Also by Adrian Room and from McFarland


Placenames of France: Over 4,000 Towns, Villages, Natural Features, Regions and Departments (2004; paperback 2009)


Literally Entitled: A Dictionary of the Origins of the Titles of Over 1,300 Major Literary Works of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (1996; paperback 2009)

Placenames of Russia and the Former Soviet Union: Origins and Meanings of the Names for Over 2,000 Natural Features, Towns, Regions and Countries (1996)

The Naming of Animals: An Appellative Reference to Domestic, Work and Show Animals Real and Fictional (1993)
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This new dictionary give the definitions of more than 8,000 terms used in sports and games. The coverage ranges alphabetically from aikido to yachting and includes such well-known sports as American football, association football, athletics, auto racing, baseball, basketball, boxing, cricket, cycling, equestrianism, field hockey, golf, gymnastics, horse racing, ice hockey, mountaineering, rugby league, rugby union, sailing, shooting, skiing, skating, swimming, tennis, and volleyball. Less widely played sports include archery, badminton, bowls, croquet, fencing, fives, handball, netball, parachuting, real tennis, rounders, squash, trampolining, and weightlifting. Devotees of darts are catered for, as are enthusiasts of billiards, judo, orienteering, pool, rodeo, skateboarding, snooker, and water polo. Some sports are subsumed under a broader category, as climbing under mountaineering, cross-country running under athletics, diving under swimming, kayaking under canoeing, mountain biking under cycling, rally driving under auto racing, skydiving under parachuting, speed skating under ice skating, Thai boxing under boxing. On the other hand, snowboarding is regarded as distinct from skiing, tenpin bowling from skittles, and water skiing as not simply a variety of skiing. Trampolining, too, is more than just a form of gymnastics. (The terms American football and association football, field hockey and ice hockey, are spelled out since football or hockey could apply to either.)

There are also comprehensive categories of sports, each of which has its own entry. Aquatics deals with sports other than (literally) “mainstream” ones such as sailing, surfing, and swimming. Martial arts embraces Japanese combative sports such as judo, karate, and kendo, each entered individually. The category Olympics covers terminology associated with the Games rather than individual Olympic sports, which anyway have their own specific entries, as sports existing outside the Olympics.

This is perhaps the place to point out that there are no entries for board games or card games, or for blood sports such as hunting. Angling qualifies for inclusion, however, as both a competitive and recreational sport, but bull-fighting does not. Nor does pigeon racing, despite its similarity to horse racing, with owners, breeders, trainers, and punters (or bettors). In the field of recreational sports, boating is also excluded, as being too general. Nor does betting appear. One must draw the line somewhere.

The language or jargon of some sports can be quite arcane. Even international sports have their exclusive terminology, and it takes a player or fan to understand it. Golf, for example, has or had its birdie, bogey, dormy, eagle, niblick, stymie, mashie, nassau, and sclafl. Tennis has its idiosyncratic scoring
(love-thirty, deuce) and horse racing its betting terms (ante-post, evens, nap, odds-on). When it comes to national sports, the fog of uncertainty can thicken. For non-Americans, baseball terms such as bunt, cut-off man, home plate, left field, and safety squeeze may well remain a mystery, while across the Atlantic cricket is likely to puzzle Americans (as it even does a number of British) with its Chinaman, doosra, golden duck, off-break, popping crease, and yorker. The game’s fielding positions are notoriously puzzling. Where does a player stand at backward point, fine leg, silly mid-off, or third man? Come to that, what does a nightwatchman do?

Boxing can baffle through its different weight categories, bantamweight, cruiserweight, and welterweight among them. What is the distinction between flyweight, junior flyweight, and superflyweight? The weights entered in the book, in kilograms and pounds, are those used in professional boxing.

Attention is particularly paid to the alternate or colloquial terms found in sporting vocabulary, such as bailer in cricket as an alternate term for a full toss, or cabbage in golf as a colloquial term for the rough. Abbreviations used in sports reports also find their place, especially where scoring is important. Cricket scores are noted for their use of b for bowled and c for caught while lbw (leg before wicket) is an abbreviation more common than the spelled-out words. Baseball, similarly, has its ERA and RBI.

It may seem strange to have entries for such common words as ball and even game, but this is often because everyday terms can have more than one meaning. A good example is club, which in golf alone can refer either to the implement with which the ball is struck or to the association whose members play the game. A net, too, can be used either to catch fish or to divide the two halves of a tennis court.

The names of sporting venues such as stadiums, golf courses, racecourses, and other sports centers are accorded their due place in the book. Among them are Aintree, Banff Springs, Down Royal, Lake Placid, Madison Square Garden, and Newbury. Racecourses are classified by type, as being either flat (without obstacles) or National Hunt (with obstacles), and there are descriptions of famous jumps, as Becher’s Brook and the Canal Turn at Aintree. Entries are also provided for the various national venues of the Formula One Grand Prix in auto racing, such as the German Grand Prix and Spanish Grand Prix.

Sporting awards such as Calcutta Cup or Diamond Sculls are also represented, as are the nicknames for well-known teams, such as Falcons for the Atlanta Falcons American football team, and Les Bleus for the French national rugby union team. There are no entries for the actual teams themselves, any more than there are for individual sports players, however famous.

The names of sporting awards often coincide with the actual event for which the award is made. Thus the Melbourne Cup is not only an Australian horse race but the award presented to the winner, and the Champions Trophy is both a cricket championship and the award gained by its victors. Most names of sporting events, however, derive either from their location or from their name of their founder or commercial sponsor. In the domain of horse racing, for example, the Derby is thus named for its founder, the Earl of Derby, while its near-namesake, the Kentucky Derby, is named for the state where it is held. The names of some modern sponsored races can be extraordinarily cumbersome. Among those held at England’s Wetherby racecourse in November 2009, for example, were the Hold Your Christmas Party Here Conditional Jockeys’ Claiming Hurdle, the Book Raceday Hospitality On 01937 582035 Handicap Chase (incorporating a telephone number), and the goracing.co.uk Juvenile Maiden Hurdle (with a website). Such names are absent.
from the book, although their generic components (conditional jockey, claiming race, raceday, handicap, chase, juvenile, maiden, hurdle) duly feature.

All sports have a ruling or administrative body, and a selection of these also features, such as the American Football League, FIFA, International Cricket Council, Jockey Club, National Football League, and Union of European Football Associations. Many such bodies are better known by their initials than the full formal name, and a list of such abbreviations is given in the Appendix.

Definitions in the dictionary are everything. They aim to be clear and concise, so that a reader knowing little or nothing about a sport can understand the term in question. Cross-references play their important part, with each word or phrase in an entry printed in bold having its own entry. The definitions of individual sports are necessarily concise, and like all entries occupy a single phrase or sentence. It would clearly be impracticable if not impossible to devote a single entry to the rules of a particular individual sport, let alone summarize its history. But equally the essentials of a game or sport, however familiar, must feature as prominently as the terms it uses.

There is often an overlap in sporting terminology, so that a term associated mainly with one sport is also used in the jargon of another. Thus rally is a term found in at least half a dozen sports. In such cases, the names of the different sports using the term are those in which it is chiefly although not exclusively found. Clearly, it would be pointless to list all the sports in which such terms as guard or penalty are used.

Reading sports writing, one often finds a word or phrase normally associated with a particular sport used in a transferred context. A football team catching up on goals in a match may thus be said to come from behind, a term properly belonging to racing, while a struggling tennis player may be said to be on the ropes, as if in the boxing ring. Indeed, many sporting terms have entered the English language generally. Thus across the board, down to the wire, neck and neck, stay the course come from racing; ballpark figure, on the ball, out in left field, step up to the plate, three strikes and you’re out from baseball; go the distance, out for the count, roll with the punches, throw in the towel from boxing; can of worms, hook, line and sinker, off the hook, rise to the bait from fishing; he had a good inning, hit for six, keep a straight bat, off one’s own bat from cricket. Move the goalposts comes from soccer, behind the eight ball from pool, jump the gun from athletics, sail close to the wind from sailing, go off the deep end from swimming, and par for the course from golf. There are many more.

Inevitably, the entries in the book represent a only a proportion, albeit a sizable one, of sporting vocabulary overall. It would be impossible to include all sporting terms, to list all sporting awards and venues. Scores of books and encyclopedias have been devoted to the world of sailing alone, for example, and books on sport generally are perennially popular, especially when in the form of memoirs or biographies. The present book competes with all these. But at least it offers a substantial representation of the words, names, and phrases encountered in worldwide sports, from the familiar to the often dauntingly recondite. And that has been its objective.

Arrangement of Entries

As mentioned, the entries run in alphabetical order. The heading is followed (in brackets) by the name of the sport in which the word or phrase is used. If it is used in more than one sport (often in different senses), the names of the sports also run in alphabetical order. The label general in this position is applied to terms that relate to more than one sport, such as manager or scorecard. The label sport is used to denote entries describing a particular game or sport, as fencing or hurling.
Any word or phrase in **bold** print in an entry serves as a cross-reference to its own entry in its alphabetical place. Mention of a **game** at the beginning of an entry describing a sport refers to the sport in question. Thus the definition of **badminton** begins “a **game** for two or four people,” so that the game is badminton. The same applies in entries such as **aquabobbing**, categorized as a type of **water skiing**, which begins “a **form of the sport**,” so that the sport is water skiing. On the whole, the text of an entry aims not to repeat the name of the sport in which the word or phrase is used.

Where an entry describes an action carried out by the relevant sport’s participant, the pronoun “he” is used for both sexes in the interest of brevity and simplicity. This will nine times out of ten be appropriate anyway for a male-dominated sport, such as cricket or rugby union, but for sake of consistency the usage is also applied to sports in which women are prominent participants, such as gymnastics or tennis. It would unusually pedantic to have “he or she” every time.

A number of entries append additional information or an etymology in square brackets. Thus the **badminton** entry explains how the game came to be so named, and the entry for **caddie** gives the origin of the word.

Some sports writing uses American spellings for American sports, such as baseball, and British spelling for British sports, such as cricket. But such a system presents difficulties, since one has to choose which to use for an international sport such as tennis. In the present book, the spelling generally used is American rather than British, even for predominantly British sports. In some cases, however, where both a British and an American spelling exist for a headword, the British spelling may appear as a cross-reference, so that **centre** cross-refers to **center**.

Headwords followed by an exclamation point represent a spoken command, such as **action**! in wrestling, **break**! in boxing, **easy**! in **rowing**, or **mush**! in sled-dog racing.

**Appendix and Bibliography**

The Appendix is devoted to a selection of the better-known standard abbreviations for the titles of sports ruling bodies and administrative organizations.

The Bibliography lists the books and publications consulted both for definitions of sporting terms and for the rules and origins of the sports themselves. Each title has an appended description in square brackets.
AAA (athletics) abbreviation of Amateur Athletic Association
aback (sailing) behind the boat
A-bars (gymnastics) short form of asymmetric bars
aboard (baseball) another term for on base; (equestrianism, horse racing) another term for on board
abseil (mountaineering) the descent of a rock face on a fixed rope using braking and sliding mechanisms [German Abseil, from ab, “down,” and Seil, “rope”]
abseiling (mountaineering) the descending of a rock face by means of an abseil
Abu Dhabi Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the Yas Marina Circuit, Abu Dhabi
academy (equestrianism) a riding school
acceptor (horse racing) a horse that has its entry for a race confirmed
Accies (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Hamilton Academicals
accumulator (horse racing) a bet on four or more races, with the stake and winnings from each race laid on the next race, so that the punter either wins handsomely or loses everything
accuracy jumping (parachuting) a jump made with the aim of landing on or near the center of a target laid out below
ace (baseball) a team’s best starting pitcher; (golf) a hole in one; (squash, tennis) a serve that the receiver cannot touch
ace-Deucey (horse racing) colloquial term for a rider who sets his stirrups at different lengths [said to derive from AC/DC, “alternating current/direct current”]
acro (skiing) a form of aerial [abbreviation of acrobatic]
acrobat (gymnastics) a performer of acrobatics
acrobatics (gymnastics) a routine of gymnastic feats
across the board (horse racing) (of) a bet that covers all possible results in a race, whether a win, a place or a show [the board is the noticeboard on which the races and odds are listed]
across the flat (horse racing) flat racing under Jockey Club rules, as distinct from over the sticks
acting half-back (rugby league) the player, often the hooker, who picks the ball up after a play-the-ball
action! (wrestling) the command by the referee to start wrestling
action replay (general) an instant televised repeat of an important or disputed incident in a match, as a goal in association football or a catch in cricket
ad court (tennis) short form of advantage court
adaptive rowing (rowing) or sculling in boats that have been adapted for people with physical limitations or disabilities
added money (horse racing) extra money added to the basic stakes awarded to the winner
added time (general) time added to the normal length of time for a match, as injury time in association football
Addicks (association football) nickname of the English club Charlton Athletic [corruption of Athletic]
additional assistant referee (association football) one of two extra assistant referees behind each goal who help the referee with decisions relating to the goal line, set pieces, and play in the penalty area
address the ball (golf) to take up a stance in order to strike the ball
Admiral’s Cup (sailing) a biennial series of races off the south coast of England for national teams of three boats each, culminating in the Fastnet Cup [established in 1957 by the Royal Ocean Racing Club, whose admiral presents the trophy]
adolph (trampolining) a forward somersault with three and a half twists [so called for its similarity to a rudolph]
advantage (rugby league) a period of time allowed by the referee after an infringement to determine whether to award the opposing team a
penalty or to allow play to continue; (rugby
union) a period of time allowed by the
referee after an infringement to determine whether to
award the opposing team a penalty, free kick,
or scrum or to allow play to continue; (tennis)
the first point after deuce
advantage court (tennis) the left side of the court,
from which the serve is made and received at
odd-numbered points
advantage rule (general) a rule under which an
infringement and its penalty are overlooked if
this is to the advantage of the non-offending
team
adventure racing (general) a long and arduous
race between individuals or teams over an open,
varied course, typically including a mountain or
river, with progress made either on foot (or by
swimming) or by a form of transport, as by bi-
cycle, by boat, or on horseback
adventure sport (general) a sport played not in an
enclosed area such as a field but pursued in an
open, natural environment such as water, snow,
or air and potentially hazardous, so embracing all
extreme sports and even such conventional
sports as sailing and skiing
aerial (gymnastics) (of) a maneuver in which a
total turn is made in the air without touch-
ing the apparatus; (skateboarding) a trick per-
formed in mid-flight, usually by launching the
board off a ramp; (skiing) a maneuver such as
an acro carried out in mid-air
aerial contact (general) a contact in midair be-
tween two players, as in a flying tackle
aerial ping-pong (sport) colloquial term for Aus-
tralian Rules, where the frequent exchanges of
high kicks in the air suggest the game of ping-
pong
aerialist (skiing) a skier who performs gymnastic
maneuvers in midair
aero bars (cycling) extensions fixed to the handle-
bars of a time-trial bike or track bike that allow
the rider to lean further forward and so adopt an
improved aerodynamic position
aerobics (gymnastics) a system of rapid and stren-
uous exercises designed to increase fitness and
improve bodyshape [term coined in 1968 by U.S.
physician Kenneth H. Cooper, from aerobic, “re-
quiring oxygen,” with plural -s as in gymnastics]
act (general) abbreviation of after extra time
AFC (American football) abbreviation of American
Football Conference
AFL (American football) abbreviation of American
Football League; (Australian Rules) abbrevi-
ation of Australian Football League
African Games (Olympics) regional games held
since 1965 for competitors from African countries
aft (sailing) at or toward the rear of a boat
after extra time (general) (of) a score when extra
time has been added to the regular time
against the darts (darts) (of) a win scored even
though the opposing player had the advantage
of throwing first
against the head (rugby union) (of) gaining the
possession of the ball from a scrum to which the
opposing team had the advantage of the put-in
agricultural (cricket) (of) a hefty or lofty stroke,
as typically occurs in village cricket
aid (equestrianism) a prompt of the hands or legs
that the rider gives a horse to make it turn, change gait, or the like
aid climbing (mountaineering) climbing with the
assistance of special equipment such as cram-
poms and ice axes
aikido (sport) a Japanese martial art that uses
specified moves and throws [Japanese aï, “har-
mony,” ki, “breath,” and do, “way”]
aikidoka (aikido) a practitioner of aikido
aiming mark (shooting) the center spot of a target
Aintree (horse racing) the racecourse at Liverpool,
England, where the Grand National is run
air (basketball) the distance between the ground
and a player’s feet when shooting or jumping for
the ball; (equestrianism) a staged or rehearsed
movement in haute école; (snowboarding,
surfing) an airborne maneuver
air gun (shooting) a rifle or pistol firing lead pellets
by means of compressed air
air hostess (cricket) colloquial term for a ball hit
particularly high [as if able to bring down an air
hostess in an airplane]
air pistol (shooting) a pistol firing lead pellets by
means of compressed air
air rifle (shooting) a rifle firing lead pellets by means
of compressed air
air shot (general) a stroke that fails to connect
with the ball, as typically in cricket or golf
air sports (general) a category of adventure sports,
including, among others, gliding and parachut-
ing
airborne soccer (sport) a game similar to associa-
tion football in which a Frisbee is substituted for
the ball
airborne throw (netball) a throw made when a
player is in the air
albatross (golf) a score of three strokes under par
on a hole [as a “bird” greater and more impres-
sive than an eagle]
Albiceleste (association football) nickname of the
Argentine national team [blend of Spanish alba,
“white,” and celeste, “sky blue,” the colors of the
stripes on the players’ shirts]
Albion (archery) a round of 36 arrows each for
men and women at 80, 60, and 50yds (73m,
55m, and 46m); (association football) (1) short name of the Scottish club Stirling Albion; (2) short name of the English club West Bromwich Albion
alder (angling) an artificial fly that resembles the alder fly
all–American (American football) a college football player in a team made up of the best such players at each position
all-around (gymnastics) a competition in which the highest score from all events is combined to give an overall champion
All Blacks (rugby union) nickname of the New Zealand international team [so dubbed for their dark strip by British journalists at the start of their tour of Britain in 1905]
all-in wrestling (wrestling) a form of the sport with few restrictions on the permitted holds
All-Ireland (Gaelic football, hurling) (of) a final between teams with players drawn from both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland
all-play–all (general) another term for a round robin
all-pro (American football) a professional player selected to play in the Pro Bowl as one of the best in his position
all-rounder (cricket) a player who is equally competent as batsman and bowler
all-seater stadium (general) a stadium with no accommodation for standing spectators
all-star (baseball) a player selected to represent his league in an All-Star game
All-Star game (baseball) an annual match between teams selected from the best players in the National League and the American League
all-ticket match (general) a match for which spectators must obtain tickets in advance
all-weather (horse racing) (of) a racecourse with a synthetic surface that allows racing to take place in any weather
All Whites (association football) nickname of the New Zealand national team [the color of the team's strip]
alley (baseball) a section of the outfield between two fielders; (bowls) the long narrow enclosure where indoor bowls are played; (skittles) the area where the game is played; (tennis) the space between the tramlines at the side of the court; (tenpin bowling) the long narrow enclosure where the game is played
alley–oop (basketball) a maneuver in which the ball is thrown up high so that another player running toward the basket can catch it in midair and score; (skateboarding, snowboarding) a spin made in the opposite direction to that in which the boarder is traveling [probably French allez!, “go!” and a supposed French pronunciation of up, influenced by Alley Oop, a character created by U.S. cartoonist V.T. Hamlin in the 1930s]
allez! (fencing) the command given by the referee to start fencing [French allez!, “go!”]
Allianz Arena (general) a leading sports stadium in Munich, Germany
allowance (horse racing) a deduction from the weight that a horse carries
Alpine skiing (skiing) a competitive form of the sport involving downhill and slalom events [originating in countries where the Alps form part of the territory, as France and Switzerland]
also–ran (horse racing) a horse that ran a race but did not finish with a place
amateur (general) a person who takes part in sport for pleasure, as distinct from a paid professional
Amateur Athletic Association (athletics) the British national governing organization for athletics, founded in 1880
amble (equestrianism) a horse’s leisurely gait in which the legs on one side are lifted alternately with those on the other side
American bowls (bowling) another name for tenpin bowling
American football (sport) a form of football played with an oval ball between teams of 11 players, points being scored for touchdowns and goals
American Football Conference (American football) one of the two conferences into which the National Football League was divided in 1969, the other being the National Football Conference
American Football League (American football) the professional football organization formed in 1959 to rival the National Football League and merging with the latter in 1970
American League (baseball) one of the two most prestigious North American professional leagues, formed in 1901 to rival the National League
American tournament (general) another term for a round robin
America’s Cup (sailing) the cup awarded to the winner of an international series of races held approximately every four years between one defending vessel and one challenging vessel [first awarded by the Royal Yacht Squadron in 1851 to the U.S. schooner America, winner of a race around the Isle of Wight]
amidships (sailing) in or toward the middle of the boat
amplitude (snowboarding) the height of a jump or trick
anabolic steroids (general) a drug that increases muscle size, illegally taken by some athletes or administered to racehorses
Anaheim Stadium (baseball) the California stadium
that is the home ground of the Anaheim Angels team.

anchor (athletics) the contestant who runs the anchor leg; (cricket) a batsman who can be relied on not to take risks; (tenpin bowling) the last bowler for the team, and generally the best; (tug of war) the person at the end of the rope, who “digs in” to steady those in front.

anchor cannon (billiards) a stroke in which the two object balls are kept close to the cushion so that a series of cannons can be made without disturbing their position.

anchor leg (athletics) the final stage of a relay race.

anchorman (general) another name for an anchor.

