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a string of an array of / a number of / a parade of / a series of

► QUOTATIONS

- The latter-day Aladdin, still snugly abed, then presses a button on a bedside box and issues **a string of** business and personal memos, which appear instantly on the genie screen. (L 7, Book I)

► CORE MEANING

These terms mean a particular arrangement of things or people.

► PATTERNS AND COLLOCATIONS

- ◆ **an array of / a number of / a parade of** + sb. / sth.
- ◆ **a string of / a series of** + sth.

► DISCRIMINATION

- ⇒ *A STRING OF means set or series of things put together on a thread, a ribbon, a cord, etc. or words*
 - He picked up the paper and saw **a long string of** names, but there was no indication of why they were there or what they signified.
 - She was wearing **a magnificent string of** pearls that glowed in the candlelight.
 - ⇒ *AN ARRAY OF (usually sing.) means a group or collection of things or people, often one that is large or impressive.*
 - They saw on the roofs of all the buildings **an impressive array of** solar panels.
 - In the old house, there was an assortment of wine racks, **an array of** dusty furniture, and an ancient boiler.
 - ⇒ *A NUMBER OF means a group of sth. . Number used in this sense is often preceded by an adjective such as great, considerable and large.*
 - Interest rates are determined by **a number of** complex factors.
 - We are working on getting **a larger number of** people into our group.
 - ⇒ *A PARADE OF refers to a series of people or things that come one after the other.*
 - In many countries it is still normal to see **a parade of** soldiers marching along the road in major cities.
 - Every year you can see **a parade of** floats, dancers, magicians, and children touring the city to celebrate a successful harvest.
 - ⇒ *A SERIES OF means a number of things or events of the same class coming one after another in spatial or temporal succession.*
 - The economist is running **a series of** articles on global warming.
 - Recently there has been **a series of** cases where the accused person has later been found innocent.
- ### ► USAGE REMINDERS
- ⇒ *A STRING OF is used to refer to a group of objects that are arranged in a line, or sounds or things that follow one another.*
 - There have been **a string of** complaints from dissatisfied customers, we need to find out what's going on.

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⇒ *AN ARRAY OF* means a large group or number of things randomly organized, or a group of numbers, symbols, etc. that are arranged in rows and columns.

- He has an **impressive array of** baseball gloves in the corner of his room.

⇒ *A NUMBER OF* means quite a few, many. When it is used with an adjective such as great, huge, considerable, etc. it is combined with a plural verb.

- Recently a **considerable number of** reports about the illegal use of confidential information from police computer files have appeared in the news.

⇒ *A PARADE OF* refers to procession of people or things.

- As the passengers alighted from the plane they saw a **parade of** official cars waiting to pick up the first class passengers and ferry them to the terminal.

⇒ *A SERIES OF* (usually sing.) is not used to refer to people. It refers to a number of events or things of a similar kind that happen one after the other.

- The hall opened into a **series of** small rooms which were used for music practice.

► TIPS FOR ASSOCIATION

⇒ *Antonyms*: individual / single / one / none / mess

⇒ *Other relevant references*

◆ string (v.)

- They **strung** the beads together.

◆ a decline / drop in numbers

- The **decline in numbers** of young people means that fewer teachers will be needed.

◆ a growth / an increase in numbers, few / limited / small in number

◆ the first / last, etc. of a / the series, the first / latest, etc. in a series

◆ at a / the parade

- Thousands of people were **at the parade**.

◆ on parade

- The soldiers will be **on parade** tomorrow.

► PRACTICE FOR PERFECTION

Please fill in each of the blanks with the right form of the best word from the above synonyms. You cannot use any of the words more than once.

1. Overwhelmed by a bewildering _____ of options, the soldier found it difficult to make a choice.
2. The old lady holding a _____ of beads was kneeling in front of the statue of Buddha.
3. Managers will hold a _____ of meetings over the next few weeks to decide how to proceed with the project.
4. A large _____ of paintings have been stolen from the gallery.
5. The audience cheered as a _____ of players ran onto the pitch before the football match began.

