

Words, Words, Words

Words are the atoms of literate physics. They are the smallest complex structure, larger only than morphemes, diphthongs, and letters. They come to us as they are. With them we make phrases, sentences, paragraphs; books, broadsides, and poems. We make ideas, dreams, and laws. We teach children, declare war, heal souls. We make love. We mourn the dead. We inspire and celebrate humanity.

A

- alizarin *adj. & n.* a reddish-orange or brownish-yellow, the hues of crystalline and powder forms of a dye first made from madder
- anaphora *n.* 1. repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning of two or more successive phrases, lines or sentences (*cf.* epistrophe, simproce); 2. use of a word as a regular grammatical substitute for a preceding group of words (*cf.* cataphora); 3. a prayer in consecration of the Eucharist
- aposiopesis *n.* a sudden breaking off in the midst of a sentence
- arsis *n.* 1. in music, the upbeat; 2. in poetry, the part of the metrical foot that receives the stress (the ictus), or, less commonly, the part that does not (*cf.* thesis)

B

- barege *n.* a sheer fabric in a leno (figure-eight) weave of silk warp and cotton filling, used to make veils and dresses
- basque *n.* a close-fitting bodice, sometimes extending down over the hips
- bdellium *n.* a fragrant, yellowish gum resin (*v.* Gen 2:12)
- beestings *n.* the first milk or colostrum of a mammal
- bemuse *vt.* to bewilder or confuse (someone)
- benighted *adj.* 1. intellectually or morally unenlightened; 2. overtaken by darkness
- benthic *adj.* having to do with the ocean floor (*cf.* thalassic)
- benthos *n.* the bottom of a lake or sea (extending onto the damp shore)
- borborygmus *n.* rumbling or gurgling in the intestines caused by migrating gas
- buccal *adj.* pertaining to the mouth, or, particularly, to the cheek

C

- cadgy *adj.* cheerful, merry, amorous, wanton

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|-------------|---|
| caducity | <i>n.</i> the infirmity or weakness of old age; frailty |
| caprine | <i>adj.</i> goatlike, of or pertaining to goats |
| carmine | <i>adj.</i> crimson or purplish-red color, a pigment obtained from cochineal <i>cf.</i> minium (<i>orangish-red red lead</i> Pb_2O_4) and cinnabar |
| carnelian | <i>adj. & n.</i> a red or reddish variety of chalcedony, the shade, from carnel (dogwood) cherry |
| cataphora | <i>n.</i> use of a word as a regular grammatical substitute for a succeeding group of words (<i>cf.</i> anaphora) |
| catastasis | <i>n.</i> the part of a drama, preceding the catastrophe, when the action is at its height and climax (<i>cf.</i> epitasis, protasis) |
| catastrophe | <i>n.</i> 1. a sudden, widespread disaster; 2. any misfortune, mishap or failure; 3. in drama, the point at which circumstances overwhelm the central motif; the dénouement, conclusion |
| causerie | <i>n.</i> informal chat; a short informal essay |
| cavil | <i>vi.</i> to raise irritating and trivial objections |
| cespitose | <i>adj.</i> forming mats; growing in dense tufts |
| champlevé | <i>n.</i> a method of creating mosaic segments for enamelwork by incising or hammering depressions in an underlying base plane (<i>cf.</i> cloisonné) |
| chatoyant | <i>adj.</i> varying in luster, as a cat's-eye |
| chiaroscuro | <i>n. & adj.</i> light and shadow |
| choriamb | <i>n.</i> in poetry, a foot of four syllables, a dactyl-iamb pair, /oo/ |
| chosisme | <i>n.</i> writing in which plot and character are de-emphasized and people, events and setting are recorded, as it were, as if by a camera |
| chozerei | <i>n.</i> {Yid chots°-er-eye} worthless thing or things; junk, bauble, especially collectively |
| chryso- | <i>prefix.</i> (comb. form, <i>also</i> chrys-) denoting gold |
| chrysalis | <i>n.</i> the hard-shelled pupa of a moth or butterfly |
| chthonian | <i>adj.</i> [myth] of or pertaining to deities, spirits and other beings that dwell beneath the earth (<i>also</i> chthonic) |