Anfield (association football) the home ground of the English club Liverpool.

Angels (baseball) short name of theAnaheim Angels team.

angle (snooker) to position the cue ball so close to the corner of the cushion that it is difficult to hit it in a straight line toward the object ball; (squash) a shot that hits one of the side walls, then the front wall, before bouncing.

angle of split (croquet) the angle at which the balls diverge in a split croquet shot.

angled shot (table tennis) a sharp stroke that sends the ball away at an angle.

angler (angling) formal term for a person who fishes.

angling (sport) the formal name for the sport or pastime of catching fish.

angulate (skiing) to bend the body, or part of the body, away from the slope in order to maintain balance.

ankle lace (wrestling) a hold in which a wrestler traps his opponent by the ankles, so that his back is to the mat.

Annie’s room (darts) a score of double one [from the World War I phrase “up in Annie’s room” as a dismissive reply to a query regarding the whereabouts of a person or thing, the number 1 being at the top of the dartboard].

AN Other (general) a name inserted in a list of team members to represent a player yet to be announced [another spelled as if a personal name].

ante-post (horse racing) a bet placed before the day of the race [before (ante) the runners have their numbers posted].

apex (auto racing) the center point of a corner.

apparatus (gymnastics) the equipment, or piece of equipment, on which a gymnast performs.

appeal (cricket) a request from a fielder to the umpire to establish whether the batsman is out or not.

appearance money (general) a fee paid to a famous player or performer to ensure his presence at a sporting event and so draw paying spectators.

appel (fencing) (1) a stamp of the front foot in a feint; (2) a sharp blow with the épée, also as a feint [French appel, “challenge”].

apprentice (horse racing) shortening of apprentice jockey.

apprentice jockey (horse racing) a junior jockey in flat racing, entitled to ride but receiving tuition while working for a trainer.

approach (golf) shortening of approach shot.

approach shot (golf) a stroke by which a player puts, or attempts to put, a ball onto the green; (tennis) a long hit that enables a player to move up to the net.

approach work (association football) a play that leads in the direction of the goal.

apron (auto racing) in Indy car and NASCAR racing, the paved portion of the racetrack that separates the racing surface from the infield; (boxing) the part of a ring that extends beyond the ropes; (golf) the part of the fairway immediately in front of the green.

aquabatics (aquatics) a display of spectacular feats in or on the water [blend of Latin aqua, “water,” and acrobatics].

aquaboard (general) a board for riding on the surface of the water, as in surfing.

aquabobbing (water skiing) a form of the sport using a vehicle like a tricycle but with skis instead of wheels [the vehicle bobs or bounces on the water].

aquacade (general) a display of swimming or diving, usually accompanied by music [blend of Latin aqua, “water,” and cavalcade].

aquadrome (general) a leisure facility for aquatic pursuits [blend of Latin aqua, “water,” and hippodrome].

aquafit (aquatics) a type of aerobics performed in water.

aqualung (aquatics) a self-contained diving apparatus with a supply of compressed air, the latter carried on the back.

aquanaut (aquatics) another term for a skindiver [blend of Latin aqua, “water,” and astronaut].

aquaplane (water skiing) another term for a wakeboard.

aquarobics (aquatics) a system of exercises similar to aerobics, carried out to music in chest-high water [blend of Latin aqua, “water,” and aerobics].

aquatic art (swimming) a rare alternate name for synchronized swimming.

aquatics (sport) sports practiced on or in the water, such as surfing, swimming, and water polo.

Arabs (association football) nickname for supporters of the Scottish club Dundee United [said to derive from the sand spread on the pitch in the winter of 1963 to make it playable for the cup tie against Albion Rovers].

Arc (horse racing) short name of the Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe.
arch (athletics) the curve of the body of an athlete clearing the bar in the high jump
archer (archery) a person who engages in archery
archer's bow (association football) the posture of a player making a dive, differing from a genuine fall in that the perpetrator holds up both arms with open palms, thrusts out his chest, and bends his legs at the knee, suggesting the curve of a bow held by an archer
archery (sport) the art of using bows to shoot arrows at a target
archery darts (archery) a variety of the sport in which the target has the same arrangement as the numbers on a dartboard
area (association football) shortening of penalty area
arena (general) the area enclosed by seating in which public sporting contests take place [Latin arena, "sand," from the part of an ancient amphitheater that was strewn with sand for combats]
Argentinian Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Buenos Aires, Argentina
Argonauts (Canadian football) short name of the Toronto Argonauts team
Argyle (association football) short name of the English club Plymouth Argyle
arm (general) the ability to throw
arm ball (cricket) a delivery by a spin bowler that travels in the direction of the bowler's arm, instead of deviating from it, as is more usual
arm throw (wrestling) a move in which the wrestler throws his opponent over his shoulder while holding him by the arm
arm wrestling (wrestling) a form of the sport in which opponents sit facing each other at a table, firmly plant opposite elbows on the table, lock hands, and attempt to force each other's arm back and down to the surface
Armco (auto racing) proprietary name of the metal crash barriers on a racetrack formerly used to absorb the impact of cars and protect spectators [acronym of American Rolling Mill Company, the original manufacturers]
armguard (cricket) a form of protection worn on the forearm by a batsman facing the bowler
armhold (wrestling) a hold on an opponent's arm
armlock (wrestling) an armhold applied to an opponent's elbow to gain a submission
armstand (swimming) a handstand on the edge of a diving board held briefly before the start of a dive
around the horn (baseball) (of) a double play in which the ball is thrown from third base to second base to first base, putting out runners at the latter two [from the image of a ship rounding Cape Horn, South America]
arrow (archery) the thin pointed missile shot from a bow to land on a target; (darts) colloquial term for a dart; (tenpin bowling) one of several lines marked on the lane to help guide the ball to the pins
arrow-chucking (sport) colloquial term for darts
arrowman (darts) colloquial term for a player of the game
art of self-defense (general) a term originally applied to boxing but now to most of the martial arts
Art Ross Trophy (ice hockey) the trophy awarded to the top point scorer at the end of the regular National Hockey League season [first awarded in 1948 in honor of Art Ross, manager and coach of the Boston Bruins]
artificial fly (angling) a fly that imitates an insect, larva, or small fish
artistic gymnastics (gymnastics) the principal form of the sport, performed on various pieces of apparatus, as distinct from rhythmic gymnastics
artistic swimming (swimming) another term for synchronized swimming
A's (baseball) nickname of the Oakland Athletics team
ascender (mountaineering) a metal grip threaded on a rope as an aid in climbing
ascham (archery) a tall cupboard for the storage of bows and arrows [named for Sir Roger Ascham (1515–1568), author of Toxophilus (1545), the first English treatise on the sport]
Ascot (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse near Windsor, Berkshire, England, associated primarily with Royal Ascot
Ascot Gold Cup (horse racing) the most prestigious race at Royal Ascot, first run in 1807
Ashes (cricket) (1) a series of test matches between England and Australia; (2) the trophy awarded to the winner of the series [the trophy is in the form of a small urn, devised after the Australian victory of 1882 as a supposed receptacle of the "ashes" of English cricket but in reality said to contain the burned remains of a bail]
ashitori (sumo) a move that brings one's opponent down by the leg [Japanese ashi-tori, "leg-hold"]
Asian Games (Olympics) regional games held since 1951 for competitors from Asian countries
assist (association football, ice hockey) a pass that leads to the scoring of a goal; (baseball) a play that makes it possible for a batter or runner to be put out; (basketball) a pass that allows a basket to be scored; (lacrosse) the last pass made before a goal is scored
assistant referee (association football) one of the two officials on either touchline who help the referee adjudicate the game by using a flag to indicate offsides, throw-ins, and corner kicks
association football (sport) a field game in which two teams of 11 players compete to kick or head the ball into the goal of the opposing side [played according to the rules drawn up by the Football Association]

astern (sailing) in or toward the stern of a vessel

astrodome (general) a covered stadium [originally the name of the Houston Astros baseball team at Houston, Texas, built in 1965]

Astros (baseball) short name of the Houston Astros team

AstroTurf (general) proprietary name of an artificial surface for sports pitches serving as a substitute for turf, with a woven, grasslike pile laid on a rubber base [as installed at the Houston Astrodome]

asymmetric bars (gymnastics) the apparatus used by women for artistic gymnastics, consisting of two parallel bars at different heights [so called for distinction from the parallel bars used by men]

at bat (baseball) the turn of a player to bat

atemi-waza (jujitsu) the striking techniques that are one of the sport’s five basic elements [Japanese atemi, “hit,” and waza, “work”]

athlete (general) a person who takes part in athletics [from Greek athlon, “contest”]

athletics (general) (1) an overall term for sports involving contests of strength, speed, endurance, or agility; (2) such sports as now divided into track events and field events

attack (cycling) the sudden acceleration made by a rider in an attempt to break away from another rider or a group; (general) a collective term for the players in attacking positions, as the forwards in association football; (lacrosse) a collective term for the three players first home, second home, and third home between the center and the opponents’ goal

attack line (volleyball) the line 3 meters from the net that marks the furthest point to which defending players can advance

attacker (general) a player whose role is mainly in attacking

attend the flag (golf) to hold the flag while another player puts, removing it immediately after the ball has been struck

attitude (cricket) another term for the stance of a batsman

auction race (horse racing) a race of horses bought at public auction

audible (American football) a tactic or game plan called out in coded form by the quarterback at the line of scrimmage to replace the play called in the huddle (or to execute a play without a huddle when time is short)

Augusta (golf) the golf course at the Georgia city of the same name that is the home of the National Golf Club and host to the U.S. Masters

Auld Enemy (general) an English team from the point of view of Scotland

Auld Mug (sailing) nickname of the trophy awarded to the winner of the America’s Cup

Aunt Emma (croquet) colloquial term for an unenterprising player

Aunt Sally (cricket) colloquial term for a wicket-keeper [the bowler “aims” the ball at the wicket-keeper in the same way that balls at a fairground are aimed to smash the pipe of the wooden figure known as an Aunt Sally]

Aussie Rules (sport) colloquial name for Australian Rules

Aussies (general) colloquial term for an Australian sports team [abbreviation of Australian]

Austerity Games (Olympics) nickname of the Olympic Games held in London in 1948, when resources were still in short supply after World War II

Australian crawl (swimming) a fast crawl originating in Australia

Australian Football League (Australian Rules) the main governing body for the sport

Australian Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Adelaide or Melbourne, Australia

Australian National Football (sport) the formal name of Australian Rules

Australian Open (tennis) the major championship that is the first grand slam competition of the year, held at Flinders Park, Melbourne, Australia

Australian Rules (sport) an Australian version of rugby union played with an oval ball between teams of 18 players, with points scored for goals and behinds [played according to rules determined by the Australian National Football Council]

Austrian Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at the A1 Ring, Spielberg, Austria

auto racing (sport) the racing of finely-tuned cars around a prepared or designated circuit

autobus (cycling) colloquial term for a group of lagging riders who stick together to help each other finish inside the time limit for a stage [French autobus, “bus”]

autocross (auto racing) a form of auto racing across country or on an unmade track [French auto, “car,” and cross-country]

automobile racing (sport) the formal name of auto racing

autopoint (auto racing) a race over rough country in motor vehicles [the motorized equivalent of a point-to-point]

autres, les see under les
autumn double (horse racing) a bet on the Cambridgeshire and Cesarewitch, both handicap races run in the autumn
Autumn Spectacular (golf) colloquial name for the World Matchplay Championship
Avalanche (ice hockey) short name of the Colorado Avalanche team
awasewaza (judo) an ippon made by scoring two waza-ari [Japanese awase, “combine,” and waza, “work”]
away (association football) in football pools, a match won by a team playing on the ground of their opponents; (general) (1) not on one’s home ground; (2) on the outward half of a race; (golf) (of) a player who is furthest from the hole
away game (general) a match played on the opponents’ ground
away swing (cricket) a movement of the ball from the leg side to the off side
axel (ice skating) a jump from the forward outside edge of one skate to the back outside edge of the other, incorporating one and a half turns in the air [introduced by the Norwegian skater Axel Paulsen (1855–1938)]
axel lift (ice skating) in pair skating, the lift of a woman by her partner in which she is raised on the first element of an axel, supported and turned one and a half times over the man’s head, then lowered on the second element
Ayr (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Ayr, southwestern Scotland

Azzurri see Gli Azzurri
b (cricket) abbreviation of bowled in scoring
b sub (cricket) abbreviation of bowled by substitute in scoring
Baa-Baas (rugby union) nickname of the Barbarians
baby split (tenpin bowling) a split in which only two pins are left standing
back (archery) the part of the bow handle that faces the target when the archer is shooting; (general) in field games such as association football, a defensive player behind the forwards; (horse racing) to place a bet on a horse in a race; (rugby league, rugby union) any of the seven players not in the scrum
back and fill (sailing) to trim the sails so that the wind alternately presses them back and fills them
back bowl (bowls) a bowl lying between the jack and the rear ditch
back crawl (swimming) a former term for the back-stroke
back door (golf) the back or side of the hole when entered by the ball
back down (rowing) to move a boat backward by pushing the oars
back edge (fencing) the opposite edge of the saber from the cutting edge
back foot (general) the right foot, of a right-handed person, as the one further from the target
back four (association football) the four backs in a 4-4-2 formation
back full (trampolining) a backward somersault with a full twist
back giant (gymnastics) a giant in which the gymnast swings clockwise, his palms facing in the same direction as his stomach
back handspring (gymnastics) a backflip onto the hands from a standing position on one or both feet that leads to a landing upright on the floor or apparatus
back-in, full-out (gymnastics) a double salto with a full twist made during the second salto
back judge (American football) a member of the officiating team positioned downfield of the line of scrimmage at the side of the field who rules on whether a pass is fairly caught
back nine (golf) the last nine holes on a course
back of a length (cricket) a ball pitched short of a length (but not so as to be actually short)
back pass (association football) a pass back to one’s own goalkeeper, who must observe the back-pass rule
back-pass rule (association football) a rule introduced in 1992 which states that a goalkeeper receiving a back pass may not handle the ball in the penalty box
back-pedal (boxing) to retreat from an opponent while still facing them
back pocket (Australian Rules) a defensive player who runs the ball out of defense
back pullover (trampolining) a move in which, following a backdrop, the legs are pulled or pushed over the head into a three-quarter somersault onto the feet
back row (rugby union) the three forwards (two flankers and the number eight) at the back of a scrum
back shot (polo) a shot played in the opposite direction to the movement of play
back straight (athletics) the straight part of a track furthest from the finish; (horse racing) the straight part of a racecourse furthest from the finish
back stretch (athletics, horse racing) another term for the back straight
back swing (gymnastics) a backward swing
back the field (horse racing) to bet on the rest of the runners rather than the favorite
back three (rugby union) the wingers and full back, as the players usually furthest back in a defensive situation
back up (angling) to fish from the bottom toward the top by making a cast across the river (1) as a fielder, to be in readiness to stop the ball if it is missed by another fielder; (2) as the batsman at the non-striker’s end, to start to move down the pitch in readiness for a possible run made by the striker; (cricket) (2) to place a player directly behind the line of a shot at goal in order to resume possession if the shot is blocked or deflected
back walkover (gymnastics) a move in which a bridge is executed then each leg brought forward in turn via a handstand position
backboard (basketball) the board fixed behind the basket to deflect the ball; (ice hockey) a board fixed behind the goal; (tennis) a wall or other surface against which a player can practice shots
backbreaker (wrestling) a hold in which a wrestler presses his opponent down on his back over his knee or shoulder
backcast (angling) to throw a fishing line back before making a cast
backcheck (ice hockey) to check an opponent while skating backward toward one’s own goal
backcourt (tennis) the area of the court between the service line and the baseline
backcourt violation (basketball) the offense of passing the ball back across the center line to a colleague
backdoor play (lacrosse) a play in which a player sends the ball around the back of the defense toward either wing then makes for the goal
backdoor slider (baseball) a pitch that appears to be beyond the outside part of the strike zone but that then breaks back over the plate
backdrop (trampolining) a landing made on the back
backfall (wrestling) a fall on the back
backfield (American football) the players who line up behind the line of scrimmage
backflip (karate) a punch with the back of the fist
backflip (gymnastics) a backward aerial somersault
backhand (bowls) the part of the rink to the left of a right-handed player, and to the right of a left-handed player; (tennis) (1) (of) a stroke with the back of the hand facing toward one’s opponent; (2) the part of the court to the left of a right-handed player, and to the right of a left-handed player, where it often necessary to play backhand
backhand chop (table tennis) a chop made backhand
backhand drive (table tennis) a drive made backhand
backhand flick (table tennis) a flick made backhand
backhand push (table tennis) a push made backhand
backhander (general) a blow or stroke made backhand
backheel (association football) a pass or shot made with the heel
backlift (association football) a backward raising of the leg before the ball is kicked; (cricket) a backward lifting of the bat before the stroke is made
backline (general) a line marking the end limit of play; (rugby union) the players lined across the field behind a scrum or lineout
backmarker (general) (1) a contestant who starts a race with the least advantageous handicap; (2) a competitor at the back of the field
backpaddle (canoeing) to push the paddle backward in order to reverse the direction of motion
backscratcher (skiing) an aerial maneuver in which the skier touches his back with the tails of both skis, keeping his legs together and his knees bent under his body
backside air (snowboarding) an aerial maneuver executed off the backside wall of the half-pipe
backside rotation (snowboarding) a clockwise rotation for a regular footer or an anticlockwise rotation for a goofy footer
backside wall (snowboarding) the wall of the half-pipe behind the back of the boarder
backspin (general) a backward motion imparted to a ball when struck, as in golf or snooker; (table tennis) a backward rotation given to the ball either by striking it with a downward movement or by a chop of the bat
backstop (baseball) a screen or wall that acts as a barrier behind the catcher; (cricket) an alternate name for a longstop; (rounders) the player behind the batter who stops the ball; (spaceball) the frame at the end of each court that serves as a scoring area
backstroke (swimming) a stroke performed on the back, with alternate backward circular movements of the arms and scissor movements of the legs
backstroke flags (swimming) flags suspended above and across the pool near each end, positioned to show backstroke swimmers where to turn
backswing (golf) the movement that lifts the club back and away from the ball preparatory to striking it
backward (swimming) a dive in which the diver starts with his back toward the water and rotates away from the board
backward point (cricket) a fielding position on the off side similar to point but further out from the batsman and behind the line of his wicket
badminton (sport) a game for two or four people on a court with a net played with lightweight rackets and a shuttlecock, the object being to win more points than the opposition by preventing the shuttlecock from hitting the ground [first played in the 1870s at Badminton House, Gloucestershire, country seat of the dukes of Beaufort]

Badminton (equestrianism) short name of the Badminton Horse Trials, an annual three-day event held in the grounds of Badminton House, Gloucestershire, seat of the dukes of Beaufort

bail (cricket) one of the two bails on the wicket bail out (golf) to play cautiously, as in a short game around a green guarded by bunkers bailer (cricket) another term for a full toss [it is aimed at the bails] bails (cricket) the two small wooden crosspieces atop the stumps that form the wicket, which when dislodged denote that the batsman is out Bairns (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Falkirk [Scots bairns, “children,” a local name for the townfolk]

bait (angling) the food on a hook that attracts fish and offers them a bite

bait waiter (angling) a tray that screws into a bank stick to hold boxes of bait

baitfish (angling) a small fish used as bait

baize (billiards, snooker) the green woolen cloth that covers the bed of the billiard table

baker (angling) a type of artificial fly used in salmon-fishing

balance beam (gymnastics) a formal name for the beam

balestra (fencing) an attacking movement consisting of a jump forward with both feet immediately followed by a lunge [Italian balestra, “crossbow”]

balk (baseball) an illegal action by the pitcher in which he fails to deliver a pitch after beginning the motion to do so, thus deceiving a baserunner; (billiards, snooker) the part of the billiard table where play begins, marked off by the balkline

balkline (athletics) a line marking the boundary for a preliminary run when jumping; (billiards, snooker) a line across the bottom of the billiard table 29 inches (73.3cm) from the cushion; (croquet) the line at each end of the court from which players start

ball (association football, rugby union) a pass to a teammate; (baseball) a pitch outside the strike zone; (cricket) a delivery by the bowler; (general) (1) the round or oval object of varying size, shape, and composition with which a game or sport is played, as a baseball, billiard ball, or football; (2) a game played with a ball, as American football or baseball

ball carrier (rugby league, rugby union) the player carrying the ball at any given moment

ball court (general) an area such as a paved yard used for ball games

ball game (general) any game played with a ball

ball hawk (American football) colloquial term for a player who is quick to get possession of the ball

ball-out (trampolining) a one-and-a-quarter forward somersault executed after a backdrop

ball player (association football) a player with good ball skills; (baseball) a player of the game

ball skills (association football) the knowledge and expertise required of a ball player

ball tampering (cricket) an infringement in which the surface of the ball is artificially altered during a game to gain an advantage, as by raising its seam with a fingernail or applying a substance to shine it

ball up (Australian Rules) the procedure for starting
a game, in which the umpire bounces the ball in the center of the field and the ruckmen compete for possession

