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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 under the main dictionary entry for the initial letter.

a.	adjective	back-form(s).	back-formation(s)	Conn.	Cornish
abbrev.	abbreviated, abbreviation (of)	Bacterial.	Bacteriology	correl.	correlative
abbrevs.	abbreviations	Balto-Slav.	Balto-Slavonic	corresp.	corresponding
abl.	ablative	bef.	before	corrupt.	corruption
abl. absol.	ablative absolute	Bibliogr.	Bibliography	cross-refs.	cross-references
Aborig.	Aboriginal	Biochem.	Biochemistry	Cryst.	Crystallography
absol.	in absolute use, absolutely	Biol.	Biology	Cymb.	Cymbeline
accus.	accusative	Bot.	Botany	Cytol.	Cytology
act.	active, -ly	Brit.	British	d.	died
adj.	adjective, adjectival	Burm.	Burmese	Da.	Danish
adv.	adverb	c	circa, 'about'	Dan.	Daniel
advb.	adverbial, -ly	Campanol.	Campanology	dat.	dative
advs.	adverbs	Canad.	Canadian	def.	definite
Aeronaut.	Aeronautics	Canad. Polit.	Canadian Politics	demonstr.	demonstrative
Afr.	Afrikaans	cap(s).	capital(s)	deriv(s).	derivative(s), derivation(s)
Afric.	African, Africa	Catal.	Catalan	derog.	derogatory
agent-n(s).	agent-noun(s)	Celt.	Celtic	Deut.	Deuteronomy
Agric.	Agriculture	cent.	century	devel.	development
AL.	Anglo-Latin	cents.	centuries	dial.	dialect, dialectal, -ly
Alch.	Alchemy	cf.	confer, 'compare'	dict.	(in) Dictionaries
allus.	allusion	Ch.	Church	dim(s).	diminutive(s)
allus.	allusively	Chom.	Chemistry	distrib.	distributive
alt.	altered, alteration	Chin.	Chinese	Du.	Dutch
Amer.	American, America	Chr. Ch.	Christian Church	E	early (in dates)
AN.	Anglo-Norman	Chr. L.	Christian Latin	Ecd.	Ecclesiastical
anal.	analogy	Chron.	Chronicles	Eccles.	Ecclesiastes
Anat.	Anatomy	Chr. Theol.	Christian Theology	eccl.Gk.	ecclesiastical Greek
Anglo-Ind.	Anglo-Indian	Cinemat.	Cinematography	Ecd. Hist.	Ecclesiastical History
Anglo-Ir.	Anglo-Irish	cl.	clause	eccl.L.	ecclesiastical Latin
Ant. & Cl.	Antony and Cleopatra	Glass.	Classical	Ecds.	Ecclesiasticus
Anthropol.	Anthropology	Glass. Antiq.	Classical Antiquities	Ecol.	Ecology
Antiq.	Antiquities	Glass. Archit.	Classical Architecture	Econ.	Economics
aphet.	aphetic, aphetized	Glass. Hist.	Classical History	Educ.	Education, -al
app.	apparently	Glass. Mythol.	Classical Mythology	EFris.	East Frisian
approx.	approximately	Glass. Pros.	Classical Prosody	EGmc.	East Germanic
Arab.	Arabic	cl.Gk.	classical Greek	Egyptol.	Egyptology
Aram.	Aramaic	cogn. (w.)	cognate (with)	Electr.	Electricity
arch.	archaic	Col.	Colossians	Electr. Engn.	Electrical Engineering
Archaeol.	Archaeology	collect.	collective, -ly	elem(s).	element(s)
Archit.	Architecture	colloq.	colloquial, -ly	elip(s).	elliptical, -ly
assin.	assimilated, -ation	comb. (form)	combining (form)	Embryol.	Embryology
assoc.	associated, -ation	Comb.	(in) combination	Encycl. Brit.	Encyclopaedia Britannica
Assyr.	Assyrian	combs.	combinations	Eng.	English
Astrol.	Astrology	Com. Err.	Comedy of Errors	Eng. Hist.	English History
Astron.	Astronomy	Comm.	Commerce, Commercial	Engn.	Engineering
Astronaut.	Astronautics	compar(s).	comparative(s)	Entomol.	Entomology
attrib.	attributive, -ly	compl.	complement	Eph.	Ephesians
Attrib. & Comb.	in attributive uses and combinations	Conchology	Conchology	equiv.	equivalent
augm.	augmentative	conf. (w.)	confused with	erron.	erroneous, -ly
Austral.	Australian, Australia	conj.	conjunction, conjunctive	Esdr.	Esdras
aux.	auxiliary (verb etc.)	conj(s).	conjunctions	esp.	especially
AV.	Authorized Version	conn. (w.)	connected (with)	etym.	etymology
Avest.	Avestan	contempt.	contemptuous, -ly	euphem.	euphemistic, -ally
A.Y.L.	As You Like It	contr.	contracted, contraction	exc.	except
		Cor.	Corinthians	exclam(s).	exclamation(s)
		Coriol.	Coriolanus	Exod.	Exodus

expr.	exponential	indic.	indicative	<i>Meteorol.</i>	Meteorology
Ezek.	expressing, expressive of	inf.	infinitive	<i>Mex.</i>	Mexican
f.	from	infl.	inflected, influenced	<i>Mex. Sp.</i>	Mexican Spanish
f. as	from the same (initial or principal) word as	<i>Inorg. Chem.</i>	Inorganic Chemistry	<i>Mflem.</i>	Middle Flemish
fem.	feminine	instr.	instrumental	<i>(M)Flem.</i>	Middle and Modern Flemish
fig.	in figurative use, figuratively	int.	interjection	<i>MHG</i>	Middle High German
Finn.	Finnish	interrog.	interrogative, -ly	<i>(M)HG</i>	Middle and Modern High German
fl.	<i>floruit</i> , 'flourished'	intrans.	intransitive, -ly	<i>Microbiol.</i>	Microbiology
Flem.	Flemish	ints.	interjections	<i>Mids. N. D.</i>	Midsummer Night's Dream
fol.	followed	Ir.	Irish	<i>Mid.</i>	Military
Fortif.	Fortification	<i>Ir. Antiq.</i>	Irish Antiquities	<i>Min.</i>	Mineralogy
Fr.	French	<i>Ir. Hist.</i>	Irish History	<i>Mr.</i>	Middle Irish
Frank.	Frankish	<i>Ir. Mythol.</i>	Irish Mythology	<i>(M)Ir.</i>	Middle and Modern Irish
freq.	frequent, -ly	irreg.	irregular, -ly	<i>mistr.</i>	mistranslation (of), mistranslating
frequent.	frequentative	<i>Isa.</i>	Isaiah	<i>MLG</i>	Middle Low German
<i>Fr. Hist.</i>	French History	It.	Italian	<i>(M)LG</i>	Middle and Modern Low German
Fris.	Frisian	Jap.	Japanese	<i>mod.</i>	modern
G	German (language)	Jav.	Javanese	<i>mod. Da.</i>	modern Danish
Gael.	Gaelic	<i>Jer.</i>	Jeremiah	<i>mod. Du.</i>	modern Dutch
Gal.	Galatians	ioc.	jocular, -ly	<i>mod. Fr.</i>	modern French
gen.	general, -ly	<i>Josh.</i>	Joshua	<i>mod. G.</i>	modern German
<i>Gen.</i>	Genesis	<i>Judge.</i>	Judges	<i>mod. Gk.</i>	modern Greek
genit.	genitive	<i>Jul. Caes.</i>	Julius Caesar	<i>mod. Heb.</i>	modern Hebrew
<i>Geogr.</i>	Geography	L.	Latin	<i>mod. Icel.</i>	modern Icelandic
<i>Geol.</i>	Geology	<i>Lam.</i>	late (in dates)	<i>mod. Ir.</i>	modern Irish
<i>Geom.</i>	Geometry	<i>lang(s).</i>	Lamentations	<i>mod. L.</i>	modern Latin
Ger.	German	<i>law Latin</i>	Law Latin	<i>mod. Prov.</i>	modern Provençal
Gik.	Greek	<i>Ld.</i>	Lord	<i>mod. Skt.</i>	modern Sanskrit
<i>Gik Antiq.</i>	Greek Antiquities	<i>L.Du.</i>	Low Dutch	<i>MSw.</i>	Middle Swedish
<i>Gik Archaeol.</i>	Greek Archaeology	<i>Lev.</i>	Leviticus	<i>(M)Sw.</i>	Middle and Modern Swedish
<i>Gik Archit.</i>	Greek Architecture	<i>L.G.</i>	Low German	<i>Mus.</i>	Music
<i>Gik Gram.</i>	Greek Grammar	<i>Long.</i>	Linguistics	<i>Mycol.</i>	Mycology
<i>Gik Hist.</i>	Greek History	lit.	literal, -ly	<i>Mythol.</i>	Mythology
<i>Gik Mythol.</i>	Greek Mythology	<i>lit. &amp; fig.</i>	in literal and figurative use, literally and figuratively	<i>n.</i>	noun
<i>Gk Orthodox</i>	Greek Orthodox Church	Lith.	Lithuanian	<i>N. Afr.</i>	North Africa(n)
<i>Gk Pros.</i>	Greek Prosody	<i>L. L.,</i>	Love's Labour's Lost	<i>N. Amer.</i>	North America(n)
<i>Gk Rhet.</i>	Greek Rhetoric	<i>1ME</i>	late Middle English	<i>N. Amer. Hist.</i>	North American History
Gmc	Germanic	<i>1OE</i>	late Old English	<i>Naut.</i>	Nautical
Goth.	Gothic	<i>Lucr.</i>	Lucretius	<i>NEB</i>	New English Bible
Gram.	Grammar	M	Middle (before language names)	<i>neg.</i>	negative
<i>Hab.</i>	Habbakuk	<i>M</i>	mid (in dates)	<i>neut.</i>	neuter
<i>Hamd.</i>	Hamlet	<i>(M)</i>	Middle and Modern (before language names)	<i>N. Fr.</i>	Northern Frisian
Haw.	Hawaiian	<i>Mach.</i>	Machbeth	<i>N. Ir.</i>	Northern Ireland, Irish
Heb.	Hebrew	<i>Macc.</i>	Maccabees	<i>nom.</i>	nominative
<i>Heb.</i>	Hebrews	<i>masc.</i>	masculine	<i>north.</i>	northern
<i>Heb. Gram.</i>	Hebrew Grammar	<i>Math.</i>	Mathematics	<i>north.</i>	northern (dialect)
<i>Hen.</i>	Henry	<i>Matt.</i>	Matthew	<i>Northumb.</i>	Northumbrian
<i>Her.</i>	Heraldry	<i>MBret.</i>	Middle Breton	<i>Norw.</i>	Norwegian
HG	High German	<i>MidDa.</i>	Middle Danish	<i>ns.</i>	nouns
Hind.	Hindustani	<i>MDu.</i>	Middle Dutch	<i>Nun.</i>	Numbers
<i>Hist.</i>	Historical, History	<i>(M)Du.</i>	Middle and Modern Dutch	<i>Nunism.</i>	Nunismatics
<i>Hist. Sci.</i>	History of Science	ME	Middle English	<i>NZ</i>	New Zealand
<i>Histol.</i>	Histology	<i>Meas. for M.</i>	Measure for Measure	<i>Obad.</i>	Obadiah
hyperbol.	hyperbolically	<i>Mach.</i>	Mechanics	<i>O</i>	Old (before language names)
Icel.	Icelandic	<i>med.</i>	medieval	<i>(O)</i>	Old and Modern (before language names)
<i>Ichthyol.</i>	Ichthyology	<i>med. Gk.</i>	medieval Greek	<i>obj.</i>	object, -ive
IE	Indo-European	<i>med. L.</i>	medieval Latin	<i>obl.</i>	oblique
imit.	imitative, -ly	<i>Merch. V.</i>	Merchant of Venice	<i>obs.</i>	obsolete
immed.	immediately	<i>Merry W.</i>	Merry Wives (of Windsor)	<i>occas.</i>	occasional, -ly
imper.	imperative, -ly	<i>Metall.</i>	Metallurgy	<i>Oceanogr.</i>	Oceanography
impers.	impersonal, -ly			<i>OCorn.</i>	Old Cornish
indef.	indefinite, -ly				

