname for a tall person, usually male.> (Usually **Stretch**.) □ *Well, stretch, think you'll go out for basketball this season?*

stretch one's legs *tv.* to stand up and perhaps walk about. □ *I need to get out of here and stretch my legs for a while.* □ *Most of us stood up to stretch our legs at intermission.*

(strictly) from hunger *mod.* very strange; acceptable only when nothing else is available. □ *This kind of entertainment is from hunger.* □ *The singer was strictly from hunger.*

strike *n.* a dose of drugs. (Drugs. See also **hit**.) □ *I need a strike. You got any stumbles?* □ *Just one strike, Bart, come on, just one. I'll pay you tomorrow, Bart, come on, just one little strike. Anything, Bart. I really hurt, Bart.*

strike it rich *tv.* to become rich suddenly. □ *I never thought I would strike it rich.* □ *Pete is the kind of guy who wants to strike it rich and live in the lap of luxury for the rest of his life.*

strike out 1. *in.* [for a baseball batter] to be declared out after three strikes. (Baseball.) □ *And so Drew Wilson strikes out for his second time in this game!* □ *He struck out in the second inning, and manager Willy "Herky" Simpson read him out then.* **2.** *in.* to fail. □ *Well, we struck out again, but we'll keep trying.* □ *I hear you struck out on that Acme proposal. Better luck next time.*

strike pay dirt Go to hit pay dirt.

stringbean *n.* a thin person. (Also a term of address.) □ *Wow, is he a stringbean.* □ *Who's the stringbean standing by the punch bowl? Somebody ought to feed him.*

stripper *n.* a striptease artist. □ *Tracy worked for a while as a stripper.* □ *Strippers from all over assembled here for their fourth annual convention and immediately took off on a sight-seeing tour.*

strip-search *tv.* to search someone's entire naked body. (See also **skin-search**.) □ *The cops strip-searched the good-looking chick who ran a red light.* □ *Now it takes a court order to strip-search someone.*

stroke *tv.* & *in.* to flatter someone; to soothe and comfort someone. □ *She strokes everybody to keep them on her side during the bad times.* □ *She learned long ago that stroking puts people at ease.*

strong-arm **1.** *tv.* to force someone (to do something). □ *Ziggy tried to strong-arm Frank into cooperating.* □ *Don't strong-arm me, you creep!* **2.** *mod.* forceful; by physical force. □ *The strong-arm approach got him nowhere.* □ *Too much strong-arm stuff isn't good.*

strong-arm man *n.* a bully; a man who is employed to use physical power to force someone to do something. □ *Bruno is Mr. Big's strong-arm man.* □ *The mob employs hundreds of strong-arm men.*

strong-arm tactics *n.* tactics based on the use of force. □ *No more strong-arm tactics. You need to be more subtle.* □ *Strong-arm tactics are out. The boss says be gentle and don't break anybody.*

strung out **1.** *AND strung (up)* *mod.* drug intoxicated and bewildered. (Drugs.) □ *Ziggy is really strung out lately. What's he shooting now?* □ *Tim is sort of strung out and doesn't even remember what he took.* **2.** *mod.* badly addicted to heroin; dissipated by heroin. (Drugs.) □ *Harry's strung out for good, I guess.* □ *Clare is strung out and can't deny her problem any longer.* **3.** *mod.* depressed; nervous. □ *I get strung out before tests and other traumatic things.* □ *I'm a little strung out—because of the accident, I guess.* **4.** *mod.* in love and disoriented. □ *Mary is strung out, and all because of Sam.* □ *Sam is strung out over Mary.*

strung-out shape *n.* a tired and exhausted condition. □ *They were sort of in strung-*

out shape, tired and ready for the sack. □ *I've never been in such strung-out shape, but I've never run a marathon before.*

strung (up) *Go to strung out.*

strut one's stuff *tv.* to walk proudly and show off one's best features or talents. □ *Get out there on that stage and strut your stuff!* □ *I'm going to strut my stuff and become a star.*

stuccoed ['stəkod] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (A play on **plastered**.) □ *The guy was too stuccoed to drive and couldn't stand up to walk.* □ *I can drink without getting stuccoed, mainly because I drink soda.*

stuck on someone or something *mod.* enamored with someone or something; obsessed with someone or something. □ *Tom is stuck on himself—as conceited as can be.* □ *I'm really stuck on this stuff. It's just yummy.*

stuck-up *mod.* conceited. □ *Tom is really stuck-up.* □ *What a stuck-up jerk.* □ *Don't be so stuck-up. Unbend a little.*

stuck with someone or something *mod.* burdened with someone or something; left with the burden of someone or something. □ *It's your problem, and you're stuck with it.* □ *Am I stuck with this kid forever?*

stud [stəd] **1.** *n.* a male horse used for breeding purposes. (Not slang.) □ *Last spring, we rented out all our studs and made some money.* □ *The mare kicked the stud and put us all out of business for a while.* **2.** *n.* a human male viewed as very successful with women. (Parallel to sense 1.) □ *Fred thinks he is a real stud.* □ *Man, look at that stud over there. Think he's going steady with anyone?*

studhammer *n.* a male who is successful sexually with women. □ *Alex is a real studhammer.* □ *The guy thinks he is a studhammer, but he is just a jerk.*

stud-muffin *n.* a really good-looking guy; a stud. □ *Who's the stud-muffin with Sally?* □ *Did you see that stud-muffin come in?*

study animal *n.* someone who studies hard. (A play on **party animal**.) □ *All the geeks in the dorm were study animals. Dull, dull, dull.* □ *At the end of the school year every party animal turns into a study animal.*

Stuff a sock in it! AND **Put a sock in it!**
Put a cork in it! *exclam.* Shut up! □ *I've heard enough. Stuff a sock in it!* □ *Stuff a sock in it! You are a pain.*

stuffed shirt *n.* a dull and stuffy person, usually a male. □ *Mr. Wilson is a stuffed shirt, and people would tell him so if he didn't have so much money.* □ *I don't want to listen to that stuffed shirt anymore.*

stum [stəm] **1.** *n.* marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *Where can I get some stum?* □ *This stum is cashed. Trash it.* **2.** Go to **stumbles**.

stumblebum *n.* a tramp or bum, especially drunk and stumbling. □ *The poor old stumblebum got to the other side of the street the best he could.* □ *You are headed toward being a stumblebum if you don't lay off the sauce.*

stumble-bumbles Go to **stumbles**.

stumbles ['stəmbʌlz] **1.** AND **stum; stumble-bumbles** [stəm, 'stəmbʌl'bəmbʌlz] *n.* barbiturates; sedatives; tranquilizers; alcohol. (Drugs.) □ *Kelly was shocked to find a handful of stumble-bumbles in his brother's jeans.* □ *I need a strike. You got any stum?* **2.** *n.* the inability to stand up and walk straight. □ *I guess I have the stumbles today. Not enough sleep, I guess.* □ *Whoops! I have a case of the stumbles.*

stump **1.** *tv.* to confuse or puzzle someone. □ *That one really stumped me.* □ *I like to stump people with hard questions.* **2.** *tv.* to visit or tour a place. □ *We stumped all of Europe this summer.* □ *The team stumped the countryside before even practicing for the game.* **3.** *n.* a visit or tour. □ *The old girl is off on another stump.* □ *It was a fine stump; we didn't miss anything.* **4.** Go to **stumps**.

stumper *n.* a shoe. (Black. Usually plural.) □ *Make those stumpers shine!* □ *You like my new stumpers?*

stumps *n.* a person's legs. □ *My stumps are sore from all that walking.* □ *You need good strong stumps to do that kind of climbing.*

stung *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I'm a little stung by the mule, but I can find my way home if you'll just remind me how to open this door.* □ *She can drink that stuff all evening and never get stung.*

stunned *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I was simply stunned with the stuff.* □ *Kelly was stunned and had to be carried home to recover.*

stunner *n.* a stunningly good-looking woman. □ *Did you see that stunner who just came in?* □ *I think that she is a stunner, and I go to all her movies—over and over.*

stupe AND **stoop** *n.* a stupid person. (Also a term of address.) □ *Look, stoop, just do what you are told.* □ *Don't be a stupe! Use your head!*

stupehead *n.* a stupid person; a blockhead. (Also a term of address. See also **stupe**.) □ *What a stupehead!* □ *This stupehead keeps trying to sell me something.*

stupid *mod.* drunk. (See also **get stupid**.) □ *These kids are so stupid they can't see straight. They're all going to be sick.* □ *Wayne was too stupid to walk, let alone drive.*

stupid-ass Go to **dumb-ass**.

stupid fresh *mod.* very, very good. (See also **fresh**; **funky fresh**.) □ *Her looks were stupid fresh. Bonus!* □ *This ice cream is stupid fresh and needs to be eaten in great volumes.*

style *in.* to show off; to strut around. (Black. See also **strut one's stuff**.) □ *Look at that brother style!* □ *Why don't you style over here and meet my man?*

stylin(g) *n.* looking good; showing off how good one looks. □ *Dave thinks that stylin' is his sole occupation.* □ *When you finish your styling in front of the mirror, would you please dump the garbage?*

stymie ['staimi] *tv.* to obstruct someone or something. □ *He did everything he could*

to stymie the investigation. □ The nose guard stymied the play all by himself.

suave [swav] *n.* personal polish and smoothness. □ Man, does that guy ever have suave! □ You need some suave to carry off this sham.

sub 1. *n.* a substitute. □ I was a sub in the school system for a while. □ The coach sent in a sub for Wilbur. **2.** *in.* to serve as a temporary replacement. □ I subbed for Mary in a couple of games. □ Then she subbed for me to even the score. **3.** *n.* a submarine. □ I was aboard a sub for twenty minutes—and that was at Disney World. □ You have to have a special kind of personality to live on a sub. **4.** Go to submarine. **5.** *n.* a subscription, as to a magazine. □ I got a sub to a computer magazine for my birthday. □ Would you like to buy a sub to the local newspaper?

submarine 1. AND **sub** *n.* a long sandwich containing many different foods. □ He ordered a submarine, but he couldn't finish it. □ He took what was left of the sub home with him. **2.** *n.* a large marijuana cigarette. □ Look at the size of that sub! □ Bart makes a sub when he's got low-power straw.

suck 1. AND **suction** *n.* liquor; wine; beer; strong drink. □ How about a little glass of suck before we leave? □ This is powerful suction! **2.** AND **suck something up** *tv.* to drink beer or liquor. □ Yeah, I'll suck one up with ya. □ Let's go out and suck up a few. **3.** *in.* [for someone or something] to be bad or undesirable. □ This movie sucks! □ I think that the whole business sucks. **4.** AND **suction** *n.* influence. □ He thinks he has suck, but he's just a pain in the neck. □ Who has some suction with the boss?

sucka Go to sucker.

suckabuck *mod.* greedy; exhibiting greed. □ I refuse to do business with this suckabuck company anymore. □ She is such a suckabuck landlady that it makes me want to move.

sucker 1. AND **sucka** *n.* a dupe; an easy mark. □ See if you can sell that sucker the Brooklyn Bridge. □ The sucker says he

doesn't need a bridge, thank you. **2.** *tv.* to trick or victimize someone. □ That crook suckered me. I should have known better. □ They suckered him into selling half interest in his land. **3.** *n.* an annoying person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ Look, sucker, get out of my way! □ I am really sick of that sucker hanging around here. **4.** *n.* a gadget; a thing. □ Now, you put this little sucker right into this slot. □ Where is that sucker that looks like a screw?

sucker for someone or something *n.* someone who is prejudiced in favor of someone or something. □ I'm a sucker for a pretty face. □ Ted is a sucker for any dessert with whipped cream on it.

sucker list *n.* a list of potential dupes; a list of people who might be taken in by deception. □ I'm sure on their sucker list. They are trying to get me to go to a lecture and receive a free clock or something. □ Here's the sucker list. Call them all and try to get them interested.

suck face *tv.* to kiss. (See also swap spits.) □ The kid said he was going out to suck face. It sounds awful. □ Sally said she didn't want to suck face.

suck (some) brew AND **suck (some) suds** *tv.* to drink beer. □ Wanna go suck some brew? □ I'm tired of sucking suds. Got any staggers?

suck someone's hind tit AND **kiss someone's hind tit** *tv.* to be obsequious to someone. (Usually objectionable.) □ What does he want me to do, suck his hind tit or something?

suck (some) suds Go to suck (some) brew.

suck something up Go to suck.

suck up to someone *in.* to attempt to gain influence with or favor from someone. □ In school, Max was always sucking up to the teacher. □ Don't suck up to me. It won't do any good.

sucky *mod.* poor; undesirable. □ This is the suckiest movie I ever saw. □ This food is sucky. It really sucks!

suction Go to suck.

sudden death *mod.* having to do with something short, quick, and decisive. ☐ *The game ended in a sudden death play-off.* ☐ *Okay, you've got just one more sudden death chance.*

suds **1.** *n.* beer. ☐ *How about some suds, Bill?* ☐ *I can't get enough suds.* **2.** *in.* to drink beer. ☐ *How 'bout going out and sudsing for a while?* ☐ *They were sudsing when they should have been studying.*

suds-swiller *n.* a beer-drinker. ☐ *Ted is a suds-swiller and Bill won't touch the stuff. What strange roommates.* ☐ *Wayne's goal in life is to be a professional suds-swiller.*

Sue me! Go to (So,) sue me!

sue the pants off (of) someone *tv.* to sue someone for a lot of money. ☐ *If they do it, I'll sue the pants off of them.* ☐ *He sued the pants off his landlord.*

sugarcoated *mod.* palatable; inoffensive; easy to take. ☐ *Math is so sugarcoated these days. Even I could learn it.* ☐ *Stop giving them sugarcoated knowledge.*

sugar daddy *n.* an older man who takes care of a younger person, especially a young man or woman. ☐ *Mr. Wilson is sort of a sugar daddy to the whole team.* ☐ *I thought sugar daddies were illegal.*

suit *n.* a businessman or businesswoman; someone who is in charge. ☐ *This suit comes up and asks to go to the airport.* ☐ *A couple of suits checked into a working-class hotel and caused some eyebrows to raise.*

summer complaint *n.* diarrhea, especially that experienced in the summer. ☐ *I've got a touch of the summer complaint.* ☐ *Does summer heat cause the summer complaint?*

sun belt *n.* the southern U.S. states, where it is generally warm and sunny. (See also **rust belt**.) ☐ *I want to retire to the sun belt.* ☐ *The population of the sun belt is exploding.*

Sunday best *n.* one's best clothing, which one would wear to church. ☐ *We are in our Sunday best, ready to go.* ☐ *I got mud on my Sunday best.*

Sunday driver *n.* a slow and leisurely driver who appears to be sightseeing and enjoying the view, holding up traffic in the process. (Also a term of address.) ☐ *I'm a Sunday driver, and I'm sorry. I just can't bear to go faster.* ☐ *Move over, you Sunday driver!*

Sunday punch *n.* a very solid and destructive blow; one's best blow. ☐ *Barlowe sent a Sunday punch straight into Rocko's gut. Rocko's eyes bugged out; then he crumpled to the floor and wretched.* ☐ *Ralph aimed a Sunday punch at Frederick's nose, but missed and spun about, striking his elbow on the banister.*

sunny-side up *mod.* [of eggs] having yolks facing up and still yellow and hot, but not cooked through; **straight up**. ☐ *I'll have my eggs sunny-side up, with toast and coffee.* ☐ *People who like sunny-side up eggs wouldn't dream of eating a whole raw egg.*

sunshades *n.* sunglasses. (See also **shades**.) ☐ *Where are my sunshades? Did you borrow them again?* ☐ *I left my sunshades in the car.*

Sup? Go to (T)sup?

super **1.** *mod.* fine; excellent. ☐ *This report is just super!* ☐ *Who made the super pie?* **2.** *n.* superintendent. ☐ *The super comes by every now and then to check on things.* ☐ *Call the super and ask for some help.*

super-doooper Go to super-duper.

super-duper **AND** **super-doooper** *mod.* excellent. ☐ *That's just super-duper. Couldn't have asked for better.* ☐ *Where is this super-doooper car of yours?*

superfly *mod.* excellent; wonderful. ☐ *This dude is really superfly.* ☐ *I don't care about this superfly gent of yours. If he doesn't have a job, I don't want you seeing him anymore. Ya hear?*

supergrass *n.* high-quality marijuana. ☐ *Tiffany picked up some pot she called supergrass. It looks like alfalfa to me.* ☐ *The cannabis that is the richest in resin is sometimes called supergrass.*

superjock **1.** *n.* an excellent athlete. ☐ *Mike is a real superjock. He plays four sports.* ☐ *All those superjocks get special meals and*

tutors to help them pass their classes. **2. n.** a very well-built man regardless of athletic ability. □ *My boyfriend is a super-jock, and does he look good!* □ *No nerd has ever been a superjock.*

super-strap *n.* an earnest and hardworking student. (As compared to a **jock**; **strap**; **superjock**.) □ *He's a Melvin, a super-strap, and he doesn't do anything but study.* □ *I couldn't be a super-strap even if I had the brains. I just don't care that much.*

sure as hell *mod.* absolutely certain. □ *I'm sure as hell he's the one.* □ *You sure as hell better get yourself over here.*

surefire *mod.* certain; effective; fail-safe. □ *I've got a surefire method for fixing cracks in drywall.* □ *Good, yes; surefire, no.* □ *This stuff is a surefire cure.*

sure thing *n.* something that is absolutely certain. □ *It's a sure thing! You can't lose!* □ *Well, it looks like the sure thing didn't turn out to be so sure, after all.*

surf 1. *mod.* wonderful; with it. (California.) □ *This party is, like, surf.* □ *This is not what I would call a surf day.* **2. in.** to use a remote control to check a large number of TV stations. (See also **channel hopping**.) □ *Don spends almost an hour surfing before he falls asleep in front of the TV.* □ *Mary surfed until she fell asleep.*

surf the net *tv.* to browse through the offerings of the Internet. □ *He surfs the net for three hours each evening.*

suss someone out ['səs...] *tv.* to try to figure someone out. □ *I can't seem to suss Tom out. What a strange guy.* □ *I don't have any luck sussing out people I don't know well.*

Suzy *n.* a U.S. one-dollar coin bearing a likeness of Susan B. Anthony. □ *I've got two Suzys I want to get rid of.* □ *Someday I'm going to buy a car or something with a barrel of Suzys.*

Suzy Homemaker *n.* a personification of the quintessential female American housewife. □ *Well, aren't you just Miss*

Suzy Homemaker! You're even wearing an apron!

swacked [swækt] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Tracy is too swacked to drive home. Can somebody give her a lift?* □ *He walked straight out of the office and went straight into the bar with the intention of getting swacked.*

SWAK Go to sealed with a kiss.

swallow 1. *n.* a puff of cigarette smoke. □ *He took just one swallow and started coughing.* □ *Can I have a swallow of your fag?* **2. tv.** to believe or accept something. (See also **eat something up**.) □ *Did they actually swallow that?* □ *Nobody's gonna swallow that nonsense.*

swallow the dictionary *tv.* to acquire an enormous vocabulary. (Usually in the past tense.) □ *My uncle says I've swallowed the dictionary. That's because I know so many big words.* □ *Did you just go to college to swallow the dictionary?*

swamped 1. *mod.* very, very busy. □ *I can't handle it now. I'm swamped.* □ *We're always swamped at this time of the year.* **2. mod.** alcohol intoxicated. □ *Look at him! He's swamped—stoned out of his mind.* □ *Those old boys used to go out and get swamped every Saturday night.*

swamper *n.* a truck driver's helper or assistant. □ *This guy and his swamper showed up to deliver the stuff, but neither one of them would touch it.* □ *He told the swamper to get some coffee for everybody.*

swank [swæŋk] *n.* class; visible quality. □ *He doesn't have swank. He's a cornball!* □ *This place has swank. I like it.*

swanky ['swæŋki] *mod.* classy; ritzy. □ *What a swanky joint!* □ *This place is too swanky. I like to eat where I can pronounce the names of the food.*

swap notes (on someone or something) *tv.* to share information on someone or something. □ *The two chicks sat around swapping notes on guys they knew.* □ *The mechanics were swapping notes on rude customers they had dealt with in the last month.*

swap spits *tv.* to kiss with someone. □ A couple of kids were in the car swapping spits. □ Tiffany and Wilbur were off somewhere swapping spits, I guess.

swear like a trooper *in.* to curse and swear with great facility. □ Mrs. Wilson was known to swear like a trooper on occasion. □ The clerk started swearing like a trooper, and the customer started crying.

swear on a stack of Bibles *in.* to make a very solemn pledge of one's honesty. (Folksy. Official oaths are sometimes taken with one hand on a Bible. This phrase implies that more Bibles make an even stronger oath.) □ I swear on a stack of Bibles that I was in Atlanta on the night of January sixteenth. □ It's true! I swear on a stack of Bibles it's true!

sweat 1. *tv. & in.* to fret (about something) while waiting for an outcome. □ Come on, don't sweat it. It'll work out. □ This whole promotion business really has me sweating. **2. n.** trouble; bother. (See also **no sweat**.) □ I can handle it. It won't cause me any sweat. □ You really caused a lot of sweat around here.

sweat blood *tv.* to work very hard at something; to endure distress in the process of accomplishing something. (See also **piss blood**.) □ And here I sweated blood to put you through college, and you treat me like a stranger. □ Everybody in the office had to sweat blood that week.

sweat bullets *tv.* to suffer about something; to be anxious or nervous about something; to **sweat blood**. □ They were sweating bullets, waiting for the results. □ The kid sat in the waiting room, sweating bullets while the surgeons worked on his brother.

sweat-shop *n.* a workplace where employees work long hours for low pay in poor conditions. □ This office is a sweat-shop! I only got a 2 percent raise. □ The bank manager is unfair! I've been a teller in this sweat-shop for thirteen years, and I've never had a new carpet in my office.

sweat sock *n.* an athlete; a jock. (Usually plural.) □ I live in a dorm with a bunch of sweat socks. They feed us well, anyway.

□ Both Bill's roommates are sweat socks and smell like it, too.

sweat something out *tv.* to wait out something; to fret and worry until the end of something. □ You'll just have to sweat it out. There's no way to hurry it up. □ We'll sweat out the wait—like everybody else.

sweet *mod.* good; profitable; excellent. □ I got involved in a sweet deal having to do with a better job. □ Fred offered Bill a sweet contract, but Bill turned it down.

sweeten *tv.* to make a bargain or agreement better or more attractive. □ Okay, I'll sweeten the deal. I'll throw in a lighted mirror on the visor. □ Sweeten the deal with air, and I'll buy the car.

sweetener *n.* extra encouragement, usually in the form of money. □ Money makes the best sweetener around. □ Let me add a little sweetener, and we'll see if he goes for it.

sweetheart AND **sweetie(-pie)** *n.* (one's) dear child, husband, wife, lover, etc. (Often a term of address.) □ Look, sweetheart, can't we afford a new car? □ Pick up your toys, sweetie. Aunt Matilda is coming over for a visit.

sweetheart deal *n.* a deal made between friends so that both may profit well. (Such deals usually involve illegal or unethical practices.) □ They found that the mayor was involved in a number of sweetheart deals. □ Most of the general contractors in town would be out of business if they didn't offer sweetheart deals to the politicians.

sweetie(-pie) Go to **sweetheart**.

sweet nothings *n.* loving comments; pleasant remarks between lovers. □ They are out on the porch swing whispering sweet nothings in each other's ears. □ Thank heavens most married people never remember the sweet nothings they were once told.

swell *mod.* fine; excellent. (Also sarcastic use.) □ Where did you get that swell hat? □ Oh that's just swell! Yuck!

swellelegant ['swel'eləgənt] *mod.* really fine. (From **swell** and **elegant**.) □ Gee, this

place is sure swellelegant! □ It is not swellelegant. □ Her car is just swellelegant.

swellhead *n.* a conceited person. □ Tom is getting to be such a swellhead. □ I wish that swellhead would spend more time elsewhere!

swift **1.** *mod.* smart and clever. □ Excuse my brother. He's not too swift. □ Dave is doing well in school. He's swift, and he likes his classes. **2.** *mod.* sexually fast or easy, usually said of a woman. □ Tracy is swift they say, but I find her to be a perfect lady. □ Clare is not only swift, she has a reputation.

swig **1.** *n.* a deep drink of liquor; a swallow of liquor. □ She took a swig of rum and leaped into the lagoon. □ One swig of that stuff was enough for me. **2.** *tv.* to drink liquor deeply. □ He nearly swigged the whole bottle before he needed to take a breath. □ She swigged a big gulp and just stood there—bottle in her hand—and became paralyzed.

swigged AND **swiggled** [swigd AND 'swigd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; tipsy. □ Man, is she ever swigged! □ He is too swiggled to drive.

swiggled Go to swiggled.

swill **1.** *n.* liquor. □ This swill is awful. Please give me some beer. □ The swill they serve here is better than you can get elsewhere. **2.** *n.* a drink of liquor. □ How about a swill out of your glass? □ Here, you can have a little swill of mine. **3.** *tv. & in.* to drink liquor. □ Ted is in his room swilling like a madman. □ He swilled a whole case of beer yesterday. Isn't he joyful yet? **4.** *n.* any nasty food or drink. □ Let's go over to the ptomaine-domain and get our evening swill. □ Man does not live by swill alone. Let's go to McDuck's instead.

swill-up *n.* a drinking bout. □ There was a swill-up at the frat house last week. □ I never miss a swill-up.

swimming in something *in.* having lots of something. □ Right now we are swimming in merchandise. In a month it will be gone. □ The Wilmington-Thorpes are just swimming in money.

swimmingly *mod.* quite nicely. □ I'm having a fine time here. Everything is going along just swimmingly. □ The plans are moving ahead swimmingly.

swindle sheet *n.* an expense account record sheet or book. □ I turned in my swindle sheet yesterday, and no one challenged the \$400 for new shoes. □ The government makes it hard to put just anything on your swindle sheet these days.

swing **1.** *in.* [for a person] to be up to date and modern. □ Tom really swings. Look at those blue suede shoes! □ I used to swing, but then age and good taste overtook me. **2.** *in.* [for a party or other event] to be fun or exciting. □ This party really swings! □ I've never been to a gathering that swings like this one. **3.** *in.* to be involved in sexual fads, group sex, or the swapping of sexual partners. □ Carol says that Tom, Ted, and Heidi swing. How does she know? □ There is a lot less swinging going on since these strange diseases have spread. **4.** *tv.* to bring something off; to execute a deal. □ This is a very important deal. I hope I can swing it. □ They want to elect me president of the club. I hope they can swing it.

swing both ways *in.* to be bisexual. □ They say that Gary swings both ways, but I wouldn't know. □ Since he swings both ways, he may stand a better chance at finding a date.

swinger **1.** *n.* a person who participates in innovative sexual activities. (See also **swing**.) □ Is Gary a swinger? I've heard talk about him. □ We watched a movie about a swinger, but everything interesting happened in dim blue light. **2.** *n.* a youthful, socially active, and knowledgeable person. □ Those kids are real swingers. □ Tom is a swinger. Look at those mod shoes.

swinging *mod.* great. □ We had a swinging time at John's rally. □ The concert was swinging—nothing like it, ever.

swing into high gear *in.* to begin operating at a fast pace; to increase the rate of activity. □ During the winter season we swing into high gear around here. □ The

chef swings into high gear around eight o'clock in preparation for the theater crowd.

swingman *n.* a drug seller; a drug connection. □ *Bart couldn't deliver till he met with his swingman.* □ *Ziggy wants to be a swingman with the mob.*

swing shift *n.* an evening work shift in a factory, usually from mid-afternoon to midnight. (See also **graveyard shift**.) □ *I don't mind the swing shift. I'm a night person anyway.* □ *My brother works the swing shift, so I never get to see him.*

swing with someone or something *in.* to appreciate someone or something. (See also **swing**.) □ *Man, I can really swing with that color. Glorious!* □ *I can really swing with John. He and I are real close.*

swipe **1.** *tv.* to drink liquor rapidly and to excess; to bolt a drink of liquor. □ *Ted swiped a quick one and ran out the door.* □ *Fred sat at the bar and swiped two gins and ate an egg.* **2.** *n.* moonshine; inferior liquor. □ *This swipe is gross. I'd rather drink water.* □ *I can't stand the swipe they serve here.* **3.** *tv.* to steal something. □ *Bart swiped a pack of cigarettes from the counter.* □ *Somebody swiped my wallet!* **4.** *n.* a blow or an act of striking someone or something. (See also **take a swipe at someone or something**.) □ *Bob got a nasty swipe across the face.* □ *The cat gave the mouse a swipe with its paw.*

swish [swɪʃ] **1.** *mod.* overly fancy; effeminate; displaying effeminacy. □ *The lobby of the theater was a little swish, but not offensive.* □ *Who is your swish little friend?* **2.** *n.* elaborate decoration; effeminacy. □ *There's a little too much swish here. Get rid of the gold drapes.* □ *What this place needs is more swish. Hang some baubles here and there.* **3.** *n.* a gay male. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *This place is full of swishes. Let's leave.*

switch *n.* a switchblade knife. □ *They found a switch in his pocket when they searched him.* □ *Bart was arrested for carrying a switch.*

switched on **1.** *mod.* alert and up-to-date; with it. □ *My brother is switched on and*

has lots of friends. □ *I'm not switched on. In fact, I am pretty dull.* **2.** *mod.* excited. □ *I get switched on by that kind of music.* □ *I am never switched on by raucous music.*

switcheroo ['swɪtʃə'ru] *n.* a reversal; a switching around. □ *He pulled a switcheroo on us and showed up at the other door, so we missed getting his autograph.* □ *She is a master at the old switcheroo.*

switch-hitter *n.* a ballplayer who bats either right-handed or left-handed. (Baseball.) □ *Monty is a switch-hitter, but he's batting right-handed today.* □ *I'm not a switch-hitter. In fact, I can hardly hit the ball at all.*

switch off *in.* to become oblivious to everything. □ *I want to go home and switch off—just forget this whole day.* □ *I have to switch off when I go home.*

switch on **1.** *in.* to come alive. □ *She saw her child and immediately switched on.* □ *I don't switch on until about noon.* **2.** *in.* to become modern and participate in current fads and events. □ *I am too old to switch on.* □ *Most kids I know switched on when they went to high school.* **3.** *in.* to get high on drugs; to begin taking LSD or some other hallucinogens. (Drugs. See also **turn on**; **switched on**.) □ *One by one, each of my friends switched on.* □ *There was some old man who seemed to get pleasure from getting kids to switch on. Maybe he was a dealer.*

swizzle ['swɪzl] **1.** *tv. & in.* to drink (liquor), probably to excess; to tinkle. □ *Have you been swizzling again?* □ *Fred's uncle is always swizzling a little drink.* **2.** *n.* liquor; beer; a drink of an alcoholic beverage. □ *What a hot day. I could use some swizzle.* □ *What I need is a nice cold swizzle.*

swizzled ['swɪzld] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Fred went out and got himself swizzled.* □ *Man, he is really swizzled!*

swizzle-stick *n.* a drunkard. (From the name of a short stick used to stir an alcoholic drink.) □ *That guy is a swizzle-stick. Don't give him any more.* □ *You had*

better slow down, or you will turn into a swizzle-stick.

swoozled AND **swozzled** ['swuz]d AND 'swɒz[d] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *How can anybody be so swozzled on three beers?* □ *Those guys are really swoozled!*

swozzled Go to **swoozled**.

syrupy *mod.* overly sentimental. □ *I can't stand syrupy movies.* □ *That music is too*

syrupy. □ *All this syrupy talk is making me tired.*

SYSOP ['sisap] *n.* system operator, the person who manages a computer system or forum or news group. □ *The SYSOP tried to bring order to the news group discussion but failed.* □ *I sent a message to the SYSOP complaining about the number of personal messages on the board.*

T

T. *n.* marijuana. (Drugs. From **tea**.) □ *Can't you stay off that tea?* □ *All she thinks about is smoking T. and where she's gonna get more of it.*

tab 1. *n.* a bill (for something). (From *tabulation*. See also **chit**.) □ *What's the tab for this?* □ *Barlowe paid the tab and left quietly.* **2.** *n.* a tablet (of medicine). □ *Take a couple of aspirin tabs and call me in the morning.* □ *These tabs must have got wet. They're ruined.* **3.** *tv.* to identify someone. □ *I couldn't quite tab her, but when she started talking I knew right away who she was.* □ *I tabbed him right away.*

tabbed *mod.* well-dressed. (Black.) □ *That dude is tabbed.* □ *She's really tabbed in some nice threads.*

table-hop *in.* to move from table to table in a restaurant, nightclub, bar, etc. □ *We used to table-hop, but nobody knows us anymore.* □ *They would table-hop—to the great dismay of the waiters.*

tackhead *n.* an overdressed male. (One who looks **tacky**.) □ *Gary is sort of a tackhead when it comes to clothing.* □ *Don't be such a tackhead, Tom. Loosen up.*

tacky 1. *mod.* cheap; crude. □ *That was a tacky thing to do to her.* □ *That was so tacky!* □ *This is sort of a tacky gift for a wedding.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Tom was a little tacky, so he gave me his car keys.* □ *Bruno seems tacky, but that's just the way he is.*

taco stand ['tako...] *n.* a lousy place; a tacky place. □ *It's time to get out of this taco stand and go somewhere decent.* □ *Why doesn't somebody clean up this taco stand?*

tad *n.* a bit; a small bit. □ *I'll take just a tad.* □ *I'm on a diet.* □ *That's a little more than a tad, but it's all right.*

tag 1. *n.* a name. □ *I know the face, but I forgot the tag.* □ *Everybody knows that tag well.* **2.** *n.* euphoria from drug use; a drug rush. □ *This tag from this mojo is something to behold.* □ *This trash has no tag at all.* **3.** *n.* a car license plate or sticker. □ *The car had Kansas tags and was towing a trailer.* □ *Don't forget to get a new tag for this year.* **4.** *n.* a blow to the body in boxing. □ *Wilbur landed another tag to the right shoulder before the gong sounded.* □ *Another tag on the head and Wilbur will be down.* **5.** *tv.* to punch someone in boxing. □ *Sam tagged his opponent on the cheek.* □ *The guy tagged him back right in the gut.* **6.** *tv.* (in baseball) to touch a runner with the baseball. □ *Wilbur tagged the runner and fell flat on his face.* □ *The catcher tagged the runner, but it was too late.* **7.** *n.* the coda or ending section of a piece of music. □ *Now, I want everybody to slow down and watch me on the tag.* □ *Give everything you've got on the tag.* **8.** *tv.* to charge someone with a crime. □ *The cop tagged him with the bank caper immediately.* □ *The cop tagged me with a ticket before I knew what hit me.* **9.** *tv.* to mark something with spray paint. □ *Our guys tagged the school walls last night.*

tagger *n.* a gang member who puts gang signs and themes on things with spray paint. □ *Sam is our best tagger. Man, he's an artist.*

Tah-dah! [tə'də] *exclam.* Look at this!; Look at me!; Presenting . . . □ *Tah-dah! How do you like my new haircut?* □ *And here*

is—tah-dah!—our ever-late and never-punished executive secretary.

tail-end *n.* the back end of something or someone. ☐ *He was at the tail-end of the long line.* ☐ *Tracy fell down on her tail-end.*

tailgate **1.** *tv. & in.* to follow (someone) too closely in a car. ☐ *That guy tailgating me is drunk, I think.* ☐ *Ease off a little; you're tailgating.* **2.** *in.* to have a **tailgate party**. ☐ *We planned to tailgate before the game, but it was massively cold.* ☐ *The people who were tailgating next to us asked to borrow our salt.*

tailgate party *n.* a small party held on the folded down tailgate of a station wagon in a parking lot. (Something that is done before a ball game, concert, etc.) ☐ *They had a tailgate party before the Bears game.* ☐ *The tailgate party was a success, except for the cold.*

tailor-made *n.* a machine-made cigarette. (From an expression for something, such as an article of clothing, that is custom made.) ☐ *They used to call these things tailor-made, meaning professionally made, as opposed to homemade.* ☐ *The cowboy in the movie refused to smoke a tailor-made.*

tails *n.* a tuxedo with long tails. ☐ *Shall I wear my tails?* ☐ *Ralph had to rent tails for the evening.*

take **1.** *n.* a section of a film that is pronounced acceptable just after it is shot. ☐ *It's a take. Get it over to the lab.* ☐ *After seven straight takes the crew demanded a break.* **2.** *n.* the amount of money taken in at some event; the money received for the tickets that have been purchased. ☐ *What was the take for the concert?* ☐ *The take was much larger than we expected.* **3.** *tv.* to cheat or deceive someone. ☐ *That clerk tried to take me.* ☐ *When they think you're going to count your change, they won't try to take you.* **4.** *tv.* to defeat someone, as in a fight. ☐ *Max thought he could take the guy, but he wasn't sure.* ☐ *I know I can take you. Make my day!*

take a bath (on something) *tv.* to have large financial losses on an investment.

☐ *Fred took a bath on that gold mining stock.* ☐ *The broker warned me that I might take a bath if I bought this stuff.*

take a beating *tv.* to be beaten, bested, or defeated. ☐ *The candidate took a beating in the runoffs.* ☐ *The team took quite a beating.*

take a break *tv.* to stop working for a rest period. ☐ *Let's take a break here. Be back in five minutes.* ☐ *I've got to take a break before I drop.*

take a chill pill *tv.* to calm down; to relax. (See also **chill (out)**.) ☐ *Take a chill pill, man! You are too excited.* ☐ *The police officer told Jim to take a chill pill and answer the questions.*

take a crack at something **AND** **have a crack at something** *tv.* to take a try at something. ☐ *She had a crack at food preparation, but that wasn't for her.* ☐ *Let me take a crack at it.*

take a crap Go to take a shit.

take a dig at someone **AND** **take a jab at someone** *tv.* to insult or needle someone. ☐ *Why did you take a jab at Sam?* ☐ *You're always taking digs at people who think they're your friends.*

take a dirt nap *tv.* to die and be buried. ☐ *I don't want to end up taking a dirt nap during this operation.* ☐ *Isn't Tom a little young to take a dirt nap?*

take a dive Go to take a fall.

take a dump Go to take a shit.

take a fall **AND** **take a dive** **1.** *tv.* to fake being knocked out in a boxing match. ☐ *Wilbur wouldn't take a fall. He doesn't have it in him.* ☐ *The boxer took a dive in the second round and made everyone suspicious.* **2.** *tv.* to get arrested. (Underworld. See also **take the fall**.) ☐ *Ziggy took a fall for the bank robbery.* ☐ *I didn't wanna take a dive, but the cop left me no choice.*

take a flyer (on something) *tv.* to take a chance on something. ☐ *Kim was very reckless when she took a flyer on that airline stock.* ☐ *Fred is too wise an investor to take a flyer on some story stock like that.*

take a gander (at someone or something) *tv.* to look at someone or something. (See also **gander**.) ☐ *Wow, take a gander at this chick!* ☐ *I wanted to take a gander at the new computer before they started using it.*

take a hike AND **take a walk** *tv.* to leave; to beat it. ☐ *Okay, I've had it with you. Take a hike! Beat it!* ☐ *I had enough of the boss and the whole place, so I cleaned out my desk and took a walk.*

take a jab at someone Go to take a dig at someone.

take a leak *tv.* to urinate. (Crude. Usually objectionable. Usually in reference to a male.) ☐ *I gotta go take a leak. Back in a minute.* ☐ *He just went out to take a leak.*

take a load off one's feet Go to get a load off one's feet.

take a lot of nerve **1.** *tv.* to be very rude; to require a lot of rudeness (to behave so badly). ☐ *He walked out on her, and that took a lot of nerve!* ☐ *That took a lot of nerve! You took my parking place!* **2.** *tv.* to require courage. ☐ *He climbed the mountain with a bruised foot. That took a lot of nerve.* ☐ *It took a lot of nerve to go into business for himself.*

take a nosedive *tv.* to collapse; to fail. ☐ *The market took a nosedive again today.* ☐ *She slipped on the ice and took a nosedive.*

take a page from someone's book *tv.* to copy or emulate. ☐ *I took a page from Edison's book and began inventing useful little things.* ☐ *Mind if I take a page from your book and apply for a job here?*

take a pop at someone *tv.* to punch at someone. ☐ *Ziggy took a pop at me, but I ducked.* ☐ *The drunk took a pop at the cop—which was the wrong thing to do.*

take a powder *tv.* to leave; to leave town. (Underworld.) ☐ *Why don't you take a powder? Go on! Beat it!* ☐ *Bruno took a powder and will lie low for a while.*

Take a running jump (in the lake)! *exclam.* Go away!; Get away from me! ☐ *You know what you can do? You can take*

a running jump. Beat it! ☐ *You can just take a running jump in the lake, you creep!*

take a shit AND **take a crap; take a dump; take a squat** *tv.* to defecate. (It is always *taken* not *given*, *done*, or *put*. **Shit** is the most offensive with the others following in descending order of offense.) ☐ *Hurry up in there! I gotta take a shit.*

take a shot (at something) *tv.* to try (to do) something. ☐ *I don't think I can do it, but I'll take a shot at it.* ☐ *Go ahead. Take a shot.*

take a squat Go to take a shit.

take a swipe at someone or something *tv.* to poke at someone or something. (See also **swipe**.) ☐ *Bart took a swipe at Ziggy.* ☐ *The cat took a swipe at the ball.*

take a walk Go to take a hike.

take a whack at someone or something *tv.* to hit at someone or something. ☐ *Wilbur took a whack at Martin and missed.* ☐ *Jerry got an ax and took a whack at the tree, but didn't do much damage.*

take a whack at something *tv.* to have a try at something. ☐ *Let me take a whack at it.* ☐ *Why don't you practice a little while and take a whack at it tomorrow?*

Take care. *tv.* Good-bye, be careful. ☐ *See you later. Take care.* ☐ *Take care. See you in Philly.*

take care of number one AND **take care of numero uno** *tv.* to take care of oneself. (See also **number one**; **numero uno**.) ☐ *Arthur, like everybody else, is most concerned with taking care of number one.* ☐ *If you don't take care of numero uno, who will?*

take care of numero uno Go to take care of number one.

take care of someone *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld.) ☐ *The boss told Ziggy to take care of Bart.* ☐ *I'm gonna take care of you once and for all.*

take five *tv.* to take a five-minute break. ☐ *Okay, gang, take five. Be back here in*

five minutes, or else. □ *She told them to take five, but they turned the five into fifty.*

take it *tv.* to endure something, physically or mentally. (See also **take it on the chin**.) □ *I just can't take it anymore.* □ *If you can't take it, quit.*

Take it down a thou(sand)! *exclam.* Cool down!; Calm down!; Quiet down! □ *Okay. Take it down a thousand, and let's talk this out.* □ *You are wild! Take it down a thou and let's try again to talk this out.*

take it easy **1.** *tv.* relax and take care. □ *See you later. Take it easy.* □ *They told me to take it easy for a few days.* **2.** *exclam.* Let up!; Not so hard!; Be gentle! (Usually **Take it easy!**) □ *Take it easy! That hurts!* □ *Take it easy; he's just a kid!*

take it on the chin **AND take it on the nose** **1.** *tv.* to stand up to something adverse, such as criticism. □ *They laid some rude chops on him, but he took it on the chin.* □ *I knew he could take it on the nose.* **2.** *tv.* to receive the full brunt of something. □ *Why do I have to take it on the chin for something I didn't do?* □ *If you did it, you have to learn to take it on the chin.*

take it on the lam *tv.* to get out of town; to run away. (Underworld.) □ *Both took it on the lam when things got hot.* □ *Bruno knew that the time had come to take it on the lam.*

take it on the nose Go to **take it on the chin**.

Take it or leave it. *sent.* There are no other choices.; It is this or nothing. □ *This is what you get for the money. Take it or leave it.* □ *I told her that there was a shortage of these things and she had to take it or leave it.*

take it out on someone or something *tv.* to punish or harm someone or something because one is angry or disturbed about something. □ *I'm sorry about your difficulty, but don't take it out on me.* □ *Don't take it out on the cat.*

take it slow *tv.* to go slowly and carefully. □ *Just relax and take it slow. You've got a*

good chance. □ *You'll make it. Take it slow and keep your spirits up.*

take it through the nose *tv.* to snort cocaine. (Drugs. A play on **take it on the nose** at **take it on the chin**.) □ *Max liked taking it through the nose better than anything, except maybe a shot in the arm.* □ *He went into the john, and most of us knew he had to take it through the nose right then.*

take it to the street *tv.* to tell everyone about your problems. (See also **on the street**.) □ *If there's something bothering her, she's gonna take it to the street, first thing.* □ *Come on, don't take it to the street.*

taken **AND had; took** **1.** *mod.* cheated; deceived. □ *I counted my change, and I knew I was taken.* □ *You were really took, all right.* **2.** *mod.* drug intoxicated; unconscious from drugs. □ *The guy in the corner booth was taken and crying in his beer.* □ *His eyes were bloodshot, his hands were shaking—he was had.* **3.** *mod.* dead. □ *I'm sorry, your cat is taken—pifted.* □ *Your cat's took, lady, tough luck.* **4.** *mod.* already claimed as someone's mate or lover. □ *Sorry, Bill, I'm already taken.* □ *Sam and I are engaged.* □ *Forget it. She's taken.*

take names *tv.* to make a list of wrongdoers. (Often figuratively, as with a schoolteacher, whose major weapon is to take names and send them to the principal.) □ *The boss is madder than hell, and he's taking names.* □ *Gary is coming by to talk about the little riot last night, and I think he's taking names.*

take off **1.** *in.* [for someone] to leave in a hurry. □ *She really took off outa there.* □ *I've got to take off—I'm late.* **2.** *in.* [for something] to start selling well. □ *The fluffy dog dolls began to take off, and we sold out the lot.* □ *Ticket sales really took off after the first performance.* **3.** *n.* an imitation of something; a copy of something. (Usually **take-off**.) □ *This robot is capable of producing 200 circuit board take-offs per hour.* □ *My machine is a take-off of the real thing.* **4.** *n.* a parody of someone or something. (Usually with *on*.)

Usually **take-off**.) □ *The comedian did a take-off on the wealthy senator.* □ *The take-off on the dean didn't go over well.*
5. n. a robbery. (Underworld. Usually **take-off**.) □ *That was some take-off Lefty pulled, huh?* □ *Yeah, Lefty sure knows take-offs.*

take-off artist *n.* a thief. (Underworld.) □ *A take-off artist known as the Cat is cleaning out closets and jewelry boxes all over town.* □ *He's not a sales agent. He's a take-off artist, pure and simple.*

take one's belt in (a notch) AND **pull one's belt in (a notch)** *tv.* to prepare for lean times. (See also **tighten one's belt**.) □ *It was clear that we would have to bite the bullet and take our belt in a notch.* □ *We were able to take our belt in a notch, unlike other people who were already strained to the maximum.*

take one's lumps *tv.* to accept the result or punishment one deserves. (See also **get one's lumps**.) □ *You've got to learn to take your lumps if you're going to be in politics.* □ *I hate taking my lumps. I'd rather pretend nothing had happened.*

take on fuel *tv.* to drink alcohol to excess. □ *They stopped at the tavern to take on fuel.* ☒ *They went inside to take fuel on and then came back out to watch the horses.*

take pictures *tv.* for a highway patrol officer to use radar. (Citizens band radio.) □ *There's a smokey under the bridge taking pictures.* □ *I didn't see the creep was taking pictures. I got nabbed.*

taker *n.* one who accepts an offer; a buyer. □ *Are there any takers for this fine, almost new caddy?* □ *Here's a taker. You'll not be sorry.*

take some doing *tv.* to require added effort and planning. □ *It'll take some doing, but it'll get done.* □ *It's not impossible. It'll just take some doing.*

take some heat *Go to take the heat.*

take someone in 1. AND **rope someone in** *tv.* to cheat or deceive someone. □ *He might try to take you in. Keep an eye on him and count your change.* □ *The con*

artists tried to rope in the old lady, but she was too clever. **2. tv.** to give shelter to someone. □ *We took her in and gave her some soup and a place to stay.* □ *Mrs. Wilson takes in almost every young person who needs her help.*

take someone off *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld.) □ *The mob took the witness off a week before the trial.* ☒ *Barlowe didn't want to have to take off Lefty—like hell, he didn't.*

take someone or something apart 1. tv. to criticize or defame someone or something. □ *They really took me apart, but what the hell?* □ *The editorial took the whole board apart.* **2. tv.** to beat or damage someone or something. □ *The mugger really took the old lady apart.* □ *The wreck took both cars apart.*

take someone or something off *tv.* to rob someone or something. (Underworld.) □ *Weren't you in that bunch that took the bank off in Philly?* □ *No, we never took off no bank, did we, Lefty?*

take someone or something on *tv.* to accept the task of handling a difficult person or thing. □ *I'll take it on if nobody else will do it.* ☒ *Nobody wanted to take on Mrs. Franklin, but it had to be done.*

take someone out 1. tv. to block someone, as in a football game. □ *I was supposed to take the left end out, but I was trapped under the center.* ☒ *Okay, Andy, you take out the center this time.* **2. tv.** to kill someone. (Underworld.) □ *The boss told Rocko to take out Barlowe.* □ *Barlowe was sure he could keep Rocko from taking him out.* **3. tv.** to date someone. □ *I hope he'll take me out soon.* □ *She wanted to take him out for an evening.*

take someone to the cleaners 1. tv. to take all of someone's money. □ *The lawyers took the insurance company to the cleaners, but I still didn't get enough to pay for my losses.* □ *The con artists took the old man to the cleaners.* **2. tv.** to defeat or best someone. □ *We took the other team to the cleaners.* □ *Look at the height they've got! They'll take us to the cleaners!*

take something out *tv.* to bomb or destroy something. □ *The enemy took out one of the tanks, but not the one carrying the medicine.* □ *The last flight took out two enemy bunkers and a radar installation.*

take something public **1.** *tv.* to make something known to the public. □ *You gotta take it public—put it on the street—even when it's none of your business.* □ *Don't take it public. You'll just get talked about.* **2.** *tv.* to sell shares in a company to the general public. (Securities markets.) □ *The board decided not to take the company public.* □ *We're going to take it public whenever the market looks good.*

takes two to tango *phr.* requires two people to do certain things. □ *No, he didn't do it all by himself. Takes two to tango, you know.* □ *There's no such thing as a one-sided argument. It takes two to tango.*

take the cure *tv.* to enter into any treatment program or treatment center. (Especially those dealing with drugs and alcohol.) □ *I wanted to take the cure, but I just couldn't bring myself to do it.* □ *It's hard to get them to realize that they are the ones who have to decide to take the cure.*

take the fall *tv.* to get arrested for a particular crime. (Especially when others are going unpunished for the same crime. See also **take a fall**.) □ *Ziggy and Tony pulled the job off together, but Tony took the fall.* □ *You did it, and I won't take the fall!*

take the fifth **1.** AND **five it** *tv.* to refuse to testify to a U.S. legislative committee under the protection of the Fifth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. □ *His lawyer told him to take the fifth.* □ *The lawyer just sat there and said, "Five it." after every question.* **2.** *tv.* to decline to answer any questions. □ *I'll take the fifth on that one. Ask Fred.* □ *Don't ask me. I take the fifth.*

take the gas pipe Go to take the pipe.

take the heat AND **take some heat** *tv.* to receive criticism (for something). □ *The cops have been taking some heat about the Quincy killing.* □ *If you can't take the heat, stay out of the kitchen.*

take the heat off someone *tv.* to relieve the pressure on someone; to free someone from suspicion, responsibility, a deadline, etc. □ *The confession by Rocko took the heat off the cop-shop for a while.* □ *They took the heat off us by moving the deadline.*

take the (long) count *tv.* to die. □ *The poor cat took the long count at last.* □ *I'm too young to take the count.*

take the pipe **1.** AND **take the gas pipe** *tv.* to commit suicide. (Originally by inhaling gas.) □ *The kid was dropping everything in sight and finally took the pipe.* □ *Some poor old guy took the gas pipe and nearly blew the place up.* **2.** *tv.* to fail to perform under pressure; to cave in. (From sense 1.) □ *He tends to take the pipe when the going gets rough.* □ *Don't take the pipe, man. Stick in there!*

take the piss out of someone *tv.* to humiliate someone; to make someone—usually a male—less cocky, perhaps by violence. (Usually objectionable.) □ *You need somebody to take the piss outa you!* □ *He failed his test again. That'll take the piss outa him.*

take the pledge *tv.* to promise to abstain from beverage alcohol. □ *I'm not ready to take the pledge yet, but I will cut down.* □ *My aunt tried to get me to take the pledge.*

take the plunge *tv.* to marry someone. □ *I'm not ready to take the plunge yet.* □ *Sam and Mary took the plunge.*

take the rap (for something) *tv.* to take the blame for something. (Originally underworld. See also **rap**.) □ *I didn't want to take the rap for the job, but, after all, I was guilty.* □ *I threw the rock, but John took the rap.*

take the spear (in one's chest) *tv.* to accept full blame for something; to accept the full brunt of the punishment for something. □ *The Admiral got the short straw and had to take the spear in his chest.* □ *I sure didn't want to take the spear.*

take the starch out of someone *tv.* to reduce someone's self-assurance; to reduce

someone's conceit. □ *I took the starch out of Kelly by telling him where he was headed if he didn't change his ways.* □ *That remark really took the starch out of him.*

take the wind out of someone's sails *tv.* to put a barrier in someone's path; to reduce the effectiveness of someone. □ *When the cops showed Bart the evidence, it took the wind out of his sails.* □ *It really took the wind out of his sails when he didn't get promoted.*

take things easy **1.** *tv.* to live well and comfortably. □ *I'll be glad when I can make enough money to take things easy.* □ *I make enough to take things easy. **2.** *tv.* to relax temporarily and recuperate. □ *The doctor says I'm supposed to take things easy for a while.* □ *I want you to take it easy until the stitches heal.**

taking care of business *tv.* doing what one is meant to do; coping with life as it is. (Black. See also TCB.) □ *If the dude is taking care of business, what else do you want out of him?* □ *Walter is taking care of business. Back in a minute.*

tale of woe *n.* a sad story; a list of personal problems; an excuse for failing to do something. □ *I listened to her tale of woe without saying anything.* □ *This tale of woe that we have all been getting from Kelly is just too much.*

talk a blue streak *tv.* to talk fast or a lot. □ *This crazy bird suddenly began talking a blue streak.* □ *Some parrots never talk. Others talk a blue streak whenever it's light.*

talk big *in.* to brag; to make grandiose statements. □ *She talks big, but can't produce anything.* □ *He has some deep need to talk big. He can't do anything.*

talking head *n.* a television news reader or announcer whose head and neck appear on the screen. □ *I've had it with talking heads. I can read the paper and learn as much in twenty minutes.* □ *Some of those talking heads make millions a year.*

talk like a nut *in.* to say stupid things. □ *You're talking like a nut! You don't know*

what you are saying. □ *Don't talk like a nut! We can't afford a trip to Florida!*

talk one's head off *tv.* to talk endlessly; to argue persuasively or vigorously. □ *I talked my head off trying to convince them.* □ *Don't waste time talking your head off to them.*

talk on the big white phone *in.* to vomit into a toilet. □ *One more beer and I'm gonna have to go talk on the big white phone.* □ *She was talking on the big white phone all night.*

talk someone ragged *tv.* to talk to someone too much; to bore someone. □ *That was not an interview. She talked me ragged.* □ *He always talks me ragged, but I always listen.*

talk someone's ear off *tv.* to talk to someone endlessly; to bore someone with too much talk. □ *My aunt always talks my ear off when she comes to visit.* □ *Stay away from Mr. Jones. He will talk your ear off if he gets a chance.*

talk through one's hat *in.* to say baseless things; to speak carelessly and tell lies. □ *Pay no attention to my friend here. He's just talking through his hat.* □ *You don't know what you are talking about. You're just talking through your hat.*

talk to earl [...ɜrl] *in.* to vomit. (Onomatopoeic.) □ *I think I hear Pete in the john talking to earl.* □ *Oh, my gosh! I think I have to go talk to earl!*

talk to hear one's own voice *in.* to talk far more than is necessary; to talk much, in an egotistical manner. □ *Oh, he's just talking to hear his own voice.* □ *Am I just talking to hear my own voice, or are you listening to me?*

talk to Herb and Al *in.* to use marijuana and drink alcohol. (See also *herb*. *Al* is alcohol.) □ *I've been out talking to Herb and Al—that's where I've been.* □ *Let's go talk to Herb and Al while we're waiting.*

talk turkey *tv.* to talk serious business; to talk frankly. □ *We've got to sit down and talk turkey—get this thing wrapped up.* □ *It's time to talk turkey and quit messing around.*

talk until one is blue in the face *in.* to talk until one is exhausted. □ *You can talk till you're blue in the face, but it won't do any good.* □ *She talked until she was blue in the face, but could not change their minds.*

tall 1. *mod.* high on drugs; intoxicated with marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *When Jerry gets a little tall, he gets overwhelmed with a sense of guilt.* □ *She seems a little tall. What's she on?* **2.** *mod.* high-quality. □ *This is one tall pizza, man.* □ *You're bringing in some tall ideas, man.*

tall in the saddle *mod.* proud. (Often with *sit.*) □ *I'll still be tall in the saddle when you are experiencing the results of your folly.* □ *Despite her difficulties, she still sat tall in the saddle.*

tall one *n.* a large drink; a long drink. (Compare this with **short one.**) □ *She ordered a tall one and sat back to cool off.* □ *Give me a tall one, John.*

tall order *n.* a request that is difficult to fulfill. □ *That's a tall order. Do you think anyone can do it?* □ *Well, it's a tall order, but I'll do it.*

tall timbers *n.* some remote well-forested place; the boondocks. □ *Oh, Chuck lives out in the tall timbers somewhere. He only has a post office box number.* □ *You're not going to move me out into the tall timbers somewhere!*

T. and A. 1. *n.* an operation to remove one's tonsils and adenoids. (Hospitals.) □ *She was scheduled for a T. and A. this morning at six sharp.* □ *The T. and A. went off without a hitch.* **2.** AND **tits and ass** *n.* a display of tits and ass, breasts and buttocks. (See also **B. and B.** Usually objectionable.) □ *The magazines featuring tits and ass flourish in their under-the-counter trade.* □ *These silly T. and A. movies have no plot to interfere with the leers.*

tangle with someone or something *in.* to quarrel or fight with someone or something. □ *I didn't want to tangle with her, so I did what she wanted.* □ *It's like tangling with a grizzly.*

tank 1. AND **tank up** *in.* to drink too much beer; to drink to excess. □ *The two broth-*

ers were tanking up and didn't hear me come in. □ *Let's go out this Friday and tank awhile.* **2.** *n.* a drunkard. (Usually **tank-up.**) □ *You're turning into a real tank, Harry.* □ *Who's the tank-up carrying the thermos of whiskey?* **3.** *n.* a jail cell for holding drunks. □ *Maybe a night in the tank would give you a chance to think about being a full-time drunk.* □ *One night in the tank was enough to make John take the pledge.* **4.** *tv. & in.* to lose a game deliberately. □ *Wilbur would never tank.* □ *The manager got wind of a plan to tank Friday's game.* **5.** *in.* for something to fail. □ *The entire stock market tanked on Friday.* □ *My investments did not tank when the market collapsed.*

tanked 1. AND **tanked up** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She was too tanked to drive.* □ *That old codger is really tanked.* **2.** *mod.* defeated; outscored. □ *The team was tanked again—20-17.* □ *I just knew we'd get tanked today.* **3.** *mod.* dead. □ *My cat got hit by a truck and is totally tanked.*

tanked up Go to **tanked.**

tanker *n.* a drinker; a drunkard. □ *When I came into the bar, a few tankers were in the back.* □ *Who's the tanker carrying the thermos of gin?*

tank up Go to **tank.**

tanky *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *The guy was just a little tanky.* □ *He found a way to slow down and keep from getting tanky at parties.*

tanned *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Preserved like a tanned hide of an animal.) □ *She was completely tanned.* □ *Tom is too tanned to drive. Get him out of that car.*

tap dance like mad *in.* to be busy continuously; to have to move fast to distract someone. □ *When things get tough, the whole Congress tap dances like mad.* □ *Any public official knows how to tap dance like mad without getting out of breath or sweating.*

taped [tept] *mod.* finalized; sealed (up); cinched. (As if one were taping a package.) □ *I'll have this deal taped by Thurs-*

day. Then we can take it easy. □ Until this thing is taped, we can't do anything.

tap out 1. *in.* to lose one's money gambling or in the securities markets. (See also **tapped**.) □ I'm gonna tap out in about three more rolls—just watch. □ I really tapped out on that gold-mining stock. **2.** *in.* to die; to expire. □ My dog tapped out after being hit by a car. □ Mary was so tired that she thought she was going to tap out.

tapped [tæpt] **1.** AND **tapped out** *mod.* broke. □ The consumer is just about tapped. Don't expect much buying in that sector. □ I'm tapped out. Nothing left for you or anybody else this month. **2.** AND **tapped out** *mod.* exhausted. □ I need a nap. I'm tapped out. □ I've had it. I'm tapped. **3.** AND **tapped out** *mod.* ruined. □ We are tapped. That really did it to us. □ The project is completely tapped out. **4.** *mod.* arrested. (As if one were tapped on the shoulder by a police officer.) □ I knew I was gonna get tapped eventually, but I just couldn't stop stealing. □ The whole gang was tapped in a police raid.

tapped out Go to **tapped**.

tap someone (for something) *tv.* to select someone for some purpose or position. □ The committee tapped John to run for Congress. □ I had thought they were going to tap Sally.

taste *n.* a share; a piece (of the action). □ I want a taste, too. □ Whatever the deal is, I want a taste.

taste blood *tv.* to experience something exciting, and perhaps dangerous, for the first time. □ She had tasted blood once, and she knew that the life of a race-car driver was for her. □ Once you taste blood, you're hooked.

