

# Shorter Oxford ENGLISH Dictionary



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# Shorter Oxford English Dictionary

ON HISTORICAL PRINCIPLES

*Fifth edition*

VOLUME 2 • N-Z

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# OXFORD

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# Abbreviations AND SYMBOLS

In this list the abbreviations are printed in the type and with the capitalization that is normally used for them, but variation according to context will be found. Some general abbreviations, such as those for units of measurement or points of the compass, are not listed here, but can be found in the main dictionary text.

abl.	ablative	<i>Coriol.</i>	Coriolanus	<i>Gen.</i>	Genesis
abl. absol.	ablative absolute	correl.	correlative	genit.	genitive
<i>absol.</i>	in absolute use, absolutely	corresp.	corresponding		
accus.	accusative	corrupt.	corruption	<i>Hab.</i>	Habbakuk
allus.	allusion	cross-ref.s.	cross-references	<i>Haml.</i>	Hamlet
<i>allus.</i>	allusively	<i>Cymb.</i>	Cymbeline	<i>Heb.</i>	Hebrews
alt.	altered, alteration			<i>Hen.</i>	Henry
a.m.	ante meridiem, 'before noon'	d.	died	<i>Hist.</i>	historical, history
		<i>Dan.</i>	Daniel	hyperbol.	hyperbolically
Amer.	American, America	dat.	dative		
<i>Ant. &amp; Cl.</i>	Antony and Cleopatra	def.	definite	imit.	imitative, -ly
aphet.	aphetic, aphetized	demonstr.	demonstrative	immed.	immediately
app.	apparently	deriv(s).	derivative(s), derivation(s)	imper.	imperative, -ly
approx.	approximately	derog.	derogatory	impers.	impersonal, -ly
Arab.	Arabic	<i>Deut.</i>	Deuteronomy	indef.	indefinite, -ly
arch.	archaic	devel.	development	indic.	indicative
assim.	assimilated, -ation	<i>dial.</i>	dialect, dialectal, -ly	inf.	infinitive
assoc.	associated, -ation	Dicts.	(in) Dictionaries	infl.	inflected, influenced
<i>attrib.</i>	attributive, -ly	dim(s).	diminutive(s)	instr.	instrumental
<i>Attrib. &amp; comb.</i>	in attributive uses and combinations	distrib.	distributive	interrog.	interrogative, -ly
				intrans.	intransitive, -ly
augm.	augmentative			iron.	ironical, -ly
<i>Austral.</i>	Australian, Australia	E	early (in dates)	irreg.	irregular, -ly
aux.	auxiliary (verb etc.)	<i>Eccles.</i>	Ecclesiastes	<i>Isa.</i>	Isaiah
AV	Authorized Version	<i>Ecclus.</i>	Ecclesiasticus		
A.Y.L.	As You Like It	elem(s).	element(s)	<i>Jer.</i>	Jeremiah
		<i>ellipt.</i>	elliptical, -ly	joc.	jocular, -ly
		<i>Encycl. Brit.</i>	Encyclopaedia Britannica	<i>Josh.</i>	Joshua
back-form(s).	back-formation(s)	<i>Eph.</i>	Ephesians	<i>Judg.</i>	Judges
Brit.	British	equiv.	equivalent	<i>Jul. Caes.</i>	Julius Caesar
c	<i>circa</i> , 'about'	erron.	erroneous, -ly		
<i>Canad.</i>	Canadian	<i>Esd.</i>	Esdras	L	late (in dates)
cap(s).	capital(s)	esp.	especially	<i>Lam.</i>	Lamentations
cent.	century	etym.	etymology	lang(s).	language(s)
cents.	centuries	euphem.	euphemistic, -ally	Ld	Lord
cf.	<i>confer</i> , 'compare'	exc.	except	Lev.	Leviticus
<i>Chron.</i>	Chronicles	exclam(s).	exclamation(s)	lit.	literal, -ly
cogn.	cognate	<i>Exod.</i>	Exodus	lit. & fig.	in literal and figurative use, literally and figuratively
Col.	Colossians	exp.	exponential		
<i>collect.</i>	collective, -ly	expr.	expressing, expressive of	L.L.L.	Love's Labour's Lost
colloq.	colloquial, -ly	<i>Ezek.</i>	Ezekiel	LME	late Middle English
Com.	Comedy			LOE	late Old English
<i>Comb.</i>	(in) combination	fem.	feminine	<i>Lucr.</i>	Lucrece
combs.	combinations	fig.	in figurative use, figuratively		
<i>Com. Err.</i>	Comedy of Errors	fl.	<i>floruit</i> , 'flourished'	M	mid (in dates)
compar(s).	comparative(s)	foll.	followed	<i>Macb.</i>	Macbeth
compl.	complement	freq.	frequent, -ly	Macc.	Maccabees
conf.	confused			masc.	masculine
<i>contempt.</i>	contemptuous, -ly			<i>Math.</i>	Mathematics
contr.	contracted, contraction	<i>Gal.</i>	Galatians	<i>Matt.</i>	Matthew
<i>Cor.</i>	Corinthians	gen.	general, -ly	ME	Middle English

<i>Meas. for M.</i>	Measure for Measure	prob.	probably	<i>Two Gent.</i>	Two Gentlemen of Verona
<i>Merch. V.</i>	Merchant of Venice	prons.	pronouns		
<i>Merry W.</i>	Merry Wives of Windsor	pronunc.	pronunciation		
		<i>Prov.</i>	Proverbs	ult.	ultimate, -ly
<i>Mids. N. D.</i>	Midsummer Night's Dream	<i>Ps.</i>	Psalms	unexpl.	unexplained
				Univ.	University
mod.	modern	redupl.	reduplicated, -ation(s)	Univs.	Universities
		ref.	reference	unkn.	unknown
N. Amer.	North America(n)	refash.	refashioned, -ing	US	United States
NEB	New English Bible	refl.	reflexive	USA	United States of America
neg.	negative	rel.	relative	usu.	usually
neut.	neuter	rel.	related		
N. Ir.	Northern Ireland, Northern Irish	repl.	replaced, -ing	var.	variant (of), variety
		repr.	representative (of), represented, representing, representation(s)	vars.	variants (of)
nom.	nominative			<i>Ven. &amp; Ad.</i>	Venus and Adonis
north.	northern			voc.	vocative
<i>north.</i>	northern (dialect)	<i>Rev.</i>	Revelation		
<i>Num.</i>	Numbers	<i>rhet.</i>	rhetorical, -ly	<i>W. Indies</i>	West Indies
NZ	New Zealand	<i>Rich.</i>	Richard	<i>Wint. T.</i>	Winter's Tale
		<i>Rom.</i>	Romans	<i>Wisd.</i>	Wisdom of Solomon
obj.	object, -ive	<i>Rom. &amp; Jul.</i>	Romeo and Juliet		
<i>obs.</i>	obsolete	RV	Revised Version	<i>Zech.</i>	Zechariah
occas.	occasional, -ly			<i>Zeph.</i>	Zephaniah
OE	Old English	<i>S. Afr.</i>	South Africa(n)		
OED	Oxford English Dictionary	<i>Sam.</i>	Samuel		
		<i>S. Amer.</i>	South America(n)		
opp.	opposed (to)	<i>Scot.</i>	Scottish, Scots		
orig.	original, -ly	<i>Shakes.</i>	Shakespeare		
<i>Oth.</i>	Othello	<i>sing.</i>	singular		
		<i>S. of S.</i>	Song of Solomon (or Songs)		
pa.	past	<i>Sonn.</i>	Sonnets		
pa. ppl	past (or passive) participial	<i>sp.</i>	spelling		
		<i>spec.</i>	specific, -ally		
pa. pple	past (or passive) participle	<i>subj.</i>	subject		
		<i>subjunct.</i>	subjunctive		
pass.	passive, -ly	<i>subord.</i>	subordinate		
pa. t.	past tense	<i>subsp.</i>	subspecies		
<i>Per.</i>	Pericles	<i>superl.</i>	superlative		
perf.	perfect	<i>Suppl.</i>	Supplement		
perh.	perhaps	<i>Sus.</i>	Susanna		
pers.	personal	<i>s.v.</i>	<i>sub voce</i> , 'under the word'		
<i>Pet.</i>	Peter	<i>syll.</i>	syllable		
<i>Phil.</i>	Philippians	<i>synon.</i>	synonymous		
phonet.	phonetic, -ally				
phr.	phrase	<i>t.</i>	tense		
phrs.	phrases	<i>Tam. Shr.</i>	Taming of the Shrew		
<i>pl.</i>	plural	<i>techn.</i>	in technical use		
pls.	plurals	<i>Temp.</i>	Tempest		
<i>poet.</i>	poetical	<i>Thess.</i>	Thessalonians		
possess.	possessive	<i>Tim.</i>	Timothy		
ppl	participial	<i>Times Lit. Suppl.</i>	Times Literary Supplement		
pple	participle	<i>Tit. A.</i>	Titus Andronicus		
prec.	preceding (headword or main entry)	<i>Tr. &amp; Cr.</i>	Troilus and Cressida		
		<i>trans.</i>	transitive, -ly		
pred.	predicate	<i>transf.</i>	transferred		
<i>pred.</i>	predicative, -ly	<i>transf. &amp; fig.</i>	transferred and figurative		
pres.	present				
pres. ppl	present participial	<i>Twel. N.</i>	Twelfth Night		
pres. pple	present participle				
pres. t.	present tense				

### Symbols

- † obsolete  
 \* now chiefly in the United States (see volume 1, p. xv)  
 ¶ introduces a note (see volume 1, p. xx)

### The printing of hyphens

Hyphens introduced at line-breaks in words or formulae not otherwise hyphenated are printed -. The regular form - represents a hyphen which would occur in any circumstance in the text.

### Note on proprietary status

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# Pronunciation GUIDE

## Vowels

a	as in	cat, plait
ɛ		bed, death
ɪ		sit, myth, begin, theology
ɪ		cosy, eerie, anemone, <i>Spanish si</i>
ɒ		hot, wash, trough
ʌ		run, son, glove, rough
ʊ		put, good, should, ambulance
ə		ago, gather, flavour, cheetah, thorough, lemon, success, mistaken
ɑː		arm, calm, locale, brahmin
əː		her, earn, bird, spur, myrrh
iː		see, pea, seize, decent, foetus, paeon
ɔː		saw, ball, board, horse, thought, applaud
uː		too, glue, fruit, route, through, shrewd
ɛː		hair, dare, pear, there, vary
AI	as in	my, high, ice, sign, seismic, bonsai
aO		how, plough, sound, kraut
eɪ		day, gate, daisy, they, rein, deign
əO		no, cocoa, soul, roe, though, glow, beau, mauve, yeoman
ɪə		near, beer, theory, query, severe, emir, grenadier
ɔɪ		boy, spoil, Freudian
ʊə		poor, rural, dour, liqueur
AIə		tire, byre, choir, quiet, diaphragm
aOə		sour, flower, coward
ɑ	as in	French pas
ɛ		French été, Italian verde
ɔ		French homme, Italian donna, German Gott
o		French eau, mot, Italian figlio
u		French tout
ø		French bleu, German spötteln
œ		French bœuf
y		French du, German fünf
ɛː		German Ehre
oː		German Boot
øː		German Höhle
œː		French douleur
yː		German Führer
ai		German ein, frei
ɔy		German Häuser

: indicates length  
 ~ indicates nasality

õ	as in	cordon bleu
õː		Lyons
ã		French en
ãː		French blanche
ẽ		French vin
ẽː		French cinq
õ		French mon
õː		French monde
œ		French un

## Consonants and semivowels

b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, and z have their usual English values.

g	as in	get
tʃ		chip, ditch, cello, Czech, culture, question
dʒ		jar, hedge, urge, logic, gentle, privilege, soldier
ŋ		ring, bank, conquer, junction
θ		thin, throne, birth, health, tooth
ð		this, clothe, smooth, swarthy
ʃ		she, ash, chef, station, mission, spacious, herbaceous
ʒ		vision, erasure, aubergine, bourgeois
j		yes, tune, new, eulogy
x		loch, German ach, Spanish Rioja
ç		German nicht
ʎ		Spanish olla, llamar, Italian gli
ɲ		French mignon, Spanish piña, Italian gnocco
ɥ		French nuit

## Stress

' indicates primary stress on the following syllable  
 , indicates secondary stress on the following syllable

For further details see volume 1, pp. xii–xiii

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## N, n /n/.

The fourteenth letter of the modern English alphabet and the thirteenth of the ancient Roman one, repr. the Greek *ni* and the Semitic *ni*. The sound normally represented by the letter is a (usu. voiced) nasal consonant. N in mod. English has the following values: (i) the alveolar nasal /n/; (ii) the velar nasal /ŋ/ before the consonants 'hard' g and k; (iii) silent as the final letter of a syllable after m, as in **condemn**, **hymn**. Pl. **N's**, **Ns**. See also **EN 2**.

► **11** The letter and its sound.

2 The shape of the letter.

3 **TYPOGRAPHY**. = **EN 2**.

1 **n-declension** declension of Germanic nouns and adjectives in which the stem ends in *n*. 2 **N-shaped adjective** having a shape or a cross-section like the capital letter N. 3 **n quadrat** = **EN quadrat**.

► **II** Symbolical uses.

4 (Cap. N.) Representing the name of a person to be inserted in a written or spoken text.

5 Used to denote serial order, applied e.g. to the fourteenth (or the thirteenth, either I or J being omitted) group or section, sheet of a book, etc.

6 **a MATH.** (Italic *n*.) Used to denote an indefinite or unspecified (usu. integral) number: **to the *n*th (power)**, to any required power (*fig.* to any extent, to the utmost degree). Also used in place of *bi-*, *tri-*, etc., in words, as **n-ary**, **n-tuple**. ► **PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY**. (Italic *n*.) Denoting the principal quantum number of an electron in an atom, which determines its orbital energy (to the first order) and takes integral values. ► **PHYSICS**. (Cap. N.) Designating the series of X-ray emission lines of an excited atom, of longer wavelength than the *M*-series, arising from electron transitions to the atomic orbit of fourth lowest energy, of principal quantum number 4; hence **N-shell**, this orbit; **N-electrons**, electrons in this shell. ► **GENETICS**. (Italic *n*.) Representing the haploid or gametic chromosome number (so *2n* = diploid or zygotic number, *3n* = triploid, etc.). Cf. **X**, **x** 7b.

7 **N-rays**, a form of radiation supposedly discovered in 1903 by R. Blondlot but later found to be spurious. **obsolete exc. Hist. E20**.

8 (Italic *n*.) A unit of neutron dosage. Only in **M20**.

► **III 9** Abbrevs.: (A small selection only is given here. Those all in caps, or small caps, also occur with a full stop after each letter; some of those all in caps, also occur (i) with initial cap, only, (ii) in small caps.) **N** = (**CHESS**) knight; New; (**PHYSICS**) newton; (**CHEMISTRY**) nitrogen; (**CHEMISTRY**) normal (sense A.4b); north(ern); nuclear. **n** = (as **prefix**) **NANO-**; (**CHEMISTRY**) normal (sense A.4c) (**n-octane**: see **OCTANE 1**).

\* **n** /n/ **conjunction**<sup>1</sup>, **collog.** Also \***n**<sup>1</sup>. **M19**.

[Reduced form.]  
= **AND conjunction**<sup>1</sup>.

\* **n** /n/ **conjunction**<sup>2</sup>, **collog.** **M19**.

[Reduced form.]  
= **THAN conjunction**<sup>2</sup>.

-**n** **suffixes** see -**EN**<sup>1</sup>, -**EN**<sup>6</sup>.

**Na** **symbol**.

[Latin *natrum*.]  
**CHEMISTRY**. Sodium.

† **na** **adverb**<sup>1</sup> & **conjunction**<sup>1</sup>. See also **NAE adverb**, **OE**.

[from *NE* + *ā* (see **AYE adverb**<sup>1</sup>). Cf. **NO adverb**<sup>1</sup> & see also **NO adverb**<sup>2</sup>.]

► **A adverb**. 1 = **NOT adverb**, **OE-E16**.

2 = **NO adverb**<sup>2</sup>, **OE-L16**.

► **B conjunction**. 1 **Nor**; **nor** neither. **OE-L18**.

2 That not, but that. **LME-L18**.

**na** /nə/ **adverb**<sup>2</sup> & **interjection**. Chiefly **Scot.** & **North. ME**.

[Use of prec. Cf. **NAH adverb**<sup>2</sup>, **NO adverb**<sup>1</sup> & **interjection**.]  
= **NO adverb**<sup>3</sup> & **interjection**.

**na** /nə/ **adverb**<sup>3</sup>. **Scot.** & **North. E18**.

[Enclitic form of **NO adverb**<sup>1</sup>.]

Not. Freq. joined to a preceding aux. verb, as **canna**, **dinna**, etc.

**n/a** **abbreviation**.

1 Not applicable.

2 Not available.

**NAACP** **abbreviation**, **US**.

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

**NAAFI** /ˈnafi/ **noun**. Also **Naffy**. **E20**.

[Acronym.]

The Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes; a canteen, store, etc., run for service personnel by this organization.

**naam** /na:m/ **noun**, **OE**.

[Old Norse *nām* rel. to *niman* take, **NIM verb**.]

**LAW** (now **Hist.**). The action of taking another's goods by distraint; goods so taken.

**naan** **noun** var. of **NAN noun**<sup>2</sup>.

**naartjie** /ˈna:ʃi/, ˈna:ki/ **noun**. **S. Afr.** Also **naartje**, **nartjie**.

& other vars. **L18**.

[Afrikaans from Tamil *nārattai* citrus.]

A soft loose-skinned tangerine or mandarin orange.

**naat** /ˈna:t/ **noun**, **M20**.

[Afrikaans = seam from Dutch *naad*.]

An irregularity in the structure of a diamond caused by a change in direction in the grain; a diamond containing such an irregularity.

**nab** /nab/ **noun**<sup>1</sup>. Chiefly **Scot.** & **North. ME**.

[Old Norse *nabbi*, *nabbi* projecting peak or knoll.]

1 A projecting part of a hill or rock; a peak, a promontory; a rocky hill, a summit. **ME**. ► **b** A tuft, a clump. **rare**. **M19**.

2 A projection or spur on the bolt of a lock. **L17**.

**nab** /nab/ **noun**<sup>2</sup>, **slang** & **dial**. Now **rare** or **obsolete**. **M16**.

[Perh. a use of prec. Cf. **NOB noun**<sup>1</sup>, **KNOB noun** 4.]

1 The head. **M16**.

2 A hat. **L17**.

**nab** /nab/ **noun**<sup>3</sup>, **slang**. **E19**.

[from **NAB verb**<sup>1</sup>.]

A person who catches someone or something; *spec.* a police officer.

**nab** /nab/ **noun**<sup>4</sup>, **collog.** Now **rare**. **M19**.

[from *nab* var. of **KNAB verb**<sup>1</sup>.]

A bite.

**nab noun**<sup>5</sup> see **NOB noun**<sup>2</sup>.

**nab** /nab/ **verb**<sup>1</sup>, **slang**, **Infl.** -**bb-**. **L17**.

[Origin unkn. Cf. **NAP verb**<sup>1</sup>.]

1 **verb trans**. Catch (a person) and take into custody; apprehend, arrest; catch in wrongdoing. **L17**.

2 **verb trans**. Snatch or seize (a thing); steal. **E19**. ► **b** **verb intrans**. Snatch at a thing. **rare**. **E19**.

1 R. CROMPTON Crumbs!... I thought he was going to nab us. R. MACAULAY He's disqualified for driving... for a year; he did something silly and got nabbed.

**Phrases**: **nab the rust** (now **dial**) be angry, restive, or sulky.

■ **nabber noun** a person who nabs someone or something; *spec.* a bailiff, a constable; a thief. **E19**.

**nab verb**<sup>2</sup> var. of **KNAB verb**<sup>1</sup>.

**nab** **adverb** & **noun**<sup>6</sup> see **HAB**.

**nabal** /ˈneib(a)l/ **noun**. Chiefly **Scot.** **L16**.

[Hebrew personal name *Nāhāl*, with ref. to 1 Samuel 25:3.]

A churlish or miserly person.

**Nabataean** /ˈnabaːtiːən/ **noun** & **adjective**. **E17**.

[from Latin *Nabat(h)aeus*, Greek *Nabat(h)aios* (cf. Arab. *Nabati* adjective, pertaining to the Nabataeans) + **-AN**.]

► **A noun**. A member of an ancient Arabian people forming a kingdom with its capital at Petra; the language of this people. **E17**.