(O) Corn.	Old and Modern Cornish	pop.	popular, -ly	Slav.	Slavonic
OE	Old English	pop. L.	popular Latin	Sociol.	Sociology
OED	Oxford English Dictionary	Port.	Portuguese	S. of S.	Song of Solomon (or Songs)
OFr.	Old French	possess.	possessive	Sonn.	Sonnets
(O) Fr.	Old and Modern French	ppl	participial	sp.	spelling
OFris.	Old Frisian	ppl a.	participial adjective	Sp.	Spanish
OHG	Old High German	pple	preceding (headword or main entry)	spec.	specific, -ally
(O) HG	Old and Modern High German	prec.		Stock Exch.	Stock Exchange
Oldr.	Old Irish	pred.	predicate	str.	strong
(O) Ir.	Old and Modern Irish	prod.	predicative, -ly	subi.	subject
Oldt.	Old Italian	prod. a.	predicative adjective	subiunct.	subjunctive
(O) It.	Old and Modern Italian	pref.	prefix	subord. (cl.)	subordinate (clause)
OL	Old Latin	prefs.	prefixes	subsp.	subspecies
Old Ch. Slav.	Old Church Slavonic	prep.	preposition, -al	suff.	suffix
OLFrank.	Old Low Frankish	prep.	preposition	suffs.	suffixes
OLG	Old Low German	preps.	prepositions	superl.	superlative
ON	Old Norse	pres.	present	Suppl.	Supplement
ONFr.	Old Northern French	pres. ppl	present participial	Surg.	Surgery
(O) NFr.	Old and Modern Northern French	pres. pple	present participle	Sus.	Susanna
OPers.	Old Persian	pres. t.	present tense	s.v.	sub twice, 'under the word'
Ophthalm.	Ophthalmology	prob.	probably	Sw.	Swedish (language)
OPol.	Old Polish	pron.	pronominal, pronoun	Swed.	Swedish
opp.	opposed (to)	pron.	pronoun	syll.	syllable
OProv.	Old Provençal	prons.	pronouns	synon.	synonymous
OPruss.	Old Prussian	pronunc.	pronunciation		
Org. Chem.	Organic Chemistry	Pros.	Prosody	t.	tense
orig.	original, -ly	Prov.	Provençal	Tam. Shr.	Taming of the Shrew
Orit.	Orientalism	Pro.	Proverbs	Taxon.	Taxonomy
ORuss.	Old Russian	Ps.	Psalms	techn.	technical use
OS	Old Saxon	Psychol.	Psychology	Telegr.	Telegraphy
OSp.	Old Spanish			Teleph.	Telephony
(O) Sp.	Old and Modern Spanish	RC Ch.	Roman Catholic Church	Temp.	Tempest
OSw.	Old Swedish	redupl.	reduplicated, -ation(s)	Theatre.	Theatrical
Oth.	Othello	ref.	reference	Theol.	Theology
OTurk.	Old Turkish	refash.	refashioned, -ing	Thess.	Thessalonians
OWelsh	Old Welsh	refl.	reflexive	Tib.	Tibetan
		rel.	relative	Tim.	Timothy
		rel.	related	Times Lit.	Times Literary
pa.	past	repl.	replaced, -ing	Suppl.	Supplement
Palaeogr.	Palaeography	repr.	representative (of),	Tit.	Titus
Palaeont.	Palaeontology		represented,	Tit. A.	Titus Andronicus
pa. ppl	past (or passive) participial		representing,	tr.	translation (of),
			representation(s)		translating
pa. pple	past (or passive) participle	Rev.	Revelation	Tr. & Cr.	Troilus and Cressida
pass.	passive, -ly	Rhet.	Rhetoric	trans.	transitive, -ly
pa. t.	past tense	rhet.	rhetorical, -ly	transf.	transferred
Per.	Pericles	Rich.	Richard	transf. & fig.	transferred and figurative
perf.	perfect	Rom.	Roman	Turk.	Turkish
perh.	perhaps	Rom.	Romans	Twel. N.	Twelfth Night
pers.	personal	Rom. & Jul.	Romeo and Juliet	Two Gent.	Two Gentlemen (of Verona)
Pers.	Persian	Rom. Antiq.	Roman Antiquities		
Pet.	Peter	Rom. Hist.	Roman History	Typogr.	Typography
Petrogr.	Petrography	Rom. Mythol.	Roman Mythology		
Pharm.	Pharmacology	Russ.	Russian		
Phil.	Philippians	Russ. Hist.	Russian History		
Philol.	Philology	RV	Revised Version		
Philos.	Philosophy				
Phonet.	Phonetics	S. Afr.	South Africa(n)		
phonet.	phonetic, -ally	Sam.	Samuel		
Phonol.	Phonology	S. Amer.	South America(n)		
Photogr.	Photography	Sc.	Scottish, Scots, Scotch		
phr.	phrase	Scand.	Scandinavian		
Phrenol.	Phrenology	Sc. Hist.	Scottish History		
phrs.	phrases	Sci.	Science		
Physiol.	Physiology	sci.	scientific		
pl.	plural	Seismol.	Seismology		
pls.	plurals	Shakes.	Shakespeare		
poet.	poetical	sing.	singular		
Pol.	Polish	Skt	Sanskrit		
Politi.	Politics	Skt Gram.	Sanskrit Grammar		
				v.	verb
				var.	variant (of), variety
				vars.	variants (of)
				vb	verb
				vbl	verbal
				vbl n.	verbal noun

vbs	verbs	w.	with	wk vb	weak verb
Ven. & Ad.	Venus and Adonis	wd(s)	word(s)	WS	West Saxon
Vet.	Veterinary	WFlem.	Western Flemish		
Vet. Med.	Veterinary Medicine	WFriss.	West Frisian		
v.i.	intransitive verb	WGmc	West Germanic	Zech.	Zechariah
voc.	vocative	W. Indies	West Indies	Zeph.	Zephaniah
v.refl.	reflexive verb	Wint. T.	Winter's Tale	Zool.	Zoology
vs.	verbs	Wisd.	Wisdom (of Solomon)		
v.t.	transitive verb	wk	weak		

## Symbols

†	obsolete
*	now chiefly in the United States (see p. xv)
¶	introduces a note (see 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.

## KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION

## Vowels

a	as in	cat, plait
e		bed, death
i		sit, myth, begin, theology
i		cosy, eerie, anemone, Spanish si
o		hot, wash, trough
u		run, son, glove, rough
o		put, good, should, ambulance
o		ago, gather, flavour, cheat, thorough, lemon, success, mistaken
ai		arm, calm, locale, brahmin
ai		her, earn, bird, spur, myrrh
ai		hair, dare, pear, there, vary
ai		see, pea, seize, decent, foetus, paeon
ai		saw, ball, board, horse, thought, applaud
ai		too, glue, fruit, route, through, shrewd, rheum, lunatic
ai	as in	my, high, ice, sign, seismic, bonai
ai		how, plough, sound, kraut
ai		day, gate, daisy, they, rein, deign, maelstrom, sachet
ai		no, cocoa, soul, roe, though, glow, beau, mauve, yeoman
ai		near, beer, theory, query, severe, emir, grenadier
ai		boy, spoil, Freudian
ai		poor, rural, dour, liqueur
ai		tire, byre, choir, quiet, diaphragm
ai		sour, flower, coward

o	as in	French pas
e		French été, Italian verde
o		French homme, Italian donna, German Gott
o		French eau, mot, Italian figlio
u		French tout
o		French bleu, German spöten
ae		French bœuf
y		French du, German fünf
e:		German Ehre
o:		German Boot
ae:		German Höhle
ae:		French douleur
y:		German Führer
ai		German ein, frei
ay		German Häuser

:	indicates length
~	indicates nasality

ð	as in	cordon bleu
ð:		Lyons
ð		French en
ð:		French blanche
ð		French vin
ð:		French cinq
ð		French mon
ð:		French monde
ð		French un

## Consonants and Semivowels

b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, z	have their usual English values
g	as in get, exact
ʃ	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, Kirche
ʎ	Spanish olla, llamar, Italian gli
ɲ	French mignon, Spanish piña, Italian gnocco
ɲ	French nuit

## Stress

- indicates primary stress on the following syllable
- indicates secondary stress on the following syllable

**N**, *n* /n/, the fourteenth letter of the modern Eng. alphabet and the thirteenth of the ancient Roman one, repr. the Greek *nu* and the Semic *nun*. The sound normally represented by the letter is a (usu. voiced) nasal consonant. **N** in mod. Eng. has the following values: (i) the abstr. nasal /n/; (ii) the velar nasal /ŋ/ bef. 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.

1.1 The letter and its sound. 2 The shape of the letter. 3 *Typogr.* = EN 2.

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

4 If 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 *Math.* (Italic *n*) Used to denote an indefinite or unspecified (usu. integral) number; to the *n*th (power etc.), to any required power (*n*g, to any extent, to the utmost degree). Also used in place of *iv*, *vi*, *xvii*, etc., in words, as *n-ary*, *n-tuple*, *b* *Physics & Chem.* (Italic *n*) Denoting the principal quantum number of an electron in an atom, which determines its orbital energy (for the first order) and takes integral values. *c* *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*-series. *c* *Physics* (Italic *n*) Representing the haploid or gametic chromosome number (so *2n* = diploid or zygotic number, *3n* = triploid, etc.). Cf. *X*, *x* 7b. 7 *N-argy*, *a* form of *N*, *argy*, supposedly discovered in 1903 by R. Blondlot but later found to be spurious. *Obs.* *Hist.* **E20**, **F8** *Radiology*. (Italic *n*) *a.* unit of neutron dosage. Only in **M20**.

1119 Abbrev.: (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** = *New*; *Chem.* knight; (*Chem.*) nitrogen. (*Chem.*) = *NORMAL*; *a.* ab; north; (*sm.*) (*Physics*) newton; nuclear; *n* = (*as pref.*) nano-; (*Chem.*) = *NORMAL*; *a.* 4c (*n-octane*: see **OCTANE** 1). **Na** [**NATRIUM**] (*Chem.*) = sodium; *n* = not applicable; not available. **NACP** (*US*) = National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. **NACODS** = National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies, and Shifters. **NAD(P)** (*Biochem.*) = nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide (phospho-). **Nab**, = Nahum (Old Testament). **NALGO** (*Nat'l*) = National and Local Government Officers' Association. **NAM** (*US*) = National Association of Manufacturers. **NAS** = National Association of Schoolteachers. **Noise Abatement Society**. **NASA** (*/na:zə/*) (*US*) = National Aeronautics and Space Administration. **Nat.** = National; *Natural*. **NATFHE** = National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. **NATO** (*/neɪtəʊ/*) = North Atlantic Treaty Organization. **NATOPS** (*/nat'ops/*) = National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (orig., Printers and Assistants). **NB** = Nebraska; *New Brunswick*, no hall; *Newfoundland* (North Britain); (*LL nota bene*, *NB* (*Chem.*) = neobium. **NBC** (*US*) = National Broadcasting Company. **NBG** (*colloq.*) = no bloody good. **NC** = North