⇒ **Key**

1. array 2. string 3. series 4. number 5. parade

We use groupings to describe a lot of different ways of organizing things or people. We

talk about a massive 1 of people when we can't count them because there are just too many to estimate. But when we talk about things we use different terms to show that there is some sort of organization, that one follows the other in space, as in a 2 of beads or pearls, or that follow one another in time like a 3 of programs dealing with global warming. We talk about an 4 of things, no matter what, be it furniture or precious jewels or even stars, whether they are in an exhibition and well organized, or just a motley group of things in any state or order. And finally we love to show off, so we enjoy taking part in activities, as on celebratory days when we dress up in our favourite costume, jump on a truck and are driven around the town in a 5 of fun and laughter.

⇒ **Key**

1. number 2. string 3. series 4. array 5. parade

abandon v. desert / evacuate / forsake / quit / resign / vacate

► QUOTATIONS

- But, like thousands of others in the coastal communities, John was reluctant to **abandon** his home unless the family—his wife, Janis, and their seven children, aged 3 to 11—was clearly endangered...(L1, Book II)

► CORE MEANING

ABANDON and its synonyms refer to the action of leaving or moving away from sb., sth., or a place.

► PATTERNS AND COLLOCATIONS

- ◆ **abandon** + n. (ship / research / family / idea / plan / children / wife)
- ◆ **desert** + n. (post / army / husband / children / field)
- ◆ **evacuate** + n. (town / city / village / area / house / building / residents / villagers)
- ◆ **forsake** + n. (duties / wife / husband / master)
- ◆ **quit** + n. (smoking / drinking / job / worrying)
- ◆ **resign** + n. (position / premiership / job / public life)
- ◆ **vacate** + n. (room / hotel / house / apartment / flat / house)

► DISCRIMINATION

⇒ **ABANDON** means to leave (a place, sb., or sth.) permanently or for a long time, esp. when you should not; to stop doing sth. before it is finished; to give up a plan or idea.

- They **abandoned** the idea of traveling around the Middle East for their holiday because of the unrest in the region.
- The leader **abandoned** his group and went off on his own.

⇒ **DESERT** is to leave (a place, sb., or sth.) permanently when you should not, esp. to leave the army without permission.

- She **deserted** her husband and children and went off with her new lover.
- The soldier **deserted** because he was so terrified of the fighting.

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⇒ **EVACUATE** means to send (people) to a place of safety, away from danger for a period of time.

- During the war many children **were evacuated** to places in the countryside away from the cities.
- The government ordered the people to **evacuate** the town after the earthquake struck.

⇒ **FORSAKE** (fml.) is to leave (sb.) when you should not, or stop helping sb., or stop doing, using, or having sth..

- They decided to **forsake** the old traditions and adopt the new ways, even though they knew that the new ways were not good.
- They **forsook** their duties and wandered off into the wilderness in search of gold mine.

⇒ **QUIT**(infml.) means to leave (a job or a place) suddenly, or stop doing (sth.) completely.

- I have finally decided to **quite** smoking... but from tomorrow!
- He suddenly decided to **quit** his job and go off around the world in search of adventure.

⇒ **RESIGN** (fml.) is to formally announce one is leaving a job, to hand in one's notice.

- The prime minister had to **resign** after he received a vote of no-confidence.
- Isn't it time you **resigned**? Most people of your age are already enjoying their retirement.

⇒ **VACATE** (fml.) means to leave a place, to quit or abandon it.

- When they heard that the police were on their way, the gang of drug-traffickers hurriedly **vacated** the apartment.
- Is it possible for you to **vacate** your room by the end of the week, other people are coming on Saturday?

▶ USAGE REMINDERS

This group of words share the meaning of leaving a place not to return, giving up sth., or sb., but there are differences in their collocations and implications.