► **B adjective**. Of or pertaining to the Nabataeans or their language. **L19**.

**nabbie** /ˈnabi/ **noun**. **L19**.

[Perh. from **NOBBY noun**<sup>1</sup>.]

A type of Scottish boat used esp. in herring-fishing on Loch Fyne and in the Firth of Clyde, originally having a raking mast, lug sail, and jib. Cf. **NOBBY noun**<sup>1</sup> 1.

† **nabby** **adjective** & **noun** see **NOBBY adjective** & **noun**<sup>2</sup>.

**nabe** /neib/ **noun**, **US slang**. **M20**.

[Rep. pronunc. of 1st syll. of *neighbourhood*.]

A local cinema.

**Nabeshima** /ˈnabəːʃiːmə/ **adjective**. **L19**.

[Baronial family name in feudal Japan.]

Designating a form of Hizen ware manufactured at Okawachi on Kyushu in Japan using kilns established there by the Nabeshima family in 1722.

**nabi** /ˈna:bi/ **noun**. Pl. (in sense 1) **nebi'im** /neˈbi:im/, (in sense 2) **nabis**. Also **N-**. **L19**.

[Hebrew *nabi* prophet.]

1 **THEOLOGY**. A person inspired to speak the word of God; a prophet; *spec.* a prophetic writer of the Old Testament and Hebrew Scriptures. Also (in *pl.*) = **the Prophets** (b) s.v. **PROPHET**. **L19**.

2 A member of a group of late 19th-cent. French post-impressionists following the artistic theories of the French painter Paul Gauguin (1848–1903). **M20**.

■ **nabism noun** the principles or practice of a nabi; adherence to a nabi. **E20**.

**nabla** /ˈnablə/ **noun**. **L19**.

[Greek = a kind of harp, prob. of Semitic origin. Cf. **NEBEL**.]

**MATH.** = **DEL**.

**nabob** /ˈneibob/ **noun**. **E17**.

[Portuguese *nababo* or Spanish *nabab* from Urdu *nawwāb*, *nawāb* deputy governor: see **NAWAB**.]

1 **Hist.** (The title of) any of certain Muslim officials acting as deputy governors of provinces or districts in the Mughal Empire; a governor of an Indian town or district. **E17**.

2 A person of great wealth or (formerly) high rank; *spec.* a person returning from India with a large fortune acquired there; a wealthy luxury-loving person. **arch**. **M18**.

■ **nabobess noun** a female nabob; the wife of a nabob. **M18**. **nabobship noun** (a) the rank or office of nabob; the state of being a nabob; (b) **Hist.** the territory or district subject to a nabob. **M18**.

**nabocklish** /ˈnəˈbɒklɪʃ/ **interjection**. Anglo-Irish. **M19**.

[from Irish *na not* + *bac* imper. sing. of *bacaim* I meddle + *lets* with it, lit. 'don't meddle with it'.]

Never mind! Leave it alone!

**Nabokovian** /ˈnabəˈkɒviən/ **adjective**. **M20**.

[from *Nabokov* (see below) + **-IAN**.]

Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the Russian-born novelist and poet Vladimir Nabokov (1899–1977) or his writing.

**nabs** /nabz/ **noun**, **arch. slang** (chiefly *joc.*). Pl. same. **L18**.

[Origin unkn. Cf. **NIB noun**<sup>2</sup>, **NIBS**.]

A person. Only with possess. adjective, as **his nabs** etc.

**nacarat** /ˈnakərat/ **noun**. **M18**.

[French, perh. from Spanish & Portuguese *nacarado*, from *nacar* nacre.]

1 A bright orange-red colour. **M18**.

2 A fine linen fabric dyed in this colour. **M19**.

**nacelle** /ˈnəˈsel/ **noun**. **L15**.

[French from late Latin *navicella* dim. of Latin *navis* ship.]

► **I 11** 1 A small boat. **rare**. Only in **L15**.

► **II 2** The basket or car of a balloon or airship. **M19**.

3 **Orig.**, the cockpit of an aeroplane. Now, a streamlined bulge on an aircraft's wing or fuselage enclosing an engine etc. **E20**.

4 A similarly shaped structure on or in a motor vehicle. **M20**.

¶ In branch **II** reintroduced from French.

**nachas** **noun** var. of **NACHES**.

**nache** /ˈneɪʃ/ **noun**. Now **rare** or **obsolete exc. dial.** Also † **nage**, **natch** /ˈnatʃ/. **ME**.

[Old French *nache*, *nage*, pl. *naches* from late Latin *naticus* accus. pl. of *naticus*, from Latin *natis* buttock. Cf. **AITCHBONE**.]

1 **Pl. pl.**, the buttocks; *sing.* the anus. Long **obsolete exc. Hist. ME**.

2 (The point of) the rump in an ox or cow. **ME**.

Comb.: **nache-bone** = **AITCHBONE**.

**naches** /ˈnaxəs/ **noun**. **US**. Also **nachas**. **E20**.

[Yiddish *nachkes* from Hebrew *nakat* contentment.]

A sense of pleasure or pride, esp. at the achievements of one's children; joy, gratification.

**Nachlass** /ˈnaxˌlas/ **noun**. Pl. **-lasse** /-ˈlasə/, **-lāsse** /-ˈlesə/. **M19**.

[German.]

*sing.* & (*rare*) in *pl.* Unpublished material left by an author after his or her death.

**nacho** /ˈnactʃəʊ, ˈnatʃəʊ/ **noun**. **Orig. US**. Pl. **-os**. **M20**.

[Origin uncertain: perh. from Mexican Spanish *Nacho* pet-form of male forename *Ignacio* (that of a chef often credited with the dish's creation), but cf. Spanish *nacho* flat-nosed.]

A snack or appetizer consisting of fried tortilla chips covered in melted cheese, peppers, spices, etc. In *pl.* exc. when *attrib.*



**Nachschlag** /ˈnɑːʃlɑːk/ *noun*. Pl. **-schläge** /-ʃlɛːgə/. L19.  
[German, from *nach* after + *Schlag* blow, note.]  
**MUSIC**. A grace-note taking its value from that of the note preceding it.  
**Nachtlokal** /ˈnaxtloka/ *noun*. Pl. **-e** /-ə/. M20.  
[German, from *Nacht* night + *Lokal* public house.]  
A nightclub.

**Nachtmaal** *noun* see **NAGMAAL**.

**Nacht und Nebel** /ˈnaxt ont ˈneːb(ə)/ *noun phr.* M20.  
[German, lit. 'night and fog'.]  
A situation characterized by mystery or obscurity, esp. as associated with Nazi Germany between 1941 and 1945.

**nacket** /ˈnɑːkɪt/ *noun*. Scot. L16.  
[Origin unkn.]  
1 A type of small loaf, esp. one made with fine white flour. L16.  
2 A snack, a lunch; a light meal. L18.

**NACDS** *abbreviation*.  
National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies, and Shotfirers.

**nacre** /ˈneɪkə/ *noun*. L16.  
[French, prob. ult. of oriental origin.]  
= **MOTHER-OF-PEARL**.  
■ **nacred** *adjective* covered with or resembling nacre M18.

**nacreous** /ˈneɪkrɪəs/ *adjective*. M19.  
[from prec.: see **-EOUS**.]  
Consisting of or resembling nacre; pearly.  
[D. J. ENRIGHT The nacreous face of a leper observed in Asia. J. BARNES A very early . . . shaver, nacreous pink in its box.]

**nacrite** /ˈneɪkrɪt/ *noun*. E19.  
[from **NACRE** + **-ITE**'].  
**MINERALOGY**. A clay mineral related to kaolinite.

**nacrous** /ˈneɪkrəs/ *adjective*. M19.  
[from **NACRE**: see **-OUS**.]  
Nacreous.

**NAD** *abbreviation*.  
**BIOCHEMISTRY**. Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide.

**nada** /ˈnɑːdə/ *noun*<sup>1</sup>. E20.  
[Sanskrit *nāda* sound.]  
**HINDUISM**. Inchoate or elemental sound considered as the source of all sounds and as a source of creation.

**nada** /ˈnɑːdə, ˈnɑːdə/ *noun*<sup>2</sup>. M20.  
[Spanish = nothing, from Latin (res) *nata* thing born, insignificant thing.]  
Nothing; nothingness, non-existence.

**Na-Dene** /ˈnɑːdneɪ/ *adjective & noun*. E20.  
[from Athapaskan na cogn. with Haida *nāa* dwell, Tlingit *naa* tribe + *dene* tribe.]  
► **A adjective**. Designating, of, or pertaining to a N. American Indian language group including the Athapaskan and Tlingit families, and (in some classifications) Haida. E20.  
► **B noun**. The Na-Dene group of languages. M20.

**Naderism** /ˈneɪdərɪz(ə)m/ *noun*. M20.  
[from Ralph *Nader* (b. 1934), US lawyer + **-ISM**.]  
Public agitation for greater safety and higher quality in consumer goods.  
■ **Naderite** *noun & adjective* L20.

**nadir** /ˈneɪdɪə/ *noun*. LME.  
[Old & mod. French (also Spanish, Italian) from Arab. *naẓir* (as-samt) opposite (the zenith).]  
† 1 **ASTRONOMY**. A point in the heavens diametrically opposite to some other point, esp. to the sun. Foll. by *of*, *to*. LME–E18.  
2 **ASTRONOMY**. The point of the heavens diametrically opposite to the zenith; the point directly below an observer. L15.  
3 The lowest point (of something); the place or time of greatest depression or degradation. L18.  
[3 C. HILL When Buckingham was assassinated . . . England's international reputation was at its nadir.]

**NADP** *abbreviation*.  
**BIOCHEMISTRY**. Nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate.

**nads** /ˈnɑːdz/ *noun pl.* coarse slang. M20.  
[Shortening of *gonads*.]  
The testicles; fig. courage, strength.

**nae** *adjective* see **NO adjective**.

**nae** /ˈneɪ/ *adverb*. Scot. & north. E18.  
[Var. of **NA adverb**<sup>1</sup>, **NO adverb**<sup>1</sup>.]  
Not.

**naevus** /ˈneɪvəs/ *noun*. Also \***nevus**. Pl. **-vi** /-vaɪ/. M19.  
[Latin.]  
**MEDICINE**. A congenital reddish or brown mark or (usu.) raised blemish on the skin, esp. a haemangiona; a birthmark, a mole.

■ **naevoid** *adjective* of the nature of a naevus L19.  
**naff** /nɑːf/ *adjective*. slang. M20.  
[Origin unkn.]  
Unfashionable, lacking in style. Also, worthless, faulty, rubbishy.  
[L. CODY No electricity . . . I think it's just a naff battery connection. *Sunday Telegraph* It is naff to call your house The Gables . . . or Dunroamin'.]  
■ **naffness** *noun* L20.  
**naff** /nɑːf/ *verb intrans.* slang. M20.  
[Prob. euphem. substitute for **FUCK verb**. Cf. **EFF verb**.]  
Foll. by *off*: go away. Freq. in *imper*.  
■ **naffing** *adjective* (used as an intensifier) M20.

**Naffy** *noun* var. of **NAAFI**.

**NAFTA** /ˈnɑːftə/ *abbreviation*.  
North American Free Trade Agreement.

**nag** /nɑːg/ *noun*<sup>1</sup>. LME.  
[Origin unkn.]  
1 A small riding-horse or pony; *colloq.* a horse. LME.  
† 2 A contemptible or worthless person. L16–E17.  
*Comb.*: **nagsman** a skilled horseman employed to train or show horses.

**nag** /nɑːg/ *noun*<sup>2</sup>. L19.  
[from **NAG verb**.]  
An act or spell of nagging; a thing that nags. Also, a persistently nagging person, esp. a woman.  
[New Yorker Pam is portrayed as an airhead and a nag.]

**nag** /nɑːg/ *verb*. Infl. **-gg-**. E19.  
[Origin uncertain: perh. ult. of Scandinavian origin or from Low German Cf. Swedish *nagga*, Norwegian *nagge* gnaw, nibble, irritate, Low German (*gjnaggen* irritate, provoke).]  
1 **a verb trans. & intrans.** Gnaw, nibble, (at). *dialect*. E19.  
† **b verb intrans.** Of a pain etc.: ache dully but persistently. M19.  
2 **verb intrans.** Find fault, complain, or urge someone, esp. persistently. (Foll. by *at*). M19.  
3 **verb trans.** Annoy or irritate (a person) with persistent fault-finding, complaining, or urging. M19.

[1b *Sunday Express* Those nagging back aches and tense neck muscles. 3a A. GERAS I'm sorry if I made your life a misery nagging you about the piano. C. TOMALIN Fear of exposure must have nagged and tormented her.]

■ **nagger** *noun* L19. **naggingly** *adverb* in a nagging manner M20. **naggingness** *noun* (rare) nagging quality or condition L19.

**naga** /ˈnɑːgə/ *noun*<sup>1</sup>. L18.  
[Sanskrit *nāga* serpent, snake.]  
**INDIAN MYTHOLOGY**. A member of a race of semi-divine creatures, half-snake and half-human, that are the genii of rain, rivers, etc.

**Naga** /ˈnɑːgə/ *noun*<sup>2</sup>. E19.  
[Hindi *nāga* from Sanskrit *nāga* *nagaka* cogn. with **NAKED**.]  
**HINDUISM**. A naked mendicant; *spec.* such an ascetic belonging to a sect permitting its members to carry arms and serve as mercenaries.

**Naga** /ˈnɑːgə/ *noun*<sup>3</sup> & *adjective*. M19.  
[Perh. from Sanskrit *nagna* naked or *naga* mountain.]  
► **A noun**. 1 A member of a group of peoples living in or near the Naga Hills of Myanmar (Burma) and in NE India; a native or inhabitant of Nagaland, a State in NE India. M19.  
2 The Tibeto-Burman language of these peoples. M19.  
► **B attrib.** or as *adjective*. Of or pertaining to the Nagas or their language. E20.

**nagaika** /ˈnɑːgaɪkə/ *noun*. Pl. **-ki** /-ki/, **-kas**. M19.  
[Russian *nagaika*, from (the same root as) **NOGAY**.]  
A thick plaited Cossack whip.

**nagana** /ˈnɑːgɑːnə/ *noun*. L19.  
[Zulu *nakane*.]  
A disease of cattle, antelope, etc., in southern Africa, characterized by fever, lethargy, and oedema caused by trypanosomes transmitted by tsetse-flies.

**Nagari** /ˈnɑːgəri/ *adjective & noun*. L18.  
[Sanskrit *nāgari*, from *nagara* town.]  
= **DEVANAGARI**.

† **nage** *noun* var. of **NACHE**.

**nagelfluh** /ˈnɑːg(ə)flʊː/ *noun*. Pl. **-fluhe** /-fluːə/. E19.  
[German, from *Nagel* nail + Swiss German *Fluh* rock face.]  
**GEOLOGY**. A massive Miocene conglomerate associated with the molasse of the Swiss Alps, containing pebbles supposed to look like nail-heads.

**naggle** /ˈnag(ə)l/ *verb & noun*. M19.  
[Frequentative of **NAG verb**: see **-LE**'].  
► **A verb intrans.** Gnaw, bite, (chiefly *dialect*). Also, nag, quarrel, pet in a petty manner. M19.  
► **B noun**. Pettiness; nagging. *rare*. M19.  
[K. MILLET The regulation American mother bullying her two sons with naggle.]

**naggy** /ˈnɑːgi/ *noun*. Chiefly Scot. L17.  
[from **NAG noun**<sup>1</sup> + **-y**'].  
A small nag, a pony.  
**naggy** /ˈnɑːgi/ *adjective*. L17.  
[from **NAG verb** + **-y**'].  
Given to nagging; *dialect*. ill-natured, bad-tempered.  
[Guardian Kids . . . whose mothers are tired and naggy.]

**Nagmaal** /ˈnaxmaːl/ *noun*. S. Afr. Also (earlier) **Nacht-** /ˈnaxt-/. M19.  
[Afrikaans *nagmaal* (Dutch *nachtmaal*), from *nag* (Dutch *nacht*) night + *maal* meal.]  
The usu. quarterly celebration of the Eucharist in the Dutch Reformed Church (an occasion of family reunions and celebration).

**Nago** /ˈnɑːgɔːs/ *noun & adjective*. L18.  
[Ewe *anagɔ* a Yoruba person.]  
► **A noun**. Pl. **-os**.  
1 A member of a Yoruba-speaking people of W. Africa, of whom many were taken to the Americas as slaves. L18.  
2 The language of this people, now *spec.* (a) as spoken in Benin; (b) the reduced form spoken in Bahia, Brazil. M20.  
► **B attrib.** or as *adjective*. Of or pertaining to the Nagos or their language. L18.

**nagor** /ˈneɪgɔːs/ *noun*. Now *rare*. L18.  
[French, arbitrarily formed by Buffon after earlier *nanguer*.]  
A reedruck, *Redunca redunca*, of savannah in equatorial Africa, with short forward-curling horns.

**nag's-head** /ˈnɑːgzhed/ *noun*. M19.  
[Perh. from **NAG noun**<sup>1</sup> + **-s** + **HEAD noun**.]  
**MUSIC HISTORY**. A kind of organ swell consisting of a rising and falling shutter.

**Nagualism** /ˈnɑːg(ə)lɪz(ə)m, ˈnaw(ə)l-/ *noun*. L19.  
[from Mexican Spanish *nagual*, *nahuall* from Nahuatl *nahualli* guardian spirit.]  
Belief in a personal guardian spirit thought by some Central American Indians to reside in a bird, animal, or other embodiment.

**nah** /ˈnɑː/ *adverb*<sup>1</sup>. non-standard. M19.  
[Repr. a pronunc. Cf. **NAOW adverb**<sup>1</sup>.]  
= **NOW adverb**.

**nah** /ˈnɑː/ *adverb*<sup>2</sup> & *interjection*. non-standard. E20.  
[Repr. a pronunc. Cf. **NA adverb**<sup>2</sup> & *interjection*, **NAOW adverb**<sup>1</sup>, *interjection*, **NAW**.]  
= **NO adverb**<sup>2</sup> & *interjection*.

**Nah**. *abbreviation*.  
Nahum (in the Bible).

**nahal** /ˈnɑːhəl/ *noun*. M20.  
[Hebrew, from initials of the name of the organization, *Nōḥar Hāliṭzi Lohēm Pioneer Military Youth*.]  
A military youth organization in Israel; an agricultural settlement manned by members of this organization.

**Nahuatl** /ˈnɑːwɑːt(ə)l, nɑːˈwɑːt(ə)l/ *noun & adjective*. E19.  
[Spanish from Nahuatl.]  
► **A noun**. Pl. **-s**. same. A member of a group of peoples of southern Mexico and Central America, including the Aztecs. Also, the Uto-Aztecan language of these peoples. E19.  
► **B attrib.** or as *adjective*. Of or pertaining to the Nahuatls or their language. L19.  
■ **Nahuatlán** *adjective & noun* (of or pertaining to) the group of Nahuatl dialects E20.

**naiad** /ˈnaɪəd/ *noun*. Pl. **-s**. **naiades** /ˈnaɪədiːz/. LME.  
[Latin *Naiad-*, *Naias* from Greek, rel. to *naiōn* flow. Cf. **NAÏD**, **NAÏS**.]  
1 **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**. A nymph supposed to inhabit a river, spring, etc., as its tutelary spirit; a water-nymph. LME.  
2 **ENTOMOLOGY**. The aquatic larva or nymph of a hemimetabolous insect. E20.  
3 **BOTANY**. A submerged aquatic plant of the genus *Najas* (family *Najadaceae*). M20.

**naïant** /ˈneɪənt/ *adjective*. M16.  
[Anglo-Norman = Old French *naïant* pres. pple of *naïer* swim = Italian *nuotare* from Proto-Romance alt. of Latin *natare*.]  
**HERALDRY**. Of a fish etc.: swimming horizontally.

**naib** /ˈnaɪb, ˈneɪb/ *noun*. L17.  
[Arab. *na'ib* deputy. Cf. **NAWAB**.]  
In Arabic-speaking countries: a deputy governor; a deputy.

**naice** /ˈneɪs/ *adjective*. Chiefly *joc.* & *derog.* E20.  
[Repr. an affected pronunc.]  
= **NICE adjective**.

† **naïd** *noun*. *rare*. E17.  
[Latin *Naiad-*, *Naias* var. of *Naiad-*, *Naias*: see **NAIAD**. Cf. **NAÏS**.]  
1 **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**. A naiad. E17–E18.  
2 **ZOOLOGY**. A freshwater mussel. Only in M19.