Carolina. **NCB** (*Hist.*) = National Coal Board. **NCC** = National Council Council; National Curriculum Council; (*Hist.*) Nature Conservancy Council. **NCO** = non-commissioned officer. **NCR** [*f.* 'no carbon required'] = (proprietary name for) paper chemically treated so that the pressure of writing or typing alone produces duplicate copies without the use of carbon paper between sheets. **NCU** = National Communications Union; National Cyclists' Union. **ND** = North Dakota. **Nd** (*Chem.*) = neodymium. **ND** = no date. **N.Dak.** = North Dakota. **NE** = north-east (abbr.). **Ne** (*Chem.*) = neon. **NEA** (*US*) = National Education Association. **NEB** = National Enterprise Board; *New English Bible*. **Neb.** = Nebraska. **Nebr.** = Nebraska. **NED** (*arch.*) = New English Dictionary (later Oxford English Dictionary). **NEDC** (*Hist.*) = National Economic Development Council. **NEDO** = National Economic Development Office. **Neh.** = Nehemiah (in the Bible). **NERG** = Natural Environment Research Council. **Neu.** = Nevada. **NF** = National Front; Newfoundland. **NFL** (*US*) = National Football League. **Nfld** = Newfoundland. **NFS** = National Fire Service. **NFT** = National Film Theatre. **NFU** = National Farmers' Union. **n.g.** = good. **NGA** (*Hist.*) = National Graphical Association. **NGC** (*Astron.*) = New General Catalogue (of non-stellar objects). **NGO** = non-governmental organization. **NH** = New Hampshire. **NHI** = National Health Insurance. **NHL** (*N. Am.*) = National Hockey League. **NHS** = National Health Service. **NI** = National Insurance; Northern Ireland. *NI* (*Chem.*) = nickel. **NIC** = National Insurance contributions; (also /nik/) newly industrialized (or industrializing) country. **NIH** (*US*) = National Institutes of Health. **NIREX** */naɪrɛks/* = Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive. **NI** = New Jersey. **NKVD** = [Russ.] *Narodnyy Komissariat Vnutrennykh Del* People's Commissariat of Internal Affairs, replacing the OGPU. **NLRB** (*US*) = National Labor Relations Board. **NM** = New Mexico. **n.m.** = nautical mile. **nm** (*Physics*) = nanometre. **N.Mex.** = New Mexico. **NMOS** = *n-channel* enhancement metal-oxide semiconductor. **NMR** = nuclear magnetic resonance. **NNE** = north-north-east. **NNR** = National Nature Reserve. **NNW** = north-north-west. **NO** [*L. numero* ab. *n.omo* number] = number; (*US*) North. **n.o.** (*Grick*) = not out. **nom** = nominal. **Northants** = Northamptonshire. **Northumb.** = Northumberland. **Notts.** = Nottinghamshire. **Nov.** = November. **NP** = Notary Public. **Np** (*Chem.*) = neptunium. **n.p.** = new paragraph; no place of publication. **NPA** = Newspaper Publishers' Association. **NPD** = [G] *Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands* National Democratic Party of Germany. **NPL** = National Physical Laboratory. **NPV** = Net Present Value. **NR** (*Hist.*) = North Riding. *nr.* = near. **NRA** = National Rivers Authority. National Rifle Association. **NS** = National Recovery Administration. **NRDC** = National Research Development Corporation. **NS** = new series; New Style; Nova Scotia. **N.S.** (*Statistics*) = not significant. **NSB** = National Savings Bank. **NSC** = National Security Council. **NSF** = National Science Foundation. **NSPCC** = National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. **NSW** = New South Wales. **NT** = New Testament. **National Trust** = National Territory (of Australia); no trumps. **Nth.** = North. **NTP** (*Sci.*) = normal temperature and

pressure. **NUBE** = National Union of Bank Employees. **NUGAW** = National Union of General and Municipal Workers. **NUJ** = National Union of Journalists. **NUM** = National Union of Mineworkers. **Num.** = Numbers (in the Bible). **NUPE** (*/nju:pi/*) = National Union of Public Employees. **NUR** (*Hist.*) = National Union of Railwaymen. **NUS** = National Union of Seamen (*Hist.*). **National Union of Students**. **NUT** = National Union of Teachers. **NV** = Nevada. **NVQ** = National Vocational Qualification. **NW** = north-west (abbr.). **NY** = New York. **NYC** = New York City. **NZ** = New Zealand.

**n** (*/sɪn/*) *comp.* *colloq.* Also **n'**. **M19**. [Reduced form.] = AND *comp.*

**n** (*/sɪn/*) *comp.* *colloq.* **M19**. [Reduced form.] = THAN *comp.*

**n** *suff.* see **EN**<sup>4</sup>, **EN**<sup>5</sup>.

† **na** *adv.* & *conj.* See also **NAE**, **OE**. [*f.* **NE** + *a* (see **AYE** *adv.*); *CE* *NO* *adv.*; & see also **NO** *adv.*]. **A** *adv.* = *NOT* *adv.*; **OE** **E16**, **2** = *NO* *adv.*; **OE** **L16**, **3** *adv.* *1* *Not*; *rare* *other*. **OE** **L18**, **2** That not, but that. **IME** **L18**.

**na** */na:z/* *adv.* *1* *Chiefly* *Sc. & north*. **ME**. [Use of *prec.* **CE** **NAH** *adv.*; *no* *adv.*; & *nr.*] = *NO* *adv.* & *int.*

**na** */na:z/* *Sc. & north*. **E18**. [Enclitic form of *no* *adv.*] *Not*. *Freq.* joined to a preceding *sub.* *obj.* *conj.* *adv.* **E17**.

**NAAFI** */na:fi/*, **NAO**. Also **Nafty**. **E20**. [Acronym.] The Navy, Army, and Air Force Institutes; a canteen, store, etc., run for service personnel by this organization.

**naam** */no:m/* *n.* **OE**. [*ON* *nam* rel. to *niman* take, *NIE* *v.* 1 *Lato* (now *Hut.*). The action of taking another's goods by distrain; goods so taken.

**naan** *n.* var. of **NaN** *n*.

**naartjie** */na:ʃi/*, **na:ki** *n.* *S. Afr.* Also **naartje**, **naartje**, & other vars. **L18**. [*Afr.* *f.* Tamil *naṉṉai* citrus.] A soft loose-skinned tangerine or mandarin orange.

**naat** */na:t/* *n.* **M20**. [*Afr.* = seam *f.* Du. *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/* *n.* *Chiefly* *north* & *Sc.* **ME**. [*ON* *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 tuff, a clump, rare*. **M19**, **2** A projection or spur on the bottom of a lock. **L17**.

**nab** */nab/* *v.* *slang* & *dialect*. *Now* *rare* or *obs.* **M16**. [*Perh.* a use of *prec.* **CE** **NOB** *n*, **KNOB** *n*. 4] 1 The *head*. **M16**, **2** *a* *hat*. **L17**.

**nab** */nab/* *v.* *slang*. **E19**. [*f.* **NAB** *v.* 1] A person who catches someone or something; *spec.* a police officer.

**nab** */nab/* *n.* *colloq.* *Now* *rare*. **M19**. [*f.* *nab* *var.* of **KNAB** *v.* 1] A bite.

**nab** *n.* see **NOB** *n*.

**nab** */nab/* *v.* *slang*. *Infl.* **-bb-**. **L17**. [*Origin* *unkn.* *CE* *nap* *v.* 1] *s.t.* Catch (a person) and take into custody; apprehend, arrest; catch in wrongdoing. **L17**, **2** *s.t.* Snatch or seize (a thing); steal. **E19**, **b *v.s.* Snatch at a thing. *rare* **E19**.**

*I* *in*. *R. CROMPTON* *Crombail*. 'I thought he was going to nab *us*. *R. MACAULAY* He's disgraced for driving for a year, he did something silly and got nabbed. *Phrases* **nab** the rust (*now* *dia.*) be angry, reprove, or scold.

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

**nab** *v.* var. of **KNAB** *v.*

**nab** *adv.* & *n.* see **HAB**.



**nabal** /'neib(a)/ *n.* Chiefly Sc. 116. [Heb. pers. name Nabal, w. ref. to *1 Sam.* 25:3.] A churlish or miserly person.

**Nabataean** /nə'bat(i)ən/ *n.* & *adj.* [f. *L. Nabat(h)aeus*, Gk. *Nabat(h)aios* (cf. Arab. *Nabatt* adj., pertaining to the Nabataeans) + -AN.] A N. A member of an ancient Arabian people forming a kingdom with its capital at Petra; the language of this people. E17. B *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Nabataeans or their language. E19.

**nabbie** /'nabi/ *n.* E19. [Perh. f. NOBBY *n.*] 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 *n.* 1.

**nabby** *adj.* & *n.* see NOBBY *adj.* & *n.*

**nab** /nəb/ *n.* *US* slang. M20. [Repr. pronunc. of 1st syll. of *neighbourhood*.] A local cinema.

**Nabeshima** /nə'beʃi:mə/ *n.* E19. [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** /'nabi:/ *n.* PL. (in sense 1) **nebi'im** /'nebi:m/ (in sense 2) **nabis**. Also **N**. E19. [Heb. *nabi* prophet.] 1 *Theol.* 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 v. *PROPHET*. E19. 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** = the principles or practice of a nabi's adherence to a nabi. E20.

**nabla** /'nabla/ *n.* E19. [Gk. = a kind of harp, prob. of Semitic orig. Cf. *NEBEL*.] *Math.* = DEL.

**nabob** /'neibob/ *n.* E17. [Port. *nababo* or Sp. *nabab* f. Urdu *nawāb*, *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. Arab. M18.

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

**nabocklisch** /nə'boʃkliʃ/ *int.* Anglo-Ir. M19. [f. *Ir. na* not + *buc* imper. *imp.* of *bacaim* I meddle + *den* with *lit.* 'don't meddle with me!'] Never mind! Leave it alone!

**Nabokovian** /nə'boʊkəv(i)ən/ *n.* M20. [f. *Nabokov* (see below) + -AN.] Of, pertaining to, or characteristic of the Russian-born novelist and poet Vladimir Nabokov (1899-1977) or his writing.

**nabs** /nəbz/ *n.* arch. slang (chiefly *sc.*). PL. same. E18. [Origin unkn. Cf. *NIB* *n.*, *NIBS*.] A person. Also *w.* possess. *adj.* as *his* *nabs*.

**nacarat** /'nacarat/ *n.* M18. [f. *Port.* *nacarado*, f. *nacar* *nacra*.] A light bright orange-red colour. M18. 2 A fine linen fabric dyed in this colour. M18.

**nacelle** /'nəʃl/ *n.* E15. [f. *late L. nacella* dim. of *L. navis* ship.] 1 A small boat. *rare*. Only in L15. E12 The basket or car of a balloon or airship. E20. 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 f. *Fr.*

**nachas** *n.* var. of *NACHES*.

**nache** /'neʃ/ *n.* Now *rare* or obs. exc. dial. Also **inache**, **nage**, **nach** /'neʃ/ *n.* [ME. *OPR.* *nache*, *nage*, pl. *naches* f. *late L. naticus* accus. pl. of *naticus*, f. *L. natus* buttock. Cf. *ATTICHOKE*.] 1 In pl., the buttocks; *slang*. the anus. Long obs. exc. *Hist.* ME. 2 The (point of) the rump in an ox or cow. ME.

Comb. *nache-bone* = ATTICHOKE.

**naches** /'naks/ *n.* *US*. Also **nachas**. E20. [Yiddish *nachkes* f. Heb. *nachak* contentment.] A selfish pleasure or pride; esp. in the achievements of one's children; joy, gratification.

**Nachlass** /'naxlas/ *n.* PL. **-lasse** /-lax-/ *n.* [Jewish *lax*.] M19. [G.] *sing.* & (*rare*) in pl. Unpublished material left by an author after his or her death.

**nacho** /'natʃəʊ/ *n.* Orig. *US*. PL. -*os*. M20. [Origin uncertain: perh. f. Mex. Sp. *Nacho* pet-form of male forename *Ignacio* (that of a chef often credited with the dish's creation), but cf. *Sp.* *nacho* flour-noodle.] A snack or appetizer consisting of fried tortilla chips covered in melted cheese, peppers, spices, etc. In pl. exc. when *attn.*

**Nachschlag** /'naxʃlax/ *n.* PL. **-schläge** /-ʃlax-/ *n.* [G.] *f.* *nach* after + *Schlag* blow, note.] *Music*. A grace-note taking its value from that of the note preceding it.

**Nachtlokal** /'naxtləʊkəl/ *n.* PL. **-e** /-ə/ *n.* M20. [G.] *f.* *Nacht* night + *Lokal* public house.] A nightclub.

**Nachtmahl** *n.* see *NAGMAAL*.

**Nacht und Nebel** /'naxt ʌnd 'neibəl/ *n.* *phr.* M20. [G.] *lit.* 'night and fog.] A situation characterized by mystery or obscurity, esp. as associated with Nazi Germany between 1941 and 1945.

**nacket** /'nakt/ *n.* Sc. 116. [Origin unkn.] 1 A type of small coat, esp. one made with fine white flannel. E16. 2 A snack, a lunch; a light meal. E18.

**nacre** /'neɪkə/ *n.* E16. [f. *Fr.* prob. ult. of oriental origin.] = MOTHER-OF-PEARL.

**nacred** *adj.* covered with or resembling nacre. M18.

**nacreous** /'neɪkriəs/ *adj.* M19. [f. *prec.*: see *NA*.] Consisting of or resembling nacre.

**nacry** /'neɪkri/ *n.* E19. [f. *prec.*: see *NA*.] The nacreous face of a leper observed in Asia. *J.* BARRES A very early... shaver, nacreous mites to his box.

**nacrite** /'neɪkri:t/ *n.* E19. [f. *NA*CRE + -ITE.] *Min.* A clay mineral related to kaolinite.

**NACRO** /'neɪkri:s/ *n.* M19. [f. *NA*CRE + -OUS.] Nacreous.

**nada** /'nada/ *n.* E20. [Sk. *nāda* sound.] *Hind.* *phil.* Inchoate or elemental sound considered as the source of all sounds and as a source of creation.

