

actionable

• *adjective*

2 able to be done or acted on; having practical value: *insightful and actionable information on the effect advertising is having on your brand.*

added value

• *noun & adjective* another term for VALUE ADDED.

-adelic

• *suffix* forming adjectives denoting musical genres or styles that incorporate psychedelic music with another element: *sampladelic*.

- ORIGIN from PSYCHEDELIC.

adobo

• *noun* (pl. **adobos**) [mass noun] **1** a Filipino dish of chicken or pork stewed in vinegar, garlic, soy sauce, bay leaves, and peppercorns. • the marinade in which this is cooked.

2 (also **adobo sauce**) a paste or marinade made from chillies, vinegar, herbs, and spices, used in Mexican cookery to flavour meat or fish.

- ORIGIN Spanish, literally 'marinade'.

AER

• *abbreviation for* annual equivalence rate, the notional rate of interest on loans or credit payable if the interest was paid and added each year.

affluent informal

• *adjective* rich and socially influential: *the daughter of an affluent businessman.*

• *noun* a rich and socially influential person.

- ORIGIN 1970s: blend of AFFLUENT and INFLUENTIAL.

after-party

• *noun* a party held after another event, especially a concert or another party.

aggregator

• *noun* Computing an Internet company that collects information about other companies' products and services and distributes it through a single website.

agritourism

• *noun* [mass noun] tourism in which tourists stay with local people in rural areas abroad.

airdate

• *noun* the date on which a particular television or radio programme is scheduled to be broadcast.

airfare

• *noun* the price to be paid by an aircraft passenger for a particular journey.

alfoil

• *noun* [mass noun] Austral. trademark tinfoil.

- ORIGIN from ALUMINIUM + FOIL.

-alia

• *suffix* (forming plural nouns) denoting items associated with a particular area of activity or interest: *kitchenalia*.

- ORIGIN from Latin, neuter plural ending of adjectives ending in *-alis*.

all

- PHRASES **be all that** US informal be very attractive or good: *He thinks he's all that - Yeah, God's gift.*

Al Nakba

• **noun** the Palestinian term for the events of 1948, when many Palestinians were displaced by the creation of the new state of Israel.

- ORIGIN Arabic, literally 'the disaster'.

alpha

• **noun 1** • [as modifier] denoting the dominant animal or person in a particular group: *Turner soon proved to be the alpha male.*

alt. (also **alt-**)

• **combining form** denoting a version of something, especially popular music, that is regarded as outside the mainstream of its genre: *alt.country*.

- ORIGIN 1990s: abbreviation of ALTERNATIVE, influenced by the *alt.* prefix of some Internet newsgroups.

alt.country (also **alt-country**)

• **noun** [mass noun] a style of country music that is influenced by alternative rock.

ambient

• **adjective**

2 relating to or denoting advertising that makes use of sites or objects other than the established media (e.g. by placing slogans on the back of bus tickets).

Ambulocetus

• **noun** a cetacean of the Eocene epoch that had fore and hind limbs and could walk on land.

- ORIGIN modern Latin, from Latin *ambulare* 'to walk' + *cetus* 'whale'.

antidisestablishmentarianism

• **noun** [mass noun] rare opposition to the disestablishment of the Church of England.

- DERIVATIVES **antidisestablishmentarian noun & adjective.**

USAGE **Antidisestablishmentarianism** is very occasionally found in genuine use, but it is most often cited as an example of a very long word. Other similar curiosities are

FLOCCINAUCINIHIPIPILIFICATION and

PNEUMONULTRAMICROSCOPICSILICOVOLCANOCONIOSIS (the longest word in this dictionary).

The longest word to be encountered in Britain is the Welsh place name

Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch, which is generally abbreviated to Llanfair PG; this name was created in the 19th century.<\/! font

antiretroviral

• **adjective** denoting or relating to a class of drugs which inhibit the activity of retroviruses such as HIV.

• **noun** an antiretroviral drug.

aqua²

• **noun** [mass noun] (especially in pharmaceutical and commercial use) water.

- ORIGIN Latin.

Ard Fheis

- **noun** (pl. **Ard Fheiseann**) an Irish party political conference.
- ORIGIN Irish, from *ard* 'chief' + *feis* 'convention'.

askari

- **noun** (pl. same or **askaris**)
- 2 (Askari)** S. African historical a member of the ANC who changed sides and joined the apartheid government's police force.

-athon

- **suffix** forming nouns denoting an action or activity which is carried on for a very long time or on a very large scale, typically to raise funds for charity: *talkathon* | *walkathon*.
- ORIGIN on the pattern of (*mar*)*athon*.

attachment parenting

- **noun** [mass noun] an approach to raising infants that aims to promote a close relationship between the baby and its parents by methods such as feeding on demand and letting the baby sleep with its parents.

augmented reality

- **noun** [mass noun] a technology that superimposes a computer-generated image on a user's view of the real world, thus providing a composite view.

ax (also **aks**)

- **verb** dialect and West Indian form of ASK: *I axed her once if she would want pipes and t'ings put into her body*.

babalaas S. African

- **adjective** hung-over.

babymother (or **babyfather**)

- **noun** black English the mother (or father) of one or more of one's children.

back

- PHRASES **back in the day** in the past; some time ago: *back in the day, he'd had one of the greatest minds I'd ever come across*. **back o'Bourke** Austral. informal the outback. [from the name of a town in north-west New South Wales.]

backstory

- **noun** (pl. **backstories**) a history or background created for a fictional character in a film or television programme: *a brief prologue detailing our hero's backstory*.

bad

- PHRASES **my bad** N. Amer. informal used to acknowledge responsibility for a mistake: *Sorry I lost your CD. It's my bad*.

bada bing (also **bada bing bada boom**)

- **exclamation** N. Amer. informal used to emphasize that something will happen effortlessly and predictably: *follow the appropriate twelve-step program and - bada bing - you're rolling in it*.
- ORIGIN probably imitating the sound of a drum roll; popularized by the US television series *The Sopranos*.

bad-minded

• *adjective* W. Indian malicious, unsympathetic, or cynical.

bag

• *verb* (**bags, bagging, bagged**) [with obj.]

6 N. Amer. informal fit (a patient) with an oxygen mask or other respiratory aid.

bail³ (Brit. also **bale**)

• *verb*

3 [no obj.] (**bail on**) N. Amer. informal let (someone) down: *he looks a little like the other guy that bailed on me.*

baju

• *noun* a short, loose jacket worn in Malaysia.

- ORIGIN Malay.

Baka

• *noun* (pl. same) 1 a member of a nomadic Pygmy people inhabiting the rainforests of south-eastern Cameroon and northern Gabon.

2 [mass noun] the Bantu language of the Baka.

- ORIGIN perhaps from Lingala *Ba-aka* 'Pygmies'.

bake-off

• *noun* N. Amer. a contest in which cooks prepare baked goods such as bread and cakes for judging. • informal a contest between companies to win a contract.

bakkie

• *noun* (pl. **bakkies**) S. African

2 a basin or other container.

balmyard

• *noun* (in the West Indies) a place where the rituals of Pocomania or obeah are practised.

- ORIGIN from BALM in the sense 'healing influence', possibly influenced by an African word.

bandanna (also **bandana**)

• *noun* a large coloured handkerchief or neckerchief, typically of silk or cotton and with white spots.

- ORIGIN mid 18th cent.: probably via Portuguese from Hindi.

bandulu

• *noun* [mass noun] W. Indian crime or fraudulent dealings: [as modifier] *bandulu business*.

bangarang

• *noun* W. Indian an uproar or disturbance.

- ORIGIN probably imitative, but perhaps influenced by Portuguese *banguelê* 'riot, disorder'.

bap

• *noun* Brit.

2 (**baps**) informal a woman's breasts.

bapu (also **bappu**)

• *noun* Indian a father (often as a form of address).

- ORIGIN from Gujarati.

base station

- **noun** **1** a relay located at the centre of any of the cells of a cellular telephone system.
- 2** a short-range transceiver which connects a cordless phone to the main telephone network.

bashert

- **noun** (in Jewish use) a person's soulmate, especially when considered as an ideal or predestined marriage partner.
- ORIGIN Yiddish, 'fate, destiny'.

Basilosaurus

- **noun** a large marine cetacean of the Eocene epoch, having rudimentary fore and hind limbs.
- ORIGIN modern Latin, from Greek *basileus* 'king' + *sauros* 'lizard'.

beef

- **noun**
- 4** US informal a criminal charge: *getting caught with pot in the sixties was a narco beef*.

beg

- PHRASES **beg yours** Austral./NZ I beg your pardon.

Belfast sink

- **noun** a type of deep rectangular kitchen sink, traditionally made of glazed white porcelain.

besuited

- **adjective** (of a man) wearing a suit: *a quiet, besuited bank manager*.

bhadralok (also **bhadralog**)

- **noun** [mass noun] Indian prosperous, well-educated people, typically Bengalis, regarded as members of a social class: [as modifier] *Calcutta's bhadralok circles*. • [count noun] a member of this class.
- ORIGIN from Hindi *bhadralog*, Bengali *bhadralok*, from Sanskrit *bhadrá* 'worthy, respectable' + *loká* 'folk, people'.

bhasha

- **noun** [mass noun] Indian language.
- ORIGIN from Hindi *bhāṣā*.

big-note

- **verb** [with obj.] (**big-note oneself**) Austral./NZ informal behave boastfully; exaggerate one's own wealth or importance: *he's continually trying to big-note himself*.

bike informal

- **verb** • [with obj.] Brit. cause (a letter or package) to be delivered by bicycle or motorcycle: *I'll get them to bike the scripts over*.

bilal

- **noun** (in Malaysia) a muezzin.
- ORIGIN Malay, from Arabic *Bilal*, the first name of an Abyssinian slave appointed as the first muezzin following Muhammad's pilgrimage to Mecca in 629.

bio-

• **combining form** • relating to or involving the use of toxic biological or biochemical substances as weapons of war: *bioterrorism*.

biographee

• **noun** a person who is the subject of a biography.

biomarker

• **noun** a naturally occurring molecule, gene, or characteristic by which a particular pathological or physiological process, disease, etc. can be identified.

biosphere

• **noun**

2 an artificial structure enclosing a self-contained ecosystem or ecosystems.

biosurgery

• **noun** [mass noun] the medical use of maggots to clean infected wounds, especially in cases where an infection is resistant to conventional antibiotic treatment.

Birkenstock

• **noun** trademark a type of shoe or sandal with a contoured cork-filled sole and a thick leather upper.

- ORIGIN 1970s: from the name of the manufacturer.

bit¹

• **noun**

4 (bits) Brit. informal a person's genitals.

bitch-slap

• **verb** [with obj.] US informal deliver a stinging blow to (someone), typically in order to humiliate them: *I would have bitch-slapped him for talking that way.*

- ORIGIN 1990s: originally black English, referring to a woman hitting or haranguing her male partner.

blade

• **verb** [no obj.] US informal skate using Rollerblades.

- DERIVATIVES **blader noun**.

blamestorming

• **noun** [mass noun] group discussion regarding the assigning of responsibility for a failure or mistake.

- ORIGIN 1990s: on the pattern of *brainstorming*.

blog

• **noun** a weblog.

• **verb** (**blogs, blogging, blogged**) [no obj.] [usu. as noun] (**blogging**) add new material to or regularly update a weblog.

- DERIVATIVES **blogger noun**.

blonde moment

• **noun** humorous an instance of being silly or scatterbrained.

- ORIGIN 1990s: from the stereotypical perception of blonde-haired women as unintelligent.

board shorts

- **plural noun** long shorts of a kind originally worn by surfers.

bockety

- **adjective** Irish unsteady; wobbly: *the bockety wheelchair trundled off down the street.*
- ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from Irish *bacach* 'lame'.

Boer chiefly historical

- **noun**

2 (**boer**) S. African an Afrikaner farmer.

3 (**boer**) S. African informal (under apartheid) a member of the police, prison service, or security forces.

bogman

- **noun** Irish derogatory a person from a rural area.

bokeh

- **noun** [mass noun] Photography the visual quality of the out-of-focus areas of a photographic image, especially as rendered by a particular lens.
- ORIGIN Japanese.

bold

- **adjective 1** • Irish (especially of a child) naughty; badly behaved: *I slapped him when he was bold.*

bollix vulgar slang

- **noun**

2 [treated as sing.] Irish a foolish or contemptible man.

bomb

- **noun**

5 (**da (or the) bomb**) US informal an outstandingly good person or thing: *the site would really be da bomb if its content were updated more frequently.*

booger

- **noun** N. Amer. informal a piece of nasal mucus.
- ORIGIN late 19th cent.: perhaps an alteration of BUGGER or BOGEY².

boom¹

- PHRASES **boom boom** Brit. informal an exclamation made after delivering the punchline of a joke. [popularized by the fox puppet Basil Brush, a character in a British television comedy show.]

booty call

- **noun** US informal a sexual invitation or rendezvous.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from BOOTY² and CALL.

bootylicious

- **adjective** US informal sexually attractive.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from BOOTY², on the pattern of *delicious*.

borgata

- **noun** (pl. **borgatas** or **borgate**) US an organized branch of the Mafia.
- ORIGIN 1960s: from Italian *borgatà* 'district, village'.

boubou (also **boubou shrike**)

- **noun**

2 a long, colourful, loose-fitting garment worn by both sexes in parts of Africa. [French, from Malinke *bubu*.]

bounce

- **verb 1** • (also **bounce back**) (of an email) be returned to its sender after failing to reach its destination: *I tried to email him, but the message bounced.*

boutique hotel

- **noun** a stylish small hotel, typically one situated in a fashionable urban location.

boy band (or **girl band**)

- **noun** a pop group composed of attractive young men (or young women), whose music and image are designed to appeal primarily to a young teenage audience.

bpm

- **abbreviation for** beats per minute: *a pulse rate of 40 bpm.*

Brazilian

- **noun**

2 a style of waxing a woman's pubic hair in which almost all the hair is removed, with only a very small central strip remaining.

breakbeat

- **noun** a sample of a syncopated drum beat, usually repeated to form a rhythm used as a basis for dance music, hip hop, etc. • [mass noun] dance music featuring breakbeats.

bresaola

- **noun** [mass noun] an Italian dish of raw beef cured by salting and air-drying, typically served in slices with an olive oil, lemon juice, and pepper dressing.
- ORIGIN Italian, from *bresada*, past participle of *brasare* 'braise'.

breyani

- **noun** South African spelling of BIRIANI.

brick

- PHRASES **bricks and mortar** • [as modifier] used to denote a business that operates conventionally rather than (or as well as) over the Internet: *the bricks-and-mortar banks.*

Brillo pad

- **noun** trademark a pad made of steel wool impregnated with soap, used for scouring pans. • [as modifier] informal denoting wiry or tightly curled hair: *teachers hated my Brillo-pad hairstyle.*

brochureware

- **noun** [mass noun] websites or web pages produced by converting a company's printed marketing or advertising material into an Internet format, typically providing little or no opportunity for interactive contact with prospective customers.

brontothere

- **noun** a large ungulate mammal of the Eocene epoch with a horn-like bony growth on the nose. [Family *Brontotheriidae*, order Perissodactyla.]
- ORIGIN modern Latin, from Greek *bronte* 'thunder' + *therion* 'wild beast'.

bubbie

- **noun** US informal (in Jewish use) one's grandmother.
- ORIGIN from Yiddish *bube* 'grandmother'.

bucket hat

- **noun** a simple soft cloth hat with a brim.

buildout

- **noun** [mass noun] the growth, development, or expansion of something: *the rapid buildout of digital technology.*

bunny slope

- **noun** US term for NURSERY SLOPE.

bupkis

- **noun** [mass noun] US informal nothing at all: *you know bupkis about fund-raising.*
- ORIGIN from Yiddish.

burn rate

- **noun** the rate at which a new company spends its initial capital.

bush¹

- **noun**
2 • NZ indigenous rainforest.

bushmeat

- **noun** [mass noun] the meat of African wild animals as food.

bustline

- **noun** the measurement round a woman's body at the bust: *these figure-enhancing bras will immediately increase your bustline.*

button man

- **noun** N. Amer. informal a hired killer.

cadet

- **noun** 1 • Austral. a trainee or novice, especially a trainee journalist.

call

- PHRASES **good call (or bad call)** informal used to express approval (or criticism) of a person's decision or suggestion. [with reference to decisions made by referees or umpires.]

camogie

- **noun** [mass noun] an Irish game resembling hurling, played by women or girls.
- ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from Irish *caméog*.

cannoli

- **plural noun** N. Amer. a dessert consisting of small deep-fried pastry tubes with a creamy filling, typically of sweetened ricotta cheese.