⇒ *More examples*

- They decided to **abandon** the naval base as it was an obvious target in the war.
- Can you believe she **deserted** her children, and went off with another man.
- I think we should **evacuate** the building; it's not safe.
- I should **quit** the habit, I know, but it is very hard.
- They should have **vacated** the room this morning, but they are still there, so you will have to wait.
- He wanted to **forsake** his old wife for a younger woman.
- He decided to **resign** from public life.

▶ TIPS FOR ASSOCIATION

⇒ *Antonyms: remain / stay / stick to (with) / continue*

⇒ *Other relevant references: desert (n.) / deserter (n.) / just deserts / evacuation / call it quits / resignation / vacation*

◆ A **desert** is a large area of dry, rainless, treeless, or grassless land, usu in a hot region.

- The army is trying to trace a **deserter** who disappeared after an attack on the base.

◆ If sb. gets his just **deserts**, unpleasant things happen to him because he has done sth. bad.

◆ **Evacuation** is the act of removing the contents of sth., or leaving a place in an orderly

fashion for the sake of safety.

- ◆ If sb. **calls it quits**, he decides to stop doing sth. or being involved in sth. .
- ◆ Sb.'s **resignation** is a formal statement of his intention to leave a job or position. Also, it can be his / her acceptance of an unpleasant situation or fact beyond his / her ability.
- ◆ A **vacation** is a period of time when sb. relaxes and enjoys himself / herself away from work or home. And if sb. is **vacationing** in a place away from home, he / she is on vacation there.

► PRACTICE FOR PERFECTION

Please fill in each of the blanks with the right form of the best word from the above synonyms. You cannot use any of the words more than once.

1. The government _____ the idea to rebuild because of the economic downturn.
2. Has the governor _____? He left a message to say goodbye to everyone!
3. We must _____ the region as soon as we can; there is a tornado coming.
4. Could you please _____ the room by ten o'clock; we need to clean.
5. I _____! I can't stand this job any longer.
6. _____ ship! We're sinking!
7. He would never _____ his post; he is such a responsible young man.

⇒ **Key**

1. abandoned 2. resigned 3. evacuate 4. vacate 5. quit 6. abandon 7. desert

Some leaders in the major cities did not 1 the residents soon enough so they were still around when the bombing began. A policeman on duty 2 his post and was nowhere to be found. As a result, many of the leaders had to 3 and 4 their positions so that those who were more able could take over. However, some of the leaders stood firm and did not 5. They showed their courage and although they had to 6 their own families for the time being they kept to their principles and stayed until things were clear. They did not 7 the people in time of their greatest need.

⇒ **Key**

1. evacuate 2. deserted 3. resign 4. vacate 5. quit 6. abandoned 7. forsake

abolish v. cancel / invalidate

► QUOTATIONS

- JOHN: Benefits? What benefits? Crippling taxes? Cruel repressions? **Abolished** rights? (L 16, Book I)
- For man holds in his mortal hands the power to **abolish** all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. (L 4, Book II)
- In the propaganda for **abolishing** the death sentence the recital of numerous miscarriages of justice commits the same error and implies the same callousness. What is at fault in

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our present system is not the sentence but the fallible procedure. (L 13, Book II)

▶ CORE MEANING

These terms all mean to change plans so that sth. no longer happens, to end a law or agreement or to say that a document or policy is no longer valid.

▶ PATTERNS AND COLLOCATIONS

- ◆ *adv.* (altogether / completely / entirely / totally / virtually / largely / effectively) + **abolish**
+ *n.* (ceiling / censorship / conscription / immunity / monarchy / practice / right / scheme / slavery / subsidy / tariff / tax / service / system / plan)
- ◆ **cancel** + *n.* (agreement / willappearance / appointment / booking / card / cheque / concert / contract / date / debt / election / engagement / flight / holiday / leave / meeting / membership / mission / order / plan / programme / registration / reservation / subscription / talk / train / trip / vacation / visit / contract)
- ◆ **invalidate** + *n.* (authenticity / belief / claim / existence / marriage / test results)