**nada** /'nada/ *n.* M20. [Sp. = nothing, f. *lat. (res)* *nada* thing born, insignificant thing.] Nothing; nothingness, non-existence.

**Na-Dene** /'neɪdəni/ *n.* & *adj.* E20. [f. Athapaskan *na* cogn. w. Haida *naa* dwell, Tlingit *naa* tribe + *N.* Athapaskan *dene* tribe.] A *Ad.* Designating, of, or pertaining to a N. American Indian language group including the Athapaskan and Tlingit families, and (in some classifications) Haida. E20. B *n.* The Na-Dene group of languages. M20.

**Naderism** /'neɪdərɪz(ə)m/ *n.* M20. [f. Ralph Nader (b. 1934), *US* lawyer + -ISM.] Public agitation for greater safety and higher quality in consumer goods.

**nadir** /'neɪdər/ *n.* LME. [(O)Fr. (also Sp., It.) f. Arab. *nadr* (*an-nam*) opposite (the zenith)] 1 *f. Astron.* A point in the heavens diametrically opposite to some other point, esp. to the sun. *Foll.* by *of*. LME. E18. 2 *Astron.* The point of the heavens diametrically opposite to the zenith; the point directly below an observer. E15. 3 The lowest point (of something); the place or time of greatest depression or degradation. E18.

3 G. HILL When Buckingham was assassinated... England's international reputation was at its nadir.

**nae** /'neɪ/ *adv.* Sc. & north. E18. [Var. of *NA* *adv.*; *no* *adv.*] Not.

**naevus** /'neɪvəs/ *n.* Also **\*nevus**. PL. **-vi** /-vaɪ/. M19. [L.] *Med.* A congenital reddish or brown mark or (usu.) raised blemish on the skin, esp. a haemangioma; a birthmark, a mole.

**naevifid** *adj.* of the nature of a naevus. E19.

**naif** /'naɪ/ *n.* slang. M20. [Origin unkn.] Unfashionable, lacking in style. Also, worthless, faulty, rubbishy.

L. CONY NO electricity... I think it's just a naff battery connection. *Sunday Telegraph* It is naff to call your house 'The Gables' or 'Dunelmans'.

**naff** /'nɒf/ *adj.* slang. M20. [Prob. euphem. substitute for *FUCK* v. Cf. *EFF* *v.*] Foll. by *off*; go away. *Freq.* in *impr.*

**naffy** *adj.* (used as an intensifier) M20.

**Naffy** *n.* var. of *NAFF*.

**nag** /'nɒg/ *n.* E15. [f. *NA* *v.*] 1 A small riding-horse or pony; *coll.* a horse. LME. 2 A contemptible or worthless person. E16-E17. *Comb.* **nagman** a skilled horseman employed to train or show horses.

**nag** /'nɒg/ *v.* E15. [f. *NA* *v.*] 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** /'nɒg/ *v.* Inft. -*gg*. E19. [Origin uncertain: perh. ult. of Scand. origin or f. LG (cf. Sw. *gnaga*, Norw. *gnaw*, nibble, irritate, LG (g) *gnagen* irritate, provoke.)] 1 *v.* *tr.* & *i.* *Gnaw*, nibble, (at), *dist.* E19. B *v.* Of a pain etc.: ache dulled but persistently. M19. 2 *v.* Find fault, complain, or urge someone, esp. persistently. (Foll. by *at*). M19. 3 *v.* 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. TOMLININ *pl.* of exposure must have nagged and tormented her.

**nagger** *n.* E19. **naggingly** *adv.* in a nagging manner

**naglessness** *n.* (*rare*) nagging quality or condition. E19.

**naga** /'nəɡə/ *n.* E18. [Sk. *nāga* serpent, snake.] *Indian Mythol.* A member of a race of semi-divine creatures, half-snake and half-human, and are the geni of rain, rivers, etc.

**Naga** /'nəɡə/ *n.* E19. [Hind. *nāga* f. Sk. *nāga* *nāga* = w. *NAGED*.] *Hind.* A naked mendicant; spec. such an ascetic belonging to a sect permitting its members to carry arms and serve as mercenaries.

**Naga** /'nəɡə/ *n.* & *adj.* M19. [Perh. f. Sk. *nāga* *nāga* = w. *NAGED*.] *Hind.* 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 *attr.* or *adj.* Of, of, or pertaining to the Nagas or their language. E20.

**nagaika** /'nəɡaɪkə/ *n.* PL. **-i** /-i/ *n.* *has*. M19. [Russ. *nagaika*, f. (as) *NOGAY*.] A thick plaited Cossack whip.

**nagana** /'nəɡənə/ *n.* E19. [Zulu *nakana*.] A disease of cattle, antelope, etc., in southern Africa, characterized by fever, lethargy, and oedema caused by trypanosomes transmitted by tsetse-flies.

**Nagari** /'nəɡəri/ *n.* & *n.* E18. [Sk. *nagari*, f. *nagara* town.] = DEVANAGARI.

**nage** *n.* var. of *NACHE*.

**nageluf** /'nəɡəlʊf/ *n.* PL. **-luf** /-lʊf/. E19. [G. f. *Nagel* nail + *Swiss G.* *Fluch* curse.] *Geol.* A massive Miocene conglomerate associated with the molasse of the Swiss Alps, containing pebbles supposed to look like nail-heads.

**nagle** /'nəɡl/ *v.* & *n.* M19. [Frequent. of *NAG* *v.* see -*LE*.] 1 *v.* *Gnaw*, bite, (chiefly *dist.*). Also, *nag*, quarrel, esp. in a petty manner. M19.

B *n.* Pettiness; nagging. *rare*. M19.

K. MILLER The regulation American mother bullying her two sons with naggle.

**naggy** /'nəɡi/ *n.* Chiefly Sc. E17. [f. *NAG* *n.* + -Y.] A small nag, a pony.

**naggy** /'nəɡi/ *adj.* E17. [ENAG *v.* + -Y.] Given to nagging; dial. ill-natured, bad-tempered.

*Guardian* ... whose mothers are tired and naggy.

**Nagmaal** /'naxmaɪ/ *n.* S. Afr. Also (earlier) **Nacht** /'naxt/ *n.* E19. [Afrik. *nagmaal* (Du. *nachtmaal*).] *f.* *nag* (Du. *nacht*) night + *maal* meal.] The usu. quarterly celebration of the Eucharist in the Dutch Reformed Church (an occasion of family reunions and celebration).

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, | she, v vision, o thin, d this, n ring, t ship, dy jar



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. HITCHCOCK I think I can suppose her so naive as to be impressed? O. MANNING He smiled in naive pleasure *b naive painter, naive painting, etc.*

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

**naively** *adv.* 1 (a) naturally, due to naivety; (b) in a naive manner, artlessly. M17. **naiveness** *n.* (rare) M20.

**naivete** /naiv'et/; naiv'etes, -nə-/ *n.* Pl. pronounced same. L17. [Fr. *a* as prec. + *-te* -TV.] 1 = NAIVITY 2 L17. 2 = NAIVITY 1. E18.

**naivety** /naiv'et/; naiv'et-*n.* Also **naivety**. E18. [Anglicized f. prec.; see -TV.] 1 The state or quality of being naive. E18. 2 A naive action, remark, etc. M19.

1 J. BERGER He must have taken advantage of... your naivety and your good heart. 2 CARYLLE Shrewd simplicity, naivetes, blundering ingenuities.

**Naja** /'nedʒə, 'neɪ-/ *n.* M18. [mod.L. (see below) f. Hindi *nāg* 'snake']. A cobra of the genus *Naja*. Now chiefly as mod.L. genus name.

**nake** /neɪk/ *n.* Long obs. exc. S. ME. [Back-formation f. NAKED *a*.] Make naked (lit. & fig.).

**nakēd** /'neikəd/ *a.* & [OE *nacod* = OFris. *nakēd*, -v, M.L.G. *MDu*, *nakēd* (Du. *nake*), OHG *nacut* (G. *nack*), on *nackēd*, Goth. *nakēd*, -v, f. Gmc. rel. to *L. nudus*, Skt. *nagmā*.] A adj. 11 Of the body or a part: unclothed, stripped to the skin, not covered or protected by clothing. OE. b Of a horse etc.: without a saddle or harness; barebacked. Long obs. exc. S. OE. 2 f. a Of a person: destitute of clothing, esp. through extreme poverty. Of an animal: deprived of its hair, without fur. LME. 1, 2 b 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 S. SCOTT His naked foot was dyed with red. G. GREENE A child naked except for a necktie round the waist. W. GOLDING He stripped naked and spread his clothing in the sun. 2A *Shakes.* Lear Poor naked wretches, that bid the pining of this pitiless storm, abate! DRYDEN The afflicted cake, The hunger-starved, the naked and the lame. B. R. L. STOVENSON I am few naked as 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.

114 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 GIBSON A fragment of the Anecdotes, somewhat too naked, was suppressed. 6 LD MACALRAY Chamberlayne laid his plan, in all its naked absurdity, before the Commons. J. GROSS With Arnold or Eliot... the nobility were naked as the sun.

1117a A destitute or devoid of something. OE. b Lacking or defective in some respect. LME. c Unfilled, unoccupied, rare. M17. 8 Lacking tackle, equipment, furnishings, etc.; unfurnished, underdecorated. LME. b Lacking vegetation, barren; treeless; having no foliage (of rock etc.) without soil, exposed. LME. 10 Bot. a Of a seed: having no pericarp. Also of varieties of oats or other cereals: having the husk easily detached (cf. *trit. CORN*). 116 b 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 Zool. Of (part of) an animal: lacking hair, scales, or a shell, present in related forms. E17.

7a S. PEPYS It is a remarkable thing how infinitely naked... Covent Garden... of people. 8 O. MANNING A single light... naked... naked boardings. 9 W. COPLEY Sea-beaten rocks and naked shores. R. KIPLING Not only on the Naked

Chalk, but also among the Trees. 11 BECKS I always felt it on the naked nerve. M. DIBBIN It is lit by a large number of naked bulbs.

IV13 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 S.). E19. 15 *Stoek* *Esch* Of an option etc.: not secured on or by means of the underlying share. 126

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

**naked** *adj.* 1 (a) completely naked; see APE *n.* *Hastings 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 boy, naked ladies below. naked eye vision unaided by microscope, telescope, etc. naked flooring timbers supporting flooring boards. naked force, unexcused, ruthless force. naked ladies meadow saffron, *Colchicum autumnale*, whose flowers appear long before the leaves. naked singularity *dim.* 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 *n* 11 The naked skin. rare. Only in LME. 2 A bare figure. Formerly also, the nude. E17. 3 The face or plain surface of a wall etc. L17.

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

**nakedly** *adv.* ME. **nakedness** *n.* OE. **naker** /'neikə/ *n.* ME. [OFr. *nac* (a/nr) = *It. nacchera* (cf. med.L. *nacarra*, Gk. *anakara*) f. Arab. *nakhdra* drum.] Chiefly Hist. A kettledrum.

**nakerer** *n.* (long rare or obs.) a person who plays the naker drum.

**nakhliite** /'naxli:t/ *n.* E20. [f. El Nakhli el Bahari, a village in Egypt + *-ite*]. Geol. An achondrite containing about 75 per cent ferroan diopside and 15 per cent olivine.

**nakhliite** /'naxli:t/ *n.* E20. [f. El Nakhli el Bahari, a village in Egypt + *-ite*]. Geol. An achondrite containing about 75 per cent ferroan diopside and 15 per cent olivine.

**nakhoda** /'naxkədə/ *n.* E17. [Pers. & Urdu *nakhūda*, f. *nāto* boat, ship + *kūdā* master.] The captain or master of a local boat in Indian Malayan waters.

**nakodo** /'naxkədə/ *n.* Pl. same, -*os*. [Jap. *nakodo* In Japan, a person acting as go-between in the arrangement of a marriage.

**nala** *n.* Var. of *NULLAR*.<sup>1</sup>

**nalbuphine** /'nalbujfɪn/ *n.* M20. [f. NALPHINE + *-ine* inserted *bu* (TYL.) Pharm. A synthetic narcotic, C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> which is an analgesic structurally similar to morphine.

**naled** /'neɪlɪd/ *n.* M20. [Origin unknown.] An agricultural organophosphorus pesticide, C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>ClO<sub>4</sub>P, of low toxicity to mammals and rapidly degradable.

**nalidixic** /'nalɪdɪksɪk/ *a.* M20. [f. rearrangement of elems. (NAPHTHALENE, CARBONIC, -in-) of the systematic name.] Pharm. *nalidixic acid*, a heterocyclic organic acid, C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>4</sub>, given as a bacteriostatic antiseptic in the treatment of urinary infections.