**naïdes** *noun* pl. of **NAÏS**.  
**naieo** *noun* var. of **NAIO**.

**naïf** /naɪ'f, naɪ'f/ *adjective & noun*. Pl. of noun pronounced same. L16.  
[French; see **NAIVE**.]

- **A adjective**. 1 = **NAIVE** 1. L16. 1b = **NAIVE** 1b. M20.  
2 Of a diamond; without an imperfection, flawless. *rare*. M-L17.  
► **B noun**. A naive person. L19.  
■ Formerly fully naturalized.  
■ **naïfly** *adverb* (*rare*) M17.

**naik** /naɪk, 'neɪk/ *noun*. L16.

[Urdu 'naik from Hindi *nāyāk* chief, officer from Sanskrit *nāyaka* leader.]

- Chiefly *Hist.* 1 (The title of) an Indian prince or nobleman; a lord, a prince, a governor. L16.  
2 In the Indian subcontinent: orig., a military officer; later, a corporal of infantry. L18.

**naïl** /neɪ/ *noun*.

[Old English *næg(e)* = Old Frisian *neil*, Old Saxon, Old High German *nagel* (Dutch, German *Nagel*), Old Norse *nagl*, from Germanic, from Indo-European base also repr. by Lithuanian *nāgas* nail, claw, Greek *onax*, Latin *unguis*.]

- **I** 1 The smooth, horny, usu. oval-shaped covering of the upper surface at the end of a finger or toe in humans and other primates. Also, a claw, a talon, a hoof. OE.  
2 A thing resembling a nail in shape or colour; spec. †(a) = **HAW** noun<sup>1</sup> 1; (b) a hard excrescence on the upper mandible of some soft-billed birds. OE.

■ P. H. JOHNSON An astonishingly small ... hand, with beautiful square-cut nails. M. BRADBURY Her tight-knuckled hands and bitten nails.

- **II** 3 A small, usu. sharpened, metal spike with a broadened flat head for driving in with a hammer, to fasten things together, serve as a peg, or provide protection or decoration. Also (*rare*), a wooden peg (cf. **TREENAIL**). OE.  
4 **†a** *MEDICINE*. An abscess, a carbuncle. Only in 17. 1b A defect in a stone. Long *rare* or *obsolete*. M17.  
5 A person who overreaches another, a cunning or clever fellow. *arch. slang*. E19.

■ 3 C. LAMB The countless nails that rivet the chains of habit. W. E. H. LECKY The nails of the Cross ... were converted by the emperor into a helmet. R. K. NARAYAN He took the gate key from the nail on the ... wall. **overlap nail**, **rose nail**, **stub-nail**, etc.

- **III** 6 *Hist.* A unit of weight of wool, beef, etc., equal to 7 or 8 lb (approx. 3.2 to 3.6 kg); = **CLOVE** noun<sup>1</sup>. Formerly also, a measure of land. Now *dial.* LME.

7 *Hist.* A unit of length for cloth, equal to 2¼ inches (approx. 57 mm). LME.

*Phrases: a nail in the coffin of*: see **COFFIN** noun. *as hard as nails* (a) in good physical condition; (b) callous. *bed of nails*: see **BED** noun. *bite one's nails* bite the ends of one's nails as a nervous habit, esp. in impatience and frustration. *dead as a door-nail*: see **DEAD** adjective. *hit the nail on the head*: see **HIT** verb. *off at the nail* *Scot.* crazy. *on the nail* (esp. of the payment of a debt etc.) without delay, immediately. *tooth and nail*: see **TOOTH** noun.

*Comb.: nail-biting* *adjective* (*fig.*) causing helpless anxiety or tension; **nail bomb** a lethal weapon made from nails wrapped round a stick of gelignite; **nail-brush** a small brush for cleaning one's nails; **nail enamel** *N. Amer.* = **nail polish** below; **nail-file** a roughened metal or emery strip for trimming one's nails; **nail-gall** a nail-shaped gall produced on the leaves of lime and other trees by a mite of the genus *Phytoptus*; **nail-head** the head of a nail; an ornament, esp. on a garment, resembling this; **nail-head spur**, calcite occurring as hexagonal prisms and flat rhombohedra; **nail-headed** *adjective* having a head like that of a nail; formed like a nail-head; **nail-hole** a hole made by or left by a nail; **nail-maker** a person who makes nails; **nail-making** the process of making nails; **nail-plate** a piece of iron from which nails are cut; **nail-polish** a liquid cosmetic applied to fingernails to colour them, or make them shiny; **nail-punch** a tool for sinking the head of a nail below a surface; **nail-rod** (a) a strip or rod of iron for making nails; (b) (chiefly *Austral.*) coarse dark tobacco in the form of a thin roll or stick; **nail-scissors** small scissors for trimming one's nails; **nail-set** = **nail-punch** above; **nailsick** *Nautical slang* (of a ship etc.) leaky at the nail-holes; **nail-tailed** *adjective* having a nail or spur on the tip of the tail; **nail-tailed wallaby**, any of several rare or extinct wallabies of the genus *Onychogalea*, which have a horny nail near the end of the tail; **nail varnish** = **nail polish** above; **nail violin** a bowed musical instrument consisting of a semicircular wooden resonator studded with nails of varying lengths.

■ **naillless** /-l-/ *adjective* M19. **naïly** *adjective* (*rare*) provided with nails E17.

**naïl** /neɪ/ *verb*.

[Old English *nægian*, from the noun. Cf. Gothic *nagjan*.]

1 *verb trans.* Fix or fasten with a nail or nails on or on to something or in a certain place. *Freq.* foll. by *on*, *to*, *together*, *down*, *in*, *up*, etc. OE.

2 *a verb trans.* Pierce (a person or thing) with a nail or nails. Now *rare* or *obsolete*. OE. 1b Stud (as) with a nail or nails; mark by driving in a nail or nails. *rare*. OE. 1c **MILITARY**. Spike (a cannon) by driving a nail into the vent. L16-L18.

3 Fix in one place or make immovable as with a nail or nails; secure. Now *rare* or *obsolete*. ME.

4 *a* Concentrate, keep fixed, (the eyes, attention, etc.) on a particular object. L16. 1b Hold (a person) in a particular position, occupation, etc. E17.

5 *a* Secure, catch, or get hold of (a person or thing); steal; incriminate, arrest, convict. Also, catch (a person) in some fix or difficulty. *colloq.* M18. 1b Strike or punch (a person, ball, etc.) forcefully; put out of action; kill, esp. violently or from a distance. *colloq.* L18. 1c In **BASEBALL** (of a fielder), put (a runner) out by throwing; *gen.* in **SPORT**, defeat (an opponent), make ineffective. *colloq.* (chiefly *N. Amer.*) L19. 1d Esp. of a man: copulate with. *coarse slang* (orig. *US*). M20.

■ 1 W. COWPER Close by the threshold of a door nailed fast. I. D'ISRAËL The royal anathema was nailed on the Episcopal gate at London. S. S. BUCKMAN The draught ... prevented by a small tarpaulin nailed across the opening. *transf.* DRYDEN The second Shaft ... pierc'd his Hand, and nail'd it to his side. 2b R. FANSHAW Those Stars which nail Heav'n's pavement! 3 W. CONGREVE Rivet and nail me where I stand. 4a SIR W. SCOTT I cannot nail my mind to one subject of contemplation. R. W. EMERSON The man whose eyes are nailed ... on the wages. 1b W. COWPER Those Whose headaches nail them to a noonday bed. 5a D. C. MURRAY We shall have to wait and nail them ... when we've proved complicity. C. F. BURKE The cops ... nail Ben for havin' the cup. 1b Boxing News Ayala rallied ... putting punches together as he nailed Espinoza with left hooks and rights.

*Phrases, & with adverbs in specialized senses: nail a lie* expose as a falsehood. **nail down** (a) fasten (esp. a lid) with a nail or nails; (b) bind (a person) to a promise etc.; (c) define exactly. **nail one's colours to the mast**: see **COLOUR** noun. **nail to the barn door**, **nail to the counter** expose as false or spurious. **nail up** (a) prevent (a door etc.) from being opened by fastening with a nail or nails; (b) fix (a thing) at a height with a nail or nails; †(c) **MILITARY** = sense 2c above.

■ **nailable** *adjective* able to be nailed; spec. (of construction materials etc.) able to be nailed into place. M20.

**naïler** /neɪlə/ *noun*. ME.

[from **NAIL** verb + **-ER**.]

- 1 A person who makes nails; a nail-maker. ME.  
2 A person who nails something. *rare*. M17.  
3 A supremely efficient person or thing; a person who is exceptionally good at something. *slang*. E19.  
4 A police officer, a detective. *slang*. M19.  
5 A power tool for driving in nails. L20.  
■ **nailerless** *noun* a female nail-maker M19. **nailery** *noun* a place or workshop for the making of nails L18.

**Naïlsea** /neɪlsə/ *noun*. E20.

[See below.]

In full **Naïlsea glass**. A style of glassware first manufactured at Naïlsea, a town near Bristol in SW England, in the late 18th cent.

**nain** /neɪn/ *adjective*. *Scot.* LME.

[Var. of **NOON**.]

(One's) own.

*Comb.: nainsell* *pronoun* (one's) own self.

**nainsook** /neɪnsʊk/ *noun & adjective*. L18.

[Urdu (Hindi) *nainsukh*, from *nain* eye + *sukh* pleasure.]

- **A noun**. A fine soft cotton fabric, a kind of muslin or jacquet, orig. from the Indian subcontinent; a garment made of this. L18.  
► **B** *attrib.* or as *adjective*. Made of nainsook. L19.

**naïo** /'naɪəʊ/ *noun*. Also **naïeo**. L19.

[Hawaiian; cf. **NGAIO**.]

A Hawaiian evergreen tree, *Myoporum sandwicense* (family *Myoporaceae*), bearing clusters of small pink or white flowers. Also called **bastard sandalwood**.

**Nair** /naɪə/ *noun*. L16.

[Portuguese *naire*, *naire* from Malayalam *nāyur*.]

A member of the noble and military caste in Malabar, a coastal district of SW India.

**naira** /'naɪə/ *noun*. Pl. same. L20.

[Origin uncertain: perh. ult. from *Nigeria* (see below).]

The basic monetary unit of *Nigeria*, equal to 100 kobo.

**naïs** /neɪs/ *noun*. Pl. **naïdes** /'neɪdiːz/. L17.

[Latin *Nais* var. of *Naias*; see **NAIAD**. Cf. **NAÏD**.]

1 **CLASSICAL MYTHOLOGY**. A naiad. L17.

2 **ZOOLOGY**. A small bristly freshwater oligochaete worm of the genus *Nais* or the family *Naididae*. Now chiefly as *mod. Latin* genus name. M19.

**naissance** /neɪs(ə)ns/ *noun*. *rare*. L15.

[French, from *naiss* pres. ppl stem of *naître*; see next, **-ANCE**.]

Origin, birth.

**naissant** /neɪs(ə)nt/ *adjective*. L16.

[Old & mod. French, pres. ppl of *naître* from Proto-Romance from *Latin* *nasci* be born; see **-ANT**.]

1 **HERALDY**. Of a charge, esp. an animal: issuing from the middle of a fess or other ordinary. L16.

2 That is coming into existence or being produced. *rare*. L19.

**nait** /neɪt/ *verb trans.* Long *obsolete* exc. *dial.* ME.

[Old Norse *neyta* (Norwegian *neyte*, Swedish *nåta*), ult. from Germanic *ablaut* stem (cf. *naui* **NEAT** noun, *naui* gift, companion), from base also of Gothic *neitan*, Old Norse *njota* (Swedish *njuta*), Old English *neotan* enjoy.]

Make use of, use.

**naïve** /naɪ'v, naɪ'v/ *adjective*. Also **naïve**. M17.

[Old & mod. French *naïve*, fem. of *naïf* from Latin *nativus* **NATIVE** adjective. Cf. **NAÏF**.]

1 Unaffected, unconsciously artless. Also, foolishly credulous, simple. M17. 1b Of art etc.: straightforward in style, eschewing subtlety or conventional technique. Cf. **PRIMITIVE** adjective 9. M20.

2 **MEDICINE & PSYCHOLOGY**. Not having had a particular experience before, or been the subject of a particular experiment; lacking the knowledge to guess the purpose of an experiment; esp. not having taken or received a particular drug. (Foll. by *to*.) M20.

■ 1 R. C. HURCHINSON Could he suppose her so naïve as to be impressed? O. MANNING He smiled in naïve pleasure.  
b *naïve painter*, *naïve painting*, etc.

*Special collocations: naïve realism* *PHILOSOPHY* the belief that an object of perception is not only real but has in reality all its perceived attributes. **naïve realist** *PHILOSOPHY* an adherent of or believer in naïve realism.

■ **naïvely** *adverb* †(a) naturally, true to nature; (b) in a naïve manner, artlessly: M17. **naïveness** *noun* (*rare*) M20.

**naïveté** /naɪ'vet, naɪ'vet/ *noun*. Pl. pronounced same. L17.

[French, formed as prec. + **-té** **-TY**.]

1 = **NAÏVE** 2. L17.

2 = **NAÏVE** 1. E18.

**naïvety** /naɪ'veti, naɪ'veti/ *noun*. Also **naïvety**. E18.

[Anglicized from prec.: see **-TY**.]

1 The state or quality of being naïve. E18.

2 A naïve action, remark, etc. M19.

■ 1 J. BERGER He must have taken advantage of ... your naïvety and your good heart. 2 CARLYLE Shrewd simplicities, naïveties, blundering ingenuities.

**Naja** /neɪdʒə, 'neɪjə/ *noun*. M18.

[*mod. Latin* (see below) from Hindi *nāg* snake.]

A cobra of the genus *Naja*. Now chiefly as *mod. Latin* genus name.

**naïe** /neɪ/ *verb trans.* Long *obsolete* exc. *Scot.* ME.

[Back-form, from **NAKED** adjective.]

Make naked (*lit. & fig.*).

**naked** /neɪkɪd/ *adjective & noun*.

[Old English *naecod* = Old Frisian *naked*, *-et*, Middle Low German, Middle Dutch *naket* (Dutch *naakt*), Old High German *nacut* (German *nackt*), Old Norse *nökkvadr*, Gothic *nakjaps*, *-ad*, from Germanic, rel. to Latin *nudus*, Sanskrit *nagna*.]

- **A adjective**. 11 Of the body or a part: unclothed, stripped to the skin, not covered or protected by clothing. OE. 1b Of a horse etc.: without a saddle or harness; barebacked. Long *obsolete* exc. *Scot.* OE.

2 **†a** Of a person: destitute of clothing, esp. through extreme poverty. Of an animal: deprived of its hair, wool, etc. OE-L17. 1b Destitute of means. *arch. rare*. E17.

3 Without a weapon or means of defence; defenceless, unprotected; exposed to assault or injury. *arch.* ME.

■ 1 SIR W. SCOTT His naked foot was dyed with red. G. GREENE A child naked except for a ... necklace round the waist. W. GOLDING He stripped naked and spread his clothing in the sun. 2a SHAKES. *Lear* Poor naked wretches ... that bide the pelting of this pitiless storm. *absol.*: DRYDEN The afflicted came. The hunger-starved, the naked and the lame. b R. L. STEVENSON I am held naked in my prison. 3 DEFOE I scorn to take up a sword against a naked man. M. C. CLARKE Gaunt ... left him naked to the tender mercies of his priestly enemies. V. WOOLF You are all protected. I am naked.

- **II** 4 Of a sword etc.: not in a sheath, unsheathed. OE.

5 Free from concealment or reserve; straightforward; outspoken. Now chiefly in *the naked truth* below. ME.

6 Exposed to view or examination; without disguise or concealment; plain, obvious, clear. ME.

■ 4 G. GREENE The executioner stands by with naked blade. 5 GIBBON A fragment of the Anecdotes, somewhat too naked, was suppressed. 6 LD MACAULAY Chamberlayne laid his plan, in all its naked absurdity, before the Commons. J. GROSS With Arnold or Eliot ... the snobishness is naked and unshamed.

- **III** 7 *a* Destitute or devoid of something. OE. 1b Lacking or defective in some respect. LME. 1c Unfilled, unoccupied. *rare*. M17.

8 Lacking tackle, equipment, furnishings, etc.; unfurnished; undecorated. LME.

9 Lacking vegetation, barren; treeless; having no foliage; (of rock etc.) without soil; exposed. LME.

10 **BOTANY**. *a* Of a seed: having no pericarp. Also, of varieties of oats or other cereals: having the husk easily detached (cf. **PILCORN**). L16. 1b Of a stem or leaf: having no leaves or hairs. E18.

11 Lacking a protective case or covering; esp. (of a light, flame, etc.) unprotected from the wind etc., unshaded. E17.

12 **ZOOLOGY**. Of (part of) an animal: lacking hair, scales, or a shell, present in related forms. E17.

7a S. PEPPS It is a remarkable thing how infinitely naked . . . Covent Garden is . . . of people. 8 O. MANNING A single light bulb . . . hung over naked floorboards. 9 W. COWPER Seabeaten rocks and naked shores. R. KIPLING Not only on the Naked Chalk, but also among the Trees. 11 BURKE I always felt it on the naked nerve. M. DIBDIN It was lit by a large number of naked bulbs.

▶ **IV 13** Without addition; bare, mere; not accompanied by remarks or comments; plainly expressed. Also, not otherwise supported or confirmed by proof, evidence, etc. **OE**.

14 Undiluted, neat, *rare* (chiefly *Scot.*). **E19**.

15 **STOCK EXC.** **ANG.** Of an option etc.: not secured on or backed by the underlying share. **L20**.

13 W. BLACKSTONE Herein they state the naked facts. JAS. MILL For the evidence of these designs, Mr. Hastings presents his own naked assertion.

**Special collocations & phrases:** **naked ape**, see **APE** *noun*. **naked as a jay-bird** *US* completely naked. **naked as a needle** *arch.* completely naked. **naked bed** *arch.* for a naked occupant or one who has removed his or her ordinary clothes. **naked boys** = **naked ladies** *below*. **naked eye** vision unassisted by microscope, telescope, etc. **naked flooring** timbers supporting flooring boards. **naked force** unconcealed, ruthless force. **naked ladies** meadow saffron, *Calchicum autumnale*, whose flowers appear long before the leaves. **naked singularity** **ASTRONOMY** a space-time singularity which is not surrounded by an event horizon and would therefore be visible to an observer. **the naked truth** the plain truth, without concealment or addition.

▶ **B noun.** 1 The naked skin. *rare*. Only in **LME**.

2 A nude figure. Formerly also, *the* nude. **E17**.

3 The face or plain surface of a wall etc. **L17**.

2 **Zigzag** We still had to guarantee that there would be no more naked on the stage.

■ **nakedly** *adverb* **ME**. **knedness** *noun* **OE**.

**naker** /'neɪkə/ *noun*. **ME**.

[Old French *naç(a)ire* = Italian *nacchera* (cf. medieval Latin *nacara*, Greek *anakara*) from Arab. *nakkāra* drum.]

Chiefly *Hist.* A kettledrum.

■ **nakerer** *noun* (long *rare* or *obsolete*) a person who plays the naker **ME**.

**nakhilite** /'nɑːklaɪt/ *noun*. **E20**.

[from El *Nakhla* el Baharia, a village in Egypt + *-ite*.]

**GEOLOGY**. An achondrite containing about 75 per cent ferroan diopside and 15 per cent olivine.

■ **nakhilitic** /-ɪtɪk/ *adjective* **M20**.

**nakhoda** /'nɑːkədə/ *noun*. **E17**.

[Persian & Urdu *nākūdā*, from *nāw* boat, ship + *kudā* master.]

The captain or master of a local boat in Indo-Malayan waters.

**nakodo** /'nɑːkodo, 'nɑːkədoʊ/ *noun*. Pl. same. **-os**. **L19**.

[Japanese.]

In Japan, a person acting as go-between in the arrangement of a marriage.

**nala** *noun* var. of **NULLAH** *noun* 1.

**nalbuphine** /'nɒlbʊfiːn/ *noun*. **M20**.

[from **NAL(OR)PHINE** with inserted **bu** (rvl.)]

**PHARMACOLOGY**. A synthetic narcotic,  $C_{21}H_{29}NO_4$ , which is an analgesic structurally similar to morphine.

**naled** /'neɪlɪd/ *noun*. **M20**.

[Origin unkn.]

An agricultural organophosphorus pesticide,  $C_4H_7BrCl_2O_2P$ , of low toxicity to mammals and rapidly degradable.

**NALGO** /'nɒlɡəʊ/ *abbreviation*.

National and Local Government Officers' Association.