▶ DISCRIMINATION

- ⇒ **ABOLISH** means to officially end a law, system or institution.
 - Slavery was **abolished** in the U.S. in 1865.
 - Over the past six years we have **abolished** a whole range of direct taxes.
- ⇒ **CANCEL** means that you no longer wish to continue with an agreement, especially one that has been legally drawn up.
 - Is it too late to **cancel** my order?
 - The U.S. has agreed to **cancel** debts totalling \$10 million.
- ⇒ **INVALIDATE** means to have the effect of making a document or contract no longer legally or officially binding.
 - Mis-use of the mattress will **invalidate** the guarantee.
 - The study **invalidates** earlier theories.

▶ USAGE REMINDERS

These terms are often interchangeable when they mean to change plans so that sth. no longer happens. They convey precise and quite distinctive images or impressions with subtle differences from each other.

- ⇒ **ABOLISH**, often used passively, means to formally put an end to (a system, practice, or institution).
 - The society added that **abolishing** the current system of debt recovery would discourage firms from advancing credit or lending money.
 - When America and England **abolished** slavery they took a very small but significant step toward establishing equality between races.
- ⇒ **Cancel** means to decide or announce that a planned event will not take place.
 - Great Yorkshire Show organizers have denied any plans to **cancel** this year's event because of the foot-and-mouth crisis.
 - As there is a strike on Friday of all forms of public transport it is necessary to **cancel** the meeting that was planned for 11a.m.
- ⇒ *When applied to a formal arrangement which is in effect, it means to annul or revoke:*
 - The bank had agreed to keep the accounts separate, and if it wished to **cancel** this

arrangement in view of the changed circumstances, it had to give notice to the other customer.

- You can **cancel** the arrangement at any time should your circumstances change.

Or when talking about a financial obligation, means to abolish or make void:

- Insurance underwriters have given notice that they will **cancel** war liabilities from midnight on Monday.
- Faced with two debtors, neither of whom could repay the loan, the creditor decided to **cancel** both obligations.

⇒ **INVALIDATE**, used formally, means to deprive sth., for example an official document or procedure, of legal validity because it contravenes a regulation or law.

- In a four-hour opening address to a packed courtroom, the barrister went on to argue that **invalidating** the search warrants would set a precedent that would dangerously restrict their future operations.
- Finding such so-called “prior art” is the only way to **invalidate** a patent.

► TIPS FOR ASSOCIATION

⇒ **Antonyms**: enact / lay down / legislate / establish / found / institute / continue / keep / validate

⇒ **Other relevant references**

- ◆ **abolish**→**abolisher** (n.)→**abolishment** (n.)→**abolishable** (adj.)
- ◆ **cancel**→**cancelable** (adj.)→**canceller** (n.)→**cancellation** (n.)
- ◆ **invalidate**→**invalidation** (n.)

► PRACTICE FOR PERFECTION

Please fill in each of the blanks with the right form of the best word from the above synonyms. You cannot use any of the words more than once.

1. Finally, the above classifications relate to promissory conditions but there may also be contingent conditions which either suspend or _____ contractual liability.
2. The new immigration act effectively _____ quotas on immigrants.
3. These cases stress that errors, even fraudulent errors, do not automatically _____ the warrant.

⇒ **Key**

1. cancel 2. abolishes 3. invalidate

The laws about human rights are constantly being updated and argued over. At one time a law is made to protect people's right to privacy then, soon after, it is 1 because it is found not to apply to the army of electronic equipment that keeps us all in touch, and leaves us open to being listened-in on, or our sites broken into. In other words, all the stuff that is constantly infringing our basic human right to keep our activities private. Then another law comes into being which takes all this into account, but it is not considered to be feasible to enforce it, so it has to be 2 so it no longer stands. Then there are suggestions

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as to other ways of protecting our right to privacy that are merely 3 before they come into being because they are not considered feasible by the time they have been discussed, argued over, debated, presented, refused and finally given the thumbs down by those in power. All in all, it is amazing that the practicality of the right to any form of privacy still stands, no matter where we live in the world.

