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Edited by
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clueless *adj.* informal ignorant, stupid. □ **cluelessly**

adv. **cluelessness** *n.*

clump ● *n.* 1 (foll. by *of*) a cluster or compact group of things or people, esp. of trees, hair, buildings, etc. 2 an agglutinated mass or lump. 3 a dull thudding sound. ● *v.* 1 *a intr.* form a clump. 2 *tr.* heap or plant together. 2 *intr.* walk with heavy steps. 3 *tr.* informal hit. □ **clumpy** *adj.* (-ier, -iest).

clumper *n.* (also **clumpet** /'klʌmpət/) *Cdn* (*Maritimes & Nfld*) a large floating chunk of ice.

clumsy *adj.* (-ier, -iest) 1 not graceful in movement or shape; awkward. 2 done without skill or ease (*a clumsy forgery*). 3 tactless (*a clumsy apology*). 4 (of tools, furniture, etc.) difficult to use or move; not well designed. □ **clumsily** *adv.* **clumsiness** *n.*

clung *past and past part.* of CLING.

clunk ● *n.* a dull sound as of thick pieces of metal striking. ● *v.* 1 *intr.* make such a sound. 2 *intr.* (often foll. by *along*) move or progress clumsily. 3 *tr.* hit hard so as to make a clunking sound. □ **clunking** *adj.*

clunker *n.* *N Amer.* informal 1 a dilapidated automobile or machine. 2 a failure; flop.

clunky *adj.* (-ier, -iest) informal 1 *N Amer.* awkward or clumsy. 2 *N Amer.* not sleekly designed (*a clunky station wagon*). 3 tending to make clunking sounds.

cluster ● *n.* 1 a close group or bunch of similar things growing together. 2 a close arrangement or group of people, animals, faint stars, etc. ● *v.* 1 *tr.* bring into a cluster or clusters. 2 *intr.* be or come into a cluster or clusters. 3 *intr.* (foll. by *around*) gather.

cluster bomb *n.* an anti-personnel bomb spraying smaller bombs or shrapnel when detonated.

clutch 1 ● *v.* 1 *tr.* seize eagerly. 2 *tr.* grasp tightly. 2 *intr.* (foll. by *at*) snatch suddenly. ● *n.* 1 a tight grasp. 2 (in *pl.*) power or control (in *his clutches*). 3 **a** (in a motor vehicle) a device for connecting and disconnecting the engine to the transmission. 4 **b** the pedal operating this. 5 **c** an arrangement for connecting or disconnecting working parts of a machine. 4 *N Amer.* a decisive or crucial situation (*came through in the clutch*). 5 = CLUTCH BAG. ● *attrib. adj.* *N Amer.* *Sport slang* 1 occurring at a decisive time (*a clutch home run*). 2 (of a person) performing well at crucial times.

clutch 2 *n.* 1 **a** a set of eggs to be hatched at one time. 2 the brood resulting from this. 2 a group of people or of similar items.

clutch bag *n.* (also **clutch purse**) a handbag without a handle or strap.

clutter ● *n.* 1 a crowded and untidy collection of things. 2 an untidy state. ● *vtr.* (often foll. by *up*, *with*) crowd untidily, fill with clutter.

cluttered *adj.* crowded so as to cause confusion, esp. with many small objects.

Clydesdale *n.* a draft horse of a heavy powerful breed, usu. dark-coloured with thick white hair on the lower legs.

CM *abbr.* Member of the Order of Canada.

Cm *symbol* curium.

cm *abbr.* centimetre(s).

CMA *abbr.* 1 Canadian Medical Association. 2 (in Canada) CERTIFIED MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTANT.

Cmdr *abbr.* COMMANDER.

Cmdre *abbr.* COMMODORE.

CMHC *abbr.* Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.

CMM *abbr.* (in Canada) Commander of the Order of Military Merit.

CMV *abbr.* CYTOMEGALOVIRUS.

CNE *abbr.* Canadian National Exhibition.

C-note *n.* *N Amer. slang* a one-hundred-dollar bill.

CNS *abbr.* CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM.

CO *abbr.* 1 Commanding Officer. 2 Colorado (in postal use).

Co *symbol* cobalt.