**ballboy (association football)** a boy stationed on the sidelines to return the ball for a throw-in, collect corner flags after a match, and the like; (tennis) a boy who retrieves balls that are out of play and returns them to the players, supplies balls to the players, and the like

**ballet (ice skating, skiing)** a movement or performance like that of a ballet dancer

**ballet leg (swimming)** a position in synchronized swimming in which one leg is extended perpendicular to the surface of the water

**ballet leg double (swimming)** a position in synchronized swimming in which both legs are extended perpendicular to the surface of the water

**ballet girl (association football)** a girl stationed on the sidelines to return the ball to the players when it goes out of play, collect the corner flags after a match, and the like; (tennis) a girl who retrieves balls that are out of play and returns them to the players, supplies balls to the players, and the like

**ballkid (tennis)** general term for a ballboy or ballgirl

**Ballon d’Or (association football)** an annual award to the player adjudged the European Footballer of the Year, first made in 1956 [French *ballon d’or*, “golden ball”]

**balloon (cricket)** to score a duck: (general) a high kick or hit of a ball

**ballooning (sport)** racing or competing in hot-air balloons, with contests of altitude, distance, duration of flight, accuracy of landing, and the like

**ballpark (baseball)** a stadium for baseball

**ballwinner (association football)** a player adept at winning the ball

**Ballybunion (golf)** a golf course at Ballybunion, Co. Kerry, Ireland

**Baltimore chop (baseball)** a chopper that enables the batter to reach first base before a fielder can catch the ball [originally practiced by Baltimore Orioles]

**banana kick (association football)** a sharply curving shot made with the inside of the boot

**banana shot (golf)** an extreme slice that sends the ball on a curving trajectory

**bandbox (baseball)** a ballpark smaller than average, in which it is easy to hit home runs

**bandit (golf)** an amateur player with an undeservedly high handicap, giving an advantage in competitions

**bandy (sport)** a game similar to hockey played on ice with curved sticks between teams of 11 players, the object being to score goals [perhaps same word as *bandy*, “to toss from one to another”]

**Banff Springs (golf)** a golf course at Banff, Alberta, Canada

**bang-bang (baseball)** a moment of play when a runner and the ball arrive at a base almost simultaneously

**bank (billiards, snooker)** another term for a cushion

**bank shot (basketball)** a shot that sends the ball off the backboard into the basket

**bank stick (angling)** a device that secures a keepnet on a river bank

**banker (association football)** a result forecast identically in a series of entries on a football coupon

**Bankies (association football)** nickname of the Scottish club Clydebank

**banking (cycling)** the inclined track surface of a velodrome

**Bantams (association football)** nickname of the English club Bradford City [from the domestic fowl, the male of which is a lively fighter]

**bantamweight (boxing)** the professional weight category of maximum 54kg (118lb)

**banzuki (sumo)** the official ranking list of wrestlers [Japanese *banzuke*, “list”]

**bar (athletics)** the crossbar to be cleared in the high jump or pole vault; (weightlifting) shortening of barbell

**bar billiards (billiards)** a scaled-down version of billiards played in bars

**bar hop (cycling)** in BMX, to move from the saddle to the handlebars while the bike is in motion

**barani (trampolining)** a forward somersault with a half-twist [apparently a proper name]

**barani-in (trampolining)** a double forward somersault with a half-twist in the first somersault

**barani-out (trampolining)** a double forward somersault with a half-twist in the second somersault

**barb (angling)** a backward-facing projection near the point of a hook

**Barbarians (rugby union)** an international invitational team with no ground or clubhouse, founded in England in 1890 [perhaps so named from the popular conception of rugby players as mindless thugs]

**Barbars (rugby union)** nickname of the Barbarians

**barbell (weightlifting)** a bar with attached disk weights and collars [blend of bar and dumbbell]

**barber (baseball)** (1) colloquial term for a talkative player [like the commentator “Red” Barber]; (2) a pitcher who fires balls as the head of the bat, so forcing him away from the plate [as did Sal “The Barber” Maglie]

**Barça (association football)** nickname of the Spanish club Barcelona

**barebow (archery)** a type of recurve bow but with no sight or stabilizer
barefoot skiing (water skiing) a form of the sport practiced without skis
barmaid (tenpin bowling) a pin that remains hidden behind another pin [like a barmaid behind a bar counter]
Barmy Army (cricket) nickname for British supporters of the English national team, especially when playing test matches abroad [so dubbed by the Australian media for their vociferous enthusiasm]
barn (horse racing) a collection of loose boxes in a yard
barrage (bowls) a cluster of bowls around the jack; (general) a heat or round to elect contestants or to serve as a tie break, as a jump-off in showjumping
barrel (darts) the metal part of the dart; (surfing) the hollow space beneath the curl of a breaking wave
barrier (horse racing) another term for the starting gate
bas (hurling) the flat blade of the hurley
base (baseball) one of the four stations around the infield that must be reached in turn when scoring a run; (rounders) one of the four fixed points marked by posts that must be run around to score a rounder
base hit (baseball) a hit that enables the batter to reach a base safely
base jumping (sport) a form of parachuting from the summit of a structure or natural height, especially a landmark, rather than from an aircraft [name devised as an acronym of building, aerial, span (as a bridge), earth (as a mountain), the four objects from which the jump is properly made, but later associated with ‘base’ as the foot of the object where the jumper lands]
base on balls (baseball) the advance to first base awarded to a batter after the pitcher has thrown four balls outside the strike zone
base-stealer (baseball) a baserunner who advances to the next base when no hit or error has been made
baseball (sport) (1) a game played with bat, ball, and gloves between two teams of nine players, the object being for each batter to hit the ball delivered by the opponents’ pitcher then run around a diamond-shaped circuit of four bases to score a run; (2) the hard ball used in baseball
baseball bat (baseball) the bat used in baseball
baseball pass (basketball) a long fast pass in which the ball is thrown overarm
baseline (badminton, tennis) the backline at each end of the court; (baseball) a line that joins two bases
baseliner (tennis) a player who plays mainly from the baseline and only rarely approaches the net
baseman (baseball) a fielder stationed near first base (as first baseman), second base (second baseman), or third base (third baseman)
baserunner (baseball) a batter who has reached first base safely and is now attempting to complete the circuit
bases-loaded (baseball) made or occurring at the moment when baserunners occupy first base, second base, and third base
basher (skiing) colloquial term for a fast or reckless skier
basho (sumo) a tournament comprising 15 matches [Japanese ba, “place,” and sho, “place,” the repeated meanings serving for emphasis]
basic swing (skiing) a snowplow start to a turn and a parallel turn to finish
basket (basketball) (1) the net (originally fruit basket) fixed on a ring that is used as a goal; (2) a scored goal; (skiing) the circular part of a ski stick near its base that prevents the pole from going too deep into the snow
basket catch (baseball) a catch made by fielder at waist height as the ball drops over his shoulder [the player’s arms and hands form a “basket”]
basketball (sport) (1) a game played between teams of five players, the object being to toss the ball into the opponents’ basket to score a goal; (2) the large inflated ball used in the game
bat (baseball) the rounded wooden implement used to strike the ball; (cricket) (1) shortening of cricket bat; (2) a turn at batting; (3) a batsman; (horse racing) a short whip used by a jockey; (table tennis) the small rubber-coated implement used to strike the ball; (tennis) colloquial term for a racket; (trapball) the small flat implement with which the ball is hit away from the trap
bat-pad catch (cricket) a catch taken after the ball has struck the bat of the batsman and then rebounded off his pad
Bath (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Bath, western England
batinton (sport) a game for two or four players based on badminton with a scoring system as in table tennis [blend of bat and badminton]
baton (athletics) the metal cylinder passed from one runner to another in a relay race
batsman (cricket) the player with a bat who attempts to strike the ball delivered by the bowler and score runs
batter (baseball) the player with a bat who attempts to strike the ball delivered by the pitcher and score a run; (rounders) the player with a bat who attempts to hit the ball delivered by the bowler and score a rounder
batter’s box (baseball) the place where the batter stands to receive the pitch
battery (baseball) collective term for the pitcher
and catcher [originally the term for the pitcher alone, as the player who delivered a “battery” of pitches]
battling (baseball, cricket) playing with a bat, as distinct from fielding
batting average (baseball) a score calculated for a batter by dividing his total number of hits by his number of at bats; (cricket) a score calculated for a batsman by dividing his total number of runs by the number of times he has been out
batting order (baseball) the order in which a team’s batters are at bat; (cricket) the order in which a team’s batsmen go in to bat
batting track (cricket) fuller term for the track
baulk see balk
baulkline see balkline
BCS (American football) abbreviation of Bowl Championship Series
beach cricket (cricket) an informal game played on the beach
beach football (association football) an informal game played on the beach
beach start (water skiing) a start from the beach, with the skier sitting in the water holding the towbar of the boat
beach volleyball (volleyball) a form of the game played barefoot on an outdoor sandy court between teams of two players [originally played on a beach]
beach wicket (cricket) a slow or dry and dusty wicket [like one found in beach cricket]
beachball (general) a large inflatable usually colored ball for games on the beach
beachbreak (surfing) the point where a wave breaks on the approach to a sandy beach
beam (gymnastics) the raised wooden beam on which gymnasts perform balancing exercises
beamer (cricket) a fast full toss delivered to a batsman at head height
beanball (baseball) a ball pitched at the head of the batter; (cricket) another term for a beamer [from colloquial beam, “head”]
bear hug (wrestling) a hold that tightly grips an opponent’s arms and upper body
Bears (American football) short name of the Chicago Bears team
beat (angling) a stretch of riverbank noted for good fishing; (sailing) to sail as close as possible to directly into the wind
beat the board (athletics) to thrust the foot down hard on the board in the long jump
beatout (baseball) a play in which a batter makes a run to first base by outrunning the throw of the fielder designed to stop him
beautiful game (sport) journalistic nickname for association football [the phrase is attributed to the Brazilian football Pelé (1940–), whose 1977 autobiography was titled My Life and the Beautiful Game]
Becher’s Brook (horse racing) a difficult jump on the Grand National course at Aintree [named for Captain Martin Becher (1797–1864), who fell here in the first race in 1839]
bed (billiards, snooker) the flat surface of slate on the billiard table on which the baize is laid; (darts) one of the two narrow rings scoring a double or treble in the main segment of a dartboard; (trampolining) the area of the trampoline on which performers bounce and perform routines
bed and breakfast (darts) colloquial term for a score of 26 [from two and six in its general sense of “two shillings and six pence,” the traditional cost of bed and breakfast at an inn]
Bees (association football) (1) nickname of the English club Barnet; (2) nickname of the English club Brentford [initial of the names, with a hint at the stinging insect]
behind (Australian Rules) a goal, worth one point, scored between one of the behind posts and the main goalposts
behind post (Australian Rules) one of the two small posts on either side of the main goalposts
belay (mountaineering) (1) the turn of a rope around a rock, especially one supplemented by anchors and braking devices, made to assist an ascending colleague; (2) the rock around which the turn is made
Belgian Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium
bell lap (athletics) the final lap of a foot race, signaled by the sounding of a bell
bell target (shooting) a target in air pistol shooting that consists of a cast-iron plate with a hole in the center behind which is a bell
bellows to mend (general) colloquial term for shortness of breath, as in an aging racehorse or an unfit boxer
belly (archery) the part of the bow handle that faces the archer when shooting
belly flop (swimming) an inexpert dive in which the diver lands face down, flat on the water
belly putter (golf) a type of putter with a longer than usual shaft, the top of which is lodged in the player’s midriff when making a shot
bellyboard (surfing) a short board which the surfer rides by gripping the sides and keeping the upper surface pressed to his chest, using his legs for steering
Belmont Stakes (horse racing) the oldest of the Triple Crown races, run annually at Belmont Park near New York City [named for the financier and sportsman August Belmont (1816–1890)]
belt (boxing) an imaginary line around the waist
below which punches are prohibited; (general) an award for achievement in a sport, as black belt, Lonsdale Belt
bench (American football, association football) a seat near the touchline for a team’s manager, trainer, and substitutes; (baseball) (1) a seat for coaches and reserves at a match; (2) a collective term for the reserves themselves
bench press (weightlifting) an exercise in which the lifter lies face up on a bench with feet on the floor and raises a barbell from chest level to arm’s length
bench-warmer (baseball) colloquial term for a reserve [who warms the bench by sitting on it]
benced (American football) kept out of a team as a substitute by being retained on the bench for the duration of a game or even for several games
bend (athletics) (1) the curved section of the track; (2) the part of a race run around this section; (auto racing) another term for a shunt
bend the ball (association football) to kick the ball in an curving trajectory
benefit match (general) a match the proceeds of which go to a particular player or team
Bengals (American football) short name of the Cincinnati Bengals team
benny squad (American football) the special team used for the toughest plays with maximum physical contact [their aggression is reportedly fuelled by pre-match doses of benzedrine]
Benson & Hedges Cup (cricket) the cup awarded to the winner of the annual competition between first-class counties, some minor counties, and certain other teams, first held in 1972 and superseded in 2003 by the Twenty20 Cup [name of sponsors]
bent (cycling) colloquial term for a recumbent
berm (cycling) in BMX, a banked bend
Bermuda Race (sailing) a biennial ocean race for yachts, first held in 1906 and covering a course from Newport, Rhode Island, to Bermuda
Bermuda rig (sailing) a rig in which a large sail set fore-and-aft is fixed directly to a tall mainmast [originating in Bermuda]
Bernabéu (association football) the home ground in Madrid, Spain, of the Spanish club Real Madrid [named for a former club president, Don Santiago Bernabéu]
besom (curling) the broom with which the ice is swept ahead of a traveling stone
best of the rest (association football) a term for the teams that are among the best apart from those that are currently at the top
bestball (golf) (1) a match in which one player plays against two or three other players, the lowest score of an individual’s holes being the one that is counted; (2) alternate name for a fourball
bet (general) a wager on the result of a sporting contest, especially in horse racing
betterball (golf) (1) a strokeplay between two teams of two players in which only the lower score of each is counted for each hole; (2) a match in which a single player competes against the best individual score of two or more players for each hole
betting shop (greyhound racing, horse racing) an establishment, not on a racetrack, licensed for the placing of bets and the payment of winnings
Betty (snowboarding) nickname for a female boarder
between the flags (horse racing) in a point-to-point [a race in which obstacles are marked by flags]
between the posts (association football) the playing position of a goalkeeper
between the sticks (association football) alternate term for between the posts
Beverley (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Beverley, East Yorkshire, England
BHA (horse racing) abbreviation of British Horseracing Authority
Bhoys (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Celtic [mock–Irish spelling of boys, relating to the club’s founding in 1887 by Irish Catholics]
bias (bowls) (1) the bulge or greater weight on one side of a bowl that makes it turn to one side; (2) the actual turning that it causes
biathlete (Olympics) a competitor in a biathlon
biathlon (Olympics) a contest in the Winter Olympics combining cross-country skiing and rifle shooting [Latin bi-, “two,” and Greek athlon, “contest”]
bib (athletics, skiing) the vest bearing their number worn by competitors; (fencing) the padded protective part of a mask that protects the throat
bicycle (equestrianism) to spur a bucking horse on each side alternately
bicycle kick (association football) an overhead kick made with both feet off the ground and the legs moving as if pedaling a bicycle
bicycle motocross (cycling) formal name of BMX
bicycle polo (polo) a variety of the game played on bicycles instead of on horseback
biddy basketball (basketball) a scaled-down version of basketball played by young children
bidon (cycling) a water bottle carried on the bicycle during a road race [French]
Biellmann spin (ice skating) a spin similar to a layback spin, with the back arched and the free leg pulled up over the head [popularized by the Swiss figure skater Denise Biellmann (1962—)]
big air (general) a freestyle event in a sport such as skateboarding or skiing in which parti-
pants perform various tricks in the air after a jump.

Big Eight (American football) a major conference of eight college football teams, comprising the universities of Colorado, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State.

Big Five (basketball) the teams of five institutions in the area of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: La Salle College, the University of Pennsylvania, St. Joseph’s College, Temple University, and Villanova University.

Big Four (association football) the four English clubs who have dominated the Premier League since its formation in 1992: Arsenal, Chelsea, Liverpool, and Manchester United.

Big Ten (American football) a major conference of college football teams, comprising the universities of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Michigan State, Minnesota, Northwestern, Ohio State, Purdue, and Wisconsin.

Big Three (American football) the college football teams of Harvard, Princeton, and Yale universities.

Big Twelve (American football) a major conference of college football teams, comprising the universities of Baylor, Colorado, Iowa State, Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Texas, Texas A&M, and Texas Tech.

bike (cycling) colloquial term for a bicycle [shortening of bicycle]; (motorcycle racing) colloquial term for a motorcycle [shortening of motorbike].

bike-o (orienteering) a form of orienteering on mountain bikes.

Bikle’s baseball (gliding) a contest, formally known as “distance within a prescribed area,” in which pilots attempt to fly around as many designated turn points as possible [named for pilot Paul Bikle and the contour of the course, like that of a baseball diamond].

billiard ball (billiards) one of the three balls (plain ball, spot white, and red) used in billiards.

billiard cloth (billiards, snooker) the baize that covers the billiard table.

billiard cue (billiards) fuller term for a cue.

billiard marker (billiards) the person who (or apparatus which) marks the points made by the players.

billiard spot (billiards) the spot on the billiard table nearest the top cushion on which the red is placed at the beginning of a game.

billiard table (billiards, snooker) the rectangular table, with pockets at the sides and corners, on which billiards and snooker are played.

billiards (sport) (1) general term for a game played with a cue and balls on a baize-covered table, the aim being either to send the balls into its pockets or to place them in a strategically advantageous position; (2) the specific name of such a game, played with two cue balls (plain ball and spot white) and one red.

Bills (American football) short name of the Buffalo Bills team.

billy board (surfing) a very short surfboard.

Billy Williams’ Cabbage Patch (rugby union) nickname of the ground at Twickenham [acquired in 1907 by William “Billy” Williams and in part used as a market garden].

bind (rugby union) to hold on to another player, as in a scrum, ruck, or mail.

bingo-bango-bingo (golf) a bet among players on whose ball will first reach the green, or is nearest the hole when all the balls are on the green, or is first into the hole.

Binos (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Stirling Albion [from Albion].

bird (badminton) colloquial term for the shuttlecock.

birdie (golf) a score of one under par on a hole [said to derive from the “bird of a shot” that U.S. golfer Ab Smith claimed he had made in an 1899 game in Atlantic City].

bird’s nest (angling) colloquial term for a tangled line or cast.

Biscuitmen (association football) former nickname of the English club Reading [from the famous biscuit (cookie) factory in the town].

Bisley (shooting) the village near Woking, Surrey, that is the home of the sport in Britain.

Bismarck (horse racing) a bet that bookmakers do not expect to win [from the World War II German battleship of the name that was torpedoed although thought to be unsinkable].

bisque (croquet) an extra turn awarded to a weaker player in a handicap game; (general) a point or stroke allowed when regarded as an advantage.

bit (equestrianism, horse racing) the part of the bridle that the horse holds in its mouth.

bite (angling) a nibble at the bait by a fish.

bite alarm (angling) a battery-operated device that indicates the movement of a fish taking a bite.

biter (angling) a fish likely to take a bite; (curling) a stone that just touches the outer circle of the house.

black (snooker) the black ball, worth seven points.

