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lyre noun (**lyres**)
an ancient musical instrument like a small harp

lyric noun (**lyrics**) (*say* li-rik)
a short poem that expresses feelings and emotions

lyrical adjective
sounding like a song or a poem

lyrics plural noun
the words of a popular song

Mm

m
short for **metre**, **metres**, **miles**, or **millions**

ma noun (**mas**)
(*informal*) mother

mac noun (**macs**)
(*informal*) a mackintosh

macabre adjective (*say* mak-**ahbr**)
strange and horrible

macaroni noun
macaroni is pasta in the form of short tubes

WORD ORIGIN
The word **macaroni** comes from an Italian word *maccaroni*, which in turn comes from a Greek word *makaria* meaning 'food made from barley'.

machine noun (**machines**)
a piece of equipment made of moving parts that work together to do a job

machine-gun noun (**machine-guns**)
a gun that can keep firing bullets quickly one after another

machinery noun
1 machinery is machines generally • *farm machinery* 2 machinery is a mechanism • *The lift's machinery is faulty.* 3 machinery is also a system for doing something • *They are studying the machinery of local government.*

mackerel noun (**mackerel**)
a sea fish used as food

mackintosh noun (**mackintoshes**)
a raincoat

WORD ORIGIN
Mackintosh is named after the 19th-century Scottish inventor of the material it is made from, C. Macintosh, although he spelt his name without a *k*.

mad adjective (**madder**, **maddest**)
1 having something wrong with your mind; not sane 2 very foolish 3 very keen • *She's mad about rock music.* 4 (*informal*) very excited or annoyed
like mad (*informal*) with great speed, energy, or enthusiasm

WORD FAMILY
Madness is being mad.

madam noun
a word sometimes used when speaking or writing politely to a woman, instead of her name • *Can I help you, madam?*

mad cow disease noun
mad cow disease is a name for BSE

madden verb (**maddens**, **maddening**, **maddened**)
to madden someone is to make them mad or angry

made
past tense and past participle of **make** verb

madly adverb
extremely; very much • *They are madly in love.*

madman noun (**madmen**)
a man who is mad

magazine noun (**magazines**)
1 a paper-covered publication with articles or stories, which comes out regularly 2 the part of a gun that holds the cartridges 3 a store for weapons and ammunition or for explosives 4 a device that holds film for a camera or slides for a projector

maggot noun (**maggots**)
the larva of some kinds of fly

magic noun
1 magic is the power to make impossible things happen 2 magic is also performing clever tricks

magical adjective
1 done by magic or as if by magic
2 wonderful; marvellous

WORD FAMILY
To happen **magically** is to happen by magic or as if by magic.

magician noun (**magicians**)
1 someone who does magic tricks 2 a man with magic powers; a wizard

magistrate noun (**magistrates**)
a judge in a local court who deals with some less serious cases

magma noun
magma is a molten substance beneath the earth's crust

magnesium noun
magnesium is a silvery-white metal that burns with a very bright flame

magnet noun (**magnets**)
a piece of metal that can attract iron or steel and that points north and south when it is hung in the air

WORD FAMILY
Magnetism is the attraction of a magnet.

magnetic adjective
having or using the powers of a magnet

magnetic tape noun
magnetic tape is a plastic strip coated with a magnetic substance for recording sound

magnetize verb (**magnetizes**, **magnetizing**, **magnetized**)
1 to magnetize something is to make it into a magnet 2 to magnetize someone is to attract them or influence them very strongly • *Jane magnetized the audience when she began to sing.*

magnificent adjective
1 looking splendid or impressive • *There was a whirr and flutter of wings and down from the dawn sky flew a magnificent white horse.* — Francesca Simon, *Helping Hercules*
2 excellent • *We had a magnificent meal.*

WORD FAMILY
Magnificence is being magnificent; **magnificently** means in a magnificent way.

magnify verb (**magnifies**, **magnifying**, **magnified**)
to magnify something is to make it look bigger than it really is

WORD FAMILY
Magnification is making something look bigger than it really is.

magnifying glass noun (**magnifying glasses**)
a lens that magnifies things

magnitude noun (**magnitudes**)
magnitude is how large or important something is

magnolia noun (**magnolias**)
a tree with large white or pale pink flowers

WORD ORIGIN
Magnolia is named after a French botanist called P. Magnol.

magpie noun (**magpies**)
a black and white bird, related to the crow

mahogany noun (*say* ma-**hog**-a-ni)
mahogany is a hard brown wood used for making furniture

maid noun (**maids**)
1 a female servant 2 (*old use*) a girl

maiden noun (**maidens**)
(*old use*) a girl

maiden name noun (**maiden names**)
a woman's family name before she gets married

maiden over noun (**maiden overs**)
a cricket over in which no runs are scored

maiden voyage or **maiden flight** noun (**maiden voyages** or **maiden flights**)
a ship's first voyage or an aircraft's first flight

mail [1] noun
1 mail is letters and parcels sent by post
2 mail is also electronic mail

mail verb (**mails**, **mailing**, **mailed**)
to mail something is to send it by post or by electronic mail

mail [2] noun
armour made of metal rings joined together

mail order noun
mail order is a system of buying goods through the post

maim verb (**maims**, **maiming**, **maimed**)
to maim someone is to injure them so badly that part of their body is damaged for life

manic adjective
manic behaviour is busy and excited

manifesto noun (**manifestos**)
a public statement of a group's or person's policy or principles

manipulate verb (**manipulates, manipulating, manipulated**)
1 to manipulate something is to handle it skilfully **2** to manipulate someone is to get them to do what you want by treating them cleverly

WORD FAMILY
Manipulation is manipulating something or someone; a **manipulator** is a person who manipulates something or someone.