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| churinga | <i>n.</i> a sacred object carved from wood or stone by Australian aborigines |
| cincture | <i>n.</i> a belt or girdle |
| cinnabar | <i>n.</i> 1. mercuric sulfide, HgS; 2. a bright vermilion red color |
| Circe | <i>pn.</i> [myth] 1. an enchantress represented by Homer as turning the companions of Odysseus into swine with a magic potion; 2. a dangerously fascinating woman |
| cistern | <i>n.</i> a reservoir for holding water |
| citrine | <i>adj.</i> pale yellow, lemon color |
| clair de lune | <i>adj.</i> 1. a pale green color; 2. a very pale blue color, tinged with lavender, used as a glaze |
| claudication | <i>n.</i> a limp or lameness of the leg |
| clavus | <i>n.</i> [psychiatry] an intense headache like that produced by driving a sharp object into the skull |
| claybank | <i>adj.</i> 1. a dull yellow color, dun, brownish-yellow; 2. a horse of this color |
| cleave | <i>vi.</i> [schizonym] 1. to adhere closely, cling; 2. to split or divide |
| clepe | <i>vt.</i> (clepe, yclept, cleping) to name or call (something) |
| clinqant | <i>adj.</i> glittering, esp. with tinsel; decked with garish finery |
| Clio | <i>pn.</i> [myth] the Muse of history |
| Clite | <i>pn.</i> [myth] the wife of Cyzicus, who hanged herself when he was mistakenly killed by the Argonauts |
| clitic | <i>n.</i> a word functioning as a bound form but not having an independent phonological status |
| cloaca | <i>n.</i> 1. a cavity in birds, reptiles, etc., into which the digestive, urinary and reproductive canals open; 2. a sewer, esp. an ancient sewer |
| cloche | <i>n.</i> 1. a woman's bell-shaped hat; 2. a metal or glass cover placed over food to keep it warm |
| cloisonné | <i>n.</i> a method of creating mosaic segments for enamelwork by attaching pond separator walls edgewise to an underlying base plane (<i>cf.</i> champlevé) |

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| Cloots | <i>pn.</i> {Scot} the devil |
| Clotho | <i>pn.</i> [myth] the Fate who spins the thread of life (Gr <i>klotho</i> , spinner) |
| cojones | <i>n.</i> {Sp, plural} testicles; courage |
| coma | <i>n.</i> a tuft of hairs |
| <i>comme si, comme ça</i> | <i>expr.</i> {Fr idiom} like this, like that; so-so |
| condign | <i>adj.</i> fitting or appropriate, well-deserved (<i>cf.</i> indign) |
| coppice, copse | <i>n.</i> a thicket of small trees or shrubs |
| corniche | <i>n.</i> a winding road cut into the side of a steep hill |
| coruscate | <i>vt.</i> to emit vivid flashes of light, sparkle, scintillate (WP <i>adj.</i> coruscant) |
| crenel | <i>n.</i> the lower, notched, passage interval of a battlement (<i>cf.</i> merlon) |
| crepuscular | <i>adj.</i> of or pertaining to twilight |
| crescive | <i>adj.</i> increasing, growing |
| crimson | <i>adj.</i> a deep purplish red |
| cymbalom | <i>n.</i> a complex zither played esp. in Hungary with plectrum, fingers and/or sticks |

D

| | |
|--------------|---|
| dehiscent | <i>adj.</i> bursting, gaping |
| deliquesce | <i>vi.</i> to dissolve in atmospheric moisture, to melt away |
| delitescence | <i>adj.</i> concealed, hidden, latent |
| demiurge | <i>n.</i> the artificer of the world [Plato], the devil [Gnostic] |
| dingleberry | <i>n.</i> 1. a pea-sized ball of dung which clings to anal hair; 2. a dark red edible berry of the southern U.S. (<i>Web9NC</i>) |
| drupe | <i>n.</i> any fruit (peach, cherry, plum, etc) which consists of an outer skin, a thick succulent interior enclosing a hard woody center shell which contains a single seed |
| drupelet | <i>n.</i> a little drupe, as one of the individual pericarps comprising the blackberry |

dvandva *n.* a compound word neither element of which is subordinate to the other
(*e.g., bittersweet*)