Black and Whites (association football) (1) nickname of the Scottish club Elgin City; (2) nickname of the Scottish club Gretna [the colors of the teams’ strips].
black ball game (sport) a name for snooker, as a game whose outcome depends on the final potting of the black
black belt (judo, karate) a belt worn to indicate attainment of the dan rank
Black Cats (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Sunderland [from the animal of this color, believed to bring luck]
Black Ferns (rugby union) nickname of the New Zealand national women’s team [from the color of the team’s shirts]
black flag (auto racing) (1) a flag with a car number indicating that its driver must immediately return to the pits; (2) a flag with an orange disk showing a car number indicating that the car has a mechanical fault and must immediately return to the pits
Black Jacks (bowls) nickname of the New Zealand national team [a pun on the white jack]
black flag (cycling) another term for the pole line
black run (skiing) a run regarded as difficult for inexperienced skiers
black spot (snooker) the spot on the billiard table where the black is positioned, midway between the top cushion and the pyramid of reds
Blackcaps (cricket) nickname of the New Zealand national team [from their black caps]
Blackhawks (ice hockey) short name of the Chicago Blackhawks team
blade (cricket) (1) the long flat part of the bat with which the ball is struck; (2) the bat itself; (golf) a club that does not have a cavity back; (ice skating) the runner of a skate; (rowing) (1) the flat part of the oar or scull that enters the water during the rowing stroke; (2) the oar itself; (table tennis) the bat underneath its rubber covering
blader (roller skating) a person who uses rollerblades
Blades (association football) nickname of the British club Sheffield United [from the local cutlery industry]
bladework (rowing) the management of oars
blanket (greyhound racing) the cover worn by a greyhound during the parade, showing the color and number of the dog’s post position
blanket finish (general) a very close finish to a race [the contestants are so close that they could be covered with a single blanket]
blast (baseball) colloquial term for a home run
blaster (golf) another term for a sand wedge [it “blasts” the ball out of the sand]
blazer (general) (1) a lightweight colored or striped jacket bearing on its breast pocket the badge of a club or team, worn by some sportsmen; (2) an sports official who wears a jacket of this type [so named from the red color of the original jackets worn by members of a St. John’s College, Cambridge, boat club]
bleachers (general) (1) cheap open-air seats for spectators at a sports ground; (2) the spectators themselves [at one time the seats were “bleached” or made pale by the sun]
Bledisloe Cup (rugby union) the cup for which Australia and New Zealand have competed since 1931 [presented by Lord Bledisloe (1867–1958), governor general of New Zealand]
Bleus, Les see under Les
blind side (rugby league) the side of the pitch with less space between the scrum or play-the-ball and the touchline than the open side; (rugby union) the side of the pitch with less space between the scrum, ruck or mauil and the touchline than the open side
blind-side flanker (rugby union) the flanker binding on the blind side
blind spot (cricket) the spot on the ground in front of a batsman where a ball pitched by the bowler leaves the batsman uncertain whether to play forward or play back
blinders (horse racing) another term for blinkers
blinkers (horse racing) a pair of sidepieces fastened to a horse’s bridle in order to concentrate its attention on the course ahead
blitz (American football) a tactic in which a defensive back abandons his usual role and charges into the offensive backfield to anticipate a pass
blob (cricket) colloquial term for a score of zero [from the shape of the figure 0]
block (American football) the obstruction of an opposing player who does not have possession; (athletics) shortening of starting block; (basketball) the deflection of the ball in its upward trajectory to the basket; (cricket) (1) the spot on which the batsman rests the end of the bat when facing the bowling; (2) the defensive stopping of the ball with the bat, with no attempt to score runs; (cycling) (1) another term for the freewheel; (2) a tactical attempt by a rider to slow down a group when he does not want it to catch another rider who is in the lead; (general) the hindering of the play or action of an opponent; (swimming) the platform from which a swimmer starts the race; (table tennis) a return shot in which the ball is played immediately after it strikes the table; (volleyball) a barrier of arms and hands formed above the net with the aim of preventing a spike from the opposite side
block tackle (association football) a tackle made on an opposing player as he attempts to pass the ball or shoot at goal
block volley (tennis) a volley played with a stationary racket
blocker (American football) a player whose role is to obstruct opponents with a block; (bowls) a bowl played so that it stops short of the head, thus
making it harder for an opponent to attack the
jack; (cricket) a habitually defensive batsman,
who makes little or no attempt to score runs
blocking (boxing) the use of the shoulders, arms, or
hands to prevent an opponent’s punch from
landing cleanly
blocking back (American football) another term for
a quarterback
blocks (athletics) shortening of starting blocks
blood bin (rugby league, rugby union) the place off
the pitch where a player goes to have a bleeding
wound attended to
blood doping (athletics) the injection of oxy-
genated blood into an athlete in an (illegal) at-
ttempt to enhance his performance
blood horse (horse racing) another term for a thoro-
ughbred
blood knot (angling) a knot used to tie fishing
lines of different lengths
bloodstock (horse racing) collective term for thor-
ughbred or pedigree horses
bloodwagon (skiing) a sled used to move injured
skiers off the slopes
bloodworm (angling) a midge larva (Chironomus)
used as bait
bloop (baseball) to hit the ball high beyond the
reach of the infielders
bloop (baseball) (1) a ball hit high beyond the
reach of the infielders; (2) a ball thrown high
by the pitcher
blouse (horse racing) another term for the silks
worn by a jockey
blow line (angling) a line used in dapping which
allows the fly to ride on the surface of the water
blue (general) (1) a person chosen to represent Ox-
ford University or Harrow School (dark blue) or
Cambridge University or Eton College (light
blue) in a particular sport; (2) the badge awarded
for this; (snooker) the blue ball, worth five points
Blue Bombers (Canadian football) short name of the
Winnipeg Blue Bombers team
Blue Brazil (association football) nickname of the
Scottish club Cowdenbeath [from the color of the
team’s strip and their boast that they are on
a par with the Brazilian national side]
blue day (gliding) a cloudless day, when the sky is
altogether blue
blue flag (auto racing) the flag shown to a driver to
indicate that another car is trying to overtake
Blue Jackets (ice hockey) short name of the Colum-
bus Blue Jackets team
Blue Jays (baseball) short name of the Toronto
Blue Jays team
blue jersey (cycling) the jersey worn by the leader
of the Intergiro sprint competition at the
halfway stage of the Giro d’Italia [Italian maglia
azzurra, “blue jersey”]
blue line (cycling) another term for the stayers’
line; (ice hockey) one of the two lines that divide
the playing area into three equal parts
blue spot (snooker) the spot on the billiard table
where the blue is positioned, midway between
the top and bottom cushions
Bluebirds (association football) nickname of the
Welsh club Cardiff City [the color of the team’s strip]
blueliner (ice hockey) another term for a defense-
man
Bluenoses (association football) nickname for sup-
porters of the Scottish club Rangers [from the
supposedly puritanical views of the Protestants
who traditionally make up their numbers, espe-
cially when the club is playing against the rival
Catholic club Celtic]
Blues (association football) nickname of many En-
GLISH clubs, including Birmingham City, Carlisle
United, Chelsea, Chester City, Ipswich Town,
Manchester City, and Rangers [the color of the
teams’ strips]; (Australian Rules) short name of
the Carlton Blues team; (ice hockey) short name
of the St. Louis Blues team
blunt (skateboarding) a move in which the tail area
behind the rear truck is in contact with the sur-
face
BMX (cycling) a bicycle race over an outdoor
course similar to a motocross course, originat-
ing in California in 1969 [abbreviation of bicy-
cle motocross]
BMX bike (cycling) the specially modified bicycle,
with smallish wheels and no gears, used in BMX
board (association football) shortening of indicator
board; (athletics) the point at the end of the run-
way where the athlete takes off in the long jump
and triple jump; (basketball) (1) shortening of
backboard; (2) alternate term for a rebound;
(cricket) shortening of scoreboard; (darts) shorten-
ing of dartboard; (general) short form of the
formal name of the specially designed rigid plat-
form on which a person rides in various sports,
as skateboard, snowboard, surfboard, wake-
board; (swimming) shortening of diving board
boader (general) a person who rides a board in a
sport such as snowboarding or surfing
boardercross (snowboarding) another name for
snowboard cross
boarding (ice hockey) the offense of pushing an-
other player into the boards
boards (ice hockey) the offense of pushing another
player into the boards
boardsailing (sport) the official term for windsur-
fing [introduced because of potential prob-
lems with the proprietary status of the name
Wind surfer]
boast (squash) a shot that hits one of the two side
boast • bookmakers

boast (horse racing) to administer a **booking** to or **bookie** (horse racing) colloquial shortening of **bookmaker**

booking (association football) the entering of a player's name in a notebook by the **referee** as the record of an **offense**, signaled by the showing of a **yellow card** to the offender

bookmaker (general) a person who accepts **bets** in a sport such as **horse racing** and pays out the **winnings**

bookmakers (greyhound racing, horse racing) another term for a **betting shop**

walls of the **court**, then the end wall, before bouncing [probably form of French *bossé*]

**boast for nick** (*squash*) a **boast** that lands in the **nick** and dies

**boating (general)** rowing or sailing for pleasure

**bob** (*angling*) (1) short term for a **bobbly**; (2) a bunch of lobworms used as **bait** for eels; (**bobsledding**) short term for a **bobsled**

**bob and weave** (*boxing*) to make quick bodily movements up and down and from side to side in order to dodge **punches**

**bob skeleton** (**bobsled**) another term for a **skeleton bob**

**bobber** (*angling*) a **float** attached to a **fishing line**; (**bobsledding**) a **rider** on a **bobsled**

**boffy** (*angling*) a **dry fly** that bobs on the water to indicate the position of the **tail fly**

**bobs** (**bobsled**) the **runners** for a **bobsled**

**bobskate** (*ice skating*) an **ice skate** with two parallel blades

**bobsled** (**bobsledding**) the racing sled for two or more people with steering mechanism and brakes used in **bobsledding**

**bobsledding** (**sport**) the sport of riding or racing in a **bobsled**

**bobsleigh** (**bobsledding**) alternate name for a **bobsled**

**bocce** (**bowls**) an Italian form of the **game**, played on a narrower, shorter **green** [Italian *bocce*, plural of *boccia*, "ball"]

**boccia** (**bowls**) another term for **bocce**

**body blow** (**boxing**) a **punch** to the body

**body drop** (**judo**) a **throw** in which a **combatant** stretches out his leg and throws his opponent forward over it

**body lock** (**wrestling**) a **hold** in which a **combatant** locks his arms around his opponent’s body before bringing him down to the **mat**

**body swerve** (**general**) a swerving movement of the body made to avoid an opponent

**bodyboard** (**surfing**) a short type of **surfboard** on which the **surfer** lies

**bodybuilding** (**general**) a form of exercising to **develop** the size and strength of the muscles

**bodycheck** (**general**) the deliberate obstruction of an opposing player’s movements, permitted in **ice hockey** and (in the men’s **game**) **lacrosse** but not in most other sports

**bodyline bowling** (**cricket**) fast, **aggressive bowling** aimed at the body of the **batsman** and usually directed toward the **leg side** [famously practiced in England’s 1932–33 **tour** of Australia]

**bodysuit** (**swimming**) a close-fitting one-piece costume offering little resistance to the water

**bodysurfer** (**surfing**) a person riding a breaking wave without a **surfboard**

**bogey** (**golf**) a **score** of one **stroke** over **par** for a **hole** [originally the same as par, but after 1918 as now, presumably from the idea of losing to an imaginary player, Colonel Bogey, said to be so named from “The Bogey Man,” a popular song of the 1890s]

**bogu** (**kendo**) the armor worn by a **kendoka** [Japanese]

**boil** (**angling**) a swirling disturbance on the surface of the water made by a fish coming to a **fly**

**Boks** (**rugby union**) short form of the nickname **Springboks**

**Bolivarian Games** (**Olympics**) **regional games** held since 1938 for competitors from South American countries [named for the South American revolutionary leader Simón Bolívar (**1783–1830**)]

**bolo** (**boxing**) a long sweeping **uppercut** [said to resemble a slash with a bolo knife]

**bolt** (**horse racing**) to run out of control, as a horse may do at the start of a **race**

**bomb** (**American football**) a long looping forward **pass**; (**basketball**) a long shot into the **basket**

**Bombers** (**Australian Rules**) short name of the Essendon Bombers team

**bonification** (**cycling**) a time bonus given to **riders** in the **Tour de France** who achieve a **place** at the end of a **stage** [French *bonification*, "bonus"]

**bonk** (**cycling**) sudden **fatigue** in a **race**, often due to lack of food [imitative of the sensation]

**bonk bag** (**cycling**) colloquial term for a **musette**

**bonspiel** (**curling**) a combined **tournament** and social gathering lasting two or three days [said to derive from French *bon*, "good," and Dutch or Flemish *spel*, "game"]

**boobird** (**general**) colloquial term for a **supporter** who boos his team when they play poorly

**boogie board** (**surfing**) colloquial term for a **bodyboard**

**book** (**association football**) to administer a **booking**

**bookie** (**horse racing**) colloquial shortening of **bookmaker**

**bookmaker** (**general**) a person who accepts **bets** in a sport such as **horse racing** and pays out the **winnings**
boom • bowl

**boom** (sailing) a pole that controls the position of a sail

**Boomers** (basketball) colloquial name of the Australian national men’s team [from boomer, a male kangaroo, Australia’s national animal]

**boost** (swimming) a rapid headfirst rise out of the water in *synchronized swimming*

**boot** (general) colloquial term for a kick

**Boot Hill** (cricket) colloquial name for the hazardous *short leg* position [from the nickname of the cemetery in Dodge City, Kansas, where many 19th-century gunfighters were buried after they “died with their boots on”]

**boot money** (rugby union) money formerly paid to *amateur* players by manufacturers of sports equipment as an inducement to wear their brand of boots for televised matches

**boot one** (baseball) to make an error

**bootleg** (American football) a *play* in which a *quarterback* simulates a *pass* to another player but then runs in the opposite direction concealing the *ball* near his hip [from the term for smuggled goods]

**Borderers** (association football) nickname of the Scottish *club* Berwick Rangers [based near the border with England]

**Borders** (association football) nickname of the Scottish *club* Gretna [based near the border with England]

**bore** (athletics, horse racing) to push other competitors out of the way to gain advantage in a *race*

**Boro** (association football) nickname of the English *clubs* Middlesbrough and Scarborough [shortened form of the placenames]

**borrow** (golf) the allowance made for a slope or the wind on a *green*, usually by putting the *ball* uphill of the *hole*

**bos** ( hurling) another spelling of *bas*

**bosie** (cricket) less common term for a *googly* [a speciality of the English *bowler* B.J.T. Bosanquet (1877–1936)]

**Bosman ruling** (association football) a ruling that a *footballer* whose contract has expired may be given a free *transfer* to another *club* inside the European Union [the result of a 1995 case brought by the Belgian player Jean–Marc Bosman (1964–)]

**boss** (association football) colloquial term for a *manager*

**bossaball** (sport) a *game* invented in Belgium in 2005 that combines *association football*, *volleyball*, *trampolining*, and capoeira (a Brazilian martial art and dance combination), played on an inflatable *court*

**Boston crab** (wrestling) a *hold* in which a combatant sits on the buttocks of a prone opponent and pulls upward on the latter’s legs [so they are bent like those of a crab]

**Boston Marathon** (athletics) an annual marathon in Boston, Massachusetts, first run in 1897

**bottom** (baseball) the second part of an *inning*, during which the *home* team bats

**bottom edge** (cricket) (1) the lower edge of a *bat* as held by the *batsman*; (2) a (usually inadvertent) *stroke* off this part

**bottom fishing** (angling) fishing for fish that live near the bottom of the sea, usually done from the shore or a pier

**bottom order** (cricket) the *batsmen* who come last in the *batting order*

**bottom pocket** (billiards, *snooker*) one of the two pockets in the *balk* area of the *billiard* table, where play begins

**bouldering** (mountaineering) a form of *rock climbing* in which climbers attempt to negotiate large boulders without the use of ropes

**boules** (sport) a French form of *bowls* played on rough ground with metal *bowls* that are thrown at a smaller target *ball* [French *boules*, “bowls”]

**bounce** (Gaelic football) a downward throw of the *ball* so that it rebounds to the hand of the thrower, as a way of retaining possession and gaining ground; (general) a rebound of the *ball* when thrown, dropped, or hit; (golf) the projection at the bottom of the back of a *wedge*; (trampolining) a rebound made on the *bed* of the *trampoline*

**bounce-out** (darts) the landing of a dart on the wire of a *dartboard* so that it falls to the ground

**bounce pass** (general) a *pass* in which a player sends the *ball* to a teammate by bouncing it

**bouncer** (archery) an *arrow* that rebounds from the *target*; (cricket) a fast delivery that sends the *ball* up sharply from the *pitch* so that it reaches the *batsman* at chest or head height

**boundary** (cricket) (1) the outer limit of the playing area, traditionally marked with a rope or white line; (2) a *hit* by a *batsman* that clears the boundary to score a *four* or a *six*

**boundary line** (general) a line around the playing area beyond which the *ball* is *out of play*

**bout** (boxing, fencing, judo, wrestling) a *contest*

**bow** [rhyming with “hoe”] (archery) the curved piece of flexible plastic or other material (originally wood), bent by means of a cord stretched between its ends, that is used for shooting *arrows*

**bow** [rhyming with “how”] (horse racing) a horse’s debut in a *race*; (rowing) (1) the front of the boat; (2) the *rower* who sits in it; (sailing) the forepart of the boat

**bow-hand** (archery) the hand in which the *bow* is held, normally the left

**bowl** (American football) (1) a bowlshaped stadium in which *college football* is played; (2) the game
itself; (3) a postseason game between specially invited teams; (bowls) (1) the heavy ball with a bias that is rolled toward the jack; (2) the delivery of the bowl; (3) a turn at bowls; (cricket) (1) a delivery of the ball to the batsman by the bowler; (2) to dismiss a batsman with such a delivery

Bowl Championship Series (American football) the championship series, held in one of five bowls, that determines which top two college teams will meet in competition

bowl game (American football) an established postseason game held at a named bowl

bowl-in (polo) another term for a throw-in

bowled (cricket) (of) a batsman who is out because a ball delivered by the bowler has struck the stumps and dislodged one or both of the bails

bowler (bowls) a player of the game; (cricket) the player who delivers the ball to the batsman

bowler's wicket (cricket) a pitch that favors bowlers

bowling (bowls) the playing of the game; (cricket) the action of delivering the ball by the bowler; (sport) alternate name for tenpin bowling

bowling alley (bowls) the alley where indoor bowls are played; (skittles, tenpin bowling) the alley where the game is played

bowling analysis (cricket) the performance record of a bowler, giving figures for overs and maiden overs bowled, runs conceded, wickets taken, and the like, from which his bowling average can be calculated

bowling average (cricket) a score calculated for a bowler by dividing the number of runs scored off his bowling by the number of wickets he takes

bowling crease (cricket) the crease from behind which the bowler delivers the ball

bowling green (bowls) the green where the game is played

bowling machine (cricket) a machine that delivers balls to a batsman when practicing in the nets

bowls (sport) a game played between individuals or teams in which bowls are rolled toward a jack on a green, the aim being to place as many of one's bowls as possible closer to the jack than the nearest bowl of one's opponent or opponents

bowman (archery) an archer, who wields a bow; (rowing) fuller term for the bow

bowshot (archery) the distance to which an arrow can be shot from a bow

bowside (rowing) the left side of the boat from the point of view of the rowers, as the side on which the bow sits

bowsight (archery) a sight attached to the bow to help the archer aim

bowstring (archery) the cord of a bow

box (association football) shortening of penalty box; (athletics) the support in which an athlete plants the base of the pole when making a vault; (baseball) the place where the batter stands; (cricket) (1) a padded shield for the genitals worn inside the trousers by batsmen and wicketkeepers; (2) alternate term for the gully; (horse racing) shortening of loose box; (rugby union) the area behind the scrum or line-out

box kick (rugby union) a high kick, usually by the scrum-half, into the box

box lacrosse (lacrosse) formal name of boxla

box out (basketball) to take up a position between an opponent and the basket so as to be well placed for a rebound

box score (baseball) the tabulated results of a game

boxed in (athletics) trapped by other competitors against the inside of the track and so unable to overtake

boxer (boxing) a person who boxes or is skilled in the sport

boxing (sport) a combat sport in which two competitors trade punches with fists enclosed in boxing gloves

boxing gloves (boxing) the special padded gloves worn by boxers

boxing match (boxing) a match or contest between two boxers

boxing ring (boxing) fuller term for a ring

boxing weight (boxing) the particular weight category at which boxers are matched

boxla (lacrosse) an indoor version of the game, played in an ice hockey rink with the ice removed or covered

brace (association football) two goals scored by the same player in a match; (canoeing) a recovery stroke made to prevent the canoe from overturning; (cricket) a duck scored by the same batsman in two innings; (sailing) a rope attached to the yard of a square-rigged vessel for the purpose of trimming the sail

bracket (ice skating) a half-turn that takes the skater from one edge of the skate to the opposite edge

Braemar Gathering (general) the best-known annual Highland games, held at the village of Braemar, Scotland, and traditionally attended by royalty

brakeman (bobsledding) the person who sits at the back of the bobsled and applies the brakes

braking zone (auto racing) the part of the track before a corner where drivers apply the brakes

brandling (angling) a type of red worm used as bait

Brands Hatch (auto racing) a circuit in Kent, England, that was formerly the site of the British Grand Prix
brassie (golf) another spelling of brassy
brassy (golf) the former name of a 2-wood (so called because it had a brass sole)
Bravehearts (rugby league) nickname of the Scottish national team [from Braveheart, the name given to the Scottish patriot William Wallace (c.1270–1305), who defeated the English at Stirling in 1297 and ravaged the northern counties of England]
Braves (baseball) short name of the Atlanta Braves team
Brazilian Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at either São Paio or Interlagos, Rio de Janeiro
break (athletics) a move by a runner away from a lane toward the inside of the track; (billiards, pool, snooker) (1) the shot made by a player to break the balls; (2) a consecutive series of pots; (3) the score at the end of such a series; (cricket) the change of direction of a ball delivered by the bowler; (croquet) a turn in which more than one point is scored in consecutive shots; (cycling) a move made by a rider or group of riders away from a larger group or from the peloton; (golf) another term for a borrow; (horse racing) the start of a race; (surfing) an area of water where the waves are suitable for riding; (tennis) a win gained by a player able to break service
break! (boxing) a command by the referee to the boxers in a clinch to separate
break back (tennis) to win an opponent’s service game immediately after losing one’s own such game
break-back (cricket) a ball that turns sharply from the off side on pitching
break-fall (martial arts) a controlled fall in which the impact is absorbed by the arms and legs
break one’s duck (cricket) to score one’s first run as a batsman, so that one’s score will not be a duck
break point (tennis) a point that gives a player a chance to break service
break service (tennis) to win a game in which one’s opponent is serving
break the balls (billiards) to open the game by striking the red ball or giving a miss; (snooker) to open the game by striking one of the red balls
break the throw (darts) to win a leg in which one’s opponent made the first throw
break the wicket (cricket) to dislodge the bails of a wicket and thus stump or run out the batsman
breakaway (cycling) another term for a break; (general) a sudden attack or forward movement; (rugby football) an outside forward in the back row
breakdown (rugby union) the ending of a run, causing competition for the ball, usually after a tackle
breakfast (darts) shortening of bed and breakfast
breaking ball (baseball) a pitch that changes direction in flight, as a curveball or slider
breast the tape (athletics) to come first in a foot race by breaking the tape with one’s chest
breaststroke (swimming) a stroke made breast-down, with circling movements of the arms and frog-like kicks of the legs between the arm movements
breeder (horse racing) a person who breeds horses, and especially thoroughbreds
Breeders’ Cup (horse racing) the cup awarded to the winner of a flat race founded in 1984 at Hollywood Park, Texas, and administered by breeders in a series of promotional races with thoroughbreds
breeze-up sale (horse racing) a sale in which prospective purchasers can watch young or untried horses go through their paces
breezing (horse racing) moving at a brisk pace but under some restraint from the jockey
Brewers (baseball) short name of the Milwaukee Brewers team
brick (basketball) colloquial term for a poor shot
Brickyard (auto racing) nickname of the circuit on which the Indianapolis 500 is held (so named for the millions of bricks laid in 1909 to build a new and firmer surface)
bricole (billiards) a rebound of the ball from a cushion; (real tennis) a rebound of the ball from a side wall [French bricole, “trifle”]
bridge (billiards, snooker) (1) a support for the cue made by placing one’s fingers on the billiard table and raising the thumb; (2) a metal support at the end of a rest, serving the same purpose; (gymnastics) an arched position of the body; (wrestling) an arched position formed with one’s back facing the mat, adopted to avoid a fall
bridge out (wrestling) to escape from an opponent’s move by rolling over from a bridge onto one’s stomach
bridle (equestrianism) the gear on a horse’s head that controls and guides it
Brighton (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Brighton, East Sussex, England
Britannia Cup (rowing) the cup first presented in 1969 to the winners of a race for coxed fours at Henley; (sailing) a cup first presented in 1951 to the winners of a race for small yachts from any country
British and Irish Lions (rugby union) formal name of the Lions
British Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One
international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Silverstone