- ORIGIN Italian, from *canna* 'reed'.

Cantopop

• **noun** [mass noun] SE Asian a type of popular music combining Cantonese lyrics and Western disco music.

- ORIGIN 1990s: blend of CANTONESE and POP².

cap²

• **noun** Finance short for CAPITALIZATION: [as modifier] *mid-cap companies* | *small-cap stocks*.

cardinal sin

• **noun** • chiefly humorous a serious error of judgement: *he committed the cardinal sin of criticizing his teammates*.

cark (also **kark**)

• **verb** [no obj.] Austral. informal die: *he's always bragged about carking it before he hit twenty*.

- ORIGIN 1970s: probably imitative of the caw of a carrion crow.

carpetbagger

• **noun** • Brit. a person who becomes a member of a mutually owned building society or insurance company in order to gain financially in the event of the organization demutualizing.

carriage house

• **noun** N. Amer. a building for housing a carriage, typically one which has been converted into a dwelling.

cash¹

• **verb** [with obj.] 1 • (**cash something in** or N. Amer. **cash out**) convert an insurance policy, savings account, or other investment into money.

category killer

• **noun** a large store, typically one of a chain, which specializes in a particular type of discounted merchandise and becomes the dominant retailer in that category.

catenaccio

• **noun** [mass noun] Soccer a very defensive system of play, especially one employing a sweeper.

- ORIGIN 1970s: Italian, literally 'bolt', from *catena* 'chain' + the pejorative suffix *-accio*.

catfight

• **noun** informal a fight between women.

- DERIVATIVES **catfighting noun**.

cavaquinho

• **noun** (pl. **cavaquinhos**) a type of small, four-stringed guitar resembling a ukulele, popular in Brazil and Portugal.

- ORIGIN Portuguese.

CCJ

• **abbreviation for** (in the UK) county court judgement, issued by a court after a person's failure to repay a debt and recorded in that person's credit history.

CD-R

• **abbreviation for** compact disc recordable, a CD which can be recorded on once only.

CD-RW

• **abbreviation for** compact disc rewritable, a CD on which recordings can be made and erased a number of times.

CGI

• **abbreviation for** • Computing Common Gateway Interface, an interface standard by which World Wide Web servers may access external programs so that data is returned automatically in the form of a web page. • computer-generated imagery.

chaap (also chhaap)

• **noun** Indian an official seal or stamp, used to approve or authenticate a permit or similar document.

- ORIGIN from Hindi *chQp* 'stamp, brand'.

chacha

• **noun** Indian uncle (often used as a respectful form of address to a man around the same age as one's father).

- ORIGIN from Hindi *cQcQ*.

chakka

• **noun** Indian a wheel or tyre.

- ORIGIN from Hindi *cakkQ*.

chargeback

• **noun** a demand by a credit-card provider for a retailer to make good the loss on a fraudulent or disputed transaction. • (in business use) an act or policy of allocating the cost of an organization's centrally located resources to the individuals or departments which use them.

Chaumes

• **noun** [mass noun] a type of French cheese with an orange rind and a rich creamy flavour.

chawal

• **noun** [mass noun] rice, especially as part of a dish: *egg chawal*.

- ORIGIN from Hindi *cQval*.

chef

• **verb** (**chefs**, **cheffing**, **cheffed**) [usu. as noun] (**cheffing**) informal work as a chef.

chemical

• **noun** • an addictive drug: [as modifier] *treatment for chemical dependency*.

chib

Scottish
• **noun** a knife used as a weapon.

• **verb** (**chibs**, **chibbing**, **chibbed**) [with obj.] stab (someone).

- ORIGIN perhaps a variant of SHIV.

chimenea

• **noun** a free-standing clay fireplace or oven which consists of a hollow bulbous body tapering to a short chimney-like smoke vent.

- ORIGIN 1990s: Spanish, 'chimney'.

chit fund

- **noun** (in the Indian subcontinent) an institution which accepts savings at interest and lends money for house and other purchases.
- ORIGIN *chit* from CHIT².

choccy

- **noun** (pl. **choccies**) [mass noun] informal chocolate. • [count noun] a chocolate sweet.

chop¹

- **noun**
- 3 Austral./NZ informal a person's share of something.

chowki

- **noun** Indian 1 a police station or jail.
- 2 a low wooden seat or stool.
- ORIGIN from Hindi *cauk W* (see CHOKEY).

chuff²

- **noun** informal, chiefly Brit. a person's buttocks or anus.
- ORIGIN 1940s: origin uncertain.

chuffing

- **adjective** N. English informal used for emphasis or as a mild expletive: *the whole chuffing world's gone mad*.
- ORIGIN 1980s: origin uncertain; perhaps related to CHUFF².

churchkey

- **noun** N. Amer. a metal device with a bottle opener at one end and a triangular head at the other for punching a hole in cans.

chutes and ladders

- **plural noun** US term for SNAKES AND LADDERS.

civil union

- **noun** (in some countries) a legally recognized union of a same-sex couple, with rights similar to those of marriage.

clafoutis

- **noun** (pl. same) a type of flan made of fruit, typically cherries, baked in a sweet batter.
- ORIGIN French, from dialect *clafir* 'to stuff'.

class

- PHRASES **class A (or B or C) drug** an illegal narcotic drug classified as being of the most harmful and addictive (or a less harmful and addictive) kind, possession or sale of which incurs corresponding legal penalties.

click rate (also **click-through rate**)

- **noun** Computing the number of users who follow a hypertext link to a particular commercial site, as a percentage of those who download the web page on which the link appears.

coach²

- **noun** 1 • (also **life coach**) a person who gives professional guidance on how to attain one's

social, work-related, or personal goals.

- **verb** • give (someone) professional advice on how to attain their goals.

cocoa

- PHRASES **I should cocoa (or coco)** Brit. rhyming slang I should say so.

cog³

- **verb** [with obj.] Irish informal copy (someone else's work) illicitly or without acknowledgement: *he's away coggling his homework from Aggie's wee girl.*

- ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (in senses 'practise tricks in throwing dice' and 'cheat'): of unknown origin.

coked

- **adjective** informal having taken a large amount of cocaine: *he was obviously drunk or coked up.*

cold warrior

- **noun** a person who promotes a cold war.

colinearity

- **noun** [mass noun] Genetics the relationship between the linear sequence of nucleic acid bases in the DNA of the gene and the sequence of amino acids in the protein encoded by the DNA.

coltan

- **noun** [mass noun] a dull metallic mineral which is a combination of columbite and tantalite and which is refined to produce tantalum.

- ORIGIN 1990s: from COL(UMBITE) + TAN(TALITE).

COMESA

- **abbreviation for** Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

conclude

- PHRASES **conclude missives** Scots Law (of a buyer) sign a contract with the vendor of a property or piece of land to signify change of ownership.

cone biopsy

- **noun** a surgical procedure in which a cone-shaped segment of tissue from the uterus is removed for examination.

conflict diamond

- **noun** (in Africa) a rough diamond traded illicitly to finance an armed struggle.

consignment store

- **noun** N. Amer. a shop that sells second-hand items on behalf of the original owner, who receives a percentage of the selling price.

construction paper

- **noun** [mass noun] N. Amer. a type of thick coloured paper used for making models, designs, and other craftwork.

consumer price index

- **noun** (in the US) an index of the variation in prices for retail goods and other items.

content²

• **noun** • information made available by a website or other electronic medium: [as modifier] *online content providers*.

contingency fee

• **noun** (in the US) a sum of money that is paid to a lawyer by a client only in the eventuality of a case being brought to a successful conclusion.

conversion van

• **noun** N. Amer. a motor vehicle in which the area behind the driver has been converted into a living space.

cool

• **adjective**

3 • used to express acceptance of or agreement with something: *if people want to freak out at our clubs, that's cool*.

CoolMax

• **noun** [mass noun] trademark a polyester fabric which draws perspiration along its fibres away from the skin, used chiefly in sportswear.

- ORIGIN 1980s: an invented name, probably from COOL + MAX.

coopetition

• **noun** [mass noun] collaboration between business competitors, in the hope of mutually beneficial results.

- ORIGIN 1980s: from COOPERATIVE + COMPETITION.

cop¹ informal

• **noun**

2 (also **cop-on**) [mass noun] Irish shrewdness; practical intelligence: *he had the cop-on to stay clear of Hugh Thornley*.

co-parent

• **verb** [with obj.] [often as noun] (**co-parenting**) (especially of a separated couple or a gay man and a lesbian) share the duties of bringing up (a child).

• **noun** a person who co-parents a child.

cosmeceutical

• **noun** a cosmetic that has or is claimed to have medicinal properties.

- ORIGIN 1980s: blend of COSMETIC and PHARMACEUTICAL.

cosmopolitan

• **noun**

3 a cocktail made with Cointreau, lemon vodka, cranberry juice, and lime juice.

cost centre

• **noun** a department or other unit within an organization to which costs may be charged for accounting purposes.

coulrophobia

• **noun** [mass noun] rare extreme or irrational fear of clowns.

- ORIGIN 1980s: from Greek *kolobatheron* 'stilt' + -PHOBIA.

counterterrorism

- **noun** [mass noun] political or military activities designed to prevent or thwart terrorism.
- DERIVATIVES **counterterrorist noun**.

county clerk

- **noun** (in the US) an elected county official who is responsible for local elections and maintaining public records.

couply (also **coupley**)

- **adjective** informal, often derogatory relating to or characteristic of a couple in a romantic or sexual relationship, especially when the relationship is regarded as particularly intimate or socially exclusive.

cow pie

- **noun** N. Amer. a cowpat.

credential

- **verb** [with obj.] [usu. as adj.] (**credentialed**) chiefly N. Amer. provide with credentials.

creme

- **noun** a substance or product with a thick, creamy consistency: *self-tanning creme*.
- ORIGIN from French *crème*, 'cream'.

crevette

- **noun** a shrimp or prawn, especially as an item on a menu.
- ORIGIN French.

criss

- **adjective** W. Indian smart or fashionable.
- ORIGIN alteration of CRISP.

CRM

- **abbreviation for** customer relationship management, denoting strategies and software that enable a company to organize and optimize its customer relations.

cron

- **noun** [usu. as modifier] Computing a command to an operating system or server for a job that is to be executed at a specified time: *a cron job*.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from CHRONOLOGICAL.

cross-contamination

- **noun** [mass noun] the process by which bacteria or other micro-organisms are unintentionally transferred from one substance or object to another, with harmful effect.

cross-party

- **adjective** involving or relating to two or more political parties: *a cross-party committee of MPs*.

crowd-pleaser

- **noun** a person or thing with great popular appeal: *once again, the group has produced an album which is bound to be a crowd-pleaser*.
- DERIVATIVES **crowd-pleasing adjective**.

crowd-surf

• **verb** [no obj.] be passed in a prone position over the heads of the audience at a rock concert, typically after having jumped from the stage.

cruiskeen

• **noun** Irish a small jug.
- ORIGIN Irish *crúiscín*.

cryptid

• **noun** an animal whose existence or survival is disputed or unsubstantiated, such as the yeti.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from CRYPTO- + -ID³.

C2C

• **abbreviation for** consumer-to-consumer, denoting transactions conducted via the Internet between consumers.

cube farm

• **noun** chiefly US a large office divided into cubicles for individual workers.

Cullen skink

• **noun** [mass noun] a Scottish soup made from smoked haddock, potatoes, onions, and milk.
- ORIGIN 1980s: from the name of Cullen, a village on the Moray Firth in NE Scotland, + Scots *skink* 'soup made from shin of beef', probably from Middle Low German *Schinke* 'ham'.

culturati

• **plural noun** well-educated people who appreciate the arts.
- ORIGIN 1980s: blend of CULTURE and LITERATI.

culture jamming

• **noun** [mass noun] the practice of criticizing and subverting advertising and consumerism in the mass media, by methods such as producing advertisements parodying those of global brands or computer hacking.
- DERIVATIVES **culture jammer noun**.
- ORIGIN 1990s: coined by the US band Negativland.

cum laude

• **adverb & adjective** chiefly N. Amer. with distinction (with reference to university degrees and diplomas).
- ORIGIN Latin, literally 'with praise'.

cupping

• **noun** [mass noun] (in Chinese medicine) a therapy in which heated glass cups are applied to the skin along the meridians of the body, creating suction and believed to stimulate the flow of energy.

cushty

• **adjective** Brit. informal very good or pleasing: *he's got a cushty set-up*.
- ORIGIN 1920s: from Romany *kushto*, *kushti* 'good', perhaps influenced by CUSHY.

cusping

• **noun** [mass noun] Architecture a formation consisting of cusps.

cute

• **adjective**

2 • Irish informal cunning; wily: *the two brothers were cute enough to find a couple of rich women and marry them.*

cut lunch

• **noun** Austral./NZ a packed lunch.

cyberslacker

• **noun** informal a person who uses their employer's Internet and email facilities for personal activities during working hours.

- DERIVATIVES **cyberslacking** **noun**.

cyberstalking

• **noun** [mass noun] the repeated use of electronic communications to harass or frighten someone, for example by sending threatening emails.

- DERIVATIVES **cyberstalker** **noun**.

cyberterrorism

• **noun** [mass noun] the politically motivated use of computers and information technology to cause severe disruption or widespread fear in society.

- DERIVATIVES **cyberterrorist** **noun**.

cytoplasmic inheritance

• **noun** [mass noun] inheritance of traits, usually via the maternal line, controlled by an extrachromosomal element.

da¹

• **determiner** non-standard spelling of THE, used in representing informal American speech.

DAB

• **abbreviation for** digital audio broadcasting.

daisy-cutter

• **noun** informal

2 an immensely powerful aerial thermobaric bomb.

damiana

• **noun** a small shrub native to tropical America, whose leaves are used in herbal medicine and in the production of a liqueur, and also reputedly possess aphrodisiac qualities. [*Turnera diffusa*, family *Turneraceae*.]

data smog

• **noun** [mass noun] informal an overwhelming excess of information, especially as obtained as the result of an Internet search.

dba

• **abbreviation for** doing business as: *Bruce Newman, dba Newman Graphics*.

deadhead

• **noun**

4 (Deadhead) informal a fan of the rock group the Grateful Dead.

deadly

• **adjective** (deadlier, deadliest)

2 Irish & Austral. informal very good; excellent: *it's a great town and the pubs are deadly.*

de Clerambault's syndrome

- **noun** Psychiatry another term for EROTOMANIA.
- ORIGIN from the name of Gatin de Clérambault (1872-1934), French psychiatrist, who first described it.

decouple

- **verb** [with obj.]
- 2 muffle the sound or shock of (a nuclear explosion) by causing it to take place in an underground cavity.

deep ecology

- **noun** [mass noun] an environmental movement and philosophy which regards human life as just one of many equal components of a global ecosystem.