**Nalline** /'nælɪn/ *n.* Also *n.* M20. [f. N-allylmorphine; see next.] Pharm. (US) *Nalline* is a name for the drug nalbuphine. **nalorphine** /'nalɔrfɪn/ *n.* M20. [Contr. of N-allylmorphine, f. ALLYL + MORPHINE.] Pharm. A heterocyclic base, C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>, 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** /'nɒləksɒn/ *n.* M20. [Contr. of N-allylmorphine; see prec., OXY-, -ONE.] Pharm. A heterocyclic base resembling nalorphine in structure and action. C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>4</sub>. **naltraxone** /'nɒltræksɒn/ *n.* L20. [f. as prec. + *-al* + *-trax* -*trax*.] Pharm. A narcotic antagonist, C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>17</sub>NO<sub>4</sub> related to naloxone and nalorphine.

**Nam** /'nəmə/ *a.* & M19. [Nama.] A adj. Of, pertaining to, or designating a person living chiefly in Namakaland (in western South Africa) and Namibia, or their language. M19. B

*n.* Pl. -*es*, same. 1 A member of the Nama people. L19. 2 The language of this people. E20.

¶ Also known by the names *Kaikhai* and (now discredited) *Hottentot*.

**Namaqua** /'nəmkwə/ *a.* & n. L17. [Nama *nama* *gu* a.] A *n.* Pl. -*es*, same. = NAMA *n.* L17.

B adj. = NAMA *adj.* C. 1941 *n.*

**Namaqua** dove a small long-tailed dove, *Oena capensis*, found in Africa south of Sudan. **Namaqua** ground, *Procris*, a genus of flowering plants, *Procris namaqua* (southern Africa).

**namaskar** /'nəmskə/ *n.* M20. [Hindi f. Skt *namaskāra*, f. *nama* (see next) + *kāra* action.] A traditional Hindu gesture of greeting made by bringing the palms together before the face or chest with the fingers pointing upwards. E18.

**namaste** /'nəməste/ *n.* *int.*, & *v.* M20. [Hindi, f. Skt *namas* bowing, obeisance + *-te* dat. of *nam* you (sing.)] A *n.* = prec. M20. B *int.* Expr. respectful greeting (said when giving a namaskar). M20. C *v.* I give namaskar. M20.

**namaycush** /'nəmeɪk-, -mɪk-/ *n.* L18. [Cree *namayok* or *Ojibwa namayok*]. The N. American lake trout, *Salvelinus namaycush*.

**namby-pamby** /'nəmbɪ'pəmbɪ/ *a.* & *n.* M18. [Fanciful formation w. redupl. on *Ambrose* Philips (d. 1749), author of pastorals ridiculed by Pope and by Carey (in *Namby Pamby*, 1726).] A *adj.* *Namby-pamby*, sentimentally, affectively or childishly, pompously, lacking vigour. E18.

B *n* 11 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** *n.* namby-pamby quality; an instance of this. M19.

**name** /neɪm/ *n.* & a. [OE *nama*, *nama* = OFris. *nama*, *nama*, OS. *OHG* *nama*, *nama* = G. *Name*, ON *nafr*, *nam*, Goth. *namo*, f. Gmc. f. IE, cogn. w. *L. nomen*, Gk. *onoma*, Skt. *naman*.] A *n.* 11 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 *Stoek* *Esch* 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. f. b A title or rank or dignity. Chiefly S. LME-17.

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

113 The individual designation or personality of a divine being, as God, Christ, etc., esp. as the object of formal devotion. OE. 4a 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. c (Also *N*.) An underwriting member of Lloyd's. L19. 5a 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. WELLESLEY We adore Eternal Name. 4a SHAKES. *Meas.* for *My* My unsold friend, b'statement of my life. TENNYSON If they find some stain or blemish in a name of note. b J. BETHAM His publisher believed that a 'name' was needed to help sell the book. *Daily Express* Famous retail names are involved. Others who move out of a town centre, others... follow. 5a SHAKES. *Hen.* V By the hand of that black name, Edward, Black Prince of Wales. A. ALSON Names are the names of things. The rolls of fame were assembled. b LD MACALRAY All the clans hostile to the name of Campbell were set in motion.

1116 The reputation of some character or attribute, a reputation, as specified below. ME. 7 A person's reputation. Freq. w. specified word, as *good*, *ill*, etc. ME. 8 Repute, fame, distinction. Now rare. ME.

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 *vain*, w *we*, z *zoo*, j *she*, z *vision*, 0 *thin*, 0 *this*, y *ring*, i *chip*, dz *jar*





cyclohexane) present in or obtained from petroleum. L19.

**naphthenic** /nə'θɪnɪk/ a. L19. [f. prec. + -ic.] *Chem.* 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.

**naphthene** n. a salt or ester of a naphthenic acid L19.

**naphthol** /nə'fθɒl/ n. M19. [f. NAPHTHA + -OL.] *Chem.* Either of two isomeric phenols,  $C_{10}H_7O$ , derived from naphthalene.

**naphthoquinone** /nə'fθɒkwɪnɒn/ n. Also **naphtho-** L19. [f. NAPHTHA(LENE) + -O- + QUINONE.] *Chem.* Each of six isomeric compounds,  $C_{10}H_6O_2$ , normally obtained by replacing two of the CH groups of naphthalene by carbonyl groups; *spec.* (more fully *1,4-naphthoquinone*, a naphthoquinone) a volatile yellow solid whose molecule forms part of the structure of vitamin K.

**naphthyl** /nə'fθɪl, -θɪl/ n. M19. [f. NAPHTHA(LENE) + -YL.] *Chem.* Either of two isomeric radicals of naphthalene,  $C_{10}H_7$ . *Usu.* in comb.

**Napierian** /neɪ'piəriən/ a. E19. [f. NAPIER (see next) + -IAN.] Invented by or associated with John Napier.

**NAPIER LOGABITHM.**

**Napier's bones** /neɪ'piəz bəʊnz/ n. *phr. pl.* M17. [John Napier (1550-1617); Sc. mathematician.] Several narrow strips of ivory, wood, etc., divided into marked sections bearing digits, used as an aid to multiplication and division.

**napism** /neɪ'pɪzəm/ a. M19. [f. *Napus* turp + -ism + -FORM.] Formed like a turnip; *Bot.* (of a root) round above and tapering below.

**napkin** /nə'pɪn/ n. LME. [(O)Fr. *nappe*] *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. 2a A handkerchief. Now only Sc. & north. LME. b A kerchief, a neckcloth. Sc. L18. 3 A cloth, a small towel. L17 = NAPPY n. M19. 5 A sanitary towel. Also *sanitary napkin*. Chiefly N. Amer. L19.

1 H. BELLOC *Gendefol* 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 ivory, wood, etc., used to hold (and distinguish) a person's table napkin when not in use.

**napped** a. wrapped in or covered with a napkin; provided with or served on a napkin; *napping* n. (now rare or obs.) material for napkins M17.

**Naples** /neɪ'pɪl/ n. L17. [A city in S. Italy.] 1 *Naples bicuit*, 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 from a coloured zinc oxide, the colour produced by this. M18. 3 *Hist.* *Naples soap*, a soft brown soap formerly used for shaving. L18.

**napless** /'næplɪs/ a. L16. [f. NAP n. + -LESS.] Having no nap, worn, threadbare.

**naplessness** n. M19.

**napoh** /'næpɒ/ n. Also (earlier) **napu**. E19. [Malay.] The greater chevron, *Trigloporus napu*, of SE Asia.

**napoleon** /nə'pɒliən/ n. 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 military means. E19. 3 *Hist.* A kind of high boot. M19. 4 A kind of cannon. US. M19. 5 *Cards.* = NAP n. 2. L19. 6 = MILLEFEUILLE. Chiefly N. Amer. L19. 7 A large bigearre cherry with a red skin and white flesh. Cf. *Royal Annet* s.v. ROYAL a. E20. 8 (USU. N-)

In full *Napoleon brandy*. Brandy of supposed great age or special merit; a glass or variety of this M20.

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

**Napoleonism** n. (a) the method of government practised by Napoleon I, esp. the assumption of absolute control over subject peoples or countries; (b) attachment to the policy or dynasty of the Napoleons; (c) behaviour resembling that of Napoleon I. M19. **Napoleonist** n. & (a) n. an adherent of Napoleon I or the Napoleonic dynasty; (b) adj. pertaining or attached to Napoleon I.

**Napoleonic** a. Napoleonic; of the nature or characteristic of Napoleonism. L19. **Napoleonize** v. *trans.* to govern in the style of Napoleon I. E19.

**Napoleonic** /nə'pɒliənɪk/ a. M19. [f. 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 Supremacy. A GLOSS A desire 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** adv. M19.

**napoo** /nə'puː/ int., a. & v. *slang* (orig. Mil.). E20. [fr. *it's n'y on a plus there's none left*.] A int. Finished, gone, done for; goodbye. E20. B. adj. Finished; good for nothing; dead. E20. C. v. t. Finish, kill, destroy. E20.

**Nappa** /'næpə/ n. 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 tanning process.

**nappe** /'næp/ n. L19. [fr. Lit. 'tablecloth'] 1 A sheet of water falling over a weir or similar surface. L19. 2 *Geol.* A sheet of rock which has moved horizontally over neighbouring strata, as a result of overthrusting or recumbent folding. E20.

**napped** /næ'pɪd/ a. LME. [f. NAP n., v.; see -ED-, -ED-] Of cloth: having a nap.

**nappe** /'næpə/ n. LME. [f. NAP n. + -ER.] A person who naps or takes a nap.

1 **napper** n. *slang* M17-E18. [Rel. to NAP v.; see -ER- suffix.]

2 The elem. of KINNAPPER.

**nappe** /'næpə/ n. rare. E18. [f. NAP n. + -ER.] A person who or machine which raises the nap on cloth.

**napper** /'næpə/ n. *slang* dial. & *slang*. L18. [Origin unkn.] The head.

**napping** /'næpɪŋ/ n. LME. [f. NAP n. + -ING-] The action of raising a nap on cloth. Also, the nap on cloth; material used for the nap of a hat.

**nappy** /'næpi/ n. Now Sc. & dial. M18. [f. NAPPY a.] Strong or foaming beer; liquor.

**nappy** /'næpi/ n. N. Amer. M19. [Origin unkn.] An earthenware or glass dish with sloping sides.

**nappy** /'næpi/ n. E20. [Abbrev. of NAPPING: see -Y-] 1 *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 waterproof backing. 2 *usu.* DEKI Young men who are tired of life as soon as they're out of nappies.

**Comb.** **nappy-inner** see INNER n. 3b. **nappy pin** a kind of a large curved safety pin used for fastening a nappy.

**nappy** *nappy rash* redness of an infant's skin where it is in persistent contact with soiled nappies.

**nappy** /'næpi/ a. LME. [Prob. transf. use of napping.] 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** /'næpi/ a. L15. [MDu. *nappigh*, MLG *nappich*, f. *nappe* NAP n.; see -Y-] 1 *Of* cloth etc.: hairy, nap, downy, shaggy. L15. 2 *Of* hair, esp. that of a Black: fuzzy, kinky. *US* *slang* (freq. considered derog.). E20.

**nappron** n. & v. see APRON.

**näpn** n. see NAPHO.

**nap** /næ/ a., adv., & prep. obs. exc. north. *Compar.* & superl. -rrap. [OE *narnh* etc.

compar. *of* *nah* HIGH adv., prep., & a.; in ME *per*. partly f. ON *naeri*. Cf. *NEAR* adv. & prep., *NEAR* adv. & prep.] A adj. 1 *Nearer*, closer; that is the nearer of two. OE. 2a In compar. -nearer. ME. b In superl. -nearest. ME. 2b *Near*, closer. Cf. *NEAR* adv. & ME. 2 *Near*, close. ME. b *Nearly*, almost. rare. ME. C prep. *Near* or close to. ME.

**Nara** /'nɒrɪ/ a. 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** /'nærɪs/ n. Pl. same. Also **narra** /'nærɪ/ n. [Nara.] A leafless spiny shrub of the gourd family, *Acanthosicya horrida*, occurring in the Kalahari desert and Namibia; the spiny edible fruit of this plant, which usually resembles a melon.

**narce** /'nærɪ/ n. *slang* (chiefly N. Amer.). M20. [Abbrev. of NARCOTIC.] An official narcotics agent. Cf. NARCO 2.

**narceine** /'nærɪsɪn/ n. [fr. *Narcine*, f. Gk *narke* numbness: see -INE-] Pharm. A narcotic triacyclic alkaloid,  $C_{17}H_{21}NO_4$ , obtained from opium and formerly used therapeutically.