Ta-ta. ['tɑ'tɑ] *interj.* Good-bye. □ See ya later. Ta-ta. □ Ta-ta. Take care.

tater *n.* a potato. (Folksy. The plural, *taters*, can refer to individual potatoes or a mass of potatoes as with mashed potatoes.) □ Give me more meat and less taters. □ He ate seven pork chops and a whole big bowl of taters.

tawny ['tɒni] *mod.* excellent. □ Who is throwing this tawny party anyway? □ This pizza is, like, tawny!

TCB *tv.* taking care of business; doing things that have to be done. (Black. Initialism.) □ He's TCB; that's where he is. □ If I am just TCB and keeping my nose clean, I know I'm gonna be all right.

tchtchotchke AND **chotchke** *n.* a trinket or ornament. (From Yiddish.) □ Her whole house is filled with tchtchokes and old photographs.

tea 1. *n.* liquor; alcoholic drink. □ Would you care for more tea? □ Give the lady some more tea. **2.** *n.* urine. (Usually objectionable.) □ There is some tea on the floor. □ Is that tea on your pants leg? **3.** *n.* marijuana. (Drugs.) □ Bart has tea and canaries on him now. No dust. □ Can't you lay off that tea a while?

tea party 1. *n.* a wild drinking party. (Like the Mad Hatter's party in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*.) □ There was a loud tea party going on in the corner booth when Barlowe came in. □ I'm having a little tea party Friday. Wanna come? **2.** *n.* something easy; a pleasant and unstressful event. □ It was not a tea party, but it wasn't bad either. □ The test was a real tea party. No sweat.

tear [ter] *n.* a wild drinking bout. (See also **rip**.) □ Sally is off on a tear again. □ What a tear it was at Paul's on Saturday night!

tear into a place *in.* to run or rush into a place. □ I tore into the office and answered the phone. □ They tore into town and held up the bank.

tear into someone *in.* to scold someone severely; to attack someone. □ I was late, and the super tore into me like a mad dog. □ I don't know why she tore into me. I was at work when the window was broken.

tear into something *in.* to begin eating food with gusto. □ The family tore into the mountain of food like they hadn't eaten since breakfast—which was true, in fact. □ Jimmy tore into the turkey leg and cleaned it off in no time.

tear-jerker ['tɪrdʒəˌkɜː] *n.* a very sad story or film. □ *The film was a real tear-jerker.* □ *I don't care to read a steady diet of tear-jerkers.*

tear loose (from someone or something) [tɜːr...] *in.* to manage to break away from someone or something. □ *The quarterback tore loose and ran twenty yards for a first down.* □ *Barlowe tore loose from Rocko and made for the door.*

tear off *in.* to break away; to run away. □ *I hate to tear off, but I'm late.* □ *Don't tear off without having some of my pie.*

tear someone or something apart *tv.* to criticize someone or something severely. □ *I was late, and the boss tore me apart.* □ *I thought my paper was good, but the prof tore it apart.*

tear someone or something up *tv.* to rip someone or something to pieces. □ *The two drunks tore the bar up the best they could.* □ *The dog tore up the robber, and the robber sued.*

tear someone up *tv.* to cause someone much grief. (See also **tore (up)**.) □ *I know this news will tear him up.* □ *The situation really tore up his father.*

teaser ['tɪzə] **1.** *n.* a (found) cigarette butt. □ *The hobo picked up the teaser from the street and put it in a little bag.* □ *He saves up teasers to make a big smoke out of them.* **2.** *n.* a brief sample of something, such as a performance. □ *The teaser didn't look very promising, but the reviews were great.* □ *The teasers they showed before the film were the best part of the evening.*

techie ['tɛki] **1.** *n.* a student in a technical or engineering college. □ *Does one guy like Martin prove that all techies are nerds?* □ *Of course, one groovy guy proves that techies aren't nerds, right?* **2.** *n.* a person with technical skills or knowledge. □ *We'll have to take this problem to a techie.* □ *The techies say it should work, theoretically, that is.* **3.** *mod.* having to do with technical people or things. □ *I don't like this techie jargon.* □ *This is the techie lounge. See how messy it is?*

tech-nerd ['tɛknərd] *n.* a technically oriented, dull person, typically a male computer enthusiast. □ *My brother, who is a tech-nerd, spends more than ten hours a day on his computer.* □ *I had to consult a tech-nerd to get my VCR operating.*

technicolor yawn *n.* vomit. (See also **throw a technicolor yawn**.) □ *This horrible pizza will bring on a few technicolor yawns if we serve it.* □ *Who did the technicolor yawn in the bushes?*

teed off *mod.* angry. □ *I'm not teed off! I'm enraged.* □ *I was so teed off I could have spit!*

teed (up) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *She was totally teed up by midnight.* □ *Tom was too teed to drive.*

teenie AND **teeny** *n.* a sixteenth. (Securities markets. From sixteenth. One sixteenth of a point in a stock price. See also **steenth**.) □ *It's going at three and two teenies at the moment.* □ *My forty thousand shares have dropped to three teenies each, and I think I am going to go down to the beach and jump.*

teenie-weenie Go to **teeny-weeny**.

teensy-weensy Go to **teeny-weeny**.

teeny Go to **teenie**.

teenybopper ['tɪnɪbɒpə] *n.* a young teenager, usually a girl. □ *The teenyboppers moved around the mall in droves, not buying and not causing any trouble, just being available for anyone who wanted to see them.* □ *Somebody called Mary a, like, teenybopper, and she went, like, "So gross!"*

teeny-weeny AND **teenie-weenie; teensy-weensy** ['tɪniˈwɪni AND 'tɪntsiˈwɪntsi] *mod.* tiny. □ *It was just a teeny-weeny sin.* □ *This one is too teeny-weeny.* □ *Could you move just a teenie-weenie bit to the left?*

teepee Go to **TP**.

tee someone off *tv.* to make someone angry. (See also **teed off**.) □ *That really teed me off!* □ *Well, you sure managed to tee off everybody!*

tee-tee ['tɪti] **1.** *in.* to urinate. (Juvenile. Usually objectionable.) □ *Jimmy, please*

go tee-tee before we leave. □ Jimmy, you are supposed to flush it when you tee-tee.

2. n. urine. (Juvenile. Usually objectionable.) □ There's tee-tee on the floor. □ Why is tee-tee yellow?

telegraph one's punches 1. tv. to signal, unintentionally, what blows one is about to strike. (Boxing.) □ Wilbur used to telegraph his punches until his coach beat it out of him. □ Don't telegraph your punches, kid! You'll be flat on your back in twenty seconds. **2. tv.** to signal, unintentionally, one's intentions. □ When you go in there to negotiate, don't telegraph your punches. Don't let them see that we're broke. □ The mediator telegraphed his punches, and we were prepared with a strong counter argument.

Tell it like it is. sent. Speak frankly; Tell the truth no matter how much it hurts. □ Come on man, tell it like it is! □ Well, I've got to tell it like it is.

Tell me another (one)! exclam. Tell me another fairy tale!; That was a lie. Tell me another just as good! □ You a stockbroker? Tell me another one! □ There's no improvement in this problem! Tell me another!

tell shit from Shinola Go to know shit from Shinola.

tell someone what to do with something tv. to tell someone to do something rude with something. (With the unspoken notion that one should stick it up one's ass.) □ I'll tell you what you can do with it. □ If that's the way he wants to be, you can just tell him what to do with it.

tell someone where to get off tv. to tell someone when enough is enough; to tell someone off. □ I was fed up with her bossiness. I finally told her where to get off. □ He told me where to get off, so I walked out on him.

tell the (whole) world tv. to spread around private business. □ Well, you don't have to tell the whole world. □ Go ahead, tell the world!

telly ['teli] *n.* a television set. (Originally British.) □ What's on the telly tonight? □

I mean, what's showing on the telly tonight?

a ten n. the highest rank on a scale of one to ten. □ She's definitely a ten. □ On a scale of one to ten, this pizza's a ten.

ten-four AND 10-4 interj. okay. (Citizens band radio.) □ Ten-four, old buddy. I will do that. □ Please, where the answer to the question is yes or no, don't write 10-4 for yes.

tenner n. a ten-dollar bill. (See also **fiver**.) □ For a tenner, the bum led Barlowe to the place where the crate still lay in the alley. □ Barlowe slipped him a tenner and faded into the fog.

tennies n. tennis shoes; sneakers. □ Let me get my tennies on, and I'll be right with you. □ What is that stuff on your tennies?

ten percenter n. an agent who collects 10 percent. □ I've been supporting that ten percenter for years, and he was robbing me blind. □ The life of a ten percenter is not easy.

ten-spot n. a ten-dollar bill. □ I slipped him a ten-spot, and suddenly there was a table available. □ It will cost you a ten-spot to get the book, in paperback, that is.

terps Go to turps.

terrific mod. excellent. □ Glad to hear it. That's just terrific. □ What a terrific idea!

TGIF 1. interj. Thank God it's Friday. (Initialism.) □ It was a rough week. TGIF. □ Everybody was muttering TGIF by Friday afternoon. **2. n.** a party held on Friday in honor of the end of the workweek. □ Everyone is invited to the TGIF tonight. □ Terry has a TGIF in his room every evening.

thanks a bunch phr. thanks. □ Thanks a bunch for your help. □ He said "thanks a bunch" and walked out.

thank you very much phr. a (sometimes sarcastic) tag added to a statement for emphasis. (Often used when there is really nothing to thank anyone for.) □ I will manage somehow to find my own way out, thank you very much. □ We are probably the only people in town who might be

able to help you, thank you very much. □
You've been quite annoying, thank you
very much!

that 1. mod. <a stylistic replacement for
the.> (Especially in citizens band radio
jargon and much daily colloquial speech.
It is the pervasive overuse of this form
that makes it notable as colloquial.) □
*Can you tell me where that next rest stop
is?* □ *Put that can of stuff on that shelf and
sweep that floor.* **2. mod.** <a stylistic mod-
ifier of personal and place names and
some other nouns that do not normally
take modifiers.> (Citizens band radio.)
□ *How do I get to that Kansas City?* □
That Mr. Silverflash is making good time.

That-a-boy! *exclam.* That is the way to do
it! (Said to a boy or man.) □ *Come on,
Chuck. That-a-boy!* □ *That-a-boy, Chuck.
You can do it!*

That ain't hay! *exclam.* That's money, not
something worthless. □ *That car cost
\$40,000, and that ain't hay!*

That'll be the day! *exclam.* That will never
happen! □ *You win a medal? That'll be the
day!* □ *When he gets his own car—that'll
be the day!*

That'll teach someone. *sent.* That is what
someone deserves. □ *That'll teach you to
pull out in front of me.* □ *I hit him on the
head. That'll teach him.*

That's about the size of it. *sent.* That is
the way things are.; That's all there is to
tell. □ *Well, that's about the size of it. See
you tomorrow.* □ *That's about the size of
it. You've understood it perfectly.*

That's all she wrote. **AND That's what
she wrote.** *sent.* That is all of it. □ *Here's
the last one we have to fix. There, that's all
she wrote.* □ *That's what she wrote. There
ain't no more.*

That's all someone needs. *sent.* That is
too much.; That is the last straw. □ *Now
the sewer's backing up. That's all I need.* □
A new mouth to feed. That's all we need!

That's a new one on me. *sent.* That is
truly amazing.; I did not know that. □ *A
machine that copies in four colors. That's*

a new one on me. □ *A talking camera?
That's a new one on me.*

That's my boy. *sent.* That is my son of
whom I am proud.; I'm proud of this
young man. □ *After the game, Tom's dad
said, "That's my boy!"* □ *That's my boy!
Always a winner!*

That's show business (for you). *sent.*
That is the way that life really is. (Also
with **biz** and **show biz**.) □ *And now the
car won't start. That's show business for
you.* □ *Too bad about the bad investment.
That's show biz.*

That's so suck! *phr.* That's so awful. □ *Eat
sweet potatoes? That's so suck!*

That's that! *exclam.* That is final! That is
the end of it! □ *I said no, and that's that!*
□ *I won't go, and that's that!*

That's the stuff! *exclam.* That is good
work! □ *Good shot, Wally! That's the
stuff!* □ *That's the stuff! Way to go!*

That's the ticket! *exclam.* That is exactly
what is needed! □ *Good! That's the ticket!*
Now you're cooking with gas. □ *That's the
ticket! Perfect!*

That's the way the ball bounces. *sent.*
That is life.; That is the random way
things happen. □ *It's tough, I know, but
that's the way the ball bounces.* □ *That's
the way the ball bounces. It could be worse.*

That's the way the cookie crumbles.
sent. That is life.; That is typical of the
unequal share of things you are likely to
get in life. □ *I lost my job. Oh, well. That's
the way the cookie crumbles.* □ *Oh, gee!
Too bad. That's the way the cookie
crumbles.*

That's the way the mop flops. *sent.* This
is the way things happen.; This is typi-
cal of a random pattern of events. (Con-
trived.) □ *Sorry to hear about that, but
that's the way the mop flops.* □ *That's
tough, but that's the way the mop flops.*

(That's the) way to go! *exclam.* Nicely
done! □ *Way to go, Charlie!* □ *That's the
way to go! You did it!*

That's what I say. *sent.* I agree with you.
□ *Of course, Mary. That's what I say.* □

That's what I say. The way to cut spending is just to do it.

That's what she wrote. Go to **That's all she wrote.**

That tears it! [...terz...] *exclam.* That is too much! □ *Well, that tears it! I'm leaving!* □ *I thought yesterday's error was bad enough, but that tears it!*

that way 1. *mod.* in love. □ *Sam and Martha are that way. They look so happy.* □ *Well, Martha's that way, but Sam's just out for a good time.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Daddy's that way again.* □ *I'm sorry, but Fred's that way again and can't drive to work.* **3.** *mod.* homosexual. □ *Ken said that you-know-who was acting sort of that way. What a gossip!* □ *Somebody said that Ken talks that way because he is that way.*

thawed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Tad is sort of soppy, you might say, thawed.* □ *Do you think he's too thawed to drive us home?*

then and there *mod.* right then. □ *He dropped the box right then and there and walked out on us.* □ *Right then and there, he pulled up his shirt and showed everyone the jagged scar.*

There's nobody home. *sent.* There are no brains in someone's head. □ *There's lots of goodwill in that head, but there's nobody home.* □ *You twit! There's nobody home—that's for sure.*

There will be hell to pay. *sent.* Things will be so bad that one will have to bribe the devil to straighten them out. (Use caution with **hell**.) □ *If I don't get this done on time, there will be hell to pay.* □ *There'll be hell to pay if we miss the plane.*

There you are. *sent.* This is the result.; This is the way things turned out. □ *There you are. Didn't I warn you?* □ *Well, there you are. Another first-class mess.*

There you go. 1. *sent.* Hooray! You did it right! (Usually **There you go!**) □ *There you go! That's the way!* □ *Good shot, Chuck! There ya go!* **2.** *sent.* That is the way things are, just like I told you.; Isn't this just what you would expect? □ *There*

you go. Isn't that just like a man! □ *There you go, acting rude and ugly!* **3.** *sent.* You are doing it again. □ *There you go! You said it again.* □ *I just told you not to put that junk on the table, and there you go.*

thick 1. *mod.* stupid; thickheaded. □ *She's sort of thick, but she means well.* □ *Why are you so thick about money?* **2.** *mod.* involved (with someone). □ *Sam and Mary are really thick.* □ *They're thick as can be.* **3.** *mod.* unbelievable. □ *This stuff is getting thick.* □ *This story is too thick for me. I'm cruising outa here.*

thickheaded *mod.* stupid; with more bone than brain in the head. □ *He's so thick-headed he can play football without a helmet.* □ *What thickheaded dolt put scallops in the scalloped potatoes?*

thick-skinned *mod.* able to withstand much criticism. (Compare this with **thin-skinned**.) □ *You gotta be more thick-skinned if you want to be a cop.* □ *He's a real thick-skinned guy.* □ *I'm thick-skinned enough; I just don't like violence.*

thin dime *n.* a dime, thought of as a very small amount of money. (A concept eroded by inflation.) □ *For only one thin dime you will receive our exciting catalog of novelties and tricks.* □ *This whole mess isn't worth one thin dime.*

thing *n.* one's interest; one's bag. □ *This isn't exactly my thing, but I'll give it a try.* □ *This is just your thing! Enjoy it!*

thingamajig AND **thingy** ['θɪŋəmədʒɪg AND 'θɪŋɪ] *n.* a gadget for which the proper name has been forgotten or is unknown. □ *Hand me that thingamajig with the copper base, will you?* □ *What're ya supposed to do with this thingy?*

thingy Go to **thingamajig**.

think-box *n.* the skull; the head. □ *A little weak in the think-box, but other than that, okay.* □ *Use your think-box for something other than to hold your ears apart.*

think-piece *n.* a thoughtful piece of writing in a newspaper or magazine. □ *Mr. Wilson's think-piece about the need for more concern for the middle class was not*

well received. □ *This is plain propaganda disguised as a think-piece.*

think-tank *n.* a place where great minds are assembled to try to think up solutions to problems or to envision the future. □ *She spent a few months in a California think-tank, then came back to teach.* □ *What sort of solutions are coming out of the think-tanks of the nation?*

thin-skinned *mod.* sensitive to criticism. (Compare this with **thick-skinned**.) □ *Don't be so thin-skinned. You can't expect everyone to like you.* □ *He's a thin-skinned guy.* □ *I'm too thin-skinned to be a bill collector.*

third degree *n.* a session of questioning, usually by the police. □ *Bart got the third degree, but—being the thoroughbred he is—he was a clam.* □ *They gave Ziggy the third degree, but he refused to say anything.*

third wheel *n.* an extra person; a person who gets in the way. (Such a person is as useful as a third wheel on a bicycle. See also **spare tire**.) □ *I feel like such a third wheel around here.* □ *Well, let's face it. We don't need you. You are a third wheel.*

thirst-aid station *n.* a place to purchase liquor. (From **first-aid station**.) □ *Let's stop at the next thirst-aid station and get a snort.* □ *Wally stopped by the thirst-aid station for a quick snort.*

thirsty soul *n.* a drunkard; a person in need of a drink. □ *Yes, I'd call Bill a thirsty soul—he always seems thirsty for booze.* □ *There was a long line of thirsty souls waiting for the liquor joint to open.*

This is it! **1.** *exclam.* This is exactly what I have been looking for!; I have found it! □ *This is it! I got it right this time.* □ *This is it! The world's best pizza!* **2.** *exclam.* This is the crucial moment! □ *Okay, this is it, the last chance!* □ *Get ready, this is it! Jump now!*

This is where I came in. *sent.* This all seems very familiar. □ *Okay, that's enough. This is where I came in.* □ *This is where I came in. It's the same thing all over again.*

thoroughbred *n.* an underworld person who is trustworthy and loyal to the underworld. (Underworld.) □ *Bart is an A-1 thoroughbred.* □ *The thoroughbred clammed up during the third degree.*

thou [θu] *n.* one thousand. □ *I managed to get a couple of thou from the bank, but I need a little more than that.* □ *It only costs four thou. I could borrow it from my uncle.*

threads *n.* clothing. □ *When'd you get new threads, man?* □ *Good-looking threads on Wally, huh?*

a **three-alarm fire** AND a **five-alarm fire** *n.* someone or something very exciting. □ *These guys are a three-alarm fire. Really exciting and eager.* □ *Work was a nightmare today. A five-alarm fire with crisis after crisis.*

three bricks shy of a load *mod.* stupid; dense; shortchanged on intelligence. □ *I would never say she was dense. Just three bricks shy of a load.* □ *Why do you act like you're three bricks shy of a load?*

three fingers *n.* a measurement of liquor in a glass. (See also **two fingers**.) □ *I'll take three fingers. It's been a hard day.* □ *Your wife told me not to give you three fingers anymore.*

three point two Go to three-two.

three sheets in the wind AND **three sheets (to the wind); two sheets to the wind** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated and unsteady. (Sheets are the ropes used to manage a ship's sails. It is assumed that if these ropes were blowing in the wind, the ship would be unmanageable.) □ *He was three sheets to the wind and didn't pay attention to my warning.* □ *By midnight, he was three sheets.*

three sheets (to the wind) Go to three sheets in the wind.

three squares *n.* three square meals a day. □ *I was glad to get back home to three squares.* □ *If I could limit myself to three squares, I could lose some weight.*

three-two AND **three point two** *n.* a weak beer containing 3.2 percent alcohol. □ *Three-two is just no good for serious sous-*

ing. □ James likes three point two because he can drink more of it without getting stoned.

thriller-diller ['θrɪlɪə'dɪlɪə] *n.* something like a movie, book, or television program that is thrilling. (See also **whodunit**.) □ The film was a real thriller-diller. I remember having to force myself to exhale. □ I can read one of these thriller-dillers in a couple of hours.

throat *n.* an earnest student; a cutthroat student. (Collegiate.) □ Martin is not a throat! He's not that smart. □ All the throats got A's, of course.

throat gag *n.* liquor; strong liquor. □ Pour me another glass of that throat gag, barkeep. □ That throat gag nearly choked me.

the **throne** *n.* a toilet; a toilet seat. □ And there was the cat—right on the throne, just staring at me.

throne room *n.* a restroom; a bathroom. (See also **throne**.) □ Hank is in the throne room, reading, I think. □ Where's your throne room?

through and through *mod.* thoroughly; throughout. □ She's a born fighter, through and through. □ He is totally dishonest. A crook through and through.

through the mill *mod.* abused; well-worn. □ That was some convention. I've really been through the mill. □ I feel like I've gone through the mill. I'm pooped.

throw 1. *n.* a try; a time. □ Have another throw at it, why don't you? □ Just one more throw, then I'll quit. **2.** *tv.* to confuse someone. □ The question really threw me. □ When the light fixture fell, it threw us a little.

throw a fight *tv.* to lose a boxing match on purpose. (Boxing. Other words can replace a.) □ I just know that Wilbur didn't throw that fight. □ The guy would never throw a fight.

throw a fit *tv.* to have a display of bad temper. □ I knew you'd throw a fit when I told you. □ Oh, boy, did she ever throw a fit.

throw a game *tv.* to lose a game on purpose. (See also **throw a fight**.) □ I know

Wilbur. He could never throw a game. □ There's a couple of those guys who would throw a game if they got enough money to do it.

throw a map *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ Somebody threw a map on the sidewalk. □ I felt like I was going to throw a map.

throw a punch *tv.* to jab; to punch. □ She tried to throw a punch at me, but I blocked it. □ Wilbur threw a punch at the thug.

throw a technicolor yawn *tv.* to vomit. (See also **technicolor yawn**.) □ One look at the food, and I almost threw a technicolor yawn. □ John stumbled into the living and threw a technicolor yawn on the new carpet.

throw-away 1. *n.* a flyer or handbill. □ The throw-away announced a big, city-wide TGIF. □ I passed out the throw-aways, but not many people would take them. **2.** *n.* a comedian's quickly uttered one-line joke. □ He tossed off his best throw-away of the evening just as the curtain fell. □ She was an expert at the one-line throw-away.

throw down *in.* to eat; to gobble one's food. (The opposite of **throw up** = to vomit.) □ Man, I'm starved. Let's find a hamburger joint and throw down. □ What time are you going to throw down tonight?

throw in the sponge Go to **throw in the towel**.

throw in the towel **AND** **throw in the sponge; toss in the sponge** *tv.* to quit; to give up. (From boxing where a towel or sponge thrown into the ring indicates that a boxer has given up.) □ I can tell when it's time to throw in the towel, and this is that time. □ The candidate who was exposed by the press as a former pickpocket tossed in the sponge in a tearful press conference.

throw money at something *tv.* to try to solve a problem by spending money on it. (Often said of the U.S. federal government.) □ This agency has thrown billions at the housing problem, but it has been nothing but a long-term disaster. □ Don't just throw money at it.

throw one out on one's ear *tv.* to remove someone from a place forcibly. □ *Straighten up, or I'll throw you out on your ear.* □ *The caretaker caught us and threw us out on our ear.*

throw one's cookies *Go* to toss one's cookies.

throw one's hat in the ring *tv.* to indicate that one is to be a contestant or a candidate. □ *The con claimed he needed parole so he could throw his hat in the ring for the mayoral election.* □ *I won't throw my hat into the ring until the last minute.*

throw one's voice *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. □ *Wally's in the john throwing his voice.* □ *Another drink of that stuff and Don'll be throwing his voice all night.*

throw one's weight around *tv.* to show off one's importance or power; to use one's rank or station to advantage. □ *The vice president was throwing his weight around, but that had little effect on anything.* □ *Don't pay any attention to her. She's just throwing her weight around.*

throw salt on someone's game *tv.* to mess up someone's plans. □ *I don't mean to throw salt on your game, but I don't think you can pull it off.*

throw someone for a loop *tv.* to confuse or surprise someone. □ *The whole business threw me for a loop.* □ *Don't let this question throw you for a loop.*

throw something back *tv.* to eat or drink something. □ *Did you throw that whole beer back?* □ *Jed threw back a quick snort and went on with his complaining.*

throw something together *Go* to knock something together.

throw the book at someone *tv.* [for the police] to charge someone with everything possible; [for a judge] to find someone guilty of everything possible. (As if one were being charged with violating all the laws in a law book.) □ *The judge wanted to throw the book at Bruno, but the prosecutor convinced him to go easy in hope that Ziggy would lead them to Mr.*

Big. □ *They threw the book at Rocko—he got 180 years.*

throw the bull *AND throw the crap* *tv.* to chat; to boast. (Use caution with **crap**.) □ *Tom could really throw the bull and sound right as rain.* □ *You're just throwing the crap. Can it!*

throw the crap *Go* to throw the bull.

throw up one's toenails *tv.* to wretch; to vomit a lot. □ *It sounded like he was throwing up his toenails.* □ *Who's in the john throwing up her toenails?*

thumb a ride *tv.* to beg a ride; to stand at the side of the street and signal to cars with one's thumb for a ride. □ *I'll thumb a ride to get there if I have to.* □ *I thumbed a ride to speed things up.*

thumber *n.* a beggar; a moocher. (As one who thumbs or begs a ride.) □ *Don't be a thumber, Frank. Go buy your own cancer sticks.* □ *There was a thumber on every corner trying to get a ride from someone.*

thumbnail sketch *n.* a quick and concise description. (One that could be written on someone's thumbnail.) □ *Let me give you a thumbnail sketch of what happened.* □ *The story—in a thumbnail sketch—deals with a family of storks and what happens to them during each of the four seasons.*

thumbs down **1.** *n.* a sign of disapproval. (See also **turn thumbs down (on someone or something)**.) □ *The board gave our proposal a thumbs down.* □ *Not another thumbs down!* **2.** *mod.* disapproving; negative. □ *It was thumbs down, and I was disappointed.* □ *The thumbs down decision was a victory for good sense.*

thumbs up **1.** *n.* a sign of approval. □ *It was a thumbs up on the new filtration plant at Thursday's village board meeting.* □ *There was no thumbs up for the mayor as she faced certain defeat in today's balloting.* **2.** *mod.* approving; positive. □ *The new filtration plant got a thumbs up decision at the board meeting.* □ *A thumbs up vote assured another three years of financial assistance.*

thunder-boomer *n.* a thunderstorm. □ *There will be thunder-boomers in the boonies tonight.* □ *A few thunder-boomers may wake you up tonight.*

thunderbox *n.* a portable stereo radio, often played very loudly in public. (See also **boom box**.) □ *Someday I'm going to smash one of these thunderboxes!* □ *Why not get a thunderbox of your own?*

thunder-thighs *n.* big or fat thighs. (Cruel. Also a rude term of address.) □ *Here comes old thunder-thighs.* □ *Here, thunder-thighs, let me get you a chair or two.*

tick *n.* a minute; a second. (See also **sec**.) □ *I'll be with you in a tick.* □ *This won't take a tick.* *Sit tight.*

ticked (off) *mod.* angry. □ *Wow, was she ticked off!* □ *Kelly was totally ticked.*

ticker 1. *n.* a heart. □ *I've got a good strong ticker.* □ *His ticker finally gave out.* **2.** *n.* a watch. □ *My ticker stopped. The battery must be dead.* □ *If your watch runs on a battery, can you really call it a ticker?*

ticket 1. *n.* the exact thing; the needed thing. □ *Her smile was her ticket to a new career.* □ *This degree will be your ticket to a bright and shining future.* **2.** *n.* a license. □ *I finally got a ticket to drive a big truck.* □ *I showed her my ticket, and she let me off with a warning.*

tickled (pink) *mod.* amused; utterly delighted; pleased. □ *I am tickled pink you could come this evening.* □ *We were tickled that you thought of us.*

tickle the ivories *tv.* to play the piano. □ *I used to be able to tickle the ivories real nice.* □ *She sat down to tickle the ivories for a while.*

tick someone off *tv.* to make someone angry. (See also **ticked (off)**.) □ *That really ticks me off!* □ *Doesn't that tick off everyone?*

tick-tock ['tɪktək] **1.** *n.* a heart. (See also **ticker**.) □ *My tick-tock is as strong as an ox's.* □ *How long does an ox's tick-tock last anyway?* **2.** *n.* a watch or clock. (Juvenile.) □ *Wind your tick-tock before you forget.* □ *The tick-tock in the kitchen has broken.*

ticky-tacky ['tɪkɪtæki] *n.* cheap and shabby material. □ *Those houses are just made of ticky-tacky, and they won't even be here in twenty years.* □ *That stuff is just ticky-tacky. No one will buy it.*

tiddled *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He had a tendency to get a little tiddled.* □ *Jack's too tiddled to drive.*

tied up *mod.* busy. □ *I was tied up and couldn't get to the phone.* □ *The phone was tied up for more than an hour.*

tie-in *n.* a connection; a liaison. □ *And who is your tie-in with the Acme Systems Company?* □ *I got a call from Mary—my tie-in with the mayor's office—who says it's all set.*

tie it on Go to tie one on.

tie one on AND **lay one on; tie it on** *tv.* to get drunk. □ *The boys went out to tie one on.* □ *They laid one on, but good.*

tie on the nosebag Go to put on the feedbag.

tie the knot 1. *tv.* to marry a mate. □ *We tied the knot in a little chapel on the Arkansas border.* □ *They finally tied the knot.* **2.** *tv.* [for a cleric] to unite a couple in marriage. □ *It was hard to find somebody to tie the knot at that hour.* □ *It only took a few minutes for the ship's captain to tie the knot.*

tiffled ['tɪflɪd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Harry was too tiffled to drive.* □ *Mary got a little tiffled, but nothing really gross.*

tiger *n.* a strong and virile man. □ *The guy's a tiger. Watch out for him.* □ *Isn't Ziggy a tiger!*

tiger juice Go to tiger sweat.

tiger(s) milk Go to tiger sweat.

tiger sweat AND **tiger juice; tiger(s) milk** *n.* bad liquor; strong liquor; any beer or liquor. □ *What is this tiger sweat anyway?* □ *How about some more of that tiger juice?* □ *This tiger milk would kill a tiger of any age or disposition.*

tight 1. *mod.* stingy. □ *She's really tight with her cash.* □ *You're just too tight. Gimme a fiver, Dad, come on.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Frank was tight and didn't*

want to drive. □ *The host got tight and had to go to bed.* **3.** *mod.* stressful; with little margin for error. □ *In a tight situation Martin can be sort of a wet rag.* □ *When the schedule is tight and we are busy as all get out, the telephone won't stop ringing.*

tight as a tick **1.** *mod.* very tight. □ *This lid is screwed on tight as a tick.* □ *The windows were closed—tight as a tick—to keep the cold out.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *The old man was tight as a tick, but still lucid.* □ *The host got tight as a tick and fell in the pool.*

tighten one's belt *tv.* to prepare for economies. (As if one would not be able to afford enough food to make one's stomach press against one's belt. See also **take one's belt in (a notch)**.) □ *Get ready to tighten your belt. I lost my job.* □ *The entire country will have to tighten its belt.*

tight money *n.* money that is hard to get. □ *This is tight money. Go easy on it. It's hard to get.* □ *In these days of tight money, no new expenditures will be approved.*

tight spot *n.* a difficulty. □ *I'm in sort of a tight spot and wonder if you can help me out.* □ *Sure, I like helping people out of tight spots as long as it doesn't cost me any money.*

tight wad *n.* a stingy person; a miser. (See also **wad**.) □ *There's no need to be such a tight wad.* □ *My dad's a tight wad.*

TIIC *n.* the idiots in charge. □ *I can't give you the answer until I consult with TIIC.*

Tijuana taxi ['tiəwəna 'tæksi] *n.* a police car. (Citizens band radio.) □ *There's a Tijuana taxi back a few cars watching you awful close.* □ *It's not a Tijuana taxi; it's a park ranger!*

till hell freezes over *mod.* forever. (Use caution with *hell*.) □ *That's all right, boss; I can wait till hell freezes over for your answer.* □ *I'll be here till hell freezes over.*

till kingdom come *mod.* until the end of the world; forever. □ *Do I have to keep assembling these units till kingdom come?* □ *I'll hate her guts till kingdom come.*

till the fat lady sings **AND** **when the fat lady sings** *mod.* at the end; a long time from now. (Supposedly from a tale about a child—sitting through an opera—who asks a parent when it will be over. “Not until the fat lady sings” is the answer.) □ *Relax. It won't be over till the fat lady sings.* □ *We can leave with everybody else when the fat lady sings.*

Time (out)! *exclam.* Stop talking for a minute! (A way of interrupting someone.) □ *Time! I have something to say.* □ *Just a minute! Time out! I want to speak!*

time to cruise *n.* Time to leave. □ *See ya. It's time to cruise.* □ *Time to cruise. We're gone.*

tin cow *n.* canned milk. □ *This tin cow is okay in coffee or something, but you can't drink it.* □ *Tin cow was all we could get.*

tingle **1.** *n.* a party. □ *This tingle is really da bomb.* **2.** *in.* to party. □ *Hey, man, let's tingle.*

tin hat *n.* a soldier's helmet. □ *Where's my tin hat?* □ *You use your tin hat for everything—washing, hauling water—you name it.*

tinkle **1.** *in.* to urinate. (Mostly juvenile use. Usually objectionable.) □ *I gotta tinkle!* □ *Jimmy, be sure and tinkle before we leave.* **2.** *n.* urine. (Essentially juvenile. Usually objectionable.) □ *There's tinkle on the bathroom floor.* □ *Mommy, why is tinkle warm?*

tinklebox *n.* a piano. (See also **joybox**.) □ *She's okay on the tinklebox.* □ *The tinklebox in the bar seemed to be a bit loud.*

tinseled *mod.* forged or decorated, as with a bad check. (Underworld.) □ *Gert got caught passing tinseled checks.* □ *He almost got caught kiting tinseled checks.*

tinsel-teeth *n.* <a nickname for someone who wears dental braces.> (Also a rude nickname.) □ *Tinsel-teeth is having a hard time talking.* □ *Well, tinsel-teeth, today's the day your braces come off.*

Tinseltown *n.* Hollywood, California. □ *Tinseltown is a very glitzy place.* □ *She's talented and has her eye on Tinseltown.*

tints *n.* sunglasses. □ *Somebody sat on my tints.* □ *I have to get some prescription tints.*

tip-off *n.* a clue; an indication. □ *The tip-off was when the dog started wagging his tail. We knew you were hiding somewhere close.* □ *The broken twig was just the tip-off Barlowe needed.*

tip one's hand *tv.* to reveal what one is going to do; to reveal one's secrets. (From card playing.) □ *I didn't tip my hand at all. I left them guessing.* □ *They tried to get me to tip my hand.*

tipple 1. *n.* liquor; strong liquor. □ *This is mighty fine tipple.* □ *A little more tipple, Tom?* **2.** *tv. & in.* to drink liquor; to sip at a vessel of liquor. □ *He's been tippling beer since early morning.* □ *Actually, he's been tippling since 1943.* **3.** *n.* a drink of liquor. □ *How about a little tipple?* □ *I'll take just a little tipple—for my arthritis, you know.* **4.** *n.* a drinking bout. □ *Well, Uncle Harry's off on a tipple again.* □ *No, that's the same tipple.*

tippler 1. *n.* a tavern keeper. □ *Another beer, faithful tippler.* □ *John is the best tippler this place has ever seen. Tip me another, John.* **2.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *Uncle Ben was a tippler—a harmless one.* □ *He started drinking at fifteen and has been a tippler ever since.*

tipply *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Ben is too tipply to drive home.* □ *I feel a little tipply.*

tipster *n.* someone who gives special information; an informer. □ *We got this from a tipster who has usually proven reliable in the past.* □ *The cops got this info from their favorite tipster.*

titless wonder 1. *n.* an oafish or awkward person. (Usually objectionable.) □ *That stupid jerk is the classic titless wonder. What a twit!* **2.** *n.* an unsatisfactory thing or situation. □ *I've got to take this titless wonder into the shop for an oil change.*

tits *n.* breasts, usually a woman's. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She's nothing but tits and teeth! Not a brain in her head!*

tits and ass Go to **T.** and **A.**

tits up *mod.* upside down; on its or someone's back. (Usually objectionable.) □ *He landed tits up in a cornfield.* □ *Her lousy pie fell tits up onto the kitchen floor.*

tizzy ['tizi] *n.* a state of confusion. (See also **twit**.) □ *The kind of tizzy that this place gets into drives me up the wall.* □ *The office was in a tizzy when I left.*

TLC *n.* tender loving care. (Initialism.) □ *All he needs is a little TLC.* □ *This old car will keep running as long as I give it lots of TLC.*

T-man *n.* a federal narcotics agent; a treasury agent. (The **T** is from *treasury*.) □ *The T-men were at the front while Bruno crept out the back.* □ *It's curtains for you, T-man!*

toast 1. *n.* a drunkard. □ *The old toast stumbled in front of a car.* □ *A couple of toasts tried to get us to buy them drinks.* **2.** *mod.* excellent. □ *This stuff is toast!* □ *Your silks are real toast.* **3.** *mod.* burned; done for. □ *If you don't get here in twenty minutes, you're toast.* □ *I told him he was toast for not being there.*

toasted *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *The chick got toasted on two glasses of cheap white wine.* □ *I'm not toasted, just a little breathless.*

to beat the band *mod.* very hard and very fast. □ *He's selling computers to beat the band since he started advertising.* □ *She worked to beat the band to get ready for this.*

to boot *mod.* in addition. □ *For graduation, I got a new suit and a coat to boot.* □ *She got an F on her term paper and flunked the final to boot.*

today *mod.* now; immediately. (Sarcastic.) □ *I want it done, now—today.* □ *Come on. Sam. Move it. Today!*

toddle off *in.* to depart; to walk away. □ *She said good-bye and toddled off.* □ *The old man toddled off somewhere and got lost.*

toddy blossom *n.* a large pimple from too much drinking. (See also **strawberry**.) □ *He was sporting a toddy blossom that would be the envy of any bum on skid row.*

□ *There was nothing she could do to hide her toddy blossom.*

to die for *mod.* important or desirable enough to die for; worth dying for. □ *This chocolate cake is to die for!* □ *We had a beautiful room at the hotel and the service was to die for.*

to-do *n.* a commotion. □ *Don't make such a to-do when you come in late.* □ *They made quite a to-do about the broken window.*

toe jam *n.* a nasty, smelly substance that collects between the toes of unwashed feet. □ *Wash your feet, you turkey! I don't want you getting all your toe jam all over the room!*

toe tag *tv.* to kill someone. (Bodies in the morgue are identified by tags on their big toes.) □ *Man, you treat me that way one more time and I'm gonna toe tag you!*

together *mod.* organized. □ *I'm not together yet. Lemme call you back.* □ *That chick's really got it together.*

to go *mod.* packaged to be taken out; packaged to be carried home to eat. □ *Do you want it to go, or will you eat it here?* □ *This stuff is to go.*

to hell and gone *mod.* gone; ruined. (Use caution with *hell*.) □ *Fred was to hell and gone before anybody figured out what he had done.* □ *The whole plan is to hell and gone. Nothing can be salvaged.*

To hell with that! *exclam.* That's the end of that!; No more of that! (Use caution with *hell*.) □ *To hell with that! That's no excuse!* □ *I've heard stories like that before, and I don't believe any of them. To hell with that.*

toilet mouth Go to potty mouth.

toilet water *n.* beer; draft beer. (Alludes to the term for cologne.) □ *This toilet water has me running back and forth to the john.* □ *You want another pitcher of toilet water?*

toke [tok] **1.** *n.* a puff of marijuana smoke. (Drugs.) □ *After a big toke, he settled back to drift.* □ *Harry took a big toke and sighed.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to puff a marijuana

cigarette. (Drugs.) □ *He sat on a stone to take one before bean time.* □ *He tokes for a good bit of every day.* **3.** *n.* a cigarette. □ *You got a toke I can bum?* □ *I left my tokes in my jacket.* **4.** *in.* to free base. (Drugs.) □ *She almost blew herself up toking.* □ *They were toking when her mother called on the phone.* **5.** *n.* a token. □ *Yeah. Just a little toke of my approval.* □ *Nothing much. Just a toke.*

tokus AND **tukkis**; **tuchus** ['tokəs AND 'təkəs] *n.* the buttocks; the rump. (Yiddish.) □ *She fell right on her tokus!* □ *Look at the tukkis on that fat guy.*

tomato *n.* an attractive girl or woman. □ *There's a nice-looking tomato.* □ *A good-looking tomato brought me my change.*

tomcat **1.** *n.* a sexually active male; a stud. □ *Old Fred's getting to be quite a tomcat.* □ *His goal in life is to die a tomcat at age ninety.* **2.** *in.* [for a man] to prow around searching for sex. □ *Harry was out tomcatting again last night.* □ *He's gonna tomcat around till he catches something.*

tomfoolery ['təm'fʊləri] *n.* foolishness. □ *That's enough of this tomfoolery!* □ *The entire evening was devoted to tomfoolery.*

tongue loosener Go to tongue oil.

tongue oil AND **tongue loosener** *n.* liquor. □ *She had a little too much tongue oil and was telling all about everybody.* □ *Barlowe poured the pigeon another shot of tongue loosener.*

tongue-tied **1.** *mod.* unable to speak from fear or confusion. (Standard English.) □ *I was tongue-tied and useless.* □ *Why do you get tongue-tied in front of a crowd?* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He was tongue-tied and couldn't stand up.* □ *She's not just tipsy; she's tongue-tied.*

tonic *n.* liquor. □ *How about some more tonic?* □ *Just a bit of tonic. I'm cutting down.*

tonsil bath *n.* liquor; a drink of liquor. □ *I could use a little tonsil bath about now.* □ *You want some more of that tonsil bath?*

tonsil hockey **1.** *n.* oral sex performed on the penis; fellatio. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Give him a good round of tonsil*

hockey, and you've got a customer for life.

2. n. French kissing. □ *The two kids spent the rest of the evening playing tonsil hockey.* □ *No tonsil hockey for me. I don't want to catch something.*

tonsil paint AND **tonsil varnish** *n.* liquor; whiskey. □ *This tonsil varnish would take the paint off a barn.* □ *Give the man a cup of tonsil paint.*

tonsil varnish Go to tonsil paint.

tons of something *n.* lots of something. □ *We got tons of fried chicken, so help yourself.* □ *You are in tons of trouble.*

Toodle(-oo). ['tʊdɪ('u)] *interj.* Good-bye. □ *Take it easy. Toodle-oo.* □ *See ya! Toodle!*

tooey Go to tooie.

tooie AND **tooey; tuie** *n.* a capsule of Tuinal™, a barbiturate. □ *You got any tooies?* □ *The cops saw a few tuies on the sidewalk and made the arrest.*

took Go to taken.

tool 1. *n.* an earnest student. (See also power tool.) □ *Of course he's a tool. See the plastic liner in his pocket?* □ *Martin is a tool, and he's proud of it.* **2. n.** a dupe; someone who can be victimized easily. □ *They were looking for some tool to drive the getaway car.* □ *Who's the tool with the briefcase?* **3. in.** to speed along (in a car). (See also tool around.) □ *We were tooling along at about seventy-five when the cop spotted us.* □ *I was tooling, and nobody could catch me.*

tool around *in.* to drive or cruise around. (See also tool.) □ *We tooled around for a while and then rented a horror movie.* □ *Let's tool around on the way home.*

too much *mod.* overwhelming; excellent. □ *It's wonderful. It's just too much!* □ *You are so kind. This is too much.*

too rich for someone's blood 1. *mod.* too expensive for one's budget. □ *This hotel is too rich for my blood.* □ *Europe is getting too rich for our blood.* **2.** *mod.* too high in fat content for one's diet. □ *This dessert is too rich for my blood.* □ *Most ice cream is too rich for my blood.*

toot 1. *n.* a binge; a drinking spree. □ *Harry's on a toot again.* □ *He's not on one again. It's the same old toot.* **2. tv. & in.** to drink copiously. □ *She could toot booze from dusk to dawn.* □ *They tooted and tooted till they could toot no more.* **3. n.** an emotional jag of some kind. □ *She's on a toot about how nobody loves her anymore.* □ *Those toots wore everybody out.* **4. n.** a line or dose of cocaine; cocaine. □ *These tootheads get sort of frantic when they can't get a toot.* □ *What do you spend on a toot, anyway?* **5. tv. & in.** to snort a portion of cocaine. □ *She had to leave the office to toot.* □ *She tooted a couple of lines and came back.*

tooter 1. *n.* a person on a drinking spree. □ *A couple of tooters were making a lot of noise.* □ *The streets belong to the tooters on New Year's Eve.* **2. n.** a drunkard. □ *Hank offered the tooter a drink, which was gratefully accepted, of course.* □ *I think you are turning into a tooter.*

tootle along *in.* to depart. □ *I think I'd better tootle along now.* □ *Nice talking to you. Must tootle along.*

toot one's own horn Go to blow one's own horn.

tootonium ['tu'toniəm] *n.* an imaginary, potent type of cocaine. (Drugs. A play on titanium.) □ *He called it tootonium. She called it trouble.* □ *You want some real tootonium, babe?*

tootuncommon [tut'nkəmən] *n.* an imaginary, potent type of cocaine; any potent cocaine. (Drugs. A play on King Tut-ankhamen.) □ *Bart laughed when the student asked for tootuncommon.* □ *Which is better, tootonium or tootuncommon?*

top 1. tv. to surpass someone or something. □ *Can you top this one?* □ *I'll try to top your joke.* **2. tv.** to kill someone. □ *Bart was out to top Ziggy.* □ *Ziggy was gonna top Bart first.* **3. n.** the first half of a baseball inning. □ *Wilbur hit a nice double-bagger in the top half of the fourth.* □ *It's the third inning at the top; Wilbur's up.*

top banana 1. *n.* the lead comedian in a burlesque or vaudeville act. □ *The top banana didn't show up for the gig.* □ *Let*

me be top banana tonight. **2.** *n.* the boss; the leader or head of something. (See also **big cheese**; **big enchilada**.) ☐ *You'll have to ask the top banana. He's out right now.* ☐ *Who's top banana around here?*

top brass *n.* the highest leader(s); the boss(es). (Originally military.) ☐ *The top brass turned thumbs down on the proposal.* ☐ *You'll have to check it out with the top brass. She'll be home around five.*

top dog *n.* the person in charge or in power; a company officer. ☐ *The reporter tried to get hold of one of the top dogs, but couldn't get past the secretary.* ☐ *A top dog from the executive suite read a prepared statement.*

top-drawer *mod.* top-quality. ☐ *Podunk U. is a really top-drawer school.* ☐ *I want to hire a young MBA who's top-drawer.*

top-flight *mod.* of the highest caliber. ☐ *This candy is top-flight in every sense.* ☐ *We are looking for a top-flight manager for our new division.*

top heavy *mod.* heavy-breasted; buxom. ☐ *Tracy gets a little top heavy when she is gaining weight.* ☐ *Who's the top heavy number in the red tent?*

topless *mod.* having to do with someone wearing no clothing above the waist, usually a woman. ☐ *The topless places are beginning to dress up a little.* ☐ *The cops closed down the topless joint on Maple Street.*

top of the heap *n.* a position superior to everyone else. ☐ *For some reason, Jerry has to be at the top of the heap.* ☐ *She fought her way to the top of the heap and means to stay there.*

top story AND **upper story** *n.* the brain. ☐ *A little weak in the upper story, but other than that, a great guy.* ☐ *He has nothing for a top story.*

topsy-boozy AND **topsy-boosy** ['tapsi'buzi] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *Gary drank until he was topsy-boozy.* ☐ *She was so topsy-boosy she couldn't stand up.*

topsy-turvy ['tapsi'tɜːvi] **1.** *mod.* upside down; in disarray. ☐ *The whole office is*

topsy-turvy. ☐ *He came in and turned everything topsy-turvy.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *Four glasses of gin and the jerk was totally topsy-turvy.* ☐ *She was too topsy-turvy to stand up.*

tore down Go to **tore (up)**.

tore (up) AND **torn (up)**; **tore down** **1.** *mod.* distraught; emotionally upset. ☐ *I knew you'd be tore up.* ☐ *Fred's really torn up about the accident.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. ☐ *He wasn't just drunk—he was massively tore up.* ☐ *Boy, was she torn.*

tornado juice *n.* whiskey; strong whiskey. ☐ *You want another round of tornado juice?* ☐ *This "tornado juice" smells like antifreeze.*

torn (up) Go to **tore (up)**.

torpedo *n.* a drink containing chloral hydrate; a knockout drink. ☐ *Barlowe signaled the bartender to give the stoolie a torpedo.* ☐ *The stoolie never knew it was a torpedo that wrecked him.*

torqued [tɔːkt] **1.** *mod.* angry; bent. ☐ *Now, now! Don't get torqued!* **2.** *mod.* drunk. (A play on **twisted**.) ☐ *Mary gets torqued on just a few drinks.*

toss **1.** *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. ☐ *I was afraid I was going to toss.* ☐ *She tossed right there on the steps and ran away.* **2.** *tv.* to throw something away. ☐ *Toss that old coat. It's no good.* ☐ *I'll toss this one. It's all scratched.* **3.** *tv.* to search someone. (Underworld.) ☐ *The cops tossed him and found nothing.* ☐ *The feds have a special way of tossing somebody for drugs.* **4.** *tv.* to drink some liquor; to take a drink of liquor. ☐ *He tossed some whiskey and left.* ☐ *Toss that drink, and let's get out of here!*

toss in the sponge Go to **throw in the towel**.