DEFRA

- **abbreviation for** (in the UK) Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs.

defrag

- **verb** (defrags, defragging, defragged) Computing short for DEFRAGMENT.

dejunk

- **verb** [with obj.] informal clear (a room or other space) by disposing of clutter and unwanted possessions: *dejunk the house before you move* | figurative *how to dejunk your life.*

delink

- **verb** [with obj.] [often as noun] (**delinking**) break the connection between (something) and something else: *the possibility of delinking from the international economic system.*

delph

- **noun** [mass noun] Irish plates, dishes, and other similar items; crockery.
- ORIGIN variant of DELFT.

Denver boot

- **noun** N. Amer. a wheel clamp.

dequeue

- **verb** (dequeues, dequeuing or dequeuing, dequeued) [with obj.] Computing remove (an item of data awaiting processing) from a queue of such items.

derro

- **noun** (pl. **derros**) Austral./NZ informal a vagrant, especially one who is dependent on alcohol.
- ORIGIN 1970s: abbreviation of DERELICT + -O.

desh

- **noun** [mass noun] Indian a person's or a people's native land: *contrary to my visit in December, I have a very positive view about desh now.*
- ORIGIN from Hindi *des*.

desi (also **deshi**)

- **adjective** Indian
- 2 of excellent quality; unadulterated or pure.

destination

• **noun** • [as modifier] denoting a place that people will make a special trip to visit: *a destination restaurant*.

developmental delay

• **noun** [mass noun] the condition of a child being less developed mentally or physically than is normal for its age.

DfES

• **abbreviation for** (in the UK) Department for Education and Skills.

dhoti

• **noun** (pl. **dhotis**) Indian • a garment, worn mainly by men, consisting of a piece of material tied around the waist and extending to cover most of the legs.

digicam

• **noun** trademark a digital camera.

digital

• **adjective 1** • involving or relating to the use of computer technology: *the digital revolution*.

digital camera

• **noun** a camera which produces digital images that can be stored in a computer and displayed on screen.

dinnerware

• **noun** [mass noun] N. Amer. dishes, utensils, and glassware used at table; tableware.

diram

• **noun** a monetary unit of Tajikistan, equal to one hundredth of a somoni.
- ORIGIN Tajik.

dirtybag

• **noun** US informal a very unkempt or unpleasant person.

dirty bomb

• **noun** a conventional bomb that contains radioactive material.

disconnect

• **noun** an instance of disconnecting or being disconnected: [as modifier] *a disconnect message*. • a discrepancy or lack of connection: *there can be a disconnect between boardrooms and IT departments when it comes to technology*.

distressed

• **adjective 1** • informal, chiefly US (of property) offered for sale cheaply due to mortgage foreclosure or because it is part of an insolvent estate.

distribute

• **verb** [with obj.]

2 • [as adj.] (**distributed**) Computing (of a computer system) spread over several machines, especially over a network.

djembe

- **noun** a kind of goblet-shaped hand drum originating in West Africa.
- ORIGIN French *djembe*, from Mande *jembe*.

DNR

- **abbreviation for** • (in the US) Department of Natural Resources. • do not resuscitate, denoting an instruction not to attempt the resuscitation of a terminally ill patient after cardiac arrest in hospital.

DNS

- **abbreviation for** Computing • domain name server, the system that automatically translates Internet addresses to the numeric machine addresses that computers use. • domain name system, the hierarchical method by which Internet addresses are constructed.

do¹

- PHRASES **do one** [in imperative] N. English informal go away: *look, just do one, will you!*

dob

- **verb** (**dobs**, **dobbing**, **dobbed**) [with obj.] Austral./NZ informal **1** • [no obj.] (**dob on**) inform on; betray.
- 2** (**dob something in**) contribute money to a common cause: *everyone dopped in a few dollars.*
- 3** (**dob someone in**) impose on someone to do something: *I dopped him in to do the cleaning.*
- DERIVATIVES **dobber noun**.

dodger

- **noun 1** • [in combination] Brit. humorous a person who dislikes or avoids a specified thing: *a greasy-haired soap-dodger.*

DOI

- **abbreviation for** Computing digital object identifier, a unique alphanumeric string assigned to a text published online.

do-nothing informal

- **adjective** taking no action; doing nothing: *a weak, divided, do-nothing government.*
- **noun** an idle or feckless person: *a shiftless lot of do-nothings.*

doobry (also doobrey or doobrie)

- **noun** (pl. **doobries** or **doobreys**) Brit. informal another term for DOODAH: *you know, the little plastic doobry that covers the connector.*
- ORIGIN 1950s: of unknown origin.

DoS

- **abbreviation for** denial of service, denoting an interruption in an authorized user's access to a computer network, typically one caused with malicious intent.

dosha

- **noun** (in Ayurvedic medicine) each of three energies believed to circulate in the body and govern physiological activity, their differing proportions determining individual temperament and physical constitution and (when unbalanced) causing a disposition to particular physical and mental disorders.
- ORIGIN Sanskrit *dosa*, literally 'fault, disease'.

dote

- **noun** Irish informal a sweet or adorable person: *he's gorgeous and the twins are dotes.*

doudou

- **noun** W. Indian a term of endearment.
- ORIGIN French Creole, from French *doux* 'sweet'.

Dreaming

- **noun** (in the mythology of some Australian Aboriginals) Dreamtime or alcheringa, especially as manifested in the natural world and celebrated in ritual.

drill¹

- **verb** [with obj.]
3 [no obj.] (**drill down**) Computing access data which is in a lower level of a hierarchically structured database.

driver

- **noun**
3 a factor which brings about or sustains a particular phenomenon: *the hope of achieving such monopolies becomes the main driver of investment.*

drop

- **verb** (**drops, dropping, dropped**) [with obj.]
5 • Brit. informal (of a DJ) select and play (a record): *various guest DJs drop quality tunes both old and new.*

dropped kerb

- **noun** Brit. a small ramp built into the kerb of a pavement to make it easier for people using pushchairs or wheelchairs to pass from the pavement to the road.

drop-ship

- **verb** (**drop-ships, drop-shipping, drop-shipped**) [with obj.] provide (goods) by direct delivery from the manufacturer to the retailer or customer.
- DERIVATIVES **drop shipment noun.**

DTV

- **abbreviation for** digital television.

Duckworth-Lewis

- **adjective** denoting a method of determining the runs total needed to win a one-day cricket match that is affected by rain or other interruptions.
- ORIGIN named after the English statisticians Frank Duckworth (born 1939) and Tony Lewis (born 1942), who invented the method.

dukun

- **noun** SE Asian a traditional healer believed to have spiritual and occult powers; a shaman.
- ORIGIN Indonesian.

durry

- **noun** Austral./NZ informal a cigarette.
- ORIGIN 1940s: of unknown origin.

dutchie

- **noun** W. Indian a large, heavy cooking pot.

- ORIGIN from DUTCH OVEN.

DWP

• **abbreviation for** (in the UK) Department for Work and Pensions.

dynamic pricing

• **noun** [mass noun] the practice of pricing items at a level determined by a particular customer's perceived ability to pay.

e

• **symbol for** • (e) euro or euros.

earbud

• **noun** (usu. **earbuds**) a very small headphone, worn inside the ear.

e-business

• **noun** another term for E-COMMERCE.

ECN

• **abbreviation for** electronic communications network.

ecolodge

• **noun** a type of tourist accommodation designed to have the minimum possible impact on the natural environment in which it is situated.

edamame

• **noun** [mass noun] a Japanese dish of salted green soybeans boiled in their pods, typically served as a snack or appetizer.

- ORIGIN Japanese, literally 'beans on a branch'.

edgy

• **adjective** (**edgier**, **edgiest**)

2 informal at the forefront of a trend; cutting-edge: *their songs combine good music and smart, edgy ideas.*

EEA

• **abbreviation for** European Economic Area, a free-trade zone created in 1994, composed of the states of the European Union together with Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein.

Eeyorish (also Eeyoreish)

• **adjective** pessimistic or gloomy: *they were an Eeyorish bunch, always looking on the dark side of life.*

- ORIGIN 1990s: from Eeyore, the name of a donkey in A. A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh*, characterized by his gloomy outlook on life.

e-fit

• **noun** an electronic picture of a person's face made from composite photographs of facial features, created by a computer program.

- ORIGIN 1980s: from E⁻² and FIT¹ noun, on the pattern of PHOTOFIT.

egosurf

• **verb** [no obj.] informal search the Internet for instances of one's own name or links to one's own website.

eh

- PHRASES **eh up** N. English used as a greeting, to express surprise, or to attract someone's attention: *eh up, I'm talking to you!*

emcee N. Amer. informal

• **noun**

2 an MC at a club or party.

• **verb (emcees, emceed, emceeing)**

2 [no obj.] perform as an MC: [as noun] (**emceeing**) *a three-hour-long mix of DJ'ing and emceeing.*

emergency

• **noun** (pl. **emergencies**)

2 (**the Emergency**) Irish historical the Second World War.

emo (also **emocore**)

• **noun** [mass noun] a style of rock music resembling punk but having more complex arrangements and lyrics that deal with more emotional subjects.

- ORIGIN 1990s: short for *emotional hardcore*.

endian

• **adjective** (in phrase **big-endian** or **little-endian**) Computing denoting a system of ordering bytes in a word, or bits in a byte, in which the most significant (or least significant) item is put first.

- ORIGIN 1980s: from Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, in which *big-endians* and *little-endians* ate boiled eggs by breaking the 'big' end or 'little' end respectively.

enqueue

• **verb (enqueues, enqueueing or enqueueing, enqueued)** [with obj.] Computing add (an item of data awaiting processing) to a queue of such items.

ents

• **plural noun** Brit. informal social and leisure activities organized for the benefit of members of a club, holidaymakers, etc.: *getting involved in running ents can be fun.*

- ORIGIN 1990s: abbreviation of *entertainments*.

EOF Computing

• **abbreviation for** end of file.

EQ

• **abbreviation for** graphic equalizer.

ERP

• **abbreviation for** enterprise resource planning, the management of all the information and resources involved in a company's operations by means of an integrated computer system.

escabeche

• **noun** [mass noun] a dish of fish that is fried then marinated in vinegar and spices.

- ORIGIN Spanish.

escoveitch (also **escovitch**)

• **noun** West Indian term for ESCABECHE.

ex¹

• **preposition 1** • N. Amer. (of goods) without charges to the purchaser until removed from: *ex warehouse*.

exaptation

• **noun** [mass noun] Biology the process by which features acquire functions for which they were not originally adapted or selected. • [count noun] a character or feature which evolved in this way.

exchange

• **verb** • [no obj.] exchange contracts.
- PHRASES **exchange contracts** Brit. (of a buyer) sign a legal contract with the vendor of a property or piece of land, making the purchase legally binding and enforceable.

excusal

• **noun** [mass noun] the action or fact of excusing or being excused, typically from an official duty or requirement: *if any members of the jury felt unable to serve that long, they would be considered for excusal*.

extension

• **noun 1** • (**extensions**) lengths of artificial hair woven into a person's own hair to create a very long hairstyle.

extern

• **verb** [with obj.] SE Asian banish (someone considered politically undesirable) from a region or district: *he was externed for inciting communal tension in Mumbai*.

externalize (also **externalise**)

• **verb** [with obj.]
2 Economics fail or choose not to incorporate (costs) as part of a pricing structure, especially social and environmental costs resulting from a product's manufacture and use.

extrachromosomal element

• **noun** Genetics the DNA of a cytoplasmic organelle, such as a mitochondrion or chloroplast, responsible for cytoplasmic inheritance.

eyeball

- PHRASES **give someone the hairy eyeball** N. Amer. informal stare at someone in a disapproving or angry way, especially with one's eyelids partially lowered.

fab¹

- PHRASES **the Fab Four** the Beatles.

fab² Electronics

• **verb** [with obj.] (**fabs, fabbing, fabbed**) produce (a microchip).

facety

• **adjective** W. Indian rude, arrogant, or excessively bold.
- ORIGIN probably from obsolete English *facey*, perhaps influenced by FEISTY.

failover

• **noun** [mass noun] Computing a procedure by which a system automatically transfers control to

a duplicate system when it detects a fault or failure.

fáilte

- **exclamation** Scottish & Irish welcome.
- **noun** an act or instance of welcoming someone.
- ORIGIN Irish.

fair¹

- PHRASES **fair go** Austral./NZ informal used for emphasis or to request someone to be reasonable or fair: *Fair go! How can I ask a thing like that?*

faith

- **exclamation** chiefly Irish said to express surprise or emphasis: *faith, I was shown the door myself and came home.*

fang² Austral. informal

- **verb** drive at high speed: [no obj.] *let's fang up to the beach!*
- **noun** a high-speed drive in a car.
- ORIGIN 1960s: from the name of J. M. FANGIO.

fascia (also **facia** except in sense 3)

- **noun**
- 4 a covering, typically a detachable one, for the front part of a mobile phone.

fatoush

- **noun** a Middle Eastern salad dish consisting of tomatoes, cucumber, and other vegetables together with croutons made from toasted pitta bread.

feather

- **verb**
- 4 [no obj.] (of ink, lipstick, etc.) separate into tiny lines after application: [as noun] (**feathering**) *a long-lasting formula that resists feathering and protects the lips.*

feebate

- **noun** a system of charges and rebates whereby energy-efficient or environmentally friendly practices are rewarded while failure to adhere to such practices is penalized.
- ORIGIN 1990s: blend of FEE and REBATE.

feh

- **exclamation** (in Jewish use) conveying disapproval, displeasure, or disgust: *The greatest writer in the English language? Feh!*

fibromyalgia

- **noun** [mass noun] a rheumatic condition characterized by muscular or musculoskeletal pain with stiffness and localized tenderness at specific points on the body.

fierce

- **adverb** Irish informal very; extremely: *he was fierce proud.*

figure-hugging

- **adjective** (of a garment) fitting closely to the contours of a woman's body: *a low-cut, figure-hugging dress.*

filename

- **noun** an identifying name given to a computer file.

fill

- PHRASES **fill one's boots** informal have as much of something as one wants; do something to the full: *fill your boots with spicy Szechuan food for under five bucks a plate.*

financial

- **noun (financials)** the finances or financial situation of an organization or individual: *he needs to pay serious attention to his financials, particularly cash flow.*

finger

- PHRASES **put something on the long finger** Irish postpone consideration of something; put something off: *don't put retirement planning on the long finger.*

fiqh

- **noun** [mass noun] the theory or philosophy of Islamic law, based on the teachings of the Koran and the traditions of the Prophet.
- ORIGIN Arabic, literally 'understanding'.

firecracker

- **noun** • figurative an outstanding, exciting, or attractive person or thing: *the book was solidly excellent but hardly a literary firecracker.*

firewall

- **verb** [with obj.] Computing protect (a network or system) from unauthorized access with a firewall.

FireWire

- **noun** [mass noun] trademark a standard high-performance serial bus for connecting devices to a personal computer.