**nalidixic** /'nɒlɪ'dɪksɪk/ *adjective*. **M20**.

[from rearrangement of elems. (**NAPHTHALENE**, **CARBOXYLIC**, **DI-**) of the systematic name.]

**PHARMACOLOGY**. **nalidixic acid**, a heterocyclic organic acid,  $C_{12}H_{11}N_3O_5$ , given as a bacteriostatic antiseptic in the treatment of urinary infections.

**Nalline** /'nɒlɪːn/ *noun*. Also **n-**. **M20**.

[from *N-allylnormorphine*: see next.]

**PHARMACOLOGY**. (US proprietary name for) the drug nalorphine.

**nalorphine** /'nɒlɒːfɪn/ *noun*. **M20**.

[Contr. of *N-allylnormorphine*, from **ALLYL** + **NOR-** + **MORPHINE**.]

**PHARMACOLOGY**. A heterocyclic base,  $C_{19}H_{21}NO_3$ , very similar to morphine in structure and used as an antagonist for that drug and similar narcotics.

¶ A proprietary name for this drug in the US is **NALLINE**.

**naloxone** /'nɒ'lɒksən/ *noun*. **M20**.

[Contr. of *N-allylnoroxymorphine*: see prec., **OXY-**, **-ONE**.]

**PHARMACOLOGY**. A heterocyclic base resembling nalorphine in structure and action.  $C_{19}H_{21}NO_4$ .

**naltrexone** /'nɒl'treksən/ *noun*. **L20**.

[formed as prec. with arbitrary elem. *-trex-*.]

**PHARMACOLOGY**. A narcotic antagonist,  $C_{20}H_{23}NO_4$ , related to naloxone and nalorphine.

**NAM** *abbreviation*. **US**.

National Association of Manufacturers.

**Nama** /'nɑːmə/ *adjective & noun*. **M19**.

[Nama.]

▶ **A adjective**. Of, pertaining to, or designating a people living chiefly in Namaqualand (in western South Africa) and Namibia, or their language. **M19**.

▶ **B noun**. Pl. **-s**. same.

1 A member of the Nama people. **L19**.

2 The language of this people. **E20**.

¶ Also known by the names *Khoikhoi* and (formerly) *Hottentot*.

**Namaqua** /'nɑː'mɑːkwə/ *noun & adjective*. **L17**.

[Nama *nama* *gu* a.]

▶ **A noun**. Pl. **-s**. same. = **NAMA** *noun*. **L17**.

▶ **B adjective**. = **NAMA** *adjective*. **E19**.

**Namaqua** dove a small long-tailed dove, *Oena capensis*, found in Africa south of Sudan. **Namaqua grouse**, **Namaqua partridge**, **Namaqua sandgrouse** a game-bird, *Pterocles namaqua*, of southern Africa.

**Namaqualand daisy** /'nɑː'makwələnd/ *noun* *phr.* **M20**.

[Namaqualand, a province of western South Africa.]

An annual daisy, *Dimorphotheca sinuata* (family *Compositae*), native to Namaqualand, South Africa, and now widely cultivated.

**namaskar** /'nɑːmɑːskɑː/ *noun*. **M20**.

[Hindi from Sanskrit *namas* bowing, obeisance + *te* dat. of *tvam* you (sing.).]

A traditional Hindu gesture of greeting made by bringing the palms together before the face or chest and bowing. Cf. **WAI** *noun*.

**namaste** /'nɑːməsteɪ/ *noun, interjection, & verb*. **M20**.

[Hindi, from Sanskrit *namas* bowing, obeisance + *te* dat. of *tvam* you (sing.).]

▶ **A noun**. = *prec.* **M20**.

▶ **B interjection**. Expr. respectful greeting (said when giving a namaskar). **M20**.

▶ **C verb intrans.** Pres. ppl & verbal noun **-eing**. Give a namaskar. **M20**.

**namaycush** /'nɑːmeɪkʌʃ, -mɪk-/ *noun*. **L18**.

[Cree name: *kos* or *Ojibwa* name: *kokoss*.]

The N. American lake trout, *Salvelinus namaycush*.

**namby-pamby** /'nɒmbɪ'pæmbɪ/ *adjective & noun*. **M18**.

[Fanciful formation with redupl. on *Ambrose Philips* (d. 1749), author of pastorals ridiculed by Pope and by Carey (in *Namby Pamby*, 1726).]

▶ **A adjective**. Weakly sentimental, affectedly or childishly simple; lacking vigour. **M18**.

▶ **B noun**. 1 **B. A. STAPLES** These weren't namby-pamby fights . . . but brutal affairs. M. KEYES There was something very namby-pamby about a man living in the family home.

2 **A noun**. 1 Namby-pamby speech, behaviour, writing, etc.; an instance of this. **M18**.

2 A namby-pamby person. **L19**.

2 **P. SCOTT** She thought him a bit of a namby-pamby.

■ **namby-pambyism** *noun* namby-pamby quality; an instance of this: **M19**.

**name** /neɪm/ *noun & adjective*.

[Old English *nama*, *noma* = Old Frisian *nama*, *noma*, Old Saxon, Old High German *nama* (Dutch *naam*, German *Name*), Old Norse *nafr*, *namn*, Gothic *namn*, from Germanic from Indo-European, cogn. with Latin *nomen*, Greek *onoma*, Sanskrit *nāman*.]

▶ **A noun**. 1 **I 1** A word or combination of words constituting the individual designation by which a person, animal, place, or thing is known, spoken of, etc. **OE**.

▶ **B STOCK EXCHANGE**. The ticket bearing the name of the purchaser of stock, handed over to the selling broker on ticket-day. **E20**.

2 A word or combination of words designating an object of thought, esp. one applicable to many individuals. **OE**. ▶ **b** A title of rank or dignity. Chiefly *Scot.* **LME-L17**.

1 **SHAKES.** *Merry W.* Peter Simple you say your name is? H. E. BATES The name of the eldest . . . was Dulcima. **Christian name, forename, maiden name, place-name, street name**, etc. 2 **TENNYSON** Thus he bore without abuse The grand old name of gentleman. I. McEWAN His ignorance of the names of trees and plants. **taxonomic name, trade name**, etc.

▶ **II 3** The individual designation or personality of a divine being, as God, Christ, etc., esp. as the object of formal devotion. **OE**.

4 **a** The individual designation of a person spoken of with admiration, commendation, etc. **ME**. ▶ **b** A famous or notorious person, a celebrity; a person or organization whose individual designation is well known. **E17**.

5 **(Also N-.)** An underwriting member of Lloyd's. **L19**.

5 **a** A person, esp. a well-known one, distinguished by an individual designation. **LME**. ▶ **b** All those people collectively bearing or counted as distinguished by a particular designation; a family, a clan, a people. **LME**.

3 **J. WESLEY** There we adore Eternal Name. 4 **A SHAKES.** *Meas.* for M. My unsold'd name, th' austereness of my word. **TENNYSON** If they find some stain or blemish in a name of note. **b** **J. BETJEMAN** His publisher believed that a 'name' was needed to help sell the book. *Daily Express* Famous retail names are involved. Once they move out of a town centre, others . . . follow. 5 **A SHAKES.** *Hen. V* By the hand Of that black name, Edward, Black Prince of Wales. A. ALISON Names since immortalised in the rolls of fame were . . . assembled. **b** **LD MACAULAY** All the clans hostile to the name of Campbell were set in motion.

▶ **III 6** The reputation of some character or attribute; a reputation of a specified kind. **ME**.

7 A person's reputation. Freq. with specifying word, as *good*, *ill*, etc. **ME**.

8 Repute, fame, distinction. Now *rare*. **ME**.

6 **S. AUSTIN** If he were victorious, he would . . . bequeath a great name to posterity. *Law Times* No profession will lightly earn for itself the name of a profession of hiring suborners of perjury. A. LURIE He's got a name in some circles, but essentially he's a fraud. 7 **W. COWPER** Flavia, most tender of her own good name. T. MEDWIN Hourly came Fresh followers, lured by his success and name. 8 **BACON** Senators that had name and opinion for general wise men. **TENNYSON** He lay as dead And lost to life and use and name and fame.

▶ **IV 9** A mere appellation as distinct from an actual person or thing; a thing existing only nominally. **ME**.

9 **SHAKES.** *All's Well* 'Tis but the shadow of a wife you see, The name and not the thing.

**Phrases:** a **name to conjure with**: see **CONJURE** *verb*. by **name** called (freq. *postpositive*), by **the name** of called or known by, having, the name of. **call out of one's name, call someone names**: see **CALL** *verb*. for **one's name sake**, for **one's name's sake**: see **SAKE** *noun* 1. **get the name of** *arch.* have the reputation of (being). **give it a name colloq.** what would you like to drink? **have a person's name and number on it**: see **NUMBER** *noun*. **have a person's name on it** = **have a person's name and number on it** s.v. **NUMBER** *noun*. **have one's name in lights** (of an actor etc.) have one's name displayed in lights outside a theatre etc.; *fig.* be famous. **have —, to one's name** possess, in **all but name** virtually. in **God's name, in Heaven's name**, etc., invoking, relying on, or calling to witness God, Heaven, etc., (freq. as *interjection* & in exclamatory phrs.). in **name (only)** as a mere formality, hardly at all. in **one's own name** independently; not on the authority of anyone else. in **the name of (a)** invoking, relying on, calling to witness, (freq. as *interjection* & in exclamatory phrs., as in *the name of God*, in *the name of goodness*, in *the name of wonder*, etc.); (b) acting as a deputy for or on behalf of; (c) (now *rare* or *obsolete*) in the identity of, in the guise of; (d) indicating the stated ownership of. **keep one's name on the books** remain a member of a college, club, etc. **know by name (a)** know individually; (b) know by repute, not personally or actually. **make a name for oneself** become famous. **no names, no pack-did** discretion will prevent punishment. **of name, of great name**, etc., *arch.* noted, distinguished, famous. **of no name, without a name, without name** obscure, unimportant. **one's name is mud**: see **MUD** *noun* 1. or **my name is not —** expr. asseveration. **over one's name**: see **OVER** *preposition*. **put one's name down (for)**. **put a person's name down (for)** (a) apply, enter, as a candidate etc. (for); (b) promise to subscribe (to). **take a person's name in vain**: see **VAIN** *adjective*. **take one's name off the books** withdraw from membership of a college, club, etc. **the name of the game colloq.** the purpose or essence of an action etc. **variable name**: see **VARIABLE** *noun* 1b. **without a name, without name**: see **of no name** *above*.

**Comb.** **name-calling** abusive language, mere abuse; **name-check (a)** the public mention of a person's name, esp. in acknowledgement of his or her contribution to a particular matter; (b) an official check on a person's credentials, esp. for security or criminal investigation; **name-child** *arch.* a person named after another person; **name-day** (a) the feast-day of the particular saint after whom a person is named; (b) = **ticket-day** s.v. **TICKET** *noun*; **name-drop** *verb intrans.* practise name-dropping; **name-dropper** a person who name-drops; **name-dropping** familiar mention of the name of a distinguished person as implying one's own importance; **name-plate** (a) the title role of a play, book, ballet, etc.; **name-plate** a plate or panel bearing the name of the occupant of a room etc. or of the thing to which it is attached; **name-son** *arch.* a male person named after another person; **name-story** the story from which a volume of collected short stories is named; **name-tag** a tag, label, badge, etc., (to be) inscribed with a name identifying the person or object to which it is fixed; **name-tape** a piece of tape fixed to a garment etc. bearing the name of the owner.

▶ **B attrib.** or as *adjective*. Of or pertaining to a widely-known group of people (esp. a jazz band), commercial product, etc. **M20**.

20 **Century** A big factor in the sale of the more popular 'name' records is the personality cult.

■ **nameworthy** *adjective* (*arch.*) noteworthy, notable **L16**.

**name** /neɪm/ *verb trans.*

[Old English (*ge*)*namian*, from West Germanic; partly directly from the noun.]

▶ **I 1** Give a name or names to (a person, place, etc.); call by a specified name. (Foll. by *after, from*, *in*, *now* chiefly *N. Amer.*) *for*, and with a name as compl.] Freq. in *pass.* **OE**.

2 Call by a specified title or epithet. Formerly also, give (a person etc.) the name of being; allege, declare, (a person or thing) to be. *arch.* **OE**.

b but, d dog, f few, g get, h he, j yes, k cat, l leg, m man, n no, p pen, r red, s sit, t top, v van, w we, z zoo, j she, ʒ vision, θ thin, ð this, ŋ ring, ʃ chip, dʒ jar



### 3 Call by the right name. ME.

❏ **1** T. S. ELIOT We named the child Barnabas. P. L. FERMOR He had discovered an Indian mineral which was named after him. **2** SHELLEY Silence! Oh, well are Death and Sleep and Thou Three brethren named. **3** SHAKES. Wint. T. There is a sickness Which puts some of us in distemper; but I cannot name the disease. R. BURNS I'm sure I've seen that bonie face, But yet I canna name ye.

► **II 4** Nominate or appoint (a person) to an office, position, etc. Freq. foll. by *to*. OE.

**5** Mention or specify by name. OE. ► **b** Make mention of, speak about, (a fact, circumstance, etc.); cite as an instance; state, give particulars of. M16. ► **c** *refl.* Announce one's own name. arch. L16. ► **d** Of the Speaker of the House of Commons: mention (a Member of Parliament) by name as disobedient to the chair. L18. ► **e** Cite as co-respondent in a divorce petition. L20.

**6** With cognate obj.: utter, mention, (a name). Formerly also, utter (a word); say. LME.

**7** Specify as something desired, suggested, or decided on: appoint or fix (a sum, time, etc.). L16.

❏ **4** SHAKES. Macb. He is already nam'd, and gone to Scone To be invested. T. JEFFERSON In the meantime a consul general is named to St. Domingo. **5** SHELLEY The crimes which mortal tongue dare never name. JOAN SMITH The man, who has not been named, was taken to police headquarters, **name and shame** make public details of failure, wrongdoing, or other shortcoming on the part of a specified person, institution, etc. ► **b** TENNYSON Hear The wish too strong for words to name. J. R. GREEN The measures we have named were only part of Henry's legislation. ► **c** SHAKES. Coriol. Necessity Commands me name myself. **6** SHAKES. 3 Hen. VI What's worse than murderer, that I may name it? DEFOE It is a... profane thing to name his name on slight occasions. **7** J. WAINWRIGHT I'll pay... just name it.

Phrases: **name no names** refrain from naming the people involved in an incident etc. **name the day** arrange a date, esp. (of a woman) fix the date for one's wedding. **you name it** colloq. everything that you can think of is available, has been done, etc.

■ **nameability** *noun* the quality of being nameable. L19. **nameable** *adjective* (a) worthy of being named; memorable; (b) able to be named; (earlier in UNNAMEABLE): M17. **namer** *noun* E17.

### nameless /'neɪmləs/ *adjective*. ME.

[from *NAME* *noun* + *-LESS*.]

**1** Not possessed of a distinguished or famous name; obscure, inglorious; left in obscurity. ME.

**2** Not specified by name, left unnamed on purpose; having an undivulged name; impersonal, unknown. LME.

**3** Orig., (of a book, letter, etc.) of undeclared source or authorship, anonymous. Later, (of a tomb etc.) not having a name or identifying inscription. E16.

**4a** Not having any legal right to a name, illegitimate. arch. L16. **b** That has not been named; unnamed. M17.

**5** That cannot be definitely named or described; inexpressible, indefinable. L16.

**6** That one shrinks from naming; inexpressibly loathsome and horrific. E17.

❏ **1** MILTON Nameless in dark oblivion let them dwell. **2** LD MACAULAY The two nameless executioners who had done their office... on the scaffold. *Sounds* The road manager of a headlining band that shall remain nameless. M. ANGELOU A lady can't drink with a nameless man. **3** J. WESLEY One of the hearers wrote me a nameless letter upon it. A. A. PROCTER Over a nameless grave. **4a** DRYDEN And into Noble Families advance A Nameless Issue. **b** S. ROGERS A thousand nameless rills that shun the light. **5** CLIVE JAMES Nameless fears haunted the mind. **6** H. P. LIDDON Paganism allowed man to sink beneath a flood of nameless sensualities.

■ **namelessly** *adverb* L18. **namelessness** *noun* E19.

### namely /'neɪmli/ *adjective*. Now only Scot. LME.

[from *NAME* *noun* + *-LY*.]

Distinguished, famous, notable (*for*).

### namely /'neɪmli/ *adverb*. ME.

[from *NAME* *noun* + *-LY*, rendering Latin *nominatim* by name, expressly, in detail.]

**1** Particularly, especially, above all. Long *obsolete* exc. Scot. ME. ► **b** By name, individually. *rare*. M-L16.

► **2** At least, at any rate. *rare*. Only in ME.

**3** That is to say. Formerly also, (foll. by *as*) for example. LME.

❏ **3** J. NORRIS Namely, to consider what is meant by the Law. T. HARDY Its situation gave the house what little distinctive name it possessed, namely, 'The Knap'.

### namesake /'neɪmskeɪ/ *noun* & *verb*. M17.

[from *NAME* *noun* + *SAKE* *noun*<sup>1</sup>, prob. ult. from *for one's name's sake* s.v. *SAKE* *noun*<sup>1</sup>.]

► **A** *noun*. A person or thing having the same name as another. M17.

► **B** *verb trans.* Call by the same name; name *after*. *rare*. M17.

### Namibian /nə'mɪbiən/ *noun* & *adjective*. M20.

[from *Namibia* (see below), from *Namib* a desert on the west coast of Africa + *-IAN*.]

► **A** *noun*. A native or inhabitant of Namibia, a country in SW Africa between Angola and Cape Province. M20.

► **B** *adjective*. Of or pertaining to Namibia or the Namibians. M20.

### Namierian /nei'mɪəriən/ *noun* & *adjective*. M20.

[from *Namier* (see below) + *-IAN*.]

► **A** *noun*. An adherent of the methods and theories of the Polish-born British historian Sir Lewis Namier (1886-1960), esp. as concerning the influence of politics on the course of history. M20.

► **B** *adjective*. Of or pertaining to the historical theories or techniques of Namier. M20.

■ **Namierite** *noun* & *adjective* = **NAMIERIAN** M20.

**Namierization** *noun* the application of Namier's methods and theories to a historical situation M20.

**Namierize** *verb intrans.* practise Namierization M20.

### naming /'neɪmɪŋ/ *verb* *noun*. ME.

[from *NAME* *verb* + *-ING*.]

The action or result of *NAME* *verb*.

**naming of parts** the process of becoming acquainted, or of acquainting others, with the essentials of an unfamiliar object or topic.

### namma hole *noun* *phr.* var. of GNAMMA HOLE.

### nan /næn/ *noun*<sup>1</sup>. arch. L17.

[from *Nan* familiar form of female forename *Ann*(e).]

A serving-maid.

### nan /næn/ *noun*<sup>2</sup>. Also **naan**. E20.

[Persian & Urdu *nān*.]

In Indian cookery, a type of leavened bread cooked esp. in a clay oven.

### nan /næn/ *noun*<sup>3</sup>. nursery & colloq. M20.

[from *GRAN* or abbreviation of *NANNY* *noun*.]

Grandmother. Also (occas.), a child's nursemaid.

### nana /'nænə/ *noun*<sup>1</sup>. nursery & colloq. Also **nanna**. M19.

[formed as *NAN* *noun*<sup>1</sup>.]

= *NAN* *noun*<sup>1</sup>.

### nana /'nænə/ *noun*<sup>2</sup>. M20.

[Aphet. from *BANANA*.]

**1** A banana, nursery & joc. M20.

**2** A foolish person, a fool. *slang*. M20.

**3** The head. *Austral. slang*. M20.

### nanberry /'nænb(ə)rɪ/ *noun*. dial. E18.

[Alt. of *ANBURY*.]

= *ANBURY* 1.

### nance /'næns/ *noun*. *slang*. derog. E20.

[Abbreviation.]

= *NANCY* *noun*<sup>2</sup>.

### nancy /'nænsi/ *noun*<sup>1</sup>. E19.

[from *Anancy*, *Anansi*, spider character in W. African & W. Indian folklore from Twi *ananse* spider: infl. by the female forename *Nancy*.]

**nancy-story**, **nancy-tale**, a type of folk-tale popular in W. Africa and the W. Indies.

### nancy /'nænsi/ *noun*<sup>2</sup>. *slang*. derog. E20.

[from *Miss Nancy* s.v. *MISS* *noun*<sup>2</sup>.]

An effeminate man or boy; a homosexual man. Also **nancy-boy**.