Toss it! *tv.* Throw it away! ☐ *You don't need that hat. Toss it!*

toss off Go to **beat off**.

toss one's cookies AND **throw one's cookies**; **toss one's lunch**; **toss one's tacos** *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to

vomit. □ *Right then and there, with no warning, he tossed his cookies.* □ *If you feel like tossing your cookies, please leave quietly.* □ *Fred stepped over to the bushes and raucously tossed his tacos.*

toss one's lunch Go to toss one's cookies.

toss one's tacos Go to toss one's cookies.

toss something off **1.** *tv.* to do something quickly without much time or effort. □ *It was no big deal. I tossed it off in thirty minutes.* □ *We can toss off the entire order in—let's say—three hours.* **2.** *tv.* to drink something quickly. □ *He tossed it off and ordered another.* □ *She tossed off a scotch in one big swig.* **3.** *tv.* to ignore criticism; to ignore defeat or a setback. □ *She just tossed it off like nothing had happened.* □ *How could she just toss off such a horrible thing?* **4.** *tv.* to resist or fight off a disease. □ *I caught a little cold, but tossed it off right away.* □ *I can't toss off these viruses like I used to.*

toss-up *n.* a matter of chance. (As predictable as the outcome of the toss of a coin.) □ *Nobody knew what to do. It was a toss-up.* □ *Who knows what will happen? It's a toss-up.*

totalled **1.** *mod.* wrecked; damaged beyond repair. (From *totally wrecked*.) □ *The car was totalled. There was nothing that could be saved.* □ *There's a place in the city that will buy totalled cars.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Tom was too totalled to talk.* □ *Jed was totalled and couldn't see to pay the bill.*

totally *mod.* absolutely; completely. (Standard. Achieves slang status through overuse.) □ *How totally gross!* □ *This place is totally beige.*

totally clueless *mod.* ignorant (of something). (See also *cluelessness*.) □ *Everybody was totally clueless as to what to do.* □ *Sorry, I'm totally clueless as to what to do.*

tote **1.** *n.* someone who abstains from alcohol. (From *teetotal*.) □ *I'm not a tote, but I do have a limit—rather low by your standards.* □ *Have a drink, or are you still a tote?* **2.** *n.* a small portion of cannabis. (Drugs.) □ *The cops found a tote when*

they tossed Bart, but that was all. □ *How much do you want for just a tote?* **3.** *n.* a small pipe for smoking cannabis. (Drugs.) □ *Her father found a tote in her room and really hit the ceiling.* □ *The cops found a tote in her purse and called in her father.*

to the max *mod.* maximally. (California. See also *max*.) □ *She is happy to the max.* □ *They worked to the max their whole shift.*

to the tune of something *phr.* for the sum of a specific amount of money. □ *The whole thing set me back to the tune of \$400.* □ *You will end up paying to the tune of twenty dollars a month.*

touch **1.** *n.* a likely target for begging; someone who is asked for a loan. (See also *soft touch*.) □ *He was just the kind of touch we were looking for, not too bright and not too poor.* □ *The touch looked around him and gave the stiff two-bits.* **2.** *n.* a request for money (from a beggar); a request for a loan. □ *I ignored the touch and walked on by.* □ *Here comes Fred, and he looks like he wants to make a touch.* **3.** *tv.* to ask someone for a loan. □ *He touched me for a hundred bucks.* □ *The wino touched Martin for a fiver.* **4.** *n.* a small portion of something to eat or drink. (Folksy.) □ *I'll have just a touch. I'm on a diet, you know.* □ *Can I have another touch of that pie, please?* **5.** *tv.* to deal with or handle someone or something. (Usually in the negative.) □ *I wouldn't touch that problem.* □ *Mr. Wilson is a real pain, and I wouldn't touch his account. Find somebody else to handle it.*

touch and go *mod.* chancy. □ *It was touch and go for a while, but we are out of the woods now.* □ *The place was in a real tizzy. Everything was touch and go.*

touch a sore point *tv.* to mention something that upsets someone. □ *I touched a sore point with Larry when I mentioned taxes.* □ *That touched a real sore point with me.*

touch base (with someone) *tv.* to make contact with someone. □ *I wanted to touch base with you just in case something*

had gone wrong. □ Let's touch base on Wednesday and check on things.

touched 1. *mod.* flattered; honored. (Standard English.) □ *I was touched by your comments. □ We were both touched by your thoughtfulness.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She was acting a little touched, but we didn't smell anything on her breath. □ Jed is a mite touched, wouldn't you say? Can't talk, walk, or see.*

touchy-feely *mod.* very sensitive and empathetic; pretentiously compassionate. □ *Wow, these SNAGs are soooo touchy-feely. □ Marge is so touchy-feely. She worries that anything she says may possibly offend someone.*

tough break *n.* a bit of bad luck. □ *Tough break. Sorry about that. □ You've had a lot of tough breaks lately.*

tough cookie *n.* a tough person. □ *He's a tough cookie, but I can handle him. □ There was a tough cookie in here this morning who demanded to see the manager.*

tough cookies Go to tough luck.

tough customer *n.* someone who is difficult to deal with. □ *Some of those bikers are really tough customers. □ Bruno is a tough customer. Just keep away from him.*

tough egg to crack AND **tough nut to crack** *n.* a person or thing that is hard to figure out or hard to deal with. □ *This problem is a tough nut to crack. □ I wish Jill wasn't such a tough nut to crack.*

tough guy *n.* a tough man; a man who might be part of the underworld. □ *He was your typical tough guy—jutting chin, gruff voice—but he was just our decorator checking up on the drapes. □ So, you want to be a tough guy, huh?*

tough luck AND **tough cookies** *interj.* That is too bad. □ *Tough luck, but that's the way the cookie crumbles. □ That's too bad, tough cookies.*

tough nut to crack Go to tough egg to crack.

tough row to hoe *n.* a difficult task to carry out; a heavy set of burdens. □ *It's*

a tough row to hoe, but hoe it you will. □ This is not an easy task. This is a tough row to hoe.

tough shit AND **TS** *n.* tough luck; too bad. (Usually objectionable.) □ *If you really think I did wrong, then tough shit! I don't care. □ TS, Fred. That's really too bad.*

tough something out *tv.* to carry on with something despite difficulties or setbacks. □ *Sorry, you'll just have to tough it out. □ I think I can tough it out for another month.*

Tough titty! AND **Tough titties!** *exclam.* That's too bad! (Usually objectionable.) □ *Tough titty! I told you it wouldn't be easy. □ So you missed the bus. Tough titty!*

tourist trap *n.* a place set up to lure tourists in to spend money. (Can be a shop, a town, or a whole country.) □ *It looked like a tourist trap, so we didn't even stop the car. □ What keeps these tourists traps going?*

townie ['tauni] *n.* a permanent (nonstudent) resident of a college town. □ *The townies get upset when we make a lot of noise on Sundays. □ A couple of townies won the bicycle race.*

toxicated AND **toxy** ['taksəkədəd AND 'taksi] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *He was just a tad toxy, but no one in the audience could tell. □ The boss showed up toxicated after lunch and shocked the secretaries.*

toxic waste dump *n.* a horrible person or place. □ *Frank, stop acting like a toxic waste dump and do as you're asked. □ Let's get out of this toxic waste dump.*

toxy Go to toxicated.

TP AND **teepee 1.** *n.* toilet paper. (The abbreviation is an initialism.) □ *There's no TP in the john. □ Don't forget to get teepee at the store.* **2.** *tv.* to festoon the trees and shrubbery of a residential yard with toilet paper. (A teenage prank.) □ *All the swimmers' houses get teepeed the night before a meet. □ Who teepeed my spruce tree?*

track 1. *in.* [for a laser beam, a phonograph stylus, a tape head, etc.] to successfully

transfer information to or from a recording medium. □ *Something here won't track. Must be the stylus.* □ *This thing won't track. What's wrong?* **2.** in. [for a person] to make sense. (Usually in the negative.) □ *She wasn't tracking. There was no sense in trying to talk to her before she came out of it.* □ *I gave up on the lecturer. He wasn't tracking.* **3.** in. to coincide; to agree; to **jibe**. □ *These two things don't track. I don't know what's wrong.* □ *Your figures don't track with mine. What's wrong?*

trad [træd] *mod.* traditional. □ *The approach is sort of trad, but so what?* □ *A more trad style might make the grownups more comfortable.*

traf [træf] *n.* a release of intestinal gas. (This is **fart** spelled backwards. Usually objectionable.) □ *Who let the traf?* □ *This place smells like a traf.*

tragic-magic *n.* heroin. □ *This tragic-magic, which has swept over the land, has taken too many of our youth.* □ *This tragic-magic stuff has hurt lots of my friends.*

trailer trash *n.* the poorest of people who live in run-down house trailers. (Used with singular or plural force. Rude and derogatory.) □ *She's just trailer trash. Probably doesn't even own shoes.*

trammeled ['træmld] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Collegiate.) □ *Jim came home trammeled and was sick on the carpet.* □ *Wow, is she trammeled!*

tranny ['træni] *n.* an automobile transmission. □ *It looks like you get a new tranny, and I get 900 bucks.* □ *What kind of tranny does that baby have?*

trans [trænts] *n.* an automobile. (From transportation.) □ *I don't have any trans—I can't get myself anywhere.* □ *What are you using for trans these days?*

trap 1. *n.* the mouth. (Crude.) □ *Shut your trap!* □ *Put this in your trap and chew it up.* **2.** *n.* a low place; a **dive**. □ *I want out of this trap!* □ *This trap is a mess. Clean it up!*

trash 1. *tv.* to throw something away. □ *Trash this stuff. Nobody will ever use it.* □ *I'll take it. Don't trash it.* **2.** *n.* a low, worthless person; worthless people. □ *The guy is trash! Stay away from him.* □ *Running around with that trash—no wonder he's in trouble.* **3.** *tv.* to vandalize something. □ *Somebody trashed the statue with spray paint.* □ *Who trashed my room?* **4.** *n.* an act of vandalism. □ *Who quarterbacked the bus trash?* □ *The trash the other night was a real travesty.* **5.** *tv.* to beat, as in a ball game. □ *You trashed us this game, but watch out next season!* □ *The Jets trashed the Wall-bangers, 48-13.* **6.** *tv.* to libel someone. □ *He seemed content to trash the mayor.* □ *Who is the chick who was trashing Bart in the newspapers?*

trashed *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. (Collegiate.) □ *They were trashed beyond help.* □ *Let's all get trashed and raid the girls' dorm.*

Trash it! *exclam.* Throw it away! □ *We don't have space for this old chair. Trash it!*

trash mouth *n.* someone who uses obscene language. □ *Shut up, trash mouth.* □ *Some trash mouth is making everybody mad over in the park.*

trashy *mod.* cheap; obscene; low; (sexually) promiscuous. □ *What a trashy movie!* □ *Cut out the trashy talk, you guys.*

tree-suit *n.* a wooden coffin. □ *You'd better shut up if you don't want to end up wearing a tree-suit.* □ *We put him in a tree-suit and slid him into the ground.*

trekkie ['trɛki] *n.* a fan of *Star Trek*, the television series and the movies. □ *There is a convention of trekkies in Milwaukee this weekend.* □ *The trekkies seem to have their own language.*

trendy *n.* someone who has to be right in style or first with the latest trend. □ *Bob is one of those trendies. He had a ring on his hand before anyone else.* □ *All the trandies are wearing pink and charcoal clothing this month.*

trial balloon *n.* a test of someone's reaction. □ *It was just a trial balloon, and it*

didn't work. □ *The trial balloon was a great success.*

tribe *n.* a group of friends or relatives. □ *When are you and your tribe going to come for a visit?*

trick on someone *in.* to deceive someone. □ *What are you doing? Are you tricking on me?* □ *Mary is always tricking on people and now nobody trusts her.*

tricks of the trade *n.* special skills and knowledge associated with any trade or profession. □ *I know a few tricks of the trade that make things easier.* □ *I learned the tricks of the trade from my uncle.*

trigger **1.** *n.* a hired gunman. (Underworld.) □ *Rocko was a mob trigger for a while.* □ *Get your triggers outa here—then we can talk.* **2.** *tv.* to start something; to set something off. □ *The noise triggered an avalanche.* □ *One little thing triggered that blowup, and I want to find out what it is.*

trigger-happy *mod.* eager to fire a gun; eager to shoot someone or something. □ *Rocko is sort of trigger-happy. Watch out.* □ *Ask your trigger-happy hunters to be careful this year.*

trip **1.** *n.* a prison sentence; a trip up the river. (Underworld.) □ *Yeah, me and Lefty both was on a little trip for a few years.* □ *I had a short trip, so what?* **2.** *n.* a high from a drug. (Drugs.) □ *Me and Sid went on a little trip.* □ *The trip was great, but once was enough.* **3.** *in.* to experience a high from a drug, especially LSD. □ *Don't bother Bart. He's tripping.* □ *He trips about every other day.* **4.** *n.* a bad drug experience. (Drugs.) □ *Boy, did I ever have a trip with that stuff!* □ *What a trip! I thought I would die.* **5.** *n.* an annoying person or thing. □ *Class was a trip today.* □ *She is such a trip.* **6.** *in.* to leave. □ *I gotta trip, man.* □ *Time to trip. See ya.*

tripe **1.** *n.* nonsense. □ *I don't want to hear any more of that tripe.* □ *That's just tripe. Pay no attention.* **2.** *n.* a bad performance; something worthless. □ *I know tripe when I see tripe, and that was tripe.*

□ *The reviewer thought your play was tripe.*

triple **1.** *n.* a large alcoholic drink containing three measures of hard liquor. □ *It was a hard day. Make it a triple, John.* □ *One triple, but no more. You're cutting down, remember?* **2.** Go to **triple-bagger**.

triple-bagger **1.** AND **triple** *n.* a hit in baseball that gets the batter to third base. □ *Wilbur connected for another triple-bagger in the fifth.* □ *It's a triple for Wilbur!* **2.** *n.* a person whose ugly face is so frightful that three bags are required to conceal it. (Crude. See also **double-bagger**; **coyote-ugly**.) □ *That guy is just a triple-bagger.* □ *He's worse than a triple-bagger—if that's possible.*

triple whammy ['trɪpl 'wæmi] *n.* a powerful treatment; a powerful shock. □ *The market crash, the trade figures, and the death of the secretary of defense was a powerful triple whammy in Washington politics this week.* □ *The tax bill served as a triple whammy to the family purse.*

tripped out *mod.* great; excellent. □ *This party is really tripped out, right?* □ *We had a tripped out time in class today. The teacher brought his pet rabbit.*

TRIs *n.* the triceps. □ *I'm working on building up my TRIs. Been doing lots of pushups.*

troll **1.** *n.* an ugly person; a grouchy person. □ *Gee, that dame is a real troll. What's her problem?* **2.** *n.* an Internet user who sends inflammatory or provocative messages designed to elicit negative responses or start a **flame-war**. (As a fisherman trolls for an unsuspecting fish.) □ *Don't answer those silly messages. Some troll is just looking for an argument.* **3.** *n.* a message sent by a troll (sense 2). □ *Every time I get a troll, I just delete it.*

trollkin *n.* a youthful or inexperienced troll (sense 2). □ *Some trollkin sent me a message trying to make me angry.*

the **trots** *n.* a case of diarrhea. □ *I got the trots and can't go out tonight.* □ *There's a lot of the trots going around.*

trotters 1. *n.* pig's feet. ☐ Trotters are okay if you can't tell what they are. ☐ Pickled trotters are good in the summer. **2.** *n.* the feet. ☐ My trotters are sort of aching. ☐ Sit down and give your trotters a rest.

trounce [traunts] *tv.* to beat someone; to outscore someone. (Sports.) ☐ They really trounced us. ☐ Western trounced Eastern for the tenth year in a row.

Tru dat. *sent.* That's true.; I agree. ☐ Tru dat. I know just what you mean.

trumped up 1. *mod.* heavily promoted; overly praised. ☐ I don't care for trumped up stuff like that movie. ☐ That movie was so trumped up. I expected to see something much better than it turned out to be. **2.** *mod.* made up; contrived. ☐ They put Larry in the slammer on some trumped up charge. ☐ It was a silly, trumped up idea. Just forget it.

trumpet spider Go to barking spider.

trump something up *tv.* to promote or boost something. (See also **trumped up**.) ☐ They think they have to trump something up to get people to see it. ☒ They trumped up the movie so much that many people were disappointed when it finally came out.

Trust me! *exclam.* Believe me!; Honestly! ☐ It's true! Trust me! ☐ He actually said it just like Tom told you. Trust me!

try someone back (again) *tv.* to call someone back on the telephone (again) later. ☐ I'll try her back later. ☐ When should I try back?

TS Go to tough shit.

(T)sup? ['(t)səp] *interrog.* What's up?; What is happening?; What have you been doing? ☐ Hi! Tsup? ☐ TONY: Sup? TIFFANY: Like, nothing.

tube 1. *n.* a can of beer. (See also **crack a tube**.) ☐ Toss me a tube, will ya? ☐ How many tubes do you think we ought to get for tonight? **2.** *n.* the inner curve of a tall wave. (Surfing. See also **tubular**.) ☐ I'm waiting for the best tube. ☐ A good tube will do, won't it? **3.** *in.* to fail; to go down the tube(s). (See also **tube it**.) ☐ The whole plan tubed at the last minute. ☐ I

tubed, and I'm sorry. **4.** *n.* a television set. ☐ What's on the tube tonight? ☐ The tube is in the shop, so I read a book. **5.** *n.* a cigarette. ☐ You got a tube I can bum? ☐ There's a pack of tubes in my jacket.

tubed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **tube**.) ☐ They were both tubed and giggling. ☐ You really look tubed, man!

tube it *tv.* to fail a test. (See also **tube**.) ☐ I tubed it, and I'll probably get a D in the course. ☐ I was afraid I'd tube it, so I studied my head off.

tube steak *n.* a frankfurter or a wiener. (See also **pimp steak**.) ☐ Are we having tube steak again for dinner? ☐ I could live on tube steak. Nothing is better!

tub of guts Go to tub of lard.

tub of lard AND **tub of guts** *n.* a fat person. (Cruel. Also a rude term of address.) ☐ Who's that tub of guts who just came in? ☐ That tub of lard can hardly get through the door.

tubular *mod.* excellent. (Surfing and later general youth slang. Having to do with a **tube** [wave] that is good to surf in.) ☐ That pizza was totally tubular! ☐ This whole week is, like, tubular.

tuchus Go to tokus.

tude [tud] *n.* a bad attitude. ☐ Hey, you really got a tude, dude. ☐ Are you pulling a tude with me?

tuie Go to tooie.

tukkis Go to tokus.

tunage ['tʌnɪdʒ] *n.* music; tunes. ☐ Why don't you come over and we'll do some tunage? ☐ My stereo is down and I'm running a tunage deficit.

tuned *mod.* tipsy; drunk. ☐ Wally was a little tuned so Sally swiped his car keys. ☐ Tom was too tuned to stand up, let alone drive.

tuned in *mod.* aware; up-to-date. ☐ Jan is tuned in and alert to what is going on around her. ☐ Hey, Jill! Get tuned in, why don't you?

tune in (to something) *in.* to become alert to something. ☐ She tuned in to the com-

ments about acid rain. □ *When I heard my name, I tuned in.*

tune out *in.* to begin to ignore everything. □ *I got bored and tuned out.* □ *The entire class had tuned out, so no one heard the teacher ask the question.*

tunes *n.* a record; a record album; music in general. (See also **tunage**.) □ *I got some new tunes. Wanna come over and listen?* □ *The old tunes are good enough for me.*

tune someone or something out *tv.* to ignore or disregard someone or something. □ *I heard enough and tuned her out.* □ *I managed to tune out the constant clamor in the streets.*

turd **1.** *n.* a formed mass of fecal material; a fecal bolus. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Don't step on that dog turd.* □ *There's a turd floating in the swimming pool!* **2.** *n.* a wretched or worthless person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *You stupid turd!* □ *Don't be such a goddamn turd!*

turd face *n.* a wretched and obnoxious person. (Rude and derogatory.) □ *You stupid turd face! Why did you do that?*

turf *n.* (one's) ground or territory. □ *When you're on my turf, you do what I say—savvy?* □ *This is my turf, and what I say goes.*

turistas [tu'ristas] *n.* diarrhea; a case of diarrhea. (From Spanish.) □ *Nobody ever died of the turistas—right away, anyway.* □ *Turistas can be very unpleasant.*

turkey **1.** *n.* a failure; a sham. □ *This whole business is a turkey.* □ *The turkey at the town theater closed on its first night.* **2.** *n.* a stupid person. □ *Who's the turkey who put the scallops in the scalloped potatoes?* □ *You are such a turkey!*

turn **1.** *in.* to go over to the other side, as with a spy or a criminal turning into an informer. (Underworld.) □ *Is there a chance that Bart would turn?* □ *Pete turn? Ha!* **2.** *tv.* to corrupt someone. □ *It was the booze that turned him.* □ *Pete was trying to turn a young kid.*

turn around AND **turn over** *in.* [for something] to undergo a major, dynamic change. □ *Things turned around for*

Willard and went okay for a while. □ *When life turned over and things went more smoothly, Frank was happier.*

turn a trick *tv.* to perform an act of prostitution. (Usually objectionable.) □ *She can turn a trick and be on the streets again in six minutes flat.* □ *She's upstairs, turning a trick.*

turn belly up AND **go belly up** **1.** *in.* to fail. □ *I sort of felt that the whole thing would go belly up, and I was right.* (See also **belly up**.) □ *The computer—on its last legs anyway—turned belly up right in the middle of an important job.* **2.** *in.* to die. (As a fish does when it dies.) □ *The cat was friendly for a moment before she turned belly up.* □ *Every fish in Greg's tank went belly up last night.*

turned off *mod.* uninterested. □ *I'm sort of turned off to stuff like that these days. Part of getting older, I guess.* □ *I can't pay attention if I'm turned off, now can I?*

turned on **1.** *mod.* made alert to what is new and exciting. □ *I want to hire someone who's really turned on—a real comer.* □ *A young, turned on MBA would be just right.* **2.** *mod.* drug intoxicated. (Drugs.) □ *Jerry's turned on by noon—every day.* □ *The kid over there looks sort of turned on. Let's go talk to him a bit.*

turn in AND **roll in** *in.* to go to bed. □ *Well, it's about time to turn in.* □ *I can't wait to roll in tonight.*

turn-off *n.* something that repels someone. □ *The movie was a turn-off. I couldn't stand it.* □ *What a turn-off!*

turn on **1.** *in.* to become interested or excited. □ *She turned on when she heard her name called.* □ *He really turned on when he saw the cake.* **2.** *in.* to take a drug. (Drugs.) □ *Pete just can't wait to light up and turn on.* □ *He will turn on with anybody at the drop of a hat.* **3.** *n.* someone or something that excites someone. (Usually **turn-on**.) □ *The concert was a real turn-on.* □ *David can be a real turn on when he's in a good mood.*

turn on a dime *in.* to turn sharply; to turn in a small radius. □ *This baby will turn on a dime.* □ *A car that will turn on a*

dime at high speed without turning turtle is what I want.

turn one's toes up *tv.* to die. □ *I'm too young to turn my toes up.* ☑ *The cat turned up its toes right after church. Ah, the power of prayer.*

turn on the waterworks *in.* to begin to cry. □ *His lower lip was quivering, and I knew he was going to turn on the waterworks.* □ *Now, now! Don't turn on the waterworks. Cheer up!*

turn onto someone or something *in.* to become interested in someone or something. □ *Jeff turned onto electronics at the age of fourteen.* □ *I tried to get her to turn onto me, but she could only think of John.*

turn on, tune in, drop out *in.* a slogan promoting the use of LSD among young people. (Drugs.) □ *The key phrase in the heyday of acid was "turn on, tune in, drop out."* □ *Millions heard "turn on, tune in, drop out" and did just that.*

turnout *n.* an audience that has assembled for some purpose. □ *How was the turnout at the benefit?* □ *The turnout was great. We had a full house.*

turn over **1.** *in.* to get off of drugs. (Like *turn over a new leaf.*) □ *He wanted to turn over, but just couldn't.* □ *There is a clinic on Maple Street that'll help heads turn over.* **2.** Go to turn around.

turn someone off *tv.* to dull someone's interest in someone or something. □ *The prof turned me off to the subject.* ☑ *The preacher set out to turn off the congregation to sin.*

turn someone on *tv.* to excite or interest someone. (See also **turn on.**) □ *Fast music with a good beat turns me on.* ☑ *That stuff doesn't turn on anyone.*

turn someone or something upside down *tv.* to upset someone or something; to confuse someone or something. □ *We turned his place upside down, but never found the gun.* □ *The whole business turned me upside down. It'll take days to recover.*

turn someone out *tv.* to introduce someone to drugs, prostitution, homosexual-

ity, etc. (Underworld.) □ *Mac tried to turn the kid out.* ☑ *There are laws against turning out people the way Max was doing.*

turn someone's stomach *tv.* to nauseate someone. □ *That stuff turns my stomach.* *Do I have to eat it?* □ *Whatever that smell is, it's turning my stomach.*

turn someone's water off *tv.* to deflate someone; to silence someone. □ *He said you were stupid, huh? Well, I guess that turns your water off!* ☑ *That really turned off her water.*

turn tail (and run) *tv.* to flee; to run away in fright. □ *I couldn't just turn tail and run, but I wasn't going to fight that monster either.* □ *Sometimes turning tail is the only sensible thing to do.*

turn thumbs down (on someone or something) *tv.* to reject someone or something. □ *The board turned thumbs down on Rocko's application for parole.* □ *The committee examined the proposal and turned thumbs down.*

turn turtle *in.* to turn over, as with a ship. □ *The old dog finally turned turtle, and that was the end.* □ *The car struck a pole and turned turtle.*

turn up one's nose at someone or something *tv.* to show disdain or disgust at someone or something. □ *This is good, wholesome food. Don't turn your nose up at it.* ☑ *She turned up her nose at Pete, which was probably a good idea.*

turps AND **terps** [təʊps] *n.* liquor. (From turpentine.) □ *Don't forget to stop at the comfort station and get the turps.* □ *You got enough terps for the party?*

tush(y) *n.* the buttocks. (Probably from Yiddish.) □ *I fell down right on my tush.*

tux [təks] *n.* a tuxedo. □ *Do I have to wear a tux?* □ *Rent your tux well in advance.*

tweak [tʷɪk] *tv.* to adjust something slightly. □ *I just need to tweak this program a little bit; then I'll be with you.* □ *Tweak the tuner a little and see if you can get that station just a little bit clearer.*

tweased [tʷɪzɪd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Jim came in a little teased last night.*

□ *How tweaked can anybody get on two beers?*

tweaked [tʷaɪkt] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (Collegiate.) □ *They're not really bombed—just tweaked a little.* □ *Fred was too tweaked to stand up.*

twenty-four, seven AND **24-7** *mod.* all the time, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. □ *He's always at home, 24-7!*

twenty-twenty hindsight AND **20/20 hindsight** *n.* an ability to figure out what one should have done after it is too late to do it. □ *Everybody has twenty-twenty hindsight!* □ *Your 20/20 hindsight is just great.*

twerp Go to **twirp**.

twiddle one's thumbs *tv.* to do nothing; to wait nervously, playing with one's fingers. □ *I sat twiddling my thumbs while you were out doing I don't know what all!* □ *Don't just sit home twiddling your thumbs.*

twinkie ['tʷɪŋki] *n.* a cute, teenage girl. (California.) □ *The mall up from the beach is usually wall-to-wall twinkies.* □ *These twinkies ought to be a little more grown up than they seem to be.*

twirp AND **twerp** [tʷɜ:p] *n.* an annoying runt of a person. (Also a term of address.) □ *Look, you twirp, get out!* □ *Some little twerp threatened to kick me in the shin.*

twist *n.* a girl; a woman. (Underworld. Possibly rhyming slang *twist and twirl* = girl.) □ *This good-looking twist comes over to the table and asks Lefty if he'd like to dance.* □ *He says yes, and the twist says, "Go ahead, I bet it's a scream!"*

twisted **1.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She was so twisted she couldn't see.* □ *That chick is really twisted bad.* **2.** *mod.* suffering from drug withdrawal. (Drugs.) □ *Frank was twisted and hurting bad.* □ *When you're twisted, your head spins, and you feel like screaming.*

twister **1.** *n.* a key. (Underworld.) □ *You got the twister for this joint?* □ *Ziggy snatched the jailer's twisters and waited until midnight to try something.* **2.** *n.* a

tornado. □ *A twister touched down yesterday at an isolated farm seventy miles north of Adamsville.* □ *The twister didn't damage any homes.* **3.** *n.* a drunken spree. (See also **bender**.) □ *Harry's off on a twister again.* □ *Not again. It's the same old twister.*

twist in the wind Go to **twist** (slowly) in the wind.

twist (slowly) in the wind *in.* to suffer the agony of some punishment, such as hanging. (Figurative only.) □ *I'll see you twist in the wind for trying to frustrate this investigation.* □ *The prosecutor was determined that Pete would twist slowly in the wind for the crime.*

twist someone's arm *tv.* to pressure someone. □ *I had to twist her arm a little, but she agreed.* □ *Do I have to twist your arm, or will you cooperate?*

twit **1.** *n.* a nervous or frantic state. □ *The twit I was in made me seem sort of silly, I'm afraid.* □ *My confused state became a serious twit, and I didn't know what to do.* **2.** *n.* a stupid person. (Also a term of address.) □ *What a yuppie twit!* □ *Hey, you twit, get off my lawn!*

two-bit *mod.* cheap; small-time. □ *Max is just a two-bit pusher. I want Mr. Big.* □ *I'm tired of your two-bit efforts to run this office.*

two-bits *n.* twenty-five cents; a quarter coin. □ *Can I bum two-bits for the phone?* □ *Here's two-bits for your piggy bank.*

two-by-four *mod.* small. □ *A two-by-four office with a chair and a desk was where Barlowe hung out.* □ *I can't stand living in this two-by-four room!*

twofer ['tʷɜ:fə] *n.* an item that is selling two for the price of one. □ *Here's a good deal—a twofer—only \$7.98.* □ *Everything in this store is a twofer. I only want one of these. Do I have to bring a friend who wants one, too?*

two fingers *n.* a measurement of liquor in a glass. (See also **three fingers**.) □ *I'll take two fingers of that tiger milk, John.* □ *Just two fingers tonight, John?*

two-fisted drinker *n.* a heavy drinker; someone who drinks with both hands. □ *Harry was a two-fisted drinker, a cave man, and a lady-killer.* □ *The world is filled with guys who aspire to be two-fisted drinkers.*

two shakes of a lamb's tail *mod.* quickly; rapidly. □ *I'll be there in two shakes of a lamb's tail.* □ *In two shakes of a lamb's tail, the entire pile of bricks had collapsed.*

two sheets to the wind *Go to three sheets in the wind.*

two-time *tv.* to deceive one's lover. □ *Sam wouldn't two-time Martha. He just wouldn't!* □ *Sam would and did two-time Martha!*

two-time loser *n.* a confirmed loser. □ *Poor Pete is a two-time loser.* □ *Martin is a two-time loser, or at least he looks like one.*

two-timer *n.* one who deceives one's lover. □ *Sam just isn't my idea of the typical two-timer.* □ *Of course not. Two-timers rarely look like two-timers.*

two-topper *n.* a restaurant table that will seat two people. (Restaurant jargon.) □ *There are two-toppers on each side of the kitchen door.*

two umlauts ['tu 'umlauts] *n.* a Löwenbräu (brand) beer. □ *I'll take a two umlauts.* □ *Calling a beer "two umlauts" is the most contrived bit of slang I have ever heard of.*

two-way street *n.* a reciprocal situation. □ *This is a two-way street, you know. You will have to help me someday in return.* □ *Friendship is a two-way street.*

type *n.* a combining form indicating a specified type of person. □ *He's a cave man type. You know, sort of hairy and smelly.* □ *Ted's the brainy type, but has no guts.*

U

ugly as sin *mod.* very ugly. □ *This car's as ugly as sin, but it's cheap and dependable.* □ *My old hound dog is ugly as sin but faithful as the dickens.*

uke AND **yuke** [juk] **1.** *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (Collegiate. See also **puke**.) □ *I think somebody yuked in the backseat, Tom.* □ *My friends wouldn't uke in my car!* **2.** *n.* vomit. (Collegiate.) □ *That is uke on the floor, isn't it?* □ *Tell me that the stuff in the backseat isn't uke!*

ump [əmp] *n.* an umpire. □ *The ump was gonna get killed if he didn't open his eyes.* □ *The ump has a pretty rough job.*

umpteen ['əmp̩t̩ɪn] *mod.* many; innumerable. □ *I've told you umpteen times not to feed the cat right out of the can.* □ *There are umpteen ways to do this right. Can you manage to do one of them?*

umpteenth Go to umpty-umpth.

umpty-umpth AND **umpteenth** ['əmp̩t̩ɪ- 'əmp̩θ AND 'əmp̩'tɪnt̩θ] *mod.* thousandth, billionth, zillionth, etc. (Represents some very large, but indefinite number.) □ *This is the umpty-umpth time I've told you to keep your dog out of my yard.* □ *This is the umpteenth meeting of the joint conference committee, but still there is no budget.*

Uncle nab *n.* a policeman. □ *Uncle nab is coming. Look sharp!* □ *Watch out for Uncle nab. He's been asking about you.*

Uncle (Sam) AND **Uncle Sugar** **1.** *n.* the personification of the U.S. □ *Uncle Sugar wants a little more of your money this year.* □ *Tell Uncle to spend a little less.* **2.** *n.* a federal agent; federal agents. □ *The cops called in Uncle Sam to help in the investigation.* □ *Uncle has some pretty*

strong ideas about who's in charge of this investigation.

Uncle Sugar Go to Uncle (Sam).

Uncle Whiskers Go to Mr. Whiskers.

uncool *mod.* square; dull and orthodox. □ *Oh, what an uncool weirdo!* □ *This place is uncool. Let's cruise.*

uncut **1.** *mod.* unedited; not shortened by editing. □ *I saw the whole uncut movie.* □ *The uncut version is too long.* **2.** *mod.* not circumcised. □ *My brother and I are both uncut.*

underpinnings *n.* the legs. □ *He has good underpinnings—ought to be able to run faster.* □ *With underpinnings like that, he ought to be able to win the marathon.*

under someone's thumb *mod.* under someone's control. □ *You can't keep your kids under your thumb all their lives.* □ *I don't want all this under my thumb. I have to delegate a lot of it.*

understanding *n.* the feet. (A pun. Always singular.) □ *The boy has a good understanding. Really big gunboats, in fact.* □ *I always had a good understanding—even when I was a kid.*

under the affluence of incohol *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (A deliberate spoonerism on *under the influence of alcohol*.) □ *Perhaps I am under the affluence of incohol just a little bit.* □ *You are very, very much under the affluence of incohol, as you have so aptly put it.*

under the gun *mod.* under pressure; under scrutiny. □ *I've been under the gun on this one long enough.* □ *They've got the boss under the gun to get this thing wound up by Saturday.*

under the table **1.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Jed was under the table by midnight.* □ *By 3:00 in the morning, everyone was under the table.* **2.** *mod.* secret; clandestine. (This is hyphenated before a nominal.) □ *It was strictly an under-the-table deal.* □ *The mayor made a few bucks under the table, too.*

under the weather **1.** *mod.* ill. □ *I feel sort of under the weather today.* □ *Whatever I ate for lunch is making me feel a bit under the weather.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Daddy's under the weather again.* □ *Wally's just a tad under the weather.*

under the wire *mod.* at the very last minute. □ *I got it in just under the wire.* □ *It was in under the wire. Another ten minutes and it would not have counted.*

underwater basket weaving *n.* an imaginary, very easy high school or college course. □ *If I can just find a course in underwater basket weaving, I'll have an easy semester.* □ *Mary majored in underwater basket weaving.*

underwhelm *tv. & in.* to fail to impress (someone). □ *Your talents simply underwhelm me.* □ *As we were being underwhelmed by a buxom soprano, my thoughts drifted to more pleasant matters.* □ *We know you tried, but you just underwhelm.*

under wraps *mod.* (held) in secret. □ *We kept it under wraps until after the election.* □ *The plan we had under wraps had to be scrapped anyway.*

undies *n.* underclothing; underpants, especially women's. □ *I like red undies.* □ *Where are my clean undies?*

unearthly *mod.* weird; terrible. □ *What was that unearthly noise?* □ *There was an unearthly smell coming out of the kitchen.* □ *That's not unearthly!*

unflappable *mod.* not subject to distraction; imperturbable. □ *Isn't he great? Truly unflappable.* □ *She is totally unflappable.* □ *I wish I was that unflappable.*

ungodly *mod.* horrendous; inconceivable. □ *What is that ungodly noise?* □ *What do you want at this ungodly hour?*

unit ['junət] **1.** *n.* a gadget. □ *Now, take one of the red units—put the copper strip in the slot—place the whole thing in this larger unit—and you're done.* □ *Hand me that unit on the thingy there.* **2.** *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) □ *Why are you always scratching your unit?*

units Go to (parental) units.

unk-jay *n.* dope; junk. (Underworld. Pig Latin for **junk**.) □ *The creep deals in unk-jay, you know—narcotics.* □ *Stay away from the unk-jay.*

unlax [ən'læks] *in.* to unwind and relax. □ *I just can't wait to get home and unlax.* □ *Unlax, man. Take it easy.*

unload *tv.* to get rid of someone or something. □ *We're gonna unload all the cats and dogs during the Christmas rush.* □ *Lemme unload this dame, and then we can go out and have a little fun.*

unreal *mod.* unbelievable. □ *Your hairdo is so yummy—almost unreal.* □ *Who started this unreal argument?*

up **1.** *mod.* happy; cheery; not depressed; upbeat. □ *I'm up today. Let's celebrate.* □ *This is not an up party. Let's cruise.* **2.** *tv.* to increase something. □ *She tried to up the price on me, thinking I wouldn't notice.* □ *The bank upped its rates again.* **3.** *in.* to take a stimulant drug. □ *She has to up every morning.* □ *Ted upped before going in to take the test.*

up a creek Go to up shit creek (without a paddle).

up against it *mod.* having a personal crisis; having a financial crisis. □ *This is my bad season. I'm really up against it.* □ *Can I bum a few bucks? I'm up against it this week.*

up an' Adam Go to up and at them.

up an' at 'em Go to up and at them.

up and at them AND **up an' at 'em; up an' Adam** *phr.* to get up and go at people or things; to get active and get busy. (Adam is a misunderstanding of at 'em.) □ *Come on, you guys! Up and at 'em! Can't sleep all day.* □ *Up and Adam! The sun is shining.*

up a storm *mod.* with an enthusiastic spirit. (Note syntax in examples. Usually with *sing, dance, talk, blow, play*.) □ *We talked up a storm until past midnight.* □ *Can't she dance up a storm?*

up a tree **1.** *mod.* confused; without an answer to a problem; in difficulty. □ *This whole business has me up a tree.* □ *I'm up a tree, and I need some help.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Only two glasses of booze and he was up a tree for sure.* □ *My buddy here is up a tree and needs a crash for the night.*

upbeat *mod.* bright and cheery; not negative. (Compare this with **downbeat**.) □ *I'd prefer to open the conference with an upbeat topic.* □ *That topic is not upbeat.* □ *This piece of music has an upbeat flavor to it.*

upchuck ['æptʃək] **1.** *tv. & in.* to vomit (something). □ *Wally upchucked his whole dinner.* □ *Who upchucked over there?* **2.** *n.* vomit. □ *Is that upchuck on your shoe?* □ *There is still some upchuck on the bathroom floor.*

up for grabs **1.** *mod.* available for anyone; not yet claimed. □ *It's up for grabs. Everything is still very chancy.* □ *I don't know who will get it. It's up for grabs.* **2.** *mod.* in total chaos. □ *This is a madhouse. The whole place is up for grabs.* □ *When the market crashed, the whole office was up for grabs.*

up for something *mod.* agreeable to something. □ *I'm up for a pizza. Anybody want to chip in?* □ *Who's up for a swim?*

up front **1.** *mod.* at the beginning; in advance. □ *She wanted \$200 up front.* □ *The more you pay up front, the less you'll have to finance.* **2.** *mod.* open; honest; forthcoming. □ *She is a very up front gal—trust her.* □ *I wish the salesman had been more up front about it.* **3.** *mod.* in the forefront; under fire (at the front). □ *You guys who are up front are gonna get the most fire.* □ *You two go up front and see if you can help.*

up high *n.* a stimulating rather than a depressing drug **high**. (Drugs. See also **up pot**.) □ *She was always looking for a good*

up high. When she couldn't find quality, she went after quantity. □ *Many of them have to have an up high. They are too close to clinical depression to chance anything else.*

upholstered [ə'pɒlstəd] **1.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She was a little upholstered, but not seriously impaired.* □ *He drank till he was comfortably upholstered.* **2.** Go to (well-)upholstered.

up in arms *mod.* angry; excited. □ *The whole town was up in arms about the planned highway.* □ *Now, don't get up in arms about it.*

up in the air (about someone or something) *mod.* undecided about someone or something. □ *I'm sort of up in the air about whether to marry Mary or not.* □ *Mary's up in the air, too.*

up one's alley Go to (right) up one's alley.

upper story Go to top story.

uppity ['ʌpədi] *mod.* haughty. (Folksy.) □ *Why is she so uppity?* □ *Don't be uppity. Remember who you are!*

up pot *n.* stimulating marijuana, as opposed to relaxing marijuana. (Drugs. See also **up high**.) □ *I can only handle up pot. Everything else makes me cry.* □ *Tell him you really don't want up pot unless it's cheap.*

up shit creek (without a paddle) AND up the creek (without a paddle); up a creek *mod.* in an awkward position with no easy way out. (Usually objectionable.) □ *I'm sort of up the creek and don't know what to do.* □ *You are up a creek! You got yourself into it, so get yourself out.*

the **upshot (of something)** *n.* the result of something; the outcome of something. □ *The upshot of it all was that we don't get the new coffeepot.* □ *And the upshot was a new manager and raises for everyone.*

upside *n.* the good side. □ *On the upside, things might get better.* □ *There's not much to look forward to on the upside.*

up stakes *tv.* to prepare for leaving and then leave. (*Up* has the force of a verb here. The phrase suggests pulling up tent

stakes in preparation for departure.) □ *They just upped stakes and left without saying good-bye.* □ *It's that time of the year when I feel like upping stakes and moving to the country.*

up the creek (without a paddle) Go to up shit creek (without a paddle).

up the pole *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *You sound a little up the pole. Why don't you call back when you're sober?* □ *She's up the pole and shouldn't drive.*

up the river *mod.* in prison. (Underworld.) □ *Gary was up the river for a couple of years, but that doesn't make him a criminal, does it?* □ *The judge who sent him up the river was indicted for accepting bribery. If Gary had only known sooner!*

up the wall *mod.* in a very bad situation. □ *He's really up the wall about Mary's illness.* □ *We were all up the wall until the matter was resolved.*

uptight *mod.* anxious. □ *Dave always seems uptight about something.* □ *He is one uptight guy.* □ *Don't get uptight before the test.*

up time *n.* the time when a computer is running. (Compare this with **down time**.) □ *You'll get the maximum up time with this machine.* □ *On some systems the down time is longer than the up time.*

up to here *mod.* having as much as one can bear. □ *I'm up to here with your excuses!* □ *We are all up to here with this mystery.*

up to one's ears Go to up to one's eyeballs

up to one's eyeballs **AND up to one's ears** *mod.* filled up with something. □ *She's up to her ears in marriage proposals.* □ *We're up to our eyeballs in spare parts.*

up to one's knees *mod.* deep in something, such as paperwork or water. (See also **knee-deep in something**.) □ *We're*

up to our knees with orders and getting more all the time. □ *The orders are up to our knees.*

up to one's neck *mod.* filled up with something. □ *I am up to my neck in other people's grief and anguish.* □ *We are all up to our necks in your problems.*

up to scratch **AND up to snuff** *mod.* satisfactory; up to what is expected. □ *This just isn't up to scratch. You'll have to do it again.* □ *The food was up to snuff, but the hotel staff was not at its usually efficient best.*

up to snuff Go to up to scratch.

Up yours! *exclam.* Go to hell!; Drop dead! (Usually objectionable.) □ *I won't do it! Up yours!*

the urge to purge *n.* the need to throw up. □ *Pete felt the urge to purge and ran for the john.* □ *All this grease on the pizza gives me the urge to purge.*

urp Go to earp.

use [juz] *tv. & in.* to use (drugs); to take drugs habitually. (Drugs and now widely known.) □ *I tried to stop using, but I couldn't.* □ *I couldn't face myself if I started using the stuff again.*

user *n.* a drug user; a drug addict. (Drugs.) □ *I want to stop being a user, but I can't do it by myself.* □ *I'm no user! Maybe a joint now and then, and an upper on a dreary morning—but I'm no user!*

Use your head! **AND Use your noggin!; Use your noodle!** *exclam.* Think!; Think it through! □ *You know the answer. Use your head!* □ *Use your noggin! It's there for more than hanging your hat on.*

Use your noggin! Go to Use your head!

Use your noodle! Go to Use your head!

UVs ['ju'viz] *n.* ultraviolet rays from the sun; sunshine. (Initialism.) □ *I wanna get some UVs before we go home.* □ *Watch out for those UVs.*

V

vac 1. *n.* a vacuum cleaner. ☐ *Where's the vac?* ☐ *Bring the vac and clean this place up.* **2.** *tv. & in.* to clean with a vacuum cleaner. ☐ *Vac while you have time!* ☐ *You are supposed to vac the whole house, not just your room!*

vacation *n.* a prison sentence. (Underworld.) ☐ *I had a little vacation upstate for a while.* ☐ *It was a three-year vacation, with time off for good behavior.*

vag [veg] **1.** *n.* a vagrant person; a person who does not work and who wanders from place to place. ☐ *A couple of vags on the curb were trying to hitch a ride.* ☐ *You vags, move on. Go on, move it!* **2.** *mod.* having to do with a charge of vagrancy. ☐ *They booked him on a vag charge and gave him a nice warm place to sleep that night.* ☐ *The vag scam didn't work like it was planned.*

vals [vælz] *n.* Valium™ tranquilizers. ☐ *I'm taking vals for this, but the doctor says to get off of them as soon as possible.* ☐ *Vals really calm you down.*

Vamoose! [væ'mus] *exclam.* Beat it!; Go away! (From Spanish.) ☐ *Go on, beat it! Vamoose!* ☐ *Vamoose! Go home!*

vanilla 1. *mod.* plain; dull. (See also **beige**.) ☐ *The entire production was sort of vanilla, but it was okay.* ☐ *No more vanilla music, please.* ☐ *The vacation was vanilla, but restful.* **2.** *n.* a Caucasian. ☐ *Some vanilla's on the phone—selling something, I guess.* ☐ *That vanilla is looking at you sort of coplike.*

varnished *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **shellacked**.) ☐ *Really varnished, he was. Couldn't see a hole in a ladder.* ☐ *That lady is too varnished to drive. If you see her getting into a car, call the cops.*

varoom Go to vroom.

Vatican roulette *n.* the rhythm method of birth control. ☐ *My parents lost at Vatican roulette, and I am the booby prize.* ☐ *Father John tried to get us to refer to it as something other than Vatican roulette.*

V-ball *n.* volleyball. (See also **B-ball**.) ☐ *You wanna play some V-ball?* ☐ *Playing V-ball is one of the best forms of exercise.*

veejay AND **VJ**; **video jock** *n.* a video jockey; a host on a television program that features music videos. (The abbreviation is an initialism. Patterned on **deejay**. See also **disc jockey**.) ☐ *Sally tried out for the veejay job, but she looked too old and stuffy for that kind of work.* ☐ *Most of the VJs on cable television are untrained amateurs.* ☐ *Wally tried out to be a video jock, but he's too uptown.*

veep [vip] *n.* a vice president. ☐ *The veep is going to preside today.* ☐ *Now we have to elect a veep. Any nominations?*

veg [vedʒ] **1.** *n.* a vegetable. (See also **veggy**.) ☐ *You want a veg with this?* ☐ *That's not my favorite veg.* **2.** *n.* a stupid person. ☐ *Where is your brain, you veg?* ☐ *Some veg put scallops in the scalloped potatoes.* **3.** Go to **veg** (out).

vegetable 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *He's a tad vegetable but not in a stupor.* ☐ *Helen drank till she was totally vegetable.* **2.** *n.* someone who is brain-dead; someone who acts brain-dead; a person almost totally destroyed by drugs. ☐ *You are such a vegetable!* ☐ *You want to end up a vegetable? Just keep shooting that stuff.* ☐ *Cable TV is turning me into a vegetable.*

vegged out *mod.* debilitated by drugs or alcohol. (Drugs.) □ *Ernie is vegged out and has quit his job and everything.* □ *Won't be long till Larry is vegged out altogether.*

veggy AND **veggie** ['vedʒi] **1.** *n.* a vegetarian. □ *We have a lovely salad bar for the veggies among you.* □ *She's a veggy, so make sure there's a nice selection of appropriate goodies.* **2.** *n.* a vegetable. (Usually plural.) □ *Do you want any veggies with this?* □ *No veggies for me.* **3.** *n.* a comatose patient in a hospital. (Medical.) □ *Mary's aunt has been a veggie in the hospital for more than a year.* □ *I don't want to lie there and rot as a veggie. I want someone to pull the plug.* **4.** *n.* someone who is tired or exhausted. □ *I want to be a veggy this weekend. I'll just stay at home and relax.* □ *I am just a veggie after all the activity of the last week.*

veg (out) *in.* to cease working and take it easy; to vegetate. (See also **vegged out**.) □ *Someday, I just want to veg out and enjoy life.* □ *I think I'll just veg this weekend.*

vent one's spleen *tv.* to release one's anger. □ *No need to vent your spleen at me. I wasn't in on it.* □ *I just feel like I have to vent my spleen at somebody.*

verboden [və'botn] *mod.* forbidden. (German.) □ *That is strictly verboten.* □ *You said a verboten word around here.*

vertical bathtub *n.* a men's urinal. □ *When I walked into the room with vertical bathtubs, I knew I was in the wrong place.*

vest **1.** *n.* an important businessman or businesswoman. (See also **suit**.) □ *Some vest jumped out the window this afternoon.* **2.** *n.* a bullet-proof vest. □ *The cop wasn't wearing a vest, and the shot killed him.*

vet **1.** *n.* a veterinarian. (Standard English.) □ *I took the cat to the vet.* □ *The vet didn't charge much to look at the turtle.* **2.** *tv.* to give a medical examination to and treat a person (or an animal). □ *The doctor vetted me quickly and charged an unbelievable sum for it.* □ *When they vet you these days, most of the work is done in a lab.* **3.** *n.* a (war) veteran. □ *The vets in the hos-*

pitals across the land appreciate your kindness. □ *The Vietnam vets had a very bad time of it.*

vette [vet] *n.* a Corvette automobile. □ *I'd rather have a vette than a caddy.* □ *Vettes aren't as popular as they once were.*

vibes [vaɪbz] *n.* vibrations; atmosphere; feelings. (Usually with *good* or *bad*.) □ *I just don't get good vibes about this deal.* □ *The vibes are just plain bad.*

vic [vɪk] **1.** *n.* a victim. (Streets. See also **vivor**.) □ *We're all vics, but we all keep going.* □ *Harry is a con artist, not a vic.* **2.** *n.* a convict. □ *Max is a vic, but nobody cares much.* □ *We try to give the vics a chance at employment where they won't be treated badly.*

vicious ['viʃəs] *mod.* great; excellent. □ *Man, this burger is really vicious.* □ *That guy is one vicious driver, all right.* □ *That was a really vicious concert last night.*

vicious circle *n.* a set of actions that lead to ever more unsatisfactory consequences; a set of bad actions that are repeated in a cycle. (See also **catch-22**.) □ *It's a vicious circle, and I want out of it.* □ *Life has become one vicious circle after another.*

vicked [vɪkt] *mod.* cheated; victimized. (See also **vic**.) □ *I feel so vicked when I see where my taxes are spent.* □ *I got vicked at the stereo repair shop.*

Vickie *n.* a Crown Victoria police car; the police in a Crown Victoria car. □ *Two cops in a Vickie followed the suspect's car.*

vid *n.* a video [tape]. □ *I rented some vids for tonight so we can stay in and drink beer.*

video jock Go to **veejay**.

Vietnik [vi'etnik] *n.* someone—looking like a **beatnik**—who opposed the Vietnam war. □ *The Vietniks' message was sort of distorted by the press.* □ *I knew a Vietnik who moved to Canada.*

vim and vigor *n.* energy; enthusiasm; **moxie**. □ *Show more vim and vigor! Let us know you're alive.* □ *She's sure got a lot of vim and vigor.*

vines *n.* clothing. (Black.) □ *I like those smokin' vines you're in.* □ *Good-looking vines on that guy, right?*

vinyl ['vaɪnəl] *n.* phonograph records. □ *This is one of the best tunes on vinyl.* □ *I got some new vinyl. Come over and listen.*

VIP 1. *n.* a very important person. (Initialism.) □ *Who's the VIP in the Mercedes?* □ *That's no VIP; that's the boss.* **2.** *mod.* something reserved for a VIP. (Initialism.) □ *My smile and casual manner didn't get me into the VIP lounge.* □ *They gave us the VIP treatment.*

visit from Flo [...'flo] *n.* a menstrual period. (See also **Aunt Flo**.) □ *I am expecting a visit from Flo, but she seems late.* □ *I just had a visit from Flo. I hate the old hag!*

visit from the stork *n.* the birth of a baby. □ *The last visit from the stork was in March.* □ *We are expecting a visit from the stork next June.*

visiting fireman *n.* someone paying a visit to observe one's workplace. □ *We have a couple of visiting firemen coming today.* □ *Be sure to have these plans out when the visiting firemen come by.*

visit the plumbing *Go to check out the plumbing.*

vital statistics *n.* the measurements of a person's body. □ *Her vital statistics must require higher math to work out!* □ *Here are his vital statistics for those who are interested.*

vivor ['vaɪvə] *n.* a survivor; a street person who manages to survive. (Streets.