E

echota *n.* an agreement giving the Cherokee nation 5 million dollars and 7 million acres of “land” in Oklahoma

effulgent *adj.* shining forth brilliantly; radiant

elegiac *adj.* expressing sorrow or lamentation

eloign *vt.* to remove to a distance; to remove from the jurisdiction of a court

endophasia *n.* internal speech with no audible vocalization

enjambment *n.* [poet] running on of thought from one line or stanza to the next

ennead *n.* a group of nine

ensorcel *vt.* to bewitch

epenthesis *n.* the insertion of a sound or letter in the body of a word (*ath^o-uh-leet*)

epistrophe *n.* repetition of a word or phrase at the end of two or more successive phrases, lines or sentences (*cf. anastrophe*)

epitasis *n.* in drama, the early development of the action, following the protasis or proposal of the premise, and preceding the catastasis (*qv*)

epode *n.* a short poetic stanza following a longer one (as in *strophe, antistrophe,* and *epode*)

eponym *n.* the person after whom something is ostensibly named

eremite *n.* a hermit or recluse, esp. one under a religious vow

eristic *adj.* pertaining to disputation; controversial

eruciform *adj.* caterpillarlike

eruct *vt, vi.* to belch forth, erupt

erumpent *adj.* bursting forth

estivate *vi.* to spend the summer, at a particular place or in a particular activity
(esp. in a torpid state)

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| esurient | <i>adj.</i> hungry; greedy |
| etesian | <i>adj.</i> annually periodic, said of certain Mediterranean winds |
| eudæmonism | <i>n.</i> an ethical doctrine holding that the basis of morality springs from the tendency of right actions to produce happiness |
| evanescent | <i>adj.</i> fleeting, vanishing, fading away, scarcely perceptible |
| exigent | <i>adj.</i> urgent, pressing; requiring immediate, perhaps more than reasonable, attention |
| exiguous | <i>adj.</i> scanty, meager, small, slender |
| extirpate | <i>vt.</i> to remove or destroy totally, exterminate; to pull up by the roots |

F

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| faineant | <i>adj.</i> idle, indolent; <i>n.</i> an idler |
| föhn, foehn | <i>n.</i> a warm wind descending a mountain |
| fremitus | <i>n.</i> a roaring or murmuring |
| frippery | <i>n.</i> showy or gaudy dress, ostentation, gewgaws |
| frisson | <i>n.</i> a shudder of emotion |
| frondescence | <i>n.</i> a process or period of leafing out; foliage |
| froward | <i>adj.</i> wilfully contrary |
| frowzy | <i>adj.</i> dirty, slovenly, ill-smelling |
| fructuous | <i>adj.</i> productive, fertile, profitable |
| fugacious | <i>adj.</i> fleeting, transitory (<i>tempus fugit</i>) |
| fulgent | <i>adj.</i> shining, dazzling, resplendent |
| fulgurous | <i>adj.</i> resembling lightning |
| fuliginous | <i>adj.</i> sooty, smoky; color of soot |
| fulminant | <i>adj.</i> occurring suddenly and with great intensity |
| fulvous | <i>adj.</i> tawny, dull yellowish gray or brown color |

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| fuscous | <i>adj.</i> brownish-gray, tawny, dusky color |
| fustian | <i>adj.</i> 1. a stout fabric of cotton and flax; 2. turgid language, bombastic |
| fustic | <i>n.</i> the wood of a tropical American tree, yielding a light-yellow dye |
| fustigate | <i>v.t.</i> to beat, cudgel, or criticize harshly, castigate |

G

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|--------------|---|
| glabrous | <i>adj.</i> [bot, zoöl] having a surface devoid of hair |
| grallatorial | <i>adj.</i> any of a class of wading birds, incl. snipe, crane, stork & heron |
| granada | <i>n.</i> {Sp} pomegranate |
| guérite | <i>n.</i> {Fr gay-reet'} a high-backed and hooded wicker chair |
| guillemet | <i>n.</i> « or », French quotation marks |
| guillemot | <i>n.</i> a sea bird |

H

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| <i>hakuna matata</i> | <i>expr.</i> {Swahili} No worries, no problem (<i>lit.</i> , I do not have or it is not a tangle, mess, difficulty) |
| hastate | <i>adj.</i> shaped like a spear point |
| hemistitch | <i>n.</i> a poetic half-line or incomplete line |
| hendeco- | <i>prefix.</i> denoting eleven |
| hendiadys | <i>n.</i> a figure of speech in which a complex idea is expressed through two words connected by a copulative conjunction (Stürm und Drang, Alpha and Omega) |
| henotheism | <i>n.</i> worship of whatever god happens to be at hand |
| hircine | <i>adj.</i> of or resembling a goat; having a goatlike odor; lustful, libidinous (<i>cf.</i> caprine) |
| hirtellous | <i>adj.</i> minutely hirsute |
| hispid | <i>adj.</i> rough with stiff hairs, bristly |
| hors d'oeuvre | <i>n.</i> {Fr} tidbit (<i>lit.</i> , out of the work) |