■ **nancified** *adjective* (of a man) effeminate; (of a thing) bland, weak, fustily overelaborated. E20.

### Nancy Dawson /'nænsi 'dɔːs(ə)n/ *noun* *phr.* Now *rare* or *obsolete*. M18.

[Perh. from the name of a prostitute.]

A sailor's dance to the tune of the song 'Nancy Dawson'. Also (*slang*), a male homosexual.

### NAND /nænd/ *noun*. M20.

[from *not and*.]

**COMPUTING**. A Boolean operator which gives the value zero if and only if all the operands are unity, and is otherwise unity; = **NOT AND**. *Usu. attrib.*

### Nandi /'nændi/ *noun*<sup>1</sup>. E19.

[Sanskrit *Nandī*, *-dīn*.]

In Hindu mythology, the bull of Siva which is his vahana or vehicle and symbolizes fertility; a figure or statue of Nandi.

### Nandi /'nændi/ *noun*<sup>2</sup> & *adjective*. L19.

[*Nandi*.]

► **A** *noun*. Pl. same.

**1** A member of an E. African people of mixed origin which inhabits an area on the Uganda-Kenya border. L19.

**2** The Nilotic language spoken by the Nandi and some neighbouring peoples. E20.

► **B** *attrib.* or *as adjective*. Of or pertaining to the Nandi or their language. E20.

**Nandi bear** a hypothetical animal resembling a bear, said to inhabit parts of E. Africa.

### Nandrolone /'nændrəlɒn/ *noun*. M20.

[from *NOR*-1 + *ANDR*(O-) + *-OL* + *-ONE*, elems. of alternative chemical name.]

A synthetic anabolic steroid, C<sub>19</sub>H<sub>26</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (also called **19-nortestosterone**), which has tissue-building properties and is used (often illegally) to enhance performance in sport.

### Nanga /'næŋgə/ *adjective*. M20.

[Japanese, abbreviation of *Nanshuga*, from *nanshu* southern China + *ga* painting, picture.]

Designating, of, or pertaining to an intellectual style of Japanese painting.

### †nanguer *noun*. L18-M19.

[French, from a local name.]

**ZOOLOGY**. An antelope of Senegal, probably a reedbuck.

### nanism /'neɪzɪ(ə)m/ *noun*. M19.

[French *nanisme*, from Latin *nanus* (Greek *nanos*) dwarf: see *-ISM*.] The condition of being abnormally small; the tendency to become stunted; an instance of this.

### nankeen /'næŋ'kiːn, næn-/ *noun* & *adjective*. Also **-kin** /-kɪn/. N-M18.

[from *Nankin*(g) in China.]

► **A** *noun*. **1** A kind of pale yellowish cotton cloth, orig. made from a yellow variety of cotton but now usu. dyed. Also **nankeen cloth**. M18. ► **b** A kind or variety of this cloth. L18. ► **c** In pl. Trousers made of nankeen. E19.

**2** The colour of nankeen; a pale yellowish buff. L18.

**3 a** (Usu. N-) In full **Nankeen porcelain**, **Nankeen ware**, etc. A kind of usu. blue and white Chinese porcelain. M18. ► **b** = **blonde lace** s.v. **BLOND** *adjective*. M19.

► **B** *attrib.* or *as adjective*. Made of nankeen; of the pale yellowish-buff colour of nankeen. L18.

**Comb. & special collocations**: **nankeen cloth**: see sense 1 above; **nankeen cotton** the variety of cotton from which nankeen cloth was originally made; **nankeen hawk** = **nankeen kestrel** below; **nankeen heron** = **nankeen night heron** below; **nankeen kestrel** a small Australasian falcon, *Falco cenchroides*; **nankeen night heron** a nocturnal heron, *Nycticorax caledonicus*, of Australia and the SW Pacific islands.

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a cat. u: arm, e bed, a: her, i sit, i cosy, i: see, ɒ hot, ɔ: saw, a run, ʊ put, u: too, ə ago, ʌ my, ə how, eɪ day, ə no, e: hair, ɪ near, ɔɪ boy, ʊə poor, ʌɪə tire, əʊə sour

**nanomachine** *noun* a machine or device of nanotechnological scale **L20**. **nanotechno** *logical adjective* of or pertaining to nanotechnology **L20**. **nanotech nology** *noun* the branch of technology that deals with dimensions and tolerances of 0.1 to 100 nanometres **L20**. **nanotube** *noun* (CHEMISTRY) a cylindrical molecule of a fullerene **L20**.

**nanoid** /ˈneɪɔɪd/ *adjective*. *rare*. **M19**.  
[formed as prec. + -OID.]  
Resembling a dwarf, dwarfish.

**nanophanerophyte** /ˌnɑːnəʊˈfʌnərə(ɔ)ˌfaɪt/ *noun*. **E20**.  
[French *nanophanerophyte*, formed as NANO- + PHANEROPHYTE.]  
A shrub or sub-shrub between 25 cm and 2 m (approx. 10 and 80 inches) in height, bearing its resting buds above the surface of the soil.

**nanoplankton** *noun* var. of NANNOPLANKTON.

**Nansen** /ˈnɑːns(ə)n/ *noun*. **E20**.  
[from Fridtjof Nansen (1861–1930), Norwegian diplomat and explorer.]  
**1** In full **Nansen passport**. A document of identification issued after the war of 1914–18 to a stateless person ineligible for a passport. **E20**.  
**2** OCEANOGRAPHY. **Nansen bottle**, a device for collecting water samples at predetermined depths. **M20**.

**nant** /ˈnɑːnt/ *noun*. **M19**.  
[Welsh.]  
In Wales: a brook, a valley.

**Nantgarw** /ˈnɑːntˈɡarʊ/ *noun*. **E19**.  
[See below.]  
In full **Nantgarw porcelain**, **Nantgarw ware**, etc. A kind of translucent soft-paste porcelain produced between 1813 and 1920 in Nantgarw, a village in S. Wales.

**Nanticoke** /ˈnɑːntɪkəʊk/ *noun & adjective*. **E18**.  
[Nanticoke River, on the eastern side of Chesapeake Bay.]  
► **A** *noun*, Pl. same.  
**1** A member of an Algonquian people formerly inhabiting the Chesapeake Bay area of Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. **E18**.  
**2** The language of this people. **L19**.  
► **B** *attrib.* or *adjective*. Of or pertaining to the Nanticoke or their language. **E20**.

**Nants** *noun* var. of NANTZ.

**Nantucketer** /ˌnɑːntˈtʌkɪt/ *noun*. **M19**.  
[from Nantucket (see below) + -ER¹.]  
A native or inhabitant of Nantucket, an island off the coast of Massachusetts, USA.

**Nantz** /ˈnɑːnts/ *noun*. *arch.* Also **Nants**. **L17**.  
[from Nantes in France, a place of manufacture.]  
Brandy. Also **right Nantz**.

**naology** /ˈneɪˌɒlədʒi/ *noun*. **M19**.  
[formed as next + -LOGY.]  
The branch of knowledge that deals with sacred buildings.  
■ **nao** *logical adjective* **M19**.

**naos** /ˈneɪɔːs/ *noun*. **L18**.  
[Greek = temple.]  
(The inner cell or sanctuary of) a temple.

**naow** /ˈnəʊ, ˈnɑːʊ/ *adjective, adverb¹ & interjection*. *non-standard*. **E20**.  
[Repr. a pronunc. Cf. **NAH** *adverb² & interjection*, **NAW**.]  
► **A** *adjective*. = **NO** *adjective*. **E20**.  
► **B** *adverb & interjection*. = **NO** *adverb³ & interjection*. **M20**.

**naow** /ˈnəʊ, ˈnɑːʊ/ *adverb²*. *non-standard*. **E20**.  
[Repr. a pronunc. Cf. **NAH** *adverb¹*.]  
= **NOW** *adverb*.

**nap** /ˈnɑːp/ *noun¹*. **LME**.  
[from **NAF** *verb¹*.]  
A short or light sleep, *esp.* one taken during the day; a doze.

■ **A. BROOKNER** The dead hour between two and three, when sensible people . . . take a nap.

**nap** /ˈnɑːp/ *noun²*. Also **†knapp**. **LME**.  
[Middle Low German, Middle Dutch *noppe* (whence German, Danish *noppe*) rel. to *noppen* trim by shearing the nap.]  
**1** Orig. the rough layer of projecting threads or fibres on the surface of a woollen or other textile fabric. Now, a raised pile given to cloth, *esp.* velvet, by raising, cutting, and smoothing the short fibres. **LME**. ► **B** A cloth with a nap on it. Now *rare*. **M18**. ► **C** A bundle of bedding that is carried around, a swag. *Austral. slang*. **L19**.  
**2** *transf.* A soft downy surface resembling the nap of cloth. **L16**.  
**3** The smooth glossy surface of a felt, silk, etc. *hat*. **E18**.  
■ **T. T. DREISER** His feet sinking into the soft nap of the carpet. **E. WILSON** Sometimes this linen twill was brushed to form a raised nap.

**nap** /ˈnɑːp/ *noun³*. **E19**.  
[Abbreviation of **Napoleon**.]  
**1** = **NAPOLEON** **1**. **E19**.  
**2** A card-game in which each player receives five cards and declares the number of tricks he or she expects to

win; a call of five tricks in this game. Cf. **NAPOLEON** **5**. **M19**.

**3** A tipster's prediction of the horse most likely to win its race on a particular day; a horse etc. so tipped; a bet on such a horse etc. Also **nap selection**. *colloq.* **L19**.

■ **2 go nap** attempt to take all five tricks in nap; *fig. risk everything in one attempt; score five goals, wins, etc.* **not go nap** on *Austral. colloq.* not be keen on, not care much for; **3** Times Today's nap . . . is on First Division to maintain his . . . winning sequence.

**Comb.**: **nap hand** a hand likely to win all five tricks in nap; *fig.* a favourable position seen as inviting the taking of risks; a set of five things. **nap selection**: see sense **3** above.

**nap** /ˈnɑːp/ *noun⁴*. *Theatrical slang*. **M19**.  
[Perh. var. of **KNAP** *noun⁴*.]  
A pretended blow. *Esp.* in *give the nap, take the nap*.

**nap** /ˈnɑːp/ *verb¹ intrans.* **Infl.** -**pp-**.  
[Old English *hnapian* rel. to Old High German (*hnapfezzan* slumber, of unkn. origin.)]  
Sleep lightly or for a brief time; take a short sleep.  
**catch napping, take napping** find (a person) asleep; *fig.* take (a person) unawares or off guard; surprise (a person).

**nap** /ˈnɑːp/ *verb² trans.* Also **†knapp**. **Infl.** -**pp-**. **LME**.  
[Middle Low German, Middle Dutch *nappen*: see **NAF** *noun²*.]  
**1** Provide with a nap; raise a nap on. **LME**.  
† **2** Trim (cloth) by shearing the nap. **L15–L16**.

**nap** /ˈnɑːp/ *verb³ trans. slang*. Now *rare*. **Infl.** -**pp-**. **L17**.  
[Origin uncertain: cf. earlier **NAPPER** *noun²*, also **NAB** *verb¹*.]  
**1** Seize, catch, arrest, (a person or thing); steal (a thing). **L17**.  
**2** Receive, suffer, (a blow etc.). Chiefly in **nap it**, receive severe punishment, *esp.* in a boxing-match. **L17**.

**nap** /ˈnɑːp/ *verb⁴ trans. colloq.* **Infl.** -**pp-**. **E20**.  
[from **NAF** *noun¹*.]  
Name (a horse etc.) as a nap selection; predict, forecast. *Usu. in pass.*

■ **Racing Post Sharblask** . . . is napped to give Nicky Vigors a perfect start to the new Flat season.

**nap** /ˈnɑːp/ *verb⁵ intrans.* **Infl.** -**pp-**. **M20**.  
[Rel. to **NAPPY** *adjective¹* **3**.]  
Of a horse: refuse to go on at the rider's instruction.

**Napa** *noun¹* var. of **NAPPA**.

**napa** /ˈnɑːpə/ *noun²*. **L20**.  
[Japanese *nappa* greens.]  
In full **napa cabbage**. A form of Chinese cabbage. *Brassica rapa* var. *pekinensis*, with pale green leaves forming a tight head.

**napalm** /ˈneɪpɑːm, ˈnɑː-/ *noun & verb*. *Orig. US*. **M20**.  
[from **NA**(PHTHENIC) + **PALM**(ITATE).]  
► **A** *noun*. A thickening agent containing aluminium salts of naphthenic acids and of fatty acids of coconut oil; a thixotropic gel consisting of petrol and such a thickening agent, used in flame-throwers and incendiary bombs; jellied petrol. **M20**.  
► **B** *verb trans.* Attack or destroy with napalm. **M20**.

■ **Listener** The Greeks are told how the Turks bombed and napalmed innocent people.

**nape** /ˈneɪp/ *noun*. **ME**.  
[Origin unkn.]  
**1** The back of the neck. *Esp.* in **nape of the neck**. **ME**.  
**2** The fleshy part left projecting from a fish's backbone after the head has been removed. *Long obsolete exc. Canad. dial.* **L15**.

**napellus** /ˈnəˈpelas/ *noun*. Now *rare* or *obsolete*. **E17**.  
[Medieval Latin, from *napus* turnip, with ref. to the turnip-shaped root.]  
The plant monkshood, *Aconitum napellus*.

**naper** /ˈneɪpəri/ *noun*. **ME**.  
[Old French *naperie*, from *nap*(p)le tablecloth: see **NAPKIN**, -**ERY**.]  
**1** Linen used for various household purposes; *esp.* table linen. **ME**.  
† **2** The charge or custody of the royal linen; the position or office of naper. **L15–E17**.  
**3** A storeroom for linen. **E19**.  
■ **naperer** *noun* (*Hist.*) a person in charge of table linen in a royal or manor house. **LME**.

**naphtha** /ˈnɑːfθə/ *noun*. **LME**.  
[Latin from Greek (also *naphthos*), of oriental origin.]  
Orig., liquid petroleum, *esp.* as occurring naturally. Now, any of various mixtures of volatile flammable liquid distillation products used *esp.* as solvents and in petrol, derived (a) from petroleum, including aliphatic and alicyclic hydrocarbons with boiling points below 200°C, (b) from coal tar, including toluene, xylene, and other aromatic benzene derivatives. *Freq. attrib.* and with specifying words.

¶ *Rare before* **L16**.  
■ **naphthacene** *noun* [**ANTHRACENE**] **CHEMISTRY** an aromatic hydrocarbon, C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>10</sub>, whose molecule consists of four fused benzene rings and is the skeleton of the tetracyclines **M20**.  
**naphthous** *adjective* of the nature of naphtha **L19**.

**naphthalene** /ˈnɑːfθəlɪn/ *noun*. Also (earlier) **†-in**, **†-ine**. **E19**.  
[from prec. + **-in** + **-ENE**.]  
**CHEMISTRY**. A pungent crystalline aromatic compound, C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>, which is obtained as a distillation product of coal tar, and whose molecule consists of two six-membered rings fused along one side.

**naphthaleneacetic** /ˌnɑːfθəlɪnəˈsiːtɪk/ *adjective*. **E20**.  
[from prec. + **ACETIC**.]  
**CHEMISTRY**. **naphthaleneacetic acid**: either of two crystalline compounds, C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>COOH, derived from naphthalene; *spec.* (more fully ***α*-naphthaleneacetic acid**) one used to stimulate the rooting of plant cuttings and prevent premature dropping of fruit.

**naphthalic** /ˈnɑːfθalɪk/ *adjective*. *rare*. **M19**.  
[formed as **NAPHTHALENE** + **-IC**.]  
Naphthous; **CHEMISTRY** phthalic.

† **naphthalin(e)** *noun* see **NAPHTHALENE**.

**naphthalize** /ˈnɑːfθalaɪz/ *verb trans.* Also **-ise**. **M19**.  
[formed as **NAPHTHALENE** + **-IZE**.]  
Mingle, saturate, or impregnate with naphtha.  
■ **naphthali zation** *noun* **M19**.

**naphthaquinone** *noun* var. of **NAPHTHOQUINONE**.

**naphthene** /ˈnɑːfθiːn/ *noun*. **M19**.  
[from **NAPHTHA** + **-ENE**.]  
**CHEMISTRY**. **†1** A supposed constituent of naphtha (now regarded as a mixture). Only in **M19**.  
**2** Any of a class of saturated cyclic hydrocarbons (including cyclopentane and cyclohexane) present in or obtained from petroleum. **L19**.

**naphthenic** /ˈnɑːfθɪːnɪk/ *adjective*. **L19**.  
[from prec. + **-IC**.]  
**CHEMISTRY**. **1** **naphthenic acid**, (a mixture of) any of the carboxylic acids obtained in the refining of petroleum, *esp.* one derived from a naphthene. **L19**.  
**2** Of, pertaining to, or containing naphthenes. **M20**.  
■ **naphthenate** *noun* a salt or ester of a naphthenic acid **L19**.

**naphthol** /ˈnɑːfθɒl/ *noun*. **M19**.  
[from **NAPHTHA** + **-OL**.]  
**CHEMISTRY**. Either of two isomeric phenols, C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>O, derived from naphthalene.

**naphthoquinone** /ˌnɑːfθəˈkwɪnəʊn/ *noun*. Also **naphtha-**. **L19**.  
[from **NAPHTH**(ALENE) + **-O-** + **QUINONE**.]  
**CHEMISTRY**. Each of six isomeric compounds, C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>6</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, notionally obtained by replacing two of the CH groups of naphthalene by carbonyl groups; *spec.* (more fully **1,4-naphthoquinone**, ***α*-naphthoquinone**) a volatile yellow solid whose molecule forms part of the structure of vitamin K.

**naphthyl** /ˈnɑːfθɪl, -θɪl/ *noun*. **M19**.  
[from **NAPHTH**(ALENE) + **-YL**.]  
**CHEMISTRY**. Either of two isomeric radicals of naphthalene, C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>7</sub>·. *Usu. in comb.*

**Napierian** /ˈneɪˌpiəriən/ *adjective*. **E19**.  
[from **Napier** (see next) + **-IAN**.]  
Invented by or associated with John Napier.  
**Napierian** **LOGARITHM**.

**Napier's bones** /ˈneɪpiəz baʊnz/ *noun phr. pl.* **M17**.  
[John Napier (1550–1617), Scot. mathematician.]  
Several narrow strips of ivory, wood, etc., divided into marked sections bearing digits, used as an aid to multiplication and division.

**napiform** /ˈneɪpɪfɔːm/ *adjective*. **M19**.  
[from Latin *napus* turnip + **-i-** + **-FORM**.]  
Formed like a turnip; **BOTANY** (of a root) round above and tapering below.

**napkin** /ˈnɑːpkɪn/ *noun*. **LME**.  
[Old & mod. French *nap*(p)le tablecloth from Latin *nappa* **MAP** *noun¹* (for the change of *m* to *n* cf. French *nappe* from Latin *mattu* mat): see **-KIN**.]  
**1** A usu. square piece of linen, paper, etc., used at a meal to wipe the fingers or lips and to protect garments, or to serve food on. Also **table napkin**. **LME**.  
**2** **a** A handkerchief. *Now only Scot. & north.* **LME**. **†b** A kerchief, a neckerchief. *Scot.* **L18**.  
**3** A cloth, a small towel. **L16**.  
**4** = **NAPPY** *noun³*. **M19**.  
**5** A sanitary towel. Also **sanitary napkin**. Chiefly *N. Amer.* **L19**.

■ **I. H. BELLOC** Gentlefolk who say 'napkin', side by side with those . . . of our modern world who say 'serviette'. **JULIAN GLOAG** Oliver tucked his napkin under his chin and picked up his knife and fork.

**Comb.**: **napkin-ring** a ring of silver, wood, etc., used to hold (and distinguish) a person's table napkin when not in use.  
■ **napkined** *adjective* wrapped in or covered with a napkin; provided with or served on a napkin: **M18**. **napkinning** *noun* (now *rare* or *obsolete*) material for napkins **M17**.

b but, d dog, f few, g get, h he, j yes, k cat, l leg, m man, n no, p pen, r red, s sit, t top, v van, w we, z zoo, f she, ʒ vision, θ thin, ð this, ŋ ring, tʃ chip, dʒ jar

**Naples** /ˈneɪp(ə)l/ *noun*. L17.

[A city in S. Italy.]

1 **Naples biscuit**, a kind of rosewater-flavoured biscuit. Now rare. L17.

2 **Naples yellow**, a pale yellow pigment orig. made at Naples with lead antimonate but now freq. a coloured zinc oxide; the colour produced by this. M18.