Compare this with **vic**.) □ *Harry's a vivor, and I like him.* □ *She's no champ, but she's a vivor.*

viz [vaɪz] *n.* Levis; blue jeans. □ *How do you like my new viz?* □ *Those viz are too tight for her.*

VJ *Go to veejay.*

vomatose ['vəmətəs] *mod.* drunk, vomiting, and nearly comatose. (From *vomit* and *comatose*.) □ *Claude is completely vomatose. What a party!* □ *Beavis got himself vomatose and messed up the driveway.*

vomity ['vəmədɪ] *mod.* nasty. (Crude.) □ *What is this vomity stuff on my plate?* □ *Is that what you call vomity?* □ *That is a really vomity idea!*

vote with one's feet *in.* to show one's displeasure by walking out. □ *A lot of people are voting with their feet. Customers clearly don't like our goods.* □ *When the audience votes with its feet, you know you don't have a hit.*

vroom AND **varoom** [vrʊm AND vɑ'rʊm] **1.** *interj.* the noise of a loud engine. (Onomatopoeic.) □ *Vroom, varoom went the engine as Vic gunned it over and over.* □ *Suddenly, vroom, a plane passed low overhead.* **2.** *in.* to move rapidly from place to place; to travel at high speed, making the noise of a loud engine. □ *Let's vroom over to Larry's and see what's happening.* □ *The little boy varoomed down the sidewalk on his tricycle.*

VSA *mod.* vital signs absent: dead. (Hospital jargon.) □ *The intern made a note in the chart: VSA, 10:18 A.M.*

W

waa-zooed Go to whazood.

wack Go to whack.

wack off Go to beat off.

wacky *mod.* loony; silly and giddy. ☐ *You are about the wackiest guy I ever met.* ☐ *I got a real kick out of that wacky movie we saw last night.*

wacky-tabbacky ['wækitə'bæki] *n.* marijuana. (Collegiate.) ☐ *You got any of that wacky-tabbacky?* ☐ *He gets that silly look in his eye from smoking wacky-tabbacky.*

wad [wad] *n.* a bundle of money; a bankroll. (Originally underworld. See also **tight wad**.) ☐ *I lost my wad on a rotten horse in the seventh race.* ☐ *You'd better not flash a wad like that around here. You won't have it long.*

waffle (around) *in.* to be indecisive. ☐ *Don't waffle around so long. Make up your mind.* ☐ *She spent three days waffling over the color of the car and finally decided on red.*

wagon *n.* the police wagon. ☐ *I called the wagon. It'll come and get these two thugs in about fifteen minutes.* ☐ *Look out, you guys, the wagon's coming. Don't let 'em see you!*

wag one's chin *tv.* to talk or jabber; to chatter aimlessly. ☐ *The two old buzzards sat on the park bench wagging their chins all afternoon.* ☐ *Stop wagging your chin for a minute and listen up!*

wail *in.* to be great. (See also **wailing**.) ☐ *Things really started to wail about midnight when the band really got going.* ☐ *This pizza really wails.*

wailing AND **whaling** *mod.* excellent. (Teens.) ☐ *Man, that's wailing!* ☐ *What a whaling guitar!*

wail on someone *in.* to beat someone. (See also **whale the tar out of someone**.) ☐ *Who are those two guys wailing on Sam?*

walk 1. *n.* something easy. (Always with *a* in this sense. See also **cakewalk**; **sleepwalk**.) ☐ *That game was a walk!* ☐ *What a walk! I've never had such an easy time of it!* **2.** *in.* to walk out on someone. ☐ *They had a big fight, and he walked.* ☐ *Much more of this and I'm going to walk.* **3.** *in.* to walk away from something unharmed. ☐ *It couldn't have been much of an accident. Both drivers walked.* ☐ *It was a horrible meeting, but when it was over I just walked.* **4.** *in.* to get out of prison; to get off from a criminal charge. (Underworld.) ☐ *They thought they had Ziggy on a vice rap, but he walked.* ☐ *I showed them my license; then I walked.*

walk heavy *in.* to be important. (Black.) ☐ *Harry's been walking heavy since he graduated.* ☐ *Why have you been walking heavy, man?*

walk-in 1. *mod.* having to do with a customer who just comes in off the street. ☐ *Two walk-in customers wanted morning papers but nothing more.* ☐ *We were hoping for more walk-in trade.* **2.** *n.* a customer who walks in off the street. ☐ *We had a couple of walk-ins this morning, but none of the hotel residents came.* ☐ *We have a new sign outside to attract walk-ins.*

walking dandruff AND **galloping dandruff** *n.* lice. (See also **pants rabbits**.) ☐ *He's hopping around like he's got walking*

dandruff. □ *I don't know anybody with galloping dandruff—I hope.*

walking on rocky socks *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She's sort of walking on rocky socks.* □ *He looks like he's walking on rocky socks.*

walking papers *n.* a notice of being fired, released, divorced, etc. □ *I hope I don't get my walking papers today. I need this job.* □ *Well, I got my walking papers today.*

walking wounded **1.** *n.* soldiers who are injured but still able to walk. (Standard English.) □ *There were enough walking wounded to start another division.* □ *Many of the walking wounded helped with the more seriously injured cases.* **2.** *n.* a person who is injured—mentally or physically—and still able to go about daily life. □ *The outpatient clinic was filled with the walking wounded.* **3.** *n.* stupid people in general. □ *Most of network programming seems to be aimed at the walking wounded of our society.*

walk on eggs *AND* **walk on thin ice** *in.* to walk very cautiously; to be in a very precarious position. □ *I have to remember that I'm walking on eggs when I give this speech.* □ *Careful with ideas like that. You're walking on thin ice.*

walk on sunshine *n.* to be really happy. □ *I'm in love and I'm walking on sunshine.*

walk on thin ice *Go to walk on eggs.*

walkover *n.* an easy victory; an easy task. (From sports.) □ *The game was a walkover. No problem.* □ *Learning the computer's operating system was no walkover for me.*

walk soft *in.* to take it easy; to be gentle and humble. □ *I try to walk soft and not rock the boat.* □ *The guy's a tyrant. He walks soft just to mislead people.*

walk tall *in.* to be brave and self-assured. (See also **stand tall**.) □ *I know I can walk tall because I'm innocent.* □ *You go out on that stage and walk tall. There is no reason to be afraid.*

wallet *n.* a college student's father and financial source. □ *My wallet won't send me another penny this semester.* □ *Why don't you tell your wallet you are starving?*

wall-eyed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Wow, is he ever wall-eyed!* □ *Who's the wall-eyed guy carrying the ham sandwich?*

wallflower *n.* a shy person. □ *Clare was sort of a wallflower until she graduated.* □ *Don't be a wallflower. Come to the reception.*

wall job *n.* a car—in the shop for repairs—which is parked against the wall with no repairs done. (The customer is charged anyway.) □ *Places like those we surveyed may charge hundreds of dollars for what they call "wall jobs."* □ *Okay, Lefty, the caddy looks like another wall job. Throw some plastic over it, and we'll call the old girl and tell her it needs parts.*

wallop ['wʌləp] **1.** *n.* a hard blow. □ *She planted a hard wallop on his right shoulder.* □ *I got quite a wallop when I walked into the door.* **2.** *tv.* to strike someone or something hard. □ *I walloped him hard on the shoulder, but he kept on laughing.* □ *The door swung open and walloped me in the back.* **3.** *n.* influence; pull; clout. □ *The gal has a lot of wallop in city hall.* □ *I don't have enough wallop to make that kind of demand.*

wallpaper *n.* worthless checks. (Underworld.) □ *This flimflam artist has spread a lot of wallpaper in her day.* □ *The feds followed a trail of wallpaper from St. Louis to San Francisco and made the pinch.*

walls have ears *tv.* Someone may be listening. (Sometimes with *the*.) □ *Talk softly. Walls have ears.* □ *The walls have ears, so be careful about what you say.*

wall-to-wall *mod.* expansive and comprehensive. (From *wall-to-wall carpeting*.) □ *The guy doesn't exactly have wall-to-wall generosity.* □ *Old Tom is wall-to-wall hostility these days. What's wrong?*

waltz *n.* an easy task. □ *The job was a waltz. We did it in a day.* □ *The coach promised them that the game would be a waltz.*

waltz off (with something) *in.* to take something away easily. □ *The thieves waltzed off with a giant screen television in broad daylight.* □ *They just picked the thing up and waltzed off. Nobody asked them any questions.*

waltz through something *in.* to get through something easily. □ *I waltzed through my comps and started on my research in my second year.* □ *I tried to waltz through my assignment, but it was too hard.*

wampum ['wampəm] *n.* money. (From an Amerindian word.) □ *I don't have enough wampum to swing the deal.* □ *How much wampum do you want for this thing?*

wana ['wana] *n.* marijuana. (Drugs.) □ *Got any wana on you?* □ *How much is this wana, man?*

wank off Go to beat off.

wanna ['wana OR 'wəna] *phr.* want to. (Eye-dialect. Typical spoken English. Used in writing only for effect. Used in the examples of this dictionary.) □ *I will if I wanna.* □ *Do you wanna gimme the thingy and lemme go ahead with my work?*

wannabe AND **wanna be** ['wana bi] *n.* someone who wants to be something or someone. (Associated with Madonna, the singer.) □ *All these teenyboppers are wannabes, and that's why we can sell this stuff to them at any price.*

Wanna make sumpin' of it? Go to Want to make something of it?

want list *n.* a list of things that someone wants. (See also laundry list; shopping list.) □ *Some of the things on her want list we can take care of easily.* □ *Send me your want list, and I'll see what we can do.*

want out *in.* to want to remove oneself from some association or relationship. □ *Ted had had as much as he could stand, and he wanted out.* □ *I want out. This relationship is stifling me.*

Want to make something of it? AND **Wanna make sumpin' of it?** *interrog.* Do you want to fight about it? □ *So, I'm a little ugly. Wanna make sumpin' of it?*

□ *I'm warped and smelly. Want to make something of it?*

war chest *n.* a political campaign fund. □ *They say the Vice President has over one million dollars in his war chest.* □ *When the war chest gave out, the candidate dropped out of the race.*

warhorse *n.* a tough old thing, person, or idea. □ *The conductor loves to have us play that old warhorse as an encore.* □ *What time does the old warhorse's train get in, and how long is she staying this time?*

warm body *n.* just anyone who can be counted on to stay alive. □ *See if you can get a couple of warm bodies to stand at the door and hand out programs.* □ *You mean among all these warm bodies nobody knows calculus?*

warmed over *mod.* not very original; rehashed. □ *I am not interested in reading warmed over news on a computer screen.* □ *The lecture sounded sort of warmed over, but it wasn't too dull.*

warm someone up *tv.* to prepare an audience for another—more famous—performer. □ *A famous singer came out to warm us up for Jack Benny.* □ *This man Bennett is a superb choice to warm up the audience.*

war paint *n.* a woman's makeup. □ *She'll be ready when she gets on her war paint.* □ *She doesn't look half bad without war paint.*

warped *mod.* drug intoxicated. (A variant of bent.) □ *Too many yellows made Jerry warped as the dickens.* □ *I think Max is permanently warped.*

wart 1. *n.* an annoying person. (Also a rude term of address.) □ *Who is that wart with the inch-thick glasses?* □ *Tell the wart to leave, or we will be forced to call Ziggy, who doesn't care for such persons.* **2.** *n.* a problem or an obstruction in a plan. □ *Okay, now we come to the wart. We don't have the money to carry out this plan.* □ *It's okay except for a little wart.*

warts and all *mod.* even with the flaws. □ *It's a great performance—warts and all.* □

Yes, we admire each other very much, warts and all.

war zone *n.* an area where things get rough; a tough neighborhood. ☐ *Unfortunately our offices are in a war zone, and we have to be on the way home before dark.* ☐ *The drug dealers and the gangs have turned many of our neighborhoods into war zones.*

wash **1.** *in.* to be believed. (As if untruth were a stain that will not come out in the wash.) ☐ *It sounds phony. It won't wash.* ☐ *That'll never wash! It's totally unbelievable.* **2.** *n.* a drink that follows a previous drink; a chaser. ☐ *He ordered a beer wash with his snort.* ☐ *Can I have a wash with this, bartender?* **3.** *n.* the almost simultaneous sale and purchase of the same stock, usually to make the stock appear to be trading actively. (Securities markets. The practice is illegal. Tax loss selling must be done in such a way to avoid appearing to be a wash.) ☐ *I sold the stock and couldn't buy it back for thirty days to avoid an illegal wash.* ☐ *The IRS ruled that the sale was a wash and that I couldn't take the tax loss.* **4.** *n.* a white-wash or covering up (of a problem). ☐ *What the administration presented was not an explanation but a wash.* ☐ *We don't want a wash. We want the truth.*

was had Go to been had.

washboard abs *n.* heavily marked abdominal muscles, divided into six equal sections. ☐ *If I work out hard enough I can build those washboard abs.*

washed out *mod.* exhausted; tired. ☐ *I feel too washed out to go to work today.* ☐ *Poor Ted really looks washed out.*

wash out **1.** *in.* to fail and be removed from something, such as school. (See also **washout**.) ☐ *I studied all I could, but I still washed out.* ☐ *I don't want to wash out. It's my whole future.* **2.** *in.* to have a serious wreck; to wipe out. ☐ *The little car washed out on the curve.* ☐ *The vehicles have a tendency to wash out when cornering.* **3.** *in.* to lose a large amount of money. ☐ *Fred washed out on that stock deal.* ☐ *Lefty and Bruno washed out at the*

track. **4.** *in.* to slow down or collapse from exhaustion. (See also **washed out**.)

☐ *The whole play began to wash out during the second act. It was a lost cause by the third.* ☐ *Finally, after a long day, I just washed out. They had to call the paramedics.*

washout *n.* a failure; a fiasco. ☐ *The whole project was a washout. A lost cause from beginning to end.* ☐ *I am beginning to think that Sally's specialty is washouts.*

wash someone away *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld.) ☐ *Ziggy was charged with trying to wash Pete away.* ☐ *The mob triggers came by and tried to wash away a druggy type.*

WASP **1.** *n.* a white Anglo-Saxon protestant. (Usually derogatory. Acronym.) ☐ *Would you call Pete a WASP?* ☐ *Not really. The west side is where the WASPs live.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with white Anglo-Saxon protestants; **waspish**. ☐ *They preferred to live in a WASP neighborhood.* ☐ *What a silly old WASP idea.*

waspish *mod.* in the manner of a WASP. ☐ *She looks sort of waspish, but she's not.* ☐ *Sally is a waspish kind of yuppie.*

Wassup? Go to Wusup?

waste *tv.* to kill someone. (Underworld.) ☐ *Ziggy had orders to waste Pete.* ☐ *The mob's triggers sped by in a car and wasted four pushers.*

wasted **1.** *mod.* dead; killed. ☐ *Pete didn't want to end up wasted.* ☐ *That's silly. We all end up wasted one way or another.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. ☐ *I really feel wasted. What did I drink?* ☐ *I've never seen a bartender get wasted before.* **3.** *mod.* exhausted. ☐ *I worked two shifts and I'm totally wasted.* ☐ *Mary was wasted and went to bed.*

Watch it! *exclam.* Be careful!; Watch your step!; Careful of what you say! ☐ *Watch it, buster!* ☐ *You're walking on thin ice. Watch it!*

Watch my lips! AND **Read my lips!** **1.** *exclam.* I am going to say something rude to you that I will not say out loud! ☐ *You jerk! Watch my lips!* ☐ *Hey, chum! Read*

my lips! **2.** exclam. Listen very carefully to what I am saying!; If you can't understand what I am saying, then watch the formation of words by my lips. ☐ *Read my lips! Do not ask any more stupid questions!*

Watch your mouth! AND **Watch your tongue!** exclam. Pay attention to what you are saying!; Do not say anything rude! ☐ *Hey, don't talk that way! Watch your mouth!* ☐ *Watch your tongue, garbage mouth!*

Watch your tongue! Go to **Watch your mouth!**

watering hole *n.* a tavern. ☐ *Now this place is one of my favorite watering holes.* ☐ *I think you live down at that watering hole.*

water one's cheeks *tv.* to cry; to shed tears sobbing. ☐ *What are you watering your cheeks about?* ☐ *Poor Billy was watering his cheeks all night because his dog ran away.*

wax 1. *tv.* to beat or defeat someone; to assault someone. ☐ *Those guys look like they're gonna wax us but good.* ☐ *The muggers waxed the vest and swiped his briefcase.* **2.** *n.* a phonograph recording; a substance onto which a recording is put. (Never singular or plural.) ☐ *This is one of the finest pieces of music ever put on wax.* ☐ *Now here's some wax I'll bet you've never heard before.*

waxed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. (See also **polished (up).**) ☐ *Tom is too waxed to talk.* ☐ *Sam got waxed and had to be taken home.*

way 1. *mod.* extremely; totally. ☐ *Oh, this is way gross!* ☐ *I feel way tired today.* **2.** *interj.* There is too a way!, as an answer to **No way!** ☐ *A: I won't do it. No way! B: Way! Yes, you will.* ☐ *She says no way, and I say way. Nobody ever wins!*

way down *mod.* very depressed. ☐ *Poor Clare is way down. I think she has something wrong with her.* ☐ *Pete sure looks way down.*

the **way it plays** *in.* the way it is; the way things are. ☐ *The world is a rough place,*

and that's the way it plays. ☐ *It's tough, but it's the way it plays.*

way off (base) *mod.* on the wrong track; completely wrong. (See also **off base.**) ☐ *I think you're way off base. Try again.* ☐ *Sorry. You are way off. You should just give up.*

way out AND **way-out 1.** *mod.* extreme; arcane. ☐ *Some of your ideas are really way out.* ☐ *What a way-out hairdo.* **2.** *mod.* heavily alcohol or drug intoxicated. ☐ *That guy is way out—can't even walk.* ☐ *She was so way-out, she was almost unconscious.*

way rad *mod.* quite excellent. (California. See also **rad.**) ☐ *Oh, Tiff! That's way rad!* ☐ *You are? Way rad!*

Way to go! Go to (That's the) way to go!

wazoo Go to **bazoo.**

WBMTTP *interj.* Which brings me to the point. (Initialism. Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) ☐ *Of course, you may not like that approach. WBMTTP You need someone to help you choose the proper method.* ☐ *I agree with what Tom said. WBMTTP. I think we spend too much time worrying about these matters.*

weak sister *n.* a timid person, usually a male. ☐ *It looks like Dave is the weak sister on the team.* ☐ *Another weak sister and we'll have to quit. We've got to pull together.*

wear *tv.* to tolerate something. (Usually negative.) ☐ *That's no good. I won't wear it.* ☐ *I don't mind, but my wife won't wear it.*

wearing (nothing but) a smile *tv.* naked. ☐ *This doll came on stage and within ten minutes she was wearing nothing but a smile.*

wear the pants (in the house) *tv.* to be the boss in the house; to run a household. ☐ *All right, if you have to wear the pants, have it your way.* ☐ *Well, somebody has to wear the pants.*

weasel 1. *n.* a sneaky person. ☐ *You slimy weasel! How could you!* ☐ *If Fred weren't such a weasel, we could get along better.* **2.** *n.* an earnest student. (Collegiate.) ☐ *Who's the weasel who always gets A's?* ☐ *Martin is your classic weasel.*

weasel out of something *in.* to get out of doing something; to wiggle out of a responsibility. ☐ *I know how to weasel out of something like that. You get a headache.* ☐ *You can't just weasel out now when we need you!*

wedgy AND **wedgie** *n.* a situation where one's underpants are drawn up tightly between the buttocks; a **melvin**. ☐ *Wally skipped up behind Greg and gave him a wedgy.* ☐ *I think he LIKES walking around with a wedgy all day!*

weed 1. *n.* tobacco; a cigarette or cigar. ☐ *I've about given up weed.* ☐ *This weed is gonna be the death of me.* **2.** *n.* marijuana; a marijuana cigarette. (Drugs.) ☐ *This is good weed, man.* ☐ *This weed is green but decent.*

weed-eater Go to weedhead.

weedhead AND **weed-eater** *n.* a smoker of marijuana. ☐ *Max is a confirmed weed-eater.* ☐ *The weedheads are taking over this neighborhood.*

weeds *n.* clothing. ☐ *Good-looking weeds you're wearing.* ☐ *These weeds came right out of the wish book. Would you believe?*

weekend warrior *n.* a member of the military reserves. ☐ *I wanted to be a weekend warrior and get some of the educational benefits.* ☐ *The weekend warriors were called into active duty.*

weenie AND **wienie 1.** *n.* a stupid and inept male. ☐ *Tell that stupid weenie to get himself over here and get back to work.* **2.** *n.* the penis. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *He held his hands over his weenie and ran for the bedroom.* **3.** *n.* an earnest student. ☐ *That weenie keeps getting A's and raising the grade scale.*

weeper *n.* a sad movie, novel, television program, etc. ☐ *I can't seem to get enough of these weepers.* ☐ *Not another weeper!*

weirded out *mod.* disturbed or unnerved by drugs or events. ☐ *I was totally weirded out and couldn't control myself.* ☐ *After the blowup, Fred was really weirded out.*

weirdo ['wɪrdo] *n.* a strange person. ☐ *She is sure a weirdo lately.* ☐ *Don't be such a weirdo!*

weird out *in.* to become emotionally disturbed or unnerved; to flip (out). (See also **weirded out**.) ☐ *The day was just gross. I thought I would weird out at noon.* ☐ *I weirded out at the news of Frankie's death.*

weisenheimer AND **wiseacre** ['waɪzən-haɪmər AND 'waɪzəkər] *n.* a presumptuous **smart aleck**. (Also a term of address.) ☐ *Who's the wiseacre who put sugar in the salt shaker?* ☐ *Look, weisenheimer, watch your tongue!*

welcher ['welʃər] *n.* someone who does not pay gambling debts. ☐ *It was Ziggy's job to let the welchers know that Mr. Big was angry.* ☐ *Bruno set out to teach the welcher a lesson. He didn't mean to hurt him very much.*

welk [welk] *phr.* you are welcome. ☐ *Tom: Thanks. Bob: Welk.* ☐ *"Welk," said Fred, accepting my thanks.*

well-fixed AND **well-heeled 1.** *mod.* rich. ☐ *His father died and left him pretty well-fixed.* ☐ *Her well-fixed uncle left her a lot of money.* ☐ *Pete is well-fixed for life.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *By midnight, he was pretty well-fixed.* ☐ *You might say he is well-fixed. You might say he's dead drunk, too.*

well-heeled Go to well-fixed.

well-hung AND **hung 1.** *mod.* having large [male] genitals. (Widely known and very old. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *If Tom was as hung as he thinks he is, he wouldn't even say anything at all.* **2.** *mod.* having large breasts. (Usually objectionable.) ☐ *She is so hung, she's top heavy.*

well-oiled 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *He was well-oiled and couldn't stand up.* ☐ *Get him well-oiled and break the news to him.* **2.** *mod.* talkative. ☐ *She was sure*

well-oiled. I thought she'd never stop talking. □ *Get him well-oiled, and you'll find out about everything.*

(Well,) pardon me for living! AND Excuse me for breathing!; Excuse me for living! *tv.* I am SOOO sorry! (A very sarcastic response to a rebuke, seeming to regret the apparent offense of even living.) □ *A: You are blocking my view. Please move. B: Well, pardon me for living!*

(well-)upholstered *mod.* chubby; plump. □ *Fortunately, he was upholstered enough that the fall didn't really hurt.* □ *My well-upholstered brother has to go on a diet.*

wenchy AND **whenchy** ['wɛntʃi AND 'wɛntʃi] *mod.* bitchy; snotty. (Collegiate.) □ *I really wish you wouldn't be so wenchy with me!* □ *What's the matter with that wenchy chick?* □ *Then she began to get wenchy, so I left.*

Were you born in a barn? *interrog.* Weren't you trained to close the door by yourself? □ *Close the door! Were you born in a barn?* □ *You sure are careless with that door. Were you born in a barn?*

wet 1. *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *The jerk is wet and can't drive home.* □ *He's been drinking since noon and is pretty wet.* **2.** *mod.* having to do with an area where is it legal to sell alcohol. (Compare this with **dry**.) □ *Kansas became wet just a few years ago.* □ *Is it wet or dry in this county?* **3.** *mod.* feeble; in the manner of a nerd. □ *Tom is totally wet. What a jerk.* □ *Wayne is wet and so's his buddy.*

wet blanket *n.* someone who ruins a good time. (In the way that a wet blanket is used to put out a fire.) □ *Oh, Martin! Why do you have to be such a wet blanket?* □ *Don't be a wet blanket! Have some fun!*

wet noodle *n.* a dupe; a wimp. □ *Don't be such a wet noodle. Don't let them push you around.* □ *Martin is such a wet noodle.*

wet one *n.* a cold beer. □ *How about a wet one, Fred?* □ *I could sure use a wet one about now.*

wet rag Go to wet sock.

wet sock AND **wet rag** *n.* a wimp; a useless jerk. (See also **rubber sock**.) □ *Don't be such a wet sock! Stand up for your rights!* □ *Well, in a tight situation, Martin is sort of a wet rag.*

wetware ['wɛtwɛr] *n.* the human brain. (Compared to computer **hardware** and **software**.) □ *This isn't a hardware problem; it's a wetware problem.* □ *You need to update your wetware.*

whack AND **wack 1.** *tv.* to strike someone or something. □ *Jed whacked the kid upside the head.* □ *Larry reached down and wacked the dog across the snout.* **2.** *n.* a blow or hit (at someone or something). □ *She tried to take a whack at me!* □ *She landed a nasty wack on his thigh.* **3.** *n.* a drink of liquor. □ *Take a whack of this stuff.* □ *Hey, give me another wack of that. It helps.* **4.** Go to **w(h)acked**.

w(h)acked AND **w(h)ack** *mod.* wild; silly. □ *Bill was wacked as always and embarrassed us all.* □ *He is so wack!*

w(h)acked (out) *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Gee, is he ever whacked!* □ *Dave was so whacked out he couldn't stand up.*

whack off Go to beat off.

w(h)ack someone or something up *in.* to damage someone or something. □ *Bob got mad at Greg and whacked him up.*

w(h)ack someone (out) *tv.* to kill somebody. (Underworld.) □ *Willie made another try at whacking Albert out last evening.* □ *He really wants to whack out Mr. Big.*

w(h)ack something (out) *tv.* to rob a place; to swindle a business establishment. (Underworld.) □ *Did your guys wack the church collection box?*

whale 1. *n.* a very fat person. (Cruel.) □ *Tracy is getting to be such a whale.* □ *Well, Gert's the whale if you ask me.* **2.** *n.* a drunkard; a person with an enormous capacity for liquor. □ *Arthur is getting to be a regular whale. What does he drink?* □ *A pair of whales was in the corner booth tanking up.*

whale into someone or something *in.* to attack someone or something. ☐ *Jimmy's dad really whaled into him.* ☐ *The guy whaled into the logs and had a nice wood pile by noon.*

whale on *mod.* excellent. (Confused with or in error for **wailing**.) ☐ *This is one whale on rally.* ☐ *We had a whale on time at Bob's house.*

whale the tar out of someone *tv.* to spank or beat someone. (Sometimes said to a child.) ☐ *My father threatened to whale the tar out of me.* ☐ *I'll whale the tar out of you when we get home if you don't settle down.*

whaling Go to **wailing**.

wham-bang ['mæm'bæŋ] *mod.* boisterous. ☐ *We had a really wham-bang time at your party.*

whang(y)doodle ['mæŋ'dudl AND 'mæŋi-'dudl] **1.** *n.* a gadget. ☐ *Toss me one of the little whangdoodles, would ya?* ☐ *This whangydoodle is a little bent.* **2.** *n.* nonsense. ☐ *Now that's enough of your whangdoodle.* ☐ *All I ever hear out of you is whangydoodle.*

whank off Go to **beat off**.

What (a) nerve! *exclam.* What insolence!; How rude and presumptuous! ☐ *Did you hear what she said? What nerve!* ☐ *What a nerve! Have you ever seen such gall?*

What can I do you for? *interrog.* How can I help you?; How can I serve you? ☐ *Good morning. What can I do for you?* ☐ *Now it's your turn. What can I do for you?*

whatchamacallit ['mætʃəmə'kalɪt] *n.* <a name for a person or thing whose real name has been forgotten or is being avoided.> ☐ *Did you invite whatchamacallit to the party?* ☐ *I lost my—you know—my whatchamacallit—my watch!*

What do you say? **1.** *interrog.* Hello, how are you? (Most often [wədəjə'se].) ☐ *Hi, Jim. What do you say?* ☐ *What do you say, man?* **2.** *interrog.* What is your answer? ☐ *Well, what do you say?* ☐ *Come on, I need an answer now. What do you say?*

What else is new? *interrog.* But isn't that what you expect?; What you said isn't new, so what is new? ☐ *Yes, there is trouble around the world. What else is new?* ☐ *So, there's not enough money this week. What else is new?*

whatever *mod.* I don't care; it doesn't matter which choice; whatever you want. ☐ *Q: I have chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, kiwi, and lime. Which do you want? A: Oh, whatever.*

whatever turns you on *tv.* It's all right if it excites you or interests you. (Said originally about sexual matters.) ☐ *You really like pickled pigs feet? Whatever turns you on.* ☐ *I can't stand that kind of music, but whatever turns you on.*

What gives? *interrog.* What is going on?; What is happening? ☐ *Hey! What gives? Who left this here?* ☐ *What gives? Who's made this mess?*

What in Sam Hill? Go to **What in (the) Sam Hill?**

What (in) the devil? *interrog.* What has happened?; What? (Often with the force of an exclamation.) ☐ *What in the devil? Who put sugar in the salt shaker?* ☐ *What the devil? Who are you? What are you doing in my room?*

What (in) the fucking hell! *exclam.* an angry and surprised elaboration of **What?** (Taboo. Usually objectionable.) ☐ *What the fucking hell! Who are you and how'd you get in here?* ☐ *What the fucking hell do you think you are doing?*

What (in) the hell? **1.** *interrog.* What has happened?; What? ☐ *What in the hell? Who did this?* ☐ *What the hell happened here?* **2.** *interrog.* What does it matter? (Usually with the force of an exclamation.) ☐ *Give her a new one. What the hell!* ☐ *Don't be such a cheapskate. Get the nice one. What the hell!*

What in (the) Sam Hill? *interrog.* What has happened?; What? (An elaboration of **what**. **Sam Hill** is **hell**. Often with the force of an exclamation. See examples for variations.) ☐ *What in Sam Hill is going on around here?* ☐ *What in the Sam Hill do you think you are doing?*

What is it? *interrog.* Hello, what is happening? ☐ *What is it?* *Tsup?* ☐ *What is it?* *What's happening?*

What'll it be? *interrog.* What do you want. (Typically said when offering someone drinks. See also **What's yours?**) ☐ *Okay, Mac, what'll it be?* ☐ *What'll it be, chum?*

What's buzzin' (cousin)? *interrog.* What's happening? ☐ *Hey, chum! What's buzzin' cousin?* ☐ *What's buzzin' around here?*

What's cooking? *interrog.* What is happening?; What's about to happen? ☐ *What's cooking? Anything interesting?* ☐ *What's cooking anyway?*

What's eating someone? *interrog.* What is bothering someone? ☐ *Gee, Tom, what's eating you?* ☐ *What's eating Fred?* *He's in a rotten humor.*

What's going down? *interrog.* What's happening? ☐ *I can't figure out what's going down around here.* ☐ *Hey, man, what's going down?*

What's going on? *interrog.* What is happening here? ☐ *I hear a lot of noise. What's going on?* ☐ *What's all this broken glass? What's going on?*

What's happ(ening)? *interrog.* Hello, what's new? ☐ *Hey, dude! What's happening?* ☐ *What's happ? How's it goin'?*

what's his face AND **what's his name** *n.* someone whose name has been forgotten; someone whose name is being avoided. ☐ *Was what's his name there? I never can remember his name.* ☐ *I can't remember what's his face's name either.*

what's his name Go to **what's his face**.

What's in it for me? *interrog.* How do I benefit from it? ☐ *I might help out. What's in it for me?* ☐ *I might be able to contribute a little. What's in it for me?*

What's in the bag! *interrog.* Hello, how are you? ☐ *Hey, man! What's in the bag?* ☐ *What in the bag, my man?*

whatsis AND **whatsit; whatzit; whazzit** ['mɒtsɪs AND 'mɒtsɪt, 'mɒtsɪt, 'mɒzɪt] *n.* <a name for a person or thing whose real name has been forgotten or is being avoided.> ☐ *Hand me that whatsis, will*

you? ☐ *Put this little whatzit on the top and another on the bottom.*

whatsit Go to **whatsis**.

What's it to you? *interrog.* What does it matter to you?; Is it any of your business? ☐ *What's it to you if I don't do it?* ☐ *So I broke my glasses. What's it to you?*

What's new? *interrog.* Hello, how are you?; What has happened since I last saw you? ☐ *Hi, Jim! What's new?* ☐ *What's new with you?*

What someone said. *sent.* I agree with what someone just said, although I might not have been able to say it as well or so elegantly. ☐ *What John said. And I agree 100 percent.* ☐ *What you said.*

What's poppin'? *interrog.* Hello, what is happening? ☐ *What's poppin'?* *Anything new?* ☐ *What's poppin', G?*

What's shakin' (bacon)? *interrog.* How are you?; What is new? ☐ *What's shakin' bacon?* *What's going down?* ☐ *Hi, Jim. What's shakin'?*

What's the catch? *interrog.* What is the drawback?; It sounds good. Are there any hidden problems? ☐ *Sounds too good to be true. What's the catch?* ☐ *This looks like a good deal. What's the catch?*

What's the deal? Go to **What's the scam?**

What's the good word? *interrog.* Hello, how are you? ☐ *Hi, Jim! What's the good word?* ☐ *Haven't seen you in a long time. What's the good word?*

What's the scam? AND **What's the deal?** *interrog.* What is going on around here? ☐ *There's a big rumpus down the hall. What's the scam?* ☐ *I gave you a twenty, and you give me five back? What's the deal? Where's my other five?*

What(s) up? *interrog.* What is going on?; What is happening? (See also **(T)sup?**; **Wusup?**) ☐ *Hi, Jim! What up?* ☐ *Haven't seen you in a month of Sundays. What's up?*

What's up, doc? *interrog.* What is happening here? ☐ *What's up, doc? How're things going?*

What('s) up, G? *interrog.* Hello, what is up, guy? ☐ *What up, G? How ya living?* ☐ *What's up, G? Anything new?*

What's with someone or something? *interrog.* What is wrong with someone or something? ☐ *Hey, chum! What's with you?* ☐ *What's with this can opener? It won't turn.*

What's your age? *interrog.* Hello, how are you? ☐ *What's your age? Tsup?* ☐ *Yo, Sam! What's your age?*

What's your damage? *interrog.* What's your problem? (Like a damage report.) ☐ *You look beat, man. What's your damage?*

What's yours? *interrog.* What (or which) do you want? (Typically said on offering drinks. See also **What'll it be?**) ☐ *"What's yours?" said the bartender.* ☐ *The nice young man behind the counter looked to the right and left at all 140 flavors and said, "What's yours?"*

What the deuce? *interrog.* What has happened?; What? (*Deuce* is an old word for devil.) ☐ *What the deuce! Who are you?* ☐ *What the deuce! Who did this?*

What the devil? Go to **What (in) the devil?**

What the fucking hell! Go to **What (in) the fucking hell!**

What the heck! *exclam.* It doesn't matter! (Often with the force of an exclamation.) ☐ *Oh, what the heck! Come on in. It doesn't matter.* ☐ *Oh, what the heck! I'll have another beer. Nobody's counting.*

What the hell? Go to **What (in) the hell?**

What you see is what you get. **1.** *sent.* The product you are looking at is exactly what you get if you buy it. ☐ *It comes just like this. What you see is what you get.* ☐ *What you see is what you get. The ones in the box are just like this one.* **2.** AND **WYSIWYG** ['wɪsiwɪg] *phr.* What you see on the screen is what will print on the printer. (Computers. Acronym.) ☐ *This program gives you that "what you see is what you get" feature that everyone wants.* ☐ *I need something that's WYSIWYG. I have no imagination.*

whatzit Go to **whatsis.**

whazood AND **waa-zooed** ['mɑ'zud AND 'wɑ'zud] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *Man, is she whazood!* ☐ *Pete was too waa-zooed to stand up.*

whazzit Go to **whatsis.**

wheel *tv. & in.* to drive a car. ☐ *I'm gonna wheel over later this afternoon.* ☐ *Let's wheel my heap over to Marty's place.*

wheel and deal *in.* to negotiate, cajole, and connive—aggressively. (See also **wheeler-dealer.**) ☐ *If you can't wheel and deal, you can't run for elective office.* ☐ *Any crook can wheel and deal!*

wheeler-dealer *n.* someone who bargains aggressively. (See also **wheel and deal.**) ☐ *She has turned into a real wheeler-dealer.* ☐ *Who's the wheeler-dealer who set up this deal?*

wheel man *n.* the (male) driver of a criminal escape car. (Underworld.) ☐ *Lefty was the wheel man for the bank job.* ☐ *We need a new wheel man while Lefty's away.*

wheels *n.* a car; transportation by automobile. ☐ *I gotta get some wheels pretty soon.* ☐ *I'll need a ride. I don't have any wheels.*

wheely AND **wheelie** *n.* an act of rearing up on a bike or motorcycle, balancing on the rear wheel. ☐ *Can you do wheelies?* ☐ *The kid did a wheelie and scared his mother to death.*

whenchy Go to **wenchy.**

when push comes to shove AND **if push comes to shove** *phr.* when things get a little pressed; when the situation gets more active or intense. ☐ *When push comes to shove, you know I'll be on your side.* ☐ *If push comes to shove, the front office can help with some statistics.*

when the eagle flies AND **day the eagle flies** *in.* payday. (The *eagle* is the one found on U.S. currency.) ☐ *I'll pay you back when the eagle flies.* ☐ *I'll find you the day the eagle flies.*

when the fat lady sings Go to **till the fat lady sings.**

when the shit hit the fan *tv.* when the trouble broke out; when things became difficult. (Usually objectionable.) □ *We had one hell of an afternoon around here. Where were you when the shit hit the fan?*

Where have you been keeping yourself? *interrog.* I haven't seen you in a long time. Where have you been? □ *Long time no see. Where've you been keeping yourself?* □ *I haven't seen you in a long time. Where you been keeping yourself?*

Where in (the) Sam Hill? *interrog.* Where? (An intensive form of *where*. *Sam Hill* is hell.) □ *Where in Sam Hill did I put my hat?* □ *Where in the Sam Hill were you?*

Where in the world? *interrog.* Where? (An intensive form of *where*.) □ *Where in the world have you been?* □ *Where in the world did I put my glasses?*

where it's at *phr.* what one is aiming for; what is needed. (This does not refer to a place.) □ *Keep on trying. That's where it's at!* □ *Good strong friends. That's where it's at.*

Where on earth? Go to **Where on (God's green) earth?**

Where on (God's green) earth? *interrog.* (Exactly) where? (An intensive form of *where*. See examples for variations.) □ *Where on God's green earth did you get that ridiculous hat?* □ *Where on earth is my book?* □ *Where on God's green earth were you?*

where someone is at *in.* what mental condition someone is in. □ *I know where you're at. I know what you are talking about.* □ *You said it! I know just where you're at!*

where someone lives *in.* at one's core; in one's own personal situation. □ *That really hits you where you live, doesn't it?* □ *Yes, that gets me where I live.*

where someone's head is at *in.* the state of one's mental well-being. □ *As soon as I figure where my head is at, I'll be okay.* □ *He doesn't know where his head is at.*

Where's the beef? *interrog.* Where is the substance? Where is the content? (From a television commercial where someone

is looking for the meat in a fast-food hamburger.) □ *That's really clever and appealing, but where's the beef?* □ *Where's the beef? There's no substance in this proposal.*

Where's the fire? *interrog.* Why are you going so fast? What's the hurry? □ *Going a little fast there, weren't you? Where's the fire?* □ *Where's the fire? We have an hour to get there.*

where the action is *in.* where important things are happening. □ *I want to be where the action is.* □ *Right there in city hall. That's where the action is.*

Where the Sam Hill? Go to **Where in (the) Sam Hill?**

where the sun don't shine *in.* in a dark place, namely the anus. (Often with *put it* or *shove it*. Part of the answer to the question *Where shall I put it?* Always with *don't*; never with *doesn't*.) □ *I don't care what you do with it. Just put it where the sun don't shine.* □ *For all I care you can shove it where the sun don't shine.*

wherewithal ['ærwɪθəl] **1.** *n.* money. □ *I don't have the wherewithal to invest in anything like that.* □ *I've got the interest but not the wherewithal.* **2.** *n.* motivation; gumption. □ *I just don't have the wherewithal to do the job.* □ *As soon as I get some wherewithal, I'll get a new computer.*

whiffled ['wɪflɪd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Jed found himself a mite whiffled, but nobody else knew.* □ *That guy really looks whiffled.*

whiff-sniffer AND **wiff-sniffer** *n.* a prohibitionist; someone always alert for the smell of alcohol on someone's breath. (Prohibition.) □ *Martin is something of a whiff-sniffer.* □ *No wiff-sniffer is going to tell me what to do.*

whing-ding AND **wing-ding** **1.** *n.* a love affair; a sexual affair. □ *Sam and Martha brought their little whing-ding to an end.* □ *Somebody found out about their little wing-ding.* **2.** *n.* a gadget. □ *This whing-ding is broken. Where can I find another?* □ *I've never seen one of these little wing-dings so banged up.* **3.** AND **whinger** *n.* a wild drinking party; drinking spree. □

Fred had one of the best whing-dings this town has ever seen. □ Yes, it was some whinger.

whinger Go to whing-ding.

whip off Go to beat off.

whip one's wire Go to beat the dummy.

whipped **1.** *mod.* exhausted; beat. □ *Wow, you look whipped.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She was too whipped to find money to pay her bill.* **3.** *mod.* great. □ *The band was whipped and the food was unbelievable.*

whipsaw **1.** *tv.* to assault a person; to gang up and beat a person. □ *The gang whipsawed the old man for about ten minutes. □ What kind of creeps would whipsaw an old buzzard like that?* **2.** *tv.* [for the stock market] to reduce the capital of investors by frightening them into selling when stock prices are low and encouraging them to buy when prices are high. (Securities markets.) □ *A lot of people were whipsawed in the recent market volatility. □ The market will whipsaw the investor who is not cautious.*

whip something into shape Go to lick something into shape.

whip something off *tv.* to finish something quickly, especially food or drink. □ *Did you just whip that whole pizza off?* □ *Lemme whip off this sandwich, and I'll be right with you.* □ *She whipped off the dishes in ten minutes.*

whip the dummy Go to beat the dummy.

whirlybird *n.* a helicopter. □ *See that whirlybird up there? It's timing your speed. Slow down.* □ *The whirlybird landed on the roof of the hospital.*

whiskers (man) Go to Mr. Whiskers.

whiskey tenor *n.* a strained tenor. □ *He's a whiskey tenor, but a good one.* □ *Four whiskey tenors do not a barbershop quartet make.*

whistle-blower *n.* someone who calls a halt to something; an informer; an enforcer; a stool (pigeon). □ *I don't know who the whistle-blower was, but a good*

time was really ruined. □ *Some whistle-blower put Pete behind bars for a few days.*

whistle in the dark *in.* to guess aimlessly; to speculate as to a fact. □ *Am I close, or am I just whistling in the dark?* □ *She was whistling in the dark. She has no idea of what's going on.*

whistler *n.* someone who is a police informer; a stoolie. (Underworld. More specialized than whistle-blower.) □ *Tracy turned into a whistler after her last little vacation.* □ *Who's the whistler who squealed?*

whitebread *mod.* plain; dull. □ *Naw, the whole thing is too whitebread.* □ *If I wanted a whitebread vacation, I'd have gone to the beach.*

white elephant *n.* a useless or unwanted object. □ *How can I get rid of this white elephant?* □ *Take all those white elephants to the flea market.*

white hat *n.* a good guy; a hero. (From Western movies where you could tell the good guys from the bad guys by the color of their hats: white for good, black for bad.) □ *He seems like a white hat, but he's a worm.* □ *The white hats don't always win, you know.*

white-knuckle **1.** *mod.* having to do with an event that creates a lot of tension, especially an airplane flight. □ *We came in during the storm on a white-knuckle flight from Chicago.* **2.** *mod.* of a person who is made tense by something such as flying or sailing. □ *I'm afraid I'm a white-knuckle sailor, and you'd all be much happier if I stay on dry land.* □ *My cousin is a white-knuckle flyer and would rather take the train.*

white knuckler **1.** *n.* a tense and nervous person. □ *You white knucklers are just going to have to relax.* □ *I'm such a white knuckler before a test.* **2.** *n.* a suspenseful event, such as an exciting movie or a rough airplane flight. □ *The movie was a real white knuckler.* □ *We sat through the white knuckler even without popcorn.*

whitewash **1.** *tv.* to make something look better than it really is; to conceal something bad. □ *Now, don't try to whitewash*

this incident. Open up about it. □ The mayor's office tried to whitewash the whole affair. **2. n.** an act or campaign of covering up something bad. □ They tried to give the scandal the old whitewash, but it didn't work. □ It was a good whitewash, but nobody believed it for a minute.

whittled *mod.* alcohol intoxicated; filled with liquor. (See also **cut**.) □ Fred's whittled and can't hardly see. □ Why does he keep getting so whittled?

whiz **1. n.** a talented or skilled person. □ She's a real whiz with stats. □ I'm no math whiz, but I can find your errors. **2. in.** to urinate. (Usually objectionable.) □ I gotta stop here and whiz. □ You can't whiz in the park!

whiz kid *n.* a young whiz. □ The boss's new whiz kid doesn't seem to be doing the job very well. □ We need a whiz kid to get things brought up to date around here.

Whoa! [wo] *exclam.* Stop! (Said to a horse or any person or thing.) □ You've gone about far enough. Whoa! □ Whoa, you've gone about far enough.

whodunit [hu'dənɪt] *n.* a detective story. (See also **thriller-diller**.) □ I love to read a good whodunit every now and then. □ I go through about three whodunits a week.

Who (in) the devil? Go to **Who (in) the hell?**

Who (in) the hell? **AND Who (in) the devil?** *interrog.* Who? (An elaboration of *who*. See examples for variations.) □ Who in the hell was that masked man? □ Who the hell are you?

whole bag of tricks *n.* everything; every possibility. □ Well now. I've used my whole bag of tricks, and we still haven't solved this. □ It may take my whole bag of tricks to do it, but I'll try.

the **whole ball of wax** *n.* everything; the whole thing. □ Well, that just about ruins the whole ball of wax. □ Your comments threatened the whole ball of wax, that's what.

a **whole bunch** **AND whole bunches** *mod.* a whole lot; very much. (Always with a in

the singular.) □ I like to spend evenings at home a whole bunch. □ I like pizza whole bunches.

the **whole enchilada** [...ɛntʃə'lədə] *n.* the whole thing; everything. (From Spanish.) □ Nobody, but nobody, ever gets the whole enchilada. □ Pete wants the whole enchilada.

the **whole fam damily** [...'fæm 'dæmli] *n.* the entire family. (A deliberate spoonerism for *whole damn family*.) □ The whole fam damily has had this virus. Yuck! □ There's enough here for the whole fam damily.

a **whole new ball game** *n.* a completely different situation; something completely different. □ Now that you're here, it's a whole new ball game. □ With a faster computer, it's a whole new ball game.

the **whole nine yards** *n.* the entire amount; everything. (Origin unknown. Possibly referring to the standard size of a cement mixing truck, 9 cubic yards.) □ For you I'll go the whole nine yards. □ You're worth the whole nine yards.

the **whole schmear** [...ʃmɪr] *n.* the entire amount; the entire affair. (Based on Yiddish.) □ You just wrecked the whole schmear, that's what. □ I'll take a hamburger with everything on it—the whole schmear.

the **whole shebang** **AND the whole shooting match** [...ʃə'bæŋ] *n.* the whole affair; everything and everyone. (Folksy.) □ The whole shebang is just about washed up. □ I'm fed up with the whole shooting match.

the **whole shooting match** Go to **whole shebang**.

the **whole wide world** *n.* everywhere; everywhere and everything. □ It's the best in the whole wide world. □ I've searched the whole wide world for just the right hat.

whomp Go to **whump**.

whooshed *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ Jerry was totally whooshed by midnight. □ Hank was whooshed but thought he could drive home.

whoozis AND **whoozit** ['huzɪs AND 'huzɪt] *n.* <a name for a person whose real name is forgotten or being avoided.> □ *I met whoozis—you know, with the big what-sis—today.* □ *Is whoozit coming to my birthday party?*

whoozit Go to whoozis.

whopper 1. *n.* something that is of relatively great size. □ *That thing's really a whopper!* □ *It was a whopper of an argument.* **2.** *n.* a very big lie. □ *That one's a whopper. I don't believe a word of it.* □ *She sure told a whopper, didn't she?*

whopping (great) *mod.* enormous. □ *Somebody showed up with a whopping great basin of chunks of pickled fish. Yummy!* □ *What a whopping fool he is!*

who shot John *n.* moonshine; illicit whiskey. (Prohibition.) □ *You know where I can get a little of that who shot John?* □ *He's had too much of that who shot John.*

Who's your daddy? *interrog.* Who is your boss? It's me, isn't it? (A reminder of who's the boss.) □ *Don't waver. Do it! Who's your daddy?* □ *Hey, bro! Who's your daddy?*

Who the deuce? *interrog.* Who? (An elaboration of *who*. The *deuce* is the devil.) □ *Who the deuce do you think you are?* □ *Who the deuce is making all that noise?*

Who the devil? Go to Who (in) the hell?

Who the hell? Go to Who (in) the hell?

Whuhap? *interrog.* Hello.; What's new? (Streets. A greeting inquiry.) □ *Whuhap? What's coming down?* □ *Whuhap? Where's the action?*

whump AND **whomp; womp** [wʌmp AND wʌmp, wʌmp] **1.** *tv.* to beat or outscore someone. □ *They set out to whump us, and they sure did.* □ *The Redskins womped the Walleyes.* **2.** *n.* the sound made when two flat surfaces fall together. □ *I heard the whump when the shed collapsed.* □ *The whomp woke everyone up.*

wicked *mod.* excellent; impressive; cool. (Also in compounds, *wicked smart*, *wicked cool*, etc.) □ *Now this is what I call a wicked guitar.*

wicky *mod.* wicked; excellent. □ *Whose wicky red convertible is parked in front of the house?*

wide *mod.* drug intoxicated. □ *Who is that wide dude?* □ *How'd you get so wide, man?*

wide open 1. *mod.* as fast as possible; at full throttle. □ *I was driving along wide open when I became aware of a flashing red light.* □ *It was wide open and still wouldn't do better than eighty.* **2.** *mod.* vice-ridden. □ *This town is wide open!* □ *Because the prison is understaffed, it is wide open.*

wide place in the road *n.* a very small town. □ *The town is little more than a wide place in the road.* □ *We stopped at a wide place in the road called Adamsville.*

widget ['wɪdʒɪt] **1.** *n.* a gadget. □ *Now, try to fit this widget into this slot here.* □ *What is the real name of this widget?* **2.** *n.* a hypothetical product made by a hypothetical company. □ *Someone said that your company is manufacturing widgets.* □ *No, we stopped making widgets last year. Too much foreign competition.*

widow-maker *n.* a dangerous horse; anything dangerous: a gun, strong alcohol, etc. □ *I call this stuff widow-maker. It's really strong.* □ *That horse is a widow-maker. I won't ride it.*

wiener nose ['wɪnə...] *n.* a simpleton. (Also a derogatory term of address.) □ *Look, wiener nose, mind your own business.* □ *Todd, you are such a wiener nose!*

wife *n.* a girlfriend. (Collegiate.) □ *Me and my wife are going to Fred's this Friday.* □ *Ask your wife if she wants to come along.*

wiff-sniffer Go to whiff-sniffer.

wigged (out) AND **wiggy 1.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *How did you get so wigged out?* □ *The kid got a little wigged and slipped under the table.* **2.** *mod.* having lost control of oneself; having flipped one's wig. □ *The kid is just too wigged to do anything these days.* □ *After the bad news, she was totally wigged out.*

wiggle out of something *in.* to successfully avoid doing something. □ *We wig-*

gled out of the appointment. ☐ *Don't try to wiggle out of it. I saw you with her.*

wiggy Go to **wigged (out)**.

wig out **1.** *in.* to lose control of oneself; to flip one's wig. (See also **wigged (out)**.)

☐ *I was afraid I would wig out if I stayed any longer.* ☐ *Take it easy, man. Don't wig out.* **2.** *in.* to have a good time at a party, etc. ☐ *We wiggled out at John's do.* ☐ *Come on, let's wig out!*

wild *mod.* exciting; eccentric; cool. ☐ *Things are really wild here.* ☐ *We had a wild time.*

wild and woolly *mod.* exciting; hairy. ☐ *Things get a little wild and woolly on a Friday evening at Wally's place.* ☐ *The ride home was a little wild and woolly.*

will do *phr.* I will do it. ☐ *Will do. I'll get right on it.* ☐ *Fix the stuck window? Will do.*

willies *n.* a case of fear or anxiety. (See also **screaming-meemies**.) ☐ *That kind of movie always gives me the willies.* ☐ *I got the willies before the test.*

Wilma ['wilmə] *n.* a stupid woman. (From the Flintstones cartoon character. Also a term of address.) ☐ *She is such a Wilma! What a twit!* ☐ *Well, Wilma. I see you forgot your money again.*

wimp **1.** *mod.* windows, icons, mouse pointer. (Usually **WIMP**. Acronym. Refers to a computer system, such as Macintosh or Microsoft Windows, with an elaborate user interface including resizable windows, clever icons, and a movable mouse. The term implies that such systems are for computer weaklings.) ☐ *I am happier with a computer system that doesn't have all that WIMP stuff.* ☐ *I want all the WIMP gadgets I can get!* **2.** *n.* a weak and retiring person; a square. ☐ *Don't be a wimp. Stand up for your rights.* ☐ *What a wimp. People walk all over her.*

wimp out (of something) *in.* to chicken out (of something); to get out of something, leaving others to carry the burden. ☐ *Come on! Don't wimp out now that there's all this work to be done.* ☐ *Ted wimped out on us.*

wimpy *mod.* weak; inept; square. ☐ *You are just a wimpy nerd!* ☐ *Come on, don't be so wimpy.*

Win a few, lose a few. *tv.* Sometimes one wins; other times one loses. ☐ *Too bad. Sorry about that. Win a few, lose a few.* ☐ *"Win a few, lose a few," doesn't mean you never win at all.*

windbag AND **bag of wind** *n.* a talkative person; a braggart. ☐ *Quiet, you windbag!* ☐ *She's nothing but a big bag of wind.*

windy **1.** *mod.* talkative. ☐ *She's so windy! Won't she ever let up?* ☐ *Here comes old windy Charlie. Once he gets started, he never stops.* **2.** *mod.* flatulent; having intestinal gas. ☐ *I feel a little windy.* ☐ *If you're windy, why don't you take the day off?*

wing *in.* to travel by airplane. ☐ *We winged to Budapest and attended the conference.* ☐ *They winged from there to London.*

wing-ding Go to **whing-ding**.

wing heavy *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *Ken's a little wing heavy and can't fly straight.* ☐ *From the way he's staggering, I'd say he's more than a little wing heavy.*

wing it *tv.* to improvise; to do something extemporaneously. ☐ *I lost my lecture notes, so I had to wing it.* ☐ *Don't worry. Just go out there and wing it.*

a **wink of sleep** *n.* a bit of sleep; the smallest amount of sleep. (Usually in the negative.) ☐ *I hardly got a wink of sleep all night long.* ☐ *I couldn't get a wink of sleep because of the noise.*

winks *n.* some sleep. (See also **forty winks**.) ☐ *I gotta have some winks. I'm pooped.* ☐ *A few winks would do you good.*

winky Go to **blinky**.

winner *n.* an excellent person or thing. ☐ *This one is a real winner.* ☐ *He's no winner, but he'll do.*

wino ['waɪno] **1.** *n.* wine. ☐ *How about a little more vino?* ☐ *This is excellent vino.* **2.** *n.* a wine drunkard. ☐ *By midnight the winos had gone into their stupors, and we got that part of town to ourselves.* ☐ *I gave*

the wino some money to help him stop the shakes.

win-win [of a situation] winning for both sides; [of a situation] winning for buyers and seller. □ *What have you got to lose? It's a win-win situation.* □ *This is win-win. We both make money.*

win-win-win [of a situation] winning for three parties, such as manufacturer, seller, and customer. □ *Everybody makes money! It's win-win-win!*

wipe *n.* a murder; a killing. (Underworld. See also **wipe out**.) □ *Who's responsible for that wipe downtown last night?* □ *The victim of the latest mob wipe was hauled out of the river this morning.*

wiped (out) **1.** AND **wiped over** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Harry was too wiped out to drive.* □ *Oh, man! I'm really wiped.* **2.** *mod.* [of a person or creature] exhausted. □ *I'm so wiped out that I just want to go home and go to bed.* □ *Wow, am I wiped out!* **3.** *mod.* broke. □ *I'm totally wiped out. Not enough bread for grub.* □ *Medical bills left us totally wiped out.*

wiped over Go to **wiped (out)**.

Wipe it off! *exclam.* Wipe that smile off your face! □ *It's not funny. Wipe it off!* □ *Wipe it off! Nothing funny here, soldier.*

wipe out **1.** *in.* to crash. □ *I wiped out on the curve.* □ *The car wiped out on the curve.* **2.** *in.* to fall off or away from something, such as a bicycle, skates, a surfboard, a skateboard, etc. □ *I wiped out and skinned my knee.* □ *If I wipe out again, my mother says I'm through.* **3.** ['waipaut] *n.* a wreck. (Usually **wipe-out**.) □ *There was a four-car wipe-out on the expressway when I came in this morning.* □ *It was a pretty serious wipe-out, but no one was killed.* **4.** *n.* an accident on a bicycle, skates, surfboard, skateboard, etc. (Usually **wipe-out**.) □ *I had a nasty wipe-out, but I only bruised my elbow.* □ *That last wipe-out wrecked my bike.* **5.** *n.* a loser; someone who is likely to **wipe out**. (Usually **wipe-out**.) □ *The guy's a wipe-out, for sure.* □ *Please don't call my friend a wipe-out.*

wipe someone out **1.** *tv.* to eliminate someone; to kill someone. (Underworld.)