First Nation

- **noun** (in Canada) an indigenous American Indian community officially recognized as an administrative unit by the federal government or functioning as such without official status.

fizzy

- **adjective (fizzier, fizziest)** • figurative full of energy or exuberance; lively: *fizzy new wave pop.*

flash¹

- **noun**

4 (**Flash**) [mass noun] Computing (trademark in the US) an application used to produce animation sequences that can be viewed by a browser.

flip¹

- **verb (flips, flipping, flipped)**

4 [with obj.] N. Amer. resell (shares or property) quickly to make a profit.

fly¹

- **verb (flies, flying; past flew; past participle flown)** [no obj.]

6 N. Amer. informal be successful: *that idea didn't fly with most other council members.*

food bank

• **noun** N. Amer. a place supplying food to poor or destitute people.

foo fighter

• **noun** an unidentified flying object, originally one of a kind reported by US pilots during the Second World War, usually described as a bright light or ball of fire.
- ORIGIN 1940s: from 'Where there's foo there's fire', a nonsense catchphrase from the US *Smoky Stover* cartoon strip.

foot

- PHRASES **on foot of** Irish because of; by reason of: *the decision was taken on foot of advice from the Attorney General.*

foot-tapping

• **adjective** having or creating a strong rhythmical musical beat: *foot-tapping gospel hymns.*

for

- PHRASES **do something for one's country (or England etc.)** Brit. informal used to indicate that someone does or can do the specified activity with great enthusiasm or tirelessness: *you eating for England, Barry?*

forward-looking (also **forward-thinking**)

• **adjective** favouring innovation and development; progressive: *a forward-looking company.*

four-by-four (also **4 m 4**)

• **noun** a vehicle with four-wheel drive.

frameshift mutation

• **noun** Genetics a mutation caused by the addition or deletion of a base pair or base pairs in the DNA of a gene resulting in the translation of the genetic code in an unnatural reading frame from the position of the mutation to the end of the gene.

freedom rider

• **noun** US a person who challenged racial laws in the American South during in the 1960s, originally by refusing to abide by the laws governing the segregation of seating in buses.

freestyle

• **verb** [no obj.] dance, perform, or compete in an improvised or unrestricted fashion: *he just came in and freestyled over the music.*

free-to-air

• **adjective** denoting or relating to television programmes broadcast on standard public or commercial networks, as opposed to satellite, cable, or digital programmes available only to fee-paying viewers.

front

• **verb** [with obj.]

5 [no obj.] (often **front up**) Austral./NZ make an appearance; turn up: *parents get a bit worried if you don't front up now and then.*

front bottom

• **noun** Brit. informal a child's term for the female genitals.

frosh

- **noun** (pl. same) N. Amer. informal a college freshman: [as modifier] *frosh week*.
- ORIGIN early 20th cent.: alteration of FRESHMAN, perhaps influenced by German *Frosch* 'frog' (in dialect use 'grammar-school student').

fur

- PHRASES **be all fur coat and no knickers** Brit. informal have an impressive or sophisticated appearance which belies the fact that there is nothing to substantiate it.

GAA

- **abbreviation for** Gaelic Athletic Association.

game¹

- PHRASES **game on** a signal for play to begin in a game or match. • Brit. informal said when one feels that a situation is about to develop in one's favour: *She soon invited me back to her place*.

Game on! the Great Game 1

2 [first used by Rudyard Kipling in *Kim* (1901).]

gas

- **adjective** Irish informal very amusing or entertaining: *Ruthie, that's gas - you're a gem*.

Gastornis

- **noun** a very large flightless bird of the Eocene epoch.
- ORIGIN modern Latin, from the name of the French scientist Gaston Planté (1834-89), who found the first specimen, + Greek *ornis* 'bird'.

geas

- **noun** (pl. **geasa**) (in Irish folklore) an obligation or prohibition magically imposed on a person.
- ORIGIN Irish.

gel³

- **noun** Brit. informal an upper-class or well-bred girl or young woman: *fastidiously reared Home Counties gels*.
- ORIGIN representing a pronunciation.

gene conversion

- **noun** [mass noun] the process whereby, during meiosis, one allele in a heterozygote is converted to the other by a process of mismatch repair.

gene silencing

- **noun** [mass noun] the switching off of the expression of a gene, for example by the introduction of an antisense RNA that blocks translation of the messenger RNA.

genetic imprinting

- **noun** [mass noun] the differential expression of genetic traits depending on the parent from which they were inherited.

genetic information

- **noun** [mass noun] the genetic potential of an organism carried in the base sequence of its DNA (or, in some viruses, RNA) according to the genetic code.

gig² informal

- **noun** • a task or assignment: *working on the sea and spotting whales seemed like a great gig*.

GLA

- **abbreviation for** • (in the UK) Greater London Authority, established in 2000.

glamazon

- **noun** informal a glamorous, powerfully assertive woman.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from GLAM + AMAZON².

glamour (US also glamor)

- **noun 1** • [as modifier] denoting or relating to sexually suggestive or mildly pornographic photography or publications: *a glamour model*.

global distillation

- **noun** [mass noun] a process whereby certain volatile substances vaporize in warm climates and condense in cooler areas, causing the accumulation of pollutants.

gluteal

- **noun** (usu. **gluteals**) a gluteus muscle.

glycaemia (US also glycemia)

- **noun** [mass noun] the presence of glucose in the blood.
- DERIVATIVES **glycaemic adjective**.
- ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from GLYCO- + -AEMIA.

glycaemic index (US also glycemic index)

- **noun** a figure representing the relative ability of a carbohydrate food to increase the level of glucose in the blood.

go¹

- PHRASES **get someone going** Brit. informal make someone angry or sexually aroused: *I want a girl who's sexy, but in a subtle way - that's what gets me going*. **go off on one** Brit. informal become very angry or excited.

gobar

- **noun** [mass noun] Indian cattle dung.
- ORIGIN Hindi.

God's own

- **noun** Australian and NZ term for GOD'S COUNTRY.

Godzilla

- **noun** informal a particularly enormous example of something: *a Godzilla of a condominium tower*.
- ORIGIN from the name of a huge prehistoric monster featuring in a series of Japanese films from 1955.

Godzone

- **noun** New Zealand term for GOD'S COUNTRY.

golden raisin

- **noun** US a sultana.

golden rice

- **noun** [mass noun] a genetically modified variety of rice rich in the orange or red plant pigment

beta-carotene, a substance important in the human diet as a precursor of vitamin A.

google

- **verb** [with obj.] informal search for the name of (someone) on the Internet to find out information about them.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from *Google*, the proprietary name of a popular Internet search engine.

gora

- **noun** (fem. **gori**) (pl. **goras** or **goray**) (in the Indian subcontinent, and among British Asians) a white person.
- ORIGIN from Hindi *gorā* 'fair, white'.

GPA

- **abbreviation for** N. Amer. grade point average, an indication of a student's academic achievement at a school or college.

grab

- **noun 1** • [usu. with modifier] Computing a frame of video or television footage, digitized and stored as a still image in a computer memory for subsequent display, printing, or editing: *a screen grab from Wednesday's programme.*

grandkid

- **noun** N. Amer. informal a grandchild.

graupel

- **noun** [mass noun] small particles of snow with a fragile crust of ice; soft hail.
- ORIGIN late 19th cent.: German *Graupel*, back-formation from *graupeln* 'to hail with soft hailstones', from *Graupe* 'cereal grain'.

green onion

- **noun** N. Amer. a spring onion.

grey (US **gray**)

- **verb**

2 [with obj.] (**grey something out**) Computing display a menu option in a light font to indicate that it is not available.

grid

- **noun**

3 • Computing a number of computers linked together via the Internet so that their combined power may be harnessed to work on difficult problems.

G-ride

- **noun** N. Amer. informal a stolen car.
- ORIGIN probably related to G-MAN (in sense 1).

groom

- **verb** [with obj.]

2 • (of a paedophile) prepare (a child) for a meeting, especially via an Internet chat room, with the intention of committing a sexual offence.

ground zero

• **noun 1** • (**Ground Zero**) the site of the World Trade Center in New York, destroyed by terrorists on 11 September 2001.

G2B

• **abbreviation for** government-to-business, referring to the conducting of transactions between government bodies and business via the Internet.

gub (also **gubba** or **gubber**)

• **noun** chiefly derogatory (among Australian aboriginals) a white person.
- ORIGIN 1940s: of uncertain origin.

guilt

• **verb** [with obj.] informal short for GUILT-TRIP: *Celeste had been guilted into going by her parents.*

guilt culture

• **noun** Anthropology a culture in which conformity of behaviour is maintained through the individual's internalization of a moral code. Compare with SHAME CULTURE.

gut-wrenching

• **adjective** informal extremely unpleasant or upsetting: *the film is a gut-wrenching portrait of domestic violence.*

gweilo

• **noun** SE Asian a foreigner, especially a westerner.
- ORIGIN Cantonese, literally 'ghost man'.

gyan

• **noun** [mass noun] Indian knowledge, especially spiritual or religious knowledge.
- ORIGIN from Hindi *jñ Qn*.

haat

• **noun** Indian a market, especially one held on a regular basis in a rural area.
- ORIGIN Hindi.

hacktivist

• **noun** a person who uses computer crimes to further social or political ends.
- DERIVATIVES **hacktivism** **noun**.
- ORIGIN 1990s: blend of HACK¹ and *activist*.

ham-and-egger

• **noun** US informal an ordinary, average man.

hames

- PHRASES **make a hames of** Irish informal do (something) very badly or ineptly; make a mess of (something): *Galway made a hames of their chance of a goal.*

hammered

• **adjective** informal very drunk.

handphone

• **noun** SE Asian a mobile phone.

handspan

- **noun** see SPAN (in sense 1).

hang

- PHRASAL VERBS **hang out 1**

2

3

- 4 Austral./NZ resist or survive in difficult circumstances; hold out. • (**hang out for**) desire strongly; crave.

haplotype

- **noun** Genetics a set of genetic determinants located on a single chromosome.

harambee

- **noun** (in East Africa) an event held to raise funds for a charitable purpose: [as modifier] *harambee functions*.
- ORIGIN Swahili, literally 'pulling or working together' (a slogan of the first independent government of Kenya).

hardbody

- **noun** informal a person with very toned or well-developed muscles.
- DERIVATIVES **hardbodied adjective**.

hardgainer

- **noun** (in bodybuilding) a person who does not find it easy to gain muscle through exercise.

Harrington

- **noun** a man's short lightweight jacket with a collar and a zipped front.
- ORIGIN from the name of Rodney Harrington, a character in the 1960s TV serial *Peyton Place*, who was associated with the garment.

hat

- PHRASES **be all hat and no cattle** US informal tend to talk boastfully without acting on one's words. **black hat (or white hat)** used in reference to the bad (or good) party in a situation (from the colour of hat traditionally worn by the bad (or good) character in Western films): *we are the good guys - the black hats lost*.

havan

- **noun** Hinduism a ritual burning of offerings such as grains and ghee, which is held to mark births, marriages, and other special occasions.
- ORIGIN Hindi.

hawala

- **noun** [mass noun] a traditional system of transferring money used in Arab countries and the Indian subcontinent, whereby the money is paid to an agent who then instructs an associate in the relevant country or area to pay the final recipient.
- ORIGIN from Arabic *hawQla*, literally 'assignment, bill of exchange'.

he

- **pronoun** • W. Indian him or his: *don't tell he nothing more*.

header

• **noun**

6 Irish informal a mad or foolish person.

headtie

• **noun** W. Indian a strip of colourful fabric worn by women tied around the head.

heat-shock protein

• **noun** Genetics a protein induced in a living cell in response to a rise in temperature above the normal level.

heavysset

• **adjective** (of a person) broad and strongly built.

hedge fund

• **noun** an offshore investment fund, typically formed as a private limited partnership, that engages in speculation using credit or borrowed capital.

heel¹

- PHRASES **in the heel of the hunt** Irish at the last minute; finally: *in the heel of the hunt, the outcome of the match was decided by a penalty.*

hello (also **hallo** or **hullo**)

• **exclamation** • used informally to express sarcasm or anger: *Hello! Did you even get what the play was about?*

her

• **pronoun** [third person singular] **1** • W. Indian she: *she will get all her wants.*

high beam

• **noun** North American term for FULL BEAM.

high-maintenance

• **adjective** needing a lot of work to keep in good condition. • informal (of a person) demanding a lot of attention: *if Martin could keep a high-maintenance totty like Tania happy, he must be doing something right.*

him

• **pronoun** [third person singular] **1** • W. Indian he: *him was a tall, bowlegged man.*

history-sheeter

• **noun** Indian a person with a criminal record.

hog

• **noun**

2 informal a large motorcycle.

hooch²

• **noun** US informal a shelter or improvised dwelling.

- ORIGIN 1950s (originally military slang): perhaps from Japanese *uchi* 'dwelling'.

hoodie

• **noun**

2 variant spelling of HOODY.

hoody (also **hoodie**)

- **noun** (pl. **hoodies**) a hooded sweatshirt, jacket, or other top.

hoor

- **noun** Irish & Scottish informal a prostitute. • a person (male or female) whose behaviour one disapproves of.

- ORIGIN representing a regional pronunciation of WHORE.

horizontal gene transfer

- **noun** [mass noun] the acquisition by an organism of genetic information by transfer, for example via the agency of a virus, from an organism that is not its parent and is typically a member of a different species.

hormonal

- **adjective** • informal affected by one's sex hormones, especially in feeling moody or sexy: *giggly, hormonal fourth formers*.

Hosay

- **noun** an annual festival held by the Shiite Muslim community in the West Indies, commemorating the death of Husayn, grandson of Muhammad.

- ORIGIN representing a pronunciation of *Husayn*.

HR

- **abbreviation for** • Human Resources (the personnel department of an organization).

huff

- **verb**

3 [with obj.] N. Amer. informal sniff fumes from (petrol or solvents) for a euphoric effect.

- DERIVATIVES **huffer noun**

human papilloma virus

- **noun** a virus with subtypes that cause diseases in humans ranging from common warts to cervical cancer.

I²

- **pronoun** • W. Indian me: *Junior tell I is the army him a'work for*. • (also **I and I, I man**) W. Indian (especially among Rastafarians) used in reference to oneself or to people in general: *I and I must submit to and follow Jah*.

ICC

- **abbreviation for** • International Criminal Court.

ichthus

- **noun** an image of a fish used as a symbol of Christianity.

- ORIGIN from Greek *ikhthus* 'fish', an early symbol of Christianity: the initial letters of the word are sometimes taken as short for *Iesus Christos, Theou Uios, Soter* (Jesus Christ, son of God, saviour).

ICT

- **abbreviation for** information and computing technology.

IMAP

• **abbreviation for** Computing Internet Mail Access Protocol.

incubate

• **verb 1** • N. Amer. give support and aid the development of (a new small business).

inquilab

• **noun** Indian a revolution or uprising (often used as a political slogan).

- ORIGIN Urdu *inqal Qb, inqil Qb* 'change, turn, revolution'.

insourcing

• **noun** [mass noun] the reallocation of work previously done by an outside supplier to in-house staff.

- DERIVATIVES **insource verb**.

integrin

• **noun** Biochemistry any of a class of animal transmembrane proteins involved in the adhesion of cells to each other and to their substrate.

- ORIGIN 1980s: from *integr-* in INTEGRAL + -IN¹.

intein

• **noun** Biochemistry an internal segment of amino acids that is excised from a protein precursor to generate a new protein.

- ORIGIN 1990s: from INTERNAL + PROTEIN.

isoflavone

• **noun** Chemistry a crystalline compound whose derivatives occur in many plants (especially pulses), often as glycosides. [A tricyclic ketone; chem. formula: C₁₅H₁₀O₂.]

issue

• **noun 1** • (**issues**) informal personal problems or difficulties: *emotions and intimacy issues that were largely dealt with through alcohol*.