Also **Narceina** n. M-19.

**narcissism** /'nærɪsɪz(ə)m/ n. M20. [Contr. *fr.* *narcissus*.]

**narciss** /'nærɪsɪs/ n. Now rare. L16. [L. NARCISSUS or fr. *Narcisse*.] Bot. A narcissus.

**narcissist** n. pl. see NARCISSUS.

**narcissine** /'nærɪsɪn/ a. M17. [f. *narcissus* f. Gk *narkissos* of narcissus: see NARCISSUS, -INE-] 1 *Of* or pertaining to a plant of the genus *Narcissus*. rare. Only in L17. 2 *Of* loving or admiring oneself, narcissistic. E17.

**narcissism** /'nærɪsɪz(ə)m/ n. *usu.* -s. E19. [L. *Narcissus* f. Gk *Narkissos* a youth in Gk mythol. who fell in love with his own reflection in water and pined away; see -ISM-] Self-love, extreme vanity, *psychol.* emotional or erotic gratification gained from contemplation of one's self or one's appearance.

B. TRAFIMOV His preening beauty, which borders upon the physically repulsive in his narcissism.

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

**narcissistic** /'nærɪsɪstɪk/ a. E20. [f. prec.: see -ISTIC-] *Of*, pertaining to, or of the nature of narcissism; marked or caused by excessive self-love.

A. STOKES 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** adv. E20.

**narcissus** /'nærɪsɪs/ n. In sense 2 also N-. Pl. -ses /-sɪz/. -suses. M16. [f. f. Gk *narkissos*, perh. f. *narke* numbness, w. ref. to its narcotic effects: for sense 2 see NARCISSISM.] 1 Bot. 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 *phaeus* f. *eye narcissus*) the plant *N. poeticus*, which has a fragrant white flower with a short yellow or crimson-edged corona. Also, a flowering stem of such a plant. M16. 2 *usu.* (usu. physically attractive) person characterized by extreme self-regard; a narcissist. E17.

1 *POETIC* narcissus, 2 *attrib.* A. J. MINSKY 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** /'nærko/ n. *US* *slang*. Pl. os. M20. [Abbrev. of NARCOTIC: sense 3 perh. infl. by sp. *narcotráficante*.] 1 = NARCOTIC n. M20. 2 = NARC. M20. 3 A drug trafficker, a drug dealer. L20.

**narco-** /'nærko/ comb. form. [f. Gk *narke* numbness, deadness, or extracted f. NARCOTIC: see -O-] Forming ns. and related advs. w. 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 *narco-dollar*.

**narco-terrorism** *n.* terrorism associated with illicit drugs, esp. directed against law enforcement. **1.20.** **narco-terrorist** *n.* a person who engages in narco-terrorism. **1.20.**

**narcolepsy** /'nɒkələpsi/ *n.* **1.19.** [*f.* prec. + -lepsy, after EPILEPSY] *Med.* A condition characterized by a recurrent tendency to fall asleep in circumstances conducive to relaxation.

**narcoleptic** *n.* = **NARCOLEPTIC**. **1.20.** **narcoleptic** *a.* **(n. & a.)** adj. characteristic of or affected by narcolepsy; **(b) n.** a narcoleptic person. **1.20.**

**narcomania** /'nɒkə'meɪniə/ *n.* New *var.* or obs. **1.19.** [*f.* **NARCO-** + -MANIA] *Med.* An uncontrollable craving for drugs.

**narcomanic** *n.* **1.19.** **narcomanic** *a.* **1.19.**

**narco-sis** /'nɒkə'siːs/ *n.* **Pl.** -o-ses [-'kɒnɪzɪs/ -'lɪz]. [*Gk.* *narkōsis*, *f.* *narkōn* make numb: see *nar-*, -osis.] *Med.* 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.

**narco-tic** /'nɒkə'tɪk/ *n.* & *LME.* [(O)Fr. *narco-tique* or *med. L.* *narco-ticus*, -ism, *f.* *Gk.* *narkōtikos*, -on, *f.* *narkōn* make numb, *f.* *narkē* numbness: see -OTIC.] **A n.** 1 *Med.* 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.**

1 *K. A.* PORTER Drowsy and dazed with his narcotic but unable to sleep. 2 *Am.* *THE NEW YORK TIMES* The narcotics squad had a warrant for him sworn out by the State Inspector.

**B.** *adj.* 1 (Of a substance etc.) having the property of a narcotic, *namely* producing sleep through boredom, excessively dull. **E16.** 2 Of the nature of narcosis. **M17.**

1 *C. KINGSLEY* Stupied with mead made from narcotic: beehy honey. *B. LACONAS*, -ism, *f.* *Gk.* *narkōtikos*, -on, *f.* *narkōn* make numb, *f.* *narkē* numbness: see -OTIC.] **A n.** 1 *Med.* 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.**

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**nare** /'nɛr/ *n.* *arch.* *LME.* [*L.* see next. Later partly back-form. *f.* next.] 1 *A nostril.* Long rare etc. as in sense 2. **LME.** 2 *spec.* A nostril of a hawk. **L15.**

**nare** /'nɛrɪz/ *npl.* **L17.** [*pl.* of *naris* nose, *f.* *Latin*] *Anat. & Zool.* The nostrils (more fully *external nares*). Also (*internal nares*), the openings of the nasal cavity into the pharynx.

**narial** *a.* of the *naris* **L19.**

**narghile** /'nɑːɡɪl/ *n.* Also -eh. **M18.** [*Pers.* *nārgīl* coconut, hookah *f.* *Skt.* *nārkila* coconut; partly through *Fr.* *narghile*, *zūlī* *f.* *Turk.* *nargile* *f.* *Pers.* *nārgīl*] A hookah.

**narikin** /'nɑːrɪkɪn/ *n.* **E20.** [*Jap.*] In Japan, a wealthy parvenu.

**naringin** /'nɑːrɪndʒɪn/ *n.* **L19.** [*f.* *Skt.* *nāringī* orange tree, *f.* *Tamil* *nāring* orange + *ady* fruit: see -IN.] *Chem.* A bitter flavonoid glucoside found in shaddock, grapefruit, and certain types of orange.

**nark** /'nɑːk/ *n.* & *v.* *slang.* **M19.** [*Romany* *nārk* nose.] **A n.** 1 *A* an informer, *esp.* also *copper* the *MI6* a police informer. **M19.** *B* a police officer. **L19.** 2 *A* an annoying, unpleasant, obstructive, or quarrelsome person. Chiefly *Austral.* & *NZ.* **M19.** *B* an annoying or unpleasant thing or situation; a source of irritation; a bad mood, a fit of temper. **E20.**

**B.** *v.* 1 *A* *v.t.* Watch, look after. **M19.** *B* *v.t.* Act as an informer. **M19.** 2 *A* *v.t.* Annoy, exasperate, infuriate. *Freq.* as *narked* *ppl.* **L19.** *B* *v.t.* Cease, stop. *Freq.* in *imp.* **L19.**

2 *A* *E. J. BANFIELD* He'll be a bit narked at having wasted a whole bloody day. 3 *R. HOOGART* These chaps ought to crack it up. Nark is, chums.

**narker** *n.* an informer, a police officer; a complainer, a disparager. **M20.** **narky** *a.* irascible, irritable, bad-tempered, sarcastic, disgruntled. **L19.**

**narks** /'nɑːks/ *npl.* *slang.* **M20.** [*Abbrev.* of *NARCO-SIS* (*f.* *med. L.* *narco-sis*), -ism, *f.* *Gk.* *narkōtikos*, -on, *f.* *narkōn* make numb, *f.* *narkē* numbness: see -OTIC.] *Med.* Nitrogen narcosis. Also *the narks*.

**narod** /'nɑːrɒd/ *n.* **M20.** [*Russ.*] In countries of the former USSR: the people; *spec.* the common people seen (in some ideologies) as the bearers of history.

**Narodnik** /'nɑːrɒdnɪk/ *foreign* *n.* *also* *n.* *Also* *n.* *Pl.* -niks, -niki [-'nɪki/ -'nɪki/]. [*Russ.*], *f.* *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** *n.* the doctrine of the Narodniks. **M20.**

**narp** /'nɑːp/ *n.* *slang.* **M19.** [*Origin* unk.] A shirt.

**narr** *v.* var. of *GNAR* *v.*

**narr** /'nɛr/ *n.* **M19.** [*Tagalog*] A leguminous tree, *Platanus indica*, of SE Asia; the wood of this tree (also called *ambuya* wood).

**narra** *n.* see *NARAS*.

**Narragansett** /'nɛrə'ɡænsət/ *n.* & *Also* -et & other *vars.* *Pl.* of *n* -same, -es. **E17.** [*Narragansett*.] *A* *adj.* 1 Designating, of, or pertaining to an Algonquian Indian people of Rhode Island, USA. **E17.** 2 Designating (a horse of) a now extinct breed of pacers originating in Rhode Island. **L18.** *B* *n.* 1 *A* Narragansett Indian. **M17.** 2 *A* Narragansett pacer. **E19.** 3 The language of the Narragansett Indians. **M19.**

**narratage** /'nɛrətɪdʒ/ *n.* **M20.** [*f.* next + -AGE.] A technique used in the visual media in which one of the characters has the role of storyteller.

**narrate** /'nɛrət/ *v.* **M17.** [*L.* *narrat* -pa *ppl* stem of *narrare* (*f.* *gnarus* knowing), or back-form. *f.* *Latin*] *NARRATION*: see -ATE.] 1 *v.t.* Give an account of, tell as a narrative; relate, recount. **M17.** *B* Speak the narrative of (a film etc.). **L20.** 2 *v.t.* Give an account, recount a story. **L18.**

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

**narratable** *a.* **M19.**

**narratee** /'nɛrətɪt/, *narrē'ti/* *n.* **L20.** [*f.* *prec.* + -EE.] Chiefly *Literary Criticism.* A person to whom a narrative is addressed; the recipient of a narrative.

**narrater** *n.* var. of *NARRATOR*.

**narration** /'nɛrətɪ(ə)n/ *n.* **LME. [*f.* *TV*] *Fr.* *narration* or *L.* *narratio* (-n), *f.* as *NARRATE*: see -ATION.] 1 The action or act of narrating or recounting; the fact of being recounted. **LME.** *b* A thing narrated or recounted; a story, a narrative, an account. **LME.** 2 *a* *Book.* The part of an oration in which the facts of the matter are stated. **E16.** *b* The narrative part or story of a poem; a narrative passage in a play etc. **L16.****

1 *J. BURMAN* Lorenz breaks off the narration ... and beg his life to spare him from the need to recite additional details.

**narrational** *a.* **M19.**

**narrative** /'nɛrətɪv/ *a.* & *n.* **LME. [*Fr.* *narratif*, -ive; *f.* late *L.* *narrativus*, *f.* as *NARRATE*: see -IVE.] *A* *adj.* 1 That tells a story, or of concerned with narration; having the character or form of narration. Formerly, biographical, historical. **LME.** 2 Given to narration; garrulous, talkative. **L17.****

1 *K. CLARK* His picture of an experiment with an air pump ... is an admirable example of narrative-painting. *P. GIFFITHS* Debussy's music, has undoubtedly been the most influential factor in a picture medium rather than a narrative medium.

**narrative line** *a.* a consecutively developed story.

*B* *n* *L* *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.** *B* The practice or art of narration; narrated material. **M18.** 2 *Sci. Lato.* 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.**

1 *A* *A. N. WILSON* The story ... begins as a third-person narrative. *B* *ALANKE* The new happy ending is, as narrated, a total washout.

**narratively** *adv.* in a narrative manner; considered as a narrative. **M17.**

**narrativity** /'nɛrətɪvɪti/ *n.* **L20.** [*Fr.* *narrativité*, *f.* *prec.*: see -ITY.] The quality or condition of being or presenting a narrative; (the action of) story-telling.

**narratology** /'nɛrətɒlədʒi/ *n.* **L20.** [*Fr.* *narratologie*, *f.* 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** *a.* **L20.** **narratologist** *n.* **L20.**

**narrator** /'nɛrətə/ *n.* Also *-ter*. **E17.** [*L.* *f.* 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** /'nɛrətɒri/ *a.* **L16.** [*Late L.* *narratorius*, *f.* as *prec.*: see -ORY.] Characterized by or inclined to narrate; of the nature of narrative.