⇒ **Key**

1. abolished 2. invalidated 3. canceled

absurd *adj.* farcical / foolish / ludicrous / preposterous / ridiculous / senseless / silly / stupid

▶ QUOTATIONS

- Dr. Franklin, don't be **absurd**! (L16, Book I)
- For actually the "lost generation" was never lost. It was shocked, uprooted for a time, bitter, critical, rebellious, iconoclastic, experimental, often **absurd**, more often misdirected, but never "lost." (L 10, Book II)

▶ CORE MEANING

ABSURD and its synonyms describe actions, ideas, or things that have no logical reason or sense.

▶ PATTERNS AND COLLOCATIONS

- ◆ **absurd / foolish / ludicrous / preposterous / ridiculous / silly / stupid** + that-clause
- ◆ It would + v. (seem / be / appear) + **absurd / foolish / ludicrous / preposterous / ridiculous / senseless / silly / stupid** + to do sth.
- ◆ an **absurd** / a **farcical** / a **foolish** / a **ludicrous** / a **preposterous** / a **ridiculous** / a **senseless** / a **silly** / a **stupid** + (suggestion / action / idea)
- ◆ *adv.* (absolutely / really / rather / pretty / simply / totally / utterly) + **absurd / farcical / foolish / ludicrous / preposterous / ridiculous / senseless / silly / stupid**

▶ DISCRIMINATION

⇒ **ABSURD** means something that is inconsistent with accepted idea, common sense, or sound reason.

- His idea was so **absurd** that it made everybody laugh, which upset him because he thought it was a good idea.
- When he asked her to marry him, she said it was **absurd**; she didn't want to get married and she certainly wouldn't marry him of all people.

⇒ **FARCICAL** means negatively comical, funny or humorous often of sth. that should be serious.

- It was **farcical** of them to suggest that we were conspiring to cheat them out of their money.
- She thought the whole thing was absolutely **farcical**. It just wouldn't work in a million years.

⇒ **FOOLISH** is used to describe sth. or sb. lacking in common sense, or good judgment.

- Unfortunately he is rather **foolish** when it comes to money.
 - I felt really **foolish** when I realized I had left my keys on the table inside and now I was locked out.
- ⇒ **LUDICROUS** is used to criticize sth. that is totally ridiculous and unreasonable, or unsuitable, and often causes laughter.
- She came up with this **ludicrous** idea of starting up her own company; it would never have worked because she knew nothing about business.
 - He often reacted rather stupidly to her **ludicrous** suggestions—even taking them seriously sometimes.
- ⇒ **PREPOSTEROUS** indicates sth. that it is extremely unreasonable and foolish and cannot be taken seriously.
- Some government officials came up with the **preposterous** suggestion that pensions should be done away with.
 - What he is saying is utterly **preposterous**. Surely no-one will believe him, will they?
- ⇒ **RIDICULOUS** applies to what excites derision because of extreme absurdity, foolishness or contemptibility.
- He looked **ridiculous** as he strutted around the park in his bow tie and tails.
 - How **ridiculous**, he has just spent all his money on buying a very expensive car, but he can't even drive yet.
- ⇒ **SENSELESS** means sth. that is without purpose and not beneficial, and not causing laughter.
- There is so much **senseless** killing these days—shootings, bombs, suicide bombers; what is the point of living?
 - That was a **senseless** thing to do; you could really have hurt someone.
- ⇒ **SILLY** (Infml.) is the weakest of these words, and means foolish, lacking in common sense, trivial.
- I found her a little **silly** and her behaviour seemed very childish.
 - I can't believe you would do such a **silly** thing. Now you will have to go and apologize.
- ⇒ **STUPID** is stronger than silly, and is used to describe sb. that shows poor judgment, and little common sense or intelligence; or describe sth. that doesn't work well.
- To me, it seems a **stupid** idea to let a child use a gun, but in the U.S. it is normal.
 - This **stupid** computer won't do what I ask it to!