□ *Max almost wiped Ziggy out.* □ *Who wiped out Lefty?* **2.** *tv.* to exhaust or tire someone. □ *The game wiped me out.* □ *Jogging always wipes me out.* **3.** *tv.* to ruin someone financially. □ *The loss of my job wiped us out.* □ *The storm ruined the corn crop and wiped out everyone in the county.*

wipe something out *tv.* to use up all of something. (See also **wiped (out)**.) □ *I wiped the cookies out—not all at once, of course.* □ *Who wiped out the strawberry preserves?*

wipe the floor up with someone Go to **mop the floor up with someone**.

wire **1.** *n.* a spy smuggled into a place. □ *Ziggy thought Lefty was a wire.* □ *How do we know Lefty isn't a wire?* **2.** *tv.* to install electronic eavesdropping equipment. □ *Somebody wired the mayor's office.* □ *They say the mayor wired his own office to make himself look like a victim.* **3.** Go to (live) **wire**.

wired **1.** *mod.* nervous; extremely alert. □ *The guy is pretty wired because of the election.* □ *I get wired before a test.* **2.** AND **wired up** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Ken was so wired up he couldn't remember his name.* □ *Tiff is, like, totally wired up.*

wired into someone or something *mod.* concerned with someone or something; really involved with someone or something. □ *Mary is really wired into classical music.* □ *Sam and Martha are totally wired into one another.*

wired up Go to **wired**.

wiseacre Go to **weisenheimer**.

wise guy *n.* a foolish person; a smart aleck. (See also **smart guy**. Also a term of address.) □ *Look, wise guy, mind your own business!* □ *Some wise guy messed up my work.*

wise to someone or something *mod.* having found out about someone or something. (Underworld.) □ *The cops are wise to the plan.* □ *I'm wise to Lefty. He's a wire.*

wise up (to someone or something) *in.* to (finally) begin to understand someone or something; to realize and accept the facts about someone or something. (Also as a command.) □ *Sally finally wised up to Pete.* □ *Come on, Sally! Wise up!*

wish book *n.* a large, mail order catalog. □ *The new wish book just came in the mail.* □ *Where's the wish book? I have to order something.*

wish list *n.* a list of things one wishes to have. (See also **want list**.) □ *I put a new car at the top of my wish list.* □ *I have a CD player on my wish list.*

wishy-washy ['wɪʃi'wɒʃi] *mod.* indecisive; insipid; weak. □ *Don't be such a wishy-washy wimp.* □ *She is so wishy-washy!*

with a bang *mod.* in a flamboyant or exciting manner. (Especially with *go out*, *quit*, *finish*.) □ *The party started off with a bang.* □ *The old year went out with a bang.*

with bells on *mod.* ready to go; eager. □ *She was here on time with bells on.* □ *I promise to be there at five in the morning with bells on.*

with flying colors *mod.* flamboyantly; boldly. □ *Heidi won first place with flying colors.* □ *Paul came home with flying colors after the match.*

within an ace of (doing) something *mod.* very close to doing something. □ *I came within an ace of getting stoned.* □ *We were within an ace of beating the all-time record.*

within spitting distance *mod.* close by. □ *The house you're looking for is within spitting distance, but it's hard to find.*

with it *mod.* up-to-date; contemporary. □ *Martin is not exactly with it.* □ *Come on, chum. Get with it.*

with (one's) eyes (wide) open *mod.* totally aware of what is going on. □ *I went into this with my eyes open.* □ *We all started with eyes open but didn't realize what could happen to us.*

without a hitch *mod.* with no problem(s). □ *Everything went off without a hitch.* □

We hoped the job would go off without a hitch.

woefits AND **woofits** ['wɒfɪts AND 'wʊfɪts] *n.* a hangover. □ *The poor guy is suffering from the woefits.* □ *That's a bad case of the woofits.*

wolf *n.* a bold and aggressive male. (See also **fine wolf**.) □ *He sees himself as a lady-killer. The chicks see him as an old-fashioned wolf.* □ *And this wolf comes up to me and starts holding my hand.*

wolf something down *tv.* to gobble something up; to bolt down food or drink. □ *Enjoy your food. Don't just wolf it down.* □ *But I enjoy wolfing down food more than anything.*

wombat ['wɒmbæt] *n.* a strange person; a geek. (Collegiate.) □ *Why does everybody think Martin is such a wombat?* □ *Who's the wombat in the 1957 Chevy?*

womp Go to **whump**.

wonk [wɒŋk] **1.** *n.* an earnest student. (Collegiate.) □ *Who's the wonk who keeps getting the straight A's?* □ *Yes, you could call Martin a wonk. In fact, he's the classic wonk.* **2.** *n.* a bureaucrat; a flunky. □ *The State Department policy wonks were up all night putting together the report.* □ *Our office was knee-deep in wonks before the reorganization.*

wonky ['wɒŋki] *mod.* studious. (Collegiate.) □ *Martin is certainly the wonky type.* □ *You ought to get a little wonky yourself.*

wood butcher *n.* a carpenter. □ *See if you can get a wood butcher to fix this broken panel.* □ *The wood butcher tracked sawdust up the stairs.*

wood-pussy *n.* a skunk. □ *Do I smell the faint perfume of a wood-pussy?* □ *The dog had a nasty run-in with a wood-pussy.*

the **woods are full of something** *phr.* there are lots and lots of something. □ *The woods are full of cheap, compatible computer clones.* □ *The woods are full of nice-looking guys who'll mug you when it's too late.*

woody **1.** *n.* a wooden surfboard; a surfboard. □ *Who's the guy with the woody on his head?* □ *Get your woody, and let's get moving.* **2.** *n.* an erection of the penis. □ *His morning woody made a little mountain with the sheets on his bed.*

woof [wʊf] **1.** *in.* to boast; to sell a wolf ticket; to chatter. (Black.) □ *They're just woofing. Ignore them.* □ *Stop woofing, Fred. You sound silly.* **2.** *in.* to vomit. (Onomatopoeic.) □ *Somebody woofed on our driveway.* □ *Beavis had to woof on the way home.*

woof cookies *tv.* to vomit. □ *Bill is in the bathroom woofing cookies.* □ *Waldo had to woof cookies in the bushes.*

woofits Go to woefits.

woofled ['wʊfɪd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Good grief, was he woofled!* □ *Did I get woofled last night? I just don't remember.*

woofle-water AND **wozzle-water** *n.* whiskey; liquor. □ *Haven't you had just about enough woofle-water?* □ *No more wozzle-water for me.*

woolies *n.* long underwear. □ *It's the time of the year for woolies!* □ *I wish I'd worn my woolies today.*

woozy ['wʊzi] **1.** *mod.* sleepy; disoriented. □ *Aren't you woozy at this time of day?* □ *Who is that woozy gal by the window?* □ *I'm still sort of woozy. Give me a minute or two to wake up.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *I felt a little woozy, but that didn't stop me from having more.* □ *Woozy as I am, I can still drive. Now, give me back my keys.*

Word. **1.** AND **Word up.** *interj.* Correct; Right. □ *I hear you, man. Word.* □ *Word. I agree.* □ *Yes, it's time to go. Word up.* **2.** *interj.* Hello. □ *Word. What's new.* □ *Word. Living large?*

word hole AND **cake hole; pie hole** *n.* the mouth. □ *Put this food in your word hole, chew it up, and swallow it.*

Word up. Go to Word.

workaholic *n.* someone who is obsessed with work. □ *Jerry is a workaholic. He*

can't enjoy a vacation. □ *Are workaholics really productive?*

working stiff *n.* a working man; a man who must work to live. (See also **stiff**.) □ *But does the working stiff really care about all this economic stuff?* □ *All the working stiff's want is a raise.*

work one's ass off Go to work one's tail off

work one's buns off Go to work one's tail off.

work one's butt off Go to work one's tail off.

work oneself up *tv.* to allow oneself to become emotionally upset. □ *Todd worked himself up, and I thought he would scream.* □ *Don't work yourself up over Tracy. She's not worth it.*

work oneself (up) into a lather **1.** *tv.* to work very hard and sweat very much. (In the way that a horse works up a lather.) □ *Don't work yourself up into a lather. We don't need to finish this today.* □ *I worked myself into a lather getting this stuff ready.* **2.** *tv.* to get excited or angry. (An elaboration of **work oneself up to something**.) □ *Now, now, don't work yourself up into a lather.* □ *He had worked himself into such a lather, I was afraid he would have a stroke.*

work oneself up to something *tv.* to get oneself mentally ready to do something. □ *I spent all morning working myself up to taking the driver's test.* □ *I had to work myself up to it little by little.*

work one's tail off AND **work one's ass off; work one's buns off; work one's butt off** *tv.* to work very hard. (Use caution with **butt**.) □ *I worked my tail off to get done on time.* □ *You spend half your life working your butt off—and for what?*

the **works** *n.* the entire amount; everything. □ *I'd like my hamburger with onions, pickles, catsup, mustard—the works.* □ *She's getting the works at the beauty shop—cut, wash, dye, and set.*

work someone over **1.** *tv.* to threaten, intimidate, or beat someone. □ *Ziggy threatened to work Sam over.* □ *Bruno*

had worked over Terry, and Sam knew that this was no idle threat. **2.** *tv.* to give someone's body a thorough examination or treatment. ☐ *The doctors worked her over to the tune of \$1,500, but couldn't find anything wrong with her.* ☒ *The dermatologist worked over her entire body looking for moles.*

world-beater *n.* an aggressive and ambitious person. ☐ *She's not a world-beater, but she's efficient.* ☐ *They hired an alleged world-beater to manage the office.*

world-class *mod.* absolutely top rate. ☐ *Now this is a world-class computer. Lots and lots of memory.* ☐ *I want to see one of your world-class automobiles, whatever that might mean.* ☐ *This one isn't world-class.*

The **world is one's oyster.** *phr.* one rules the world; one is in charge of everything. ☐ *I feel like the world is my oyster, today.* ☐ *The world is my oyster! I'm in love!*

worm *n.* a repellent person, usually a male. ☐ *Gad, you are a worm, Tom.* ☐ *I'd like Fred better if he wasn't such a worm.*

worm-food *n.* a corpse. ☐ *You wanna end up worm-food? Just keep smarting off.* ☐ *In the end, we're all worm-food.*

worms *n.* noodles; spaghetti. ☐ *Let's have worms tonight.* ☐ *Are the worms ready for the sauce yet?*

worms in blood *n.* spaghetti in tomato sauce. ☐ *We're having worms in blood for dinner tonight.* ☐ *I'm getting tired of worms in blood every Wednesday.*

worry wart *n.* someone who worries all the time. ☐ *Don't be such a worry wart.* ☐ *I'm sorry I'm such a worry wart.*

worship the porcelain god(dess) *tv.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. (Collegiate.) ☐ *Somebody was in the john worshipping the porcelain god till all hours.* ☐ *I think I have to go worship the porcelain goddess. See ya.*

worst-case scenario *n.* the worse possible future outcome. ☐ *Now, let's look at the worst-case scenario.* ☐ *In the worst-case scenario, we're all dead.*

worth one's salt *mod.* worth (in productivity) what it costs to keep one. ☐ *We decided that you are worth your salt, and you can stay on as office clerk.* ☐ *You're not worth your salt. Pack up!*

would not be seen dead *phr.* would not do something under any circumstances. ☐ *I wouldn't be seen dead going out with Ziggy!* ☐ *Martha would not be seen dead going into a place like that.*

wouldn't touch someone or something with a ten-foot pole *tv.* would not get involved with someone or something. ☐ *Forget it. I wouldn't touch it with a ten-foot pole.* ☐ *Tom said he wouldn't touch Tracy with a ten-foot pole.*

Would you believe? *interrog.* Isn't it amazing? ☐ *He actually tried to get me to scratch his bare back! Would you believe?* ☐ *Would you believe? A three-cent per hour raise?*

wow **1.** *exclam.* an indication of amazement or surprise. (Usually **Wow!**) ☐ *Wow! Is he ever ugly!* ☐ *A whole quarter! Wow! Thanks, mister.* **2.** *tv.* to delight or impress someone. ☐ *She wowed them with her cleverness.* ☐ *That ought to wow them right out of their seats.* **3.** *n.* something exciting. ☐ *The game was a real wow.* ☐ *For a pretty good wow, try the Empire Theater's production of "Mame" this weekend.* **4.** *n.* an exclamation point. ☐ *Put a wow at the end of this sentence.* ☐ *Almost every sentence you write has a wow at the end of it.*

wozzle-water Go to woofle-water.

wrap one's car around something *tv.* to drive one's car into something at fairly high speed. ☐ *She wrapped her car around a light pole.* ☐ *If he hadn't wrapped his car around a tree, he'd be here to read his own poetry tonight.*

wrapped up (in someone or something) *mod.* concerned or obsessed with someone or something. ☐ *Sally is pretty wrapped up in herself.* ☐ *I'm too wrapped up in my charity work to get a job.*

wrapped up (with someone or something) *mod.* busy with someone or something. ☐ *He's wrapped up with a client*

right now. □ *I'll talk to you when I'm not wrapped up.*

wrap something up *tv.* to finish something; to bring something to a conclusion. □ *Let's wrap this up and go home.* □ *Well, that about wraps up our little session together.*

wrecked *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *Four beers and I was wrecked.* □ *Larry was far too wrecked to drive.*

wrinkle **1.** *n.* a new idea; a new aspect of something. □ *Fred came up with a new wrinkle for the ad campaign.* □ *Here's a clever wrinkle for you. Nobody has ever tried this one.* **2.** *n.* a minor problem. □ *A wrinkle has developed in the Wilson proposal.*

wrinkle-rod *n.* the crankshaft of an engine. □ *A wrinkle-rod'll set you back about \$199, plus installation charges, of course.*

wrongo ['rɒŋo] **1.** *mod.* wrong. □ *You are totally wrongo.* □ *Wrongo, wrongo! You lose!* **2.** *n.* an undesirable thing or person; a member of the underworld. □ *The guy's a total wrongo. He's got to be guilty.* □ *This whole business is a complete wrongo. Something's fishy.*

wrong side of the tracks *n.* the poor side of town. □ *Fred's ashamed that he's from the wrong side of the tracks, so to speak.* □ *I'm glad I'm from the wrong side of the tracks. I know what life is really like.*

wuss(y) [wʊs AND 'wʊsi] *n.* a wimp; a weak person. □ *Don't be such a wuss. Stand up for your rights.* □ *Wussies like you will never get ahead.*

Wusup? AND **Wassup?** *interrog.* What's up? □ *Wusup! What's going on around here?* □ *Hey, man! Wassup?*

WYSIWYG Go to **What you see is what you get.**

X

X'd out **1.** *mod.* eliminated; crossed-out. □ *But the Babbits are X'd out.* □ *Put the X'd out Babbits back where they were.* **2.** *mod.* killed. (Underworld.) □ *Mr. Big wanted Pete X'd out.* □ *He wanted Ziggy to see that all these small-time punks were X'd out.*

X marks the spot. *sent.* This is the exact place! (A catchphrase.) □ *This is where it happened. X marks the spot.* □ *X marks the spot where we first met.*

XMT *tv.* excuse my typing; I am sorry I type so poorly. (Used in electronic mail and computer forum or news group messages. Not pronounced aloud.) □ *Sory about that. XMT.* □ *XMT. I have a sore finger and I keep hitting the wrong keys.*

XYZ *tv.* examine your zipper; make sure your fly is zipped up. (Initialism. Said to men when necessary.) □ *I say there, Wally, XYZ.* □ *XYZ, Fred.*

Y

ya *pro.* you. (Eye-dialect. Typical spoken English. Used in writing only for effect. Used in the examples of this dictionary.)
☐ See ya! ☐ Is this all ya want?

yack AND **yock**; **yuck**; **yuk** [jæk AND jɒk, jək] **1.** *n.* a foolish person. ☐ Who's the yock wearing the red bandana? ☐ Get some yuk to do it. I'm busy. **2.** *n.* idle chatter. ☐ I've heard enough yack to last me a lifetime. ☐ Too much yock. Where's the beef? **3.** Go to yak.

yackety-yak ['jækədi'jæk] *n.* chatter; gossip. ☐ No more yackety-yak. ☐ That's enough yackety-yak. Quiet!

yahoo ['jahu] *n.* a rustic oaf; an uncouth jerk. ☐ Ask that yahoo to close the door after him. ☐ What yahoo brought this dog in here?

yak AND **yack** [jæk] **1.** *in.* to talk. ☐ Stop yakking for a minute. ☐ I need to yak with you about something. **2.** *n.* a chat. ☐ We had a nice little yack and then left for work. ☐ Drop by for a yak sometime. **3.** *n.* a joke. ☐ That was a lousy yak. ☐ Don't tell that yack again. It's not a winner. **4.** *n.* a laugh from a joke. ☐ We had a good yack over it. ☐ The audience produced a feeble yak that was mostly from embarrassment. **5.** *in.* to vomit. (Onomatopoeic.) ☐ Hank was in the john yakking all night. ☐ Who yakked on the carpet?

yak it up *tv.* to talk incessantly or a lot. ☐ Why don't you all just yak it up while I get ready to give the talk? ☐ Stop yakking it up and listen.

yakky ['jæki] *mod.* talkative. ☐ He's a yakky old man, but I like him. ☐ Isn't she yakky today?

yank 1. *tv.* to harass someone. (See also **yank someone around**.) ☐ Stop yanking me! ☐ Yank the welcher a little and see what that does. **2.** *n.* a Yankee; a U.S. soldier. (Usually **Yank**.) ☐ I don't care if you call me a yank. That's what I am. ☐ Hey, Yank! What's new? **3.** *in.* to vomit. ☐ Somebody or some animal yanked on the driveway. ☐ I think I gotta go yank.

yanked *mod.* arrested. (Underworld.) ☐ Lefty got himself yanked one too many times. ☐ Everybody in the gang got yanked at least once last week.

yank one's strap Go to beat the dummy.

yank someone around *tv.* to harass someone; to give someone a hard time. (See also **jerk someone around**.) ☐ Listen, I don't mean to yank you around all the time, but we have to have the drawings by Monday. ☐ Please stop yanking me around.

yank someone's chain AND **pull someone's chain** *tv.* to harass someone; to give someone a hard time. (As if one were a dog wearing a choker collar, on a leash.) ☐ Stop yanking my chain! ☐ Do you really think you can just pull my chain whenever you want?

yank someone's crank *tv.* to tease a male sexually. ☐ Don't pay any attention to her. She's just yanking your crank. ☐ Come on, stop yanking my crank and let's get it on!

yap 1. *n.* the mouth. ☐ Shut your yap! ☐ You have a big yap, you know? **2.** *in.* to chatter; to gossip. ☐ Who's yapping so much in here? ☐ Did you just come here to yap? **3.** *n.* nonsense; gibberish. ☐ That's just yap. Forget it. They mean no harm. ☐ That windbag can produce an enormous amount of yap. **4.** *in.* to empty one's

stomach; to vomit. □ *Who yapped in the bushes?* □ *Ye gods, do I hear one of our guests yapping in the powder room?* **5.** *n.* a naive person; a dupe. □ *The poor yap was made a fool of.* □ *See if you can get that yap to bring over a left-handed monkey wrench.*

yard *n.* a one-hundred-dollar bill. (Underworld.) □ *The guy wanted a yard just to fix a little dent in the fender.* □ *Pay him a yard to shut up about what he saw.*

yardbird **1.** *n.* a convict. □ *Who's the yardbird with the headphones on his noodle?* □ *So, Charlie was a yardbird. So what?* **2.** *n.* an inept soldier. (Military.) □ *You yardbirds are going to learn discipline one way or another.* □ *How many of you yardbirds would like to go home in one piece?*

yard dog *n.* a repellent person; an uncouth person. □ *Is that lousy yard dog hanging around the neighborhood again?* □ *Yup. It's that yard dog, Pete.*

yatata-yatata ['jætətə'jætətə] *n.* the sound of chatter or yak. □ *All I ever hear around here is yatata-yatata.* □ *He gets on the phone, and it's yatata-yatata for hours.*

yawner *n.* a boring show or performance. □ *It was a yawner from the opening curtain straight through to the end.* □ *Your lecture, sir, was a total yawner.*

yazzihamper ['jæzihæmpə] *n.* an obnoxious person. □ *You are the most annoying yazzihamper I know!* □ *Who's the yazzihamper in the double knit?*

yea big ['je 'big] *mod.* about so big. (Accompanied by a hand gesture.) □ *Oh, it was about yea big.* □ *Do you have a panel that is about yea big?*

yeah ['jæə OR 'jæʊ] *interj.* yes. □ **LEFTY:** *You okay?* **BRUNO:** *Yeah.* □ **LEFTY:** *Yeah?* **BRUNO:** *Yeah! I said yeah! Did you hear me say yeah?*

Yeah, right! *exclam.* the ultimate sarcastic response of disbelief. □ *A: I know I can pass algebra. I just know it. B: Yeah, right!* □ *Yeah, right! You were just going through my desk looking for a pencil.*

yeaster *n.* a beer drinker. □ *A couple of yeasters in the back of the tavern were*

singing a dirty song. □ *Who's the yeaster with the bloodshot eyes?*

Yec(c)h! [jek OR jetʃ] *exclam.* Horrible! It's yucky! □ *Oh, yech! What's that stuff?* □ *Yecch! It's moving!*

yegg [jæg] **1.** *n.* a tramp, thief, or safe-cracker. (Underworld.) □ *The cops hauled in the usual yeggs, but they all had alibis.* □ *See if you can find that yegg we worked with on the bank job. He'll do.* **2.** *n.* an obnoxious male. □ *Don't act like such a yegg, Bill.* □ *A couple of drunken yeggs were talking a little too loud, so Ziggy showed them the door.*

Ye gods! *exclam.* Good grief! □ *Ye gods! What is this stuff here?* □ *Ye gods! My hair is falling out.*

Yello. ['jɛ'lo] *interj.* Hello. (Said with any intonation that would be appropriate with hello.) □ *Yello, Dave Jones speaking.* □ *Yello, Smith residence.*

yell one's guts out Go to yell one's head off.

yell one's head off AND **yell one's guts out** **1.** *tv.* to yell loud and long. □ *I was yelling my head off at the game.* □ *Stop yelling your guts out and listen to me.* **2.** *tv.* to complain bitterly and loudly. □ *Some lady is yelling her head off about shoddy workmanship out in the lobby.* □ *I yell my guts out about tripe when I see tripe!*

yellow *mod.* cowardly. □ *Who says I'm yellow?* □ *Bruno says you're yellow. Wanna make something of it?*

yellow-bellied *mod.* cowardly. □ *You are a yellow-bellied coward!* □ *I'm not yellow-bellied!* □ *What yellow-bellied skunk ran off with my horse?*

yellow-belly *n.* a coward. □ *He's not a yellow-belly. He's cautious.* □ *Tell the yellow-belly to come outside and say that.*

yellow streak (down someone's back) *n.* a tendency toward cowardice. □ *Tim's got a yellow streak down his back a mile wide.* □ *Get rid of that yellow streak. Show some courage.*

yelper *n.* the whooping (electronic) siren on emergency vehicles. ☐ *The black and white rounded the corner, yelper blasting.* ☐ *Turn off the yelper, Chuck, we hear you.*

yench [jentʃ] *tv.* to swindle someone; to victimize someone. (Underworld.) ☐ *The flimflam artist yenchd a couple of banks and then moved on.* ☐ *Somebody tried to yench the wrong guy at the circus.*

yenta ['jentə] *n.* a gossip, usually a woman. (Regarded as Yiddish.) ☐ *She can be such a yenta when she's got news.* ☐ *Tracy is a yenta if ever there was one.*

yep Go to yup.

Yes! *interj.* Absolutely yes! (Always with a special intonation that holds the *y* on a higher pitch and then drops the pitch sharply. The word itself is not slang, but the word with this intonation is part of many slang contexts.) ☐ *That's right! Yes!* ☐ *Yes! Exactly right!*

Yo! *interj.* Hello!; Attention, please!; Wait a minute! ☐ *Yo, Michael! What's new?* ☐ *Yo! Come over here.*

yock AND **yok** [jɒk] **1.** *in.* to laugh loudly. (See also **yak**.) ☐ *Everybody yocked at the joke, and when things calmed down, I announced the mass firings.* ☐ *Stop yocking and listen to this.* **2.** *n.* a loud laugh. ☐ *Sue let out an enormous yock and quickly covered her mouth.* ☐ *Who came out with that uncivil yock?* **3.** Go to **yack**.

yodeling in a canyon *in.* talking aimlessly. ☐ *You are just yodeling in a canyon if you think I really care about it.* ☐ *Stop yodeling in a canyon and start making sense.*

yok Go to yock.

yoked [jɒkt] *mod.* having well-marked abdominal muscles. ☐ *That guy is really yoked. I wonder how much he works out.* ☐ *I'm too fat to ever get yoked.*

yola *n.* cocaine. ☐ *Albert spends too much time snorting yola.*

yo mama *interj.* so you say. (Black.) ☐ *Not enough bread! Yo mama.* ☐ *Yo mama! The hell you say!*

york [jɒrk] **1.** *in.* to empty one's stomach; to vomit. ☐ *He ate the stuff, then went*

straight out and yorked. ☐ *Who yorked in the flowerpot?* **2.** *n.* vomit. ☐ *Is that york I see on the living room window?* ☐ *Hey, Jimmy! Come out in the snow and see the frozen york!*

You and what army? Go to You and who else?

You and who else? AND **You and what army?** *interrog.* Who besides you is threatening me? ☐ *You're gonna whup me?* *You and who else?* ☐ *You and what army are gonna yank my chain?*

You asked for it! *exclam.* Here it comes, and you deserve it! ☐ *So you want the full treatment? You asked for it!* ☐ *So, you wanted to hear both sides of the record? You asked for it!*

You bet. *interj.* Yes.; You can bet on it. ☐ *Can you have two? You bet.* ☐ *You bet; it's all settled.*

You betcha! ['ju 'betʃə] *interj.* Yes!; You can be sure of it! (Literally, You bet, you.) ☐ *Will I be there? You betcha.* ☐ *Can I? You betcha!*

You bet your boots! *exclam.* You can be absolutely certain! ☐ *Am I happy? You bet your boots!* ☐ *You bet your boots I'm mad.*

You bet your sweet life! *exclam.* You are absolutely correct! ☐ *Happy? You bet your sweet life!* ☐ *You bet your sweet life I am glad!*

You bet your sweet patoot(ie)! *exclam.* You can be absolutely certain! (Patootie is the buttocks.) ☐ *You bet your sweet patootie I'm serious!* ☐ *I'll be there! You bet your sweet patoot!*

You can say that again! *exclam.* I agree! ☐ *You can say that again! It's really hot!* ☐ *You can say that again! You hit the nail right on the head.*

You can't dance at two weddings. *sent.* You cannot do two things at once. ☐ *Either go to the beach with Fred or stay here with me. You can't dance at two weddings.* ☐ *Decide which one you want to buy. You can only have one and you can't dance at two weddings.*

You can't fight city hall. *sent.* You cannot fight a bureaucracy. ☐ *I finally gave up. You can't fight city hall.* ☐ *You can't fight city hall. Pay the parking ticket and forget it.*

You can't get there from here. *sent.* Where you want to go is in a very remote location. (A catchphrase.) ☐ *Well, you can't get there from here.* ☐ *Adamsville? Sorry, you can't get there from here.*

You can't take it with you. *sent.* You cannot take wealth with you when you die. ☐ *Enjoy it now. You can't take it with you.* ☐ *My uncle doesn't believe that saying, you know, "You can't take it with you." He's going to try.*

You can't win them all. **AND You can't win 'em all.** *sent.* No one succeeds all the time. (Said when someone fails.) ☐ *Don't fret about it, Tom. You can't win them all.* ☐ *You can't win 'em all, but you can't lose 'em all, either.*

You could have knocked me over with a feather. *sent.* I was completely surprised. ☐ *I was shocked. You could have knocked me over with a feather.* ☐ *You could have knocked me over with a feather, I was so zapped!*

You don't know the half of it. *sent.* Things are far more complicated than you think. ☐ *You think that's bad? You don't know the half of it.* ☐ *You don't know the half of it, and I'm too much a lady to tell.*

You eat with that mouth? **Go to (Do) you eat with that mouth?**

You got it! 1. *exclam.* I agree to what you asked! You will get what you want! ☐ *You want a green one? You got it!* ☐ *This one? You got it!* **2.** *exclam.* You are right! ☐ *That's it! You got it!* ☐ *That's the answer. You got it!*

You got that? *interrog.* Do you understand? ☐ *You are not to go into that room! You got that?*

You guys bitchin'? *interrog.* Hello, how are you? ☐ *Tsup? You guys bitchin'?* ☐ *You guys bitchin'? What's poppin'?*

You (had) better believe it! *exclam.* It is true without question! ☐ *It's true. You better believe it.* ☐ *Yes, this is the best, and you had better believe it!*

You heard the man. *sent.* Do what the man tells you. (See also **man**.) ☐ *You heard the man. Get over there and stand still.* ☐ *Shut up! You heard the man.*

You kiss your momma with that mouth? **Go to (Do) you eat with that mouth?**

young blood 1. *n.* a newcomer. ☐ *The young blood gets a desk by the window.* ☐ *We keep young bloods so busy they never have a chance to look out the window.* **2.** *n.* a young, black male. (Black. See also **blood**.) ☐ *A young blood from two streets over came around asking for trouble today.* ☐ *Tell that young blood to beat it.*

young Turk *n.* a contentious young person who goes against the system. ☐ *The young Turks are acting up again.* ☐ *Not another young Turk!*

You're the doctor. *sent.* I will do anything you say!; You are in charge! ☐ *I'll do it if you say. You're the doctor!* ☐ *Put it over here. Okay, you're the doctor.*

Your guess is as good as mine. *sent.* I don't know either. ☐ *I don't know. Your guess is as good as mine.* ☐ *Your guess is as good as mine as to when the train will get in.*

Your place or mine? *interrog.* Shall we carry on an affair at your dwelling or mine? ☐ *Then I said to her, "Your place or mine?" Then she clobbered me.* ☐ *Your place or mine? It doesn't matter.*

yours truly *n.* me, the speaker or writer. ☐ *If yours truly had a problem like that, it would be settled by nightfall.* ☐ *If it was up to yours truly, there wouldn't be any such problem.*

You've got another think coming. *sent.* You have made an error. Think again. ☐ *If you think I'm going to let you get away with that, you've got another think coming.* ☐ *You've got another think coming if you think I'll do it.*

You want to step outside? *interrog.* Do you intend to start a fight?; Shall we go

outside and fight? ☐ So, you don't like the way I talk! You want to step outside? ☐ You want to step outside? We can settle this once and for all.

You wish! Go to (Don't) you wish!

yoyo AND **yo-yo** ['jojə] **1.** *n.* a fool; an obnoxious person. ☐ Who's the yo-yo in the plaid pants? ☐ Some yoyo wants to talk to you on the phone. **2.** *mod.* stupid. ☐ Ask that yo-yo jerk to move along. ☐ That is the world's yoyoest joke! **3.** *in.* to vacillate; to be wishy-washy. ☐ Stop yo-yoing and make up your mind. ☐ He's always got to yoyo a little before deciding.

yuck AND **yuk** [jək] **1.** *n.* someone or something disgusting. (Also a term of address.) ☐ I don't want any of that yuck on my plate! ☐ Who is that yuk in the red bandana? **2.** *exclam.* Horrible! (Usually **Yuck!**) ☐ Oh, yuck! Get that horrible thing out of here! ☐ Yuck! It looks alive! **3.** *n.* a joke. ☐ Come on! Chill out! It was just a yuck. ☐ Not a very good yuk if you ask me. **4.** Go to **yack**.

yucky ['jəki] *mod.* nasty. ☐ What is this yucky pink stuff on my plate? ☐ This tastes yucky.

yuk Go to **yack**; **yuck**.

yuke Go to **uke**.

yummy ['jəmi] **1.** *mod.* delicious. ☐ This stuff is really yummy. ☐ Who made this yummy cake? **2.** *mod.* delightful; beautiful. ☐ Who is that yummy blonde? ☐ This evening was just yummy.

yup AND **yep** [jəp AND jɛp] *interj.* yes. (Folksy.) ☐ Yup, I'd say so. ☐ I think so. Yep, that's right.

yuppie ['jəpi] **1.** *n.* a young urban professional. ☐ The yuppies are getting a lot of flack these days. ☐ Why pick on yuppies? **2.** *mod.* having to do with yuppies. ☐ I don't want to drive one of those yuppie cars. ☐ You got something against yuppie beemers?

yutz [juts] *n.* a fool; a simpleton. ☐ Don't act like such a yutz! ☐ Who is the yutz blocking the doorway?

Z

za [za] *n.* pizza. (Collegiate.) □ *I'm gonna spring for some za.* □ *Who wants some of this za?*

zagged *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *How can anybody get so zagged on three beers?* □ *Wow, is she zagged!*

zany ['zeni] *mod.* silly. □ *What a zany chick!* □ *Clare is so zany.* □ *That is a zany idea, but I like it.*

zap **1.** *tv.* to shock someone. □ *That fake snake zapped me for a minute.* □ *The incident zapped me, but good.* **2.** *tv.* to kill someone. □ *The stress from it all nearly zapped him.* □ *I was afraid that one of those thugs would zap me.* **3.** *tv.* to impress someone. □ *My big idea really zapped the boss. I may get a raise.* □ *I like to have something to zap the board with at every meeting.* **4.** *tv.* to stun someone with an imaginary ray gun. □ *Jimmy swung around the corner and zapped me.* □ *He zapped me with a water gun.* **5.** *exclam.* Wow! (Usually **Zap!**) □ *Zap! I did it again!* □ *He said, "Zap!" indicating that he really liked the present, I guess.* **6.** *tv.* to defeat someone or a team. □ *They zapped us 10-8.* □ *Fred zapped Tracy in the spelling bee.* **7.** *in.* to zip or move to somewhere very fast. □ *I'll zap over and see if the duplicating is ready yet.* □ *He's zapping to the drugstore for some aspirin.*

zapped **1.** *mod.* tired; exhausted. □ *I'm too zapped to go on.* □ *I'm way zapped. Good night.* **2.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *We all got zapped and then went home.* □ *Marty is too zapped to stand up.*

zappy *mod.* energetic; zippy. □ *How can you be so zappy at this time of the morning?* □ *That music is a little too zappy for me.*

zarf [zarf] *n.* an ugly and repellent male. □ *Ooo, who is that zarf who just came in?* □ *That zarf is Martin, and he makes all A's, and he helps me with my homework, so just shut up!*

zebra *n.* a referee. (Because of the black and white striped shirt.) □ *The zebra blew the whistle on almost every play.* □ *There were not enough zebras to start the game.*

zeek out [zik...] *in.* to lose control of oneself. □ *I was in a pretty bad state. I almost zeeked out.* □ *Fred zeeked out and had to be calmed down.*

Zelda ['zeldə] *n.* a dull and ugly female. (See also **Clyde**.) □ *I'm not as much of a Zelda as you think.* □ *Nobody's gonna call my sister a Zelda and get away with it.*

zerk [zə-k] *n.* a stupid person; a jerk. □ *Who's the zerk in the plaid pants?* □ *Don't be a zerk! Do what you're told.*

zerked (out) ['zəkt...] *mod.* drug intoxicated; heavily drug intoxicated. □ *Gary looked really zerked out, and I thought he was really stoned.* □ *Max gets zerked out every weekend.*

zerking *mod.* strange; zerk-like. □ *Who is that zerking nerd over there?* □ *That zerking little guy is Martin, and I like him.*

zero *n.* an insignificant person; a nobody. □ *Pay her no mind. She is a zero around here.* □ *I want to be more in life than just another zero.*

zhlub Go to schlub.

zhlubby ['ʒlɒbi] *mod.* dull; boorish. (See also **schlub**.) □ *Who is the zhlubby type with the plaid pants?* □ *That guy is so zhlubby!* □ *I can't sit through this zhlubby thing one more minute.*

zilch [zɪltʃ] *n.* nothing. ☐ *And what do I get? Zilch, that's what!* ☐ *"Even zilch is too much," said the clerk.*

zing **1.** *n.* energy; dynamism. ☐ *Put some zing into this dance number. You wanna put the audience to sleep?* ☐ *This whole business needs more zing.* **2.** *tv.* to make something penetrate; to shoot or fire something. ☐ *The crook zinged a couple of slugs into the floor and scared everyone to death.* ☐ *The kid zinged a paper clip into the wall.* **3.** *tv.* to assault someone verbally. ☐ *She zinged him with another clever remark.* ☐ *He zinged her back till he decided they were even.*

zinger **1.** *n.* something nice or fine. ☐ *That set of wheels is a real zinger.* ☐ *What a zinger of a hat!* **2.** *n.* a stinging remark. ☐ *She got off another zinger at her brother.* ☐ *I did not appreciate that zinger.*

zings *n.* the delirium tremens. ☐ *The old guy was suffering from the zings.* ☐ *What can they do for the zings?*

zip **1.** *n.* nothing. ☐ *There was no mail today. Nothing. Zip.* ☐ *I got zip from the booking agency all week.* **2.** *n.* a score or grade of zero. ☐ *Well, you got zip on the last test. Sorry about that.* ☐ *The prof said that zip is better than nothing, but I don't see how it could be.* **3.** *n.* vigor; spunk. ☐ *Put some zip into it. It's too ho-hum.* ☐ *This whole thing lacks the zip it needs to survive.* **4.** *in.* to move to a place fast. ☐ *I'll zip to the office and get a new form.* ☐ *He's just zipped out to get pizza.* **5.** *n.* a worthless person; a person who amounts to zero. ☐ *Who is that silly zip carrying all the books?* ☐ *Garth is such a zip. No brains in his head at all.*

zip along *in.* to move along rapidly. ☐ *Things are really zipping along here.* ☐ *Days are zipping along, and we're all getting lots done.*

zip gun *n.* a homemade handgun. (Underworld.) ☐ *The kid had a zip gun, so I didn't argue.* ☐ *Can he handle anything other than a zip gun?*

Zip it up! Go to Zip (up) your lip!

zipped *mod.* drug intoxicated. (Drugs.) ☐ *That tootsie left them zipped.* ☐ *The kid is too zipped to talk.*

zipper head *n.* a man with his hair parted in the middle. ☐ *Why are there so many zipper heads around here? Is this hair style on sale or something?* ☐ *Some zipper head behind the counter told me I couldn't come in without a shirt.*

zippy ['zɪpi] *mod.* lively; active. ☐ *Wow, is that kid zippy! Look at him dance!* ☐ *This is a real zippy number.*

Zip (up) your lip! AND **Zip it up!** *exclam.* Be quiet!; Zip up your mouth! ☐ *Shhhh! Zip up your lip!* ☐ *Zip your lip!* ☐ *Zip it up and listen!*

Zip your lip! Go to Zip (up) your lip!

zissified ['zɪsɪfaɪd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. ☐ *Two of them were zissified on rum. The rest just got a little wrecked.* ☐ *Man, is she zissified!*

zit [zɪt] *n.* a pimple. ☐ *Don't squeeze your zits on my mirror!* ☐ *That is one prize-winning zit on your nose.*

zit doctor *n.* a dermatologist. ☐ *The zit doctor I went to was a crater face!* ☐ *My zit doctor wears rubber gloves and has done so for years.*

zit-face Go to crater-face.

zob [zab] *n.* a worthless person; a nobody. ☐ *Another zob came in to try out for the part.* ☐ *Who's the zob in the plaid pants?*

zod [zad] **1.** *n.* any repellent thing or person. (California.) ☐ *Wally is such a total zod.* ☐ *Is this grody zod yours or mine?* **2.** *n.* a studious person. ☐ *Quiet. You don't want to disturb the zods.* ☐ *Dave decided to be a zod for a semester and see if he could pass his courses.*

zombie ['zambi] **1.** *n.* a weird and frightening person. ☐ *Martin is practically a zombie. Doesn't he ever go out—in the daylight, I mean?* ☐ *Tracy's getting to look like a zombie. Is she well?* **2.** *n.* a very stupid person. ☐ *Is this some kind of gath-ering of zombies and mouth-breathers or something?* ☐ *Please ask one of those zom-bies to stand by the door.* **3.** *n.* a very tired

person. □ *I feel like such a zombie. Maybe I'm not eating right.* □ *I'm just a zombie at this hour of the morning.*

zoned (out) **1.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *What's the matter with your eyes? Get a little zoned last night?* □ *Yeah, I'm sort of zoned out.* **2.** *mod.* exhausted. □ *After a day like this, I'm really zoned.* □ *Gotta get to bed. I'm just zoned out.*

zonk [zɒŋk] **1.** *tv.* to overpower someone or something. □ *We zonked the dog with a kick.* □ *It took two cops to zonk the creep.* **2.** *tv.* to tire someone out. (See also **zonked (out)**.) □ *The pills zonked me, but they made my cold better.* □ *Jogging always zonks me.*

zonked (out) AND **zounked (out)** [zɒŋkt... AND zəʊŋkt...] **1.** *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *She's too zonked to drive.* □ *Jed was almost zounked out to unconsciousness.* **2.** *mod.* exhausted; asleep. □ *She was totally zonked out by the time I got home.* □ *I'm zounked. Good night.*

zonker ['zɒŋkə] **1.** *n.* a drunkard. □ *The zonker just can't help himself.* □ *If I had known she was a confirmed zonker, I never would have given her a drink.* **2.** *n.* a marijuana smoker. (Drugs.) □ *A lot of these zonkers may take six years to get through high school.* □ *You are turning into a first-class zonker.*

zonk out *in.* to collapse from exhaustion; to go into a stupor from drugs or exhaustion. □ *I'm gonna go home and zonk out.* □ *I went home after the trip and just zonked out.*

zoo *n.* a confusing and chaotic place. □ *This place is a zoo on Monday mornings.* □ *Where is the person in charge of this zoo?*

zoobang ['zʊbæŋ] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Boy howdy! Are you ever zoobang!* □ *So, you think I'm zoobang? You want to step outside?*

zooed [zud] *mod.* drunk. □ *Sam likes to go out and get zooed every weekend.* □ *Garth is so silly when he's zooed.*

zooie AND **zooey** ['zui] *mod.* confusing and chaotic. (See also **zoo**.) □ *I can't get anything done in this zooie place.* □ *It's never zooey in my office, except for a little rowdiness at closing time.*

zoom **1.** *tv.* to gain entry to someplace without paying. □ *Both of them zoomed the circus, and both of them got arrested.* □ *Let's go zoom Martha's party!* **2.** AND **zoom off** *in.* to have a drug rush. (Drugs.) □ *Sam zoomed off and thought he had gone to heaven.* □ *Pete knows how to keep zooming for about twenty minutes.* **3.** AND **zoom off** *in.* to depart; to leave in a hurry. □ *Time's up. I've gotta zoom.* □ *Oh, you don't have to zoom off, do you?*

zoomies ['zumiz] *n.* members of the U.S. Air Force. (A nickname used by the Army. Persian Gulf War.) □ *The zoomies attacked the airfield and damaged a lot of planes.* □ *The zoomies attacked the spy headquarters and caused a lot of damage.*

zoom in (on someone or something) *in.* to focus or concentrate narrowly on someone or something. □ *The conversation zoomed in on Sally and her recent narrow escape from drowning.* □ *Let's zoom in on the question of salary.*

zoom off Go to **zoom**.

zoom out *in.* to lose control. □ *I nearly zoomed out when I got the news.* □ *Fred zoomed out and started screaming at Ernie.*

zoom someone out *tv.* to impress someone. □ *You can't zoom me out, you twit!* □ *Freddie is trying to zoom out Tiffany again.*

zoom up *in.* to drive or pull up to a place. □ *A car zoomed up, and seven kids got out.* □ *Let's zoom up to the door and see if she's home.*

zooted ['zudəd] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *Both of them were zooted to the max.* □ *She was too zooted to even see straight.*

zootied ['zutid] *mod.* intoxicated with drugs or alcohol. □ *Hank seems to be zootied. What's he on?* □ *Garth acts like a yutz whether he's zootied or not.*

zorked ['zorkt] *mod.* alcohol intoxicated. □ *She was zorked beyond help.* □ *Everybody was essentially zorked by midnight.*

zotz [zats] **1.** AND **zot.** [zat] *n.* zero; nothing. □ *I went out to get the mail, but there was zot.* □ *All I got for a raise was little more than zotz.* **2.** *tv.* to kill someone or something. □ *Pete threatened to zotz Ziggy, but it was just a threat.* □ *The gunman stepped up to the wall and zotzed two of the guards.*

zounked (out) Go to zonked (out).

zowie ['zaʊi] **1.** *n.* energy; sparkle; zest. □ *This one sounds better because the drummer has more zowie.* □ *Put some zowie into it. It's not raining inside tonight.* **2.** *ex-*

clam. Wow! (Usually **Zowie!**) □ *Zowie! They just pulled Mr. Big out of the river.* □ *Ziggy had enough of the guy and wasted him, but good. Zowie!*

zozzled ['zazld] *mod.* drunk. □ *Dave was too zozzled to drive.* □ *John had a few, but he didn't get zozzled or anything like that.*

zuke [zuk] *in.* to vomit. □ *The cat zuked on the living room carpet.* □ *I hear someone zukiing in the bathroom. What's going on?*

zunked [zʌŋkt] *mod.* alcohol or drug intoxicated. □ *That poor guy is so zunked he can't see.* □ *The party went on and on. When the preacher got himself zunked on the punch, I knew it had reached the end.*

Phrase-Finder Index

Use this index to find the form of a phrase that you want to look up in the dictionary. If you are looking for a single word, please look up that word in the main body of the dictionary. Single words are not indexed here. To use this index, pick out any major word in the phrase you are seeking. Then look up the simplest form of that word in this index to find the form of the phrase used in the dictionary. Finally, look up the phrase in the main body of the dictionary.

Some of the words occurring in the phrasal entries do not appear as entries in this index. Some words are omitted because they occur so frequently that their lists would cover many pages. In these instances, you should look up the phrase under some other word. Most of the grammar or function words, such as prepositions, pronouns, and articles, are not indexed.

abbreviate abbreviated piece of nothing
able able to cut something
abs washboard abs
absotively absotively (posilutely)
academy laughing academy
ace ace boom-boom
ace ace boon-coon
ace ace in the hole
ace ace in(to something)
ace ace out
ace ace someone out
ace have an ace up one's sleeve
ace hold all the aces
ace within an ace of (doing) something
acid acid test
acre God's acre
act class act
act clean one's act up
act Dutch act
act get in on the act
act get one's act together
action bit of the action
action chill someone's action
action in action
action piece (of the action)
action slice of the action
action where the action is
Adam Adam Henry
Adam up an' Adam

adios adios muchachos
adobe adobe dollar
affluence under the affluence of incohol
African African golf ball
African African grape
after look after number one
after morning after (the night before)
again hit me again
again Run that by (me) again.
again try someone back (again)
again You can say that again!
against up against it
age What's your age?
agree agree to disagree
ahead ahead of the game
ahead come out ahead
ahead full steam ahead
ahead one jump ahead of someone or something
ahead quit while one is ahead
aid thirst-aid station
aim aim for the sky
ain't ain't long enough
ain't That ain't hay!
air air ball
air air guitar
air air hose
air air kiss
air air one's belly

- air** air one's pores
air bear in the air
air come up for air
air full of hot air
air hot air
air up in the air (about someone or something)
Al Herb and Al
Al talk to Herb and Al
alarm five-alarm fire
alarm three-alarm fire
Albert Prince Albert
aleck smart aleck
alive Look alive!
alkied alkied (up)
all all meat and no potatoes
all all over someone like a cheap suit
all all over something
all all right
all (all) shook up
all all that and then some
all all that jazz
all all (that) meat and no potatoes
all all the way
all all the way live
all call (all) the shots
all can't win (th)em all
all daddy (of them all)
all Dash it all!
all drool (all) over someone or something
all dump all over someone or something
all for all I know
all for (all) one's trouble
all free for all
all Fuck it (all)!
all get it (all) together
all go all the way
all (grand)daddy (of them all)
all Hang it all!
all have all one's marbles
all have it all together
all hold all the aces
all If that don't fuck all!
all know all the angles
all let it all hang out
all lose (all) one's marbles
all not all that
all not all there
all Of all the nerve!
all once and for all
all pull out all the stops
all run on all cylinders
all That's all she wrote.
all That's all someone needs.
all warts and all
all You can't win them all.
- alley** alley apple
alley (right) up one's alley
alley up one's alley
alligator See you later, alligator.
almighty almighty dollar
along buzz along
along hump (along)
along tootle along
along zip along
alpha Alpha Charlie
alphabet alphabet soup
already Enough, already!
altar bow to the porcelain altar
ambulance ambulance chaser
amok run amok
amount pull down an amount of money
amount shell an amount of money out
amount shell out (an amount of money)
anal anal applause
anchor boat anchor
ancient ancient history
angel angel dust
angel angel hair
angel dust of angels
anger cage of anger
angle know all the angles
animal party animal
animal study animal
ankle ankle biter
ankle sprain one's ankle
another another peep (out of you)
another Tell me another (one)!
another You've got another think coming.
ant have ants in one's pants
any cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose
any Getting any?
apart take someone or something apart
apart tear someone or something apart
ape ape hangers
ape go ape (over someone or something)
apeshit go apeshit over someone or something
applause anal applause
apple alley apple
apple Big Apple
apple one smart apple
apple road apple
apple rotten apple
apple square apple
are Are we away?
arm bang in the arm
arm long arm of the law
arm put the arm on someone
arm shot in the arm
arm strong-arm man

- arm** strong-arm tactics
arm twist someone's arm
arm up in arms
army army brat
army You and what army?
around (a)round the bend
around been around (the block)
around blue around the gills
around bum around
around chippy around
around clown around
around dick around
around drag ass around
around drive someone around the bend
around effing around
around fart around
around F-ing around
around fuck around
around fuck around with someone
around fuck someone around
around futz around
around galumph (around)
around goof around
around green around the gills
around hack around
around hang (around)
around horse around
around jack around
around jack someone around
around jerk around
around jerk someone around
around kick around
around kick some ass (around)
around knock around
around mess around (with someone)
around mess around (with something)
around moist around the edges
around monkey around (with someone)
around monkey around (with something)
around mope around
around pal around (with someone)
around piddle (around)
around piss around
around play around (with someone)
around pussyfoot (around)
around putz around
around rat around
around screw around
around screw around with someone or something
around scrounge (around (for someone or something))
around spaz around
around stick around
around throw one's weight around
around tool around
around turn around
around waffle (around)
around wrap one's car around something
around yank someone around
arrow straight arrow
article genuine article
artillery heavy artillery
artist booze artist
artist bullshit artist
artist burn artist
artist castor oil artist
artist con artist
artist flimflam artist
artist hype artist
artist make-out artist
artist off artist
artist (rip-)off artist
artist take-off artist
artsy artsy (fartsy)
ask Don't ask.
ask Don't ask me.
ask You asked for it!
asleep asleep at the switch
asphalt asphalt jungle
ass ass out
ass ass over tit
ass bag ass (out of some place)
ass barrel ass
ass barrel ass (out of some place)
ass bust ass (out of some place)
ass bust (one's) ass (to do something)
ass chew someone's ass out
ass cut ass (out of some place)
ass drag ass around
ass drag ass (out of some place)
ass (flat) on one's ass
ass Get off my ass!
ass Get your ass in gear
ass gripe one's ass
ass haul ass (out of some place)
ass have a wild hair up one's ass
ass have one's ass in a crack
ass have one's ass in a sling
ass horse's ass
ass hunk of ass
ass It will be your ass!
ass kick-ass on someone
ass kick in the ass
ass kick some ass (around)
ass Kiss my ass!
ass kiss someone's ass
ass know one's ass from a hole in the ground
ass lard ass
ass not know one's ass from a hole in the ground
ass on one's ass

- ass pain in the ass
 ass piece of ass
 ass shag ass (out of some place)
 ass smart ass
 ass someone's ass is grass
 ass tits and ass
 ass work one's ass off
 asshole bouquet of assholes
 ate ate up with someone or something
 atomic atomic wedge
 attack Big Mac attack
 attention snap to (attention)
 attitude cop an attitude
 attitude pull an attitude
 aunt Aunt Flo
 avenue avenue tank
 avenue Madison Avenue
 aw (Aw) shucks!
 away Are we away?
 away blowed (away)
 away blown away
 away blow someone away
 away fire away
 away Get away!
 away piss something away
 away put someone away
 away put something away
 away slave away (at something)
 away squared away
 away squirrel something away
 away wash someone away
 ax get the ax
 ax give someone the ax
 Aztec Aztec two-step
 BA hang a BA (at someone)
 baby baby bear
 baby Baby Bell
 baby (baby) boomer
 baby baby needs shoes
 baby bottle baby
 baby jelly babies
 baby Keep the faith (baby)!
 bach bach (it)
 back back number
 back back room
 back back room boys
 back back to square one
 back back to the salt mines
 back back up
 back boys in the back room
 back drunk back
 back Get off my back!
 back get off someone's back
 back have a monkey on one's back
 back have a yellow streak down one's back
 back juice something back
 back kick back
 back knock back a drink
 back knock one back
 back laid back
 back on the back burner
 back pin someone's ears back
 back set someone back
 back throw something back
 back try someone back (again)
 back yellow streak (down someone's back)
 backdoor backdoor trot(s)
 backed backed up
 backfire backfire (on someone)
 backseat backseat driver
 bacon bring home the bacon
 bacon What's shakin' (bacon)?
 bad bad egg
 bad bad hair day
 bad bad news
 bad bad paper
 bad bad rap
 bad bad shit
 bad bad trip
 bad get in bad (with someone)
 bad in a bad way
 bad in bad shape
 bad My bad.
 bad so bad one can taste it
 badge lost-and-found badge
 bag bag ass (out of some place)
 bag Bag it!
 bag bag of bones
 bag bag of wind
 bag bag on someone
 bag bag someone
 bag bag some rays
 bag Bag that!
 bag Bag your face!
 bag barf bag
 bag doggy bag
 bag douche bag
 bag half in the bag
 bag in the bag
 bag one's bag
 bag slime bag
 bag What's in the bag!
 bag whole bag of tricks
 bagel catholic bagel
 bail bail (out)
 bail bail (out) on someone
 bail jump bail
 bait Fish or cut bait.
 bald bald-headed hermit
 bald bald-headed mouse
 ball African golf ball
 ball air ball

- ball** ball and chain
ball balled up
ball ball is in someone's court
ball ball off
ball ball of fire
ball ball park estimate
ball ball park figure
ball ball someone or something up
ball ball up
ball behind the eight ball
ball blue balls
ball break one's balls to do something
ball break someone's balls
ball drop the ball
ball end of the ball game
ball gopher ball
ball have a ball
ball have a man by the balls
ball on the ball
ball play ball (with someone)
ball put balls on something
ball snowball's chance in hell
ball That's the way the ball bounces.
ball whole ball of wax
ball whole new ball game
balloon go over like a lead balloon
balloon trial balloon
banana banana oil
banana banana republic
banana Cool bananas!
banana go bananas
banana top banana
band to beat the band
bandwagon on the bandwagon
bang (bang) dead to rights
bang bang for the buck
bang bang in the arm
bang get a bang out of someone or something
bang with a bang
banker banker's hours
bar behind bars
bar no holds barred
Barbie Barbie doll
bare stand there with one's bare face hanging out
barf barf bag
barf Barf City
barf barf out
barf Barf out!
barf barf someone out
bargain (bargaining) chip
bargain more than one bargained for
bargain no bargain
bark barking spider
barn can't hit the (broad) side of a barn
barn Were you born in a barn?
barnyard barnyard language
barrel barrel ass
barrel barrel ass (out of some place)
barrel barreled (up)
barrel barrel fever
barrel barrel of fun
barrel bottom of the barrel
barrel double-barreled slingshot
barrel loaded to the barrel
barrel scrape the bottom of the barrel
base base binge
base free base
base free base party
base get to first (base) (with someone)
base off base
base touch base (with someone)
base way off (base)
basket basket case
basket dinner basket
basket underwater basket weaving
Basra Basra belly
bat have bats in one's belfry
bat like a bat out of hell
batch ba(t)ch (it)
bath take a bath (on something)
bath tonsil bath
bathtub bathtub scum
bathtub vertical bathtub
batted batted out
battle battle of the bulge
bay bay window
BB BB brain
beach beach bum
beach beach bunny
beach fat as a beached whale
beam Beam me up, Scotty!
beam beam up
beam early beam(s)
beam on the beam
beam steam someone's beam
bean beaned up
bean bean head
bean bean time
bean Bean Town
bean Cool beans!
bean full of beans
bean not know beans (about something)
bean not worth beans
bean on the bean
bean spill the beans
bear baby bear
bear bear cage
bear bear in the air
bear bear trap
bear lady bear

- bear** loaded for bear
bear mama bear
bear Smokey (the Bear)
beat beat box
beat Beat it!
beat beat off
beat beat one's brains out (to do something)
beat beat one's gums
beat beat one's meat
beat beats me
beat beat someone or something out
beat beat someone's brains out
beat beat something out
beat beat the drum for someone or something
beat beat the dummy
beat beat the meat
beat beat the pup
beat beat the shit out of someone
beat beat up
beat take a beating
beat to beat the band
beauty beauty sleep
bed bed of roses
bed fall out of bed
bed make one's bed
bed musical beds
bed put someone to bed with a shovel
bed put to bed with a shovel
bedpost between you, me, and the bedpost
bedroom bedroom eyes
bedtime bedtime story
beef beef something up
beef bogus beef
beef bum beef
beef Where's the beef?
beer beer and skittles
beer beer belly
beer beer blast
beer beer bust
beer beer goggles
beer beer gut
beer cry in one's beer
beer hammer a beer
beer hammer some beers
beer pound a beer
beer pound some beers
beer slam a beer
beer slam some beers
beer small beer
beeswax mind your own beeswax
beeswax none of someone's beeswax
beet blow beets
before morning after (the night before)
behind behind bars
behind behind the eight ball
behind get behind someone or something
behind get behind something
belfry have bats in one's belfry
believe Believe you me!
believe I don't believe this!
believe Would you believe?
believe You (had) better believe it!
bell Baby Bell
bell bells and whistles
bell Hell's bells (and buckets of blood)!
bell Ma Bell
bell ring a bell
bell ring the bell
bell saved by the bell
bell with bells on
belly air one's belly
belly Basra belly
belly beer belly
belly belly button
belly belly fiddle
belly belly flop
belly belly laff
belly belly laugh
belly belly up
belly belly up (to something)
belly Delhi belly
belly go belly up
belly turn belly up
bellyache Quit your bellyaching!
below hit someone below the belt
belt belt the grape
belt hit someone below the belt
belt pull one's belt in (a notch)
belt rust belt
belt sun belt
belt take one's belt in (a notch)
belt tighten one's belt
bench bench jockey
bench bench warmer
bend (a)round the bend
bend bend one's elbow
bend bend the law
bend drive someone around the bend
bend round the bend
bent bent out of shape
berth soft berth
best best bud
best best buy
best level best
best one's best shot
best Sunday best
bet bet one's bottom dollar
bet bet someone dollars to doughnuts
bet You bet.
bet You bet your boots!
bet You bet your sweet life!
bet You bet your sweet patoot(ie)!