-ista

• **suffix** informal forming nouns denoting a person associated with a particular activity, often with a derogatory force: *fashionista*.

- ORIGIN from the Spanish ending *-ista*, as in SANDINISTA.

ixnay US informal

• **exclamation (ixnay on/to)** used in rejecting something specified: *ixnay to corporate control!*

• **verb** [with obj.] cancel or stop: *the group has ixnayed the rest of its North American tour*.

- ORIGIN 1920s: pig Latin for NIX¹.

Iyengar

• **noun** [mass noun] a type of hatha yoga focusing on the correct alignment of the body, making use of straps, wooden blocks, and other objects as aids to achieving the correct postures.

- ORIGIN named after B. K. S. Iyengar (born 1918), the Indian yoga teacher who devised this method.

jack⁴

• **verb** [with obj.] N. Amer. informal take (something) illicitly; steal: *what's wrong is to jack somebody's lyrics and not acknowledge the fact*. • rob (someone).

- ORIGIN 1990s: from HIJACK.

jacks

- **noun** Irish a toilet.
- ORIGIN variant form of JAKES.

jack-up

- **noun**
- 2 NZ informal a dishonest or underhand way of achieving something.

jaded

- **adjective** • Irish informal physically tired; exhausted.

jaffle

- **noun** Austral. a toasted sandwich.
- ORIGIN 1950s: from the proprietary name for a toaster.

jali

- **noun** [mass noun] Indian intricate ornamental openwork in wood, metal, stone, etc.: [as modifier] *a bamboo jali bedside cabinet*.
- ORIGIN Urdu, from *jaal* 'a net'.

jandal

- **noun** NZ trademark a light sandal with a thong between the big and second toe; a flip-flop.
- ORIGIN 1950s: probably from *j(apanese) (s)andal*.

jazz funk

- **noun** [mass noun] a style of popular dance music incorporating elements of jazz and funk.

jetboat

- **noun** a motor boat of shallow draught propelled by a jet of water pumped forcefully out from below the stern waterline.

jihad (also **jehad**)

- **noun** • (**greater jihad**) Islam the spiritual struggle within oneself against sin.

jihadi (also **jehadi**)

- **noun** (pl. **jihadis**) a person involved in a jihad; an Islamic militant.
- ORIGIN from Arabic *jih Qdi*, from *jih Qd* (see JIHAD).

jockey shorts

- **plural noun** trademark men's close-fitting underpants with a short leg.

jocks

- **plural noun** informal jockey shorts.

joined-up

- **adjective** (of handwriting) written with the characters joined; cursive. • (especially of a policy) characterized by coordination and coherence of thought; integrated: *a joined-up approach to rural poverty, public services and employment*.

joint

- **noun**
- 5 chiefly black slang a piece of creative work, especially a film or piece of music: *listen to one of*

his joints nowadays and you don't even need to see the production credit.

jook

- **verb** [with obj.] W. Indian pierce, poke, or stab.
- ORIGIN of uncertain origin: perhaps from a West African language, or related to JOUK.

jump

- PHRASES **jump the shark** US informal (of a television series or film) reach a point when far-fetched events are included merely for the sake of novelty, indicative of a decline in quality. [said to be with allusion to the long-running US television series *Happy Days*, in which the central character (the Fonz) jumped over a shark when waterskiing.]

ka-ching (also **ker-ching**)

- **noun** used to represent the sound of a cash register, especially with reference to making money: *the highlight will be a month-long gig at a casino in the US Virgin Islands - ka-ching!*
- ORIGIN imitative; compare with CHING.

kala

- **noun** Indian **1** a skilled craft.
- 2** a performing art such as singing, dance, or drama.
- ORIGIN from Hindi.

kampong (also **kampung**)

- **noun** a Malaysian enclosure or village.
- ORIGIN Malay; compare with COMPOUND².

kanaka

- **noun** **1** a native or inhabitant of Hawaii.

kangaroo care

- **noun** [mass noun] a method of caring for a premature baby in which the infant is held in skin-to-skin contact with a parent, typically the mother, for as long as possible each day.

karroid

- **adjective** S. African, chiefly technical of or characteristic of the Karoo.

keypal

- **noun** a person with whom one becomes friendly by exchanging emails; an email penfriend.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from KEY¹ + PAL, by analogy with PEN PAL.

khula

- **noun** [mass noun] (in Islamic law) a form of divorce initiated by the wife, which is effected by the return of her husband's wedding gift. Compare with TALAQ.
- ORIGIN from Arabic *khul* 'retreat, renunciation'.

kiasu SE Asian

- **noun** a grasping, selfish attitude.
- **adjective** (of a person) very anxious not to miss an opportunity; grasping.
- ORIGIN from Chinese, 'scared to lose'.

kitesurfing (also **kiteboarding**)

- **noun** [mass noun] the sport or pastime of riding on a modified surfboard while holding on to a specially designed kite, using the wind for propulsion.

- DERIVATIVES **kitesurfer** (also **kiteboarder**) *noun*.

knacker Brit.

• *noun*

3 Irish informal an uncouth or loutish person.

Krautrock

• *noun* [mass noun] an experimental style of rock music associated with German groups of the 1970s, characterized by improvisation and strong, hypnotic rhythms.

- DERIVATIVES **Krautrocker** *noun*.

Krav Maga

• *noun* [mass noun] a form of self-defence and physical training, first developed by the Israeli army in the 1940s, based on the use of reflexive responses to threatening situations.

- ORIGIN from Hebrew, 'contact combat.'

Kumina

• *noun* a Jamaican religious ceremony involving music, dancing, and supposed possession by spirits.

- ORIGIN perhaps from a Kimbundu word meaning 'possession, to see'.

kund

• *noun* Indian a tank or small reservoir in which rainwater is collected for drinking.

- ORIGIN from Hindi.

kwaito

• *noun* [mass noun] S. African a style of popular music similar to hip hop, featuring vocals recited over an instrumental backing with strong bass lines.

- ORIGIN 1990s: named after the Amakwaito, a group of 1950s gangsters in Sophiatown (a former quarter of Johannesburg), from Afrikaans *kwaai* 'angry, vicious'.

ladyboy

• *noun* (in Thailand) a transvestite or transsexual.

lamp²

• *verb* [with obj.] chiefly N. English hit or beat (someone).

- ORIGIN early 19th cent.: of uncertain origin; perhaps related to LAM¹.

land

• *noun*

2 • [in combination] a particular sphere of activity or group of people: *the blunt, charmless climate of techno-land*.

langar

• *noun* Indian (among Sikhs) a communal free kitchen. • a community meal.

- ORIGIN from Hindi.

langra

• *noun*

2 Indian a person who is lame or unable to walk.

large

- PHRASES **give (or have) it large** Brit. informal go out and enjoy oneself, typically with drink or

drugs; go clubbing: *are you still having it large every weekend?*

learnfare

- **noun** [mass noun] N. Amer. a welfare system in which attendance at school, college, or a training program is necessary in order to receive benefits.
- ORIGIN 1980s: from LEARN, on the pattern of WORKFARE.

leg-up

- PHRASES **have (or get) a leg-up on** US informal have (or get) an advantage over: *he'd certainly have a leg-up on the competition.*

lepak

- **verb** [no obj.] (**lepaks, leparking, leparked**) SE Asian (especially of a young person) spend one's time aimlessly loitering or loafing around.

lesbigay

- **adjective** relating to or denoting lesbians, bisexuals, or male homosexuals.
- **noun** a lesbian, bisexual, or male homosexual.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from *les(bian)*, *bi(sexual)*, and *gay*.

life coach

- **noun** a person employed to help people attain their goals in life.

life-expired

- **adjective** Brit. (especially of locomotives or other railway equipment) worn out or outdated: *life-expired signalling.*

linkage disequilibrium

- **noun** [mass noun] Genetics the occurrence in members of a population of combinations of linked genes in non-random proportions.

Linux

- **noun** [mass noun] Computing (trademark in the US) an operating system modelled on Unix, whose source code is publicly available at no charge.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from the name of Linus Benedict Torvalds (born 1969), a Finnish software engineer who wrote the first version of the system, + *-x*, as in *Unix*.

-lish

- **suffix** forming nouns denoting a blend of a particular language with English, as used by native speakers of the first language: *Japlish*.

lockbox

- **noun** • [mass noun] a service provided by a bank, whereby the bank receives, processes, and deposits all of a company's mail receipts.

logistics

- **plural noun** • the commercial activity of transporting goods to customers.

lose-lose

- **adjective** of or denoting a situation which is disadvantageous or damaging to all those involved: *he even gets his way in what would clearly be a lose-lose situation.*

loungey

• **adjective** (of a place) conducive to lounging; comfortable: *a loungey bar with low seating*. • informal denoting or relating to easy-listening music.

loved-up

• **adjective** Brit. informal under the influence of the drug Ecstasy, typically with the result of feeling euphoric and affectionate. • in love, or behaving very amorously.

lovely

- PHRASES **lovely jubbly** Brit. informal used to express delight or approbation; excellent: *fish and chips and a few beers on the way back from a match - lovely jubbly!* [from *lubbly Jubbly*, a 1950s advertising slogan for *Jubbly*, an orange-flavoured soft drink; adopted by comedy writer John Sullivan in his BBC television series *Only Fools & Horses*.]

low-maintenance

• **adjective** requiring little work to keep in good condition: *low-maintenance lawns*. • informal (of a person) independent and not demanding a lot of attention.

low-rise

• **adjective**

2 (of trousers) cut so as to fit low on the hips rather than on the waist: *low-rise jeans*.

low-slung

• **adjective** 1 lower in height or closer to the ground than usual: *a low-slung Mercedes with blacked-out windows*.

2 (of clothes, especially trousers) cut to fit low on the hips rather than the waist: *a pair of low-slung jeans*.

magnetar

• **noun** Astronomy a neutron star with a much stronger magnetic field than ordinary neutron stars.

- ORIGIN 1990s: from MAGNETIC + *-ar* as in PULSAR and QUASAR.

magnet school

• **noun** a school designed to attract pupils from various areas or groups, especially one offering specialist tuition in a particular subject alongside the standard curriculum.

maha

• **adjective** Indian very large or great: *the driver got a maha shock*.

- ORIGIN from Hindi *mah* Q.

mahurat

• **noun** Indian an auspicious time for an enterprise to begin or for a ceremony to take place: *the pandit selects the best mahurat for the wedding*. • an inauguration ceremony, especially one held to mark the start of the making of a film.

- ORIGIN from Hindi *mah* *Grat*, from Sanskrit *muh* *Grta* 'a division of time' (approximately 48 minutes, one thirtieth of a day).

Malayali (also Malayalee)

• **noun** (pl. **Malayalis**) a member of a Malayalam-speaking people chiefly inhabiting the Indian state of Kerala.

• **adjective** relating to or characteristic of the Malayalis.

- ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: apparently irregularly from Malayalam *malay Qlam* MALAYALAM with substitution of -I² for the final syllable.

male sterility

• **noun** [mass noun] Genetics the situation whereby individuals of a normally hermaphrodite species produce only female gametes.

malware

• **noun** [mass noun] malicious software, such as a virus, which is specifically designed to disrupt or damage a computer system.

MAOI

• **noun** Medicine monoamine oxidase inhibitor, a type of antidepressant drug.

marmalize (also **marmalise**)

• **verb** [with obj.] Brit. informal beat (someone) up: *they're real aggro men who'll marmalize anybody for a few quid.* • defeat heavily: *we pulverized United, absolutely marmalized them.*
- ORIGIN 1960s: of uncertain origin; perhaps humorously from *marmal-* (in MARMALADE) + *-IZE* (perhaps after PULVERIZE).

Marsanne

• **noun** [mass noun] a variety of white wine grape originating in the northern Rhone area of France.

- ORIGIN from Marsanne, the name of a town in southern France.

masher²

• **noun** • N. Amer. informal a man who makes unwelcome sexual advances to women.

massively parallel

• **adjective** Computing (of a computer) consisting of a great many parallel processing units, and so able to execute many different parts of a program at the same time.

MC

• **noun**

2 a person who provides entertainment at a club or party by instructing the DJ and performing rap music.

• **verb** (MC's, MC'ing, MC'd) [no obj.] perform as an MC: [as noun] (MC'ing) *purists insist that hip hop refers to the whole culture, not just the MC'ing.*

me¹

• **pronoun** [first person singular] **1** • informal & W. Indian I or my: *I'll get me coat | me can come an go as me please.*

medical examiner

• **noun** N. Amer. a pathologist.

merguez (also **merguez sausage**)

• **noun** (pl. same) a spicy beef and lamb sausage coloured with red peppers, originally made in parts of North Africa.

- ORIGIN French, from Arabic *mirk Qs*, *mirq Qs*.

message

• **noun 1** • US a television or radio advertisement.

meta key

• **noun** Computing a key on some keyboards which activates a particular function when held down simultaneously with another key.

metropolitan district

• **noun** (in England) an administrative unit consisting of a town or city and a borough.

metta

• **noun** [mass noun] (in Theravada Buddhism) meditation focused on the development of unconditional love for all beings.

- ORIGIN from Pali *metta* 'loving kindness'.

mickey²

• **noun** Irish informal a man's penis.

- ORIGIN pet form of the given name *Michael*.

microarray

• **noun** Genetics a set of DNA sequences representing the entire set of genes of an organism, arranged in a grid pattern for use in genetic testing.

microbrowser

• **noun** Computing an Internet browser for use with mobile phones and other hand-held devices with small screens.

microchip

• **verb** (**microchips**, **microchipping**, **microchipped**) [with obj.] implant a microchip under the skin of (a domestic animal) as a means of identification.

microcontroller

• **noun** Computing a control device which incorporates a microprocessor.

microsatellite

• **noun** Genetics a set of short repeated DNA sequences at a particular locus on a chromosome, which vary in number in different individuals and so can be used for genetic fingerprinting.

Milad

• **noun** Islam the annual celebration of the prophet Muhammad's birthday.

- ORIGIN from Arabic *m WlQd al-nabiy* 'birthday of the prophet'.

mile

- PHRASES **the mile-high club** humorous used in reference to having sex on an aircraft: *she joined the mile-high club by making love on a flight between New York and LA.*

milk bar

• **noun**

2 Austral. a corner shop.

misconfigure

• **verb** [with obj.] [often as adj.] (**misconfigured**) Computing configure (a system or part of it) incorrectly: *misconfigured Windows systems.*

- DERIVATIVES **misconfiguration** *noun*.

mismatch repair

• **noun** [mass noun] a DNA repair system whereby one member of a mismatched pair of bases is converted to the normally matched base.

mission creep

• **noun** a gradual shift in objectives during the course of a military campaign, often resulting in an unplanned long-term commitment.

MMS

• **abbreviation for** Multimedia Messaging Service, a system that enables mobile phones to send and receive colour pictures and sound clips as well as text messages.

mobo

• **noun** (pl. **mobos**) Computing, informal a motherboard.

Moeritherium

• **noun** a pig-like mammal of the late Eocene and Oligocene epochs, related to modern elephants.
- ORIGIN modern Latin, from the name of Lake Moeris in Egypt, where the first fossils were found + Greek *therion* 'wild beast'.

mojito

• **noun** a cocktail consisting of white rum, lime or lemon juice, sugar, mint, ice, and carbonated or soda water.

- ORIGIN 1930s: Cuban Spanish, from MOJO² + diminutive suffix *-ito*.

monobrow

• **noun** informal a pair of eyebrows that meet above the nose, giving the appearance of a single eyebrow.