**narrative** *a.* of or pertaining to a narration or narrator. **L20.**

**narratress** /'nɛrətɪtrɪs/ *n.* *rare.* **L18.** [*f.* *NARRATE* + -ESS.] *A* female narrator.

**narrishkeit** /'nɛrɪʃkəɪt/ *n.* -ness, -ness. **L18.** [*Yiddish* *narrishkeit*, *narrish* -*f.* *G.* *Narrischkeit*, *f.* *Narrisch* foolish, *f.* *Narr* fool.] Foolishness, nonsense.

**narrow** /'nærə/ *a.* & *n.* [*OE* *naru* (stem *nar*) = *CS* *naru* (*MDu.* *nare*, *nary*, *Du.* *narr*), *f.* *Gmc* (repr. in *MHG* *narve*, *G* *Narbe*, *MLG* *narv*) *use* as *n.* as 'scar', *w.* no certain cognates.] *A* *adj.* 1 Small in breadth or width in proportion to length; lacking breadth. *OE.* 2 Lacking space or area, confined, constrained; confining. *OE.* 3 *a* Spring, parsimonious, mean. *Now* *Sc.* & *dia.* *ME.* *B* Restricted or rigid in views; intolerant, illiberal, prejudiced; unimaginative. **E17.** *C* Reluctant to admit new



members, exclusive. M19. 4 Searching, precise, careful. (Earlier in **NARROWLY** 1.) ME. 5 Limited in range, scope, or amount; restricted, restrained. LME. 6 Of time short, brief. rare. E17. 6-7a Approaching the truth. M15-17. b Barely acceptable, with little margin. L16. 7 *Phonet.* a. Of a vowel: pronounced with the vocal muscles relatively tense. Opp. **WIDE** a. 6b. M19. b Designating a phonetic transcription that distinguishes both phonemes and allophones. L19.

1 B. MOORE *A narrow window twelve feet long by two feet wide.* J. GARDAM *A lane so narrow that the bushes touched the firmament overhead.* J. WILCOX Mrs. Undine hunched her narrow shoulders. *Strait and narrow:* see **STRAIGHT** a. 2 O. STRELL *An unparalleled concentration... of human beings within the narrow borders of a small island.* b. J. GRIFFITH *People are very narrow where I live. They have such little lives.* 5 R. ADAMI *Peasant girls... accustomed to a narrow life of daily toil.* A. THOMAS *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 veterans. P. WAKNER *He had a narrow escape when an attempt was made to poison him.*

*Special education:* **narrow** *see* **USE** an use with a narrow band. **narrowband** /'na:rwə'ba:nd/ n. US. 1 A band of Irish ancestry. **narrow band** (*Physics*) a. a band of frequencies, wavelengths, etc., lying within narrowly-defined limits. **narrow band** a. a low narrow canal boat, spec. one not exceeding 20 ft. in width. **narrowcast** v. n. & n. (orig. **USE**) (a) v.t. & transmit (a television etc. programme), or by cable, to an audience limited by interests or location; (b) n. (an act of) transmitting in this way; a programme transmitted in this way. **narrowcaster** (orig. **USE**) a person who or thing which narrowcasts. **narrow circumstances** *poverty.* **narrow-necked** /'na:rwə'nekəd/ a. (fig.) transmitting only a narrow band of wavelengths. **narrow fabrics** *brad, ribbons, bindings, etc.* **narrow gauge** (a) a railway gauge narrower than the standard one (in Great Britain 99 1/4 inches, approx. 4.43 m). (b) *Cinemat.* a width of film narrower than the standard one (16 mm rather than 35 mm). **narrow goods** v. narrow fabrics and narrow goods. **narrowly** /'na:rwəli/ adv. 1 In a restricted or restricted in one's views, intolerant. **narrow-mindedly** *adv.* in a narrow-minded manner. **narrow-mindedness** the quality or condition of being narrow-minded. **narrow sea** the sea 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** [*Mat.* 7:14] righteousness.

B. n. 1 A narrow part, place, or thing; the narrow part of something. *Now rare* etc. as below. ME. 2 *spc.* (sing. & [usu.] in pl.). A narrow part of a strait or river; a narrow part of a street; (chiefly **USE**) a narrow part of a valley, a pass; *Mining* a narrow gallery. M17. **narrowish** a. 118. **narrowness** n. ME.

**narrow** /'na:rwə/ v. OE. [f. the adj.] 1 v.t. Become narrower, decrease in width or breadth; diminish, lessen, contract. (Foll. by *down*.) OE. 2 v.t. Make narrower; reduce the breadth of, reduce, constrict. (Foll. by *down*.) OE. 3 v. Drive or press (people) close together. E19.

1 T. HARVEY *Below the foot-bridge of the weir the stream suddenly narrowed to a width of 10 ft.* 1 McEWAN *Stephen's concerns narrowed to practical matters: how soon he could leave.* 2 M. PIZZO *Clemens 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** n. a thing that narrows something M18.

**narrow** /'na:rwə/ adj. Now rare. OE. [f. the adj.] 1 Closely, strictly. OE-L15. 2 Carefully, keenly. OE-L16. 3 Narrowly, in a narrow or close manner. ME.

**narrowly** /'na:rwəli/ adv. OE. [f. **NARROW** a. + -ly<sup>8</sup>.] 1 Carefully, closely, with close attention. OE. 2 In a contracted, confined, or closely circumscribed manner. OE. 3 Springing, parsimoniously. rare. E17. 4 Barely, scarcely. rare. Only in LME. b. Only by a (very) little, only just. E16. 5 Closely, at close quarters. M16-E18. 6 Illicitly, rigidly, specifically, literally. E18.

1 S. BULLOW *The old man questioned him narrowly.* 2 G. GREENE *Grey trousers cut a little narrowly to show off the long legs.* 4b JOHN SMITH *She hastened across the road, narrowly avoiding a speeding car.* 6

*Time* The lack of wisdom in such a narrowly short-viewed view of its responsibilities.

**narthex** /'na:θeks/ n. L17. [L. f. Gk *narthēx* giant helmet, stick, casket, narthex.] A raised-off antechamber or porch at the western end of some (esp. early and Orthodox) churches.

**nartjie** n. var. of **NAARTJIE**.

**narwhal** /'na:rwəl/ n. M17. [Du. *narwal*, Da. *narhval* (whence G. *Narwal*, Fr. *narval*), f. *nval* whale, n. rel. obscurely to ON *nárválgr* f. *nár* corpse, 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** /'na:ri/ n. & adv. colloq. M18. [Alt. of *we're* a s.v. **NEAR**.] A. adj. Not a, not a single; no. Now rare. E18.

B. adv. Not a, never a. M19.

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

**nasal** /'neɪsəl/ n. In sense 1 also **-el**. ME. [In sense 1 f. OFr. (also *nasel*) f. med.L. *nasale* use as n. of neut. of *nasalis* NASAL; a. in sense 2 f. med.L. in other senses directly f. NASAL a. 1 A nose-piece, as on a helmet. ME. 12 = **EBRIDGE**. LME-M17. 3 A nasal speech sound or letter. M17. 4 *Anat.* & *Zool.* A nasal bone. M19.

**nasal** /'neɪsəl/ a. LME. [Fr., or med.L. *nasalis*, f. *nasus* nose: see -AL.] 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. KRITZINGER *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 cavity* see **CONCHA** t. *nasal mucus* see **MUCUS** t. **nasal organ** *see* the nose. 2 D. WELCH *His accent became more nasal and nasal.*

**nasalness** n. (rare) nasal pronunciation 119. **nasality** n. the quality of being nasal, esp. in pronunciation 118. **nasally** *adv.* in a nasal manner, with a nasal pronunciation M19.

**nasalize** /'neɪzəlɪz/ v.t. Also **-ise**. E19. [f. NASAL a. + -IZE.] Make nasal in pronunciation; utter with a nasal sound.

**nasalizable** a. 119. **nasalization** n. the action or fact of nasalizing a speech sound etc. M19.

**Nasara** n.pl. see **NASRANI**.

**Nasara** n. var. of **NACZA**.

**nascence** /'nas(ə)sns, -'neɪ/ n. rare. L16. [f. as next: see -ENCE.] Birth.

**nascency** /'nas(ə)sns, -'neɪ/ n. L17. [f. *Nascentia*, f. as next: see -ENCY.] The process or fact of being born or brought into existence; birth.

**nascent** /'nas(ə)snt, -'neɪ/ a. E17. [f. *nascentem*, 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. *Glow* (esp. of hydrogen) freshly generated in reactive form by electrolysis or chemical reaction. E18.

2 M. HAZARD *During the eighteenth century, the nascent discipline of geology languished under the tutelage of scriptural authority.* U. 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** *adv.* 119.

**nasberry** /'neɪzb(ə)ri/ n. W. India. L17. [Sp., Port. *népera* medlar, assim. to BERRY n.] The spiny, red fruit of *Mammea* *sp.* (also *nasberry* the edible fruit of this tree).

**nasel** n. see **NASAL** n.

**nas-gab** /'naɪ'gab/ n. Sc. & north. E19. [f. GNASH + GAB n.] Impertinent talk; a pert or gossiping person.

**Nashiji** /'naʃi'dʒi/ n. 119. [Jap. lit. 'pear group'.] A Japanese lacquer containing gold or silver flakes; the technique of decorating with this lacquer.

**Nasho** /'naʃo/ n. *Austral. slang*. Pl. -os. M20. [Abbrev. of **NATIONAL** a. see -O.] (A person doing) national service.

**nasi** /'noʊsi/ n. L19. [Malay.] In Malaysian and Indonesian cooking: cooked rice.

**nasiform** /'neɪzəfɔ:m/ a. rare. M18. [f. L. *nasus* nose + -i- + *form*.] Shaped like a nose.

**Nasik** /'neɪsɪk/ n. M19. [A town in India.] *Math.* Used attrib. to designate magic squares which are pandiagonal.

**nasion** /'neɪzɪən/ n. L19. [f. NASAL n. + -ion, after *nasium*.] *Anat.* The centre of the fronto-nasal suture.

**Naskapi** /'naskəpi/ a. & n. L18. [Montagnais (Naskapi).] A. adj. Designating or pertaining to an Indian people of northern Quebec and the interior of Labrador. L18. B. n. Pl. -s, same. 1 A member of this people. M19. 2 The Montagnais dialect of this people. M20.

**Nashki** /'næʃki/ n. & Also **nashki** /'næʃki/. L18. [Arab. *naṣṣ* (pl.) f. *naṣaḥa* to copy.] (Designating) the standard Arabic script.

**Nasmyth** /'neɪsmɪθ/ n. M19. [James Nasmyth (1808-90), Sc. engineer.] Used attrib. and in possess. 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** /'neɪsmɪθs 'membrem/ n. phr. M19. [Alexander Nasmyth (d. 1848), Brit. dentist.] *Anat.* A transient membrane covering the crown of a newly erupted tooth.

**naso-** /'neɪzəʊ/ comb. form. [f. L. *nasus* nose: see -O-.] Chiefly *Anat.* Forming adjs. and ns. w. the senses 'nasal' and '-i', of the nose', as **nasopharyngeal**.

**naso-ocillary** a. designating a branch of the ophthalmic nerve that supplies the skin and mucous membrane of the nose, the eyelids, and parts of the eyeball 119. **naso-gastric** a. (*Med.*) reaching or supplying the stomach via the nose. M20.

**naso-lacrimal** a. (a) pertaining to or connecting the lacrimal glands and the nasal cavity; (b) pertaining to the lacrimal and nasal bones. M19. **naso-oligist** n. (*rare*) a student of noses M19. **naso-ology** n. (*rare*) the branch of knowledge that deals with the nose or noses M19. **naso-pharyngeal** a. of or pertaining to the nasopharynx, or the nose and the pharynx 119. **naso-pharynx** n. the upper part of the pharynx, above the soft palate and connecting with the nasal cavity (f. *conduits*) 119.

**Nasonov** n. var. of **NASSANOFF**.

**nasopinal** /'neɪzəʊspɪnəl/ n. E20. [App. mod.L. f. NASO- + late L. *spinalis*, neut. of *spinalis* spinal: cf. SPINE.] *Anat.* The point at which a line joining the lowest points of the nostrils intersects with the mid-sagittal plane.

**Nasrani** /'na:zrəni/ n. Pl. *Nasranis*, same, *Nasara* /'na:zə:zə/. L16. [Arab. *Nasranī*, pl. *Nasra*, cogn. w. NAZARENE.] Among Muslims: a Christian.