- betcha** You betcha!
better better half
better Better luck next time.
better seen better days
better You (had) better believe it!
between between a rock and a hard place
between between you, me, and the bedpost
between between you, me, and the lamppost
between put some distance between
 someone and someone or something
bhang bhang ganjah
Bible swear on a stack of Bibles
big Big Apple
big big blue
big big board
big big brother
big big bucks
big big cheese
big big deal
big big drink
big big drink of water
big big enchilada
big big fish
big big gun
big big house
big big iron
big big John
big big juice
big big kahuna
big big league
big Big Mac attack
big big man on campus
big big mouth
big big name
big big noise
big big of someone
big big shot
big big spender
big big stink
big big talk
big big time
big big-time operator
big big-time spender
big big top
big big wheel
big big with someone
big big Z's
big bite the big one
big buy the big one
big drive the big bus
big go over big
big have a (big) head
big have a big mouth
big in a big way
big Like it's such a big deal.
big make (it) big
big Mr. Big
big no big deal
big no biggie
big no big whoop
big play in the big leagues
big talk big
big talk on the big white phone
big yea big
bike bike boys
bike On your bike!
bilge drain the bilge
bill bill and coo
bill pay the water bill
bill phony as a three-dollar bill
bill queer as a three-dollar bill
bin loony bin
binge base binge
bird bird watcher
bird early bird
bird flip someone the bird
bird for the birds
bird ghetto bird
bird odd bird
bird on the bird
bird rare bird
bird strange bird
biscuit gorilla biscuits
biscuit mystic biscuit
bit bit much
bit bit of the action
bitch bitch box
bitch bitch of a someone or something
bitch bitch out
bitch bitch session
bitch bitch slammer
bitch bitch someone off
bitch bitch something up
bitch bitch tits
bitch bull bitch
bitch bush bitch
bitch pitch a bitch
bitch real bitch
bitch son of a bitch
bitchcakes go bitchcakes
bitching You guys bitchin'?
bite ankle biter
bite bite on someone
bite bite the big one
bite bite the bullet
bite bite the dust
bite Bite the ice!
bite Bite your tongue!
bite I'll bite.
bite monkey bite
bite put the bite on someone
biz show biz

black	black and blue	blow	blow chunks
black	black and white	blow	blow cold
black	black eye	blow	blowed (away)
black	early black	blow	blow grits
black	in the black	blow	blow in
black	little black book	blow	Blow it out your ear!
blanket	blanket drill	blow	blow jive
blanket	wet blanket	blow	blow job
blast	beer blast	blow	blow lunch
blast	full blast	blow	blow off
blast	(ghetto) blaster	blow	blow off (some) steam
blaze	(blue) blazes	blow	blow (one's) cookies
blaze	Go to blazes!	blow	blow one's cool
bleed	bleed for someone	blow	blow one's cork
bleed	bleed like a stuck pig	blow	blow one's doughnuts
bleed	bleed someone dry	blow	blow one's fuse
bleed	bleed someone white	blow	blow one's groceries
bleed	on the bleeding edge	blow	blow one's lid
blimp	blimp out	blow	blow one's lines
blimp	Have a blimp!	blow	blow (one's) lunch
blind	blind drunk	blow	blow one's own horn
blind	(blind) munchies	blow	blow one's stack
blind	rob someone blind	blow	blow one's top
blind	stone blind	blow	Blow on it!
blink	on the blink	blow	blow smoke
bliss	blissed (out)	blow	blow snot rockets
bliss	bliss ninny	blow	blow someone away
bliss	bliss out	blow	blow someone or something off
blither	blithering idiot	blow	blow someone out of the water
blitz	blitzed (out)	blow	blow someone's cover
block	been around (the block)	blow	blow someone's doors off
block	knock someone's block off	blow	blow someone's mind
block	on the chopping block	blow	blow someone to something
blood	blood and guts	blow	blow something wide open
blood	blood (brother)	blow	blow the joint
blood	cold blood	blow	blow the lid off something
blood	Hell's bells (and buckets of blood)!	blow	blow town
blood	in cold blood	blow	blow up
blood	in one's blood	blow	blow Z's
blood	piss blood	blow	(Go) blow it out your ear!
blood	scream bloody murder	blow	Joe Blow
blood	smell blood	blow	land a blow
blood	sweat blood	blow	low blow
blood	taste blood	blown	blown away
blood	too rich for someone's blood	blown	blown (out)
blood	worms in blood	blown	blown (up)
blood	young blood	blubber	blubber gut(s)
blooey	go blooey	blue	big blue
blossom	toddy blossom	blue	black and blue
blot	blot someone out	blue	blue and white
blow	blow a fuse	blue	blue around the gills
blow	blow a gasket	blue	blue balls
blow	blow a hype	blue	(blue) blazes
blow	blow a snot rocket	blue	blue boys
blow	blow beets	blue	blue chip
blow	blow chow	blue	blue coats

blue blue devils
blue blue flu
blue blue funk
blue blue in the face
blue blue suit
blue boys in blue
blue burn with a low blue flame
blue in a blue funk
blue little boy blue
blue men in blue
blue once in a blue moon
blue screwed, blueed, and tattooed
blue talk a blue streak
blue talk until one is blue in the face
BO BO juice
board big board
board draft board
board washboard abs
boat boat anchor
boat just off the boat
boat miss the boat
body body count
body body shake
body over my dead body
body warm body
bogus bogus beef
boil boiling (mad)
boiler pot boiler
bolt bucket of bolts
bolt nuts and bolts
bomb bombed (out)
bomb bomb (out)
bomb da bomb
bomb love bombs
bombshell drop a bomb(shell)
bond junk bond
bone bag of bones
bone bone factory
bone bone idle
bone bone orchard
bone bone out
bone crazy bone
bone have a bone on
bone knuckle bones
bone laid to the bone
bone pull a boner
bone silked to the bone
bong bonged (out)
bong do some bongs
bonkers drive someone bonkers
boo make a boo-boo
booby booby hatch
booby booby trap
boogie boogie down (to somewhere)
book book it
book crack a book

book fake book
book hit the books
book little black book
book make book on something
book pound the books
book take a page from someone's book
book throw the book at someone
book wish book
boom ace boom-boom
boom (baby) boomer
boom boom box
boom boom sticks
boon ace boon-coon
boot boot someone out
boot booty call
boot Jesus boots
boot knock boots
boot to boot
boot You bet your boots!
booze booze artist
booze booze it (up)
booze booze up
booze hit the booze
bop drop a bop
bore bore the pants off (of) someone
born Were you born in a barn?
bosom bosom buddy
bosom bosom chums
bosom bosom friends
boss boss dick
boss boss lady
boss boss man
boss straw boss
both both sheets in the wind
both It cuts both ways.
both swing both ways
bottle bottle baby
bottle brown bottle flu
bottle chief cook and bottle washer
bottle crack open a bottle
bottle head cook and bottle washer
bottle hit the bottle
bottom bet one's bottom dollar
bottom bottom dollar
bottom bottom fishing
bottom bottomless pit
bottom bottom line
bottom bottom of the barrel
bottom bottom of the heap
bottom bottom out
bottom Bottoms up.
bottom rock bottom
bottom scrape the bottom of the barrel
bottomless bottomless pit
bounce bounce for something
bounce bounce something off (of) someone

- bounce** deadcat bounce
bounce That's the way the ball bounces.
bouquet bouquet of assholes
bout bout it
bow bow to the porcelain altar
bowel Don't get your bowels in an uproar!
bowel get one's bowels in an uproar
bowl party bowl
box beat box
box bitch box
box boom box
box boxed in
box boxed on the table
box boxed (up)
box box someone in
box fuse box
box (ghetto) box
box go home in a box
box groan box
box idea box
box idiot box
box squawk box
boy back room boys
boy bike boys
boy blue boys
boy boys in blue
boy boys in the back room
boy fair-haired boy
boy good old boy
boy little boy blue
boy little boys' room
boy Oh, boy!
boy That's my boy.
brain BB brain
brain beat one's brains out (to do something)
brain beat someone's brains out
brain brain bucket
brain feather brain
brain have one's brain on a leash
brain have shit for brains
brain have something on the brain
brand (brand) spanking new
brand no brand cigarette
brand off-brand cigarette
brass brass(ed) (off)
brass brass hat
brass brass tacks
brass top brass
brat army brat
bread bread and butter
bread heavy bread
bread long bread
break Break a leg!
break Break it up!
break break one's balls to do something
break break out
break break someone's balls
break break the ice
break cut someone a break
break Gimme a break!
break Give me a break!
break take a break
break tough break
breakfast breakfast of champions
breakfast donkey's breakfast
breakfast Mexican breakfast
breakfast shoot one's breakfast
breathe Excuse me for breathing!
breeze fan the breeze
breeze shoot the breeze
breezy bright and breezy
brew brews brothers
brew quaff a brew
brew suck (some) brew
brick built like a brick shithouse
brick drop a brick
brick hit the bricks
brick like a ton of bricks
brick one brick shy of a load
brick shit a brick
brick three bricks shy of a load
bright bright and breezy
bright bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
bring bring home the bacon
bring bring someone down
bring bring someone on
bring bring something up
bring Earp slop, bring the mop.
broad can't hit the (broad) side of a barn
broad square john broad
broke dead broke
broke flat broke
broke go for broke
broke stone broke
Bronx Bronx cheer
brother big brother
brother blood (brother)
brother brews brothers
brother (soul) brother
brown brown bottle flu
brown browned (off)
brown brown hole
brown brown out
brown brown someone off
brownie brownie points
bruise cruising for a bruising
brushoff give someone the brushoff
bubble bubble water
bubble half a bubble off plumb
buck bang for the buck
buck big bucks
buck buck for something

buck buck naked
buck buck up
buck fast buck
buck pass the buck
buck quick buck
bucket brain bucket
bucket bucket of bolts
bucket gash bucket
bucket Hell's bells (and buckets of blood)!
bucket kick the bucket
bucket rust bucket
bucket slime bucket
bud best bud
bud sense (bud)
buddy bosom buddy
buddy buddy up to someone
buddy buddy up (with someone)
buddy good buddy
budget budget crunch
budget budget squeeze
buff in the buff
buffalo double buffalo
bug Bug off!
bug bug out
bug crank bugs
buick sell buicks
built built like a brick shithouse
bulb dim bulb
bulb light bulb
bulge battle of the bulge
bull bull bitch
bull bull session
bull company bull
bull full of bull
bull hit the bull's-eye
bull hung like a bull
bull shoot the bull
bull throw the bull
bullet bite the bullet
bullet magic bullet
bullet silver bullet
bullet sweat bullets
bullshit bullshit artist
bum beach bum
bum bum about someone or something
bum bum around
bum bum beef
bum bum check
bum bummed (out)
bum bum out
bum bum rap
bum bum someone out
bum bum something (off someone)
bum bum's rush
bum bum steer
bum bum trip

bum Hey, bum!
bum skid row bum
bum stew bum
bump bump someone off
bump Bump that!
bump bump uglies
bump Let's bump this place!
bumper Get off my bumper!
bunch bunch of fives
bunch thanks a bunch
bunch whole bunch
bundle bundle from heaven
bundle bundle of joy
bundle bundle of nerves
bundle drop a bundle (on someone)
bundle drop a bundle (on something)
bundle lose a bundle
bundle make a bundle
bunny beach bunny
bunny cuddle bunny
bunny dumb bunny
bunny fuck bunny
bunny snow bunny
buns work one's buns off
burb burbed out
burger flipping burgers
burn burn artist
burn burned out
burn burned up
burn burn rubber
burn burn someone down
burn burn someone up
burn burnt offering
burn burnt out
burn burn with a low blue flame
burn crash and burn
burn do a slow burn
burn hay burner
burn on the back burner
burn slow burn
bury bury the hatchet
bus drive the big bus
bus drive the porcelain bus
bus ride the porcelain bus
bush bush bitch
bush bush patrol
bush bush pig
bush mifky-pifky (in the bushes)
bushy bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
business business end (of something)
business funny business
business Get your nose out of my business!
business give someone the business
business in business
business Keep your nose out of my business!
business land office business

- business** like nobody's business
business mean business
business monkey business
business taking care of business
business That's show business (for you).
bust beer bust
bust bust a gut (to do something)
bust bust a move
bust bust ass (out of some place)
bust bust (one's) ass (to do something)
bust bust one's butt to do something
bust bust one's nuts to do something
bust bust on someone or something
bust bust someone one
bust bust (some) suds
bust bust something up
bust bust something wide open
Buster Hold it, Buster!
butcher wood butcher
butt bust one's butt to do something
butt butt-fucking Egypt
butt butt naked
butt Butt out!
butt clip a butt
butt dusty butt
butt gripe one's butt
butt kick in the butt
butt pain in the butt
butt work one's butt off
butter bread and butter
button belly button
button Button your lip!
button cactus (buttons)
button hit the panic button
button on the button
button press the panic button
button push the panic button
buy best buy
buy buy it
buy buy someone's wolf ticket
buy buy the big one
buy buy the farm
buy buy time
buy buy trouble
buzz buzz along
buzz get a buzz out of someone or something
buzz give someone a buzz
buzz have a buzz on
buzz rolling buzz
buzzard buzzard meat
buzzing What's buzzin' (cousin)?
bye kiss something good-bye
caboodle kit and caboodle
cactus cactus (buttons)
cactus cactus juice
cadet space cadet
cadillac hog cadillac
cage bear cage
cage cage of anger
Cain raise Cain
cake cake hole
cake icing on the cake
cake piece of cake
call booty call
call call (all) the shots
call call earl
call call hogs
call call house
call call hughie
call Call my service.
call call of nature
call call ralph
call call ruth
call call shotgun
call call someone out
call close call
call cold call
call Don't call us, we'll call you.
call Good call!
call nature's call
call pay a call
calm cool, calm, and collected
cam cam (red)
Cambodian Cambodian red
came This is where I came in.
camp camp it up
camper happy camper
campus big man on campus
campus campus queen
can Can it!
can can of worms
can can't hit the (broad) side of a barn
can can't win (th)em all
can get a can on
can If you can't stand the heat, keep out of the kitchen.
can no can do
can so bad one can taste it
can What can I do you for?
can You can say that again!
can You can't dance at two weddings.
can You can't fight city hall.
can You can't get there from here.
can You can't take it with you.
can You can't win them all.
cancel cancel someone's Christmas
cancer cancer stick
candy candy man
candy candy store
candy ear candy
candy needle candy
candy nose (candy)

- candy** rock candy
canito neato (canito)
cannon hash cannon
cannon loose cannon
cannot cannot see (any) further than the end
 of one's nose
canyon yodeling in a canyon
cap jimmy cap
captain captain of industry
car wrap one's car around something
card face card
card idiot card
care I could(n't) care less.
care Like I care.
care Take care.
care take care of number one
care take care of numero uno
care take care of someone
care taking care of business
carpet laugh at the carpet
carrot carrot top
carry carrying a (heavy) load
carry carry the stick
carry carry weight
cart honey cart
carve carved in stone
case basket case
case case of the shorts
case case the joint
case Don't make a federal case out of it!
case get off someone's case
case get on someone's case
case hard case
case make a federal case out of something
case worst-case scenario
cash cash cow
cash cash flow
cash cash in one's checks
cash cash in one's chips
cash Cash is king.
cash Cash is trash.
Caspar Caspar Milquetoast
cast casting couch
cast cast-iron stomach
castor castor oil artist
cat cats and dogs
cat cat's meow
cat cool cat
cat fraidy cat
cat Look (at) what the cat dragged in!
cat not enough room to swing a cat
cat purr (like a cat)
cat shoot the cat
cat sling the cat
catbird in the catbird seat
catch catch hell (for something)
catch catch some rays
catch catch something
catch catch some Z's
catch catch up
catch Catch you later.
catch What's the catch?
catholic catholic bagel
cause lost cause
ceiling hit the ceiling
cement cement city
central Grand Central Station
century century note
certain certain party
chain ball and chain
chain pull someone's chain
chain yank someone's chain
chamber chamber of commerce
champion breakfast of champions
chance fat chance
chance not a chance
chance snowball's chance in hell
change and change
change change the channel
change chump change
change go through the changes
change small change
channel change the channel
channel channel hopping
channel channel surfer
channel channel surfing
channel channel zapping
chapter chapter and verse
charge charged (up)
Charley good-time Charley
Charlie Alpha Charlie
Charlie Charlie Foxtrot
Charlie Charlie Irvine
Charlie Charlie Noble
chase ambulance chaser
chase chase the dragon
chase cut to the chase
chase Go chase yourself!
chase Go chase your tail!
chauvinist male chauvinist pig
cheap all over someone like a cheap suit
cheap cheap shot
cheap dirt cheap
cheapo el cheapo
check bum check
check cash in one's checks
check check out the plumbing
check check something out
check check that
check cut a check
check gravity check
check hot check

check rubber (check)
checkout eternal checkout
cheek water one's cheeks
cheer Bronx cheer
cheer holiday cheer
cheese big cheese
cheese cheesed off
cheese Cheese it (the cops)!
cheese chew the cheese
cheese cut the cheese
cheese Say cheese!
cherry desert cherry
chest take the spear (in one's chest)
chest war chest
chew chew face
chew chew someone out
chew chew someone's ass out
chew chew something over
chew chew the cheese
chew chew the fat
chew chew the rag
chicken chicken feed
chicken chicken out (of something)
chicken chicken powder
chicken chicken shit
chicken choke the chicken
chicken for chicken feed
chicken spring chicken
chief chief cook and bottle washer
chill chill (out)
chill chill someone's action
chill put the chill on someone
chill take a chill pill
chimney smoke like a chimney
chin chin music
chin take it on the chin
chin wag one's chin
China China white
Chinese Chinese red
Chinese Chinese white
chip (bargaining) chip
chip blue chip
chip cash in one's chips
chip cow chips
chip in the chips
chippy chippy around
chippy chippy (user)
chock pull chocks
choke choke the chicken
chop chopped liver
chop on the chopping block
chow blow chow
chow chow down
chow chow hound
chow chow something down
Christmas cancel someone's Christmas

Christmas Christmas tree
chuck chuck a dummy
chuck chuck it in
chuck chuck up
chum bosom chums
chump chump change
chump off one's chump
chunk blow chunks
church church key
chute go down the chute
cigar Close, but no cigar.
cigarette cigarette with no name
cigarette no brand cigarette
cigarette no name cigarette
cigarette off-brand cigarette
cinch dead cinch
cinch have something cinched
circle circle (the drain)
circle vicious circle
circular circular file
citizen Joe Citizen
city Barf City
city cement city
city fat city
city Headstone City
city Marble City
city You can't fight city hall.
civil civil serpent
clam clam up
class class act
clay clay pigeon
clean cleaned out
clean clean one's act up
clean clean someone out
clean clean sweep
clean clean up (on something)
clean come clean (with someone) (about something)
clean keep one's nose clean
clean squeaky clean
clean take someone to the cleaners
clear clear as mud
clear clear as vodka
clear clear out
clear clear sailing
click click (with someone)
climb climb the wall(s)
climb Go climb a tree!
cling cling like shit to a shovel
clip clip a butt
clip clip joint
clip clip someone's wings
clip roach clip
clock clock in
clock clock watcher
close (as) close as stink on shit

close close as stink on shit
close Close, but no cigar.
close close call
close close shave
closet come out of the closet
clown clown around
cluck dumb cluck
clue clue someone in
clueless totally clueless
cluster cluster fuck
clutch clutch (up)
coat blue coats
cober sold cober
cock go off half-cocked
cock horse cock
cock knock something into a cocked hat
coffee coffee and
coffee cold coffee
coffin coffin nail
coffin coffin tack
coffin coffin varnish
coin do some fine coin
coin hard coin
coke coke party
cold blow cold
cold cold blood
cold cold call
cold cold coffee
cold cold feet
cold cold fish
cold cold piece of work
cold cold pop
cold cold shoulder
cold cold sober
cold cold turkey
cold freezing cold
cold get one's nose cold
cold in a cold sweat
cold in cold blood
cold in cold storage
cold kick cold (turkey)
cold leave someone cold
cold out cold
cold pour cold water on something
cold stone cold fox
cold stone (cold) sober
collar dog collar
collar hot under the collar
collar righteous collar
collect cool, calm, and collected
college Graystone College
college Joe College
Colombian Colombian (gold)
color color of someone's money
color off color
color with flying colors

Columbian Colombian (gold)
come come clean (with someone) (about something)
come come down
come come down hard
come come down hard on someone
come come-hither look
come Come off it!
come come on
come come on like gangbusters
come come on strong
come come on to someone
come come out ahead
come come out in the wash
come come out of the closet
come come out on top
come come up for air
come coming out of one's ears
come if push comes to shove
come know where one is coming from
come This is where I came in.
come till kingdom come
come when push comes to shove
come You've got another think coming.
comedy Cut the comedy!
comfort comfort station
commerce chamber of commerce
commode commode-hugging drunk
company company bull
company company man
complaint summer complaint
compos non compos poopoo
con con artist
con con job
con con man
con put a con on someone
conk conk out
connect connect (with someone)
connect connect (with something)
conniption conniption (fit)
coo bill and coo
cook chief cook and bottle washer
cook cooked up
cook cooking with gas
cook head cook and bottle washer
cook What's cooking?
cookie blow (one's) cookies
cookie cookie pusher
cookie drop one's cookies
cookie shoot one's cookies
cookie smart cookie
cookie snap one's cookies
cookie That's the way the cookie crumbles.
cookie throw one's cookies
cookie toss one's cookies
cookie tough cookie

- cookie** tough cookies
cookie woof cookies
cool blow one's cool
cool Cool bananas!
cool Cool beans!
cool cool, calm, and collected
cool cool cat
cool cool down
cool cooled out
cool Cool it!
cool cool off
cool cool out
cool cool someone out
cool keep cool
cool keep one's cool
cool lose one's cool
cool play it cool
coon ace boon-coon
coop fly the coop
cop Cheese it (the cops)!
cop cop a drag
cop cop a fix
cop cop a head
cop cop an attitude
cop cop a plea
cop cop a squat
cop cop a tube
cop cop out
cop cop some Z's
copy copy
core rotten to the core
core soft core
cork blow one's cork
cork corked (up)
cork liquid cork
cork pop one's cork
cork Put a cork in it!
corkscrewed corkscrewed (up)
corner cut corners
corral corral dust
cotton in tall cotton
couch casting couch
couch couch potato
cough Cough it up!
cough cough something up
could I could(n't) care less.
could You could have knocked me over with a feather.
count body count
count down for the count
count take the (long) count
country country drunk
courage Dutch courage
course crib course
course snap course
court ball is in someone's court
court kangaroo court
cousin What's buzzin' (cousin)?
cover blow someone's cover
cow cash cow
cow cow chips
cow cow flop
cow cow juice
cow cow plop
cow Don't have a cow!
cow Holy cow!
cow tin cow
cowboy drugstore cowboy
cozy cozy up (to someone)
crack crack a book
crack crack a tube
crack cracked up to be
crack crack house
crack crack open a bottle
crack crack someone up
crack crack some suds
crack crack up
crack dirty crack
crack Get cracking!
crack have a crack at something
crack have one's ass in a crack
crack take a crack at something
crack tough egg to crack
crack tough nut to crack
crank crank bugs
crank crank something out
crank crank something up
crank yank someone's crank
crap crap out
crap crapped (out)
crap crapper dick
crap Cut the crap!
crap shoot the crap
crap take a crap
crap throw the crap
crash crash and burn
crash crash pad
crawl crawling with someone or something
crazy crazy bone
crazy like crazy
crazy stir crazy
cream creamed foreskins
cream cream (in) one's pants
cream cream one's jeans
cream cream puff
creek up a creek
creek up shit creek (without a paddle)
creek up the creek (without a paddle)
creep creep dive
creep creep joint
crib crib course
cricket not cricket

- crock** crock (of shit)
cross cross-eyed (drunk)
cross cross someone (up)
cross cross up someone
cross double cross
cross nail someone to a cross
crow eat crow
cruise cruising for a bruising
cruise time to cruise
crum crum something up
crumble That's the way the cookie crumbles.
crumped crumped (out)
crunch budget crunch
crunch number crunching
cry cry hughie
cry crying drunk
cry crying towel
cry crying weed
cry cry in one's beer
cry cry ralph
cry cry ruth
cuddle cuddle bunny
cuff cuff quote
cunt cunt fart
cunt cunt hound
cup cup of tea
curb shot to the curb
curb step off the curb
cure Dutch cure
cure take the cure
curl curl up and die
customer tough customer
cut able to cut something
cut cut a check
cut cut a deal
cut cut a fart
cut cut a muffin
cut cut and run
cut cut ass (out of some place)
cut cut corners
cut Cut it out!
cut cut loose
cut cut no ice (with someone)
cut cut one
cut cut one's losses
cut cut one's own throat
cut cut one's wolf loose
cut cut out
cut cut someone a break
cut cut someone in (on something)
cut cut some Z's
cut cut the cheese
cut Cut the comedy!
cut Cut the crap!
cut cut the dust
cut cut the mustard
cut cut to the chase
cut cut (up)
cut cut up (about someone or something)
cut Fish or cut bait.
cut It cuts both ways.
cut It cuts two ways.
cutie cutie pie
cylinder run on all cylinders
da da bomb
dab smack (dab) in the middle
daddy daddy (of them all)
daddy freak daddy
daddy mack daddy
daddy sugar daddy
daddy Who's your daddy?
dagwood dagwood (sandwich)
daily daily dozen
daily daily grind
daisy fresh as a daisy
daisy pushing up daisies
damage What's your damage?
damily whole fam damily
damn not worth a damn
dampener put a dampener on something
dance tap dance like mad
dance You can't dance at two weddings.
dandruff galloping dandruff
dandruff walking dandruff
dandy fine and dandy
dark dark horse
dark dark Monday
dark dark night
dark dark Sunday
dark shot in the dark
dark whistle in the dark
dash Dash it all!
dat Tru dat.
date heavy date
Dave Sam and Dave
dawg my dawg
day bad hair day
day day one
day day person
day day the eagle flies
day day the eagle shits
day Have a nice day.
day if one's a day
day Make my day!
day red-letter day
day seen better days
day That'll be the day!
dead (bang) dead to rights
dead dead and gone
dead dead broke
dead dead cinch
dead dead drunk

- dead** dead duck
dead dead easy
dead dead-end kid
dead dead from the neck up
dead dead horse
dead dead in the water
dead dead issue
dead dead letter
dead dead man
dead dead marine
dead dead on
dead dead one
dead dead president
dead (dead) ringer (for someone)
dead dead soldier
dead dead to rights
dead dead to the world
dead Drop dead!
dead drop-dead list
dead have someone dead to rights
dead knock someone dead
dead over my dead body
dead stone dead
dead would not be seen dead
deadcat deadcat bounce
deadly deadly (dull)
deal big deal
deal cut a deal
deal deal stock
deal dirty deal
deal done deal
deal Good deal!
deal Here's the deal.
deal Like it's such a big deal.
deal no big deal
deal raw deal
deal sweetheart deal
deal What's the deal?
deal wheel and deal
dear Dear John letter
death death on someone or something
death death on something
death kiss of death
death like death warmed over
death nickel and dime someone (to death)
death sick to death (of someone or something)
death sudden death
deck hit the deck
deck play with a full deck
deck stack the deck
deep deep pockets
deep deep six
deep go off the deep end
deep in deep
deep in deep doo-doo
deep knee-deep in something
deep knee-deep navy
degree third degree
Delhi Delhi belly
demon speed demon
department headache department
desert desert cherry
desk desk jockey
deuce What the deuce?
deuce Who the deuce?
devil blue devils
devil devil of a time
devil devil's own time
devil for the devil of it
devil full of the devil
devil Go to the devil!
devil play the devil with someone or something
devil raise the devil (with someone)
devil raise the devil (with something)
devil speak of the devil
devil What (in) the devil?
devil What the devil?
devil Who (in) the devil?
devil Who the devil?
dew (mountain) dew
diamond diamond in the rough
diarrhea diarrhea of the jawbone
diarrhea diarrhea of the mouth
dibs dibs on something
dice no dice
dick boss dick
dick crapper dick
dick dick around
dick dick for
dictionary swallow the dictionary
diddle diddle with something
die curl up and die
die die on someone
die do or die
die to die for
difference same difference
different different strokes for different folks
dig Dig up!
dig gold digger
dig take a dig at someone
diggety Hot diggety (dog)!
digit double digits
dim dim bulb
dime dime store
dime drop a dime
dime get off the dime
dime nickel and dime someone (to death)
dime stop on a dime
dime thin dime
dime turn on a dime

- ding** dinged out
dink dink someone off
dinner dinner basket
dip skinny dip
diploma federal diploma
dirt dirt cheap
dirt dish the dirt
dirt do someone dirt
dirt hit pay dirt
dirt strike pay dirt
dirt take a dirt nap
dirty dirty crack
dirty dirty deal
dirty dirty dog
dirty (dirty) dozens
dirty dirty joke
dirty dirty laundry
dirty dirty linen
dirty dirty look
dirty dirty old man
dirty dirty pool
dirty dirty word
dirty dirty work
disagree agree to disagree
disc disc jockey
discount five-finger discount
disease foot-in-mouth disease
disease social disease
dish dish something out
dish dish the dirt
dishrag (limp) dishrag
dishwater dull as dishwater
disk disk jockey
diss dis(s) (on someone)
distance put some distance between
 someone and someone or something
distance within spitting distance
dither in a dither
dive creep dive
dive dive a muff
dive gin dive
dive take a dive
divide great divide
divvy divvy something up
Dixie not just whistling Dixie
DL on the DL
Doakes Joe Doakes
doc What's up, doc?
doctor doctor's orders
doctor horse doctor
doctor just what the doctor ordered
doctor spin doctor
doctor You're the doctor.
doctor zit doctor
Dodge get out of Dodge
Doe Jane Doe
Doe John Doe
dog cats and dogs
dog dirty dog
dog dog and pony show
dog dog collar
dog dog meat
dog dog's mother
dog Fuck a dog!
dog Hong Kong dog
dog Hot diggety (dog)!
dog Hot dog!
dog (It's) not my dog.
dog lucky dog
dog my dog
dog Not my dog.
dog put on the dog
dog see a man about a dog
dog shouldn't happen to a dog
dog top dog
dog yard dog
doggo lie doggo
doggy doggy bag
doll Barbie doll
dollar adobe dollar
dollar almighty dollar
dollar bet one's bottom dollar
dollar bet someone dollars to doughnuts
dollar bottom dollar
dollar like a million (dollars)
dollar phony as a three-dollar bill
dollar queer as a three-dollar bill
dollar sixty-four-dollar question
dome marble dome
donkey donkey's breakfast
donkey donkey's years
doo in deep doo-doo
door blow someone's doors off
door house of many doors
dope do dope
dope dope something out
dope dope up
dope inside dope
dope straight dope
Dora dumb Dora
dork dork off
dorkus dorkus maximus
dose go through someone like a dose of (the)
 salts
double double-barreled slingshot
double double buffalo
double double cross
double double digits
double double nickels
double double saw(buck)
double double six
double double take

- double** double up (with laughter)
double double whammy
double on the double
douche douche bag
dough dough head
doughnut bet someone dollars to doughnuts
doughnut blow one's doughnuts
doughnut lose one's doughnuts
down boogie down (to somewhere)
down bring someone down
down burn someone down
down chow down
down chow something down
down come down
down come down hard
down come down hard on someone
down cool down
down down for the count
down down low
down down the drain
down Down the hatch!
down down time
down down to the wire
down down trip
down down under
down down (with someone)
down down with something
down down with the haps
down falling-down drunk
down flake down
down garbage something down
down get down
down get down on someone
down get down to some serious drinking
down get down to the nitty-gritty
down go down
down go down in flames
down go down on someone
down go down the chute
down go down the line
down go down the tube(s)
down hands down
down have a yellow streak down one's back
down hook something down
down hose someone down
down kick down with something
down knock something down
down knuckle down (to something)
down lay down
down party down
down pipe down
down pull down an amount of money
down ram something down someone's throat
down run down some lines
down run it down
down scarf something down
down shake someone down
down shoot someone down in flames
down shoot someone or something down
down shot down
down shuck down
down simmer (down)
down spaz down
down Take it down a thou(sand)!
down throw down
down thumbs down
down tore down
down turn someone or something upside down
down turn thumbs down (on someone or something)
down way down
down What's going down?
down wolf something down
down yellow streak (down someone's back)
downhill go downhill
dozen daily dozen
dozen (dirty) dozens
dozen long dozen
dozen play the dozens
dozen shoot the dozens
drabs in dribs and drabs
draft draft board
draft feel a draft
drag cop a drag
drag drag ass around
drag drag ass (out of some place)
drag dragged out
drag drag (on someone)
drag in drag
drag knockdown drag-out fight
drag Look (at) what the cat dragged in!
drag main drag
dragon chase the dragon
drain circle (the drain)
drain down the drain
drain drain the bilge
draw Do I have to draw (you) a picture?
draw luck of the draw
dress dressed to kill
dress dressed to the nines
dress dressed to the teeth
dribs in dribs and drabs
drift (Do you) get my drift?
drift Get my drift?
drill blanket drill
drink big drink
drink big drink of water
drink do the drink thing
drink Drink up!
drink get down to some serious drinking
drink knock back a drink

- drink** two-fisted drinker
drip silo drippings
drive drive someone around the bend
drive drive someone bonkers
drive drive someone nuts
drive drive someone up the wall
drive drive the big bus
drive drive the porcelain bus
driver backseat driver
driver in the driver's seat
driver Sunday driver
drool drool (all) over someone or something
drop drop a bomb(shell)
drop drop a bop
drop drop a brick
drop drop a bundle (on someone)
drop drop a bundle (on something)
drop drop a dime
drop Drop dead!
drop drop-dead list
drop Drop it!
drop drop one's cookies
drop drop one's teeth
drop drop out
drop drop someone
drop drop someone or something like a hot potato
drop drop someone some knowledge
drop drop the ball
drop get the drop on someone
drop turn on, tune in, drop out
drug do drugs
drug do the drug thing
drug drug lord
drug drug out
drug head drug
drugstore drugstore cowboy
drum beat the drum for someone or something
drunk blind drunk
drunk commode-hugging drunk
drunk country drunk
drunk cross-eyed (drunk)
drunk crying drunk
drunk dead drunk
drunk drunk back
drunk drunk tank
drunk falling-down drunk
drunk glazed (drunk)
drunk howling (drunk)
drunk screeching (drunk)
drunk stale drunk
drunk stinking (drunk)
dry bleed someone dry
dry Dry up!
dry high and dry
- dub** flub the dub
duck dead duck
duck Fuck a duck!
duck lame duck
duck Lord love a duck!
duck milk a duck
duck mud duck
duck sitting duck
dude dude up
dues pay one's dues
dues pay one's dues (to society)
duke duke someone out
dull deadly (dull)
dull dull as dishwater
dull dull roar
dumb dumb bunny
dumb dumb cluck
dumb dumb Dora
dumb dumb ox
dummy beat the dummy
dummy chuck a dummy
dummy dummy up
dummy My mama didn't raise no dummy.
dummy whip the dummy
dump do a dump on someone or something
dump dump all over someone or something
dump dumped on
dump Dump it.
dump dump one's load
dump dump on someone
dump dump on someone or something
dump Let's dump.
dump take a dump
dump toxic waste dump
dunk slam dunk
duo dynamic duo
dust angel dust
dust bite the dust
dust corral dust
dust cut the dust
dust dust of angels
dust dust someone off
dust dust someone's pants
dust heaven dust
dust joy dust
dust kiss the dust
dusty dusty butt
Dutch Dutch act
Dutch Dutch courage
Dutch Dutch cure
Dutch Dutch treat
Dutch Dutch uncle
Dutch go Dutch
Dutch in Dutch
duty rack duty
dynamic dynamic duo

- eagle** day the eagle flies
eagle day the eagle shits
eagle eagle freak
eagle when the eagle flies
ear Blow it out your ear!
ear coming out of one's ears
ear ear candy
ear ear hustling
ear (Go) blow it out your ear!
ear mickey mouse ears
ear pin someone's ears back
ear pound one's ear
ear sloshed (to the ears)
ear stewed to the ears
ear talk someone's ear off
ear throw one out on one's ear
ear up to one's ears
ear walls have ears
earful give someone an earful
earl call earl
earl talk to earl
early early beam(s)
early early bird
early early black
earp Earp slop, bring the mop.
earth earth pads
earth Earth to someone.
earth no earthly reason
earth Where on earth?
earth Where on (God's green) earth?
easy dead easy
easy Easy does it.
easy easy make
easy easy mark
easy easy money
easy easy street
easy on easy street
easy take it easy
easy take things easy
eat ate up with someone or something
eat (Do) you eat with that mouth?
eat eat at the Y
eat eat crow
eat eat face
eat Eat me!
eat eat nails
eat eat one's hat
eat eat one's heart out
eat Eat shit!
eat eat someone's lunch
eat eat something up
eat eat up
eat smoke eater
eat What's eating someone?
eat You eat with that mouth?
eco eco freak
eco eco nut
Edgar J. Edgar (Hoover)
edge have an edge on
edge moist around the edges
edge on the bleeding edge
effing effing around
egg bad egg
egg Go fry an egg!
egg goose egg
egg have egg on one's face
egg lay an egg
egg nest egg
egg rotten egg
egg scrambled eggs
egg tough egg to crack
egg walk on eggs
ego ego trip
ego ego tripper
Egypt butt-fucking Egypt
eight behind the eight ball
el el cheapo
el (el) primo
elbow bend one's elbow
elbow lift one's elbow
elegant piss elegant
elephant pink elephants
elephant seeing pink elephants
elephant white elephant
elevator elevator music
else What else is new?
else You and who else?
embalm embalming fluid
embarrass financially embarrassed
enamel pray to the enamel god
enchilada big enchilada
enchilada whole enchilada
end at loose ends
end business end (of something)
end cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose
end dead-end kid
end end of the ball game
end go off the deep end
end know which end is up
end no end of something
end rear (end)
end see no further than the end of one's nose
end shitty end of the stick
end short end of the stick
end weekend warrior
enemy meals rejected by the enemy
enough ain't long enough
enough Enough, already!
enough not enough room to swing a cat
estimate ball park estimate
eternal eternal checkout

- Ethiopian** meals rejected by Ethiopians
even evened out
everything everything from soup to nuts
everything Hold everything!
excuse Excuse me for breathing!
excuse Excuse me for living!
excuse Excuse my French.
expedition fishing expedition
express Siberian express
expression if you'll pardon the expression
eye bedroom eyes
eye black eye
eye bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
eye cross-eyed (drunk)
eye get some shut-eye
eye goo-goo eyes
eye Here's mud in your eye.
eye hit the bull's-eye
eye one-eyed pants mouse
eye private eye
eye see eye to eye
eye snake eyes
eye with (one's) eyes (wide) open
eyeball eyeball to eyeball
eyeball get an eyeball on someone or something
eyeball up to one's eyeballs
F F-ing around
face Bag your face!
face blue in the face
face chew face
face eat face
face face card
face (face) fungus
face face man
face face the music
face face time
face feed one's face
face frog face
face get face
face get in someone's face
face Get out of my face!
face have egg on one's face
face in someone's face
face mace someone's face
face mess someone's face up
face powder one's face
face put a smile on someone's face
face rack face
face Shut your face!
face slap in the face
face soak one's face
face stand there with one's bare face hanging out
face suck face
face talk until one is blue in the face
face turd face
face what's his face
fact facts of life
factor fudge factor
factory bone factory
factory gargle factory
factory glue factory
factory nut factory
factory piss factory
factory spook factory
fade do a fade
fag fagged out
fair fair-haired boy
fair fair shake
fair No fair!
fairy fairy tale
faith Keep the faith (baby)!
faithful one of the faithful
fake fake book
fake fake it
fake fake off
fake fake someone out
fake fake the funk
fall fall guy
fall falling-down drunk
fall fall off the wagon
fall fall out
fall fall out of bed
fall take a fall
fall take the fall
fam whole fam damily
familiar in a familiar way
family family jewels
family in a family way
family in the family way
fan fan the breeze
fan hit the fan
fan when the shit hit the fan
fancy fancy footwork
fancy Fancy meeting you here.
fancy Fancy that!
far far gone
far far out
farm buy the farm
farm funny farm
fart cunt fart
fart cut a fart
fart fart around
fart fart hole
fart fart off
fart fart sack
fart let a fart
fart pussy fart
fartsy artsy (fartsy)
fast fast buck
fast fast footwork

- fast** fast one
fast get nowhere fast
fast get one's tail somewhere fast!
fast play fast and loose (with someone or something)
fast pull a fast one
fat chew the fat
fat fat as a beached whale
fat fat chance
fat fat city
fat fat lip
fat fat skriff
fat till the fat lady sings
fat when the fat lady sings
fax junk fax
fear I'm shaking (in fear).
feather feather brain
feather in fine feather
feather You could have knocked me over with a feather.
federal Don't make a federal case out of it!
federal federal diploma
federal federal jug
federal make a federal case out of something
feed chicken feed
feed feed one's face
feed for chicken feed
feedbag put on the feedbag
feel feel a draft
feel feel groovy
feel feeling no pain
feel feel someone up
feet cold feet
feet get a load off one's feet
feet patter of tiny feet
feet six feet under
feet take a load off one's feet
fence fence hanger
fence go for the fences
fence straddle the fence
fer fer shur
fetch fetch up
fever barrel fever
few few ticks
few hang a few on
few Win a few, lose a few.
fiddle belly fiddle
fiddle second fiddle
field out in left field
field out of left field
fifth fifth wheel
fifth take the fifth
fig moldy fig
fight knockdown drag-out fight
fight spoiling for a fight
fight throw a fight
fight You can't fight city hall.
figure ball park figure
figure Go figure.
figure key figure
file circular file
file file thirteen
file rank and file
fill filling station
fill fill or kill
fill smoke-filled room
film snuff film
filthy filthy lucre
filthy filthy rich
financially financially embarrassed
fine do some fine coin
fine fine and dandy
fine fine wolf
fine in fine feather
fine New York's finest
finger finger wave
finger five-finger discount
finger give someone the finger
finger put the finger on someone
finger sticky fingers
finger three fingers
finger two fingers
finish Mickey finished
fink fink (on someone)
fink fink out (on someone or something)
fink rat fink
Finn Mickey (Finn)
fire ball of fire
fire fire a line
fire fire away
fire fired up
fire fire someone up
fire fire something up
fire fire up
fire five-alarm fire
fire on fire
fire play with fire
fire three-alarm fire
fire Where's the fire?
fireman visiting fireman
first get to first (base) (with someone)
firstest firstest with the mostest
fish big fish
fish bottom fishing
fish cold fish
fish fishing expedition
fish Fish or cut bait.
fish fish story
fish fish tale
fish queer fish
fishy smell fishy
fist hand over fist

fist two-fisted drinker
fit conniption (fit)
fit have a shit-fit
fit throw a fit
five bunch of fives
five five-alarm fire
five five-finger discount
five five it
five Give me five!
five give someone five
five hang five
five high five
five low five
five Slip me five!
five slip someone five
five take five
fix cop a fix
fix fixed up
fix get a fix
fix quick fix
flack flack (out)
flake flaked out
flake flake down
flake flake (out)
flake (flake) spoon
flake joy flakes
flame burn with a low blue flame
flame go down in flames
flame old flame
flame shoot someone down in flames
flash flash on something
flash flash the hash
flash in a flash
flat flat broke
flat (flat) on one's ass
flat flat out
flat in nothing flat
flesh press (the) flesh
flex flexed out of shape
flick skin flick
flimflam flimflam artist
fling fling up
flip flip one's lid
flip flip one's wig
flip flip (out)
flip flipping burgers
flip flip side
flip flip someone off
flip flip someone out
flip flip someone the bird
flip flip the script
Flo Aunt Flo
Flo visit from Flo
flooeey go flooeey
floor mop the floor up with someone
floor wipe the floor up with someone

flop belly flop
flop cow flop
flop That's the way the mop flops.
flow cash flow
flow go with the flow
flower hearts and flowers
flu blue flu
flu brown bottle flu
flub flub something up
flub flub the dub
flub flub (up)
fluid embalming fluid
flunk flunk out (of something)
fly day the eagle flies
fly fly kites
fly fly light
fly fly mink
fly fly the coop
fly fly trap
fly Go fly a kite!
fly I('ve) gotta fly.
fly I've got to fly.
fly on the fly
fly straighten up and fly right
fly when the eagle flies
fly with flying colors
flyer take a flyer (on something)
fogey old fogey
foggy foggiest (idea)
fold folding money
fold folding stuff
fold green folding
fold Hold some, fold some.
folks different strokes for different folks
foo foo-foo water
food junk food
food rabbit food
fool play someone for a fool
foot cold feet
foot foot-in-mouth disease
foot foot it
foot get a load off one's feet
foot have one foot in the grave
foot My foot!
foot patter of tiny feet
foot shoot oneself in the foot
foot six feet under
foot take a load off one's feet
foot vote with one's feet
foot wouldn't touch someone or something
 with a ten-foot pole
footwork fancy footwork
footwork fast footwork
forbidden forbidden fruit
foreskin creamed foreskins
forget Forget it!

- forget** Forget you!
fork fork something over
fork Fork you!
form in rare form
fort hold the fort
fortune small fortune
forty forty winks
foul fouled up
foul foul mouth
foul foul up
found lost-and-found badge
four four sheets in the wind
four four sheets (to the wind)
four four wheels
four sixty-four-dollar question
four twenty-four, seven
fox fox trap
fox stone cold fox
fox stone fox
foxtrot Charlie Foxtrot
foxy foxy lady
fraidy fraidy cat
freak eagle freak
freak eco freak
freak freak daddy
freak freaked (out)
freak freak mommy
freak freak (out)
freak freak someone out
freak garbage freak
freak juice freak
freak kick freak
freak pill freak
freak speed freak
free for free
free free base
free free base party
free free for all
free free lunch
free free ride
free free show
free free trip
freeze freeze someone out
freeze freezing cold
freeze play freeze-out
freeze put the freeze on someone
freeze till hell freezes over
French Excuse my French.
French French kiss
French Pardon my French.
fresh fresh and sweet
fresh fresh as a daisy
fresh stupid fresh
fried Kentucky fried
friend bosom friends
fritz on the fritz
frog frog face
frog frog slicing
from bundle from heaven
from dead from the neck up
from everything from soup to nuts
from from A to Z
from from hunger
from from (the) git-go
from get one's kicks (from someone or something)
from know from something
from know one's ass from a hole in the ground
from know shit from Shinola
from know where one is coming from
from money from home
from not know from nothing
from not know one's ass from a hole in the ground
from not know shit from Shinola
from send someone from pillar to post
from shoot from the hip
from someone or something from hell
from straight from the horse's mouth
from straight from the shoulder
from (strictly) from hunger
from take a page from someone's book
from tear loose (from someone or something)
from tell shit from Shinola
from visit from Flo
from visit from the stork
from You can't get there from here.
front front man
front front money
front front off about something
front front runner
front up front
frost frosted (over)
frosty frosty one
fruit forbidden fruit
fruit fruit loop
fruit hen fruit
fruitcake nutty as a fruitcake
fry Go fry an egg!
fry Kentucky fried
fry small fry
fuck butt-fucking Egypt
fuck cluster fuck
fuck Fuck a dog!
fuck Fuck a duck!
fuck fuck around
fuck fuck around with someone
fuck fuck bunny
fuck fucked out
fuck fucked up
fuck Fucking A!

- fuck** Fuck it!
fuck Fuck it (all)!
fuck fuck off
fuck fuck someone around
fuck fuck someone or something up
fuck fuck someone over
fuck fuck someone's mind (up)
fuck fuck up
fuck fuck with someone
fuck fuck with something
fuck Fuck you!
fuck give a fuck (about someone or something)
fuck Go fuck yourself!
fuck honey fuck
fuck If that don't fuck all!
fuck What (in) the fucking hell!
fuck What the fucking hell!
fudge fudge factor
fuel take on fuel
full full blast
full full of beans
full full of bull
full full of hops
full full of hot air
full full of it
full full of Old Nick
full full of prunes
full full of shit
full full of the devil
full full sesh
full full steam ahead
full mouth full of South
full play with a full deck
full woods are full of something
fun barrel of fun
fun fun and games
fund slush fund
funeral It's your funeral!
fungus (face) fungus
funk blue funk
funk fake the funk
funk fucked out
funk in a blue funk
funny funny business
funny funny farm
further cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose
further see no further than the end of one's nose
fuse blow a fuse
fuse blow one's fuse
fuse fuse box
fuse have a short fuse
fuse short fuse
futz futz around
fuzz fuzz man
fuzz fuzz station
fuzzy fuzzy (tail)
G What's up, G?
gab gab room
gab gift of gab
gag throat gag
gallop at a snail's gallop
gallop galloping dandruff
galumph galumph (around)
game ahead of the game
game end of the ball game
game fun and games
game game plan
game game time
game name of the game
game skin game
game throw a game
game throw salt on someone's game
game whole new ball game
gander take a gander (at someone or something)
gangbusters come on like gangbusters
gangbusters like gangbusters
ganjah bhang ganjah
garbage garbage freak
garbage garbage mouth
garbage garbage something down
gargle gargle factory
gas cooking with gas
gas gassed (up)
gas gas up
gas run out of gas
gas take the gas pipe
gash gash bucket
gasket blow a gasket
gate give someone the gate
gate tailgate party
gay gay as pink ink
gazoo out the gazoo
gear Get your ass in gear
gear reverse gears
gear swing into high gear
geek geek out
generation now generation
genuine genuine article
German German goiter
get Don't get your bowels in an uproar!
get (Do you) get my drift?
get get a bang out of someone or something
get get a buzz out of someone or something
get get a can on
get get a fix
get get a gift
get get a kick out of someone or something
get Get a life!

get	get a load off one's feet	get	get one's lumps
get	get a load off one's mind	get	get one's nose cold
get	get a load of something or someone	get	get one's nose out of joint
get	get an eyeball on someone or something	get	get one's nuts off
get	get a toehold	get	get one's rocks off
get	Get away!	get	get one's rocks off (on something)
get	Get a wiggle on!	get	get one's shit together
get	get behind someone or something	get	get one's stuff together
get	get behind something	get	get one's tail somewhere fast!
get	Get cracking!	get	get one's tail somewhere immediately!
get	get down	get	get one's tail somewhere now!
get	get down on someone	get	get one's teeth into something
get	get down to some serious drinking	get	get one's ticket punched
get	get down to the nitty-gritty	get	get one's wings
get	get face	get	get on one's horse
get	get hot	get	get on someone's case
get	get in bad (with someone)	get	get on the stick
get	get in on the act	get	get out of Dodge
get	get in someone's face	get	Get out of here!
get	get in the groove	get	Get out of my face!
get	get in(to) someone's pants	get	Get out of town!
get	get into something	get	get (out) while the gettin(g)'s good
get	get it	get	get (out) while the goin's good
get	get it (all) together	get	Get real!
get	get it in the neck	get	get right
get	get it off	get	get smart (with someone)
get	get it on	get	get someone going
get	get it out	get	get someone's goat
get	get it up	get	get someone's motor running
get	get lip	get	get some shut-eye
get	Get lost!	get	get something going (with someone)
get	get mad (at something)	get	get some yokes on
get	Get my drift?	get	get straight
get	get naked	get	get stupid
get	get narkied	get	get the ax
get	get nowhere fast	get	get the drop on someone
get	get off	get	get the goods on someone
get	Get off it!	get	Get the lead out!
get	Get off my ass!	get	Get the message?
get	Get off my back!	get	get the nod
get	Get off my bumper!	get	Get the picture?
get	Get off my tail!	get	get there
get	get off one's rear	get	get the sack
get	get off (on something)	get	get the show on the road
get	get off someone's back	get	Getting any?
get	get off someone's case	get	get to first (base) (with someone)
get	get off the dime	get	get to someone
get	get one right here	get	get with it
get	get one's act together	get	get with someone
get	get one's bowels in an uproar	get	get with the program
get	get one's head together	get	Get your ass in gear
get	get one's hooks into someone	get	Get your nose out of my business!
get	get one's hooks into something	get	Shit or get off the pot!
get	get one's kicks (from someone or something)	get	tell someone where to get off
get	get one's knob polished	get	What you see is what you get.
		get	You can't get there from here.

ghetto ghetto bird
 ghetto (ghetto) blaster
 ghetto (ghetto) box
 ghost ghost turd
 giant mental giant
 giddy Giddy up!
 gift get a gift
 gift gift of gab
 giggle giggle goo
 gill blue around the gills
 gill green around the gills
 gill loaded to the gills
 gill stewed to the gills
 gimme Gimme a break!
 gin gin dive
 gin gin mill
 gin gin palace
 girl little girls' room
 girl old girl
 girlie girlie magazine
 girlie girlie show
 git from (the) git-go
 give don't give a hoot
 give don't give a rip
 give give a fuck (about someone or something)
 give give a shit (about someone or something)
 give give head
 give Give it a rest!
 give give it the gun
 give Give it up!
 give Give me a break!
 give Give me a rest!
 give Give me five!
 give Give me (some) skin!
 give give (out) with something
 give give someone a buzz
 give give someone a (good) talking to
 give give someone a (good) working over
 give give someone a melvin
 give give someone an earful
 give give someone a pain
 give give someone five
 give give someone hell
 give give someone the ax
 give give someone the brushoff
 give give someone the business
 give give someone the finger
 give give someone the gate
 give give someone the go-by
 give give someone the nod
 give give someone the raspberry
 give give someone the shaft
 give give someone the slip
 give Something's got to give.

give What gives?
 glad glad rags
 glamour glamour puss
 glass glass gun
 glaze glazed (drunk)
 glaze glazed (over)
 gloomy gloomy Gus
 glory send someone to glory
 gloss lip gloss
 glow glow worm
 glow have a glow on
 glue glue factory
 go from (the) git-go
 go get (out) while the goin's good
 go get someone going
 go get something going (with someone)
 go give someone the go-by
 go go all the way
 go go ape (over someone or something)
 go go apeshit over someone or something
 go go bananas
 go go belly up
 go go bitchcakes
 go go blooey
 go (Go) blow it out your ear!
 go Go chase yourself!
 go Go chase your tail!
 go Go climb a tree!
 go go down
 go go downhill
 go go down in flames
 go go down on someone
 go go down the chute
 go go down the line
 go go down the tube(s)
 go go Dutch
 go Go figure.
 go go flooey
 go Go fly a kite!
 go go for broke
 go Go for it!
 go go for the fences
 go Go fry an egg!
 go Go fuck yourself!
 go go great guns
 go go haywire
 go go home in a box
 go go home to mama
 go going high
 go going over
 go go into orbit
 go Go jump in the lake!
 go go mental
 go go off half-cocked
 go go off the deep end
 go Go on!