- DERIVATIVES **monobrowed** *adjective*.

mook

• **noun** US informal a stupid or incompetent person: *if you don't want to look like every other mook you need a sartorial trademark.*

- ORIGIN 1930s: of uncertain origin.

moral panic

• **noun** an instance of public anxiety or alarm in response to a perceived problem regarded as threatening the moral fabric of society: *the moral panic about 'the tide of filth' polluting our land.*

mosaic

• **adjective** Biology denoting an individual composed of cells of two genetically different types.

mountainboard

• **noun** a board resembling a skateboard with four wheels, used for riding down mountainsides.

• **verb** [no obj.] [often as noun] (**mountainboarding**) ride on a mountainboard.

- DERIVATIVES **mountainboarder** *noun*.

MRM

• **abbreviation for** mechanically recovered meat, meat that is left on a carcass after all the prime cuts have been removed and blasted off the bones using high pressure.

mucuna

• **noun** a tropical climbing bean plant. [Genus *Mucuna*, family *Leguminosae*: many species, especially the velvet bean, *M. deeringiana*, and *M. pruriens*, grown as a fodder plant and green manure.]

- ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: via Portuguese from Tupi *mucunán*.

muggle

• **noun** informal a person who is not conversant with a particular activity or skill: *she's a muggle: no IT background, understanding, or aptitude at all.*

- ORIGIN 1990s: used in the *Harry Potter* books by J. K. Rowling to mean 'a person without magical powers'.

muppet

• **noun** Brit. informal an incompetent or foolish person.

- ORIGIN 1990s: from *Muppet*, the generic name given to various puppets and marionettes created by Jim Henson (1936-90) for the children's television programmes *Sesame Street* and *The Muppet Show*.

murgh

• **noun** (in Indian cookery) chicken: [as modifier] *murgh kebabs*.

- ORIGIN from Urdu *murg*, from Persian *murg* 'bird, fowl'.

murri

• **noun** (pl. same or **murris**) Austral. an Aboriginal (used by the Aboriginals to refer to themselves).

- ORIGIN from Kamilaroi (and other Aboriginal languages) *mari* 'the Aboriginal people', 'people generally'.

must-

• **combining form** used to form adjectives denoting things that are essential or highly recommended: *must-have* | *a must-read book*.

mzungu

• **noun** (in East Africa) a white person: *there was a mzungu just off the Nyeri Road who was a teacher.*

- ORIGIN Swahili, from *m-* class prefix + *-zungu* 'European'.

naam

• **noun** Indian a name.

- ORIGIN from Urdu *nām*.

nagar

• **noun** Indian a town, city, or suburb.

- ORIGIN from Hindi.

nai

• **noun** Indian a barber.

- ORIGIN from Hindi.

nakfa

• **noun** (pl. same or **nakfas**) the basic monetary unit of Eritrea, equal to one hundred cents.

- ORIGIN 1990s: from *Nakfa*, the name of the town where the country's armed struggle against

the Ethiopian regime was launched.

namak

- **noun** [mass noun] Indian salt.
- ORIGIN from Urdu.

namaz

- **noun** [mass noun] the ritual prayers prescribed by Islam to be observed five times a day: *leave is given to perform namaz during office hours.*
- ORIGIN partly from Ottoman Turkish *namas* (Turkish *namaz*), partly from Urdu *nam Qz*, and partly from Persian *nam Qz*.

namespace

- **noun** Computing a class of elements (e.g. addresses, file locations, etc.) in which each element has a name unique to that class, although it may be shared with elements in other classes.

natak

- **noun** [mass noun] Indian drama or dramatic art.
- ORIGIN from Hindi.

NEPAD

- **abbreviation for** New Partnership for Africa's Development, a development programme initiated by the African Union.

neurobics

- **plural noun** activities or mental tasks designed to stimulate the brain and help prevent memory loss.
- ORIGIN 1990s: on the pattern of AEROBICS.

neurochemistry

- **noun** [mass noun] the branch of biochemistry concerned with the processes occurring in nerve tissue and the nervous system.
- DERIVATIVES **neurochemist noun neurochemical adjective.**

nibble

- **noun**
- 2 informal a show of interest in a commercial opportunity.

nip¹

- PHRASES **in the nip** Irish informal in the nude; naked.

nipped-in

- **adjective** (of a waist on a garment) narrow or tightly fitting: *a halter-neck dress with a nipped-in waist.*

nippy

- **adjective** (**nippier, nippiest**) informal
- 3 Scottish & Canadian (of food) sharp-tasting; tangy.

nivas

- **noun** Indian a place of residence; a house, block of flats, etc.
- ORIGIN from Hindi.

nixer

• **noun** Irish informal an extra or irregular job, the income from which is not declared for taxation purposes: *an RTE engineer doing a nixer installed the aerials.*

nocebo

• **noun** a negative belief concerning a medical treatment or procedure that produces a detrimental effect on a person's health for purely psychological or psychosomatic reasons.
- ORIGIN 1960s: from Latin, literally 'I shall cause harm', from *nocere* 'to harm', on the pattern of PLACEBO.

no-mark

• **noun** Brit. informal an unimportant, unsuccessful, or worthless person.
- ORIGIN 1980s: perhaps from the idea of performing badly at school.

nonsense mutation

• **noun** Genetics a mutation in which a sense codon that corresponds to one of the twenty amino acids specified by the genetic code is changed to a chain-terminating codon.

Nonya

• **noun 1** a South-East Asian woman of mixed ethnic descent, especially (in Singapore) a woman with a Malay mother and Chinese father.

2 [mass noun] (in Malaysia and Singapore) a spicy Singaporean cuisine consisting of a combination of Malay and Chinese ingredients and techniques.

- ORIGIN from Malay, Javanese *nyonya*, probably from Portuguese *senhora* 'lady' (see SENHORA).

noodle³

• **verb** [no obj.] informal improvise or play casually on a musical instrument: *tapes of him noodling on his farfisa organ* | [as noun] (**noodling**) *ambient synthesizer noodling.*

- ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: of unknown origin.

Norwalk virus

• **noun** a virus which can cause epidemics of severe gastro-enteritis.

- ORIGIN 1970s: from Norwalk, a town in Ohio where an outbreak of gastro-enteritis occurred from which the virus was isolated.

noughties

• **plural noun** the decade from 2000 to 2009.

- ORIGIN 1990s: from NOUGHT, on the pattern of *twenties*, *thirties*, etc.

NU

• **abbreviation for** Nunavut (in official postal use).

nu-

• **combining form** informal respelling of 'new', used especially in names of new or revived genres of popular music: *nu-metal bands* | *nu-disco.*

Nunavummiut

• **plural noun** the people inhabiting the territory of Nunavut.

- ORIGIN from Inuktitut *Nunavut* 'our land' and *-miut* 'people'.

nyam W. Indian

- **verb** [with obj.] eat: *whoever nyam dem left de empty box, nuttin' else!*
- **noun** [mass noun] food.
- ORIGIN from a West African language, probably related to YAM.

ob-gyn

- **abbreviation for** (in the US) obstetrics and gynaecology.

old

- PHRASES **the Old Firm** informal (in Scotland) a name for Celtic and Rangers Football Clubs, either singly or collectively: [as modifier] *an Old Firm match*.

one-hit wonder

- **noun** informal a group or singer that has only one hit record before returning to obscurity.

open-source

- **adjective** Computing denoting software for which the original source code is made freely available.

optic angle

- **noun**

2 Crystallography the angle between the optic axes of a biaxial doubly refracting crystal.

OST

- **abbreviation for** original soundtrack.

overage¹ (also **overaged**)

- **adjective** over a certain age limit: *they were banned after fielding overage players*.

overclock

- **verb** [with obj.] [often as noun] (**overclocking**) Computing run (the processor of one's computer) at a speed higher than that intended by the manufacturers.

OxyContin

- **noun** [mass noun] trademark a synthetic analgesic drug which is similar to morphine in its effects.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from OXY- + *co-* in CODEINE.

packet sniffer

- **noun** Computing a sniffer program which targets packets of data transmitted over the Internet.

palak

- **noun** Indian spinach: *lamb palak*.
- ORIGIN from Urdu.

p. & h. N. Amer.

- **abbreviation for** postage and handling.

papad

- **noun** Indian a poppadom.
- ORIGIN from Tamil, shortened from *pappadam* POPPADOM.

pash informal

- **verb** [no obj.] Austral./NZ kiss and caress amorously.

pathogenicity island

- **noun** Genetics a series of contiguous genes in a pathogenic micro-organism including one or more that determines virulence, acquired by horizontal gene transfer.

Pb

- **abbreviation for** (also **PB**) petabyte(s).

PDF

- **noun** [mass noun] Computing a file format for capturing and sending electronic documents in exactly the intended format: [as modifier] *PDF files*.
- ORIGIN 1990s: abbreviation of *Portable Document Format*.

peanut

- **noun**

4 (**peanuts**) small pieces of styrofoam used as packing material.

perimenopause

- **noun** the period of a woman's life shortly before the occurrence of the menopause.
- DERIVATIVES **perimenopausal adjective**.

Perl

- **noun** [mass noun] Computing a high-level programming language used especially for applications running on the World Wide Web.
- ORIGIN 1980s: respelling of PEARL, arbitrarily chosen for its positive connotations.

perma-

- **combining form** permanent or permanently: *women on perma-diets* | *a perma-tanned steward*.

personal video recorder

- **noun** a device that records television programmes on to a hard disk and allows manipulation of programmes while they are being transmitted.

pescatarian

- **noun** a person who does not eat meat but does eat fish.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from Italian *pesce* 'fish', on the pattern of *vegetarian*.

petabyte (abbrev.: **Pb** or **PB**)

- **noun** Computing a unit of information equal to one thousand million million (10¹⁵) or strictly 2⁵⁰ bytes.

PGP

- **noun** Computing, trademark an email encryption program.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from the initial letters of *Pretty Good Privacy*.

pharmacophore

- **noun** a part of a molecular structure that is responsible for a particular biological or pharmacological interaction that it undergoes.

pharming

- **noun** [mass noun] the process of genetically modifying plants and animals so that they produce substances which may be used as pharmaceuticals.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from PHARMACEUTICAL, punningly after FARMING.

PHSE

- **abbreviation for** (in the UK) Physical, Health, and Social Education (as a school subject).

phytoestrogen

- **noun** Biochemistry a substance found in certain plants which can produce effects like that of the hormone oestrogen when ingested into the body.

phytonutrient

- **noun** a substance found in certain plants which is believed to be beneficial to human health and help prevent various diseases.

picture messaging

- **noun** [mass noun] a system that enables digital photos and animated graphics to be sent and received by mobile phone.

piece-dyed

- **adjective** (of fabric) dyed after being woven.

piercing

- **noun** (usu. **piercings**) holes in parts of the body, typically other than the ears, made so as to wear rings, studs, or other jewellery in them.

Pimm's

- **noun** trademark a gin-based alcoholic drink, served typically with lemonade or soda water and fresh mint.
- ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from the name of the proprietor of the restaurant where the drink was created.

pisky (also piskey)

- **noun** (pl. **piskies** or **piskeys**) Brit. (especially in Cornwall) a pixie.
- ORIGIN late 19th cent.: dialect variant of PIXIE.

planktivorous

- **adjective** feeding on plankton.

Plutino

- **noun** a small planet-like body orbiting the sun in the region of the Kuiper belt and in resonance with Neptune.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from the name of PLUTO (because they have a similar orbit) + Italian diminutive suffix *-ino*.

plyometrics

- **plural noun** [treated as sing.] a form of exercise that involves rapid and repeated stretching and contracting of the muscles, designed to increase strength.
- DERIVATIVES **plyometric adjective**.
- ORIGIN 1970s: from Greek *plio* 'more' + METRIC¹.

polyamory

- **noun** [mass noun] the practice of engaging in multiple sexual relationships with the knowledge and consent of all the people involved.
- DERIVATIVES **polyamorist adjective polyamorous adjective**.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from POLY- 'many' + Latin *amor* 'love'.

popstrel

- **noun** informal, chiefly Brit. a young female pop singer: *the album features tracks written by the popstrel herself.*
- ORIGIN 1990s: from POP² and (MIN)STREL.

populate

- **verb** • Computing fill in (data).

pork

- **verb**

2 [no obj.] (**pork out**) informal gorge oneself with food.

postgenomic

- **adjective** Genetics relating to or denoting the study of the expression of the set of genes in an organism.

posting²

- **noun** a message sent to an Internet bulletin board or newsgroup.

postmodern

- **adjective** • relating to or characterized by postmodernism, especially in being self-referential: *postmodern deconstructionist theories.*

power-walking

- **noun** [mass noun] brisk walking as a form of aerobic exercise.
- DERIVATIVES **power-walk noun & verb power-walker noun.**

PPP

- **abbreviation for** • Brit. public-private partnership, an arrangement whereby a public project or service is partially financed or run by a private company.

prairie-dogging

- **noun** [mass noun] humorous the practice of workers in an open-plan office raising their heads above the partitions surrounding their desks when they hear a loud voice or other noise.
- ORIGIN 1990s: prairie dogs are known for frequently standing on their hind legs to look around for danger.

preacher bench

- **noun** an apparatus on which weightlifting exercises are performed, having a seat and a padded bar at chest height to support the arms.

preconfigure

- **verb** [with obj.] Computing configure in advance: *an application preconfigured for the insurance industry.*

pre-prepare

- **verb** [with obj.] [usu as adj.] (**pre-prepared**) prepare or produce (something, especially food) in advance: *a takeaway or pre-prepared meal.*

pressé

- **noun** a drink made from freshly squeezed fruit juice, sugar, and ice: *an orange pressé.*
- ORIGIN French, 'pressed, squeezed'.

prosumer

• **noun** **1** a person who buys electronic goods that are of a standard between those aimed at consumers and professionals.

2 a consumer who becomes involved with designing or customizing products for their own needs.

- ORIGIN 1980s: from PROFESSIONAL or PRODUCER + CONSUMER.

Protestant ascendancy

• **noun** • the members of the landed aristocracy comprising this minority.

PSNI

• **abbreviation for** Police Service of Northern Ireland, the police force which replaced the RUC in 2001.

psy-ops

• **plural noun** tactics intended to manipulate one's opponents or enemies, such as the dissemination of propaganda or the use of psychological warfare.

- ORIGIN contraction of *psychological operations*.

public housing

• **noun** [mass noun] housing provided for people on low incomes, subsidized by public funds.

public policy

• **noun** [mass noun] **1** the principles, often unwritten, on which social laws are based.

2 Law the principle that injury to the public good is a basis for denying the legality of a contract or other transaction.

puka (also **puka shell**, **pooka**)

• **noun** a small spiral shell typically strung with others to make necklaces or bracelets.

- ORIGIN Hawaiian, literally 'hole'.

pull

- PHRASES **pull one's head in** Austral./NZ informal mind one's own business.

pum-pum

• **noun** W. Indian vulgar slang the female genitals.

- ORIGIN from a West African language.

punani (also **punany**)

• **noun** black slang the female genitals. • [mass noun] women regarded sexually.

- ORIGIN 1980s: origin uncertain.

pure play

• **noun** [usu. as modifier] a company that focuses exclusively on a particular product or service in order to obtain a large market share. • a company that operates only on the Internet.

puy lentil

• **noun** a small variety of green lentil with blue marbling, highly regarded for its flavour.