Co. *abbr.* 1 company. 2 county. □ **and Co.** informal and the rest of them; and similar things.

clo *abbr.* care of.

co- *prefix* added to: 1 nouns, with the sense 'joint, mutual, common' (*co-pilot*). 2 adjectives and adverbs, with the sense 'jointly, mutually' (*co-dependent*). 3 verbs, with the sense 'together with another or others' (*co-operate*).

co-accused *n.* a person who is accused of a crime jointly with another or others.

coach ● *n.* 1 a bus which is comfortably equipped for longer journeys. 2 **a** a person who trains or instructs a sports team or athlete. **b** a private tutor. **c** a person who teaches an actor, singer, etc. in specific aspects of their art. 3 *N Amer.* economy class seating in an aircraft, train, etc. 4 a four-wheeled carriage, usu. closed and drawn by one or more horses. ● *adv.* *N Amer.* in economy class seating. ● *v.* 1 *a tr.* train or instruct (a student, sports team, etc.) as a coach. **b intr.** work as a coach. **c tr.** give hints to; prime with facts. 2 *intr.* travel by coach. □ **coachable** *adj.* **coaching** *n.*

coach house *n.* a building designed to hold horse-drawn coaches or carriages.

coachman *n.* (*pl.* -men) the driver of a horse-drawn carriage.

coady /'kɔ:di/ *n.* *Cdn* (*Nfld*) a thick sweetened sauce, usu. made from boiled molasses.

coagulant *n.* a substance that produces coagulation.

coagulate /'kɔ:'eɪʃ(ə)leɪt/ *vtr. & intr.* 1 change from a fluid to a solid or semi-solid state. 2 clot, curdle. 3 set, solidify. □ **coagulation** *n.*

coal *n.* 1 **a** a hard black or blackish rock, mainly carbonized plant matter, found in underground seams and used esp. as a fuel. **b** a piece or pieces of this for burning. 2 (in *pl.*) burning or charred pieces of coal, wood, etc. in a fire. 3 = CHARCOAL 1. □ **coals to Newcastle** something brought or sent to a place where it is already plentiful. **rake (or haul) over the coals** reprimand severely.

coal-black *adj.* completely black.

coalesce /'kɔ:'eɪʃ(ə)les/ *vintr.* 1 come together and form one whole. 2 combine in a coalition. □

coalescence *n.* **coalescent** *adj.*

coalfield *n.* an extensive area with strata containing coal.

coal-fired *adj.* heated or powered by coal.

coalition *n.* 1 a temporary alliance for combined action, esp. of distinct parties forming a government. 2 fusion into one whole. □ **coalitionist** *n.*

coal oil *n.* *N Amer. dated* kerosene or petroleum.

coal tar *n.* a thick black viscid liquid distilled from coal and used as a source of benzene and many other organic chemicals.

coarse *adj.* 1 **a** rough or loose in texture or grain; made of large particles. **b** (of a person's features) rough or large. 2 lacking refinement or delicacy; crude, obscene (*coarse humour*). □ **coarsely** *adv.* **coarseness** *n.*

coarsen *vtr. & intr.* make or become coarse.

coast ● *n.* 1 **a** the border of the land near the sea; the seashore. **b (the Coast)** *N Amer.* the Pacific coast of N America. 2 a run, usu. downhill, in or on a vehicle without the use of power. ● *vintr.* 1 ride or move, usu. downhill, without use of power. 2 make progress

natty *adj.* (-ier, -iest) *informal* **1** a smartly or neatly dressed, dapper. **b** spruce; trim; smart (a natty suit). **2** deft. \square **nattily** *adv.* **nattiness** *n.*

natural \bullet *adj.* **1** a existing in or caused by nature; not artificial (natural landscape). **b** uncultivated; wild (existing in its natural state). **2** in the course of nature; not exceptional or miraculous (died of natural causes). **3** (of human nature etc.) not surprising; to be expected (natural for her to be upset). **4** a (of a person or a person's behaviour) unaffected, easy, spontaneous. **b** (foll. by to) spontaneous, easy (friendliness is natural to him). **5** a (of qualities etc.) inherent; innate (a natural talent). **b** (of a person) having such qualities (a natural comedian). **6** not disguised or altered (as by makeup, hair dye etc.). **7** lifelike; as if in nature (the portrait looked very natural). **8** likely by its or their nature to be such (natural enemies). **9** having a physical existence as opposed to what is spiritual, intellectual, etc. (the natural world). **10** having genetically the specified familial relationship; actually begotten, not adopted (her natural son). **11** based on the innate moral sense; instinctive (natural justice). **12** *Music* a (of a note) not sharpened or flattened (B natural). **b** (of a scale) not containing any sharps or flats. **c** (of a key) having no sharps or flats. **13** (of cotton, silk, etc.) having a colour characteristic of the unbleached and undyed state; off-white, creamy beige. **14** not refined or treated (natural wood). **15** containing no additives, preservatives, or other artificial ingredients (natural foods). \bullet *n.* **1** (usu. foll. by for) *informal* a person or thing naturally suitable, adept, expert, etc. (a natural for the championship). **2** *Music* a a sign (♯) denoting a return to natural pitch after a sharp or a flat. **b** a natural note. **c** a white key on a piano. **3** a pale fawn colour. \square **naturalness** *n.*

natural-born *adj.* (usu. attrib.) having a character or position by birth.