British Horseracing Authority (horse racing) the organization that regulates the sport in Britain [known as the British Horseracing Board until 2007, when it took over the regulatory powers of the Jockey Club]

British Lions (rugby union) former name of the Lions

British Open (golf) formal name of the Open Championship

broad jump (athletics) another term for the long jump

broadsliding (motorcycle racing) another term for powersliding

broken field (American football) the area beyond the line of scrimmage where the defense is relatively scattered

bronc-riding (rodeo) the riding by a competing cowboy of a bronco

bronco (rodeo) a wildly bucking horse ridden by a competing cowboy

Broncos (American football) short name of the Denver Broncos team; (rugby league) short name of the English club London Broncos

Brooklands (baseball) nickname of the American football team based in Weybridge, Surrey, England, closed in 1939 on the outbreak of World War II and never reopened

broom (curling) the implement used to sweep the ice ahead of a moving stone

broom (bowling) the support vehicle that picks up riders who abandon a stage race or fall too far behind [French voititre balai, “broom wagon”]

broomball (sport) a game similar to ice hockey in which a volleyball is propelled over the ice with brooms

broomhandle putter (golf) a type of putter with a long shaft, held at the top in one hand at chest height and lower down in the other hand at waist height, like a broomhandle

brown (snooker) the brown ball, worth four points

brown belt (judo, karate) a belt worn to indicate the highest attainment in the kyu rank

brown spot (snooker) the spot on the billiard table where the brown is positioned, midway on the balkline

Browns (American football) short name of the Cleveland Browns team

Bruins (ice hockey) short name of the Boston Bruins team

Brumbies (rugby union) a Super 14 team based in Canberra, Australia, formed in 1996 [from the brumbies, wild horses native to Australia]

brushback (baseball) a pitch aimed deliberately at the head of the batter to force him to retreat off home plate

bubble float (angling) a round plastic float containing water

Buccaneers (American football) short name of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers team

buck (equestrianism) a vertical jump by a horse, with the back arched and the feet bunched together

bucket (basketball) colloquial term for a basket; (rowing) an abrupt forward movement of the body

Bucks (basketball) short name of the Milwaukee Bucks team

Bucs (American football) colloquial short name of the Buccaneers

Buddies (association football) nickname of the Scottish club St. Mirren [plural of a Scots form of body, “person”]

budo (sport) another term for the martial arts [Japanese budo, “way of the warrior”]

bug (horse racing) the weight allowance given to an apprentice as jockey [an apprentice is denoted in a race program by an asterisk (*), a symbol known to printers as a bug]

bug boy (horse racing) an apprentice as jockey [he has been given a bug]

buggy (auto racing) a small, sturdy vehicle used in off-roading, as a beach buggy or dune buggy

bulger (golf) a former type of wooden club with a concave face

bull (archery, shooting) (1) the center spot of the target; (2) a shot that hits this spot; (darts) (1) the small red (or black) circle at the center of the dartboard, worth 50 points; (2) a dart that hits this spot

bull-dogging (rodeo) another term for steer-wrestling

bull-riding (rodeo) the competitive bareback riding of a Brahma bull

Bulldogs (Australian Rules) short name of the Western Bulldogs team; (rugby league) short name of the English club Batley Bulldogs

bullet (American football) colloquial term for a fast, accurate pass

bullet race (horse racing) a sprint of less than five furlongs on the flat

bullpen (baseball) (1) the part of the ground just off the diamond where pitchers warm up; (2) collective term for the relief pitchers of a team
Bulls (basketball) short name of the Chicago Bulls team; (rugby league) short name of the English club Bradford Bulls
bullseye (archery, darts, shooting) formal name of a bull
bully (Eton wall game) a scrimmage; (field hockey) the opening move, in which one player from each team taps the ground and an opponent’s stick alternately three times, then tries to be first to hit the ball lying between them
bully-oﬀ (ﬁeld hockey) formal name of a bully
Bully Wee (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Clyde [Scots bully, “excellent,” and wee, “small,” as the team was long weaker than other Glasgow teams]
bun (general) an obsessive devotee of a sport
bump (rowing) the act of bumping in a bumping race
bump and run (American football) a tactic in which a cornerback deliberately bumps into the receiver and runs with him to block a pass; (golf) an approach shot played so that the ball travels a long way after it lands
bump ball (cricket) a ball that bounces just in front of a ﬁelder attempting a catch
bump supper (rowing) a celebratory dinner held at Oxford or Cambridge university after the bumping races, hosted by the college that ﬁnished Head of the River
bumper (cricket) another term for a bouncer; (horse racing) shortening of bumper race
bumper race (horse racing) a ﬂat race for young National Hunt horses that have not yet raced over hurdles or in steeplechases and that have not run under the rules of ﬂat racing
bumping race (rowing) a race, rowed between college eights at Oxford and Cambridge universities, in which the boats, starting at ﬁxed intervals, each aim to “bump” (touch) the one in front before being “bumped” by that behind, dropping out when this happens
bumps (rowing) colloquial short name for bumping races
bunch (cycling) another term for the peloton
bunch sprint (cycling) a sprint for the ﬁnishing line made by the bunch at the end of a race or stage
bung (angling) a type of ﬂoat used when fishing for pike
bunker (golf) a hazard in the form of a sand-ﬁlled hollow
bunny (cricket) another term for a rabbit
bunsen (cricket) colloquial term for a pitch favorable to spin bowlers [rhyming slang, Bunsen burner giving turner]
bunt (baseball) a blocking of the ball with the bat so that it does not travel far, usually done to let a baserunner advance
burger (skateboarding) colloquial term for a bad bruise
Burghley (equestrianism) short name of the Burghley Horse Trials, an annual three-day event held in the grounds of Burghley House near Stamford, Lincolnshire, England
burnout (auto racing) in drag racing, the procedure of spinning the rear tires in water to heat and clean them before a race
Busby Babes (association football) former nickname of the English club Manchester United [from Sir Matt Busby (1909–1994), manager of the youthful team in the 1950s]
bush league (baseball) colloquial term for a minor league
bust (darts) to exceed the required score
butt (archery) the mound of earth behind the target; (snooker) the thicker end of the cue
butter-end (ice hockey) an offense committed by jabbing an opponent with the end of the handle of the stick
butterly (swimming) a breast-down stroke with the arms extended and moving together in a circular motion while the legs perform a dolphin kick
buttock (wrestling) a throw using the buttocks or hip
button (curling) another term for a tee; (fencing) the soft covering over the point of a foil or épée; (rowing) a ﬁtting fastened on an oar to stop it slipping through the rowlock
buttonhook (American football) a type of pass in which the intended receiver runs straight toward a defensive back then stops and doubles back to the passer
butts (shooting) a range for target practice
buzzard (golf) a score of two strokes over par for a hole [as distinct from an eagle]
buzzbait (angling) an artiﬁcial bait with small blades that stir the water
buzzer-beater (basketball) colloquial term for a basket scored just before the end of play
by (horse racing) born to a named sire [often coupled with out of to name the dam]
bycatch (angling) ﬁsh inadvertently caught with the intended catch, especially when immature or of a protected species
bye (cricket) a run made from a ball that passes the batsman without being struck or touched by him, the run being credited to the team rather than to the score of the batsman; (general) the position of a player or team against whom no opponent has been drawn and who proceeds to the next round unopposed; (golf) a hole or holes remaining to be played when a match is decided
byline (association football) another term for the touchline
c (cricket) abbreviation of caught in scoring
c and b (cricket) abbreviation of caught and bowled in scoring

cabbage (golf) colloquial term for the rough
caber (athletics) the heavy pole, usually the trimmed trunk of a tree, used in the sport of tossing the caber at Highland games
caddie (golf) the person who assists a golfer during a round by carrying the clubs, advising on the choice of club, and using his knowledge of the course to read the green [Scots form of French cadet, originally "youngest son"]
caddie car (golf) a small motorized vehicle for transporting players and equipment around a course

caddie cart (golf) a light trolley for carrying a bag of golf clubs around a course
caddy (golf) another spelling of caddie
cadence (cycling) the rate at which a rider is pedaling
cage (baseball) an enclosed area for batting practice; (ice hockey) colloquial term for the goal

calcutta cup (rugby union) the cup for which England and Scotland have competed since 1879 [so called as made from the silver rupees remaining in the funds of the Calcutta Football Club, India, when it was disbanded in 1877]
calder memorial trophy (ice hockey) the trophy awarded for the rookie of the year [named for Frank Calder, president of the National Hockey League from 1917 to 1943]
caley jags (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Inverness Caledonian Thistle ["Caley" from Caledonian, "Jags" as a colloquial term for the jagged leaves of a thistle, the Scottish national emblem]
calf-roping (rodeo) an event in which a mounted competitor chases a calf, lassoes it, dismounts, throws the calf to the ground by hand, then ties up three of its feet with a short rope

calgary stampede (rodeo) an annual event and stampede in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, founded in 1912
call (cricket) a shouted direction by a batsman to his partner whether to run ("Yes!") or to remain in the crease ("No!"); (tennis) a decision by the umpire or a line judge on the status of a shot
call a cab (horse racing) to wave one arm as a jockey in order to retain balance when taking a fence
call one's shot (billiards, snooker) to say which ball one intends for which pocket
callisthenics (gymnastics) special exercises designed to achieve strength, fitness, and grace of movement
cals (Eton wall game) the area behind the goal line, defined by a white line [Latin calx, "lime"]
cam (mountaineering) a mechanical device that grips into a crack in the rock
caman (hurling, shinty) the slim curved stick used in the game

camanachd cup (shinty) a cup involving 16 teams, first competed for in 1896 [Gaelic camanachd, "shinty"]
cambridgeshire (horse racing) an annual handicap at Newmarket, first run in 1839 [name of the county in which it was originally located]
camel spin (ice skating) a spin on one foot, with the back arched and the non-skating leg extended horizontally behind [the pose suggests the humped back of a camel]
camogie (hurling) a modified form of the game played by women [played with a stick called a camog, a Gaelic word related to caman]
campaign (horse racing) to prepare a horse for a race
can (golf) colloquial term for the hole

can-am (auto racing) short name of the Canadian-American Grand Challenge Cup, an annual series of races, six in the U.S. and two in Canada, first held in 1966

can of corn (baseball) colloquial term for an easy catch for a fielder [said to derive from the can on a stack in a grocery that a sales clerk would knock down with a stick and catch]
canada cup (golf) former name of the World Cup

canadian canoe (canoeing) a long narrow canoe propelled by a single-bladed paddle

canadian football (sport) a game similar to American football but with 12 players a side and a longer field of play

canadian grand prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the Gilles Villeneuve circuit at Montreal, Canada

canadiens (ice hockey) short name of the Montreal Canadiens team

canal turn (horse racing) a difficult jump on the Grand National course at Aintree

canaries (association football) nickname of the English club Norwich City [either from the local former breeding and exhibition of canaries, or from the city's mustard-making industry, with the associated color represented in the yellow shirts of the players]
cannon (billiards) the striking of both the red and one's opponent's ball in a single shot; (croquet) a croquet shot and roquet made in a single stroke; (snooker) a shot in which the cue ball deflects from the object ball into another ball [altered form of carom]
cannon game (billiards) another term for carom billiards