► USAGE REMINDERS

These words are largely interchangeable with only slightly different nuances and collocations except for senseless which is the only one that does not have a lighter meaning that can cause laughter.

⇒ More examples

- It is so **absurd** that a person can only cry at their parents' decision and then accept it, when it is his or her own right to choose the person they want to marry.
- He has come up with this **absurd** theory.
- That was a **farcical** election, so few people came out to vote, and the candidate did not come up with any new ideas.
- Her **foolish** behavior has landed us in a very difficult situation.

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- This is a **ludicrous** situation, we have the goods but we don't have sufficient funds to deliver them.
- How could you do such a **stupid** thing—it's utterly preposterous!
- The fact that he could hoodwink them so completely was utterly **preposterous** when you consider that he had no experience and they were supposed to be experts.
- Stop making such **ridiculous** comments, it is embarrassing.
- The play seemed to be utterly **senseless**, it had no plot, and there was no real action on stage.
- He sat there with a **silly** grin on his face all afternoon after she agreed to go out with him.
- I was **stupid** enough to believe him when he said he would make money for me.

► TIPS FOR ASSOCIATION

⇒ *Antonyms: logical / rational / reasonable / sensible*

⇒ *Other Relevant references: absurdity / farce / foolishness / ludicrousness / preposterousness / ridicule (n. /v.) / senselessness / stupidity*

- ◆ A **Farce** is a humorous play that is based on ridiculous or ludicrous situations. A situation or event can be called a **farce** if it is so disorganized or chaotic that it cannot be taken seriously.
- ◆ As a noun, **ridicule** means the act of deriding. As a verb, it means to make fun of sb. in a unkind way. The shades of meanings between the other words are the same as their adjectives.

► PRACTICE FOR PERFECTION

Please fill in each of the blanks with the right form of the best word from the above synonyms. You cannot use any of the words more than once.

1. It was _____ of you to price those vegetables so high while they are in season. Now you have so many left over.
2. The exuberance and _____ behavior of the clowns brought the house down. Indeed, acting _____ is a very special art form that brings such joy to everyone.
3. Americans and English often say that something is ridiculous or absurd when they personally have never heard of it, but that doesn't mean to say that it really is. However, when they mean it in its truest sense, an English person usually says "_____" and an American often uses "_____".
4. It would be _____ to say a motorbike is always more convenient than a car. Only a _____ person who doesn't mind riding a motorbike in pouring rain would agree.
5. To keep good relationships with other people, you must always try your best to avoid _____ disputes and conflicts with others.
6. The meeting went on longer than expected because the Chairman kept making _____ suggestions and then making everyone discuss them.

⇒ **Key**

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. stupid | 2. farcical; silly | 3. absurd; ridiculous |
| 4. ludicrous; foolish | 5. senseless | 6. preposterous |

Many things in life may seem to us to be 1 if we really stop to look at them: the 2 rules we have to follow, the 3 work we have to do that gets us nowhere, the 4 reports we have to write up that no-one will ever read, or the 5 instructions we have to follow in order to make something work that we can work anyway. It is all 6 - a lot of extra work for nothing. Truly sometimes life seems pretty 7 and 8. Maybe it is time to stand back and take another look at our lives. Can't they be made a little less 9 and a little more logical?

⇒ **Key**

- | | | | | |
|-----------------|------------|--------------|---------------|----------|
| 1. ludicrous | 2. stupid | 3. senseless | 4. ridiculous | 5. silly |
| 6. preposterous | 7. foolish | 8. farcical | 9. absurd | |

accelerate v. speed / quicken / hurry / hasten / precipitate

► QUOTATIONS

- And this ongoing revolution has also suddenly **accelerated** exponentially. (L3, Book I)
- The New York Times, in a special editorial, felt that the work would “**accelerate** the deterioration” of the language and sternly accused the editors of betraying a public trust. (L 11, Book I)

► CORE MEANING

These words all mean to go faster or make sth. happen faster, or to go somewhere or do sth. quickly.