- ORIGIN named after the French town of Le Puy in the Auvergne.

quantum bit

• **noun** Computing the basic unit of information in a quantum computer.

qubit

- **noun** Computing another term for QUANTUM BIT.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from *quantum bit*, with punning allusion to cubit.

quila

- **noun** Indian a fort or fortress.
- ORIGIN from Urdu.

rack rate

- **noun** the official or advertised price of a hotel room, on which a discount is usually negotiable.

ralph

- **verb** [no obj.] informal, chiefly N. Amer. vomit.
- ORIGIN 1960s: origin uncertain; apparently a use of the male given name *Ralph*, but perhaps echoic.

reading frame

- **noun** Genetics the grouping of three successive bases in a sequence of DNA that constitutes the codons for the amino acids encoded by the DNA.

-ready

- **combining form** denoting something that is available, suitable, or prepared for a particular use or purpose: *an oven-ready chicken* | *camera-ready artwork*.

reality

- **noun** (pl. **realities**) [mass noun] 1 • [as modifier] denoting or relating to television programmes based on real people or situations, designed to be entertaining rather than informative: *a reality show*.

rebalance

- **verb** [with obj.] restore the correct balance to; balance again or differently: *the Pilates method aims to rebalance and restore correct posture*.

recompile

- **verb** [with obj.] compile (a computer program) again or differently.
- **noun** an act of recompiling a computer program.
- DERIVATIVES **recompilation noun**.

redisplay

- **verb** [with obj.] display (something) again or differently.

rego (also **reggo**)

- **noun** (pl. **regos**) Austral./NZ informal
- 2 [mass noun] the action of registering, especially for an activity; registration: *footy rego day*.

rehire

- **verb** [with obj.] hire (a former employee) again: *the company dismissed its workers and rehired them on a lower rate*.

reishi

- **noun** a mushroom with a shiny cap which typically grows on dead or dying timber, found in Asia and North America. Preparations made from it are credited with various stimulant and

health-giving properties. [*Ganoderma lucidum*, family *Ganodermaceae*, class Hymenomycetes.]
- ORIGIN Japanese.

relicense

• **verb** [with obj.] license or authorize again.

relist

• **verb** [with obj.] place (something, especially shares) on a list again.

renosterveld

• **noun** [mass noun] S. African land on which the dominant vegetation is renosterbos.
- ORIGIN 1950s: blend of RENOSTERBOS and VELD.

repopulate

• **verb** • populate or fill again: *probiotics help repopulate your gut with the healthy bacteria.*

repurpose

• **verb** [with obj.] adapt for use in a different purpose: *they've taken a product that was originally designed for the CD-ROM and repurposed it for the Microsoft Network.*

rescale

• **verb** [with obj.] change the scale of (something).

resistance training

• **noun** another term for WEIGHT TRAINING.

restio

• **noun** (pl. **restios**) a wiry rush- or reed-like plant of southern Africa, used for thatching and brooms. [Genus *Restio*, family *Restionaceae*: many species.]
- ORIGIN 1980s: modern Latin (genus name), from Latin *restis* 'a rope'.

reuptake

• **noun** [mass noun] Physiology the absorption by a presynaptic nerve ending of a neurotransmitter that it has secreted.

revisit

• **verb** (**revisits**, **revisiting**, **revisited**) • consider (a situation or problem) again or from a different perspective: *the council will have to revisit the issue at a general meeting this summer.*

rice bowl

• **noun**

2 [in sing.] one's livelihood (used especially with reference to Asia): *vested interests will fight to the death to protect their rice bowl.*

ringer

• **noun** 1 • a highly proficient person brought in to supplement a team or group.

ringtone

• **noun** a sound made by a mobile phone when an incoming call is received.

roaming

• **noun** [mass noun] the use of or ability to use a mobile phone on another operator's network, typically while abroad.

ROAR

- **abbreviation for** right of admission reserved.

robata

- **noun** a type of charcoal grill used in Japanese cooking.
- ORIGIN Japanese, literally 'open fireplace'.

rocky

- **adjective (rockier, rockiest)**
- 4 relating to or characteristic of rock music: *rocky and acoustic folk bands*.

ROE Finance

- **abbreviation for** return on equity.

roko

- **noun** (pl. **rokos**) Indian a protest or demonstration: *services to and from Bangalore were affected today due to the rail roko*.

roofie

- **noun** informal a tablet of the drug Rohypnol.

rot

- **noun** [mass noun]
- 2 • US corruption on the part of officials.

rotation

- **noun** [mass noun]
- 2 • [count noun] US a tour of duty, especially by a medical practitioner in training.

royal

- **adjective** • [attrib.] Brit. informal real; utter (used for emphasis): *she's a right royal pain in the behind*.

rule

- **verb 1** • [no obj.] informal be very good or the best: *Jackie tells me about Hanna's newest band, and says that it absolutely rules*.

SADC

- **abbreviation for** South African Development Community.

saddlebag

- **noun** • (**saddlebags**) US informal excess fat around the hips and thighs.

sagar

- **noun** Indian a sea or ocean. • a large lake.
- ORIGIN Hindi *s Qgar*.

Salafi

- **noun** (pl. **Salafis**) a member of a strictly orthodox Sunni Muslim sect advocating a return to the early Islam of the Koran and Sunna.
- ORIGIN Arabic, from *salaf* 'predecessors', 'forebears'.

same

- PHRASES **same old, same old** used to convey that something is drearily predictable or familiar: *the game's fantasy setting is the same old, same old.*

samfi (also samfie)

• **noun** W. Indian a swindler or confidence trickster: [as modifier] *a samfi man*.
- ORIGIN probably from an African language.

sampladelic

• **adjective** denoting a type of dance music that is psychedelic or disorientating in nature and created using samples and other digital technology: *sampladelic and soulful jungle*.
- DERIVATIVES **sampladelia noun**.

samplist

• **noun** a musician or performer who samples music.

SAN Computing

• **abbreviation for** storage area network.

sangh

• **noun** Indian an organized group of people with a shared aim or interest; an association or other organization.
- ORIGIN Hindi *sa&ndabove;gh*.

SARS

• **abbreviation for** severe acute respiratory syndrome.

scalable (also scaleable)

• **adjective**. **1** able to be scaled or climbed.
2 able to be changed in size or scale: *scalable fonts*. • (of a computing process) able to be used or produced in a range of capabilities: *it is scalable across a range of systems*.
3 technical able to be measured or graded according to a scale.
- DERIVATIVES **scalability noun**

scenery

- PHRASES **chew the scenery** informal, chiefly US (of an actor) overact.

schmo (also shmo)

• **noun** (pl. **schmoes**) • (also **Joe Schmo**) a hypothetical ordinary man: *a lot of Joe Schmoes make it to the big leagues*.

scopophobia

• **noun** [mass noun] extreme or irrational fear of being looked at or seen.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from Greek *skopein* 'look at' + -PHOBIA

Scotch pie

• **noun** a meat pie traditionally made with minced mutton, round in shape with a raised pastry rim.

scrub¹

• **verb** (**scrubs, scrubbing, scrubbed**) [with obj.] **1** • [no obj.] (**scrub up well**) Brit. informal (of a person) have a smart and well-groomed appearance after making a deliberate effort: *the band*

scrub up well to play weddings and parties.

scud²

- **noun** (in phrase **in the scud** or **scuddy**) Scottish (of a person) naked.
- DERIVATIVES **scuddy adjective**.
- ORIGIN early 19th cent.: of uncertain origin.

sea breeze

- **noun**

2 a cocktail typically consisting of vodka, grapefruit juice, and cranberry juice.

search

- **noun** • an act of searching a computer database or network: *time-consuming searches of the Internet.*

seen past participle of SEE¹.

- **exclamation** W. Indian said as an expression of approval or agreement, or when seeking confirmation of an utterance: *you will get far, jus' stay on the right track, seen?*

selector

- **noun** • (also **selecta**) Brit. informal a disc jockey (especially in the context of reggae and UK garage music).

self-harm

- **noun** [mass noun] deliberate injury to oneself, typically as a manifestation of a psychological or psychiatric disorder.
- **verb** [no obj.] commit self-harm.
- DERIVATIVES **self-harmer noun**.

senior moment

- **noun** informal a temporary mental lapse (humorously attributed to the gradual loss of one's mental faculties as one grows older).

Sensex

- **noun** a figure indicating the relative prices of shares on the Bombay Stock Exchange, calculated on the basis of India's thirty most active and representative stocks.
- ORIGIN 1990s: blend of SENSITIVE and INDEX.

servlet

- **noun** Computing an applet that runs on a server, typically within Java.
- ORIGIN 1990s: blend of APPLETT and SERVER.

servo²

- **noun** (pl. **servos**) Austral. informal a service station.
- ORIGIN 1980s: abbreviation of SERVICE STATION + -O.

set-aside

- **noun**

2 US a government contract awarded without competition to a minority-owned business.

3 US a portion of funds reserved for a particular purpose.

SFO

- **abbreviation for** (in the UK) Serious Fraud Office.

shagpile (also **shagpile carpet**)

- **noun** [mass noun] carpet with a long, rough pile.

she

- **pronoun** • W. Indian her or hers: *give she lavender oil*.

sher

- **noun** Indian a lion or tiger. • a courageous person.
- ORIGIN Urdu *ser* 'lion, tiger'.

shit vulgar slang

- PHRASES **do bears shit in the woods?** used to indicate that something is blatantly obvious.
- give someone the shits** chiefly Austral./NZ make someone annoyed or angry.

shockumentary

- **noun** (pl. **shockumentaries**) chiefly US a documentary film or programme that deals with subjects such as death or violence in a graphic and often sensationalized way.
- ORIGIN 1970s: blend of SHOCK and DOCUMENTARY.

shoplot

- **noun** SE Asian the area occupied by a shop.

short-sheet

- **verb** • give an apple-pie bed to (someone) • cheat or treat unjustly: *we retirees have been short-sheeted for a long time*.

shotgun cloning

- **noun** [mass noun] the artificial insertion of random fragments of DNA from a donor organism into a recipient by genetic engineering.

shout-out

- **noun** informal (especially in hip-hop or dance music) a mention, credit, or greeting, typically one made over the radio or during a live performance.

shovelware

- **noun** [mass noun] Computing software or online content that has been added to a CD or placed on the Internet without having been altered so as to suit the new medium.
- ORIGIN 1980s: from the notion of 'shovelling' the information on to a CD or the Internet indiscriminately.

shrimati

- **noun** Indian used as a title of respect for a woman, especially a married woman.
- ORIGIN Hindi.

sic bo

- **noun** [mass noun] a Chinese game in which bets are placed on the outcome of the roll of three dice.
- ORIGIN from Chinese, literally 'dice pair'.

sindoor (also **sindur**)

- **noun** [mass noun] red pigment made from powdered red lead, especially as applied as a dot on the forehead or in the parting of the hair of married Hindu women.

- ORIGIN Hindi *sindur*, from Sanskrit *sindura* 'red lead'.

sippy cup

• **noun** US a small beaker with a lid and a spout, for an infant or young child to drink from.

sit-up-and beg

• **adjective** Brit. denoting a bicycle with relatively high handlebars ridden in an upright sitting position.

skeevy

• **adjective** US informal unpleasant, squalid, or distasteful: *a skeevy Vegas motel*.
- ORIGIN 1970s: from Italian *schifare* 'loathe'.

skinny informal

• **adjective** (**skinnier**, **skinniest**)

3 informal (of coffee) made with skimmed or semi-skimmed milk: *one skinny latte to go, please*.

skins game

• **noun** N. Amer. a form of a sport, especially golf, in which the winner of each hole or similar stage is awarded a 'skin' or financial prize, the value of which increases as the game progresses.

SLA Computing

• **abbreviation for** service level agreement.

slab

• **noun**

4 Austral./NZ informal a pack containing 24 bottles or cans of beer.

small

• **plural noun** (**smalls**)

2 [treated as sing.] W. Indian a gratuity or small gift of money.

smartphone

• **noun** a mobile phone which incorporates a palmtop computer or PDA.

SMTP

• **abbreviation for** Simple Mail Transfer (or Transport) Protocol, a standard for the transmission of electronic mail on a computer network.

snake-hipped

• **adjective** (of a person) having very slender hips and moving in a sinuous way.

snowslide

• **noun** N. Amer. an avalanche.

so¹

• **adverb 1** • informal used to emphasize a clause or negative statement: *that's so not fair | you are so going to regret this*.

Socceroos

• **plural noun** informal the Australian international soccer team.

- ORIGIN 1970s: blend of SOCCER and ROO, by analogy with the *Kangaroos*, the Australian international rugby league team.

social exclusion

• **noun** [mass noun] exclusion from the prevailing social system and its rights and privileges, typically as a result of poverty or the fact of belonging to a minority social group.

SOCO

• **abbreviation for** Brit. scene-of-crime officer.

somatic mutation

• **noun** [mass noun] the occurrence of a mutation in the somatic tissue of an organism, resulting in a genetically mosaic individual.

somoni

• **noun** (pl. same, **somonis**) the basic monetary unit of Tajikistan, equal to one hundred dirams. - ORIGIN Tajik, from the name of Ismail *Samani*, the 9th-century founder of the Tajik nation.

spacehopper

• **noun** Brit. trademark a toy for sitting on and bouncing around, consisting of a large plastic orange ball with horn-like projections at the top to hold on to.

spec²

• **verb** [with obj.] (**specs, speccing, specced**) give (something) a particular specification; construct to a specified standard: *the range allows buyers to spec their truck to their needs.*

spectrolite

• **noun** [mass noun] the mineral labradorite, especially when used as a gemstone.

spliff

• **noun** • [mass noun] cannabis.

spot

• **verb** (**spots, spotting, spotted**) [with obj.] **1** • (in weight training, gymnastics, etc.) observe (a performer) in order to minimize the risk of accidents or injuries.

spotter

• **noun** • (in gymnastics, weight training, etc.) a person stationed to observe the performer and minimize the risk of accidents or injuries.

spring

• **verb** (past **sprang** or chiefly N. Amer. **sprung**; past participle **sprung**)

6 [with obj.] Austral. informal come upon (an illicit activity or its perpetrator): *our science teacher sprung me acting the goat.*

SRA

• **abbreviation for** (in the UK) Strategic Rail Authority.

SSRI

• **noun** Medicine selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor, any of a group of antidepressant drugs (including Prozac) which inhibit the uptake of serotonin in the brain.