- go** go on (and on) about someone or something
go go over big
go go overboard
go go over like a lead balloon
go go over the hill
go go over the wall
go go places
go go postal
go go public
go go Rinso
go Go soak your head!
go Go soak yourself!
go go sour
go go South
go go straight
go go the limit
go go through someone like a dose of (the) salts
go go through the changes
go go tits up
go Go to!
go Go to blazes!
go Go to the devil!
go go to town
go Go to your room!
go go underground
go go up
go go West
go go with it
go go with the flow
go go zonkers
go How goes it?
go no go
go only way to go
go pass go
go raring to go
go (That's the) way to go!
go There you go.
go to go
go touch and go
go Way to go!
go What's going down?
go What's going on?
goat get someone's goat
goat skin a goat
God God's acre
god kiss the porcelain god
god pray to the enamel god
god pray to the porcelain god
God Where on (God's green) earth?
god Ye gods!
goddess hug the porcelain god(dess)
goddess sex goddess
goddess worship the porcelain god(dess)
goggles beer goggles
goiter German goiter
goiter Milwaukee goiter
gold Colombian (gold)
gold Columbian (gold)
gold gold digger
golden golden handcuffs
golden golden opportunity
golden golden parachute
goldie goldie locks
golf African golf ball
golly Good golly, Miss Molly!
gone dead and gone
gone far gone
gone gone goose
gone gone under
gone real gone
gone to hell and gone
goo giggle goo
goo goo-goo eyes
good get (out) while the gettin(g)'s good
good get (out) while the goin's good
good get the goods on someone
good give someone a (good) talking to
good give someone a (good) working over
good good and something
good good buddy
good Good call!
good Good deal!
good Good golly, Miss Molly!
good Good heavens!
good good Joe
good (good) looker
good good old boy
good good-time Charley
good good-time it
good good-time man
good good trip
good Have a good one.
good have good vibes
good if one knows what's good for one
good kiss something good-bye
good onto a good thing
good What's the good word?
good Your guess is as good as mine.
goodie oldie but goodie
goody goody two-shoes
goof goof around
goof goofed (up)
goof goof off
goof goof on someone
goof goof something up
goof goof up
goof goof up on something
goon goon squad
goose gone goose
goose goose egg

- goose silver goose
 gopher gopher ball
 gorilla gorilla biscuits
 gorilla gorilla juice
 gorilla gorilla pills
 gork gorked (out)
 gospel gospel (truth)
 got I've got to fly.
 got I've got to split.
 got Something's got to give.
 got You got it!
 got You got that?
 got You've got another think coming.
 gotta I('ve) gotta fly.
 gouch gouch off
 gourd stoned out of one's gourd
 grab How does that grab you?
 grab up for grabs
 grand Grand Central Station
 granddaddy (grand)daddy (of them all)
 grandstand grandstand play
 grape African grape
 grape belt the grape
 grape grape shot
 grape grapes of wrath
 grape in the grip of the grape
 grass grass party
 grass snake in the grass
 grass someone's ass is grass
 grasshopper knee-high to a grasshopper
 grave have one foot in the grave
 graveyard graveyard shift
 gravity gravity check
 gravy gravy train
 gravy have gravy on one's grits
 gravy red gravy
 graybar Graybar Hotel
 graystone Graystone College
 grease greased lightning
 grease grease monkey
 grease grease someone's palm
 grease grease the skids
 greasy greasy spoon
 great go great guns
 great great divide
 great Great Scott!
 great great unwashed
 great no great shakes
 great whopping (great)
 Greek Greek to someone
 green green around the gills
 green green folding
 green green light
 green green paper
 green green stuff
 green green thumb
 green long green
 green Where on (God's green) earth?
 grind daily grind
 grip in the grip of the grape
 grip key grip
 grip lose one's grip
 gripe gripe one's ass
 gripe gripe one's butt
 gripe gripe one's soul
 grits blow grits
 grits have gravy on one's grits
 gritty get down to the nitty-gritty
 groan groan box
 groceries blow one's groceries
 grod King Grod
 grody grody to the max
 gronk gronk (out)
 groove get in the groove
 groove groove on someone or something
 groove in the groove
 groove stone groove
 groovy feel groovy
 gross gross someone out
 gross So gross!
 ground go underground
 ground know one's ass from a hole in the
 ground ground
 ground not know one's ass from a hole in the
 ground ground
 ground stamping ground
 grow not grow on trees
 grub grub on something
 grub grub up
 grub money grubber
 grunt grunt work
 guess Your guess is as good as mine.
 guest Be my guest.
 guilt lay a guilt trip on someone
 guitar air guitar
 gum beat one's gums
 gun big gun
 gun give it the gun
 gun glass gun
 gun go great guns
 gun gun for someone
 gun hired gun
 gun in the gun
 gun jump the gun
 gun packing (a gun)
 gun smoking gun
 gun son of a gun
 gun under the gun
 gun zip gun
 gus gloomy Gus
 gussied gussied up
 gut beer gut

- gut** blood and guts
gut blubber gut(s)
gut bust a gut (to do something)
gut gut reaction (to something)
gut hate someone's guts
gut kick in the guts
gut spew one's guts (out)
gut spill one's guts on someone
gut spill one's guts (to someone)
gut split a gut
gut tub of guts
gut yell one's guts out
gutless gutless wonder
gutter have one's mind in the gutter
guy fall guy
guy Mr. Nice Guy
guy right guy
guy smart guy
guy tough guy
guy wise guy
guy You guys bitchin'?
gym gym shoe
habit kick the habit
habit knock the habit
habit mickey mouse habit
habit nose habit
hack hack around
hack hacked (off)
hack hack it
had been had
hair angel hair
hair bad hair day
hair fair-haired boy
hair have a wild hair up one's ass
hair have someone by the short hairs
half and a half
half better half
half go off half-cocked
half half a bubble off plumb
half half in the bag
half half up the pole
half how the other half lives
half You don't know the half of it.
hall You can't fight city hall.
hamburger make hamburger out of someone
 or something
hammer hammer a beer
hammer hammer some beers
Hancock John Hancock
hand hand it to someone
hand hand over fist
hand hands down
hand hand someone something
hand Hands up!
hand Keep your hands to yourself.
hand left-handed monkey wrench
hand old hand (at something)
hand tip one's hand
handcuffs golden handcuffs
handle (love) handles
handsome high, wide, and handsome
hang hang a BA (at someone)
hang hang a few on
hang hang a huey
hang hang a left
hang hang a louie
hang hang a ralph
hang hang a right
hang hang (around)
hang hang five
hang hang in there
hang Hang it all!
hang hang it up
hang hang loose
hang hang one on
hang hang ten
hang hang tough (on something)
hang hang up
hang hang with someone
hang How('re) they hanging?
hang let it all hang out
hang stand there with one's bare face hanging
 out
hanger ape hangers
hanger fence hanger
happen Shit happens.
happen shouldn't happen to a dog
happen What's happ(ening)?
happy happy camper
happy happy hour
happy happy juice
happy happy pills
happy happy shop
happy slap happy
haps down with the haps
hard between a rock and a hard place
hard come down hard
hard come down hard on someone
hard hard case
hard hard coin
hard hard head
hard hard liquor
hard hard off
hard hard sell
hard hard time
hard hard to swallow
hard hard up
hard have a hard-on
hard have a hard-on for someone
hardball play hardball (with someone)
harsh harsh token
hash flash the hash

hash hash cannon
hash hash pipe
hash heavy hash
hash settle someone's hash
hat brass hat
hat eat one's hat
hat knock something into a cocked hat
hat old hat
hat talk through one's hat
hat throw one's hat in the ring
hat tin hat
hat white hat
hatch booby hatch
hatch Down the hatch!
hatchet bury the hatchet
hate hate someone's guts
haul haul ass (out of some place)
Hawkins Mr. Hawkins
hay hay burner
hay hay head
hay hit the hay
hay That ain't hay!
haywire go haywire
head bald-headed hermit
head bald-headed mouse
head bean head
head cop a head
head dough head
head get one's head together
head give head
head Go soak your head!
head hard head
head have a (big) head
head have rocks in one's head
head hay head
head head cook and bottle washer
head head drug
head head hunt
head head South
head Heads up!
head heads will roll
head head trip
head helium head
head hooch head
head hot head
head keep one's head right
head knock some heads together
head over one's head
head peanut head
head pound someone's head in
head soft in the head
head stoned out of one's head
head talking head
head talk one's head off
head Use your head!
head where someone's head is at

head yell one's head off
head zipper head
headache headache department
headache headache house
headache headache man
headache splitting headache
headstone Headstone City
heap bottom of the heap
heap in a heap
heap junk heap
heap top of the heap
hear I hear what you are saying.
hear I hear you.
hear talk to hear one's own voice
hear You heard the man.
heart eat one's heart out
heart Have a heart!
heart hearts and flowers
heart heart-to-heart (talk)
hearty party hearty
heat If you can't stand the heat, keep out of the kitchen.
heat put the heat on someone
heat take some heat
heat take the heat
heat take the heat off someone
heave old heave-ho
heaven bundle from heaven
heaven Good heavens!
heaven heaven dust
heaven pig heaven
heaven smell to (high) heaven
heavy carrying a (heavy) load
heavy heavy artillery
heavy heavy bread
heavy heavy date
heavy heavy hash
heavy heavy into someone or something
heavy heavy joint
heavy heavy money
heavy heavy necking
heavy heavy scene
heavy heavy soul
heavy lay a (heavy) trip on someone
heavy top heavy
heavy walk heavy
heavy wing heavy
heck for the heck of it
heck What the heck!
heil sieg-heil someone
Heinz Heinz 57 (variety)
helium helium head
hell catch hell (for something)
hell for the hell of it
hell give someone hell
hell hell of a mess

hell	hell of a note	high	high five
hell	hell of a someone or something	high	high mucky-muck
hell	hell raiser	high	high on something
hell	Hell's bells (and buckets of blood)!	high	high roller
hell	like a bat out of hell	high	high sign
hell	Like hell!	high	high ups
hell	play hell with someone or something	high	high, wide, and handsome
hell	quicker than hell	high	hold one's high
hell	raise hell	high	knee-high to a grasshopper
hell	raise hell (with someone)	high	on one's high horse
hell	raise hell (with something)	high	smell to (high) heaven
hell	scare the hell out of someone	high	swing into high gear
hell	shot to hell	high	up high
hell	snowball's chance in hell	highway	highway robbery
hell	someone or something from hell	hike	take a hike
hell	sure as hell	hill	go over the hill
hell	There will be hell to pay.	hill	over the hill
hell	till hell freezes over	Hill	What in Sam Hill?
hell	to hell and gone	Hill	What in (the) Sam Hill?
hell	To hell with that!	Hill	Where in (the) Sam Hill?
hell	What (in) the fucking hell!	Hill	Where the Sam Hill?
hell	What (in) the hell?	hind	kiss someone's hind tit
hell	What the fucking hell!	hind	suck someone's hind tit
hell	What the hell?	hindsight	20/20 hindsight
hell	Who (in) the hell?	hindsight	twenty-twenty hindsight
hell	Who the hell?	hip	hit me on the hip
helluva	helluva someone or something	hip	joined at the hip
help	pitch in (and help)	hip	shoot from the hip
hen	hen fruit	hire	hired gun
hen	hen party	history	ancient history
Henry	Adam Henry	history	I'm history.
hepped	hepped (up)	hit	can't hit the (broad) side of a barn
Herb	Herb and Al	hit	hit by the stupid stick
Herb	talk to Herb and Al	hit	hit by the ugly stick
here	Fancy meeting you here.	hit	hit it with someone
here	get one right here	hit	hit list
here	Get out of here!	hit	hit man
here	Here's looking at you.	hit	Hit me.
here	Here's mud in your eye.	hit	hit me again
here	Here's the deal.	hit	hit me on the hip
here	I'm outa here.	hit	hit on someone
here	I'm out of here.	hit	hit on something
here	same here	hit	hit pay dirt
here	up to here	hit	hit someone below the belt
here	You can't get there from here.	hit	hit someone (up) for something
hermit	bald-headed hermit	hit	hit someone with something
hero	hero (of the underworld)	hit	hit the books
herped	herped up	hit	hit the booze
hess	mell of a hess	hit	hit the bottle
hey	But, hey	hit	hit the bricks
hey	Hey, bum!	hit	hit the bull's-eye
hide	nail someone(s hide) to the wall	hit	hit the ceiling
hide	play hide the sausage	hit	hit the deck
high	going high	hit	hit the fan
high	high and dry	hit	hit the hay
high	higher ups	hit	hit the jackpot

- hit** hit the panic button
hit hit the pavement
hit hit the road
hit hit the roof
hit hit the sack
hit hit the skids
hit hit the spot
hit hit the trail
hit hit under the wing
hit nose hit
hit pinch hitter
hit power hitter
hit smash hit
hit when the shit hit the fan
hitch without a hitch
hither come-hither look
ho old heave-ho
hock hock a luggie
hockey horse hockey
hockey play tonsil hockey
hockey tonsil hockey
hoe tough row to hoe
hog call hogs
hog hog cadillac
hog road hog
hog sewer hog
hoist hoist one
hold get a toehold
hold hold all the aces
hold Hold everything!
hold Hold it!
hold Hold it, Buster!
hold hold one's high
hold hold one's horses
hold hold one's liquor
hold Hold some, fold some.
hold hold the fort
hold hold water
hold lose one's hold
hold no holds barred
hole ace in the hole
hole brown hole
hole cake hole
hole fart hole
hole hole in the wall
hole hole up
hole in the hole
hole know one's ass from a hole in the ground
hole nineteenth hole
hole not know one's ass from a hole in the ground
hole puke hole
hole square peg (in a round hole)
hole watering hole
hole word hole
holiday holiday cheer
holy Holy cow!
holy holy Joe
holy Holy mackerel!
holy Holy moley!
holy holy stink
holy holy terror
home bring home the bacon
home go home in a box
home go home to mama
home in the (home) stretch
home money from home
home nothing to write home about
home There's nobody home.
homemaker Suzy Homemaker
honest honest injun
honey honey cart
honey honey fuck
honey honey of a something
honey honey wagon
honeymoon honeymoon (period)
honeymoon honeymoon stage
Hong Hong Kong dog
hooch hooched (up)
hooch hooch head
hooch hooch hound
hood hood rat
hoof hoof it
hook get one's hooks into someone
hook get one's hooks into something
hook hooked (on someone or something)
hook hooked (on something)
hook hook, line, and sinker
hook hook shop
hook hook something down
hook off the hook
hook on one's own hook
hook ring off the hook
hook sky hook
hooky play hooky
hoot don't give a hoot
hoover hoovering
Hoover J. Edgar (Hoover)
hop channel hopping
hop hopped up
hop hopping mad
hop Hop to it!
hop sock hop
hopper in the hopper
hops full of hops
horn blow one's own horn
horn toot one's own horn
horse dark horse
horse dead horse
horse get on one's horse
horse hold one's horses

horse horse around
horse horse cock
horse horse doctor
horse horse hockey
horse horse laugh
horse horse opera
horse horse's ass
horse one-horse town
horse on one's high horse
horse on the horse
horse salt horse
horse straight from the horse's mouth
hose air hose
hose hose someone down
hot drop someone or something like a hot potato
hot full of hot air
hot get hot
hot have hot pants (for someone)
hot have the hots (for someone)
hot hot air
hot hot check
hot Hot diggety (dog)!
hot Hot dog!
hot hot head
hot hot item
hot hot number
hot hot paper
hot hot potato
hot (hot) rod
hot hot seat
hot hot shit
hot (hot) skinny
hot hot stuff
hot hot tip
hot hot under the collar
hot hot wire
hot Hot ziggety!
hot in the hot seat
hot make it hot for someone
hot red hot
hot red-hot mama
hotbed hotbed of something
hotel Graybar Hotel
hound chow hound
hound cunt hound
hound hooch hound
hound pot hound
hour banker's hours
hour happy hour
house big house
house call house
house crack house
house headache house
house house moss
house house of many doors

house juice house
house wear the pants (in the house)
how And how!
how How does that grab you?
how How goes it?
how How('re) they hanging?
how how the other half lives
how How ya living?
howl howling (drunk)
huey hang a huey
hug commode-hugging drunk
hug hug the porcelain god(dess)
hug hug the throne
hughie call hughie
hughie cry hughie
hum hum job
hump hump (along)
hump hump it (to somewhere)
hump over the hump
hung hung like a bull
hunger from hunger
hunger (strictly) from hunger
hunk hunk of ass
hunk hunk of tail
hunt head hunt
hurry hurry up and wait
hurt hurt for someone or something
hush hush money
hush hush someone up
hush hush something up
hustle ear hustling
hype blow a hype
hype hype artist
hype hyped (up)
hype hype something up
ice Bite the ice!
ice break the ice
ice cut no ice (with someone)
ice ice palace
ice ice queen
ice on ice
ice stink on ice
ice walk on thin ice
iceberg iceberg slim
icing icing on the cake
idea foggiest (idea)
idea idea box
idiot blithering idiot
idiot idiot box
idiot idiot card
idiot idiot juice
idiot idiot light
idiot idiot oil
idiot idiot pills
idle bone idle
if As if!

- if if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times
 if if one knows what's good for one
 if if one's a day
 if if push comes to shove
 if If that don't fuck all!
 if If you can't stand the heat, keep out of the kitchen.
 if if you'll pardon the expression
 immediately get one's tail somewhere immediately!
 incohol under the affluence of incohol
 industry captain of industry
 injun honest injun
 ink gay as pink ink
 ink ink slinger
 ink red ink
 ins ins and outs
 inside inside dope
 inside inside job
 inside inside out
 iron big iron
 iron cast-iron stomach
 iron pump iron
 iron pump (some) iron
 iron shooting iron
 Irvine Charlie Irvine
 issue dead issue
 itch have an itch for something
 itch seven-year itch
 item hot item
 ivory ivory tower
 ivory tickle the ivories
 jab jab pop
 jab take a jab at someone
 jack jack around
 jack jacked (out)
 jack jacked up
 jack jack off
 jack jack someone around
 jack jack someone up
 jack jack something up
 jackpot hit the jackpot
 jag jag off
 jam in a jam
 jam jammed up
 jam toe jam
 Jane Jane Doe
 Jane Jane Q. Public
 Jane Mary Jane
 jawbone diarrhea of the jawbone
 Jay Peter Jay
 jazz all that jazz
 jazz jazzed (up)
 jazz jazz someone or something up
 jeans cream one's jeans
 jelly jelly babies
 jelly jelly sandals
 jelly jelly shoes
 jerk jerk around
 jerk jerk off
 jerk jerk someone around
 jerk jerk someone over
 Jesus Jesus boots
 jewel family jewels
 jiffy in a jiff(y)
 jig jig is up
 jimmy jimmy cap
 jive blow jive
 jive jive talk
 jive jive turkey
 jive pull jive
 job blow job
 job con job
 job do a job on someone or something
 job do a snow job on someone
 job hum job
 job inside job
 job land a job
 job nose job
 job pull a job
 job put-up job
 job snow job
 job wall job
 jobber jobber as a sudge
 jock video jock
 jockey bench jockey
 jockey desk jockey
 jockey disc jockey
 jockey disk jockey
 Joe good Joe
 Joe holy Joe
 Joe Joe Blow
 Joe Joe Citizen
 Joe Joe College
 Joe Joe Doakes
 Joe Joe Schmo
 Joe Joe Six-pack
 Joe quality Joe
 John big John
 John Dear John letter
 John John Doe
 John John Hancock
 John John Q. Public
 john square john
 john square john broad
 John who shot John
 Johnny John(ny) Law
 join joined at the hip
 joint blow the joint
 joint case the joint
 joint clip joint

- joint** creep joint
joint get one's nose out of joint
joint heavy joint
joint juice joint
joint put someone's nose out of joint
joint square joint
joke dirty joke
jones scag jones
jones skag jones
joy bundle of joy
joy joy dust
joy joy flakes
joy joy juice
joy joy ride
joy joy water
judge sober as a judge
jug federal jug
jug jugged (up)
jug jug up
jug jug wine
juice big juice
juice BO juice
juice cactus juice
juice cow juice
juice gorilla juice
juice happy juice
juice idiot juice
juice joy juice
juice juice freak
juice juice house
juice juice joint
juice juice racket
juice juice something back
juice jungle juice
juice juniper juice
juice moo juice
juice on the juice
juice tiger juice
juice tornado juice
jump Go jump in the lake!
jump jump bail
jump jump smooth
jump jump-start someone
jump jump (street)
jump jump the gun
jump one jump ahead of someone or something
jump puddle jumper
jump Take a running jump (in the lake!)
jungle asphalt jungle
jungle jungle juice
jungle jungle mouth
juniper juniper juice
junk junk bond
junk junk fax
junk junk food
junk junk heap
junk Junk it!
junk junk mail
junk junk squad
junk junk tank
junk on the junk
just just off the boat
just just the ticket
just just what the doctor ordered
just not just whistling Dixie
kahuna big kahuna
kangaroo kangaroo court
keen peachy (keen)
keep for keeps
keep If you can't stand the heat, keep out of the kitchen.
keep keep cool
keep Keep in touch.
keep Keep it real!
keep keep one's cool
keep keep one's head right
keep keep one's nose clean
keep Keep on trucking.
keep Keep out of this!
keep Keep the faith (baby)!
keep Keep your hands to yourself.
keep Keep your nose out of my business!
keep Keep your pants on!
keep Keep your shirt on!
keep play for keeps
keep Where have you been keeping yourself?
keg keg party
Kentucky Kentucky fried
key church key
key keyed (up)
key keyed up to the roof
key key figure
key key grip
kibosh put the kibosh on something
kick for kicks
kick get a kick out of someone or something
kick get one's kicks (from someone or something)
kick kick around
kick kick-ass on someone
kick kick back
kick kick cold (turkey)
kick kick down with something
kick kick freak
kick kick in the ass
kick kick in the butt
kick kick in the guts
kick kick in the rear
kick kick in the (seat of the) pants
kick kick in the teeth
kick kick in the wrist

- kick** kick it
kick kick (off)
kick kick party
kick kick some ass (around)
kick kick the bucket
kick kick the habit
kick kick the shit out of someone
kick kick up a storm
kid dead-end kid
kid I kid you not.
kid I'm not kidding.
kid kid stuff
kid No kidding!
kid punk kid
kid snotnose(d) kid
kid whiz kid
kill dressed to kill
kill fill or kill
kill killed (off)
kill killer weed
kill make a killing
kilter out of kilter
kimono open (up) one's kimono
king Cash is king.
king King Grod
king King Kong pills
king King Kong specials
kingdom till kingdom come
kiss air kiss
kiss (Do) you kiss your momma with that mouth?
kiss French kiss
kiss Kiss my ass!
kiss kiss of death
kiss kiss off
kiss kiss someone or something off
kiss kiss someone's ass
kiss kiss someone's hind tit
kiss kiss something good-bye
kiss kiss something off
kiss kiss the dust
kiss kiss the porcelain god
kiss kiss up to someone
kiss right in the kisser
kiss sealed with a kiss
kiss soul kiss
kiss You kiss your momma with that mouth?
kit kit and caboodle
kitchen If you can't stand the heat, keep out of the kitchen.
kite fly kites
kite Go fly a kite!
kitten have kittens
kitten sex kitten
knee knee-deep in something
knee knee-deep navy
knee knee-high to a grasshopper
knee up to one's knees
knife long knife
knob get one's knob polished
knock knock around
knock knock back a drink
knock knock boots
knock knocked in
knock knocked out
knock knocked up
knock Knock it off!
knock knock off (work)
knock knock one back
knock knock one over
knock knock some heads together
knock knock someone dead
knock knock someone off
knock knock someone out
knock knock someone's block off
knock knock someone some skin
knock knock someone's socks off
knock knock someone up
knock knock something down
knock knock something into a cocked hat
knock knock something off
knock knock something out
knock knock something together
knock knock the habit
knock knock the shit out of someone
knock You could have knocked me over with a feather.
knockdown knockdown drag-out fight
knot tie the knot
know Don't I know it!
know for all I know
know I don't know.
know if one knows what's good for one
know in the know
know know all the angles
know know from something
know know one's ass from a hole in the ground
know know shit from Shinola
know know the score
know know what's what
know know where it's at
know know where one is coming from
know know which end is up
know like, you know
know not know beans (about something)
know not know from nothing
know not know one's ass from a hole in the ground
know not know shit about something
know not know shit from Shinola
know You don't know the half of it.

- knowledge** drop someone some knowledge
knuckle knuckle bones
knuckle knuckle down (to something)
knuckle knuckle sandwich
knuckle knuckle under (to someone or something)
knuckle white knuckler
Kong Hong Kong dog
Kong King Kong pills
Kong King Kong specials
label label mate
lady boss lady
lady foxy lady
lady ladies' room
lady lady bear
lady Lady Snow
lady old lady
lady till the fat lady sings
lady when the fat lady sings
laff belly laff
laid laid back
laid laid out
laid laid to the bone
lake Go jump in the lake!
lake Take a running jump (in the lake)!
lam on the lam
lam take it on the lam
lamb two shakes of a lamb's tail
lame lame duck
lamppost between you, me, and the lamppost
land land a blow
land land a job
land land office business
language barnyard language
language speak someone's language
lap lap of luxury
lap Make a lap!
lard lard ass
lard tub of lard
large Living large.
last last roundup
last last straw
last on one's last legs
latch latch onto something
later Catch you later.
later See you later.
later See you later, alligator.
lather work oneself (up) into a lather
latrine latrine lips
latrine latrine rumor
latrine latrine wireless
laugh belly laugh
laugh Don't make me laugh!
laugh double up (with laughter)
laugh horse laugh
laugh laugh at the carpet
laugh laughing academy
laugh laughing soup
laugh laughing water
laugh liquid laugh
launch launch (one's lunch)
laundry dirty laundry
laundry laundry list
lavender lay someone out in lavender
law bend the law
law John(ny) Law
law long arm of the law
lawn mow one's lawn
lawn mow the lawn
lay laid back
lay laid out
lay laid to the bone
lay lay a guilt trip on someone
lay lay a (heavy) trip on someone
lay lay an egg
lay lay down
lay lay it on the line
lay lay off (someone or something)
lay lay one on
lay lay someone out
lay lay someone out in lavender
lay lay (some) rubber
lay lay some sweet lines on someone
lay lay something on someone
lay lay something out
lead Get the lead out!
lead go over like a lead balloon
lead have lead in one's pencil
lead lead poisoning
league big league
league play in the big leagues
leak take a leak
lean lean and mean
leash have one's brain on a leash
leash on a tight leash
leave leave someone cold
leave make like a tree and leave
leave Take it or leave it.
leeky leeky store
left hang a left
left left-handed monkey wrench
left out in left field
left out of left field
leg Break a leg!
leg have a leg up on someone
leg leg work
leg on one's last legs
leg pull someone's leg
leg shake a leg
leg stretch one's legs
Legree Simon Legree

length on the same wavelength
less I could(n't) care less.
let let a fart
let Let her rip!
let let it all hang out
let Let it roll!
let let off (some) steam
let let one
let Let's bump this place!
let Let's do lunch (sometime).
let Let's dump.
let Let's have it!
let let something ride
let let's say
letter dead letter
letter Dear John letter
letter red-letter day
level level best
level level one's locks
level level the locks
level level with someone
level on the level
lick lick and a promise
lick lick something into shape
licorice licorice stick
lid blow one's lid
lid blow the lid off something
lid flip one's lid
lid lid poppers
lid lid proppers
lie lie doggo
lie No lie!
lie pack of lies
life facts of life
life Get a life!
life You bet your sweet life!
lift lift one's elbow
light fly light
light green light
light idiot light
light light bulb
light light into someone
light lights out
light light stuff
light out like a light
light punch someone's lights out
lighten lighten up (on someone or something)
lightly once over lightly
lightning greased lightning
lightning lightning rod
like all over someone like a cheap suit
like and stuff like that (there)
like bleed like a stuck pig
like built like a brick shithouse
like cling like shit to a shovel

like come on like gangbusters
like drop someone or something like a hot potato
like go over like a lead balloon
like go through someone like a dose of (the) salts
like hung like a bull
like like a bat out of hell
like like a million (dollars)
like like a ton of bricks
like like crazy
like like death warmed over
like like gangbusters
like Like hell!
like Like I care.
like Like it or lump it!
like Like it's such a big deal.
like like mad
like like nobody's business
like like stink
like like there was no tomorrow
like like the white on rice
like like, you know
like make like a tree and leave
like make like someone or something
like out like a light
like purr (like a cat)
like smell like a rose
like smoke like a chimney
like stick like shit to a shovel
like stick out like a sore thumb
like swear like a trooper
like talk like a nut
like tap dance like mad
like Tell it like it is.
limit go the limit
limit sky's the limit
limp (limp) dishrag
line blow one's lines
line bottom line
line do a line
line fire a line
line go down the line
line hook, line, and sinker
line lay it on the line
line lay some sweet lines on someone
line line one's own pocket(s)
line out of line
line put some sweet lines on someone
line run down some lines
line stag line
linen dirty linen
lion lion's share
lip Button your lip!
lip fat lip
lip get lip

lip	latrine lips	lone	lone wolf
lip	lip gloss	long	ain't long enough
lip	Read my lips!	long	long arm of the law
lip	Watch my lips!	long	long bread
lip	Zip (up) your lip!	long	long dozen
lip	Zip your lip!	long	long green
liquid	liquid cork	long	long knife
liquid	liquid laugh	long	long shot
liquor	hard liquor	long	long story short
liquor	hold one's liquor	long	Long time no see.
list	drop-dead list	long	So long.
list	hit list	long	take the (long) count
list	laundry list	look	come-hither look
list	shopping list	look	dirty look
list	sucker list	look	(good) looker
list	want list	look	Here's looking at you.
list	wish list	look	look after number one
listen	I'm listening.	look	Look alive!
listen	listen up	look	Look (at) what the cat dragged in!
lit	lit up	look	Look who's talking!
little	have a little visitor	loony	loony bin
little	little black book	loop	fruit loop
little	little boy blue	loop	throw someone for a loop
little	little boys' room	loose	at loose ends
little	little girls' room	loose	cut loose
little	(little) pinkie	loose	cut one's wolf loose
little	little shit	loose	hang loose
live	all the way live	loose	have a loose screw
live	Excuse me for living!	loose	have a screw loose
live	how the other half lives	loose	loose cannon
live	How ya living?	loose	play fast and loose (with someone or something)
live	(live) wire	loose	stay loose
live	Living large.	loose	tear loose (from someone or something)
live	Pardon me for living!	loosener	tongue loosener
live	(Well,) pardon me for living!	lord	drug lord
live	where someone lives	Lord	Lord love a duck!
liver	chopped liver	lose	lose a bundle
load	carrying a (heavy) load	lose	lose (all) one's marbles
load	dump one's load	lose	lose it
load	get a load off one's feet	lose	lose one's cool
load	get a load off one's mind	lose	lose one's doughnuts
load	get a load of something or someone	lose	lose one's grip
load	have a load on	lose	lose one's hold
load	loaded for bear	lose	lose one's lunch
load	loaded question	lose	lose one's shirt
load	loaded remark	lose	losing streak
load	loaded to the barrel	lose	two-time loser
load	loaded to the gills	lose	Win a few, lose a few.
load	one brick shy of a load	loss	cut one's losses
load	take a load off one's feet	lost	Get lost!
load	three bricks shy of a load	lost	lost-and-found badge
local	local yokel	lost	lost cause
lock	goldie locks	lost	lost in the sauce
lock	level one's locks	lot	Lots of luck!
lock	level the locks		
loco	plumb loco		

lot take a lot of nerve
louie hang a louie
louse louse something up
lousy lousy with someone or something
love For the love of Mike!
love (I) love it!
love Lord love a duck!
love love bombs
love (love) handles
love Love it!
love Love you!
love puppy love
low burn with a low blue flame
low down low
low low blow
low low five
low low rent
low straight low
luck Better luck next time.
luck Lots of luck!
luck luck of the draw
luck luck out
luck out of luck
luck rotten luck
luck tough luck
lucky lucky dog
lucre filthy lucre
luggie hock a luggie
lump get one's lumps
lump Like it or lump it!
lump Lump it!
lump take one's lumps
lunch blow lunch
lunch blow (one's) lunch
lunch eat someone's lunch
lunch free lunch
lunch launch (one's lunch)
lunch Let's do lunch (sometime).
lunch lose one's lunch
lunch out to lunch
lunch spot of lunch
lunch toss one's lunch
lush lush up
luxury lap of luxury
Ma Ma Bell
Mac Big Mac attack
mac mac out
mace mace someone's face
mack mack daddy
mack mack on someone
mackerel Holy mackerel!
mad boiling (mad)
mad get mad (at something)
mad hopping mad
mad like mad
mad mad money

mad tap dance like mad
made have it made
made have it made in the shade
Madison Madison Avenue
magazine girlie magazine
magic magic bullet
magic magic mushrooms
magnet nerd magnet
mail junk mail
main main drag
main main squeeze
main main stash
make Don't make a federal case out of it!
make Don't make me laugh!
make easy make
make It don't make (me) no nevermind.
make make a boo-boo
make make a bundle
make make a federal case out of something
make make a killing
make Make a lap!
make make a mountain
make make a pig of oneself
make make a pile
make make a score
make make a stink (about someone or something)
make make book on something
make make for somewhere
make make hamburger out of someone or something
make make it
make make (it) big
make make it hot for someone
make Make it snappy!
make make like a tree and leave
make make like someone or something
make make mincemeat out of someone or something
make Make my day!
make Make no mistake (about it)!
make make one's bed
make make oneself scarce
make make out
make make-out artist
make make someone
make make the scene
make make tracks
make make waves
make make with the something
make on the make
make run a make on someone
make Wanna make sumpin' of it?
make Want to make something of it?
male male chauvinist pig
mama go home to mama

- mama** mama bear
mama My mama didn't raise no dummy.
mama red-hot mama
mama yo mama
man big man on campus
man boss man
man candy man
man company man
man con man
man dead man
man dirty old man
man face man
man front man
man fuzz man
man good-time man
man have a man by the balls
man headache man
man hit man
man man on the street
man my man
man old man
man one-man show
man point man
man repo man
man see a man about a dog
man So's your old man!
man stick man
man straight man
man strong-arm man
man wheel man
man whiskers (man)
man You heard the man.
many house of many doors
many one too many
map throw a map
marble have all one's marbles
marble lose (all) one's marbles
marble Marble City
marble marble dome
marble marble orchard
mare shank's mare
marine dead marine
marine marine officer
marine marine (recruit)
mark easy mark
mark mark time
mark skid marks
mark X marks the spot.
market slave market
market spot market
Mary Mary J.
Mary Mary Jane
match whole shooting match
mate label mate
max grody to the max
max maxed out
max max out
max to the max
maximus dorkus maximus
maybe I don't mean maybe!
McCoy (real) McCoy
meadow meadow muffin
meal meals rejected by Ethiopians
meal meals rejected by the enemy
meal square (meal)
mean I don't mean maybe!
mean lean and mean
mean mean business
mean mean something
meat all meat and no potatoes
meat all (that) meat and no potatoes
meat beat one's meat
meat beat the meat
meat buzzard meat
meat dog meat
meat meat wagon
meat mystery meat
meat pound one's meat
medicine snakebite medicine
meeting Fancy meeting you here.
meeting meeting of the minds
meeting nice meeting you
mell mell of a hess
mellow mellow out
melvin give someone a melvin
men men in blue
men men's room
mental go mental
mental mental giant
mental mental midget
meow cat's meow
merchant speed merchant
mess hell of a mess
mess mess about (with someone)
mess mess about (with something)
mess mess around (with someone)
mess mess around (with something)
mess messed up
mess mess someone or something up
mess mess someone's face up
mess mess someone up
mess mess up
mess mess with someone or something
message Get the message?
metal put the pedal to the metal
meth meth monster
Mexican Mexican breakfast
Mickey Mickey D's
Mickey Mickey finished
Mickey Mickey (Finn)
mickey mickey mouse
mickey mickey mouse ears

- mickey** mickey mouse habit
Mickey slip someone a Mickey
middle middle of nowhere
middle smack (dab) in the middle
midget mental midget
mifky mifky-pifky (in the bushes)
Mike For the love of Mike!
milk milk a duck
milk tiger('s) milk
mill gin mill
mill through the mill
million like a million (dollars)
Milquetoast Caspar Milquetoast
Milwaukee Milwaukee goiter
mincemeat make mincemeat out of someone or something
mind blow someone's mind
mind fuck someone's mind (up)
mind get a load off one's mind
mind have one's mind in the gutter
mind meeting of the minds
mind mind your own beeswax
mind never mind
mind one-track mind
mine back to the salt mines
mine Your guess is as good as mine.
mine Your place or mine?
mink fly mink
mirror done by mirrors
mirror done with mirrors
mirror smoke and mirrors
miss Good golly, Miss Molly!
miss miss the boat
mistake Make no mistake (about it)!
mix mixed (up)
mix mix it up (with someone)
mobile nerd mobile
mod mod poser
mode in one's something mode
moist moist around the edges
mojo on the mojo
moldy moldy fig
moley Holy moley!
Molly Good golly, Miss Molly!
momma (Do) you kiss your momma with that mouth?
momma You kiss your momma with that mouth?
mommy freak mommy
Monday dark Monday
money color of someone's money
money easy money
money folding money
money front money
money heavy money
money hush money
money mad money
money money from home
money money grubber
money money talks
money on the money
money pull down an amount of money
money push money
money Put your money where your mouth is!
money shell an amount of money out
money shell out (an amount of money)
money smart money
money soft money
money spending money
money throw money at something
money tight money
monkey grease monkey
monkey have a monkey on one's back
monkey left-handed monkey wrench
monkey monkey around (with someone)
monkey monkey around (with something)
monkey monkey bite
monkey monkey business
monkey monkey swill
monkey monkey talk
monkey monkey wagon
monkey monkey wards
monkey monkey with someone or something
monkey powder monkey
monster meth monster
monster monster weed
Montezuma Montezuma's revenge
moo moo juice
moon once in a blue moon
moonlight moonlight requisition
mop Earp slop, bring the mop.
mop mopping-up operation
mop mop the floor up with someone
mop That's the way the mop flops.
mope mope around
more more than one bargained for
more Run that by (me) one more time.
morning morning after (the night before)
moss house moss
most firstest with the mostest
mother dog's mother
mother mother nature('s)
motor get someone's motor running
mountain make a mountain
mountain (mountain) dew
mouse bald-headed mouse
mouse mickey mouse
mouse mickey mouse ears
mouse mickey mouse habit
mouse mouse potato
mouse one-eyed pants mouse
mouth big mouth

- mouth** diarrhea of the mouth
mouth (Do) you eat with that mouth?
mouth (Do) you kiss your momma with that mouth?
mouth foot-in-mouth disease
mouth foul mouth
mouth garbage mouth
mouth have a big mouth
mouth jungle mouth
mouth mouth full of South
mouth mouth off
mouth potty mouth
mouth Put your money where your mouth is!
mouth run off at the mouth
mouth shoot one's mouth off
mouth Shut your mouth!
mouth smart mouth
mouth straight from the horse's mouth
mouth toilet mouth
mouth trash mouth
mouth Watch your mouth!
mouth You eat with that mouth?
mouth You kiss your momma with that mouth?
move bust a move
move move on someone
move movers and shakers
move put the moves on someone
mow mow one's lawn
mow mow the lawn
Mr. Mr. Big
Mr. Mr. Hawkins
Mr. Mr. Nice Guy
Mr. Mr. Right
Mr. Mr. Whiskers
Mrs. Mrs. Murphy
much bit much
much put too much on it
much So much for that.
much thank you very much
much too much
muchachos adios muchachos
muck high mucky-muck
muck muck something up
mucky high mucky-muck
mud clear as mud
mud Here's mud in your eye.
mud mud duck
mud stick in the mud
muddle muddled (up)
muff dive a muff
muffin cut a muffin
muffin meadow muffin
mug mug shot
munch munch out
munchies (blind) munchies
mung mung something up
murder scream bloody murder
Murphy Mrs. Murphy
mushroom magic mushrooms
mushroom sacred mushrooms
music chin music
music elevator music
music face the music
music Stop the music!
musical musical beds
must (must) do
mustard cut the mustard
mystery mystery meat
mystic mystic biscuit
nab Uncle nab
nail coffin nail
nail eat nails
nail nail someone(s) hide) to the wall
nail nail someone to a cross
nail throw up one's toenails
nail thumbnail sketch
naked buck naked
naked butt naked
naked get naked
naked naked truth
name big name
name cigarette with no name
name name of the game
name Name your poison.
name no name cigarette
name take names
name what's his name
nap take a dirt nap
narkied get narkied
narrow narrow squeak
natch on the natch
nature call of nature
nature mother nature(s)
nature nature's call
nature nature stop
nause nause someone out
navy knee-deep navy
neato neato (canito)
Nebraska Nebraska sign
neck dead from the neck up
neck get it in the neck
neck heavy necking
neck neck and neck
neck pain in the neck
neck shot in the neck
neck up to one's neck
need baby needs shoes
need That's all someone needs.
needle needle candy
needle on the needle
Nellie nervous Nellie

- nerd** nerd magnet
nerd nerd mobile
nerd nerd pack
nerve bundle of nerves
nerve Of all the nerve!
nerve take a lot of nerve
nerve What (a) nerve!
nervous nervous Nellie
nest nest egg
net net result
net surf the net
never never mind
nevermind It don't make (me) no nevermind.
new (brand) spanking new
new New York's finest
new spanking new
new That's a new one on me.
new What else is new?
new What's new?
new whole new ball game
news bad news
next Better luck next time.
nice Have a nice day.
nice Have a nice one.
nice Mr. Nice Guy
nice nice meeting you
nice nice talking to you
Nick full of Old Nick
nickel double nickels
nickel nickel and dime someone (to death)
nickel not worth a plugged nickel
night dark night
night morning after (the night before)
night night person
night one-night stand
night Saturday night special
nine dressed to the nines
nine whole nine yards
nineteenth nineteenth hole
ninny bliss ninny
nip nip and tuck
nitty get down to the nitty-gritty
no all meat and no potatoes
no all (that) meat and no potatoes
no cigarette with no name
no Close, but no cigar.
no cut no ice (with someone)
no feeling no pain
no It don't make (me) no nevermind.
no like there was no tomorrow
no Long time no see.
no Make no mistake (about it)!
no My mama didn't raise no dummy.
no no bargain
no no big deal
no no biggie
no no big whoop
no no brand cigarette
no no can do
no no dice
no no earthly reason
no no end of something
no No fair!
no no go
no no great shakes
no no holds barred
no No kidding!
no No lie!
no no name cigarette
no No nukes!
no No problem.
no no sale
no No Shinola!
no No shit!
no no show
no no soap
no no stress
no no sweat
no No way!
no no-win situation
no see no further than the end of one's nose
Noble Charlie Noble
nobody like nobody's business
nobody There's nobody home.
nod get the nod
nod give someone the nod
nod nodded out
noggin Use your noggin!
noise big noise
non non compos
non non compos poopoo
none none of someone's beeswax
noodle Use your noodle!
noodle wet noodle
nose cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose
nose get one's nose cold
nose get one's nose out of joint
nose Get your nose out of my business!
nose have one's nose wide open
nose keep one's nose clean
nose Keep your nose out of my business!
nose nose (candy)
nose nose habit
nose nose hit
nose nose job
nose on the nose
nose powder one's nose
nose put one's nose in (where it's not wanted)
nose put someone's nose out of joint
nose rub someone's nose in something

nose see no further than the end of one's nose
nose snotnose(d) kid
nose stick one's nose in (where it's not wanted)
nose take it on the nose
nose take it through the nose
nose turn up one's nose at someone or something
nose wiener nose
nosebag put on the nosebag
nosebag tie on the nosebag
nosedive take a nosedive
nosh nosh on something
nosy nosy parker
not have-nots
not I kid you not.
not I'm not kidding.
not (It's) not my dog.
not not a chance
not not all that
not not all there
not not cricket
not not enough room to swing a cat
not not grow on trees
not not just whistling Dixie
not not know beans (about something)
not not know from nothing
not not know one's ass from a hole in the ground
not not know shit about something
not not know shit from Shinola
not Not my dog.
not not too shabby
not Not to worry.
not not worth a damn
not not worth a plugged nickel
not not worth beans
not put one's nose in (where it's not wanted)
not stick one's nose in (where it's not wanted)
not would not be seen dead
notch pull one's belt in (a notch)
notch take one's belt in (a notch)
note century note
note hell of a note
note swap notes (on someone or something)
nothing abbreviated piece of nothing
nothing in nothing flat
nothing Nothing doing!
nothing Nothing to it!
nothing nothing to sneeze at
nothing nothing to write home about
nothing nothing upstairs
nothing not know from nothing
nothing sweet nothings

nothing wearing (nothing but) a smile
now get one's tail somewhere now!
now now generation
now Now what?
now Now you're talking!
nowhere get nowhere fast
nowhere middle of nowhere
nuke No nukes!
nuke Nuke it!
nuke nuke oneself
numb numbed out
number A number 1
number back number
number do a number on someone
number do a number on something
number have the wrong number
number hot number
number look after number one
number number crunching
number number one
number number two
number take care of number one
numero numero uno
numero take care of numero uno
nut bust one's nuts to do something
nut drive someone nuts
nut eco nut
nut everything from soup to nuts
nut get one's nuts off
nut nut factory
nut nuts and bolts
nut Nuts to you!
nut nut up
nut off one's nut
nut talk like a nut
nut tough nut to crack
nutty nutty as a fruitcake
odd odd bird
offering burnt offering
office land office business
officer marine officer
oil banana oil
oil castor oil artist
oil idiot oil
oil oil it
oil tongue oil
oink oink out
old dirty old man
old full of Old Nick
old good old boy
old old flame
old old fogey
old old girl
old old hand (at something)
old old hat
old old heave-ho

- old** old lady
old old man
old old one-two
old old skool
old old soldier
old old woman
old rare old time
old same old story
old same o(l)' same o(l)'
old So's your old man!
oldie oldie but goodie
once if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times
once once and for all
once once in a blue moon
once once-over
once once over lightly
one back to square one
one bite the big one
one bust someone one
one buy the big one
one cut one
one day one
one dead one
one fast one
one frosty one
one get one right here
one hang one on
one Have a good one.
one Have a nice one.
one have one foot in the grave
one hoist one
one if one knows what's good for one
one knock one back
one knock one over
one know where one is coming from
one lay one on
one let one
one look after number one
one more than one bargained for
one number one
one old one-two
one one and one
one one and only
one one brick shy of a load
one one-eyed pants mouse
one one for the road
one one-horse town
one one jump ahead of someone or something
one one-man show
one one-night stand
one one of the faithful
one one smart apple
one one too many
one one-track mind
one paste someone one
one pull a fast one
one quick one
one quit while one is ahead
one Run that by (me) one more time.
one short one
one so bad one can taste it
one take care of number one
one talk until one is blue in the face
one tall one
one Tell me another (one)!
one That's a new one on me.
one throw one out on one's ear
one tie one on
one wet one
only one and only
only only way to go
onto latch onto something
onto onto a good thing
onto onto someone or something
onto turn onto someone or something
open blow something wide open
open bust something wide open
open crack open a bottle
open have one's nose wide open
open open (up) one's kimono
open wide open
open with (one's) eyes (wide) open
opera horse opera
operation mopping-up operation
operator big-time operator
operator smooth operator
opportunity golden opportunity
orbit go into orbit
orbit in orbit
orchard bone orchard
orchard marble orchard
order doctor's orders
order just what the doctor ordered
order tall order
other how the other half lives
out I'm outa here.
out ins and outs
out on the outs (with someone)
outie I'm outie.
outside step outside
outside You want to step outside?
overboard go overboard
own blow one's own horn
own cut one's own throat
own devil's own time
own do one's (own) thing
own line one's own pocket(s)
own mind your own beeswax
own on one's own hook
own talk to hear one's own voice

- own** toot one's own horn
ox dumb ox
oyster world is one's oyster
ozone in the ozone
pace at a snail's pace
pack Joe Six-pack
pack nerd pack
pack packing (a gun)
pack pack of lies
pad crash pad
pad earth pads
pad pad out
paddle up shit creek (without a paddle)
paddle up the creek (without a paddle)
paddy paddy wagon
page on the same page
page take a page from someone's book
pain feeling no pain
pain give someone a pain
pain pain in the ass
pain pain in the butt
pain pain in the neck
pain pain in the rear
pain royal pain
paint Do I have to paint (you) a picture?
paint paint remover
paint paint the town (red)
paint tonsil paint
paint war paint
pal pal around (with someone)
pal pally (with someone)
palace gin palace
palace ice palace
pally pally (with someone)
palm grease someone's palm
palm palm someone or something off (on someone)
palm palm something off on someone
pan pan out
panic hit the panic button
panic press the panic button
panic push the panic button
pants bore the pants off (of) someone
pants cream (in) one's pants
pants dust someone's pants
pants get in(to) someone's pants
pants have ants in one's pants
pants have hot pants (for someone)
pants Keep your pants on!
pants kick in the (seat of the) pants
pants one-eyed pants mouse
pants pants rabbits
pants scare the pants off someone
pants sue the pants off (of) someone
pants wear the pants (in the house)
paper bad paper
paper green paper
paper hot paper
paper paper over something
paper walking papers
parachute golden parachute
parade rain on someone's parade
pardon if you'll pardon the expression
pardon Pardon me for living!
pardon Pardon my French.
pardon (Well,) pardon me for living!
parental (parental) units
park ball park estimate
park ball park figure
park park it (somewhere)
parker nosy parker
parlor sauce parlor
part parting shot
party certain party
party coke party
party free base party
party grass party
party hen party
party keg party
party kick party
party party animal
party party bowl
party party down
party party hearty
party Party on!
party pot party
party tailgate party
party tea party
pasa Que pasa?
pass pass for something
pass pass go
pass pass the buck
paste paste someone one
pat stand pat (on something)
path on the warpath
patootie You bet your sweet patoot(ie)!
patrol bush patrol
patter patter of tiny feet
pavement hit the pavement
pay hit pay dirt
pay pay a call
pay pay one's dues
pay pay one's dues (to society)
pay pay the water bill
pay strike pay dirt
pay There will be hell to pay.
peace peace out
peachy peachy (keen)
peanut for peanuts
peanut peanut head
pedal put the pedal to the metal
pedal soft pedal something

- pee pee'd off
 peep another peep (out of you)
 peeve pet peeve
 peg peg someone
 peg square peg (in a round hole)
 pencil have lead in one's pencil
 penny pretty penny
 people people watching
 people street people
 pep pepped (up)
 pep pep pill
 pep pep talk
 pepper salt and pepper
 percenter ten percenter
 period honeymoon (period)
 perked perked (up)
 person day person
 person night person
 pet pet peeve
 Pete For Pete's sake!
 Peter Peter Jay
 peter peter out
 phone talk on the big white phone
 phony phony as a three-dollar bill
 pick pick up on something
 pick roach pick
 picture Do I have to draw (you) a picture?
 picture Do I have to paint (you) a picture?
 picture Get the picture?
 picture out of the picture
 picture take pictures
 piddle piddle (around)
 pie cutie pie
 pie pie in the sky
 piece abbreviated piece of nothing
 piece cold piece of work
 piece piece of ass
 piece piece of cake
 piece piece of snatch
 piece piece of tail
 piece piece (of the action)
 pifky mifky-pifky (in the bushes)
 pig bleed like a stuck pig
 pig bush pig
 pig make a pig of oneself
 pig male chauvinist pig
 pig pig heaven
 pig pig out
 pigeon clay pigeon
 pigeon stool (pigeon)
 pile make a pile
 pile pile of shit
 pill gorilla pills
 pill happy pills
 pill idiot pills
 pill King Kong pills
 pill on the pill
 pill pep pill
 pill pill freak
 pill poison pill
 pill take a chill pill
 pillar send someone from pillar to post
 pimp pimp steak
 pimp popcorn pimp
 pin pin someone's ears back
 pinch pinch hitter
 pink gay as pink ink
 pink in the pink
 pink pink elephants
 pink pink slip
 pink pink spiders
 pink seeing pink elephants
 pink seeing pink spiders
 pink tickled (pink)
 pinkie (little) pinkie
 pipe hash pipe
 pipe pipe down
 pipe Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
 pipe set of pipes
 pipe take the gas pipe
 pipe take the pipe
 pipeline in the pipeline
 piped piped (up)
 piss piss around
 piss piss blood
 piss pissed off about someone or something
 piss pissed (off) (at someone or something)
 piss piss elegant
 piss piss factory
 piss piss in the wind
 piss piss off
 piss Piss on it!
 piss piss on someone or something
 piss piss someone off
 piss piss something away
 piss take the piss out of someone
 pit bottomless pit
 pit pit stop
 pitch pitch a bitch
 pitch pitch a tent
 pitch pitch in (and help)
 pitch Pitch it!
 pitch pitch (the) woo
 pitchforks rain pitchforks
 pity For pity's sake!
 pizza road pizza
 place bag ass (out of some place)
 place barrel ass (out of some place)
 place between a rock and a hard place
 place bust ass (out of some place)
 place cut ass (out of some place)
 place drag ass (out of some place)

- place** go places
place haul ass (out of some place)
place Let's bump this place!
place shag ass (out of some place)
place tear into a place
place wide place in the road
place Your place or mine?
plan game plan
plant plant something on someone
plaster plastered to the wall
plaster pleasantly plastered
plastic plastic punk
play grandstand play
play in play
play play around (with someone)
play play ball (with someone)
play play fast and loose (with someone or something)
play play for keeps
play play freeze-out
play play hardball (with someone)
play play hell with someone or something
play play hide the sausage
play play hooky
play play in the big leagues
play play it cool
play play someone for a fool
play play the devil with someone or something
play play the dozens
play play tonsil hockey
play play with a full deck
play play with fire
play squeeze play
play way it plays
plea cop a plea
pleasantly pleasantly plastered
pledge take the pledge
plonk plonked (up)
plop cow plop
plow plowed (under)
plug not worth a plugged nickel
plug plugged in
plug pull the plug (on someone or something)
plumb half a bubble off plumb
plumb plumb loco
plumbing check out the plumbing
plumbing visit the plumbing
plunge take the plunge
pocket deep pockets
pocket line one's own pocket(s)
pocket out of pocket
pocket pocket pool
point brownie points
point point man
point three point two
point touch a sore point
poison lead poisoning
poison Name your poison.
poison poison pill
pole half up the pole
pole up the pole
pole wouldn't touch someone or something with a ten-foot pole
polish get one's knob polished
polish polished (up)
polish shoe polish
polish spit and polish
pond pond scum
pony dog and pony show
pool dirty pool
pool pocket pool
poop pooped (out)
poop poop out
poop poop sheet
poopoo non compos poopoo
pop cold pop
pop jab pop
pop pop for something
pop pop off
pop pop one's cork
pop pop (some) tops
pop pop the question
pop pop wine
pop take a pop at someone
pop What's poppin'?
popcorn popcorn pimp
popper lid poppers
porcelain bow to the porcelain altar
porcelain drive the porcelain bus
porcelain hug the porcelain god(dess)
porcelain kiss the porcelain god
porcelain pray to the porcelain god
porcelain ride the porcelain bus
porcelain worship the porcelain god(dess)
pore air one's pores
pork pork out
pose mod poser
posilutely absotively (posilutely)
post send someone from pillar to post
postal go postal
pot pot boiler
pot pot hound
pot pot party
pot pot sniffer
pot sex pot
pot Shit or get off the pot!
pot up pot
potato all meat and no potatoes
potato all (that) meat and no potatoes
potato couch potato

- potato** drop someone or something like a hot potato
potato hot potato
potato mouse potato
potato potato soup
potato small potatoes
potty potty mouth
pound pound a beer
pound pound one's ear
pound pound one's meat
pound pound some beers
pound pound someone's head in
pound pound something out
pound pound the books
pour pour cold water on something
powder chicken powder
powder powdered (up)
powder powder monkey
powder powder one's face
powder powder one's nose
powder powder room
powder powder up
powder take a powder
power power hitter
power power tool
pray pray to the enamel god
pray pray to the porcelain god
president dead president
press press (the) flesh
press press the panic button
pretty pretty penny
pretty sitting pretty
primo (el) primo
prince Prince Albert
private private eye
problem No problem.
program get with the program
promise lick and a promise
prop lid proppers
propel self-propelled sandbag
proud do oneself proud
prowl on the prowl
prune full of prunes
psych psyched (out)
psych psyched (up)
psych psych out
psych psych someone out
psych psych someone up
public go public
public Jane Q. Public
public John Q. Public
public take something public
pud pull one's pud
puddle puddle jumper
puff cream puff
puke puke hole
pull pull a boner
pull pull a fast one
pull pull a job
pull pull an attitude
pull pull chocks
pull pull down an amount of money
pull pull jive
pull pull one's belt in (a notch)
pull pull oneself off
pull pull one's pud
pull pull one's punches
pull pull one's wire
pull pull out all the stops
pull pull someone's chain
pull pull someone's leg
pull pull something off
pull pull the plug (on someone or something)
pump pumped (up)
pump pump iron
pump pump ship
pump pump (some) iron
pump pump (someone) up
pump pump something up
pump pump up
pumpkin some pumpkins
punch get one's ticket punched
punch pull one's punches
punch punch someone out
punch punch someone's lights out
punch rabbit punch
punch roundhouse punch
punch Sunday punch
punch telegraph one's punches
punch throw a punch
punk plastic punk
punk punk kid
punk punk out
punkin some punkins
pup beat the pup
puppy puppy love
pure pure and simple
purge urge to purge
purr purr (like a cat)
push cookie pusher
push if push comes to shove
push pushing up daisies
push push money
push push off
push push the panic button
push street pusher
push when push comes to shove
puss glamour puss
pussy pussy fart
pussyfoot pussyfoot (around)
put put a con on someone
put Put a cork in it!