**Nass** /'nas/ a. & n. E19. [f. *Nasser* in British Columbia, Canada.] = **NISHGA**.

**nassa** /'nasə/ n. M19. [mod.L. *Nassa* former genus name.] (The shell of) a marine gastropod of the genus *Nassarius*; a dog-whelk. Also *nassa shell*.

**Nassanoff** /'nasənɒf/ n. Also **Nasonov** & other vars. M20. [N. V. Nasonov (1855-1939), Russ. entomologist.] Entomol. *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** /'nasəʊ/ n. 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** /'nasəʊviən/ n. & a. Also **Nassavian** /'nasəviən/. E20. [f. a Latinized form of *Nassau* (see below) + -IAN.] (A native or inhabitant) of Nassau, the capital of the Bahamas.

**nasella** /'nasələ/ n. M20. [mod.L. (see below), f. L. *nasza* net + -ILLA.] A coarse tussock-forming Chilean grass, *Nassella trichotoma*, that is a troublesome weed in New Zealand.

**Nasserite** /'nasəraɪt/ a. & M20. [f. Abd al-Nasser (see below) + -ITE<sup>1</sup>.] A. 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 adj. Of or pertaining to Nasserism or Nasserism. M20.

**Nasserism** *n.* the political principles or policies of Nasser M20. **Nasserist** *n.* & *a.* = NASSERITE M20.

**nastalik** /nastali'k/ *n.* Also **-iq**, **-ta**, **-ti**. 118. [Pers. f. Arab. *nasta'liq* = *to like* see TALK *n.*] A Persian cursive script, characterized by rounded forms and elongated horizontal strokes. **nastalik** /nastali'k/ *a.* M20. [f. GK *nasta* stroked together + *-ic*.] Bot. Of a plant movement: caused by an external stimulus but unaffected in direction by it.

**nastality** /nastali'ti/ *adj.* E17. [f. NASTY *a.* + *-ity*.] In a nasty manner or state; filthy; disagreeable; unpleasantly.

**nastiness** /nastini's/ *n.* E17. [f. NASTY *a.* + *-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** /nastu'ti'um/ *n.* OE. [*N. nasturtium*, app. f. *nari* nose + *nurture* to w. ref. to its pungency.] 1 Orig., any of several cruciferous plants having a pungent taste; esp. watercress, *Ranunculus nasturtium-aquaticum* (syn. *Ranunculus officinalis*). Now only (Bot.), a plant of the genus *Nasturtium*. OE. 2 Any of several tropaeolus with a similarly pungent taste; esp. *Tropaeolum majus*, much grown for its showy orange, yellow, or red flowers. E18. 3 = *ASPERULA* *a.* *pos.* E20.

**nasty** /nasti'ti/ *n.* colloq. In sense 1 also *N.*. M20. [f. the adj. In sense 1, obj. of Nazi = 1 A Nazi. M20. 2 A nasty person, agent, or event; in (full video nasti) a horror video film. M20.

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... nasties.

**nasty** /nasti'ti/ *adj.* M20. [G *Nastig*, f. GK *nastor*: see NASTIC, *v.*] Bot. A nasty plant.

**nasty** /nasti'ti/ *a.* 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. B Morally unclean; indecent; obscene. E17. 2 Offensive to the senses; small; 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. BLISSON Our lavatories simply asked to have nasty things written on the walls. M. ALLINGHAM 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 R. FRIEDMAN It is a cursed nasty morning. 4 R. CHRISTIANSEN In 1815, most of musical Europe still identified Beethoven with nasty music. 5 *News* E. H. HEMINGWAY A business enemy had been killed in a particularly nasty motor accident. 1. MUNDONC Matthew got a nasty headache. 2. MUNDONC The party 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.

**Phrase:** a **nasty piece (or bit) of work (or goods)** an unpleasant or contemptible person. a **nasty state in the mouth** see TASTE *n.* cheap and nasty; see CHAP *a.* & *adv.* something nasty in the woodwork a traumatic experience or a concealed unpleasantness in a person's background.

**nasty** /nasti'ti/ *n.* *obs.* *adj.* *adj.* E18. [f. the adj.] Make nasty or dirty.

**nastus** /nastu's/ *n.* L17. [L. = nose.] Biol. A snout; esp. the proboscis of a nasute termite. *¶* Rare bef. M20.

**nasute** /nəsju't/ *a.* & *n.* M17. [L. *nasutus*, f. as prec.] A *adj.* 11 Having a keen critical faculty, sagacious. M17-E18. 2 Zool. Nose-shaped;

having a pronounced proboscis; esp. designating or describing (an insect of) a caste of soldier termites of the genus *Nasutitermes*. L19. B *n.* A nasute soldier termite. M20.

**nasutus** /nəsju'tu's/ *n.* Pl. -*tu* /-tu/. M19. [f. as prec.] = NASTUS *n.*

**Nat** /nat/, *foreign* /nat/ *n.* Also **Nut** /nat/. E19. [Skt *nata* dancer, actor, tumbler.] In the Indian subcontinent, esp. in the north: a member of an itinerant class of entertainers, fortune-tellers, etc.

**nat** /nat/ *n.* E19. [Burm. f. Skt *nata* lord, protector.] In the animistic native religion of the people of Myanmar (Burma): a spirit, a demon, a supernatural being.

**Nat** /nat/ *n.* colloq. M20. [Abbrev. of NATIONAL or NATIONALIST.] 1 A member of the National Party of South Africa. M20. 2 A Scottish or Welsh Nationalist. Cf. SCOT NAT, SCOT NAT s.v. SCOTS *a.* M20.

**Natal** /nə'tal/, *-təl* /-təl/ *n.* 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** *adv.* any of several southern African monocotyledonous plants with brightly colored flowers; esp. *clivia*. **Natal mahogany** either of two evergreen tree trees, *Kigelia africana* (family Placourtiaceae) and *Trichilia emetica* (family Meliaceae). **Natal plum** a small evergreen shrub or small tree, *Carissa grandifolia* (family Apocynaceae), which bears tubular white fragrant flowers and an edible purple fruit. **Natal score** = *oriental rose s.v.* *oriental* *a.*

**Natal** /nə'tal/ *a.* LME. [L. *natalis*, f. *nat-* pp1 stem of *nasci* be born: see *-AL*.] 11 Presiding over birthdays or natiivities. 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.

2 E. H. KANT The natal day of the Prince Consort. H. READ His talent suggests a natural endowment. J. M. CORTESE His mother... was more at peace now that she was nearer her natal earth. *Horoscope* The interpretation of your complete natal horoscope.

**natal** /nə'tal/ *a.* L19. [f. NATS + *-al*.] Of or pertaining to the nates or buttocks.

**natal cleft** the furrow between the buttocks.

**Natalian** /nə'tali'an/, *-təl* /-təl/ *a.* & *n.* M19. [f. NATAL *n.* + *-ian*.] A *adj.* Of or pertaining to Natal (see NATAL *n.*). M19. B *n.* A native or inhabitant of Natal. L19.

**natalid** /nə'talid/ *a.* & *n.* M20. [Mod. L. *Natalidae* (see below), f. *Natalus* genus name: see *-ID*.] Zool. A *adj.* 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** *noun* a glandular facial organ peculiar to natalids, of unknown function.

**Natal** /nə'tal/ *n.* L15. [f. NATAL *a.* + *-ity*.] In mod. use f. Fr. *natalité*. 1 Birth. rare. L15. 2 Birth-rate; the ratio of the number of births in a period to the size of the population. L19.

**nant** /nə'tant/ *a.* rare. LME. [L. *natant*, pres. pp1 of *natare* frequent of *nare* swim, float: see *-ANT*.] Swimming, floating.

**nation** /nə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n.* Chiefly literary. M16. [L. *natio*(*n*), f. *natu*- pp1 stem of *natus*: see NATANT, *-ATION*.] The action or art of swimming.

**Nationes** /nə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n.* Now rare or obs. E19. [Mod. L. f. L. *natio* swimmer: see NATATORY *a.*] Ornith. (A former order of birds adapted for swimming.

**natatorial** /nə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *a.* E19. [f. as NATATORY *a.* + *-al*.] = NATATORY *a.*

**natorium** /nə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n.* N. Amer. L19. [Late use as *n.* of *natorius*: see NATATORY *a.* + *-ORIUM*.] A swimming pool, esp. an indoor swimming pool.

**natory** /nə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *n.* Now rare. ME. [f. as prec.: see *-ORY*.] 1 A swimming pool; a bath. ME. 2 Zool. A natatory organ. M19.

**natatory** /nə'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *a.* L18. [Late L. *natorius*, f. L. *nator* swimmer, f. *natus*: see NATATION, *-ORY*.] 1 Zool. Of an organ: adapted for or used in swimming or flying. L18. 2 Of or pertaining to swimming. M19. 3 Characterized by swimming. L19.

**natch** /natʃ/ *n.* & *v.* L16. [Prob. var. of NOTCH *n.* A *n.* 1 A notch. Now dial. L16. 2 A projection and corresponding notch by which sections of a mould lie held together. M20. B *v.* Cut a notch or notch in. Now dial. L16.

**natch** *n.* var. of NACHE.

**natch** /natʃ/ *adj.* colloq. M20. [Abbrev.] Naturally, of course.

M. McLENNAN Natch I'm interested to know what Percy's latest book about Natch. PROCAON An element of... future blackmail, which separates, natch, in favour of professionals.

**Natchez** /nə'tʃ(ə)z/ *n.* & *a.* E18. [Per., a name in several Indian langs.] A *n.* Pl. Same member of a N. American Indian people of Mississippi; the language of this people. E18. B *attrib.* or as *adj.* Of or pertaining to the Natchez or their language. L18.

**nates** /nə'teɪʃ/ *n.* pl. L17. [L. pl. of *nati* rump, buttock.] *anat.* & *Med.* The buttocks. Formerly also the anterior optic lobes of the brain.

**nathe** /nəθ/ *n.* *obs.* *adj.* dial. ME. [Var. of NAVE *n.*] The nave of a wheel.

**natheless** /nəθ(ə)l(ə)s/ *adv.* & *prep.* Long arch. Also **natheless** /nəθ(ə)l(ə)s/ *OE.* [f. NA *adv.* + *THE* *adv.* + *-less* *adj.*]. *adv.* Nevertheless, notwithstanding. OE. B *prep.* In spite of, notwithstanding. *adv.* M16.

**†nathemore** *adv.* Also **-mo**. LOE-E16. [f. NA *adv.* + *THE* *adv.* + *MORE* *adv.*, *MO* *adv.*] Never the more.

**nathless** *adv.* & *prep.* var. of **NATHELESS**.

**natica** /nə'ti:kə/ *n.* M19. [Mod. L. *Natica* (see below), *f.* *natus*, f. *nata* natate buttock, f. L. *natic*: see NATES.] Zool. A carnivorous marine gastropod of the genus *Natica*; a necklace shell. Now chiefly as mod. L. genus name.

**natiom** /nə'tiəm/ *a.* L17. [f. L. *natio* (see NATES) + *-om*.] Chaucy *anat.* & *Med.* Resembling or having the form of buttocks.

**nation** /nə'tiən/ *n.* ME. [OOF. f. L. *natio*(*n*) = birth, rare, f. *nat-* pp1 stem of *nasci* be born: see *-ION*.] 1 A large aggregate of people so closely associated with each other by a 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. B 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. f. d. A country, a kingdom. rare. Only in M17. 2 d. Nationality. LME-M16. 3 f. A family, one's kindred. rare. LME-E16. f. b. An Irish clan. LME-E16. C A N. American people. M17. 4 A particular class or kind of person or unit. M18.

1 D. LESSING Africa... has become... a mass of nations.

**Phrase:** *comity of nations*: see COMITY *2a.* *law of nations* international law. *League of Nations*: see LEAGUE *n.* most favoured nation: see FAVOURED *a.* *nation of shopkeepers*: see SHOPKEEPER *1.* *one nation* a nation which is not divided by racial inequalities. *the Five Nations* the five confederate N. American Indians 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. *Nation Nations (Organization)*: see UNITED *a.*

**Comb:** *nation-state* a sovereign State most of the citizens of which are of one blood and speak one language, such as language, common descent, etc., which define a nation.

**nation** /nə'tiən/ *a.* *adv.*, & *n.* dial. & US. M18. [Abbrev. of DAMNATION.] A *adj.* Very

b but, d dog, f few, g get, h he, j yes, k cut, l leg, m man, n no, p pen, r red, s sit, t top, v van, w we, z zoo, | she, s vision, o thin, d3 ring, f chip, d3 jar