cannon-off (bouls) a delivery in which one bowl rebounds at an angle from another
cannonball (tennis) colloquial term for a fast serve
 canoe (canoeing) the light, narrow, flat-bottomed boat, propelled by one or more paddles, that is used for the sport
 canoe polo (water polo) a form of the game in which the participants are in short canoes using double paddles
 canoeing (sport) (1) a contest between canoeists; (2) the pastime of traveling in canoes
 canoeist (canoeing) (1) a competitor in canoeing; (2) a person who travels in a canoe
 canopy (parachute) the overhead, expanding part of a parachute
 canopy formation (parachute) the stacked formation adopted by skydivers once their canopies have opened
 canter (equestrianism) a horse’s gait, slower than a gallop but faster than a trot, in which three legs are off the ground at the same time [shortening of Canterbury gallop, from the easy pace at which medieval pilgrims rode to Canterbury]
 Canucks (ice hockey) short name of the Vancouver Canucks team
 canvas (boxing) the floor of a ring; (rowing) a term used to describe the measure of lead between two boats in a close race, fixed as the length between the bow and the first oarsman [properly the covering over the ends of the boat, originally made of canvas]
 canyoning (sport) an extreme sport in which participants jump into a fast-flowing mountain stream or waterfall and allow themselves to be swept rapidly downstream
 cap (association football) (1) a commemorative cap given to a national player each time he plays in an international match; (2) an appearance by a national player at international level; (general) a distinguishing cap worn by a player or participant in a particular sport
 Capitals (ice hockey) short name of the Washington Capitals team
 capriole (equestrianism) an element of dressage in which the horse leaps up with all four feet off the ground and kicks its back legs at the height of the jump [Old French capriole, “leap”]
 captain (general) the leader of a sports team or club
 Captain Armstrong (horse racing) a jockey who holds his horse back with a “strong arm” in order to stop it drawing ahead
 captain’s pick (general) (1) a player selected for a team by its captain; (2) an outstanding player
 carabiner (mountaineering) a steel link with a spring clip in one side through which a rope can be threaded in abseiling [German Karabiner-haken, “spring hook”]
 carambole (billiards) the formal name of a carom
 card (golf) shortening of scoreboard; (horse racing) shortening of racecard
 Cardinals (American football) short name of the Arizona Cardinals team; (baseball) short name of the St. Louis Cardinals team
 cardio (general) exercises to tone the circulatory system, carried out in a gymnasium and typically involving equipment such as the treadmill or exercise bike and cross-training [abbreviation of cardiovascular exercises]
 Carling Cup (association football) the cup for which teams in the Football League compete [to 1982 called the League Cup, a name still popularly current, and after that date successively the Milk Cup, Littlewoods Cup, Rumbelows Cup, Coca Cola Cup, and Worthington Cup, eventually adopting its present sponsored name in 2003]
 Carlisle (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Carlisle, Cumbria, England
 Carnoustie (golf) the course near Dundee, Scotland, that until 1975 hosted the Open Championship
 carom (billiards) another term for a cannon [shortening of carambole, from French carombole, from Spanish carambola, “the red ball in billiards”]
 carom ball (cricket) a ball bowled by a spin bowler with a flick of his middle finger [named after carom as an Indian board game in which disks are flicked onto the table]
 carom billiards (billiards) a form of billiards played on a table with no pockets and thus consisting in making a series of cannons
 carpet (bowls) the surface on which indoor bowls is played; (cricket) the surface of the pitch and the outfield; (golf) (1) colloquial term for the fairway; (2) colloquial term for the putting green
 carriage driving (equestrianism) a discipline in which a two- or four-wheeled carriage with one or more horses competes in dressage, a cross-country time trial, and the negotiation of a winding course marked out by cones
 carrot (croquet) the part of the hoop below the ground
 carry (golf) the distance a ball travels through the air before touching the ground at or near its destination; (ice hockey) to advance the puck down the ice by controlling it with one's stick
 carry one's bat (cricket) to remain not out after batting throughout an innings
 cart (golf) shortening of golf cart
 CART Championship (auto racing) former name of the ChampCar Championship [acronym of Championship Autoracing Teams]
 Cartmel (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Cartmel, Cumbria, England
 cartwheel (bowls) a bowl delivered with a marked
bias; (gymnastics) a sideways somersault with arms and legs extended
carving (sking) a technique of making fast turns by turning the skis so that the edges cut into the snow; (snowboarding) a technique of making fast turns by turning the board so that the edge cuts into the snow; (surfing) the execution of large smooth turns on a wave
carving skis (sking) skis specifically designed for carving
cas (rugby league) short name of the English club Castleford Tigers
cast (angling) the throwing of a fishing line or net; (trampolining) a sideways movement across the bed
castle (cricket) colloquial term for the wicket defended by the batsman
casual water (golf) a pool of water caused by rain or flooding, from where a ball can be repositioned without penalty
cat (sailing) shortening of catamaran
cat stance (karate) a position in which the front foot is raised ready to kick
cat-twist back drop (trampolining) a full twist to a back drop
catamaran (sailing) a boat with two hulls
catch (angling) (1) the capture of a fish; (2) the amount of fish caught; (baseball) the catching by a fielder of the ball hit by the batter before it touches the ground, so that he is out; (boule) a bowl that prevents another from passing; (cricket) the catching by a fielder of the ball hit by the batsman before it touches the ground, so that he is out; (general) a simple game, popular among children, in which a ball is thrown and caught in turn; (rowing) the moment when the blade enters the water at the beginning of the stroke
catch a crab (rowing) to sink the oar too deep (or not deep enough) in the water, causing the rower to fall back and the boat to be jolted and even halted [as if the oar had been caught by a crab]
catch and kick (Gaelic football) to catch the ball and instantly kick it as a pass
catch and release (angling) the practice of releasing a fish after it has been caught and weighed
catch-as-catch-can (wrestling) a form of the sport in which any hold is allowed
catch-waist camel spin (ice skating) in pair skating, a camel spin with the free legs pointing in opposite directions and each partner’s arms around the other’s waist
catcher (baseball) the fielder positioned behind the batter
catenaccio (association football) a rigidly defensive system of play introduced in the 1960s by the Italian club Inter Milan, comprising four defenders, three midfielders, and three attackers [Italian catenaccio, “bolt”]
cats (Australian Rules) short name of the Geelong Cats team
cats on the counter (darts) the winning of a game [said to derive from the “cats” or large drinking pots that the losers were obliged to line up on the counter before the next game]
Catterick (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Catterick Bridge, North Yorkshire, England
catworm (angling) a worm (Nephys hombergi) commonly used as bait
caught (cricket) (of) a batsman whose stroke resulted in a catch, so that he is out
catched and bowled (cricket) (of) a batsman whose stroke gave a catch to the bowler
captured (cricket) (of) a batsman whose stroke gave a catch to the wicketkeeper (who is behind the wicket)
Caulfield Cup (horse racing) the cup awarded to the winner of an annual race at Caulfield, Melbourne, Australia, first run in 1879
cauliflower ear (boxing) an ear permanently swollen and disfigured by repeated blows [in appearance resembling the clumped shape of a cauliflower]
caution (association football) another term for a booking; (boxing) a reprimand given to a boxer by the referee following an infringement, three such reprimands usually resulting in a warning
Cavaliers (basketball) short name of the Cleveland Cavaliers team
caver (caving) a person who explores caves
caving (sport) the exploration of caves
cavity back (golf) a clubhead with a depression on the back
Celtic League (rugby union) a contest between major Irish, Welsh, and Scottish teams, introduced in 2001 [the teams come from the Celtic countries of the British Isles]
Celtics (basketball) short name of the Boston Celtics team
center (American football) the player in the center of the offensive line who begins the play with a snap of the ball to a player in the backfield; (archery, shooting) the area of the target between the bull and the outer; (association football) a kick from either of the wings to the center of the pitch; (Australian Rules) a player in midfield; (basketball) the position of a player immediately under the basket; (field hockey) a pass from either of the wings to the center of the pitch; (lacrosse) a midfield player who competes in the draw and links play between defense and at-
tack; (netball) a player who can operate anywhere on the court except in the shooting circle; (rugby league, rugby union) one of the two three-quarters in the center of the pitch
center back (association football) a player in the middle of the defense
center bounce (Australian Rules) another term for a ball up
center circle (association football) the circle painted on the middle of the pitch, at the center of which is the center spot
center field (baseball) the part of the outfield directly behind second base as viewed from home plate
center fielder (baseball) the fielder positioned in center field
center forward (association football, field hockey) the central player in the line of forwards
center half (association football, field hockey) the central player behind the center forward
center halfback (Australian Rules) a defensive player operating near the middle of the 50-meter arc
center half-forward (Australian Rules) an attacking player operating behind the full forward
center line (ice hockey) another term for the red line
center pass (field hockey) the pass that starts the game, made by a center from the center spot to a teammate; (netball) the throw from the center of the court that starts the game
center service line (tennis) the line parallel to the tramlines that divides the right and left service courts
center spot (association football) the painted spot in the center of the pitch from which the kickoff is made at the start of each half and after the scoring of a goal; (billiards) the spot on the billiard table midway between the two middle pockets, corresponding to the blue spot in snooker
center square (Australian Rules) the square marked in the center of the oval
center three-quarter (rugby union) one of the two middle players in the line of three-quarters
centerboard (sailing) a retractable keel or fin
centerman (ice hockey) the forward playing between two wingers
Central American and Caribbean Games (Olympics) regional games held since 1926 for competitors from the countries of Central America and the Caribbean
Central American Games (Olympics) the name to 1935 of the Central American and Caribbean Games
central circle (wrestling) the inner circle of the mat
central contract (cricket) the contracting of a player to his national team as well as to his county or state team
central fire (shooting) (of) a cartridge with its full-minate in the center of the base
central wrestling area (wrestling) the circle on the mat between the passivity zone and the central circle
centre (general) another spelling of center
Centre Court (tennis) the central and most important court at Wimbledon, where the final of the championships is played
centurion (cricket) a batsman who scores a century
Centurions (rugby league) short name of the English club Leigh Centurions
century (cricket) a score of 100 runs by a batsman; (snooker) a break of 100 or more points
Cesarewitch (horse racing) an annual handicap at Newmarket, first run in 1839 [inaugurated by the tsesarevich, the heir to the Russian throne who became Alexander II (1818–1881)]
chain gang (American football) the members of the officiating team who measure the 10 yards needed to gain a new set of downs
chainring (cycling) the gear wheel that drives the chain
chains (American football) a method employed by the officiating team to measure the yardage needed to gain a new set of downs
chainwheel (cycling) another term for the chainring
Chair (horse racing) a jump on the Grand National course at Aintree
Chairboys (association football) nickname of the English club Wycombe Wanderers [from the furniture-making industry in the town of High Wycombe]
chairlift (skiing) a set of seats suspended on cables used to transport skiers uphill
chairman (wrestling) one of the three officials in charge of a bout, the others being the judge and the referee
chalk (snooker) the small cube of colored chalk rubbed on the tip of the cue to give a good contact when striking the cue ball; (weightlifting) the magnesium carbonate powder (not actually chalk) applied by weightlifters to their hands to help them grip the barbell
chalk eater (horse racing) colloquial term for a punter who bets only on the favorite [he follows the bookmaker as he writes up the latest odds in chalk]
challenge (general) an invitation to take part in a sporting contest, especially to a reigning champion
Challenge Cup (rugby league) the leading British cup competition, first held in 1929
challenge match (general) a match held as a challenge
challenger (general) a person who takes up a challenge, especially to a reigning champion
champ (general) colloquial shortening of champion
champagne breakfast (darts) a score in a single throw of treble 20, treble 5, and treble 1, bettering a breakfast
ChampCar (auto racing) a finely tuned car, but with a smaller engine than a Formula One car, that takes part in the annual championship of this name [short for Championship Car]
champion (general) a competitor who has excelled all others, especially in boxing
Champion Hurdle (horse racing) an annual race at Cheltenham, first run in 1927
Champion Jockey (horse racing) the title of the jockey who rides the most winners in a particular season, in both flat racing and National Hunt
Champions’ Dinner (golf) popular name for the Masters Club
Champions League (association football) informal name of the UEFA Champions League
Champions Trophy (cricket) an annual one-day international tournament first held in 1998, regarded as the most important of its kind after the World Cup; (field hockey) an annual tournament first held in 1978
Championship (association football) the group of teams that replaced Division 1 in 2004; (general) short title of a particular championship, as the Open Championship in golf
championship (general) (1) a contest held to determine who will be champion; (2) the title awarded to the winner of such a contest
chance (general) an opportunity of achieving a positive result during a match, such as dismissing a batsman in cricket or scoring a goal in association football
change (cricket) the substitution of one bowler (or type of bowling) for another during a match; (horse racing) the fractions of a second taken to declare the time of the first four horses in a race
change bowler (cricket) a bowler who relieves the regular bowlers in a match
change ends (general) to switch from occupying one half of an area of play, as a pitch or court, to the other, so changing the direction of play
change-foot spin (ice skating) a spin in which a jump is made from one foot to the other
change-up (baseball) an unexpectedly slow pitch intended to deceive the batter
changeover (athletics) the handing over of the baton by one runner to another in a relay race; (general) the point in a game or match at which the two sides change ends
changing room (general) a room or premises at a sports ground where players change their clothes before and after a game and discuss tactics
Chanticleers (rugby league) the English name for the French national Tricolores team [from Chanticleer as a name for the domestic cock, the symbolic bird of France]
chap and lie (bowls) to deliver a bowl so that it hits another and takes its place; (curling) to deliver a stone so that it hits another and takes its place
charge (golf) to play a round aggressively
charge down (rugby league, rugby union) to run toward a kicked ball and block it with the hands or body
Chargers (American football) short name of the San Diego Chargers team
charging (basketball) the offense of running into a stationary defender while in possession of the ball
charity event (general) an amateur contest, such as a race or match, organized to raise money for charity
charity stripe (basketball) colloquial term for the foul line
charity toss (basketball) colloquial term for a free throw
chase (real tennis) the second impact of an unreturned ball, for which the player scores unless his opponent betters it by a similar impact nearer the end wall; (horse racing) shortening of steeplechase
chase track (horse racing) a racetrack with fences (for a steeplechase)
chaser (cycling) a rider who is trying to catch up with a break; (horse racing) a horse that competes in steeplechases
chassé (ice skating) a sequence in which the foot that is not in contact with the ice moves up next to the skating foot without passing it and replaces it as the skating foot [French chassé, “chase”]
cheap (cricket) (of) a wicket taken after the batsman has scored only a few runs
check (ice hockey) the (legitimate) blocking of an opponent’s forward progress with one’s shoulder or hip
check side (snooker) a side that causes the cue ball to rebound off the cushion at less of an angle than in a normally struck shot
checkdown (American football) a short pass to a running back as a final option when the wide receivers are covered
checkered flag (auto racing) another spelling of chequered flag
checking (trampolining) the technique of absorbing the recoil from the bed by flexing the body at the hips, knees, and ankles
chest trap (association football) control of the ball using the chest
Chester (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Chester, Cheshire, England
chewy on your boot! (Australian Rules) a call to a player to discourage him from performing well in a particular play [as if chewing gum were on his boot]
Chicago Stadium (basketball) the home ground of the Chicago Bulls team, Chicago
chicane (auto racing) a sharp double bend on a track [French chicane “quibble at law”]
Chiefs (American football) short name of the Kansas City Chiefs team
chili dip (golf) a weak loft following a mishit [like scooping up a mouthful of chili with a taco]
chimney (mountaineering) a cleft in a rock face just wide enough to admit a climber to enter
chin (boxing) the ability to withstand punches; (gymnastics) to pull oneself up so that one’s chin reaches the horizontal bar
chin music (baseball) colloquial term for a pitch that passes close to the head of the batter; (cricket) colloquial term for a bouncer that flies up close to the head of the batsman [originally a punch on the jaw]
chin-up (gymnastics) an exercise in which the gymnast uses his arms to lift his chin over the horizontal bar
chinaman (cricket) an off break or googly bowled by a left-arm bowler to a right-handed batsman [said to have been introduced by a West Indian bowler of Chinese descent]
Chinese cut (cricket) a mishit in the form of an outside edge that sends the ball behind the wicket [perhaps so called because it is “devious,” from racial stereotyping]
Chinese Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Shanghai, China
Chinese snooker (snooker) a situation where the cue ball is awkwardly placed, close to or touching another ball, but without actually being a snooker
chip (general) a hit or kick that sends a ball high into the air over a short distance; (golf) shortening of chip shot
chip in (golf) to put the ball in the hole directly from a chip shot
chip shot (golf) a shot, usually close to the green, that sends the ball in a low trajectory, so that it runs forward on landing
chip the winner (curling) to cast a stone that “chips” the edge of another stone
Chipolopolo (association football) nickname of the Zambian national team [local chipolopolo, “copper bullets,” for the copper important in the na-
chuckstone (mountaineering) a stone jammed in a crack, chimney, or crevice
choctaw (ice skating) a turn from either edge of the skate to the other edge on the other foot in the opposite direction [as distinct from a mohawk]
choke (golf) (1) to shorten the swinging length of the club by gripping it lower down the shaft; (2) to crack or lose one's nerve when in an apparently winning position
choke hold (judo, wrestling) a move to restrain one's opponent by encircling his neck with one's arm or legs
chop (general) a short, sharp downward blow or stroke
chop block (American football) an illegal block below the knees
chop volley (tennis) a volley hit at waist height close to the net
chopper (baseball) a ball that bounces high after being hit down to the ground
christiania (skiing) formal term for a christie
christie (skiing) a method of stopping short when descending at speed, executed by turning with the skis parallel [from Christiania, former name of Oslo, Norway, where introduced]
Christmas tree (auto racing) colloquial term in drag racing for the array of yellow, green, and red lights used to start a race
christy (skiing) another spelling of christie
chuck (cricket) a delivery taken to be a throw, and so illegal
chuck and chance it (angling) to fish without knowing whether a fish lies where the cast is made
chucker (cricket) a bowler whose delivery is regarded as a throw, and so illegal
chui (judo) a penalty awarded for a serious violation [Japanese chui, “warning,” “caution”]
chukka (polo) one of the six periods into which a game is divided [Hindi chakkar, “wheel,” “circle”]
chukker (polo) another spelling of chukka
chum (angling) a groundbait of chopped fish [origin uncertain]
Churchill Downs (horse racing) the racetrack at Louisville, Kentucky, where the Kentucky Derby is held
chute (canoeing) a narrowing part of a river that causes an increase in speed; (horse racing) an extension to a straight in an oval racetrack, used in special races; (parachuting) shortening of parachute
Cincinnati Reds (baseball) short name of the Cincinnati Red Stockings team
circle (athletics) the area within which an athlete must remain when throwing the hammer, discus, or shot; (general) a circular or semicircular area marked on a playing area such as a field, court, or rink
circuit (athletics) a single tour of a running track; (auto racing) the specially designed looping road or track on which races are held; (general) (1) a designated cross-country route, as in motocross; (2) the venues visited in turn by sports competitors; (3) any circular route
circuit slugger (baseball) a regular slugger who has to run the circuit of the bases every time he hits a home run
circuit training (general) a form of athletic training using a series of different exercises [the series forms a “circuit” or round of exercises]
circus (general) a team or group of players traveling together to compete in different places
cite (rugby union) to make an official complaint about a player after a game
Citizens (association football) short name of the English club Manchester City
City (association football) short name of a British club with “City” in its name, as Brechin City, Bristol City, Chester City, Elgin City, Manchester City, Norwich City
claimer (horse racing) another term for a claiming race
claiming race (horse racing) a race in which any horse that has taken part may be bought (“claimed”) at a previously fixed price by anyone who has entered a horse at the same race meeting
clap skates (ice skating) in speed skating, skates with a blade hinged at the front so that it can be separated from the heel of the skate and thus stay longer in contact with the ice
Claret Jug (golf) popular name of the trophy awarded at the Open Championship [from its original design in 1873 in the style of a silver jug used to serve red wine]
Clarets (association football) nickname of the English club Burnley [from the dark red shirts of the players]
classic bow (archery) another name for the recurve bow
classic race (horse racing) one of the five English classics
classic technique (skiing) the traditional racing technique in Nordic skiing, using a diagonal stride with the skis parallel
classics (horse racing) short name of the English classics
claw (bowls) a delivery grip in which the bowl is held in the palm with the three middle fingers on the playing surface and the thumb and pinkie stretched either side
clay (shooting) colloquial shortening of clay pigeon
clay court (tennis) (1) a court with a clay surface; (2) alternate term for a hard court
clay pigeon (shooting) the saucer-shaped disk of baked clay shot at as a substitute game bird in trapshooting
clay-pigeon shooting (shooting) a form of trapshooting using a clay pigeon

clean (angling) without a catch; (weightlifting) the first phase of the clean and jerk movement in which the weightlifter lifts the barbell from the floor to shoulder height and holds it there with arms bent in preparation for the jerk
clean and jerk (weightlifting) a lift in two parts in which the clean is followed by the jerk
clean bowled (cricket) (of) a batsman who has been bowled by a ball that hit his stumps without first hitting his bat or pad
clean round (equestrianism) another term for a clear round
clean sheet (association football) a match in which no goals are conceded
clean-up hitter (baseball) the hitter who bats fourth for the batting side, whose hits are thought likely to enable a baserunner to score
clear (badminton) an overhead shot that sends the shuttlecock from one baseline to the other
clear hip circle (gymnastics) a variant of the hip circle in which the gymnast does not touch the bar with his hips
clear round (equestrianism) in showjumping, a round ridden without any faults or penalties

clear the boundary ropes (cricket) fuller term for clear the ropes
clear the ropes (cricket) to hit the ball clear over the ropes that mark the boundary, so scoring a six
clear the table (snooker) to play a break that clears all balls from the billiard table

clearance (association football) a defensive kick away from a dangerous attacking position; (field hockey) a defensive hit away from a dangerous attacking position