Stepford

• **noun** [as modifier] denoting someone who is regarded as robotically conformist or obedient: *it seems that colleges want to produce a generation of PC-driven Stepford students.*

- ORIGIN from *The Stepford Wives*, the title of a 1972 novel by the American writer Ira Levin

(born 1929), in which *Stepford* is the name of a fictional idyllic suburb where the men have replaced their wives with robots.

stick¹

- PHRASES **sticks and stones may break my bones but names (or words) will never hurt me** proverb used to express indifference to an insult or abuse: *all that flies back and forth, really, is word - sticks and stones, y'know?*

sticky

• **noun** a piece of yellow paper with an adhesive strip on one side.

stickybeak Austral./NZ informal

• **noun** • [in sing.] an inquisitive or prying look or investigation: *guests were invited to have a good old stickybeak around.*

stonewall

• **noun** an act of delaying or obstructing a person, request, or process.

stotty (also **stottie**, **stotty cake**)

• **noun** (pl. **stotties**) [mass noun] N. English a kind of coarse bread made from spare scraps of white dough. • [count noun] a soft roll made from this.
- ORIGIN of unknown origin.

straight arrow N. Amer. informal

• **adjective** (**straight-arrow**) honest and morally upright: *the straight-arrow head coach found himself answering for their crimes.*

Strat

• **noun** trademark a Fender Stratocaster electric guitar.

straw mushroom

• **noun** a small edible mushroom which grows on rice straw, cultivated in South-East Asia. [*Volvariella volvacea*, family *Agaricaceae*, class *Hymenomycetes*.]

studly

• **adjective** (**studlier**, **studliest**) informal (of a man) sexually attractive in a strongly masculine way: *a coterie of studly factory workers.*
- ORIGIN 1960s: from STUD².

stuffing

• **noun** [mass noun]

3 [count noun] informal a heavy defeat in sport.

stush (also **stoosh**)

• **adjective** black slang smart, wealthy, or snobbish: *the stush journalists in attendance failed to understand the ghetto humour.*
- ORIGIN perhaps a corruption of OSTENTATIOUS.

stylist

• **noun**

2 a person whose job is to arrange and coordinate food, clothes, etc. in a stylish and attractive way in photographs or films.

sucralose

- **noun** [mass noun] a very sweet synthetic compound derived from sucrose and unable to be metabolized by the body, used as an artificial sweetener.
- ORIGIN 1970s: alteration of SUCROSE.

sufferation

- **noun** [mass noun] W. Indian unpleasant experiences; suffering: *our sufferation shall be no more*.

sumac (also **sumach**)

- **noun** • the fruits of the Mediterranean sumac, used as a spice, especially in Middle Eastern cuisine.

sunbake

- **verb** [no obj.] Austral.NZ sunbathe.
- DERIVATIVES **sunbaker noun**.

supertwist

- **adjective** denoting a type of liquid crystal display used in portable computers, in which to change state the plane of polarized light passing through the display is rotated by at least 180 degrees.

superuser

- **noun** a user of a computer system with special privileges needed to administer and maintain the system; a system administrator.

surimi

- **noun** [mass noun] a relatively tasteless and odourless paste made from minced fish, used especially to produce imitation crabmeat and lobster meat.
- ORIGIN Japanese, literally 'minced flesh'.

swing state

- **noun** US a marginal US state where voters are liable to swing from one political party to another, important in determining the overall result of an election.

swoosh

- **noun**

2 an emblem or design representing a flash or stripe of colour: *white running shoes with the Nike swoosh*.

syrup (US also **sirup**)

- **noun**

2 Brit. informal a wig. [from rhyming slang *syrup of figs*.]

sysadmin

- **noun** Computing, informal a system administrator.

t/a

- **abbreviation for** trading as: *Mark Watson, t/a Wolsingham Motor Company*.

tab¹

- **noun**

2 • a tally of items ordered in a bar or restaurant: *Bobby had told the barman to put everything on the tab.*

tabloid

• **noun** • [as modifier] chiefly N. Amer. lurid and sensational: *a tabloid TV show.*

Taizé

• **noun** [usu. as modifier] relating to the style of Christian worship practised by the ecumenical Taizé community in France, characterized by the repetitive singing of simple harmonized tunes, often in various languages, interspersed with readings, prayers, and periods of silence.
- ORIGIN the name of a village in Burgundy, France, where the community was founded in 1949.

takaful

• **noun** [mass noun] Islam a type of insurance system devised to comply with the sharia laws, in which money is pooled and invested.
- ORIGIN Arabic, literally 'mutual obligation'.

tal

• **noun** Indian a lake.
- ORIGIN from Sanskrit *tQl* 'pond, tank'.

talk

- PHRASES **talk the talk** informal speak fluently or convincingly about something or in a way intended to please or impress others: *we may not look like true rock jocks yet, but we talk the talk.*

tam

• **noun** • a tall woollen hat worn by Rastafarians.

tappa

• **noun** Indian a short folk song of northern Indian origin.
- ORIGIN from Hindi *tappQ*.

tba

• **abbreviation for** to be arranged.

tbc

• **abbreviation for** to be confirmed.

T-bone

• **verb** [with obj.] N. Amer. informal crash head-on into the side of (another vehicle).

TCM

• **abbreviation for** traditional Chinese medicine.

technopreneur

• **noun** (especially in South East Asia and the Indian subcontinent) a person who sets up a business or businesses concerned with computers or similar technology.
- DERIVATIVES **technopreneurial adjective technopreneurship noun.**
- ORIGIN 1990s: blend of TECHNO- and ENTREPRENEUR.

Tele

- **noun** trademark a Fender Telecaster electric guitar.

telomerase

- **noun** Genetics the enzyme in a eukaryote that repairs the telomeres of the chromosomes so that they do not become progressively shorter during successive rounds of chromosome replication.

tenesi

- **noun** (pl. same) a monetary unit of Turkmenistan, equal to one hundredth of a manat.

Te Reo

- **noun** NZ the Maori language.
- ORIGIN late 19th cent.: from Maori *te* 'the' and *reo* 'language, dialect'.

terminator gene

- **noun** a gene in a genetically modified crop plant that stops the plant from setting fertile seed, thus preventing the farmer from saving seed for the next season.

text

- **noun**
4 a text message.

Thembu (also **Tembu**)

- **noun** (pl. same or **abaThembu** or **Thembus**) a member of a Xhosa-speaking people originating in present-day KwaZulu-Natal and now living in the Transkei.
- **adjective** relating to this people.
- ORIGIN from Xhosa *umThembu*.

thermobaric

- **adjective** denoting or relating to a very large fuel-air bomb which ignites into a fireball when detonated, creating a powerful wave of pressure that sucks out oxygen from any confined spaces nearby.
- ORIGIN 1990s: from THERMO- + Greek *barus* 'heavy'.

thinko

- **noun** informal a mistake in one's thought processes; a mental lapse or failure to reason correctly.
- ORIGIN 1990s: formed on the pattern of TYPO.

third-level

- **adjective** chiefly Irish relating to or denoting education at a college or university.

third rail

- **noun**
2 US informal a subject considered by politicians to be too controversial to discuss.

thirteenth cheque

- **noun** S. African an annual pay bonus, equal to one month's salary and paid at the end of the year.

3G

- **adjective** (of telephone technology) third-generation.

timbre

• **noun** • [mass noun] the distinctive quality or character of someone or something: *you must demonstrate your moral timbre as a human being.*

tirtha (also **tirth**)

• **noun** a Hindu place of pilgrimage, especially one by a river or lake.
- ORIGIN from Hindi *t Wrtha*.

TMT

• **abbreviation for** technology, media, and telecom (or telecommunications) company.

tochus

• **noun** informal, chiefly N. Amer. a person's buttocks or anus.
- ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from Yiddish *tokhes*, from Hebrew *tahdatb* 'beneath'.

toolset

• **noun** Computing a set of software tools.

top-end

• **adjective** [attrib.] (of a product) at the top of a range; high quality or sophisticated: *top-end, high-quality video equipment.*

torrid

• **adjective**

3 N. Amer. (especially in financial contexts) characterized by intense activity; hard to contain or stop: *the Asian side of the Pacific Rim contains the world's most torrid economies.*

toxic

• **adjective**. • N. Amer. highly unpleasant or harmful: *a toxic public relations situation.*

Trager

• **noun** [mass noun] trademark a type of low-impact massage therapy, used especially in treating neuromuscular disorders.
- ORIGIN 1980s: from the name of Milton Trager (1908-1997), the American doctor who invented the technique.

transcriptome

• **noun** Biochemistry the sum total of all the messenger RNA molecules expressed from the genes of an organism.

transfer

• **verb** (transfers, transferring, transferred) 1 • [with obj.] copy (data, music, etc.) from one medium or device to another: *the new product lets users transfer data from palmtop to desktop with a click of the mouse.*
• **noun** 1 • [mass noun] the action of copying data from one medium or device to another.

treeware

• **noun** [mass noun] informal paper-based printed material, typically as contrasted with media that store or convey information electronically.

trepidatious

• **adjective** informal apprehensive or nervous; filled with trepidation: *if you're trepidatious about foreign travel, start with an English-speaking country.*

- DERIVATIVES **trepidatiously** *adverb*.

triple sec

• **noun** [mass noun] a colourless orange-flavoured liqueur.

true-blue

• **adjective**

2 real; genuine: *the tournament was won by a team of true-blue amateurs.*

TTS

• **abbreviation for** text-to-speech, a form of speech synthesis used to create a spoken version of the text in an electronic document.

tupuna

• **noun** (pl. same or **tupunas**) NZ a grandparent or ancestor.

- ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Maori.

turntablist

• **noun** a DJ who is an expert in sampling, scratching, and similar techniques.

- DERIVATIVES **turntablism** *noun*.

tweener

• **noun** US informal a person or thing considered to be in between two other recognized categories or types: *we're a couple of tweeners, born after baby boomers and before generation Xers.* • another term for TWEENAGER.

udyog

• **noun** Indian a company, especially one involved in manufacturing.

- ORIGIN from Hindi.

underscore

• **noun** • a character on a typewriter or computer keyboard (u) that underlines a letter.

unidealized (also **unidealised**)

• **adjective** not regarded or represented as better than in reality; true to life: *he painted unidealized views of country life.*

unifactorial

• **adjective** (of an inherited characteristic or disorder) dependent on a single gene.

unpackaged

• **adjective** • (of a holiday) not organized as an inclusive package.

unvalidated

• **adjective** not validated or proven to be accurate or true.

upful

• **adjective** W. Indian (especially of music) cheerful and positive.

upsell

• **verb** [no obj.] attempt to persuade a customer to buy something additional or more expensive.

USP

- **abbreviation for** unique selling point.

uttapam

- **noun** Indian a thick pancake made from rice flour to which onions, tomatoes, chillies and other vegetables are added during cooking.
- ORIGIN from Hindi.

vaid

- **noun** a practitioner of Ayurvedic medicine.
- ORIGIN from Hindi *vaidya*.

version

- **verb** [with obj.] create a new version of: [as adj.] (**versioned**) *versioned software*.

vert²

- **noun** a vertical or very steeply sloping part of a ramp, used by skateboarders, snowboarders, skiers, etc. to perform jumps and other manoeuvres.
- ORIGIN 1970s: abbreviation of VERTICAL.

VF

- **abbreviation for** Medicine ventricular fibrillation.

videshi

- **adjective** Indian (especially of manufactured goods) made in a country other than India.
- ORIGIN from Hindi.

Viognier

- **noun** a white wine grape grown chiefly in the northern Rhone area of France. • a white wine made from the Viognier grape.

virtualize (also **virtualise**)

- **verb** [with obj.] convert (something) to a computer-generated simulation of reality.
- DERIVATIVES **virtualization noun virtualizer noun**.

visit

- **verb** (**visits, visiting, visited**) [with obj.]
- 2 • access and view (a website or web page): *high entertainment value is one good reason to visit the site's ultra-cool homepage*.

vita

- **noun** US a curriculum vitae.
- ORIGIN Latin, 'life'.

VO2 max

- **noun** the maximum or optimum rate at which the heart, lungs, and muscles can effectively use oxygen during exercise, used as a way of measuring a person's individual aerobic capacity.
- ORIGIN from *volume*, *O₂* (the chemical formula for oxygen), and *maximum*.

void deck

- **noun** SE Asian the ground floor of a block of flats, which is left vacant and typically used for communal activities.

vostro account

- **noun** a bank account held by a foreign bank with a UK bank, usually in sterling.
- ORIGIN *vostro* from Italian, 'your, yours'.

VPN Computing

- **abbreviation for** virtual private network, an arrangement whereby a secure, apparently private network is achieved using encryption over a public network, typically the Internet.

waft

- **verb** • [no obj., with adverbial of direction] move with a gliding motion: *models wafted down the catwalk in filmy organza skirts.*

wagon (Brit. also waggon)

- **noun**
- 2 Irish informal an unpleasant or disliked woman.

waif

- **noun** • a person who appears thin or poorly nourished.
- DERIVATIVES **waiflike adjective.**

wand

- **noun**
- 2 • each of a pair of hand-held lights used by a person on the ground to guide a taxiing aircraft at night.

warchalking

- **noun** [mass noun] the practice of marking a series of symbols on walls and pavements to indicate the presence of a nearby wireless networking station that can be used to obtain illicit free access to the Internet.
- ORIGIN early 21st cent.: from the use of chalk marks by tramps to indicate which homes were friendly and which to avoid.

-ware

- **combining form 1** denoting articles made of ceramic or used in cooking and serving food: *tableware* | *bakeware*.
- 2 denoting a kind of software: *groupware*.

warez

- **plural noun** Computing, informal software that has been illegally copied and made available: [as modifier] *warez sites*.
- ORIGIN 1990s: respelling of *wares*.

water feature

- **noun** a pond or fountain in a garden.

waxhead

- **noun** Austral. informal a surfer.

way

- PHRASES **my way or the highway** N. Amer. informal said to assert the view that there is no alternative (apart from leaving) but to accept the speaker's opinions or policies: *they know no way but the way of the autocrat - it's my way or the highway.*

wazz (also waz) Brit. informal

- **noun** an act of urinating.
- **verb** [no obj.] urinate.
- ORIGIN 1980s: origin uncertain; perhaps an alteration of WHIZZ.

we

- **pronoun** [first person plural] **1** • W. Indian us or our: *thought you wasn't coming to look for we.*

weaponize (also **weaponise**)

- **verb** [with obj.] adapt for use as a weapon: *they had produced and weaponized many deadly biological agents, including anthrax* | [as adj.] (**weaponized**) *weaponized versions of smallpox.*
- DERIVATIVES **weaponization** (also **weaponisation**) **noun**.

weapon of mass destruction

- **noun** a nuclear, biological, or chemical weapon able to cause widespread devastation and loss of life.

weapons-grade

- **adjective** denoting fissile material which is suitable for making nuclear weapons: *weapons-grade plutonium.*

wet room

- **noun** a bathroom in which the shower is open or set behind a single wall, its floor area being flush with the floor of the rest of the room and the water draining away through an outlet set into the floor.

whammy bar

- **noun** informal a tremolo arm on an electric guitar.

wire

- PHRASES **wire-to-wire** N. Amer. informal from start to finish.

WMD

- **abbreviation for** weapon of mass destruction.

WML Computing

- **abbreviation for** Wireless Markup Language, a metalanguage that enables text from web pages to be displayed on cellular phones.

woody

- **noun** (pl. **woodies**) US vulgar slang an erection of the penis.

workingman

- **noun** US a man who works for wages, especially in manual or industrial work.

workup

- **noun 1** chiefly US a diagnostic examination of a patient: *a full neurological workup.* • Chemistry a series of experimental procedures carried out to separate and purify substances for analysis.

2 (in a military context) a period of training or preparation, typically for a specific operation: *the first Harrier squadron began its workup.*

X³ N. Amer. informal

- **abbreviation for** the drug Ecstasy.

X chromosome inactivation

• **noun** [mass noun] the phenomenon in a female mammal whereby the genes in one of the pair of X chromosomes are silenced, with the result that their effects are equivalent to those in the male, with only a single X chromosome.

XHTML

• **abbreviation for** Computing Extensible Hypertext Markup Language, a hybrid of HTML and XML.

yoke²

• **noun** Irish informal a thing whose name one cannot recall, does not know, or does not wish to specify.

- ORIGIN early 20th cent.: of unknown origin.

you

• **pronoun** [second person singular or plural] **1** • W. Indian your: *I didn't know that was you nickname.*

zardozi

• **noun** Indian [mass noun] embroidery worked with gold and silver thread: [as modifier] *maroon bridal sari with zardozi work.*

- ORIGIN from Persian.

zayde (also **zaide**)

• **noun** informal (in Jewish use) one's grandfather.

- ORIGIN Yiddish.

zipper chiefly N. Amer.

• **noun**

2 a display of news or advertisements that scrolls across an illuminated screen fixed to a building.