mankind noun
mankind is all the people in the world • *This is a discovery for the good of all mankind.*

manly adjective (**manlier, manliest**)
1 strong or brave **2** suitable for a man
▷ **manliness** noun manliness is being manly

manner noun (**manners**)
the way that something happens or is done

manners plural noun
a person's manners are how they behave with other people; behaving politely

manoeuvre noun (**manoeuvres**) (*say* ma- noo- ver)
a skilful or clever action

manoeuvre verb (**manoeuvres, manoeuvring, manoeuvred**)
1 to manoeuvre something is to move it skilfully into position **2** to manoeuvre is to move skilfully or cleverly

WORD FAMILY
Something is **manoeuvrable** when it is easy to move into position.

man-of-war noun (**men-of-war**)
in earlier times, a warship

manor noun (**manors**)
a large important house in the country

mansion noun (**mansions**)
a large stately house

manslaughter noun (*say* **man**- slaw- ter)
manslaughter is the crime of killing someone without meaning to

mantelpiece noun (**mantelpieces**)
a shelf above a fireplace

mantle noun (**mantles**)
1 (*old use*) a cloak **2** a covering • *There was a mantle of snow on the hills.*

manual adjective
manual work is work you do with your hands; manual equipment is equipment used with your hands

WORD FAMILY
You do something **manually** when you use your hands to do it.

manual noun (**manuals**)
a handbook or book of instructions

manufacture verb (**manufactures, manufacturing, manufactured**)
to manufacture things is to make them with machines, usually in a factory

manufacture noun
manufacture is the process of making things with machines, especially in large quantities for sale

WORD FAMILY
A **manufacturer** is a business that manufactures things.

manure noun
manure is animal dung added to the soil to make it more fertile

manuscript noun (**manuscripts**)
something written or typed before it has been printed

WORD ORIGIN
The word **manuscript** comes from Latin words *manu* meaning 'by hand' and *scriptum* meaning 'written'.

Manx adjective
to do with the Isle of Man

Manx cat noun (**Manx cats**)
a breed of cat without a tail

many determiner (**more, most**)
large in number • *There were many people at the party.* • *How many potatoes do you want?*

many noun
a large number of people or things • *Many were found.*

Maori noun (**Maoris**) (*say* **mow**- ri)
1 a member of the aboriginal people of New Zealand **2** their language

map noun (**maps**)
a diagram of part or all of the earth's surface, showing features such as towns, mountains, and rivers
to put a place on the map is to do something that makes it famous

map verb (**maps, mapping, mapped**)
to map an area is to make a map of it
to map something out is to arrange it or organize it

maple noun (**maples**)
a tree with broad leaves

mar verb (**mars, marring, marred**)
to mar something is to spoil it

marathon noun (**marathons**)
a long-distance running race on roads, usually 26 miles long

WORD ORIGIN
The word **marathon** comes from the name of a place near Athens in Greece. A runner is said to have run from Marathon to Athens in 490 BC after the famous battle in which the Greeks defeated the Persians.

marauder noun (**marauders**)
marauders are people who attack a place and steal things from it

WORD FAMILY
A **marauding** army or pack of animals goes round a place attacking people or stealing things.

marble noun (**marbles**)
1 a marble is a small glass ball used in games **2** marble is a hard kind of limestone that is polished and used for building or sculpture

WORD ORIGIN
The word **marble** comes from a Greek word *marmaros* meaning 'a shining stone'.

March noun
the third month of the year

WORD ORIGIN
The word **March** comes from the Roman month *Martius*, named in honour of the god Mars.

march verb (**marches, marching, marched**)
1 to march is to walk with regular steps **2** to march someone is to make them walk somewhere • *He marched them up the hill.*
▷ **marcher** noun someone who marches

march noun (**marches**)
1 a march is a large group of people marching, sometimes to protest about something **2** a march is also a piece of music suitable for marching to

mare noun (**mares**)
a female horse or donkey

margarine noun (*say* mar- ja- reen)
margarine is a soft creamy substance used like butter, made from animal or vegetable fats

margin noun (**margins**)
1 the empty space between the edge of a page and the writing or pictures **2** the small difference between two scores or prices
• *She won by a narrow margin.*

marginal adjective
a marginal difference is a very small or slight one • *The difference in price is marginal.*
▷ **marginally** adverb very slightly; by a small amount

marigold noun (**marigolds**)
a yellow or orange garden flower

marijuana noun (*say* ma- ri- **hwahna**)
marijuana is a drug made from hemp

marina noun (**marinas**) (*say* ma- ree- na)
a harbour for yachts and motor boats

marine adjective (*say* ma- reen)
to do with the sea

marine noun (**marines**)
a soldier trained to serve on land and sea

WORD ORIGIN
The word **marine** comes from the Latin word *maris* meaning 'sea'.

mariner noun (**mariners**)
(*old use*) a sailor

marionette noun (**marionettes**)
a puppet that you work by strings or wires

WORD ORIGIN
The word **marionette** comes from a French word meaning 'little Mary'.

mark [1] noun (**marks**)
1 a spot, dot, line, or stain on something **2** a number or letter put on a piece of work to show how good it is **3** a distinguishing feature or sign of something • *They kept a minute's silence as a mark of respect.* **4** the place from which you start a race • *On your marks, get set, go!*

mark verb (**marks, marking, marked**)
1 to mark something is to put a mark on it **2** to mark a piece of work is to give it a number or letter to show how good it is **3** in football or hockey, to mark a player on the other team is to keep close to them to stop them getting the ball **4** to mark something said is to take note of it • *Mark my words!*

mark [2] noun (**marks**)
a former German unit of money