3 **Hist. Naples soap**, a soft brown soap formerly used for shaving. L18.

**napless** /ˈnæplɪs/ *adjective*. L16.

[from *NAP* *noun*² + *-LESS*.]

Having no nap; worn, threadbare.

■ **naplessness** *noun* M19.

**napoh** /ˈnɑːpəʊ/ *noun*. Also (earlier) †**napu**. E19.

[Malay.]

The greater chevrotain, *Tragulus napu*, of SE Asia.

**napoleon** /ˈnɑːpəliən/ *noun*. Also **N-**. E19.

[Forename of certain emperors of the French, esp. *Napoleon I* (Bonaparte) (1769–1821).]

1 A gold twenty-franc coin issued in the reign of the French emperor Napoleon I; a twenty-franc piece. E19.

2 (**N-**) A person regarded as resembling Napoleon I, esp. in having gained supremacy through ruthless ambition. E19.

3 **Hist.** A kind of high boot. M19.

4 A kind of cannon. US. M19.

5 **CARDS**. = *NAP* *noun*² 2. L19.

6 = *MILLEFEUILLE*. Chiefly N. Amer. L19.

7 A large bigarreau cherry with a red skin and white flesh. Cf. *Royal Ann(e)* s.v. *ROYAL adjective*. E20.

8 (Usu. **N-**) In full **Napoleon brandy**. Brandy of supposed great age or special merit; a glass or variety of this. M20.

■ **1 double napoleon** a forty-franc piece. **2** T. S. ELIOT The Cat who all the time just controls their operations: the Napoleon of Crime!

■ **Napoleonism** *noun* (a) the method of government practised by Napoleon I, spec. the assumption of absolute control over subject peoples or countries; (b) attachment to the policy or dynasty of the Napoleons; (c) conduct or behaviour resembling that of Napoleon I. E19. **Napoleonist** *noun & adjective* (a) *noun* an adherent of Napoleon I or the Napoleonic dynasty; (b) *adjective* pertaining or attached to Napoleon. E19. **Napoleonic** *adjective* Napoleonic; of the nature or characteristic of Napoleonism: L19. **Napoleonize** *verb trans.* govern in the style of Napoleon I. E19.

**Napoleonic** /ˈnəpəliˈɒnɪk/ *adjective*. M19.

[from prec. + *-IC*.]

Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of Napoleon I or his family or times.

■ G. B. SHAW It is assumed . . . that I look for the salvation of society to the despotism of a single Napoleonic Superman. A. BLOND A sense of purpose and efficiency which is almost Napoleonic. **Napoleonic Wars** a series of campaigns (1800–15) of French armies under Napoleon I against various European powers.

■ **Napoleonically** *adverb* M19.

**napoo** /ˈnɑːpuː/ *interjection, adjective, & verb. slang* (orig. MILITARY). E20.

[French *il n'y en a plus* there's none left.]

► **A interjection**. Finished!, gone!, done for!, goodbye. E20.

► **B adjective**. Finished; good for nothing; dead. E20.

► **C verb trans.** Finish, kill, destroy. E20.

**Nappa** /ˈnæpə/ *noun*. Also **Napa, n-**. L19.

[A county, town, and valley in California, USA.]

More fully **Nappa leather**. A soft leather prepared from sheep- or goat-skin by a special tawing process.

**nappe** /ˈnæp/ *noun*. L19.

[French, lit. 'tablecloth'.]

1 A sheet of water falling over a weir or similar surface. L19.

2 **GEOLOGY**. A sheet of rock which has moved horizontally over neighbouring strata, as a result of overthrusting or recumbent folding. E20.

**napped** /ˈnæpt/ *adjective*¹. LME.

[from *NAP* *noun*², *verb*²; see *-ED*², *-ED*¹.]

Of cloth: having a nap.

**napped** /ˈnæpt/ *adjective*². L20.

[translating French *nappe*, *pa. pple* of *napper* coat (with a sauce), from *nappe* coating (see *NAPPE*).]

Coated (with a thick sauce); served in a sauce or other liquid.

**napper** /ˈnæpə/ *noun*¹. LME.

[from *NAP* *verb*¹ + *-ER*.]

A person who naps or takes a nap.

†**napper** *noun*². *slang*. M17–E18.

[Rel. to *NAP* *verb*²; see *-ER*¹.]

A thief.

¶ The 2nd elem. of *KIDNAPPER*.

**napper** /ˈnæpə/ *noun*³. *rare*. E18.

[from *NAP* *verb*² + *-ER*.]

A person who or machine which raises the nap on cloth.

**napper** /ˈnæpə/ *noun*⁴. *dial. & slang*. L18.

[Origin unkn.]

The head.

**napping** /ˈnæpɪŋ/ *noun*. LME.

[from *NAP* *verb*² + *-ING*¹.]

The action of raising a nap on cloth. Also, the nap on cloth; material used for the nap of a hat.

**nappy** /ˈnæpi/ *noun*¹. Now *Scot. & dial.* M18.

[from *NAPPY* *adjective*¹.]

Strong or foaming beer; liquor.

**nappy** /ˈnæpi/ *noun*². N. Amer. M19.

[Origin unkn.]

An earthenware or glass dish with sloping sides.

**nappy** /ˈnæpi/ *noun*³. E20.

[Abbreviation of *NAPKIN*: see *-Y*⁶.]

A usu. square piece of towelling etc. wrapped and pinned on a baby to absorb or retain urine and faeces; a disposable equivalent of cotton wool etc. with a water-proof backing.

■ J. DISKI Young men who are tired of life as soon as they're out of nappies.

**Comb.**: **nappy-liner**: see *LINER* *noun*¹ 3b; **nappy pin** a kind of large curved safety pin used for fastening a nappy; **nappy rash** redness of an infant's skin where it is in persistent contact with soiled nappies.

**nappy** /ˈnæpi/ *adjective*¹. LME.

[Prob. transf. use of next.]

1 Of beer etc.: having a head, foaming; heady, strong. LME.

2 Slightly intoxicated or exhilarated by drink. E18.

3 Of a horse: awkward, disobedient. E20.

**nappy** /ˈnæpi/ *adjective*². L15.

[Middle Dutch *noppigh*, Middle Low German *noppich*, from *nappe* *NAP* *noun*²; see *-Y*¹.]

1 Of cloth etc.: having a nap, downy, shaggy. L15.

2 Of hair, esp. that of a black person: fuzzy, kinky. (US *slang, derog.*) E20.

†**napron** *noun & verb* see *APRON*.

†**napu** *noun* see *NAPOH*.

**nar** /ˈnɑː/ *adjective, adverb, & preposition. obsolete exc. north. Compar. & superl. -rr-*.

[Old English *nearra* etc. compar. of *neah* *NIGH* *adverb, preposition, & adjective*; in Middle English perh. partly from Old Norse *naerri*. Cf. *NEAR* *adverb¹ & preposition¹*, *NEAR* *adverb² & preposition²*.]

► **A adjective**. 1 Nearer, closer; that is the nearer of two. OE.

2 **a** In compar.: nearer. **ME**. ► **b** In superl.: nearest. **ME**.

► **B adverb**. 1 Nearer, closer. Cf. *NEAR* *adverb¹*. **ME**.

2 Near, close. **ME**. ► **b** Nearly, almost. *rare*. **ME**.

► **C preposition**. Near or close to. **ME**.

**Nara** /ˈnɑːrə/ *adjective*. E20.

[See below.]

Of, pertaining to, or designating Buddhist sculpture of the period (710–84) during which Nara in central Honshu was the capital of Japan.

**naras** /ˈnɑːrəs/ *noun*. Pl. same. Also **narra** /ˈnɑːrə/. M19.

[Nama.]

A leafless spiny shrub of the gourd family, *Acanthosicyos horrida*, occurring in the Kalahari desert and Namibia; the spiny edible fruit of this plant, which inside resembles a melon.

**narc** /ˈnɑːk/ *noun. slang* (chiefly N. Amer.). M20.

[Abbreviation of *NARCOTIC*.]

An official narcotics agent. Cf. *NARCO* 2.

**narceine** /ˈnɑːsiːn/ *noun*. M19.

[French *narceïne*, from Greek *narkē* numbness: see *-INE*².]

**PHARMACOLOGY**. A narcotic tricyclic alkaloid,  $C_{23}H_{27}NO_6$ , obtained from opium and formerly used therapeutically.

■ Also †**narceia** *noun* M–L19.

**narcism** /ˈnɑːsɪz(ə)m/ *noun*. M20.

[Contr.]

**PSYCHOLOGY**. Narcissism.

**narciss** /ˈnɑːsɪs/ *noun*. Now *rare*. L16.

[Latin *NARCISSUS* or French *narcisse*.]

**BOTANY**. A narcissus.

**narcissi** *noun pl.* see *NARCISSUS*.

**narcissine** /ˈnɑːsɪsaɪn/ *adjective*. M17.

[Latin *narcissinus* from Greek *narkissos* of narcissus: see *NARCISSUS*, *-INE*².]

1 Of or pertaining to a plant of the genus *Narcissus*. *rare*. Only in M17.

2 Loving or admiring oneself, narcissistic. E19.

**narcissism** /ˈnɑːsɪsɪz(ə)m, nɑːsɪs-/ *noun*. E19.

[from Latin *Narcissus* from Greek *Narkissos* a youth in Greek mythol. who fell in love with his own reflection in water and pined away: see *-ISM*.]

Self-love, extreme vanity; **PSYCHOLOGY** emotional or erotic gratification gained from contemplation of one's self or one's appearance.

■ B. TRAPIDO His preening beauty, which borders upon the physically repulsive in its narcissism.

■ **narcissist** *noun* a person affected or characterized by narcissism; an excessively self-admiring person: M20.

**narcissistic** /ˈnɑːsɪˈsɪstɪk/ *adjective*. E20.

[from prec.: see *-ISTIC*.]

Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of narcissism; marked or caused by excessive self-love.

■ A. STORR Ruthlessly narcissistic people for whom the monologue is a substitute for conversation. P. D. JAMES Barbara was incapable of passing a mirror without that moment of narcissistic stillness.

■ **narcissistically** *adverb* E20.

**narcissus** /ˈnɑːsɪsəs/ *noun*. In sense 2 also **N-**. Pl. **-ssi** /-saɪ/, **-ssuses**. M16.

[Latin from Greek *narkissos*, perh. from *narkē* numbness, with ref. to its narcotic effects: for sense 2 see *NARCISSISM*.]

1 **BOTANY**. Any of numerous bulbous spring-flowering plants of the genus *Narcissus* (family Amaryllidaceae), much grown for ornament; esp. one with a corona shorter than the perianth segments and often several flowers on the stem (cf. *DAFFODIL*); spec. (also *pheasant's eye narcissus*) the plant *N. poeticus*, which has a fragrant white flower with a short yellow crimson-edged corona. Also, a flowering stem of such a plant. M16.

2 A (usu. physically attractive) person characterized by extreme self-regard; a narcissist. E17.

■ 1 **POETAZ narcissus**. 2 **attrib.**: A. J. MUNBY His face . . . seemed to me weak and self-conscious; a Narcissus face.

**Comb.**: **narcissus fly** a hoverfly, *Merodon equestris*, resembling a bee, whose larvae infest the bulbs of narcissus and other plants, causing them to rot.

**narco** /ˈnɑːkəʊ/ *noun. US slang*. Pl. **-os**. M20.

[Abbreviation of *NARCOTIC*: sense 3 perh. infl. by Spanish *narcotraficante*.]

1 = *NARCOTIC* *noun*. M20.

2 = *NARC*. M20.

3 A drug trafficker, a drug dealer. L20.

**narco** /ˈnɑːkəʊ/ *combining form*.

[from Greek *narkē* numbness, deadness, or extracted from *NARCOTIC*: see *-O*.]

Forming nouns and related adjectives with the senses 'pertaining to or involving the therapeutic use of narcotic drugs', as *narco-hypnosis*, *narco-therapy*; 'pertaining to the use of and trade in illegal narcotics', as *narcodollar*.

■ **narco terrorism** *noun* terrorism associated with illicit drugs, esp. directed against law enforcement L20. **narco terrorist** *noun* a person who engages in narcoterrorism L20.

**narcolepsy** /ˈnɑːkəlepsi/ *noun*. L19.

[formed as prec. + *-lepsy*, after *EPILEPSY*.]

**MEDICINE**. A condition characterized by a recurrent tendency to fall asleep in circumstances conducive to relaxation.

■ **narcolept** *noun* = *NARCOLEPTIC* *noun* M20. **narcoleptic** *adjective & noun* (a) *adjective* characteristic of or affected by narcolepsy; (b) *noun* a narcoleptic person: E20.

**narcomania** /ˈnɑːkəˈmeɪniə/ *noun*. Now *rare* or *obsolete*. L19.

[from *NARCO* + *-MANIA*.]

**MEDICINE**. An uncontrollable craving for drugs.

■ **narcomaniac** *noun* L19. **narcomanial** *adjective* L19.

**narcosis** /ˈnɑːkəʊsɪs/ *noun*. Pl. **-coses** /-ˈkəʊsɪz/. L17.

[Greek *narkōsis*, from *narkōn* make numb: see next, *-OSIS*.]

**MEDICINE**. The operation or effects of narcotics on the body; a state of insensibility or stupor, esp. as induced by a drug; the production of this state. Also, therapeutic sleep artificially prolonged by the use of drugs.

**narcotic** /ˈnɑːˈkɒtɪk/ *noun & adjective*. LME.

[Old & mod. French *narcotique* or medieval Latin *narcoticus*, -um from Greek *narkōtikos*, -on, from *narkōn* make numb, from *narkē* numbness: see *-OTIC*.]

► **A** *noun*. 1 **MEDICINE**. A drug inducing drowsiness, sleep, or anaesthesia when ingested or injected, esp. an opiate. LME.

2 A drug affecting the mind and widely prohibited or controlled, but still sold and used illegally. Freq. in *pl.*, illegal drugs. Orig. US. E20.

■ T. K. A. PORTER Drowsy and dazed with his narcotic but unable to sleep. 2 **attrib.**: W. S. BURROUGHS The narcotics squad had a warrant for him sworn out by the State Inspector.

► **B** *adjective*. 1 (Of a substance etc.) having the property of a narcotic; *transf.* producing sleep through boredom, excessively dull. E16.

2 Of the nature of narcosis. M17.

■ T. C. KINGSLEY Stupid with mead made from narcotic heather honey. R. LANCIANI To lose hours upon hours in listening to silly and narcotic lecturers.

■ **narcotical** *adjective* (now *rare*) of a narcotic nature, soporific L16. **narcotically** *adverb* M17. **narcoticism** /-sɪz(ə)m/ *noun* (*rare*) narcosis E19.

**narcotise** *verb* var. of *NARCOTIZE*.

a cat, ʌ: arm, e bed, æ her, i sit, i cosy, i: see, o hot, ɔ: saw. ʌ run, ʊ put, u: too, ə ago, ʌ my, ə how, eɪ day, ə no, eɪ hair, ə near, ɔɪ boy, ʊə poor, ʌɪə tire, əʊə sour



**narcotism** /ˈnɑːkəʊt(ə)z(ə)m/ *noun*. **M19**.  
[from **NARCOTIC** + **-ISM**. Cf. French *narcotisme*.]  
**1** **MEDICINE** The condition produced by a narcotic, narcosis; the production of such a condition. **M19**.  
**2** **MEDICINE** A pathological inclination to sleep; hypersomnia. Now *rare* or *obsolete*. **M19**.  
**3** *transf.* The narcotic influence of something. **M19**.  
■ **narcotist** *noun* a person addicted to the use of narcotics **M19**.

**narcotize** /ˈnɑːkəʊtaɪz/ *verb trans*. Also **-ise**. **E16**.  
[from **NARCOTIC** + **-IZE**.]  
Stupefy or make insensible with a narcotic; *transf.* dull, deaden.  
[**Q**] Nature The effect of 2–5% alcohol is to narcotize the animals so that they cannot swim.  
[**Q**] Rare before **M19**.  
■ **narcotization** *noun* the action of narcotizing a person etc.; the state induced by a narcotic: **M19**.

**nard** /nɑːd/ *noun & verb*. As *noun* also **nardus** /nɑːdəs/. **LOE**.  
[Latin *nardus* from Greek *nardos* ult. from Sanskrit *nalada*, *narada*. Cf. Old French *narde* (mod. *narde*).]  
► **A noun**. **1** A fragrant ointment much prized by the ancients; the plant from whose rhizome it was prepared, prob. *Nardostachys grandiflora*, a Himalayan plant of the valerian family. Cf. **SPIKENARD**. Now chiefly *poet.* **LOE**.  
**2** With specifying word: (the root of) any of several other aromatic plants of the valerian family; *esp.* (in full *Celtic nard*) *Valeriana celtica*, of the mountains of Europe. **E17**.  
**2** **nard pistis**, **pistic nard**: see **pistic adjective** 1.  
► **B verb trans**. Anoint with nard. *rare*. **E19**.  
■ **nardine** *adjective* (long *rare*) of or pertaining to nard, having the qualities of nard **LME**.

**nardoo** /nɑːˈduː/ *noun*. **M19**.  
[Aboriginal.]  
**1** The sporocarp of the plant *Marsilea drummondii*, formerly used as food by Australian Aborigines; flour made from this. **M19**.  
**2** The plant *Marsilea drummondii* (family *Marsileaceae*), a four-leaved aquatic plant related to the ferns. **M19**.

**nardus** *noun* see **NARD**.  
**nare** /neː/ *noun*. *arch*. **LME**.  
[Latin: see next. Later partly back-form. from next.]  
**1** A nostril. Long *rare* exc. as in sense 2. **LME**.  
**2** *spec.* A nostril of a hawk. **L15**.

**nares** /ˈneːrɪz/ *noun pl*. **L17**.  
[Latin, pl. of *nares* nose, nostril.]  
**ANATOMY & ZOOLOGY** The nostrils (more fully **external nares**). Also (**internal nares**), the openings of the nasal cavity into the pharynx.  
■ **narial** *adjective* of the nares **L19**.

**narghile** /ˈnɑːgɪlə/ *noun*. Also **-eh**. **M18**.  
[Persian *nārgel* coconut, hookah from Sanskrit *nārikela* coconut; partly through French *nargiléh*, *-guiléh* from Turkish *nargile* from Persian *nārgīl*.]  
A hookah.

**narikin** /ˈnɑːrɪkɪn/ *noun*. **E20**.  
[Japanese.]  
In Japan, a wealthy parvenu.

**naringin** /nɑˈrɪndʒɪn/ *noun*. **L19**.  
[from Sanskrit *nāringi* orange tree, from Tamil *nāram* orange + *kāy* fruit: see **-IN**.]  
**CHEMISTRY** A bitter flavonoid glucoside found in shaddock, grapefruit, and certain types of orange.

**nark** /nɑːk/ *noun & verb*. *slang*. **M19**.  
[Romany *nāk* nose.]  
► **A noun**. **1 a** An informer, *esp.* (also **copper's nark**) a police informer. **M19**. **1b** A police officer. **L19**.  
**2 a** An annoying, unpleasant, obstructive, or quarrelsome person. Chiefly *Austral. & NZ.* **M19**. **1b** An annoying or unpleasant thing or situation; a source of irritation; a bad mood, a fit of anger. **E20**.  
► **B verb**. **1 a verb trans**. Watch, look after. **M19**. **1b verb intrans**. Act as an informer. **M19**.  
**2 a verb trans**. Annoy, exasperate, infuriate. *Freq.* as **marked ppl adjective**. **L19**. **1b verb intrans**. Complain, grumble. **E20**.  
**3 verb trans**. (usu. with *it*). Cease, stop. *Freq.* in *imper.* **L19**.  
[**Q**] **2a** E. J. BANFIELD He'll be a bit narked at having wasted a whole bloomin' day. **3 R. HOGGART** These chaps ought to pack it up. Nark it, chums.

■ **narker** *noun* an informer; a police officer; a complainer, a disparager: **M20**. **narky** *adjective* irascible, irritable, bad-tempered; sarcastic, disparaging: **L19**.

**narks** /nɑːks/ *noun pl*. *slang*. **M20**.  
[Abbreviation of **NARCOSIS** (cf. **BEND NOUN**) + **-S**.]  
Nitrogen narcosis. Also **the narks**.