► PATTERNS AND COLLOCATIONS

- ◆ **accelerate** + n. (car / speed / decline / development / effort / growth / implementation / innovation / integration / introduction / process / progress / progression / rate / recovery / reform / transformation) + adv. (hard / quickly / smoothly / suddenly / away / dramatically / greatly / rapidly / sharply / significantly)
- ◆ **speed** + n. (traffic / train / bus) + n. (delivery / recovery) speed up
- ◆ **quicken** + n. (breathing / heartbeat / pulse / tempo / pace) + adv. (nervously / considerably / slightly / noticeably)
- ◆ **hurry** + adv. (through / away / up) + prep. (in / into / across / up / away from / ahead)
- ◆ **hasten** + n. (arrival / death / decline / demise / departure / downfall / process / recovery) + prep. (towards / away from / up / down / into)
- ◆ **precipitate** + n. (crisis / relapse)

► DISCRIMINATION

⇒ **ACCELERATE** means sth. or sb. starts to move faster; to happen or make sth. happen faster or sooner than expected.

- Exposure to the sun can **accelerate** the aging process.
- Environmental factors can **accelerate** the development of certain cancers.

⇒ **SPEED** means to make sth. happen sooner or faster, especially sb. / sth.'s recovery or the development of

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sth.

- More is needed to **speed** the development of a safe and effective vaccine.
 - The daring new technique dramatically **speeded** up the construction process.
- ⇒ *QUICKEN carries the meaning of making sth. go faster, to become faster, or to make sth. stronger or more active.*
- His pulse **quickened** at the thought of seeing her again.
 - The approach of the deadline **quickened** our sense of urgency.
- ⇒ *HURRY means to do sth. more quickly than usual because there is not much time; to make sb. do sth. act more quickly; to move quickly in a particular direction.*
- You'll have to **hurry** if you want to catch the train.
 - I don't want to **hurry** you but we close in twenty minutes.
- ⇒ *HASTEN means to make sth. happen sooner or faster, especially the death, destruction or end of sb. / sth.*
- The treatment she received may, in fact, have **hastened** her death.
 - News of the scandal certainly **hastened** his departure from office.
- ⇒ *PRECIPITATE means to rush headlong; to make great haste, to hurry; to move, act, or proceed very quickly; to cause (something) to happen quickly or suddenly.*
- Her death **precipitated** a family crisis.
 - The problem with the budget was **precipitated** by a number of unexpected costs.

▶ USAGE REMINDERS

These terms are often interchangeable when they mean to go faster or make sth. happen faster, or to go somewhere or do sth. quickly, conveying more precise and quite distinctive images or impressions with subtle differences from each other.

- ⇒ *ACCELERATE, especially applied to a vehicle, means to begin to move more quickly.*
- The airplane **accelerated** very rapidly as it went into the dive and, when seen from the ground, appeared to be moving dangerously fast.
 - What the figures don't tell you, though, is just how quickly this little car **accelerates** in the midrange.
- Or to increase in rate, amount, or extent:*
- We may not have the highest percentage of population infected, but, frighteningly and tragically, its rate of increase is **accelerating**.
 - Water in the Ganges is expected to increase as melting rates **accelerate**, though ultimately the added runoff is predicted to disappear as glaciers decline many decades from now.
- ⇒ *SPEED, often used in written English, means to move quickly. "Speed up" means to move or work more quickly.*
- Banking his motorbike quickly around the bend, Jonathan **sped** away, with Kyle in hot pursuit.
 - We need to **speed** up production or we will get behind with our orders.
- ⇒ *QUICKEN is used to mean to make or become faster or quicker.*
- The bandsmen, all dressed in their serious splendour, played at a determined pace, which