cleat (cycling) a device attached to the bottom of a cycling shoe that engages with the mechanism on a clipless pedal and locks the rider to his bicycle
cleck (golf) an old-fashioned narrow-faced iron-headed club, corresponding to a 2-iron
clerk of the course (auto racing, horse racing) an official in charge of administration
clerk of the scales (horse racing) the official whose responsibility is to weigh in the jockeys
clew (sailing) the lower corner of a sail
climb (cycling) a section of a race or stage that takes riders up a long hill or mountain
climb the ladder (American football) to jump very high in order to catch the ball
climber (cycling) a rider who specializes in climbs
climbing (mountaineering) the activity of ascending natural heights such as rocks, cliffs, or mountains, either for its own sake or as an integral part of the sport
climbing rope (mountaineering) a rope serving as an essential aid in climbing
climbing wall (mountaineering) a specially constructed wall with handholds and footholds, used for practicing techniques in rock climbing or mountaineering generally
clinch (boxing) the holding of one's opponent in such a way that he cannot throw punches
clip (American football) an illegal block below the waist from behind; (cricket) a sharp stroke of the ball
clipless pedals (cycling) pedals that lock the rider to his bicycle by means of cleats on the soles of his shoes [so called because they avoid the need for toeclips]
Clippers (basketball) short name of the Los Angeles Clippers team
clipping (ice hockey) the offense of delivering a check below an opponent's knees
clips (cycling) shortening of toeclips
clock golf (golf) a form of putting on a green marked like a clock dial, in which players putt from each hour figure in turn to a central hole
clocoket (horse racing) a person such as a racing correspondent who times the training runs of horses in order to get a guide to their form
clogger (association football) colloquial term for a player whose tackles are often fouls
Clonmel (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, Ireland
close down (association football) to deny one's opponents room to maneuver
close finish (general) a finish that is only narrowly won or gained
close-hauled (sailing) with sails trimmed as closely as possible to the direction the wind is coming from
close season (angling) a set time of the year when it is illegal to catch fish; (general) a period or season when a sport is not normally played, as winter for cricket in Britain
close the card (horse racing) to be the final race in a race meeting
closer (baseball) a pitcher whose specialty is defending a lead late in the game
clothesline (American football) a foul in which a player jabs his forearm into the throat of an oncoming opponent; (wrestling) the striking of a moving opponent across the face or in the windpipe with one’s outstretched arm [the effect is like running into a clothesline]
cloth (archery) in long-distance shooting, a special large target in the form of a flat surface on the ground divided into concentric circles
club (general) (1) the implement used for striking the ball in various games, as a golf club; (2) an association of people with common social, sporting, or other interests; (3) a formal association of players of a named sport, as a football club or golf club
club call (rugby league) the right of a club to select their opponents in a semifinal
club linesman (association football) an official who assists the referee in matches where there is no assistant referee, as in many local games
clubface (golf) the striking surface of a club
clubhead (golf) the part of the club that strikes the ball
clubhouse (golf) the premises attached to a golf course
clutch team (general) a tough team that battles on when in a poor position [they are “in the clutch” or in a critical situation]
coach (general) a professional trainer, typically in athletics or rowing
coaching (canoeing) the raised rim of a cockpit
coarse fish (angling) any freshwater fish other than those of the salmon family, as distinct from a game fish
Coblies (association football) nickname of the English club Northampton Town [from the local footwear industry]
cock-a-bondy (angling) a type of dry fly [corruption of Welsh coch a bon ddu, “red with a black stem”]
cocked hat (snooker) a shot in which the object ball rebounds off three cushions toward a middle pocket [the trajectory resembles the outline of a three-cornered cocked hat]
cockpit (auto racing) the place where the driver sits in the car; (canoeing) the space in the deck of a kayak in which the kayaker sits [originally the pit where cockfights were held]
cocktail (horse racing) a horse that is not a thoroughbred [properly a horse with a cocked tail]
codriver (auto racing) in rally driving, the person who takes turns in driving the vehicle and who assists the main driver by carrying out organizational and administrative work
coffee grinder (gymnastics) a movement in which the gymnast, in a squatting position, circles his leg while keeping both hands on the floor
coffin (cricket) colloquial term for the case used to carry a player’s equipment and clothing
coffin corner (American football) the angle between the goal line and the sideline [a punt is often aimed here so that it may go out of bounds and become a dead ball]
collapse (general) the sudden failure or breakdown of a player or team during a contest; (rugby union) the breakdown of a scrum, especially when deliberately caused by a set of forwards so that the two front rows fall toward each other
collar (rowling) another term for a button; (weightlifting) the device that secures the disk weights to the barbell; (wrestling) a move in which the opponent is tackled by the neck
collar the bowling (cricket) to hit the balls delivered by the bowler all over the field
college football (American football) the sport as played by teams of students at universities, colleges, and military academies
Colliers (association football) nickname of the English club Barnsley [from the local coal-mining industry]
color (snooker) any of the six colored balls which are played after a red
colors (general) the distinctive colors worn by a participant in a sport to show membership of a team, club, college, or the like, or the identity of an owner or sponsor
colt (cricket) a player during his first season; (general) (1) a young, inexperienced player; (2) a member of a junior team; (horse racing) a male horse under four years old
Colts (American football) short name of the Indianapolis Colts team
combat sport (general) a one-to-one sport in which each combatant continually attacks the other and protects himself from him, as wrestling or one of the martial arts
combination (boxing) a series of punches thrown in quick succession
combination bat (table tennis) a bat with different types of rubber on each side, used for different shots
combined event (skiing) a downhill run followed by two slalom runs
combined spin (swimming) in synchronized swimming, a descending spin through at least 360 degrees followed immediately by an ascending spin in the same direction
come about (sailing) to change direction
come again (angling) to rise or take the bait a second time; (horse racing) to regain speed
come from behind (general) to progress from the rear of a group of contestants or from a losing position into a winning position
come home (general) to complete a course
come in (cricket) to start an innings; (fencing) to get within the guard of one’s opponent; (general) to take a specified place in a race
come off (cricket) to cease bowling
come on (cricket) to begin to bowl
comebacker (baseball) a ball hit directly back along the ground by the batter to the pitcher
comma position (sking) a position in which the body is curved to one side, like a comma
Commonwealth Games (general) a quadrennial sports contest between countries of the Commonwealth, first held (as the British Empire Games) in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1930
complete (American football) (of) a pass that is successfully caught by a receiver
complete game (baseball) a game in which a pitcher records all 27 outs without being replaced by a relief pitcher
compound bow (archery) a bow equipped with a system of pulleys and cables that allows the archer to pull back the bowstring more easily
compression (golf) the measure of the resilience of a ball
compulsory (gymnastics) a routine that contains obligatory moves
con (general) abbreviation of conversion in sports reports
concours hippique (equestrianism) another term for showjumping [French concours hippique, literally “hippic contest”]
conditional (horse racing) shortening of conditional jockey
conditional jockey (horse racing) a jockey who may claim an allowance
conditional race (horse racing) a race in which only conditional jockeys may ride
conditions race (horse racing) the highest grade of flat race, divided into pattern races and listed races [the races are governed by a condition or set of conditions]
condor (golf) a (rare) score of four strokes under par on a hole [as a “bird” greater and more impressive than an albatross or an eagle]
cones (equestrianism) a discipline in carriage driving, in which the horse and carriage are maneuvered through a path of cones with balls balanced atop, the dislodging of which incurs penalty points
conference (general) an association of sports teams that play each other, especially those representing educational institutions
Conn Smythe Trophy (ice hockey) the trophy first donated in 1965 that is presented to the outstanding performer in the Stanley Cup playoffs [named for the Canadian player Conn Smythe (1895–1980), founder of the Toronto Maple Leafs]
connections (horse racing) the people associated with a particular horse, such as the owner and trainer
conquest (mountaineering) the successful ascent of a mountain
consolation match (general) a match for contestants who have been unsuccessful or have not won
consolation prize (general) a prize awarded to a contestant who was unsuccessful or just failed to win
consolation race (general) a race for contestants who have been unsuccessful or have not won
contact (baseball) the touching of a baserunner by a fielder who holds the ball
contact sport (general) a sport involving bodily contact between players
Continental Cup (ice hockey) the chief European club championship
continuation stroke (croquet) the bonus stroke taken either after a player has run a hoop or (as a second bonus stroke) after a roquet
continuous spin (swimming) in synchronized swimming, a descending spin through at least 720 degrees
contre-la-montre (cycling) another term for a time trial [French contre la montre, “against the watch”]
control point (orienteering) one of the checkpoints marked on a map that competitors must visit en route to their destination
conversion (American football) the scoring of an extra point after a touchdown by kicking the ball over the crossbar; (rugby league, rugby union) the scoring of two extra points after a try by kicking the ball over the crossbar
Copa America (association football) a biennial championship for South American countries, first officially held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1917 [Spanish Copa América, “America Cup”]
Copa del Rey (association football) an annual Spanish championship founded in 1902 [Spanish Copa del Rey, “King’s Cup,” named for Alfonso XIII (1886–1941)]
Copa Libertadores (association football) an annual championship for South American countries, first played in 1960 [Spanish Copa Libertadores de América, “Liberators of America Cup”]
Corbett (mountaineering) a Scottish mountain peak between 2,500 and 3,000 ft in height with a reascent of 500 ft on all sides [first listed by J.R. Corbett (1876–1949)]
Cork (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Mallow, Co. Cork, Ireland
corkscrew (boxing) a punch thrown with the elbow out and a twisting motion of the wrist
corkscrew back drop (trampolining) one and a half twists to a back drop
corner (association football) shortening of corner kick; (boxing) (1) one of the diagonally opposite angles of the ring, where a boxer sits between rounds and is attended by a second; (2) another term for the second himself
corner flag (association football) one of the four flags that mark the corners of the pitch where the touchline meets the goal line
corner forward (burling) a player in an attacking position on the wing
corner hit (field hockey) another term for a long corner
corner kick (association football) a kick awarded to the attacking team at one of the four corners of the pitch when a defending player puts the ball out of play beyond the goal line
corner man (boxing) another term for a second
cornerback (American football) a defensive back, usually covering an opposing wide receiver
Coronation Cup (horse racing) a race run the day after the Derby
Coronation Stakes (horse racing) a race run during Royal Ascot
corps à corps (fencing) bodily contact between two fencers [French corps à corps, “body to body”]
corridor of uncertainty (cricket) the area just outside the off stump of a batsman, where he is unsure what kind of stroke to play or whether to play one at all
Cottagers (association football) nickname of the English club Fulham [from their home ground at Craven Cottage]
Cotton Bowl (American football) an annual college football game played since 1937 in Dallas, Texas, matching teams from the Big Twelve Conference and Southeastern Conference
Cougars (rugby league) short name of the English club Keighley Cougars
count (baseball) a tally of the number of balls and strikes that have been thrown during an at bat; (boxing) the counting up to ten seconds by the referee when a boxer is down on the canvas, after which a win to his opponent by a knockout is declared
countback (general) a method of determining a winner in a contest when two competitors have an equal score by taking their overall performance into account
counter (boxing) an attack made immediately after an opponent throws a punch; (curling) a stone in the house that could be worth a point at the completion of the end; (fencing) a parry in which one foil immediately follows the other; (ice skating) a figure in which the body is revolved in a direction opposite to that in which it was previously being revolved
counter play (American football) an offensive play in which the player carrying the ball moves in the opposite direction to the other players
counterpunch (boxing) fuller term for a counter
country (cricket) another term for the outfield
country club (general) a club in a rural area with facilities for sports such as golf, swimming, and tennis, as well as leisure and social activities
County (association football) (1) short name of the English clubs Notts County and Stockport County; (2) short name of the Scottish club Ross County
County Championship (cricket) an annual contest by county cricket teams, first officially held in 1890
county cricket (cricket) the sport as played between first-class teams representing the 18 historical British counties of Derbyshire, Durham, Essex, Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Kent, Lancashire, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire, Somerset, Surrey, Sussex, Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Yorkshire
county ground (cricket) the home ground of a club of county cricket players
county match (cricket) a match between county cricket teams
coup (billiards) the act of striking a ball so that it goes into a pocket without hitting another ball [French coup, “blow”]
Coupe Aéronautique Gordon Bennett (ballooning) the sport's most prestigious trophy, named for the U.S. newspaper editor James Gordon Bennett, Jr. (1841–1918) and awarded since 1906 for the furthest distance traveled from the launch site [French Coupe Aéronautique, “Aeronautical Cup”]
coupon (general) a printed betting form on which to enter forecasts of sports results, as especially a football coupon
course (general) the ground or area over which a race is run or a game played, as a golf course; (horse racing) shortening of racecourse
course and distance (horse racing) (of) a measure for calculating a horse's performance on a particular course and in a race over the same distance
course management (golf) the manner in which a player adapts his game to the demands of a particular course
course specialist (horse racing) a trainer or jockey with a good record in races at a named racecourse
court (general) a walled or marked-off area in which a sport is played, as a squash court or tennis court
court game (general) a game played in a walled court, such as fives, squash, or real tennis
court player (handball) a player other than the goalkeeper
court tennis (sport) another term for real tennis [so named for distinction from lawn tennis]
cover (cricket) shortening of cover point; (horse racing) of a stallion, to copulate with a mare
cover drive (cricket) a drive by a batsman that goes through the cover area
cover point (cricket) a fielding position on the off side between point and mid-on; (lacrosse) a defensive player just in front of point whose role is to mark the opponents’ second home
cover shot (darts) a throw at another high number when the treble 20 bed is obscured by a dart or darts already thrown
cover tackle (rugby union) a tackle by a player running across the field behind his teammates on a player who has broken through the defensive line
covers (cricket) a comprehensive term for cover point and extra cover; (general) a waterproof covering spread over a playing area such as a cricket pitch or tennis court to protect it from rain
cow corner (cricket) colloquial term for the area of the field near the boundary on the leg side between deep midwicket and long on [an area where fielders are rarely positioned and so where cows can graze during a game of village cricket]
cow shot (cricket) colloquial term for a slog to the leg side in the direction of cow corner
cowabunga! (surfing) a surfer’s cry of exhilaration when riding the crest of a wave [a meaningless exclamation originating on The Howdy Doody TV show in the 1950s]
cowboy (rodeo) a performer in the sport
Cowboys (American football) short name of the Dallas Cowboys team
Cowes Week (sailing) a week of competitive racing held annually at Cowes, Isle of Wight, England, since 1826
cox (rowing) the steersman who sits opposite stroke and gives instructions during a race [shortening of coxswain]
coxed four (rowing) a boat with four rowers and a cox
coxed pair (rowing) a boat with two rowers and a cox
coxless four (rowing) a boat with four rowers and no cox, the steering being done by the bowman with rudder lines attached to his shoes
coxless pair (rowing) a boat with two rowers and no cox
coxswain (rowing) formal term for a cox [from cock, “boat,” and swain, “servant”]
Coyotes (ice hockey) short name of the Phoenix Coyotes team
crackback (American football) an illegal tackle in which a receiver blocks a linebacker or defensive back by crashing into him at knee level
craddle (bowls) a delivery grip in which the bowl is held in the palm with the fingers close together and the thumb just below the disc on the side of the bowl; (cricket) a device for practicing close fielding in the form of a bowl-shaped structure that deflects a ball thrown into it; (lacrosse) a gentle rocking action that keeps the ball near the edge of the netting in the crosse as the player runs with it
craddle back drop (trampolining) a half-twist to a back drop
crampon (mountaineering) a spiked metal attachment on a climbing boot that provides a grip on snow and ice
crash and dash (skiing) a timed run between two points on a piste
crash ball (rugby union) the taking or making of a pass by a player at the moment he receives a tackle from the front
crash dive (trampolining) a three-quarter forward somersault with the body fully extended during its descent to the bed
crash mat (athletics, gymnastics) a thick mattress used to absorb the impact of landing after a jump or other aerial maneuver
crash out (general) to be eliminated unexpectedly or dramatically from a contest [as literally in auto racing]
crash tackle (association football) a vigorous tackle
Craven Cottage (association football) the home ground of Fulham football club, London
crawl (swimming) a high-speed stroke with alternate rotation of the arms from the shoulder and rapid kicks of the legs
crazy golf (golf) a form of putting in which the ball has to be maneuvered over or through a range of obstacles to reach the central hole
cream-puff hitter (baseball) colloquial term for a weak or ineffective batter
crease (cricket) a line that regulates the positions of the bowler and batsman at the wicket; (ice hockey, lacrosse) an area marked out in front of the goal
creeper (cricket) a ball that travels low along the ground after being delivered by the bowler [it does not bounce up as expected but “creeps” beneath the bat]
crew (general) a team of people giving technical support to a competitor, as in rally driving; (rowing) the oarsmen (and cox, where appropriate) in a racing boat; (sailing) the body of people (or the sole person) manning a boat or yacht

**Cricket** (sport) a game played with bat and ball by two teams of 11 players on a marked-out pitch, the object of the batsmen being to score as many
runs as possible and that of the bowler and fielders to dismiss the batsmen as soon as possible
cricket bag (cricket) a type of long bag for carrying a player’s bat and other equipment
cricket ball (cricket) the hard, red ball covered in polished leather that is delivered by the bowler to the batsman and caught or retrieved by the fielders
cricket bat (cricket) the long, flat-sided, wooden implement with which the batsman strikes the ball
cricket club (cricket) an established club of cricketers [typically in the names of county cricket teams, as Surrey Cricket Club]
cricket ground (cricket) the field with a central pitch where cricket is played
cricket match (cricket) a match between two teams
cricket pads (cricket) the pads worn by batsmen
cricket pitch (cricket) the central pitch on the field where the game is played
cricket stumps (cricket) the three stumps (with bails) that form the wicket
cricketetana (cricket) publications or other items concerned with cricket
cricketet (cricket) a person who plays cricket, whether for pleasure or professionally
criterium (cycling) a race consisting of a series of laps over public roads [French critérium, “test”]
critical area (lacrosse) the area immediately in front of the goal
critical point (skiing) another name for the k point
crocodiles (handball) popular name of Australia’s national men’s team [from the reptile native to the country]
Croke Park (Gaelic football) the stadium in Dublin, Ireland, that is the venue for the All-Ireland finals and other important matches
Croker (Gaelic football) local nickname for Croke Park
crooked number (baseball) colloquial term for any number other than 0 or 1 on the scoreboard [all such numbers have more complex figures]
croquet (croquet) a shot in which the striker places his ball in contact with the ball that it struck in a croquet and now strikes it so that it drives the other ball away; (sport) a game on a lawn for two or four players who compete to hit balls with mallets though hoops to a central peg [said to be dialect form of French crochets, from crochet, “hook”]
croquet ball (croquet) one of the colored wooden balls with which croquet is played
croquet hoop (croquet) one of the six hoops through which balls are driven
croquet lawn (croquet) a lawn on which croquet is played
croquet shot (croquet) fuller term for a croquet