**narod** /nɑˈrɒd/ *noun*. **M20**.  
[Russian.]  
In countries of the former USSR: the people; *spec.* the common people seen (in some ideologies) as the bearers of national culture.

b but, d dog, f few, g get, h he, j yes, k cat, l leg, m man, n no, p pen, r red, s sit, t top, v van, w we, z zoo, ʃ she, ʒ vision, θ thin, ð this, ŋ ring, tʃ chip, dʒ jar

**Narodnik** /nɑˈrɒdnɪk, ˌfɔːreɪn ˈnɑːrɒdnɪk/ *noun*. Also **n-**. **Pl. -niks, -niki** /-nɪki/. **L19**.  
[Russian, formed as *prec.* + **-NIK**.]  
A supporter of a type of socialism originating among the Russian intelligentsia in the 19th cent. which looked on the peasants and intelligentsia as revolutionary forces, rather than the urban working class; a person trying to give political education to a community of rural or urban poor while sharing its living conditions.  
■ **Narodnikism** *noun* the doctrine of the Narodniks **M20**.

**narp** /nɑːp/ *noun*. *slang*. **M19**.  
[Origin unkn.]  
A shirt.

**narr** *verb* var. of **GNAR verb**.  
**narra** /ˈnɑːrɑː/ *noun*<sup>1</sup>. **M19**.  
[Tagalog.]  
A leguminous tree, *Pterocarpus indicus*, of SE Asia; the wood of this tree (also called **amboyna wood**).

**narra noun**<sup>2</sup> see **NARAS**.  
**Narragansett** /nəˈrɑːɡənsət/ *adjective & noun*. Also **-set** & other vars. **E17**.  
[Narragansett.]  
► **A adjective**. **1** Designating, of, or pertaining to an Algonquian people of Rhode Island or their language. **E17**.  
**2** Designating (a horse of) a now extinct breed of pacers originating in Rhode Island. **L18**.  
► **B noun**. **Pl.** same. **-s**.  
**1** A Narragansett Indian. **M17**.  
**2** A Narragansett pacer. **E19**.  
**3** The language of the Narragansett Indians. **M19**.

**narratage** /ˈnɑːrətɪdʒ/ *noun*. **M20**.  
[from next + **-AGE**.]  
A technique used in the visual media in which one of the characters has the role of storyteller.

**narrate** /nɑˈreɪt/ *verb*. **M17**.  
[Latin *narrat*- *pa.* ppl stem of *narrare* (from *gnarus* knowing), or back-form. from **NARRATION**: see **-ATE**.]  
**1 verb trans**. Give an account of, tell as a narrative; relate, recount. **M17**. **1b** Speak the commentary of (a film etc.). **L20**.  
**2 verb intrans**. Give an account, recount a story. **L18**.

[**Q**] **1 B. JOWETT** The tale of the last hours of Socrates is narrated to Ecchetrates. H. JAMES Some four months earlier than the occurrence lately narrated. **b** *Daily Telegraph* The Prince of Wales introduces and narrates . . . colour film about the . . . Royal British Legion.

■ **narratable** *adjective* **M19**.  
**narratee** /nɑˈreɪtɪ, ˌnɑːreɪˈtiː/ *noun*. **L20**.  
[from *prec.* + **-EE**.]  
Chiefly **LITERARY CRITICISM**. A person to whom a narrative is addressed; the recipient of a narrative.

† **narrator** *noun* var. of **NARRATOR**.

**narration** /nɑˈreɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. **LME**.  
[Old & mod. French *narration* or Latin *narratio*(n)-, formed as **NARRATE**: see **-ATION**.]  
**1** The action or an act of narrating or recounting; the fact of being recounted. **LME**. **1b** A thing narrated or recounted; a story, a narrative, an account. **LME**.  
**2 a** **RHETORIC** The part of an oration in which the facts of the matter are stated. **E16**. **1b** The narrative part or story of a poem; a narrative passage in a play etc. **L16**.

[**Q**] **1 J. BERMAN LORENZ** breaks off the narration . . . and begs Freud to spare him from the need to recite additional details.  
■ **narrational** *adjective* **M19**.

**narrative** /ˈnɑːrətɪv/ *adjective & noun*. **LME**.  
[French *narratif*, -ive from late Latin *narrativus*, formed as **NARRATE**: see **-IVE**.]  
► **A adjective**. **1** That tells a story; of or concerned with narration; having the character or form of narration. Formerly, biographical, historical. **LME**.  
**2** Given to narration; garrulous, talkative. **L17**.

[**Q**] **1 K. CLARK** His picture of an experiment with an air pump . . . is an admirable example of narrative-painting. P. GRIFFITHS Debussy's music has abandoned the narrative mode. *Observer* I see TV as a picture medium rather than a narrative medium. **narrative line** a consecutively developed story.

► **B noun**. **1 a** An account of a series of events, facts, etc., given in order and with the establishing of connections between them; a narration, a story. **M16**. **1b** The practice or art of narration; narrated material. **M18**.  
**2** **SCOTS LAW** The part of a deed or document containing a statement of the relevant or essential facts, *spec.* the parties and the cause of granting of a deed. **M16**.  
[**Q**] **1a** A. N. WILSON The story . . . begins as a third-person narrative. **b** *Atlantic* The new happy ending is, as narrative, a total washout.

■ **narratively** *adverb* in a narrative manner; considered as a narrative: **M17**. **narrativize** *verb trans*. present or interpret in the form of a narrative **L20**.

**narrativity** /nɑˈrɪvɪti/ *noun*. **L20**.  
[French *narrativité*, formed as *prec.*: see **-ITY**.]  
The quality or condition of being or presenting a narrative; (the action of) story-telling.

**narratology** /nɑˈrɒlədʒi/ *noun*. **L20**.  
[French *narratologie*, formed as **NARRATIVE**: see **-OLOGY**.]  
The branch of knowledge that deals with the structure and function of narrative, *esp.* as analogous with linguistic structure; the examination and classification of the traditional themes, conventions, and symbols of the narrated story.  
■ **narratological** *adjective* **L20**. **narra tologist** *noun* **L20**.

**narrator** /nɑˈreɪtə/ *noun*. Also **†-er**. **E17**.  
[Latin, formed as **NARRATE**: see **-OR**.]  
**1** A person who narrates; *spec.* a character who recounts the events in a plot, *esp.* that of a novel or narrative poem. **E17**.  
**2** A character in a play, film, etc., who relates part of the plot to the audience; a person who speaks a commentary in a film etc. **M20**.

**narratory** /ˈnɑːrɪ(ə)rɪ/ *adjective*. **L16**.  
[Late Latin *narratorius*, formed as *prec.*: see **-ORY**.]  
Characterized by or inclined to narration; of the nature of narrative.  
■ **narratorial** *adjective* of or pertaining to a narration or narrator **L20**.

**narratress** /nɑˈreɪtrɪs/ *noun*. *rare*. **L18**.  
[from **NARRATE** + **-ESS**.]  
A female narrator.  
■ Also **narratrix** *noun*, *pl.* **-trices** /-trɪsɪz/, **-trixes**. **L18**.

**narrischkeit** /ˈnɑːrɪʃkaɪt/ *noun*. *slang*. **L19**.  
[Yiddish *naarishkeit*, *narrish-* from German *Narrischkeit*, from *narrisch* foolish, from *Narr* fool.]  
Foolishness, nonsense.

**narrow** /ˈnærəʊ/ *adjective & noun*.  
[Old English *næaru* (stem *næaru-*) = Old Saxon *naru* (Middle Dutch *nare*, *naer*, Dutch *naar*), from Germanic (repr. in Middle High German *narwe*, German *Narbe*, Middle Low German *nar(w)e* use as noun of adjective = ‘scar’), with no certain cognates.]  
► **A adjective**. **1** Small in breadth or width in proportion to length; lacking breadth. **OE**.  
**2** Lacking space or area, confined, constricted; confining. **OE**.  
**3 a** Sparing, parsimonious, mean. Now *Scot. & dial.* **ME**.  
**1b** Restricted or rigid in views; intolerant, illiberal, prejudiced; unimaginative. **E17**. **1c** Reluctant to admit new members, exclusive. **M19**.  
**4** Searching, precise, careful. (Earlier in **NARROWLY** 1.) **ME**.  
**5** Limited in range, scope, or amount; restricted, straitened. **LME**. **1b** Of time: short, brief. *rare*. **E17**.  
**6** **1a** Approaching the truth. **M16–L17**. **1b** Barely achieved, with little margin. **L16**.  
**7** **PHONETICS**. **a** Of a vowel: pronounced with the vocal muscles relatively tense. *Opp.* **WIDE adjective** 6b. **M19**.  
**1b** Designating a phonetic transcription that distinguishes both phonemes and allophones. **L19**.

[**Q**] **1 B. MOORE** A narrow window twelve feet long by two feet wide. J. GARDAM A lane so narrow that the bushes tangled their fingers together overhead. J. WILCOX Mrs. Undine hunched her narrow shoulders. **straight and narrow**: see **STRAIGHT adjective**. **2 O. SITWELL** An unparalleled concentration . . . of human beings within the narrow borders of a small island. **3b** J. GRENFELL People are very narrow where I live. They have such little lives. **5 R. ADAMS** Peasant girls . . . accustomed to a narrow life of daily toil. **1** THWAITES Intense concern that the boy should remain within the cage of his own narrow dogma. **6b** DAY LEWIS I attribute my narrow victory . . . to a handful of aged voters. P. WARNER He had a narrow escape when an attempt was made to poison him.

*Special collocations:* **narrow axe** *US* an axe with a narrow head. **narrowback** *US slang* a US citizen of Irish ancestry. **narrow band** (**PHYSICS** etc.) a band of frequencies, wavelengths, etc., lying within narrowly-defined limits. **narrow boat** a long narrow canal boat, *spec.* one not exceeding 7 feet (2.1 metres) in width. **narrowcast verb & noun** (orig. *US*) **a** *verb trans. & intrans.* transmit (a television etc. programme), *esp.* by cable, to an audience limited by interests or location; **b** *noun* (an act of) transmitting in this way; a programme transmitted in this way. **narrowcaster** (orig. *US*) a person who or thing which narrowcasts. **narrow circumstances** poverty. **narrow-cut** *adjective* (**PHOTOGRAPHY**) (of a filter) transmitting only a narrow band of wavelengths. **narrow fabrics** braid, ribbons, bindings, etc. **narrow gauge** **a** a railway gauge narrower than the standard one (in Great Britain 56½ inches, approx. 1.435 metres); **b** **CINEMATOGRAPHY** a width of film narrower than the standard one (16 mm rather than 35 mm). **narrow goods** = **narrow fabrics** above. **narrow-minded** *adjective* rigid or restricted in one's views, intolerant. **narrow-mindedly** *adverb* in a narrow-minded manner. **narrow-mindedness** the quality or condition of being narrow-minded. **narrow money** **ECONOMICS** money in forms that can be used as a medium of exchange, generally notes, coins, and certain balances held by banks. **narrow seas** the seas separating Britain from Ireland on the one side and Continental Europe on the other. **narrow squeak** a narrow escape; a success barely attained. **narrow way** [Matthew 7:14] righteousness.

► **B noun**. **1** A narrow part, place, or thing; the narrow part of something. Now *rare* exc. as below. **ME**.

**2** *spec. (sing. & (usu.) in pl.)*. A narrow part of a strait or river; a narrow part of a street; (chiefly *US*) a narrow part of a valley, a pass; **MINING** a narrow gallery. **M17**.

■ **narrowish** *adjective* **L18**. **narrowness** *noun* **ME**.

**narrow** /ˈnærəʊ/ *verb*. **OE**.

[from the adjective.]

**1 verb intrans.** Become narrower, decrease in width or breadth; diminish, lessen, contract. (Foll. by *down*.) **OE**.

**2 verb trans.** Make narrower; reduce the breadth of; reduce, constrict. (Foll. by *down*.) **OE**. ► **b** Drive or press (people) closer together. **E19**.

❏ **1 T. HARDY** Below the foot-bridge of the weir the stream suddenly narrowed to half its width. **1. McEWAN** Stephen's concerns narrowed to practical matters: how soon he could leave. **2 M. Puzo** Clemenza finally narrowed down the list of candidates to three men. **M. KEANE** He leaned across . . . his desk as if he would narrow the distance between us.

■ **narrower** *noun* a thing that narrows something **M18**.

**narrow** /ˈnærəʊ/ *adverb*. Now *rare*. **OE**.

[from the adjective.]

† **1** Closely, strictly. **OE–L15**.

† **2** Carefully, keenly. **OE–L16**.

**3** Narrowly, in a narrow or close manner. **ME**.

**narrowly** /ˈnærəʊli/ *adverb*. **OE**.

[from **NARROW** *adjective* + *-ly*.<sup>2</sup>]

**1** Carefully, closely, with close attention. **OE**.

**2** In a contracted, confined, or closely circumscribed manner. **OE**.

† **3** Sparingly, parsimoniously. *rare*. **ME–M17**.

† **4** Barely, scarcely. *rare*. Only in **LME**. ► **b** Only by a (very) little, only just. **E16**.

† **5** Closely, at close quarters. **M16–E18**.

**6** Illiberally, rigidly; specifically, literally. **E18**.

❏ **1 S. BELLOW** The old man questioned him narrowly. **2 G. GREENE** Grey trousers cut a little narrowly to show off the long legs. **4b JOAN SMITH** She hastened across the road, narrowly avoiding a speeding car. **6 Times** The lack of wisdom in such a narrowly short-sighted view of its responsibilities.

**narthex** /ˈnɑːθɛks/ *noun*. **L17**.

[Latin from Greek *narthēx* giant fennel, stick, casket, narthex.]

A railed-off antechamber or porch at the western end of some (esp. early and Orthodox) churches.

**nartjie** *noun* var. of **NAARTJIE**.

**narwhal** /ˈnɑːw(ə)l/ *noun*. **M17**.

[Dutch *narwal*, Danish *narhval* (whence German *Narwal*, French *narval*), from *hval* **WHALE** *noun*, rel. obscurely to Old Norse *náhrvalr* (from *nár* corpse, with ref. to the colour of the skin).]

A toothed whale, *Monodon monoceros*, of Arctic seas, the male of which has one (or sometimes both) of its two teeth developed into a straight spirally-twisted tusk.

**nary** /ˈneəri/ *adjective & adverb*. *colloq.* **M18**.

[Alt. of *ne'er a* s.v. **NE'ER**.]

► **A adjective**. Not a, not a single; no. Now *rare*. **M18**.

► **B adverb**. Not a, never a. **M19**.

❏ **Road Racing Monthly** After the race the tyres showed nary a trace of wear!

**NAS** *abbreviation*.

Noise Abatement Society.

**NASA** /ˈnasa/ *abbreviation*. **US**.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

**nasal** /ˈneɪz(ə)l/ *noun*. In sense 1 also †**-el**. **ME**.

[In sense 1 from Old French (also *nasel*) from medieval Latin *nasale* use as noun of neut. of *nasalis* **NASAL** *adjective*; in sense 2 from medieval Latin; in other senses directly from **NASAL** *adjective*.]

**1** A nose-piece on a helmet. **ME**.

† **2** = **ERRHINE**. **LME–M17**.

**3** A nasal speech sound or letter. **M17**.

**4** **ANATOMY & ZOOLOGY**. A nasal bone. **M19**.

**nasal** /ˈneɪz(ə)l/ *adjective*. **LME**.

[French, or medieval Latin *nasalis*, from *nasus* nose: see **-AL**.<sup>1</sup>]

**1** Of or pertaining to the nose. **LME**.

**2** (Of a speech sound) pronounced with a flow of air through the cavity of the nose; pertaining to or characterized by such pronunciation, esp. to an unusual or disagreeable extent. **M17**.

❏ **1 New Scientist** Obstructive growths in the nasal passages of bathers and divers. **S. KRIZINGER** The hormone nasal spray. **nasal artery**, **nasal cartilage**, **nasal duct**, etc. **nasal bone** either of a pair of bones forming the bridge and base of the nose. **nasal concha**: see **CONCHA** **1**. **nasal meatus**: see **MEATUS** **2**. **nasal organ** *loc.* the nose. **2 D. WELCH** His accent became more sweet and nasal.

■ **nasalism** *noun* (*rare*) nasal pronunciation **L19**. **na'sality** *noun* the quality of being nasal, esp. in pronunciation **L18**. **nasally** *adverb* in a nasal manner, with a nasal pronunciation **M19**.

**nasalize** /ˈneɪz(ə)laɪz/ *verb trans.* Also **-ise**. **E19**.

[from **NASAL** *adjective* + *-ize*.]

Make nasal in pronunciation; utter with a nasal sound.

■ **nasalizable** *adjective* **L19**. **nasalization** *noun* the action or result of nasalizing a speech sound etc. **M19**.

**Nasara** *noun pl.* see **NASRANI**.

**Nasca** *adjective* var. of **NAZCA**.

**nascence** /ˈnas(ə)ns, ˈnei-/ *noun*. *rare*. **L16**.

[formed as next: see **-ENCE**.]

Birth.

**nascency** /ˈnas(ə)nsi, ˈnei-/ *noun*. **L17**.

[Latin *nascētia*, formed as next: see **-ENCY**.]

The process or fact of being born or brought into existence; birth.

**nascent** /ˈnas(ə)nt, ˈnei-/ *adjective*. **E17**.

[Latin *nascent-* pres. ppl stem of *nasci* be born: see **-ENT**.]

**1** In the act of being born. **E17**.

**2** In the act or condition of coming into existence; beginning to form, grow, develop, etc.; **CHEMISTRY** (esp. of hydrogen) freshly generated in reactive form by electrolysis or chemical reaction. **E18**.

❏ **2 MOLLIE HARRIS** During . . . the eighteenth century, the nascent discipline of geology languished under the tutelage of scriptural authority. **J. BENTLEY** His look accused me of betraying his nascent respect for me. **R. K. NARAYAN** This girl was innocent, her mind in a nascent state.

■ **nascently** *adverb* **L19**.

**NASDAQ** /ˈnazdɑːk/ *abbreviation*. **US**.

National Association of Securities Dealers Automated Quotations, a computerized system for trading in securities.

**naseberry** /ˈneɪzb(ə)ri/ *noun*. *W. Indies*. **L17**.

[Spanish, Portuguese *nèspera* medlar, assim. to **BERRY** *noun*.<sup>1</sup>]

The sapodilla tree, *Manilkara zapota* (also **naseberry tree**); the edible fruit of this tree.

† **nasel** *noun* see **NASAL** *noun*.

**Nash** /ˈnɑːʃ/ *noun*. **M20**.

[John F. Nash (1928–), Brit. mathematician.]

**GAME THEORY**. Used *attrib.* to designate concepts arising out of Nash's work on non-cooperative strategies.

**Nash equilibrium** a stable state of a system involving the interaction of different participants, in which no participant can gain by a unilateral change of strategy if the strategies of the others remain unchanged.

**nash-gab** /ˈnɑːʃɡab/ *noun*. *Scot. & north*. **E19**.

[from **GNASH** + **GAB** *noun*.<sup>2</sup>]

Impertinent talk; a pert or gossiping person.

**nashi** /ˈnɑːʃi/ *noun*. **M20**.

[Japanese, lit. 'pear'.]

More fully **nashi pear**. An apple-shaped variety of pear from the tree *Pyrus pyrifolia*, native to Japan and China and cultivated in Australasia and elsewhere.

**Nashiji** /ˈnɑːʃiːdʒi/ *noun*. **L19**.

[Japanese, lit. 'pear ground'.]

A Japanese lacquer containing gold or silver flakes; the technique of decorating with this lacquer.

**Nasho** /ˈnɑːʃo/ *noun*. *Austral. slang*. **Pl.** **-os**. **M20**.

[Abbreviation of **NATIONAL** *adjective*; see **-O**.]

(A person doing) national service.

**nasi** /ˈnɑːsi/ *noun*. **L19**.

[Malay.]

In Malaysian and Indonesian cookery: cooked rice.

**nasiform** /ˈneɪzɪfɔːm/ *adjective*. *rare*. **M18**.

[from Latin *nasus* nose + *-i* + *-FORM*.]

Shaped like a nose.

**Nasik** /ˈnɑːsɪk/ *noun*. **M19**.

[A town in India.]

**MATH**. Used *attrib.* to designate magic squares which are pandiagonal.

**nasion** /ˈneɪzɪən/ *noun*. **L19**.

[from **NASAL** *noun* + *-ion*, after *inion*.]

**ANATOMY**. The centre of the fronto-nasal suture.

**Naskapi** /ˈnaskəpi/ *adjective & noun*. **L18**.

[Montagnais (Naskapi).]

► **A adjective**. Designating or pertaining to a N. American Indian people of northern Quebec and the interior of Labrador, or their Montagnais dialect. **L18**.

► **B noun**. **Pl.** **-s**, same.