hoyden *n.* a boisterous, carefree girl

I

ichor *n.* [myth] an ethereal fluid flowing in the veins of the gods; [medic] the serous discharge from an ulcer or wound

ictus *n.* in poetry, a rhythmical or metric stress; [medic] a seizure or stroke

indehiscent *adj.* [bot] not opening at maturity (*v.* dehisce)

indian hemp *n.* a N.A. dogbane

indign *adj.* unworthy, unbecoming, disgraceful (*cf.* condign)

indite *vt.* to compose or write

ineffable *adj.* inexpressible, indescribable

incipient *adj.* commencing

insipient *adj.* unintelligent, characterless

inspissate *vi, vt* to thicken by evaporation

inveterate *adj.* settled in habit or practice

J

K

karakul *n.* the black fleece of a young (even unborn) lamb, from the variety

kiabooca *n.* padouk

L

lageniform *adj.* [bot, zool] shaped like a flask

lambent *adj.* running or moving lightly over a surface, brilliantly playful, softly bright or radiant

levigate *vt.* to rub or grind to powder; [chem] to mix or homogenize, as a gel; *adj.* [bot] having a glossy surface; glabrous

limn *vt.* to illuminate

lucubrate *vi.* to write or study laboriously, especially at night

M

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| mainour | <i>n.</i> stolen goods found on or near the thief |
| malefic | <i>adj.</i> productive of evil |
| malentendu | <i>n.</i> {Fr} misunderstanding, mistake; <i>adj.</i> misunderstood |
| malison | <i>n.</i> a curse (<i>cf.</i> orison) |
| malkin | <i>n.</i> a slattern, scarecrow (<i>also</i> mawkin) |
| mallow | <i>n.</i> a plant family incl. cotton, hibiscus, hollyhock, Rose of Sharon & okra |
| malvaceous | <i>adj.</i> of or belonging to the mallow family (<i>qv</i>) |
| merkin | <i>n.</i> a pubic wig; a cannon mop |
| merlon | <i>n.</i> the higher, raised interval of a battlement (<i>cf.</i> crenel) |
| metonymy | <i>n.</i> use of the name of one object or concept for another to which it is related (<i>count noses, hit the bottle</i>) |
| mimiambi | <i>n.</i> type of instructional theater devised by Herodias (mime, ambulate) |
| minium | <i>n.</i> red lead (Pb ₂ O ₄), used by the Romans also to designate cinnabar |
| miniver | <i>n.</i> a fur, sometimes of ermine, generally white or spotted, used in the Middle Ages as a fringe (<i>cf.</i> vair) |
| mumpsimus | <i>adj.</i> obstinate persistence in a known error (<i>e.g.</i> , of diction) (<i>cf.</i> sumpsimus) |
| mussitate | <i>vt.</i> to mutter or mumble |
| myrmeco- | <i>prefx.</i> ant |

N

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| naiad | <i>n.</i> wood nymph |
| nascent | <i>adj.</i> birth |
| nimbus | <i>n.</i> a halo; a cloud or fringe of light |
| nummular | <i>adj.</i> pertaining to coins or money; having the shape of a coin |
| nuncupative | <i>adj.</i> oral; not written [L <i>nuncupare</i> , to state formally, utter the name of] |

O

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| oblation | <i>n.</i> offering of the Eucharist |
| obnubilate | <i>vi.</i> to cloud over |
| oeuvre | <i>n.</i> {Fr} an artist's work, singularly or collectively |
| ogdoad | <i>n.</i> a group of eight; eight |
| ololiuqui | <i>n.</i> a psychedelic South American morning-glory |
| onanist | <i>n.</i> a masturbator |
| ontology | <i>n.</i> metaphysics of existence and being |
| outré | <i>adj.</i> {Fr} outrageous, beyond the pale |

P

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| pandiculation | <i>n.</i> the act of stretching oneself |
| pasquinade | <i>n.</i> a satire or lampoon posted in a public place |
| passible | <i>adj.</i> capable of feeling, esp. suffering |
| patulous | <i>adj.</i> open, gaping, spreading, as the boughs of a tree |
| pavid | <i>adj.</i> timid, fearful |
| pavonine | <i>adj.</i> like a peacock |
| pederast | <i>n.</i> one who preys sexually on young boys |
| pelage | <i>n.</i> the hair, fur, wool or other soft covering of a mammal |
| pell-mell | <i>n.</i> {WP} a rhyming word pair, often silly or iconic to magical thought, such as: hocus-pocus, harum-scarum, helter-skelter, heebie-jeebies, hanky-panky, herky-jerky, holy moly, honky-tonk, humpty-dumpty, hurry-scurry and maybe hubbub. |
| pendragon | <i>n.</i> supreme leader |
| penetralia | <i>n.</i> (plural) innermost private secret places or things |
| pennate | <i>adj.</i> winged, feathered |