- put** put a damper on something
put put a smile on someone's face
put Put a sock in it!
put put balls on something
put put oneself straight
put put one's nose in (where it's not wanted)
put put on the dog
put put on the feedbag
put put on the nosebag
put put on the ritz
put put some distance between someone and someone or something
put put someone away
put put someone on
put put someone or something out of the way
put put someone out of the way
put put someone's nose out of joint
put put someone to bed with a shovel
put put someone up
put put some sweet lines on someone
put put something away
put put something on the street
put Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
put put the arm on someone
put put the bite on someone
put put the chill on someone
put put the finger on someone
put put the freeze on someone
put put the heat on someone
put put the kibosh on something
put put the moves on someone
put put them together for someone
put put the pedal to the metal
put put the screws on someone
put put the skids under someone or something
put put the squeeze on someone
put put to bed with a shovel
put put to it
put put too much on it
put put-up job
put Put up or shut up!
put Put your money where your mouth is!
putz putz around
quaff quaff a brew
quality quality Joe
que Que pasa?
queen campus queen
queen ice queen
queer queer as a three-dollar bill
queer queer fish
queer queer for something
question loaded question
question pop the question
question sixty-four-dollar question
quick quick buck
quick quicker than hell
quick quick fix
quick quick one
quit quit while one is ahead
quit Quit your bellyaching!
quote cuff quote
quote quote, unquote
rabbit pants rabbits
rabbit rabbit food
rabbit rabbit punch
race rat race
rack rack duty
rack racked (up)
rack rack face
rack rack (out)
rack rack something up
rack rack time
rack rack up
racket juice racket
rad way rad
rag chew the rag
rag glad rags
rag on the rag
rag rag on someone
rag rag out
rag wet rag
ragged talk someone ragged
railroad railroad tracks
rain rain on someone or something
rain rain on someone's parade
rain rain pitchforks
rain right as rain
raise hell raiser
raise My mama didn't raise no dummy.
raise raise a stink (about someone or something)
raise raise Cain
raise raise hell
raise raise hell (with someone)
raise raise hell (with something)
raise raise the devil (with someone)
raise raise the devil (with something)
rake rake on someone
rake rake something in
ralph call ralph
ralph cry ralph
ralph hang a ralph
ralph ralph something up
ram ram something down someone's throat
rank rank and file
rank rank on someone
rank rank someone (out)
rap bad rap
rap bum rap
rap rap session
rap (rap) sheet

- rap** take the rap (for something)
rare in rare form
rare rare bird
rare rare old time
rare raring to go
raspberry give someone the raspberry
rat hood rat
rat rat around
rat rat fink
rat rat (on someone)
rat rat out
rat rat race
rat rug rat
rat sack rat
rat smell a rat
rattle slightly rattled
raunch raunch someone out
raw raw deal
ray bag some rays
ray catch some rays
reach reach for the sky
reaction gut reaction (to something)
read Read my lips!
ready rough and ready
real 4 real
real for real
real Get real!
real Keep it real!
real real bitch
real real gone
real (real) McCoy
ream ream someone out
rear get off one's rear
rear kick in the rear
rear pain in the rear
rear rear (end)
reason no earthly reason
recruit marine (recruit)
red Cambodian red
red cam (red)
red Chinese red
red paint the town (red)
red red gravy
red red hot
red red-hot mama
red red ink
red red-letter day
red red tape
red red tide
red see red
reinvent reinvent the wheel
reject meals rejected by Ethiopians
reject meals rejected by the enemy
remark loaded remark
remark snide remark
remove paint remover
rent low rent
rent room for rent
repellent shark repellent
repo repo man
republic banana republic
requisition moonlight requisition
rest Give it a rest!
rest Give me a rest!
result net result
rev rev something up
rev revved (up)
revenge Montezuma's revenge
reverse reverse gears
rhyme run one's rhymes
rice like the white on rice
rich filthy rich
rich stinking rich
rich strike it rich
rich too rich for someone's blood
ride free ride
ride joy ride
ride let something ride
ride ride shotgun
ride ride the porcelain bus
ride thumb a ride
right all right
right (bang) dead to rights
right dead to rights
right get one right here
right get right
right hang a right
right have someone dead to rights
right keep one's head right
right Mr. Right
right right as rain
right right guy
right right in the kisser
right (right) up one's alley
right sail (right) through something
right serve someone right
right step right up
right straighten up and fly right
right Yeah, right!
righteous righteous collar
ring ring a bell
ring ring off the hook
ring ringtailed snorter
ring ring the bell
ring throw one's hat in the ring
ringer (dead) ringer (for someone)
ringer ringer (for someone)
ringtailed ringtailed snorter
Rinso go Rinso
rip don't give a rip
rip Let her rip!
rip (rip-)off artist

- rip** rip on someone
rip ripped (off)
rip ripped (up)
rip rip snorter
rip rip someone off
rip rip something off
rise Rise and shine!
ritz put on the ritz
river send someone up the river
river up the river
roach roach clip
roach roach pick
road get the show on the road
road hit the road
road one for the road
road on the road
road road apple
road road hog
road road pizza
road smack the road
road wide place in the road
roar dull roar
rob rob someone blind
robbery highway robbery
rock between a rock and a hard place
rock get one's rocks off
rock get one's rocks off (on something)
rock have rocks in one's head
rock on the rocks
rock rock bottom
rock rock candy
rockier off one's rocker
rocket blow a snot rocket
rocket blow snot rockets
rocky walking on rocky socks
rod (hot) rod
rod lightning rod
roll heads will roll
roll high roller
roll Let it roll!
roll on a roll
roll roll in
roll rolling buzz
roof hit the roof
roof keyed up to the roof
room back room
room back room boys
room boys in the back room
room gab room
room Go to your room!
room ladies' room
room little boys' room
room little girls' room
room men's room
room not enough room to swing a cat
room powder room
room room for rent
room rumpus room
room smoke-filled room
room throne room
rope rope someone in
rose bed of roses
rose smell like a rose
rot Rots of ruck!
rot rotten apple
rot rotten egg
rot rotten luck
rot rotten to the core
rot software rot
rot spoiled rotten
rough diamond in the rough
rough rough and ready
rough rough and tumble
rough rough it
rough rough someone up
rough rough stuff
rough rough time
roulette Vatican roulette
round round the bend
round round tripper
round square peg (in a round hole)
roundhouse roundhouse punch
roundup last roundup
row skid row
row skid row bum
row tough row to hoe
royal royal pain
rub rub someone out
rub rub someone's nose in something
rubber burn rubber
rubber lay (some) rubber
rubber rubber (check)
rubber rubber sock
ruck Rots of ruck!
rug rug rat
rug sky rug
rum rummed (up)
rumor latrine rumor
rumpus rumpus room
run cut and run
run front runner
run get someone's motor running
run have a run-in (with someone or something)
run on the run
run run a make on someone
run run amok
run run down some lines
run run it down
run run off
run run off at the mouth
run run on all cylinders

- run** run one's rhymes
run run out of gas
run run scared
run run someone in
run Run that by (me) again.
run Run that by (me) one more time.
run Take a running jump (in the lake)!
run turn tail (and run)
rush bum's rush
rust rust belt
rust rust bucket
ruth call ruth
ruth cry ruth
sack fart sack
sack get the sack
sack hit the sack
sack sacked out
sack sack out
sack sack rat
sack sack time
sack sad sack
sack second sacker
sacred sacred mushrooms
sad sad sack
saddle saddled with someone or something
saddle tall in the saddle
safe on the safe side
said What someone said.
sail clear sailing
sail sail into someone
sail sail (right) through something
sail take the wind out of someone's sails
sake For Pete's sake!
sake For pity's sake!
sale no sale
salt back to the salt mines
salt go through someone like a dose of (the) salts
salt salt and pepper
salt salt horse
salt throw salt on someone's game
salt worth one's salt
Sam Sam and Dave
Sam Uncle (Sam)
Sam What in Sam Hill?
Sam What in (the) Sam Hill?
Sam Where in (the) Sam Hill?
Sam Where the Sam Hill?
same on the same page
same on the same wavelength
same same difference
same same here
same same old story
same same o(l)' same o(l)'
sandal jelly sandals
sandbag self-propelled sandbag
sandwich dagwood (sandwich)
sandwich knuckle sandwich
sandwich soup sandwich
Saturday Saturday night special
sauce lost in the sauce
sauce on the sauce
sauce sauce parlor
sausage play hide the sausage
save saved by the bell
save Save it!
sawbuck double saw(buck)
say I hear what you are saying.
say let's say
say Say cheese!
say Says me!
say Says who?
say Says you!
say say uncle
say Say what?
say Smile when you say that.
say That's what I say.
say What do you say?
say What someone said.
say You can say that again!
scag scag jones
scam What's the scam?
scandal scandal sheet
scarce make oneself scarce
scare run scared
scare scared shitless
scare scared stiff
scare scare someone or something up
scare scare the hell out of someone
scare scare the pants off someone
scarf scarf out
scarf scarf something down
scenario worst-case scenario
scene heavy scene
scene make the scene
schizz schiz(z) out
schmear whole schmear
Schmo Joe Schmo
school school someone
schoolboy schoolboy Scotch
scope scope (on) someone
scope scope someone out
score know the score
score make a score
Scotch schoolboy Scotch
Scott Great Scott!
Scotty Beam me up, Scotty!
scramble scrambled eggs
scrape scrape the bottom of the barrel
scratch scratch sheet
scratch up to scratch
scream scream bloody murder

- screech** screeching (drunk)
screw have a loose screw
screw have a screw loose
screw put the screws on someone
screw screw around
screw screw around with someone or something
screw screwed, blued, and tattooed
screw screwed tight
screw screwed up
screw screw someone or something up
screw screw someone out of something
screw screw someone over
screw screw up
script flip the script
scrounge scrounge (around (for someone or something))
scrounge scrounge someone or something up
scum bathtub scum
scum pond scum
scum shower scum
scupper scupper up
scuzz scuzz someone out
seal sealed (up)
seal sealed with a kiss
search Search me.
seat hot seat
seat in the catbird seat
seat in the driver's seat
seat in the hot seat
seat kick in the (seat of the) pants
second second fiddle
second second sacker
see cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose
see Long time no see.
see see a man about a dog
see see eye to eye
see seeing pink elephants
see seeing pink spiders
see seeing snakes
see seen better days
see see no further than the end of one's nose
see see red
see see stars
see See ya.
see See you.
see See you later.
see See you later, alligator.
see What you see is what you get.
see would not be seen dead
self self-propelled sandbag
sell hard sell
sell sell a wolf ticket
sell sell buicks
sell sell someone out
sell sell wolf tickets
sell soft sell
sell sold on someone or something
send send someone from pillar to post
send send someone or something up
send send someone to glory
send send someone up the river
sense sense (bud)
serious get down to some serious drinking
serious serious about someone
serpent civil serpent
serve serve someone right
service Call my service.
sesh full sesh
session bitch session
session bull session
session rap session
set set of pipes
set set of wheels
set set someone back
set set someone up (for something)
settle settle someone's hash
seven seven-year itch
seven twenty-four, seven
sew sewed up
sew sew something up
sewer sewer hog
sex sex goddess
sex sex kitten
sex sex pot
sez Sez me!
sez Sez who?
shabby not too shabby
shack shack up (with someone)
shade have it made in the shade
shaft give someone the shaft
shag shag ass (out of some place)
shag shagged out
shag shag (off)
shake (all) shook up
shake body shake
shake fair shake
shake I'm shaking (in fear).
shake movers and shakers
shake no great shakes
shake shake a leg
shake Shake it (up)!
shake shake someone down
shake shook up
shake two shakes of a lamb's tail
shake What's shakin' (bacon)?
shank shank it
shank shank's mare
shape bent out of shape
shape flexed out of shape
shape in bad shape

shape	lick something into shape	shit	knock the shit out of someone
shape	shape up	shit	know shit from Shinola
shape	shape up or ship out	shit	little shit
shape	strung-out shape	shit	No shit!
shape	whip something into shape	shit	not know shit about something
share	lion's share	shit	not know shit from Shinola
shark	shark repellent	shit	pile of shit
shave	close shave	shit	shit a brick
shebang	whole shebang	shit	Shit happens.
sheet	both sheets in the wind	shit	shit on a shingle
sheet	four sheets in the wind	shit	shit on someone
sheet	four sheets (to the wind)	shit	Shit or get off the pot!
sheet	poop sheet	shit	shoot the shit
sheet	(rap) sheet	shit	stick like shit to a shovel
sheet	scandal sheet	shit	take a shit
sheet	scratch sheet	shit	tell shit from Shinola
sheet	swindle sheet	shit	tough shit
sheet	three sheets in the wind	shit	up shit creek (without a paddle)
sheet	three sheets (to the wind)	shit	when the shit hit the fan
sheet	two sheets to the wind	shithouse	built like a brick shithouse
shelf	on the shelf	shitless	scared shitless
shell	shell an amount of money out	shitty	shitty end of the stick
shell	shell out (an amount of money)	shock	sticker shock
shift	graveyard shift	shoe	baby needs shoes
shift	stick shift	shoe	goody two-shoes
shift	swing shift	shoe	gym shoe
shine	Rise and shine!	shoe	jelly shoes
shine	shine someone	shoe	on a shoestring
shine	where the sun don't shine	shoe	shoe polish
shingle	shit on a shingle	shoestring	on a shoestring
Shinola	know shit from Shinola	shook	(all) shook up
Shinola	No Shinola!	shook	shook up
Shinola	not know shit from Shinola	shoot	shoot 'em up
Shinola	tell shit from Shinola	shoot	shoot for the sky
ship	pump ship	shoot	shoot from the hip
ship	shape up or ship out	shoot	shooting iron
shirt	Keep your shirt on!	shoot	shoot one's breakfast
shirt	lose one's shirt	shoot	shoot one's cookies
shirt	stuffed shirt	shoot	shoot oneself in the foot
shit	(as) close as stink on shit	shoot	shoot one's mouth off
shit	bad shit	shoot	shoot one's supper
shit	beat the shit out of someone	shoot	shoot one's wad
shit	chicken shit	shoot	shoot someone down in flames
shit	cling like shit to a shovel	shoot	shoot someone or something down
shit	close as stink on shit	shoot	shoot the breeze
shit	croak (of shit)	shoot	shoot the bull
shit	day the eagle shits	shoot	shoot the cat
shit	Eat shit!	shoot	shoot the crap
shit	full of shit	shoot	shoot the dozens
shit	get one's shit together	shoot	shoot the shit
shit	give a shit (about someone or something)	shoot	shoot the works
shit	have a shit-fit	shoot	shoot up
shit	have shit for brains	shoot	shoot up (on something)
shit	hot shit	shoot	square shooter
shit	kick the shit out of someone	shoot	straight shooter
		shoot	whole shooting match

- shop** happy shop
shop hook shop
shop shopping list
short case of the shorts
short have a short fuse
short have someone by the short hairs
short long story short
short short end of the stick
short short fuse
short short one
shot big shot
shot call (all) the shots
shot cheap shot
shot double-barreled slingshot
shot grape shot
shot long shot
shot mug shot
shot one's best shot
shot parting shot
shot shot down
shot shot in the arm
shot shot in the dark
shot shot in the neck
shot shot to hell
shot shot to the curb
shot take a shot (at something)
shot who shot John
shotgun call shotgun
shotgun ride shotgun
shotgun shotgun wedding
shoulder cold shoulder
shoulder straight from the shoulder
shouldn't shouldn't happen to a dog
shove if push comes to shove
shove shove off
shove when push comes to shove
shovel cling like shit to a shovel
shovel put someone to bed with a shovel
shovel put to bed with a shovel
shovel stick like shit to a shovel
show dog and pony show
show free show
show get the show on the road
show girlie show
show no show
show one-man show
show show and tell
show show biz
show That's show business (for you).
shower shower scum
shuck shuck down
shucks (Aw) shucks!
shur fer shur
shush shush (up)
shut get some shut-eye
shut Put up or shut up!
- shut** shut up
shut Shut your face!
shut Shut your mouth!
shut Shut your trap!
shy one brick shy of a load
shy three bricks shy of a load
Siberian Siberian express
sick sick to death (of someone or something)
sick sick (up)
side can't hit the (broad) side of a barn
side flip side
side on the safe side
side on the side
side sunny-side up
side wrong side of the tracks
sidewalk sidewalk superintendent
sidewalk sidewalk surfing
sieg sieg-heil someone
sight out of sight
sign high sign
sign Nebraska sign
silk silked to the bone
silly stoned silly
silo silo drippings
silver silver bullet
silver silver goose
simmer simmer (down)
Simon Simon Legree
simple pure and simple
sin ugly as sin
sing till the fat lady sings
sing when the fat lady sings
sink hook, line, and sinker
sink sink one's teeth into something
sister sob sister
sister (soul) sister
sister weak sister
sit sitting duck
sit sitting pretty
situation no-win situation
six deep six
six double six
six Joe Six-pack
six on your six
six six feet under
sixty sixty-four-dollar question
size That's about the size of it.
skag skagged out
skag skag jones
sketch thumbnail sketch
skid grease the skids
skid hit the skids
skid on the skids
skid put the skids under someone or something
skid skid marks

skid skid row
skid skid row bum
skin Give me (some) skin!
skin knock someone some skin
skin skin a goat
skin skin flick
skin skin game
skin Skin me!
skinful have a skinful
skinny (hot) skinny
skinny skinny dip
skip Skip it!
skip skip (out)
skittles beer and skittles
skool old skool
skrill fat skrill
skull out of one's skull
sky aim for the sky
sky pie in the sky
sky reach for the sky
sky shoot for the sky
sky sky hook
sky sky rug
sky sky's the limit
slam bitch slammer
slam slam a beer
slam slam dunk
slam slam some beers
slap slap happy
slap slap in the face
slap slap someone on the wrist
slap slap someone's wrist
slave slave away (at something)
slave slave market
sleep beauty sleep
sleep sleep it off
sleep wink of sleep
sleeve have an ace up one's sleeve
slice frog slicing
slice It's been a slice!
slice slice of the action
slight slightly rattled
slim iceberg slim
slime slime bag
slime slime bucket
sling double-barreled slingshot
sling have one's ass in a sling
sling ink slinger
sling sling the cat
slingshot double-barreled slingshot
slip give someone the slip
slip pink slip
slip Slip me five!
slip slip one's trolley
slip slip someone a Mickey
slip slip someone five

slip slip (up)
slob slob up
slop Earp slop, bring the mop.
slosh sloshed (to the ears)
slough sloughed (up)
slow do a slow burn
slow slow burn
slow take it slow
slowly twist (slowly) in the wind
sluff sluff (off)
slug slug it out
slush slushed (up)
slush slush fund
slush slush up
sly on the sly
smack smack (dab) in the middle
smack smack the road
small small beer
small small change
small small fortune
small small fry
small small potatoes
smart get smart (with someone)
smart one smart apple
smart smart aleck
smart smart ass
smart smart cookie
smart smart guy
smart smart money
smart smart mouth
smart street smart
smart street smarts
smash smash hit
smell I smell you.
smell smell a rat
smell smell blood
smell smell fishy
smell smell it up
smell smell like a rose
smell smell the stuff
smell smell to (high) heaven
smile put a smile on someone's face
smile Smile when you say that.
smile wearing (nothing but) a smile
smoke blow smoke
smoke Put that in your pipe and smoke it!
smoke smoke and mirrors
smoke smoke eater
smoke smoke-filled room
smoke smoke like a chimney
smoke smoking gun
Smokey Smokey (the Bear)
smooth jump smooth
smooth smooth operator
snail at a snail's gallop
snail at a snail's pace

snake	seeing snakes	sock	Stuff a sock in it!
snake	snake eyes	sock	sweat sock
snake	snake in the grass	sock	walking on rocky socks
snakebite	snakebite medicine	sock	wet sock
snap	Make it snappy!	sofa	sofa spud
snap	snap course	soft	soft berth
snap	Snap it up!	soft	soft core
snap	snap one's cookies	soft	soft in the head
snap	snap out of something	soft	soft money
snap	snapped (up)	soft	soft on someone
snap	snap something up	soft	soft on someone or something
snap	snap to (attention)	soft	soft pedal something
snap	Snap to it!	soft	soft sell
snatch	piece of snatch	soft	soft soap
snave	snaved in	soft	soft touch
snazz	snazz something up	soft	walk soft
sneeze	nothing to sneeze at	software	software rot
snide	snide remark	sold	sold cober
sniff	pot sniffer	sold	sold on someone or something
snit	in a snit	soldier	dead soldier
snort	ringtailed snorter	soldier	old soldier
snort	rip snorter	some	all that and then some
snot	blow a snot rocket	some	bag ass (out of some place)
snot	blow snot rockets	some	bag some rays
snot	snotnose(d) kid	some	barrel ass (out of some place)
snotnosed	snotnose(d) kid	some	blow off (some) steam
snow	do a snow job on someone	some	bust ass (out of some place)
snow	Lady Snow	some	bust (some) suds
snow	snowball's chance in hell	some	catch some rays
snow	snow bunny	some	catch some Z's
snow	snow job	some	cop some Z's
snow	snow stuff	some	crack some suds
snowball's	snowball's chance in hell	some	cut ass (out of some place)
snuff	snuff film	some	cut some Z's
snuff	snuff it	some	do some bongs
snuff	up to snuff	some	do some fine coin
soak	Go soak your head!	some	drag ass (out of some place)
soak	Go soak yourself!	some	drop someone some knowledge
soak	soak one's face	some	get down to some serious drinking
soap	no soap	some	get some shut-eye
soap	soft soap	some	get some yokes on
sob	sob sister	some	Give me (some) skin!
sob	sob story	some	hammer some beers
sober	cold sober	some	haul ass (out of some place)
sober	sober as a judge	some	Hold some, fold some.
sober	sober up	some	kick some ass (around)
sober	stone (cold) sober	some	knock some heads together
sober	stone sober	some	knock someone some skin
social	social disease	some	lay (some) rubber
society	pay one's dues (to society)	some	lay some sweet lines on someone
sock	knock someone's socks off	some	let off (some) steam
sock	Put a sock in it!	some	pop (some) tops
sock	rubber sock	some	pound some beers
sock	socked in	some	pump (some) iron
sock	sock hop	some	put some distance between someone
sock	Sock it to me!		and someone or something

- some** put some sweet lines on someone
some run down some lines
some shag ass (out of some place)
some slam some beers
some some pumpkins
some some punkins
some suck (some) brew
some suck (some) suds
some take some doing
some take some heat
sometime Let's do lunch (sometime).
somewhere boogie down (to somewhere)
somewhere get one's tail somewhere fast!
somewhere get one's tail somewhere immediately!
somewhere get one's tail somewhere now!
somewhere hump it (to somewhere)
somewhere make for somewhere
somewhere park it (somewhere)
son son of a bitch
son son of a gun
sop sopping (wet)
sore stick out like a sore thumb
sore touch a sore point
sorry sorry about that
sorry sorry 'bout that
soul gripe one's soul
soul heavy soul
soul (soul) brother
soul soul kiss
soul (soul) sister
soul thirsty soul
sound sound off (about something)
soup alphabet soup
soup everything from soup to nuts
soup in the soup
soup laughing soup
soup potato soup
soup souped up
soup soup sandwich
soup soup something up
soup Soup's on!
sour go sour
South go South
South head South
South mouth full of South
space space cadet
space spaced (out)
space space out
space space someone out
spade in spades
spank (brand) spanking new
spank spanking new
spare spare tire
spaz have a spaz
spaz spaz around
spaz spaz down
spaz spaz out
speak Speak it!
speak speak of the devil
speak speak someone's language
spear take the spear (in one's chest)
special King Kong specials
special Saturday night special
speed speed demon
speed speed freak
speed speed merchant
spend big spender
spend big-time spender
spend spending money
spew spew one's guts (out)
spider barking spider
spider pink spiders
spider seeing pink spiders
spider trumpet spider
spiff spiffed out
spiff spiffed up
spill spill one's guts on someone
spill spill one's guts (to someone)
spill spill the beans
spill spill the works
spin spin doctor
spin spin one's wheels
spit spit and polish
spit Spit it out!
spit swap spits
spit within spitting distance
spleen vent one's spleen
split I've got to split.
split split a gut
split splitting headache
split split up
spoil spoiled rotten
spoil spoiling for a fight
sponge sponge off someone
sponge throw in the sponge
sponge toss in the sponge
spook spook factory
spoon (flake) spoon
spoon greasy spoon
spot hit the spot
spot spot market
spot spot of lunch
spot spot someone (something)
spot tight spot
spot X marks the spot.
sprain sprain one's ankle
spring spring chicken
spring spring for something
spring spring someone
sprout sprout wings
spud sofa spud

- squad** goon squad
squad junk squad
square back to square one
square square apple
square squared away
square squared up
square square john
square square john broad
square square joint
square square (meal)
square square off
square square peg (in a round hole)
square square shooter
square square with someone
square three squares
squash stoned out of one's squash
squat cop a squat
squat take a squat
squawk squawk box
squeak narrow squeak
squeak squeaky clean
squeeze budget squeeze
squeeze main squeeze
squeeze put the squeeze on someone
squeeze squeeze play
squiff on the squiff
squiff squiff out
squirrel squirrel out of something
squirrel squirrel something away
stack blow one's stack
stack stack the deck
stack swear on a stack of Bibles
tag tag line
stage honeymoon stage
stair nothing upstairs
stake stake someone or something out
stake stake someone to something
stake up stakes
stale stale drunk
stamp stamping ground
stand If you can't stand the heat, keep out of the kitchen.
stand one-night stand
stand stand pat (on something)
stand stand someone up
stand stand tall
stand stand there with one's bare face hanging out
stand taco stand
star see stars
starch take the starch out of someone
start jump-start someone
stash main stash
station comfort station
station filling station
station fuzz station
station Grand Central Station
station thirst-aid station
statistics vital statistics
stay stay loose
stay Stay tuned.
steak pimp steak
steak tube steak
steam blow off (some) steam
steam full steam ahead
steam let off (some) steam
steam steamed (up)
steam steam someone's beam
steam steam someone up
steam steam up
steer bum steer
step Aztec two-step
step step off the curb
step Step on it!
step step out on someone
step step outside
step stepped on
step step right up
step You want to step outside?
stew stew bum
stew stewed to the ears
stew stewed to the gills
stew stewed (up)
stick boom sticks
stick cancer stick
stick carry the stick
stick get on the stick
stick hit by the stupid stick
stick hit by the ugly stick
stick licorice stick
stick shitty end of the stick
stick short end of the stick
stick stick around
stick Stick 'em up!
stick stick in the mud
stick stick it to someone
stick stick like shit to a shovel
stick stick man
stick stick one's nose in (where it's not wanted)
stick stick out like a sore thumb
stick stick shift
stick stick someone with something
sticker sticker shock
sticky sticky fingers
stiff scared stiff
stiff working stiff
stink (as) close as stink on shit
stink big stink
stink close as stink on shit
stink holy stink
stink like stink

- stink** make a stink (about someone or something)
stink raise a stink (about someone or something)
stink stinking (drunk)
stink stinking rich
stink stinking with something
stink stink on ice
stir stir crazy
stock deal stock
stock story stock
stoke stoked (on someone or something)
stoke stoked out
stomach cast-iron stomach
stomach turn someone's stomach
stomp stomp (on) someone
stone carved in stone
stone stone blind
stone stone broke
stone stone cold fox
stone stone (cold) sober
stone stone dead
stone stoned (out)
stone stoned out of one's gourd
stone stoned out of one's head
stone stoned out of one's squash
stone stoned silly
stone stone fox
stone stone groove
stone stone sober
stool stool (on someone)
stool stool (pigeon)
stop nature stop
stop pit stop
stop pull out all the stops
stop stop on a dime
stop Stop the music!
storage in cold storage
store candy store
store dime store
store leaky store
stork visit from the stork
storm kick up a storm
storm up a storm
story bedtime story
story fish story
story long story short
story same old story
story sob story
story story stock
story top story
story upper story
stow Stow it!
straddle straddle the fence
straight get straight
straight go straight
straight put oneself straight
straight straight arrow
straight straight dope
straight straighten up and fly right
straight straight from the horse's mouth
straight straight from the shoulder
straight straight low
straight straight man
straight straight shooter
straight straight talk
straight straight up
strange strange bird
strap strap someone with someone or something
strap yank one's strap
straw last straw
straw straw boss
streak have a yellow streak down one's back
streak losing streak
streak talk a blue streak
streak yellow streak (down someone's back)
street easy street
street jump (street)
street man on the street
street on easy street
street on the street
street put something on the street
street street people
street street pusher
street street smart
street street smarts
street street sweeper
street street time
street take it to the street
street two-way street
stress no stress
stretch in the (home) stretch
stretch stretch one's legs
strict (strictly) from hunger
strike strike it rich
strike strike out
strike strike pay dirt
stroke different strokes for different folks
strong come on strong
strong strong-arm man
strong strong-arm tactics
strung strung out
strung strung-out shape
strung strung (up)
strut strut one's stuff
stuck bleed like a stuck pig
stuck stuck on someone or something
stuck stuck with someone or something
study study animal
stuff and stuff like that (there)
stuff folding stuff

- stuff** get one's stuff together
stuff green stuff
stuff hot stuff
stuff kid stuff
stuff light stuff
stuff rough stuff
stuff smell the stuff
stuff snow stuff
stuff strut one's stuff
stuff Stuff a sock in it!
stuff stuffed shirt
stuff That's the stuff!
stupid get stupid
stupid hit by the stupid stick
stupid stupid fresh
such Like it's such a big deal.
suck suck face
suck suck (some) brew
suck suck someone's hind tit
suck suck (some) suds
suck suck something up
suck suck up to someone
suck That's so suck!
sucker sucker for someone or something
sucker sucker list
sudden sudden death
sudge jobber as a sudge
suds bust (some) suds
suds crack some suds
suds in the suds
suds suck (some) suds
sue (So,) sue me!
sue Sue me!
sue sue the pants off (of) someone
sugar sugar daddy
sugar Uncle Sugar
suit all over someone like a cheap suit
suit blue suit
summer summer complaint
sumpin' Wanna make sumpin' of it?
sun sun belt
sun where the sun don't shine
Sunday dark Sunday
Sunday Sunday best
Sunday Sunday driver
Sunday Sunday punch
sunny sunny-side up
sunshine walk on sunshine
superintendent sidewalk superintendent
supper shoot one's supper
sure for sure
sure I am so sure!
sure sure as hell
sure sure thing
surf channel surfer
surf channel surfing
surf sidewalk surfing
surf surf the net
suss suss someone out
Suzy Suzy Homemaker
swallow hard to swallow
swallow swallow the dictionary
swap swap notes (on someone or something)
swap swap spits
swear swear like a trooper
swear swear on a stack of Bibles
sweat Don't sweat it!
sweat in a cold sweat
sweat no sweat
sweat sweat blood
sweat sweat bullets
sweat sweat sock
sweat sweat something out
sweat tiger sweat
sweep clean sweep
sweep street sweeper
sweet fresh and sweet
sweet lay some sweet lines on someone
sweet put some sweet lines on someone
sweet sweet nothings
sweet You bet your sweet life!
sweet You bet your sweet patoot(ie)!
sweetheart sweetheart deal
swill monkey swill
swim swimming in something
swindle swindle sheet
swing not enough room to swing a cat
swing swing both ways
swing swing into high gear
swing swing shift
swing swing with someone or something
swipe take a swipe at someone or something
switch asleep at the switch
switch switched on
switch switch off
switch switch on
sync out of sync
table boxed on the table
table under the table
tack coffin tack
tacks brass tacks
taco taco stand
taco toss one's tacos
tactic strong-arm tactics
tag toe tag
tail bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
tail fuzzy (tail)
tail Get off my tail!
tail get one's tail somewhere fast!
tail get one's tail somewhere immediately!
tail get one's tail somewhere now!
tail Go chase your tail!

tail	have a tiger by the tail	take	take it out on someone or something
tail	hunk of tail	take	take it slow
tail	on someone's tail	take	take it through the nose
tail	piece of tail	take	take it to the street
tail	ringtailed snorter	take	take names
tail	tailgate party	take	take off
tail	turn tail (and run)	take	take-off artist
tail	two shakes of a lamb's tail	take	take one's belt in (a notch)
tail	work one's tail off	take	take one's lumps
tailgate	tailgate party	take	take on fuel
take	double take	take	take pictures
take	have what it takes	take	take some doing
take	on the take	take	take some heat
take	take a bath (on something)	take	take someone in
take	take a beating	take	take someone off
take	take a break	take	take someone or something apart
take	take a chill pill	take	take someone or something off
take	take a crack at something	take	take someone or something on
take	take a crap	take	take someone out
take	take a dig at someone	take	take someone to the cleaners
take	take a dirt nap	take	take something out
take	take a dive	take	take something public
take	take a dump	take	takes two to tango
take	take a fall	take	take the cure
take	take a flyer (on something)	take	take the fall
take	take a gander (at someone or something)	take	take the fifth
take	take a hike	take	take the gas pipe
take	take a jab at someone	take	take the heat
take	take a leak	take	take the heat off someone
take	take a load off one's feet	take	take the (long) count
take	take a lot of nerve	take	take the pipe
take	take a nosedive	take	take the piss out of someone
take	take a page from someone's book	take	take the pledge
take	take a pop at someone	take	take the plunge
take	take a powder	take	take the rap (for something)
take	Take a running jump (in the lake)!	take	take the spear (in one's chest)
take	take a shit	take	take the starch out of someone
take	take a shot (at something)	take	take the wind out of someone's sails
take	take a squat	take	take things easy
take	take a swipe at someone or something	take	taking care of business
take	take a walk	take	take You can't take it with you.
take	take a whack at someone or something	tale	fairy tale
take	take a whack at something	tale	fish tale
take	Take care.	tale	tale of woe
take	take care of number one	talk	big talk
take	take care of numero uno	talk	give someone a (good) talking to
take	take care of someone	talk	heart-to-heart (talk)
take	take five	talk	jive talk
take	take it	talk	Look who's talking!
take	Take it down a thou(sand)!	talk	money talks
take	take it easy	talk	monkey talk
take	take it on the chin	talk	nice talking to you
take	take it on the lam	talk	Now you're talking!
take	take it on the nose	talk	pep talk
take	Take it or leave it.	talk	straight talk
		talk	talk a blue streak

- talk** talk big
talk talking head
talk talk like a nut
talk talk one's head off
talk talk on the big white phone
talk talk someone ragged
talk talk someone's ear off
talk talk through one's hat
talk talk to earl
talk talk to hear one's own voice
talk talk to Herb and Al
talk talk turkey
talk talk until one is blue in the face
tall in tall cotton
tall stand tall
tall tall in the saddle
tall tall one
tall tall order
tall tall timbers
tall walk tall
tangle tangle with someone or something
tango takes two to tango
tank avenue tank
tank drunk tank
tank junk tank
tank on a tank
tank on the tank
tank tanked up
tank tank up
tap on tap
tap tap dance like mad
tap tap out
tap tapped out
tap tap someone (for something)
tape red tape
tar whale the tar out of someone
taste so bad one can taste it
taste taste blood
tattoo screwed, blued, and tattooed
taxi Tijuana taxi
tea cup of tea
tea tea party
teach That'll teach someone.
tear tear into a place
tear tear into someone
tear tear into something
tear tear loose (from someone or something)
tear tear off
tear tear someone or something apart
tear tear someone or something up
tear tear someone up
tear That tears it!
tear tore down
tear tore (up)
tear torn (up)
technicolor technicolor yawn
technicolor throw a technicolor yawn
tee teed off
tee teed (up)
tee tee someone off
teeth dressed to the teeth
teeth drop one's teeth
teeth get one's teeth into something
teeth kick in the teeth
teeth sink one's teeth into something
telegraph telegraph one's punches
tell Do tell.
tell if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times
tell show and tell
tell Tell it like it is.
tell Tell me another (one)!
tell tell shit from Shinola
tell tell someone what to do with something
tell tell someone where to get off
tell tell the (whole) world
ten hang ten
ten ten percenter
ten wouldn't touch someone or something with a ten-foot pole
tenda my tenda
tenor whiskey tenor
tent pitch a tent
terror holy terror
test acid test
than cannot see (any) further than the end of one's nose
than more than one bargained for
than quicker than hell
than see no further than the end of one's nose
thank thanks a bunch
thank thank you very much
them shoot 'em up
them Stick 'em up!
them up an' at 'em
then all that and then some
then then and there
there and stuff like that (there)
there get there
there hang in there
there I'm there!
there in there
there I've been there.
there like there was no tomorrow
there not all there
there stand there with one's bare face hanging out
there then and there
there There's nobody home.
there There will be hell to pay.
there There you are.

- there** There you go.
there You can't get there from here.
thin thin dime
thin walk on thin ice
thing do one's (own) thing
thing do the drink thing
thing do the drug thing
thing in thing to do
thing onto a good thing
thing sure thing
thing take things easy
think You've got another think coming.
third third degree
third third wheel
thirst thirst-aid station
thirst thirsty soul
thirteen file thirteen
thousand if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times
thousand Take it down a thou(sand)!
three phony as a three-dollar bill
three queer as a three-dollar bill
three three-alarm fire
three three bricks shy of a load
three three fingers
three three point two
three three sheets in the wind
three three sheets (to the wind)
three three squares
throat cut one's own throat
throat ram something down someone's throat
throat throat gag
throne hug the throne
throne throne room
through go through someone like a dose of (the) salts
through go through the changes
through sail (right) through something
through take it through the nose
through talk through one's hat
through through and through
through through the mill
through waltz through something
throw throw a fight
throw throw a fit
throw throw a game
throw throw a map
throw throw a punch
throw throw a technicolor yawn
throw throw down
throw throw in the sponge
throw throw in the towel
throw throw money at something
throw throw one out on one's ear
throw throw one's cookies
throw throw one's hat in the ring
throw throw one's voice
throw throw one's weight around
throw throw salt on someone's game
throw throw someone for a loop
throw throw something back
throw throw something together
throw throw the book at someone
throw throw the bull
throw throw the crap
throw throw up one's toenails
thumb green thumb
thumb stick out like a sore thumb
thumb thumb a ride
thumb thumbnail sketch
thumb thumbs down
thumb thumbs up
thumb turn thumbs down (on someone or something)
thumb twiddle one's thumbs
thumb under someone's thumb
thumbnail thumbnail sketch
tick few ticks
tick ticked (off)
tick tick someone off
tick tight as a tick
ticket buy someone's wolf ticket
ticket get one's ticket punched
ticket just the ticket
ticket sell a wolf ticket
ticket sell wolf tickets
ticket That's the ticket!
tickle tickled (pink)
tickle tickle the ivories
tide red tide
tie tied up
tie tie it on
tie tie one on
tie tie on the nosebag
tie tie the knot
tiger have a tiger by the tail
tiger tiger juice
tiger tiger('s) milk
tiger tiger sweat
tight on a tight leash
tight screwed tight
tight tight as a tick
tight tighten one's belt
tight tight money
tight tight spot
tight tight wad
Tijuana Tijuana taxi
till till hell freezes over
till till kingdom come
till till the fat lady sings
timber tall timbers
time bean time

- time** Better luck next time.
time big time
time big-time operator
time big-time spender
time buy time
time devil of a time
time devil's own time
time do time
time down time
time face time
time game time
time good-time Charley
time good-time it
time good-time man
time hard time
time have a whale of a time
time if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times
time Long time no see.
time mark time
time rack time
time rare old time
time rough time
time Run that by (me) one more time.
time sack time
time street time
time Time (out)!
time time to cruise
time two-time loser
time up time
tin tin cow
tin tin hat
tiny patter of tiny feet
tip hot tip
tip tip one's hand
tire spare tire
tit ass over tit
tit bitch tits
tit go tits up
tit kiss someone's hind tit
tit suck someone's hind tit
tit tits and ass
tit tits up
tit Tough titty!
titless titless wonder
titty Tough titty!
tizzy in a tizzy
toddle toddle off
toddy toddy blossom
toe get a toehold
toe throw up one's toenails
toe toe jam
toe toe tag
toe turn one's toes up
toehold get a toehold
toenail throw up one's toenails
together get it (all) together
together get one's act together
together get one's head together
together get one's shit together
together get one's stuff together
together have it all together
together knock some heads together
together knock something together
together put them together for someone
together throw something together
toilet toilet mouth
toilet toilet water
toke harsh toke
told if I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times
tomorrow like there was no tomorrow
ton like a ton of bricks
ton tons of something
tongue Bite your tongue!
tongue tongue loosener
tongue tongue oil
tongue Watch your tongue!
tonsil play tonsil hockey
tonsil tonsil bath
tonsil tonsil hockey
tonsil tonsil paint
tonsil tonsil varnish
too not too shabby
too one too many
too put too much on it
too too much
too too rich for someone's blood
tool power tool
tool tool around
toot toot one's own horn
tooth dressed to the teeth
tooth drop one's teeth
tooth get one's teeth into something
tooth kick in the teeth
tooth sink one's teeth into something
tootle tootle along
top big top
top blow one's top
top carrot top
top come out on top
top pop (some) tops
top top banana
top top brass
top top dog
top top heavy
top top of the heap
top top story
tore tore down
tore tore (up)
torn torn (up)
tornado tornado juice

- toss** toss in the sponge
toss Toss it!
toss toss off
toss toss one's cookies
toss toss one's lunch
toss toss one's tacos
toss toss something off
total totally clueless
touch Keep in touch.
touch soft touch
touch touch and go
touch touch a sore point
touch touch base (with someone)
touch wouldn't touch someone or something
 with a ten-foot pole
tough hang tough (on something)
tough tough break
tough tough cookie
tough tough cookies
tough tough customer
tough tough egg to crack
tough tough guy
tough tough luck
tough tough nut to crack
tough tough row to hoe
tough tough shit
tough tough something out
tough Tough titty!
tourist tourist trap
towel crying towel
towel throw in the towel
tower ivory tower
town Bean Town
town blow town
town Get out of town!
town go to town
town one-horse town
town paint the town (red)
toxic toxic waste dump
track off the track
track one-track mind
tracks make tracks
tracks railroad tracks
tracks wrong side of the tracks
trade tricks of the trade
trail hit the trail
trailer trailer trash
train gravy train
trap bear trap
trap booby trap
trap fly trap
trap fox trap
trap Shut your trap!
trap tourist trap
trash Cash is trash.
trash trailer trash
trash Trash it!
trash trash mouth
treat Dutch treat
tree Christmas tree
tree Go climb a tree!
tree make like a tree and leave
tree not grow on trees
tree up a tree
trial trial balloon
trick do the trick
trick trick on someone
trick tricks of the trade
trick turn a trick
trick whole bag of tricks
trip bad trip
trip bum trip
trip down trip
trip ego trip
trip ego tripper
trip free trip
trip good trip
trip head trip
trip lay a guilt trip on someone
trip lay a (heavy) trip on someone
trip round tripper
trip tripped out
triple triple whammy
trolley off one's trolley
trolley slip one's trolley
trooper swear like a trooper
trot backdoor trot(s)
trouble buy trouble
trouble for (all) one's trouble
tru Tru dat.
truck Keep on trucking.
truly yours truly
trump trumped up
trump trump something up
trumpet trumpet spider
trust Trust me!
truth gospel (truth)
truth naked truth
try try someone back (again)
tub tub of guts
tub tub of lard
tube cop a tube
tube crack a tube
tube go down the tube(s)
tube in the tube
tube tube it
tube tube steak
tuck nip and tuck
tumble rough and tumble
tune Stay tuned.
tune to the tune of something
tune tuned in

- tune** tune in (to something)
tune tune out
tune tune someone or something out
tune turn on, tune in, drop out
turd ghost turd
turd turd face
Turk young Turk
turkey cold turkey
turkey jive turkey
turkey kick cold (turkey)
turkey talk turkey
turn done to a turn
turn turn around
turn turn a trick
turn turn belly up
turn turned off
turn turned on
turn turn in
turn turn on
turn turn on a dime
turn turn one's toes up
turn turn on the waterworks
turn turn onto someone or something
turn turn on, tune in, drop out
turn turn over
turn turn someone off
turn turn someone on
turn turn someone or something upside down
turn turn someone out
turn turn someone's stomach
turn turn someone's water off
turn turn tail (and run)
turn turn thumbs down (on someone or something)
turn turn turtle
turn turn up one's nose at someone or something
turn whatever turns you on
turtle turn turtle
twenty twenty-four, seven
twenty twenty-twenty hindsight
twiddle twiddle one's thumbs
twist twist in the wind
twist twist (slowly) in the wind
twist twist someone's arm
twit in a twit
twitter in a twitter
two Aztec two-step
two goody two-shoes
two It cuts two ways.
two number two
two old one-two
two takes two to tango
two three point two
two two fingers
- two** two-fisted drinker
two two shakes of a lamb's tail
two two sheets to the wind
two two-time loser
two two umlauts
two two-way street
two You can't dance at two weddings.
ugly bump uglies
ugly hit by the ugly stick
ugly ugly as sin
umlaut two umlauts
uncle Dutch uncle
uncle say uncle
uncle Uncle nab
uncle Uncle (Sam)
uncle Uncle Sugar
uncle Uncle Whiskers
under down under
under gone under
under go underground
under hero (of the underworld)
under hit under the wing
under hot under the collar
under knuckle under (to someone or something)
under plowed (under)
under put the skids under someone or something
under six feet under
under under someone's thumb
under under the affluence of incohol
under under the gun
under under the table
under under the weather
under under the wire
under underwater basket weaving
under under wraps
underground go underground
underwater underwater basket weaving
underworld hero (of the underworld)
unit (parental) units
uno numero uno
uno take care of numero uno
unquote quote, unquote
until talk until one is blue in the face
unwashed great unwashed
upper upper story
uproar Don't get your bowels in an uproar!
uproar get one's bowels in an uproar
upshot upshot (of something)
upside turn someone or something upside down
upstairs nothing upstairs
urge urge to purge
use chippy (user)
use Use your head!

use	Use your noggin!	wall	nail someone('s hide) to the wall
use	Use your noodle!	wall	plastered to the wall
variety	Heinz 57 (variety)	wall	up the wall
varnish	coffin varnish	wall	wall job
varnish	tonsil varnish	wall	walls have ears
Vatican	Vatican roulette	waltz	waltz off (with something)
veg	vegged out	waltz	waltz through something
veg	veg (out)	wank	wank off
vent	vent one's spleen	wanna	Wanna make sumpin' of it?
verse	chapter and verse	want	put one's nose in (where it's not wanted)
vertical	vertical bathtub	want	stick one's nose in (where it's not wanted)
very	thank you very much	want	Wanna make sumpin' of it?
vibes	have good vibes	want	want list
vicious	vicious circle	want	want out
video	video jock	want	Want to make something of it?
vigor	vim and vigor	want	You want to step outside?
vim	vim and vigor	war	on the warpath
visit	visit from Flo	war	war chest
visit	visit from the stork	war	war paint
visit	visiting fireman	war	war zone
visit	visit the plumbing	ward	monkey wards
visitor	have a little visitor	warm	bench warmer
vital	vital statistics	warm	like death warmed over
vodka	clear as vodka	warm	warm body
voice	talk to hear one's own voice	warm	warmed over
voice	throw one's voice	warm	warm someone up
vote	vote with one's feet	warpath	on the warpath
wack	wack off	warrior	weekend warrior
wad	shoot one's wad	wart	warts and all
wad	tight wad	wart	worry wart
waffle	waffle (around)	wash	chief cook and bottle washer
wag	wag one's chin	wash	great unwashed
wagon	fall off the wagon	wash	head cook and bottle washer
wagon	honey wagon	wash	washboard abs
wagon	meat wagon	wash	washed out
wagon	monkey wagon	wash	wash out
wagon	off the wagon	wash	wash someone away
wagon	on the wagon	washboard	washboard abs
wagon	paddy wagon	waste	toxic waste dump
wail	wail on someone	watch	bird watcher
wait	hurry up and wait	watch	clock watcher
walk	take a walk	watch	on someone's watch
walk	walk heavy	watch	people watching
walk	walking dandruff	watch	Watch it!
walk	walking on rocky socks	watch	Watch my lips!
walk	walking papers	watch	Watch your mouth!
walk	walking wounded	watch	Watch your tongue!
walk	walk on eggs	water	big drink of water
walk	walk on sunshine	water	blow someone out of the water
walk	walk on thin ice	water	bubble water
walk	walk soft	water	dead in the water
walk	walk tall	water	foo-foo water
wall	climb the wall(s)	water	hold water
wall	drive someone up the wall	water	joy water
wall	go over the wall		
wall	hole in the wall		

- water** laughing water
water pay the water bill
water pour cold water on something
water toilet water
water turn on the waterworks
water turn someone's water off
water underwater basket weaving
water water one's cheeks
watering watering hole
waterworks turn on the waterworks
wave finger wave
wave make waves
wave on the same wavelength
wavelength on the same wavelength
wax whole ball of wax
way all the way
way all the way live
way go all the way
way in a bad way
way in a big way
way in a familiar way
way in a family way
way in the family way
way It cuts both ways.
way It cuts two ways.
way No way!
way only way to go
way out of the way
way put someone or something out of the way
way put someone out of the way
way swing both ways
way That's the way the ball bounces.
way That's the way the cookie crumbles.
way That's the way the mop flops.
way (That's the) way to go!
way that way
way two-way street
way way down
way way it plays
way way off (base)
way way out
way way rad
way Way to go!
weak weak sister
wear wearing (nothing but) a smile
wear wear the pants (in the house)
weasel weasel out of something
weather under the weather
weave underwater basket weaving
wedding shotgun wedding
wedding You can't dance at two weddings.
wedgie atomic wedgie
weed crying weed
weed killer weed
weed monster weed
week weekend warrior
weekend weekend warrior
weight carry weight
weight throw one's weight around
weird weirded out
weird weird out
well (Well,) pardon me for living!
West go West
wet sopping (wet)
wet wet blanket
wet wet noodle
wet wet one
wet wet rag
wet wet sock
whack out of w(h)ack
whack take a whack at someone or something
whack take a whack at something
whack w(h)acked (out)
whack whack off
whack w(h)ack someone or something up
whack w(h)ack someone (out)
whack w(h)ack something (out)
whale fat as a beached whale
whale have a whale of a time
whale whale into someone or something
whale whale on
whale whale the tar out of someone
whammy double whammy
whammy triple whammy
whank whank off
wheel big wheel
wheel fifth wheel
wheel four wheels
wheel reinvent the wheel
wheel set of wheels
wheel spin one's wheels
wheel third wheel
wheel wheel and deal
wheel wheel man
whip whip off
whip whip one's wire
whip whip something into shape
whip whip something off
whip whip the dummy
whiskers Mr. Whiskers
whiskers Uncle Whiskers
whiskers whiskers (man)
whiskey whiskey tenor
whistle bells and whistles
whistle not just whistling Dixie
whistle whistle in the dark
white black and white
white bleed someone white
white blue and white
white China white

white	Chinese white	wine	jug wine
white	like the white on rice	wine	pop wine
white	talk on the big white phone	wing	clip someone's wings
white	white elephant	wing	get one's wings
white	white hat	wing	hit under the wing
white	white knuckler	wing	sprout wings
whiz	whiz kid	wing	wing heavy
whole	tell the (whole) world	wing	wing it
whole	whole bag of tricks	wink	forty winks
whole	whole ball of wax	wink	wink of sleep
whole	whole bunch	wipe	wiped (out)
whole	whole enchilada	wipe	wiped over
whole	whole fam damily	wipe	Wipe it off!
whole	whole new ball game	wipe	wipe out
whole	whole nine yards	wipe	wipe someone out
whole	whole schmear	wipe	wipe something out
whole	whole shebang	wipe	wipe the floor up with someone
whole	whole shooting match	wire	down to the wire
whole	whole wide world	wire	hot wire
whoop	no big whoop	wire	latrine wireless
whopping	whopping (great)	wire	(live) wire
wide	blow something wide open	wire	pull one's wire
wide	bust something wide open	wire	under the wire
wide	have one's nose wide open	wire	whip one's wire
wide	high, wide, and handsome	wire	wired into someone or something
wide	whole wide world	wire	wired up
wide	wide open	wireless	latrine wireless
wide	wide place in the road	wise	wise guy
wide	with (one's) eyes (wide) open	wise	wise to someone or something
wiener	wiener nose	wise	wise up (to someone or something)
wig	flip one's wig	wish	(Don't) you wish!
wig	wigged (out)	wish	wish book
wig	wig out	wish	wish list
wiggle	Get a wiggle on!	wish	You wish!
wiggle	wiggle out of something	woe	tale of woe
wild	have a wild hair up one's ass	wolf	buy someone's wolf ticket
wild	wild and woolly	wolf	cut one's wolf loose
will	heads will roll	wolf	fine wolf
wimp	wimp out (of something)	wolf	lone wolf
win	can't win (th)em all	wolf	sell a wolf ticket
win	no-win situation	wolf	sell wolf tickets
win	Win a few, lose a few.	wolf	wolf something down
win	You can't win them all.	woman	old woman
wind	bag of wind	wonder	gutless wonder
wind	both sheets in the wind	wonder	titless wonder
wind	four sheets in the wind	woo	pitch (the) woo
wind	four sheets (to the wind)	wood	out of the woods
wind	piss in the wind	wood	wood butcher
wind	take the wind out of someone's sails	wood	woods are full of something
wind	three sheets in the wind	woof	woof cookies
wind	three sheets (to the wind)	woolly	wild and woolly
wind	twist in the wind	word	dirty word
wind	twist (slowly) in the wind	word	What's the good word?
wind	two sheets to the wind	word	word hole
window	bay window	word	Word up.
window	out the window	work	cold piece of work

work	dirty work	wrote	That's what she wrote.
work	give someone a (good) working over	yak	yak it up
work	grunt work	yank	yank one's strap
work	knock off (work)	yank	yank someone around
work	leg work	yank	yank someone's chain
work	shoot the works	yank	yank someone's crank
work	spill the works	yard	whole nine yards
work	turn on the waterworks	yard	yard dog
work	working stiff	yawn	technicolor yawn
work	work one's ass off	yawn	throw a technicolor yawn
work	work one's buns off	year	donkey's years
work	work one's butt off	year	seven-year itch
work	work oneself up	yell	yell one's guts out
work	work oneself (up) into a lather	yell	yell one's head off
work	work oneself up to something	yellow	have a yellow streak down one's back
work	work one's tail off	yellow	yellow streak (down someone's back)
work	work someone over	yo	yo mama
world	dead to the world	yodel	yodeling in a canyon
world	hero (of the underworld)	yoke	get some yokes on
world	out of this world	yokel	local yokel
world	tell the (whole) world	young	young blood
world	Where in the world?	young	young Turk
world	whole wide world	Z	big Z's
world	world is one's oyster	Z	blow Z's
worm	can of worms	Z	catch some Z's
worm	glow worm	Z	cop some Z's
worm	worms in blood	Z	cut some Z's
worry	Not to worry.	Z	from A to Z
worry	worry wart	zap	channel zapping
worship	worship the porcelain god(dess)	zeek	zeek out
worst	worst-case scenario	zerk	zerked (out)
worth	not worth a damn	ziggety	Hot ziggety!
worth	not worth a plugged nickel	zip	zip along
worth	not worth beans	zip	zip gun
worth	worth one's salt	zip	Zip it up!
wounded	walking wounded	zip	Zip (up) your lip!
wrap	under wraps	zip	Zip your lip!
wrap	wrap one's car around something	zipper	zipper head
wrap	wrapped up (in someone or something)	zit	zit doctor
wrap	wrapped up (with someone or something)	zone	in the O-zone
wrap	wrap something up	zone	in the Q-zone
wrath	grapes of wrath	zone	war zone
wrench	left-handed monkey wrench	zone	zoned (out)
wrist	kick in the wrist	zonk	zonked (out)
wrist	slap someone on the wrist	zonk	zonk out
wrist	slap someone's wrist	zonkers	go zonkers
write	nothing to write home about	zoom	zoom in (on someone or something)
wrong	have the wrong number	zoom	zoom off
wrong	wrong side of the tracks	zoom	zoom out
wrote	That's all she wrote.	zoom	zoom someone out
		zoom	zoom up
		zounk	zounked (out)