natural childbirth *n.* childbirth with minimal medical or technological intervention.

natural death *n.* death by age or disease, not by accident, violence, etc.

natural gas *n.* an inflammable mainly methane gas found in the earth's crust, not manufactured.

natural history *n.* **1** the study of animals or plants, esp. as set forth for popular use. **2** an aggregate of the facts concerning the flora and fauna etc. of a particular place or class (a natural history of Vancouver Island). \square **natural historian** *n.*

naturalism *n.* **1** the theory or practice in art and literature of representing nature, character, etc. realistically and in great detail. **2** a *Philos.* a theory of the world that excludes the supernatural or spiritual. **b** any moral or religious system based on this theory. **3** action based on natural instincts. **4** indifference to conventions.

naturalist \bullet *n.* **1** an expert or student of natural history. **2** a person who believes in or practises naturalism. \bullet *adj.* = NATURALISTIC.

naturalistic *adj.* **1** imitating nature closely; lifelike. **2** of or according to naturalism. **3** of natural history.

naturalize *v.* **1** *tr.* admit (a person of foreign birth) to the citizenship of a country. **2** *tr.* introduce (an animal, plant, etc.) into another region so that it flourishes in the wild. **3** *tr.* adopt (a foreign word, custom, etc.). **4** *intr.* become naturalized. **5** *tr.* *Philos.* exclude from the miraculous. **6** *tr.* free from conventions; make natural. **7** *tr.* cause to appear natural. \square **naturalization** *n.*

natural language *n.* a language used natively by people, as opposed to an artificial language or code.

natural law *n.* **1** *Philos.* unchanging moral principles common to all people by virtue of their nature as human beings. **2** a an observable law relating to natural phenomena. **b** these collectively (where they saw chance, we see natural law).

natural life *n.* the duration of one's life on earth.

natural logarithm *n.* a logarithm to the base e (2.71828.....). Abbr.: **log_e**.

naturally *adv.* **1** in a natural manner (spoke very naturally). **2** as a natural result. **3** (qualifying a whole sentence) as might be expected; of course. **4** by nature; instinctively (a naturally talented actor). **5** without artificial help, special treatment, etc. (her hair curls naturally).

natural numbers *n.* the integers 1, 2, 3, etc., sometimes with the addition of 0.

natural philosophy *n.* *hist.* natural science, esp. physical science. \square **natural philosopher** *n.*

natural resources *n.* materials or conditions occurring in nature and capable of economic exploitation.

natural science *n.* **1** the sciences used in the study of the physical world, e.g. physics, chemistry, geology, biology, botany. **2** any one of these sciences.

natural selection *n.* the Darwinian theory of the survival and propagation of organisms best adapted to their environment.

nature *n.* **1** a thing's or person's innate or essential qualities or character (not in their nature to be cruel; is the nature of iron to rust). **2** (often **Nature**) a the physical power causing all the phenomena of the material world (Nature is the best physician). **b** these phenomena, including plants, animals, landscape, etc. **3** a kind, sort, or class (things of this nature). **4** = HUMAN NATURE. **5** a specified element of human character (our animal nature). **6** a an uncultivated or wild area, condition, community, etc. **b** the countryside, esp. when picturesque. **7** inherent impulses determining character or action. **8** heredity as an influence on or determinant of personality (opp. **NURTURE** *n.* 3). **9** a living thing's vital functions or needs (such a diet will not support nature). \square **against nature** unnatural; immoral. **back to nature** returning to a pre-industrial or natural state. **by nature** innately. **from nature** *Art* using natural objects as models. **In nature** **1** actually existing. **2** anywhere; at all. **3** in the natural world. **in (or of) the nature of** characteristically resembling or belonging to the class of (the answer was in the nature of an excuse). **in the nature of things** inevitably. **in a state of nature** in an uncivilized or uncultivated state. **one's better nature** the good side of one's character; one's capacity for tolerance, generosity, etc.

natured *adj.* (in comb.) having a specified disposition (good-natured).

nature reserve *n.* a tract of land managed so as to preserve its flora, fauna, physical features, etc.

nature spirit *n.* a spirit supposed to reside in some natural element or object.

nature trail *n.* a signposted path through the countryside designed to draw attention to natural phenomena.

nature walk *n.* (also **nature hike**) *N Amer.* a walk through woods, marshland, etc. to observe plants, animals, physical phenomena, etc.

naturism *n.* **1** nudism. **2** naturalism in religion or philosophy. **3** the worship of natural objects. \square

naturist *n. & adj.*

naturopathy /ˌnætʃəˈrɒpəθi, -nei-/ *n.* **1** the treatment of disease etc. without drugs, usu. involving diet