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| pennon | <i>n.</i> a flag or banner, commonly pointed or double-pointed, formerly borne on the lance of a knight |
| pentimento | <i>n.</i> emergence of earlier images through a paint layer |
| perpend | <i>n.</i> a stone which passes through the thickness of a wall; <i>vt.</i> to consider; <i>vi.</i> to ponder, deliberate |
| perse | <i>adj.</i> of a very deep shade of blue or purple |
| phlyctena | <i>n.</i> a small blister, pustule, or boil |
| plash | <i>n.</i> a gentle splash, a pool or puddle; <i>vt. vi.</i> to splash gently; <i>vt.</i> to pleach {Fr. <i>plais</i> , hedge} to interweave, as an arbor |
| polynya | <i>n.</i> an area of open water in sea ice |
| Polyphemus | <i>pn.</i> [myth] a Cyclops who was blinded by Odysseus |
| postrorse | <i>adj.</i> directed backward |
| prepuce | <i>n.</i> foreskin; also a similar fold investing the clitoris |
| propinquitous | <i>adj.</i> near in kinship, similar, near in space or time |
| protasis | <i>n.</i> [drama] the introduction of the characters and proposal of the action (<i>cf.</i> epitasis, catastasis); [grammar] the clause expressing the condition in a conditional sentence |
| puccoon | <i>n.</i> a red dye, bloodroot, from <i>lithospermum</i> |
| pulvinate | <i>adj.</i> pillow-shaped, cushion-shaped |
| pyxis | <i>n.</i> a cylindrical box, having a lid with a knob |

Q

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| querulous | <i>adj.</i> complaining, peevish, petulant, caviling, carping |
| quiddity | <i>n.</i> [schizonym] 1. the essence of a thing; 2. a trifle, especially a trifling distinction |

R

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| ralph | <i>n.</i> {ONors} proper name denoting Wolf, counsel; <i>vi.</i> to vomit |
| ramate | <i>adj.</i> having branches (<i>cf.</i> <i>ramose</i> , <i>ramous</i> , <i>ramulose</i>) |

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| ramose | <i>adj.</i> branching, branched (<i>cf.</i> rugose) |
| rasorial | <i>adj.</i> given to scratching the ground for food; gallinaceous |
| rataplan | <i>n.</i> the sound of the beating of a drum; <i>vi.</i> to produce such a sound |
| reboant | <i>adj.</i> resounding or reverberating loudly |
| recondite | <i>adj.</i> esoteric; dealing with very profound subject matter |
| rufescent | <i>adj.</i> somewhat reddish, tinged with red, rufous |
| rugose | <i>adj.</i> wrinkled (<i>cf.</i> ramose) |
| rupicolous | <i>adj.</i> living on or among rocks |
| rutilant | <i>adj.</i> glowing or glittering with ruddy or golden light |

S

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| sabulous | <i>adj.</i> sandy, gritty |
| saccade | <i>n.</i> an abrupt jerk of a horse's reins; a sequence of small jerky movements |
| saltation | <i>n.</i> dancing, hopping, leaping; abrupt movement or transition |
| scarlet | <i>adj.</i> a bright red color inclining toward orange; flagrantly offensive |
| schizonym | <i>n.</i> {WP} a word with two inconsistent or contradictory meanings, such as <i>flammable</i> , <i>cleave</i> , <i>ravel</i> , or <i>quiddity</i> |
| schwa | <i>n.</i> the neutral vowel sound (as in <i>alone</i> , <i>system</i> , <i>easily</i> , <i>gallop</i> and <i>circus</i>) |
| sedge | <i>n.</i> a flock of herons (<i>fr</i> <i>siege</i> , <i>qv</i>) |
| smaragdine | <i>adj.</i> of or pertaining to emeralds; emerald-green in color |
| solecism | <i>n.</i> a nonstandard grammatical usage; any impropriety |
| solipsism | <i>n.</i> [philos] theory that only the self exists; self-absorption |
| soricine | <i>adj.</i> shrewlike |
| soteriology | <i>n.</i> study of Christian salvation |
| sparagmos | <i>n.</i> the tearing to pieces of a live victim, as by bacchantes in a Dionysian orgy |