**1** A member of this people. **M19**.

**2** The dialect of this people. **M20**.

**naskhi** /ˈnaski/ *noun & adjective*. Also **neskhi** /ˈneski/. **L18**.

[Arab. *naskī* (pl.), from *nasaka* to copy.]

(Designating) the standard Arabic script.

**Nasmyth** /ˈneɪsmɪθ/ *noun*. **M19**.

[James Nasmyth (1808–90), Scot. engineer.]

Used *attrib.* and in *possession*, to designate a form of hammer or pile-driver in which the falling weight is raised by steam pressure on a piston attached to it.

**Nasmyth's membrane** /ˈneɪsmɪθs ˈmembreɪn/ *noun phr.* **M19**.

[Alexander Nasmyth (d. 1848), Brit. dentist.]

**ANATOMY**. A transient membrane covering the crown of a newly erupted tooth.

**naso-** /ˈneɪzəʊ/ *combining form*.

[from Latin *nasus* nose: see **-O-**.]

Chiefly **ANATOMY**. Forming adjectives and nouns with the senses 'nasal and —', 'of the nose', as **nasofrontal**.

**nasopalatal**.

■ **naso ciliary** *adjective* designating a branch of the ophthalmic nerve that supplies the skin and mucous membrane of the nose, the eyelids, and parts of the eyeball **L19**. **naso gastric** *adjective* (**MEDICINE**) reaching or supplying the stomach via the nose **M20**.

**naso lacrimal** *adjective* (**a**) pertaining to or connecting the lacrimal glands and the nasal cavity; (**b**) pertaining to the lacrimal and nasal bones. **M19**. **na** **sologist** *noun* (*rare*) a student of noses **M19**. **na** **sology** *noun* (*rare*) the branch of knowledge that deals with the nose or noses **M19**. **nasopharyngeal** *adjective* of or pertaining to the nasopharynx, or the nose and the pharynx **L19**.

**naso pharynx** *noun* the upper part of the pharynx, above the soft palate and connecting with the nasal cavity (cf. **OROPHARYNX**) **L19**.

**Nasonov** *noun* var. of **NASSANOFF**.

**nasospinale** /ˈneɪzəʊspɪˈnɑːli/ *noun*. **E20**.

[App. mod. Latin, from **NASO-** + late Latin *spinale*, neut. of *spinalis* spinal: cf. **SPINE**.]

**ANATOMY**. The point at which a line joining the lowest points of the nostrils intersects with the midsagittal plane.

**Nasrani** /ˈnɑːzˈrɑːni/ *noun*. **Pl.** **Nasranis**, same, **Nasara** /ˈnɑːzˈɑːrɑː/. **L16**.

[Arab. *Nasrāni*, pl. *Nasārā*, cogn. with **NAZARENE**.]

Among Muslims: a Christian.

**Nass** /ˈnɑːs/ *adjective & noun*. **E19**.

[A river in British Columbia, Canada.]

= **NISHGA**.

**nassa** /ˈnɑːsə/ *noun*. **M19**.

[mod. Latin *Nassa* former genus name.]

(The shell of) a marine gastropod of the genus *Nassarius*; a dog-whelk. Also **Nassa shell**.

**Nassanoff** /ˈnɑːsənof/ *noun*. Also **Nasonov** & other vars. **M20**.

[N. V. Nasonov (1855–1939), Russian entomologist.]

**ENTOMOLOGY**. **Nassanoff gland**, a gland on the back of a honeybee, between the sixth and seventh abdominal segments, which secretes a pheromone (**Nassanoff pheromone**) that attracts workers.

**Nassau** /ˈnɑːsoʊ/ *noun*. **E20**.

[See next.]

A golfing match in which a point is scored for winning the first nine holes, another for the second nine, and a third for the complete round; a form of betting on the basis of such scoring.

**Nassauvian** /ˈnɑːsəʊviən/ *noun & adjective*. Also **Nassavian** /ˈnɑːsɪviən/. **E20**.

[from a Latinized form of Nassau (see below) + *-IAN*.]

(A native or inhabitant) of Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas.

**nassella** /ˈnɑːsələ/ *noun*. **M20**.

[mod. Latin (see below), from Latin *nassa* net + *-ELLA*.]

A coarse tussock-forming Chilean grass, *Nassella trichotoma*, that is a troublesome weed in New Zealand.

**Nasserite** /ˈnɑːsəriːt/ *noun & adjective*. **M20**.

[from Abd al-Nasser (see below) + *-ITE*.]

► **A noun**. A follower or adherent of Gamal Abdel Nasser (Abd al-Nasser) (1918–70), the first president of Egypt (1956–70), or his political principles or policies, esp. in relation to Arab nationalism. **M20**.

► **B adjective**. Of or pertaining to Nasserites or Nasserism. **M20**.

■ **Nasserism** *noun* the political principles or policies of Nasser

**M20**. **Nasserist** *noun & adjective* = **NASSERITE** **M20**.

**nastalik** /ˈnɑːstəlɪk/ *noun*. Also **-liq**. **-ta'**. **L18**.

[Persian, from Arab. *naskh* **NASKHI** + *taʿliq*: see **TALUK** *noun*.<sup>1</sup>]

A Persian cursive script, characterized by rounded forms and elongated horizontal strokes.

**nastic** /ˈnastɪk/ *adjective*. **E20**.

[from Greek *nastos* pressed together + *-ic*.]

**BOTANY**. Of a plant movement: caused by an external stimulus but unaffected in direction by it.

**nastily** /ˈnɑːstɪli/ *adverb*. **E17**.

[from **NASTY** *adjective* + *-ly*.<sup>2</sup>]

In a nasty manner or state; filthily; disagreeably, unpleasantly.

**nastiness** /ˈnɑːstɪnis/ *noun*. **E17**.

[from **NASTY** *adjective* + *-NESS*.]

**1** The state or quality of being nasty. **E17**.

**2** That which is nasty; dirt, filth, (*lit. & fig.*). **E17**.

**3** A filthy, disgusting, or repulsive thing. **E18**.



**nasturtium** /nə'stɔːtʃəm/ *noun*. OE.

[Latin *nasturtium*, app. from *naris* nose + *torquere* to twist, with ref. to its pungency.]

1 Orig., any of several cruciferous plants having a pungent taste; esp. watercress, *Rorippa nasturtium-aquaticum* (or *Nasturtium officinale*). Now only (BOTANY), a plant of the genus *Nasturtium*. OE.

2 Any of several tropeaeolums with a similarly pungent taste; esp. *Tropeaeolum majus*, much grown for its showy orange, yellow, or red flowers. E18.

3 = ASPERSION 4. joc. E20.

**nasty** /nə'sti/ *noun*<sup>1</sup>. *colloq.* In sense 1 also **N-**. M20.

[from the adjective. In sense 1 alt. of *Nazi noun*.]

1 A Nazi. M20.

2 A nasty person, object, or event; (in full **video nasty**) a horror video film. M20.

3 2 Country Life Museums . . . present us with nasties as well as with fine things. *Sounds* Every chemical nasty that can be inhaled through your poor polluted nose. *TV Times* A squad . . . to protect Britain from . . . terrorists, saboteurs, and other organised nasties.

**nasty** /nə'sti/ *noun*<sup>2</sup>. M20.

[German *Nastie*, from Greek *nastos*: see **NASTIC**, -*ry*.]

BOTANY. A nasty movement.

**nasty** /nə'sti/ *adjective*. LME.

[Origin unkn.]

1 Foul, filthy, dirty, esp. to a disgusting degree; offensive through filth or dirt. Now freq. a contextual use of sense 4. LME. ▶ Morally unclean; indecent, obscene. E17.

2 Offensive to smell or taste; unpalatable, nauseating. M16.

3 Of weather etc.: foul, dirty, wet, stormy. M17.

4 *gen.* Offensive; disagreeable, unpleasant, objectionable, annoying; in poor taste. E18.

5 Difficult to deal with or get rid of, dangerous; having unpleasant results, rather serious. E19.

6 Ill-natured, bad-tempered, spiteful. E19.

1 W. SPALDING Streets which are narrow, steep, and exceedingly nasty. b E. BUSHEN Our lavatories simply asked to have nasty things written on the walls. M. ALZINGHAM One doesn't have to have a nasty mind to wonder. 2 *Law Times* There was a nasty smell about the premises. P. LOMAS If the medicine is to be efficacious, it must have a nasty taste. 3 HENRY FIELDING It is a cursed nasty morning. 4 R. CHRISTIANSEN In 1815, most of musical Europe still identified Beethoven with nasty senseless noise. 5 E. HEMINGWAY A business enemy had been killed in a particularly nasty motor accident. I. MURDOCH Matthew got a nasty crack on the head. 6 M. ANGELOU The nasty children would have something new to tease me about. T. MALLON There is . . . pleasure to be had in hearing nasty things well said about other people.

Phrases: a **nasty piece of work**, a **nasty bit of work**, a **nasty piece of goods**, a **nasty bit of goods** an unpleasant or contemptible person, a **nasty taste in the mouth**: see **TASTE noun**<sup>1</sup>, **cheap and nasty**: see **CHEAP adjective & adverb**, **something nasty in the woodshed** a traumatic experience or a concealed unpleasantness in a person's background.

**nasty** /nə'sti/ *verb trans.* *obsolete exc. dial.* E18.

[from the adjective.]

Make nasty or dirty.

**nasus** /neɪzəs/ *noun*. L17.

[Latin = nose.]

BIOLOGY. A snout; esp. the proboscis of a nasute termite.

4 Rare before M20.

**nasute** /neɪsjuːt/ *adjective & noun*. M17.

[Latin *nasutus*, formed as prec.]

▶ **A adjective**. †1 Having a keen critical faculty, sagacious. M17–E18.

2 ZOOLOGY. Nose-shaped; having a pronounced proboscis; esp. designating or describing (an insect of) a caste of soldier termites of the genus *Nasutitermes*. L19.

▶ **B noun**. A nasute soldier termite. M20.

**nasutus** /neɪ'sjuːtəs/ *noun*. Pl. -**ti** /-tɪ/. M19.

[formed as prec.]

= **NASUTE noun**.

**NASUWT** *abbreviation*.

National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers.

**Nat** /nat, foreign NAT/ *noun*<sup>1</sup>. Also **Nut** /nʌt/. E19.

[Sanskrit *nata* dancer, actor, tumbler.]

In the Indian subcontinent, esp in the north: a member of an itinerant class of entertainers, fortune-tellers, etc.

**nat** /nɑːt/ *noun*<sup>2</sup>. E19.

[Burmese from Sanskrit *nātha* lord, protector.]

In the animistic native religion of the people of Myanmar (Burma): a spirit, a demon, a supernatural being.

**Nat** /nʌt/ *noun*<sup>3</sup>. *colloq.* M20.

[Abbreviation of **NATIONAL** or **NATIONALIST**.]

1 A member of the National Party in South Africa. M20.

2 A Scottish or Welsh Nationalist. Cf. **SCOT NAT**, **Scots**

**Nat** s.v. **SCOTS adjective**. M20.

**Nat.** *abbreviation*.

1 National.

2 Natural.

**Natal** /nə'tal, -'tɑːl/ *noun*. M19.

[See below.]

Used *attrib.* to designate things found in, obtained from, or associated with Natal, a province of South Africa (earlier a Boer republic).

**Natal lily** any of several southern African monocotyledonous plants with brightly coloured flowers, esp. = **CLIVIA**, **Natal mahogany** either of two evergreen timber trees, *Kiggelaria africana* (family Flacourtiaceae) and *Trichilia emetica* (family Meliaceae). **Natal plum** a spiny evergreen shrub or small tree, *Carissa grandiflora* (family Apocynaceae), which bears tubular white fragrant flowers and an edible purple fruit. **Natal sore** = **oriental sore** s.v. **ORIENTAL adjective**.

**natal** /neɪ't(ə)l/ *adjective*<sup>1</sup>. LME.

[Latin *natalis*, from *nat-* pa. ppl stem of *nasci* be born: see -**AL**.]

†1 Presiding over birthdays or nativities. Only in LME.

2 Of or pertaining to (one's) birth; (of a place, chiefly literary) native; dating from one's birth; connected with one from birth. LME.

3 2 E. K. KANE The natal day of the Prince Consort. H. READ His talent suggests a natal endowment. J. M. COETZER His mother . . . was more at peace now that she was nearer her natal earth. *Horoscope* The . . . interpretation of your complete natal horoscope.

**natal** /neɪ't(ə)l/ *adjective*<sup>2</sup>. L19.

[from **NATES** + -**AL**.]

Of or pertaining to the nates or buttocks.

**natal cleft** the furrow between the buttocks.

**Natalian** /nə'taliən, -'tɑːl-/ *adjective & noun*. M19.

[from **NATAL noun** + -**IAN**.]

▶ **A adjective**. Of or pertaining to Natal (see **NATAL noun**). M19.

▶ **B noun**. A native or inhabitant of Natal. L19.

**natalid** /nə'talɪd/ *adjective & noun*. M20.

[mod. Latin *Natalidae* (see below), from *Natalus* genus name: see -**ID**.]

ZOOLOGY. ▶ **A adjective**. Of, pertaining to, or designating the family *Natalidae* of small long-legged insectivorous bats of Central and N. America, which have large funnel-shaped ears and lack a nose-leaf. M20.

**natalid organ** a glandular facial organ peculiar to natalids, of unknown function.

▶ **B noun**. A bat of the family *Natalidae*. L20.

**natality** /nə'talɪti/ *noun*. L15.

[from *Natal adjective* + -**ITY**. In mod. use from French *natalité*.]

1 Birth-rate. L15.

2 Birth-rate; the ratio of the number of births in a period to the size of the population. L19.

**natant** /neɪ't(ə)nt/ *adjective*. *rare*. LME.

[Latin *natant*-pres. ppl stem of *natare* frequentative of *nare* swim, float: see -**ANT**.]

Swimming, floating.

**natation** /nə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun*. Chiefly literary. M16.

[Latin *natatio*(n)-, from *natat*-pa. ppl stem of *natare*: see **NATANT**, -**ATION**.]

The action or art of swimming.

**Natatores** /neɪ'təːtɔːrɪz/ *noun pl.* Now *rare* or *obsolete*. E19.

[mod. Latin, from Latin *natator* swimmer: see **NATATORY adjective**.]

ORNITHOLOGY. (A former order of) birds adapted for swimming.

**natatorial** /neɪ'təːtɔːrɪəl/ *adjective*. E19.

[formed as **NATATORY adjective** + -**AL**.]

= **NATATORY adjective**.

**natatorium** /neɪ'təːtɔːrɪəm/ *noun*. N. Amer. L19.

[Late Latin, use as noun of *natatorium*: see **NATATORY adjective**, -**ORIUM**.]

A swimming pool, esp. an indoor swimming pool.

**natatory** /neɪ'tat(ə)rɪ/ *noun*. Now *rare*. ME.

[formed as prec.: see -**ORY**.]

1 A swimming pool; a bath. ME.

2 ZOOLOGY. A natatory organ. M19.

**natatory** /neɪ'tat(ə)rɪ/ *adjective*. L18.

[Late Latin *natatorius*, from Latin *natator* swimmer, from *natat*-: see **NATATION**, -**ORY**.]

1 ZOOLOGY. Of an organ: adapted for or used in swimming or floating. L18.

2 Of or pertaining to swimming. M19.

3 Characterized by swimming. L19.

**notch** /nɒtʃ/ *noun*<sup>1</sup> & *verb*. L16.

[Prob. var. of **NOTCH noun**.]

▶ **A noun**. 1 A notch. *Now dial.* L16.

2 A projection and corresponding notch by which sections of a mould are held together. M20.

▶ **B verb trans.** Cut a notch or notches in. *Now dial.* L16.

**notch** *noun*<sup>2</sup> var. of **NACHE**.

**notch** /nɒtʃ/ *adverb*. *colloq.* M20.

[Abbreviation.]

Naturally, of course.

3 M. McLUHAN Notch I'm interested to know what Percy's latest book contains. T. PYNCHON An element of . . . future blackmail, which operates, notch, in favour of professionals.

**Natchez** /nə'tʃɪz/ *noun & adjective*. E18.

[French, a name in several Indian langs.]

▶ **A noun**. Pl. same. A member of a N. American Indian people of Mississippi; the language of this people. E18.

▶ **B attrib.** or as *adjective*. Of or pertaining to the Natchez or their language. L18.

**nates** /neɪtɪz/ *noun pl.* L17.

[Latin, pl. of *natis* rump, buttock.]

**ANATOMY & MEDICINE**. The buttocks. Formerly also, the anterior optic lobes of the brain.

**NATFHE** *abbreviation*.

National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

**nathe** /neɪð/ *noun*. *obsolete exc. dial.* ME.

[Var. of **NAVE noun**.]

The nave of a wheel.

**natheless** /neɪθlɪs/ *adverb & preposition*. Long *arch.* Also **natheless** /nəθlɪs/. OE.

[from **NA adverb** + **THE adverb** + **LESS adverb**.]

▶ **A adverb**. Nevertheless, notwithstanding. OE.

▶ **B preposition**. In spite of, notwithstanding. *rare*. M16.

† **nathemore** *adverb*. Also -**mo**. LOE–L16.

[from **NA adverb** + **THE adverb** + **MORE adverb**, **MO adverb**.]

Never the more.

**natheless** *adverb & preposition* var. of **NATHELESS**.

**natica** /nə'tɪkə/ *noun*. M19.

[mod. Latin *Natica* (see below), perh. from medieval Latin *natica* (see below), from Latin *natis*: see **NATES**.]

ZOOLOGY. A carnivorous marine gastropod of the genus *Natica*; a necklace shell. Now chiefly as mod. Latin genus name.

**natiform** /neɪtɪfɔːm/ *adjective*. L17.

[from Latin *natis* (see **NATES**) + -**FORM**.]

Chiefly **ANATOMY & MEDICINE**. Resembling or having the form of buttocks.

**nation** /neɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun*<sup>1</sup>. ME.

[Old & mod. French from Latin *natio*(n)- birth, race, from *nai-* pa. ppl stem of *nasci* be born: see -**ION**.]

1 A large aggregate of people so closely associated with each other by factors such as common descent, language, culture, history, and occupation of the same territory as to be identified as a distinct people, esp. when organized or potentially organizable as a political State. ME. ▶ A number of people belonging to a particular nation; a group of people representing a nation. Now *rare*. LME. ▶ C In medieval and some Scottish universities, a body of students from a particular district, country, etc., forming a more or less distinct community. M17.

▶ **D** A country, a kingdom. *rare*. Only in M17.

†2 Nationality. LME–M17.

3 †a A family, one's kindred. *rare*. LME–E16. ▶ b An Irish clan. LME–L16. ▶ c A N. American Indian people. M17.

†4 A particular class or kind of person or animal. LME–L18.

3 1 D. LESSING Africa . . . has become . . . a mass of nations.

Phrases: a **nation of shopkeepers**: see **SHOPKEEPER** 1. **comity of nations**: see **COMITY** 2a. **grand inquest of the nation**, **great inquest of the nation**: see **INQUEST noun**. **law of nations** international law. **League of Nations**: see **LEAGUE noun**. **most favoured nation**: see **FAVOURABLE adjective**. **one nation** a nation which is not divided by social inequalities. **the Five Nations** the five confederate N. American Indian peoples collectively known as the Iroquois. **the nation** the whole people of a country, esp. in contrast to some smaller or narrower body within it, **the nations** (a) (in and after biblical use) the heathen nations, the Gentiles; (b) literary the peoples of the earth. **two nations** two groups within a given nation divided from each other by marked social inequality. **United Nations (Organization)**: see **UNITED adjective**.

**Comb.**: **nation-state** a sovereign State most of the citizens or subjects of which are also united by factors such as language, common descent, etc., which define a nation.

**nation** /neɪʃ(ə)n/ *adjective, adverb, & noun*<sup>2</sup>. *dial. & US*. M18.

[Abbreviation of **DAMNATION**.]

▶ **A adjective**. Very large, very great. M18.

▶ **B adverb**. Very, extremely. L18.

▶ **C noun**. 1 A great deal. Used *adverbially*. L18.

2 *how in the nation . . . ?*, *what in the nation . . . ?*, etc., how etc. on earth . . . ? , how etc. . . at all? L19.

**national** /nə'ʃ(ə)n(ə)l/ *adjective & noun*. L16.

[French, formed as **NATION noun**: see -**AL**.]

▶ **A adjective**. 1 Of or pertaining to a nation or country, esp. as a whole; affecting or shared by the whole nation. L16.

▶ **B** Of or pertaining to the French Government during the time of the First Republic. L18. ▶ **C** In the war