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| sparge | <i>vt.</i> to sprinkle or scatter |
| stercoraceous | <i>adj.</i> consisting of, pertaining to, or resembling dung or feces |
| sternutation | <i>n.</i> the act of sneezing |
| stertorian | <i>adj.</i> characterized by stertor, or heavy snoring |
| stipple | <i>vt.</i> to paint or engrave by means of small dots or daubs |
| stithy | <i>n.</i> an anvil, forge or smithy |
| -strorse | <i>suffix.</i> reversed (<i>cf.</i> versus, reversed; <i>v.</i> postorse) |
| sumpsimus | <i>adj.</i> obstinate persistence in an affected or unnecessary or unconventional propriety (<i>e.g.</i> , of diction) (<i>cf.</i> mumpsimus) |
| suspuration | <i>n.</i> a long, deep sigh |
| susurrus | <i>n.</i> a whispering or murmuring (<i>also</i> , susurration) |
| swage | <i>vt.</i> to shape cold metal, or <i>n.</i> a tool for doing this |
| swarf | <i>n.</i> metallic debris collected around a drillhole or grinder |

T

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| tabescent | <i>adj.</i> wasting away |
| <i>tant mieux</i> | <i>expr.</i> {Fr idiom} so much the better |
| <i>tant pis</i> | <i>expr.</i> {Fr idiom} so much the worse |
| tchotchke | <i>n.</i> {Yid} thing or things of no value; gewgaw |
| teleology | <i>n.</i> metaphysics of (ultimate) purpose |
| tenebrous | <i>adj.</i> dark, gloomy |
| tête-à-tête | <i>n.</i> a private conversation |
| thalassic | <i>adj.</i> of the sea (<i>cf.</i> benthic) |
| tump | <i>n.</i> a small mound; a clump of grass or trees, esp. growing in a bog |
| tussock | <i>n.</i> a tuft or clump of grass |

twayblade *n.* any of various orchids (esp. *Listera* and *Liparis*) characterized by two nearly opposite broad leaves

Tyrian purple *n.* a highly prized vivid crimson or purple dye originally obtained from shellfish, known now to be an indigo derivative

tzigane *n.* a gypsy, esp. a Hungarian gypsy; *adj.* the music or costume of a gypsy

U

ubiety *n.* the property of having a definite location in space

unciform *adj.* hook-shaped, barb

ustulate *adj.* blackened as if burned or scorched; *vt.* to burn or scorch

V

vair *n.* a fur, possibly of a squirrel, generally grayish, used in the Middle Ages as a fringe (*cf.* miniver)

vallate *adj.* bordered by a ridge, wall, or other raised edge

velitation *n.* a skirmish, a minor dispute

velleity *n.* mere wishing, without action

vellicate *vi.* to twitch; to move spasmodically; *vt.* to pluck, nip or pinch

velutinous *adj.* having a soft, velvety surface

vermilion *adj.* a brilliant scarlet color

vernissage *n.* “varnishing day,” a reception held at a gallery for the artist & friends before opening to the public

vertiginous *adj.* whirling, spinning; affected with vertigo; unstable

vespiary *n.* a nest of social wasps

viduity *n.* quality or state of being a widow

vigesimal *adj.* of, pertaining to, or based on twenty

villose *adj.* shaggy

virago *n.* a loud-mouthed, ill-tempered, scolding woman; a shrew

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| virgate | <i>adj.</i> shaped like a rod, long, slender and straight (<i>cf.</i> virgulate) |
| viridian | <i>n.</i> a blue-green pigment of chromium oxide; this color |
| vis-à-vis | <i>adj.</i> face to face |
| vitelline | <i>adj.</i> having a yellow color resembling an egg yolk |
| vituline | <i>adj.</i> of or resembling a bovine calf |
| voile | <i>n.</i> {Fr- <i>vwal</i> } light, semisheer fabric of wool, silk or cotton, plain-wove |
| volar | <i>adj.</i> of or pertaining to the palm of the hand or sole of the foot |

W

X

Y

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| ylem | <i>n.</i> initial substance of the universe from which all matter was made |
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Z

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| zaftig | <i>adj.</i> {Yid} womanly beauty of Wagnerian aspect (<i>lit.</i> , luscious, succulent) |
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