cross (association football) a transverse pass, especially when made to the area in front of the opponents’ goal; (boxing) a straight punch delivered from the side; (gymnastics) a position on the rings in which the body is held rigid and the arms extended horizontally
cross-batted (cricket) (of) a shot played with the bat horizontal
cross-body ride (wrestling) another term for grapevine
cross-buttock (wrestling) a throw in which the hip is used to throw the opponent off his balance
cross-country (equestrianism) an event that simulates riding through open country, including jumps; (general) the crossing of open country, avoiding roads, either for exercise or as a competitive race
cross-country running (athletics) a foot race across sections of countryside, with obstacles such as hedges, ditches, and stiles
cross-country skiing (skiing) a race across sections of countryside, as in Nordic skiing
cross-court (table tennis) (of) a shot hit diagonally from one corner of the table to the other; (tennis) (of) a shot hit diagonally across the court
cross-fire (shooting) firing at a rival’s target in error
cross-foot spin (ice skating) a spin performed on the flat of the blades with the legs crossed
cross-handed grip (golf) a grip with the right hand below the left (for a right-handed player)
cross-training (general) (1) training in different sports in order to improve one’s skills and performance in one’s main sport; (2) a form of fitness training that alternates in a single session between exercises using gymnasium equipment and aerobics
crossbar (general) the horizontal bar across a pair of goal posts
crosscheck (ice hockey, lacrosse) an offense in which a player holds up his stick with both hands and pushes it across an opponent’s body
crosse (lacrosse) the playing stick, with a pocket at the top end for catching, carrying, and throwing the ball
crossfield (association football) (of) a long pass made sideways
crossing (rugby union) an illegal move in which a player crosses in front of the player carrying the ball, thus preventing the defensive team from making a tackle
crosskick (association football) a kick of the ball across the field
crossline (angling) a fishing line stretched across a stream with a number of hooks attached
crossover (ice skating) a basic move in which one skate is crossed over the other when turning a corner and increasing speed
crossover dribble (basketball) a dribble made first with one hand then the other
crouch (athletics) shortening of crouch start
crouch start (athletics) a position adopted with the knees bent at the start of a race
crown (general) a reward or honor accorded the winner of a championship or other contest
crown bowls (bowls) bowls played on a crown green
crown green (bowls) a green that is larger than that used for lawn bowls and that slopes gently upward from the sides to a central “crown”
Crows (Australian Rules) short name of the Adelaide Crows team
 Crucible (snooker) the theater in Sheffield, England, where the world championship is held
 Crucifix (gymnastics) another name for the cross
cruiser (boxing) a cruiserweight boxer
cruiserweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 86kg (190lb)
crush stroke (croquet) an illegal stroke made when a mallet touches a ball that is in contact with a peg or hoop, other than playing it away
Cruyff turn (association football) a move to lose a tracking opponent in which the player pretends to pass the ball but instead drags it back, turns his body, and runs in the opposite direction [introduced by the Dutch player Johann Cruyff (1947–)]
Cubs (baseball) short name of the Chicago Cubs team
cue (billiards, snooker) a long tapered wooden rod with a leather tip, used to strike the ball [French queue, “tail”]
cue ball (billiards, snooker) the ball struck by the cue so that it in turn strikes the object ball
cue extension (billiards, snooker) a shaft extension attached to a cue, used when a shot with a standard-length cue is not possible
cue tip (billiards, snooker) the leather tip of a cue
cuervo (gymnastics) a vault in the form of a handspring off the springboard, then a half-twist followed by a backward salto off the horse [introduced by the Cuban gymnast Jorge Cuervo in 1973]
Cultural Olympics (Olympics) an arts festival staged to complement the Olympic Games, first held at the 2000 Sydney Olympics and evolving from an educational enterprise initiated in 1929 by U.S. art patron and civic leader Samuel S. Fleisher (1871–1944)
Cumbrians (association football) nickname of the English club Carlisle United [from the country of Cumbria in which they are based]
cup (general) the trophy in the form of an ornamental cup awarded to a winner or champion; (golf) the plastic or metal casing lining a hole
cup (association football) shortening of Cup Final
cup final (general) the final and deciding match in a competition for a cup
Cup Final (association football) the match between the winners of the final of the FA Cup, held at Wembley
cup of coffee (baseball) colloquial term for a spell in the majors by a player who then returns to the minors
cup tie (general) one of a series of matches to decide the winner of a cup
cup-tied (association football) (of) a player ineligible to play for his club in a cup tie because he played for another club earlier in the competition; (general) (of) a player unable to play in a cup tie because he is injured or otherwise disallowed
cup winner (general) the winner of a cup, especially in a final
Cuppers (field hockey, rugby union) colloquial term for the annual intercollegiate matches at Oxford University, played for a cup [cup with the Oxford slang suffix -er]
cuppy (golf) (of) a ball in a “cup” or shallow depression in the ground
curl (American football) a pattern of play in which two receivers cross each other; (cricket) a ball delivered by a bowler that curves before or after pitching; (surfing) the part of a hollow wave that loops over as it breaks
curl pattern (American football) the route taken by a receiver when he runs up the field then turns back toward the line of scrimmage
curler (curling) a player of the sport
curling (sport) a game, played mainly in Scotland, in which each team slides a series of stones over the ice toward a target circle while aiming to dislodge the other team’s stones already in the circle
Curragh (horse racing) the center of the Irish horse-breeding industry in Co. Kildare, Ireland, with a course that hosts many important flat races, including the Irish Derby
Currie Cup (cricket, rugby union) the cup awarded to the winner of a series of matches between provincial teams in South Africa [presented in 1890 by Sir Donald Currie (1825–1909)]
Curtis Cup (golf) the cup awarded to the winner of the biennial tournament between amateur women’s teams from the U.S. and the U.K. and Ireland [donated in 1932 by the former U.S. amateur champions Harriot and Margaret Curtis]
curve (baseball) shortening of curveball
curveball (baseball) a ball thrown by the pitcher with a spin that gives it an arcing trajectory
curvet (equestrianism) an element of dressage in which the horse rears up then leaps forward on...
its hindlegs before its forelegs are lowered [Italian corveta, “little curve”]
cush (billiards, snooker) colloquial shortening of cushion
cushion (billiards, snooker) the padded lining of the inner side of the billiard table, from which the balls rebound
cusp (ice skating) the point in a turn when the skater moves from one edge of the skate to the other
custodian (association football) colloquial term for a goalkeeper
cut (American football) the regular sackings during pre-season practice of players deemed not fit enough to make the grade; (cricket) a shot on the off side, between cover and third man, made with the bat almost horizontal; (fencing) a stroke with the edge of the weapon rather than the point; (golf) (1) a stroke that deliberately makes the ball move from left to right in the air (for a right-handed player); (2) a reduction of the field in a tournament after a set number of rounds, so that only players with the better scores qualify to play in the final round; (tennis) a downward stroke, usually involving spin
cut and thrust (fencing) the use of both the edge and the point of the weapon
cut back (association football) to kick back sharply
cut fastball (baseball) another term for a cutter
cut in the ground (horse racing) (of) a course where the going is soft or yielding [so that the horse’s hooves imprint the turf]
cut line (squash) another term for the service line
cut-off man (baseball) a fielder who goes out to a long throw from the outfield before it reaches the infield
cut-over (fencing) an offensive disengage made over the opponent’s blade
cutback (surfing) a maneuver to change direction and head back toward the breaking part of the wave
cutter (baseball) a fastball with a late veer to one side; (cricket) a ball that turns sharply after pitching
cutting edge (fencing) the sharp edge of a saber
Cy Young Award (baseball) a trophy awarded to the outstanding pitcher in the major leagues, inaugurated in 1956 [commemorating the U.S. player Cy Young (1867–1955)]
cycle (baseball) a single, double, triple, and home run hit by a batter in a single game; (cycling) a bicycle
cycle race (cycling) a race of cyclists, as individuals or in teams
cycleball (sport) a modified form of association football in which the players, mounted on bicycles, maneuver the ball with their front wheels
cycling (sport) (1) the sport of racing on bicycles; (2) the riding of a bicycle for exercise or pleasure
cyclist (cycling) a participant in a cycle race
cyclo-cross (sport) cross-country racing on bicycles
D (association football) the semicircular area at the edge of the penalty box outside which players must stand when a penalty is being taken; (billiards, snooker) the semicircular area that adjoins the balk line at the bottom end of the billiard table; (field hockey) another name for the shooting circle [the areas have the shape of a capital “D”]
dab (cricket) a gentle deflection of the ball by the batsman to the off side
daffy (skiing) a maneuver in which an air-borne skier extends one leg forward and the other back
daily double (horse racing) a bet on the winners of two different races on one day of a meeting, with the stake and winnings from the first placed on the second
daisycutter (cricket) a ball bowled along the ground, or one that stays low after pitching
Dakar rally (auto racing) short name of the Paris-Dakar rally
Dale (association football) short name of the English club Rochdale
dam (greyhound racing) the mother of a greyhound; (horse racing) the mother of a foal
dan (martial arts) a grade of black belt [Japanese dan, “grade,” “step”]
dance floor (golf) colloquial term for the green [it is flat and smooth]
dancing (ice skating) shortening of ice dancing
dandy line (angling) a weighted fishing line with crosspieces at short intervals, each with a hook at either end
danger (horse racing) a horse seen as a possible threat to a likely winner
danger line (athletics) the distance a runner must go before overtaking a rival and winning a race
danger man (general) a player seen as posing a particular threat
danger position (wrestling) a position that places an opponent’s back at less than a right angle to the mat
dangerous play (association football) any play which is likely to injure another player, such as raising one’s leg to kick the ball from an opponent as he is running up for a header
dap (angling) to fish with a fly that bounces gently on the surface of the water
Dark Blues (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Dundee [from the color of the team’s shirts]
dark horse (horse racing) a horse whose racing form is not known
dart (darts) the small pointed missile thrown in darts
dartboard (darts) the circular target at which darts are thrown, with a bull worth 50 points and 20 numbered segments, each containing two beds
dartist (darts) a player of the game [perhaps a deliberate suggestion of artist]
dartitis (darts) colloquial term for the syndrome in which a player is unable to throw a dart properly or even at all
dartman (darts) a player of the game
darts (sport) an indoor game in which players take turns to throw three darts each at a dartboard with the aim of achieving a particular score
dash (athletics) former term for a sprint
Davis Cup (tennis) the cup awarded to the winner of an international tournament for men's teams first held in 1900 as a challenge match between Britain and the U.S. [donated by the U.S. player Dwight F. Davis (1879–1945)]
dead (general) (of) a ball that is not in play or temporarily inactive, either because it has gone outside the playing area or because a particular rule comes into effect; (golf) (of) a ball that is so close to the hole that a putt is regarded as unmissable; (table tennis) (of) a ball hit with no spin
dead ball (association football) a stationary ball ready to be played, as in a free kick or a corner; (cricket) a ball that is dead because it is in the hands of the wicketkeeper or bowler, it has been hit by a boundary by the batsman, or the batsman who hit it is out; (real tennis) a ball that is dead after a point is won or lost
dead-ball line (rugby league, rugby union) the line behind the goal line beyond which the ball is out of play
dead bat (cricket) a bat held by the batsman in such a way that the ball drops straight down on striking it
dead cert (horse racing) a horse regarded as certain to win a race
dead draw (bowls) a draw played with dead weight
dead end (bowls) an end that has to be replayed when the jack is hit off the rink
dead fish (baseball) a hit that at first travels fast but that then hits the ground and comes to a standstill
dead heat (general) an exact tie in a race
dead lift (weightlifting) a controlled raising of the barbell from the floor until the lifter is standing upright
dead weight (bowls) the delivery of a bowl that puts it right next to the jack or another bowl
dead wood (tenpin bowling) pins that have been knocked down and that lie in front of those still standing
deadbait (angling) a dead fish used as bait
Deaflympics (Olympics) short name of the World Games for the Deaf, a series of sporting events for deaf competitors on the lines of the Olympics [blend of deaf and Olympics]
death spiral (ice skating) in pair skating, a move in which the man spins the woman around him in a circle as she skates on one foot with her body almost horizontal to the ice
decathlete (Olympics) a competitor in a decathlon
decathlon (Olympics) a men's event consisting of 10 separate contests held on two consecutive days:
100 meters, long jump, shot put, high jump, and 400 meters on day one, 110-meter hurdles, discus, pole vault, javelin, and 1,500 meters on day two [Greek deka, “ten,” and athlon, “contest”]
decider (general) (1) a move or action in a game that proves decisive, as a goal in association football; (2) a final match or race in a series that determines the outcome
decision (boxing) the awarding of a fight in which there has been no knockout to the boxer with the greater number of points
deck (skateboarding) another term for a skateboard; (surfing) the top surface of the surfboard
deck cricket (cricket) a version of the game formerly played on shipboard in an area enclosed by netting
deck game (general) a game played in modified form on the deck of a passenger liner or other ship, as deck golf, deck quoits, or deck tennis
deck golf (golf) a form of the game played on deck
deck quoits (quoits) a form of the game played on deck
deck tennis (tennis) a form of the game played on deck
declaration (cricket) the action taken by the captain when he decides to declare
declare (cricket) to end an innings voluntarily before all 10 wickets have fallen, usually because the captain considers his batsmen have made enough runs; (horse racing) to notify the authorities that a trainer intends to enter a horse in a particular race
dedans (real tennis) (1) the open gallery at the end of the service side of the court; (2) the spectators who generally view the action through this [French dedans, “inside”]
dedicated matchday (association football) a day on which the players in a match donate a day’s wages to a named charity, their supporters also being encouraged to contribute
Dee (association football) short name of the Scottish club Dundee
deep (association football) well behind one’s teammates; (cricket) not close to the wickets
deep-water start (water skiing) a start in which the skier is pulled up out of the water by the boat while holding on to the handle of the tow rope
defender (general) (1) a player whose role is mainly defensive; (2) a reigning champion who seeks to maintain his title
defense (American football) the team that does not have possession of the ball at the start of a play; (boxing) an attempt by a reigning champion to defend his title in a contest; (general) the members of a team whose main role is to prevent the opposing team from scoring
defenseman (ice hockey, lacrosse) a player whose prime role is defensive
defensive back (American football) a player who begins the play away from the line of scrimmage and whose main role is to defend against passes
defensive end (American football) a defensive player who lines up at the end of the line of scrimmage
defensive wall (association football) fuller term for a wall
degree of difficulty (swimming) a measure, based on a mathematical formula, that indicates the difficulty of a dive
deke (ice hockey) a maneuver to deceive an opponent and so draw him out of his defensive position [Canadian shortening of decoy]
delivery (general) the throwing or bowling of a ball, as in cricket or bowls
demolition derby (auto racing) a race in which cars are deliberately crashed into one another, the winner being the last car left running
Devons (Australian Rules) short name of the Melbourne Demons team
demonstration sport (general) a sport staged at the Olympics or Commonwealth Games purely for demonstration purposes but subsequently often gaining official recognition, as basketball at the 1904 Olympics (included from 1936), baseball at the 1912 Olympics (included from 1978), and kabaddi at the 2010 Commonwealth Games
deny (association football) to prevent an opposing player or team from scoring a goal
derby (general) a race or sporting contest of any kind, especially when held between neighboring teams, as a match between Manchester City and Manchester United in association football [in a general sense so called from the Derby, but in the narrower sense said by some to come from a contest between two parish teams in Derby itself]Derby (greyhound racing) short name of the Greyhound Derby; (horse racing) (1) an annual race for three-year-old colts and fillies run at Epsom since 1780 [founded by Edward Stanley, 12th Earl of Derby (1752–1834)]; (2) short name of the Kentucky Derby
descender (mountaineering) a device for controlling a descent on a rope
desi (baseball) colloquial shortening of designated hitter
designated hitter (baseball) a tenth player named in the lineup to bat anywhere in the batting order instead of the pitcher
dewe (tennis) a level score of three points each (as if “forty-all”), when one of the sides must win two successive points to win the game [Old French deus (modern deus), “two”]
dewe court (tennis) the right side of the court, from which the serve is made and received at even-numbered points
dewe game (tennis) a game in which the score is level at dewe
Devil Rays (baseball) short name of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays team
devil-take-the-hindmost (cycling) a track race in which after a given number of laps the last to cross the finishing line drops out until only two are left to contest the final sprint
Devils (ice hockey) short name of the New Jersey Devils team
devil’s number (cricket) a score of 87 runs, regarded as unlucky by Australian cricketers [the number is 13 short of a century]devil’s own (darts) a score of 88 [from “Devil’s Own,” nickname of the Connaught Rangers (88th Foot), a British army regiment noted for their bravery in the Peninsular War]Devizes-to-Westminster Race (canoeing) an annual race of 125 miles along the Kennet and Avon Canal and Thames River from Devizes, Wiltshire, to Westminster, London
Devon (angling) shortening of Devon minnowDevon minnow (angling) an artificial fly that imitates a swimming minnow
Dewar Cup (shooting) the cup awarded to the winner of a rifle shooting contest between the United States and Britain, first held in 1909 [presented by Thomas Robert Dewar, 1st Baron Dewar (1864–1930)]diamond (association football) a diamond-shaped formation of four central midfielders behind two strikers; (baseball) (1) the diamond-shaped part of the field, marked off by the baselines; (2) the field itself; (pool) one of the diamond-shaped inlays on the top surfaces of cushions, used as reference points when playing doubles
diamond duck (cricket) a duck scored by a batsman who is out on the first ball of a match
Diamond League (athletics) a series of international athletic meetings first held in 2010
Diamond Sculls (rowing) the trophy first presented in 1844 to the winner of a race for single sculls at Henley Royal Regatta
Diamondbacks (baseball) short name of the Arizona Diamondbacks team
Diamonds (association football) (1) nickname of the Scottish club Airdrie United [from the red and white diamond shape on the team’s strip]; (2) short name of the Scottish club Rushden and Diamonds
dibble (angling) to dip the bait lightly in and out of the water
dibbly-dobblor (cricket) a slow ball with imparted spin
did not finish (auto racing) failed to complete the course
die (general) to flag or lag in a contest, especially one involving great effort, such as cycling
dig (cricket) colloquial term for an innings; (volleyball) a shot made with the hands clasped and the arms extended so that the ball is kept up in the air
dig pass (volleyball) a pass made with a dig
Dilscoop (cricket) a stroke in which the batsman goes down on one knee and ‘scoops’ the ball over the head of the wicketkeeper to send it straight to the boundary [introduced in 2009 by the Sri Lankan batsman Tillakaratne Dilshan]
dime defense (American football) a defensive formation involving six defensive backs [so called as it has more players than a nickel defense]
dimple (golf) one of the small depressions on a golf ball
ding (surfing) a hole in the bottom of a surfboard
dinged (American football) suffering concussion after being hit on the head in a tackle
dinger (baseball) colloquial term for a home run
dinghy (sailing) any small open boat
dink (general) to send the ball a short distance in a gentle arc
dip (athletics) a lunge for the finishing line in a race
dip-net (angling) a long-handled net for lifting up fish from the water
direct free kick (association football) a free kick, awarded after a foul or an offside, from which a goal can be scored without the ball being touched by another player (as distinct from an indirect free kick)
directeur sportif (cycling) the manager of a professional team [French directeur sportif, “sporting director”]
dirt (horse racing) shortening of dirt track
dirt bike (motorcycle racing) a motorcycle designed for riding on dirt tracks
dirt jumping (cycling) a discipline in BMX in which riders take off from dirt ramps and perform aerial tricks
dirt track (horse racing) a racetrack with an earth surface; (motorcycle racing) a racetrack with a surface of rolled cinders, brick dust, and the like
dirty air (auto racing) turbulent air from a car in front of another
discipline (general) a branch of sport, or an event in a sports contest
discus (athletics) (1) a heavy thick-centered disk thrown for throwing; (2) the field event in which it is thrown
disengage (fencing) to pass one’s sword over or under the opponent’s sword in order to change the line of attack
disgorger (angling) a device for extracting a hook from the throat of a fish
dish (baseball) another term for the plate; (basketball) to pass the ball
disk weight (weightlifting) one of the two rubber-coated metal disks of differing weight that are secured on the ends of a barbell to make it heavier
disk wheel (cycling) a wheel composed of a solid disk (rather than spokes) used in time trials and some track races
dismiss (cricket) to end the innings of a batsman or side so that he or they are out
dismount (gymnastics) the ending of a routine by leaving a piece of apparatus
disobedience (equestrianism) the misbehavior of a horse in an event, such as a refusal
disqualification (boxing) the elimination of a boxer from a contest because he has received three warnings from the referee
distance (boxing) (1) the range within which a boxer can strike his opponent; (2) the scheduled duration of a match; (fencing) the interval of space that must be kept between the two combatants; (horse racing) (1) the length of a race, measured in miles and furlongs; (2) a point 240 yards (220m) back from the winning post, which a horse must have reached when the winner finishes in order to run in a subsequent heat
distance jumping (water skiing) an event in which the skier is towed up and off a specially prepared ramp then travels through the air as far as possible
distance post (horse racing) a post marking the distance to the winning post
distance runner (athletics) an athlete who competes in middle-distance running or long-distance running
ditch (bowls) the shallow trough around a green or, in indoor bowls, at either end of the carpet
ditcher (bowls) a bowl that runs off or is knocked off the green into the ditch
dive (aquatics) an underwater exploration made with an aqualung or similar apparatus; (association football) a play in which a player throws himself to the ground in an archer’s bow position in an attempt to deceive the referee into believing he was tripped in an illegal tackle and should thus be awarded a penalty or free kick;
(boxing) a feigned knockout as a tactical move; (swimming) a swift, usually head-first, descent into the water
diver (aquatics, association football, swimming) a person who executes a dive
dividend (association football) a share in the payout from a football pool
diving (aquatics, swimming) the carrying out of dives
diving board (swimming) the springboard or platform from which a dive is made
division (association football) a group of teams within a league between which fixtures are arranged [in 2004 Division 1 became the Championship and Divisions 2 and 3 became Leagues 1 and 2]; (cricket) one of the two groups of nine teams introduced in the Pro40 League in 1999 and the County Championships in 2000; (general) a group of teams that compete in a contest, as between college eights in a bumping race
divot (golf) (1) a small piece of turf dug up by the head of a golf club during a stroke; (2) the hole left where the turf has been dug up in this way [apparently of Scottish origin]
DNF (auto racing) abbreviation of did not finish
dobler (cricket) shortening of dibly-doblber
dock start (water skiing) a start in which the skier is pulled onto the water by the boat while standing or sitting on a dock or pontoon
Dockers (Australian Rules) short name of the Fremantle Dockers team
doctor (angling) a type of hackled dry fly
dodgeball (sport) a game in which players form a circle and try to hit their opponents with a large ball, which they try to dodge
Dodgers (baseball) short name of the Los Angeles Dodgers team
dog (horse racing) a horse that is slow or difficult to handle
dog paddle (swimming) a simple stroke with alternate arm movements [like the front legs of a swimming dog]
dog racing (sport) another name for greyhound racing
dogfall (wrestling) a fall in which both wrestlers touch the ground together
Doggett’s Coat and Badge (rowing) the trophy awarded to the winner of an annual sculling race between newly qualified watermen on the Thames in London [founded in 1715 by Thomas Doggett, an Irish actor, who donated an orange-colored coat with a silver badge]
dogleg (golf) a hole with a bending fairway [in the shape of a dog’s leg]
dogs (sport) colloquial term for greyhound racing, especially as a betting sport
dogsled (sled dog racing) a sled pulled by a team of dogs
dohyo (sumo) the ring or marked area in which the wrestlers compete [Japanese dohyo, “sumo ring”]
doigté (fencing) the use of the fingers to manipulate the sword [French doigté, “fingered”]
dojo (martial arts) (1) a room or hall where instruction is given in various arts of self-defense; (2) an area of padded mats for this purpose [Japanese do, “way,” and jo, “place”]
doll (horse racing) a hurdle used as a barrier on a racecourse to exclude certain areas from use by riders [perhaps a form of dool, “boundary mark”]
dolly (cricket) a slow easy catch [from doll, as it is “child’s play”]
dolphin kick (swimming) an element of the butterfly in which the legs are held together and moved up and down by bending and straightening them at the knee
Dolphins (American football) short name of the Miami Dolphins team
dome (general) shortening of astrodome
domestic (general) (of) a contest between teams in their native country, not international
domestique (cycling) a rider who accompanies and supports a professional team in a road race [French domestique, “servant”]
Donald (mountaineering) a Scottish Lowland hill of 2,000ft or more [first listed by Percy Donald]
Doncaster (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Doncaster, South Yorkshire, England, the location of the St. Leger
donkey derby (general) a series of races by contestants mounted on donkeys
donkey drop (cricket) a slow ball bowled or hit so that it travels in a high arc
Dons (association football) (1) nickname of the Scottish club Aberdeen [perhaps shortening of Aberdonians, name of townsfolk]; (2) short name of the English club Milton Keynes Dons; (3) nickname of the English club Wimbledon [shortened form of the placename]
donut (auto racing) to spin a car by pulling on the handbrake [from the circular motion]; (parachuting in skydiving, a free fall formation in which team members form a hollow circle with linked arms; (tennis) colloquial term for a game score 6–0
Doonhamers (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Queen of the South [based in Dumfries, whose inhabitants talk of their home town as doon hame, “down (at) home”]
door (real tennis) the third gallery from the end of the service side or the second from the end of the hazard side [both galleries formerly had doors]
doosra (cricket) a leg break bowled with an apparent off-break action by a right-arm bowler [Hindi doosra, “the other one”]
dope (general) a drug illegally administered to an athlete or a racehorse
dope sheet (horse racing) a daily bulletin with details of the horses entered for a race and information on their past form
dormie (golf) a situation in matchplay in which a player is as many holes ahead of an opponent as there are holes left to play [perhaps related to Latin dormire, “to sleep,” as the player cannot lose even by going to sleep]
dormy (golf) another spelling of dormie
dorothy (cricket) colloquial term for a six [rhyming slang, from Dorothy Dix, the name adopted by the popular U.S. journalist Elizabeth Meriwether Gilmer (1861–1951)]
dot ball (cricket) a delivery from which no runs are scored [conventionally recorded by the scorer as a dot]
dot down (rugby league, rugby union) to make a perfuncory touchdown of the ball
double (association football) the winning of the Premiership and FA Cup in one season; (baseball) a hit that allows the batter to reach second base; (darts) a score of twice the usual amount, obtained when the dart lands in the outer bed of the dartboard; (horse racing) shortening of daily double; (pool, snooker) a shot in which the object ball rebounds off a cushion into the opposite pocket; (tennis) shortening of double fault; (trampolining) a double somersault
double axel (ice skating) an axel that incorporates two and a half turns in the air
double back (gymnastics) a move with two successive backflips
double blue (general) (1) a person who has twice won a blue; (2) the awards themselves
double bogey (golf) a score of two strokes over par for a hole, double that of a bogey
double century (cricket) a score of 200 runs by a batsman, double that of a century
double double (basketball) a feat of recording double figures in two categories in a game
double dribble (basketball) a dribble made with two hands or after stopping, both illegal
double eagle (golf) another term for an albatross
double fault (tennis) two successive faults in a service, causing the loss of a point
double full (trampolining) a backward somersault with double twist
double header (general) two games or matches played on the same day
double-leg tackle (wrestling) a move in which a wrestler grasps his opponent’s legs to bring him down
double play (baseball) a play that puts out two runners
double poling (skiing) using both ski poles at the same time, especially at a start
double pump (basketball) a feint in which a player attempts to deceive an opponent by pretending to shoot in mid-air before taking a shot
double scull (rowing) a two-manned boat in which each rower has a pair of sculls
double spare (skittles, tenpin bowling) the knocking down of all of the pins with one’s first ball [twice as good as a spare]
double steal (baseball) a play in which two baserunners each make a steal
double takeout (curling) a takeout that removes two stones from play
double team (basketball) the strategy of assigning two defenders to one attacker
double top (darts) a score of 40 made by a throw into the double ring of the segment numbered 20 at the top of the dartboard
double trap (shooting) in trapshooting, the simultaneous release of two targets at different heights and angles
double-wake cut (water skiing) an approach for a jump in which the skier gathers speed by twice crossing the wake of the boat
double wing (American football) an offensive backfield formation with two halfbacks located close to the line of scrimmage and just outside the ends
doubles (general) a game between two pairs of players, as typically in tennis
doughnut (auto racing, parachuting) another spelling of donut
down (American football) one of four consecutive periods of play during which a team must score or advance the ball 10 yards in order to retain possession; (boxing) (1) beaten because a part of the body other than the feet is touching the canvas; (2) beaten because helpless on the ropes; (3) beaten because judged unfit by the referee to continue
down-and-out (American football) a pass pattern executed by running downfield then making a 90-degree turn and running toward one of the sidelines
Down Royal (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse in Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland
down the line (association football) (of) a shot traveling parallel to and close to the side of the pitch; (shooting) another term for trapshooting; (tennis) (of) a shot traveling parallel to and close to the side of the court
down to the wire (horse racing) as far as the finishing post
downfield (general) in or toward the end of the field nearest the goal of the opposing team
downhill (skiing) a downhill race
Downpatrick (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Downpatrick, Co. Down, Northern Ireland
downstream gate (sailing) on a slalom course, a gate to be negotiated following the direction of the current
downswing (golf) the part of the swing in which the club is moving down toward the ball
downtown (basketball) colloquial term for the area beyond the three-point line
Doyenne, La (cycling) nickname of the Liège-Bastogne-Liège road race [French la doyenne, “the senior,” as the oldest of the one-day top-class races]
drabbling (angling) a manner of fishing for barbel with a rod and long line passed through a piece of lead
draft (auto racing, cycling) another term for slipstream
drag (snooker) the slightly delayed motion of the cue ball, caused by backspin, when struck just under the center
drag racing (auto racing) a race held over a straight quarter-mile as a test in acceleration, usually between two cars at a time
drag strip (auto racing) a course specially built or modified for drag racing
Dragon (sailing) a yacht of the International Dragon class, 8.88m (29.2ft) long
Dragons (rugby league) short name of the English clubs Catalans Dragons and Doncaster Dragons
dragshot (snooker) a shot that imparts spin to the ball
dragster (auto racing) a car specially built or modified for use in drag racing
dragway (auto racing) (1) a road or course used for drag racing; (2) the paved area of a drag strip
drail (angling) a piece of lead around the shank of the hook
drain (basketball) colloquial term for a clean shot through the basket

drain a putt (golf) another term for sink a putt
draw (American football) a running play disguised as a passing play; (archery) to pull back the bowstring and arrow ready to shoot; (bowls) a gentle delivery that makes the bowl curve toward the point aimed for; (cycling) a method of turning the canoe by making a stroke at right angles to the direction of travel; (cricket) another term for an inside edge; (curling) (1) the degree of curve in the trajectory of a stone; (2) a shot sufficiently weighty to reach the house; (general) (1) a game that ends with an equal score; (2) the random process used to assign opponents in a game or starting positions in a race; (golf) a stroke that purposely makes the ball move in the air from right to left (of a right-handed player) or from left to right (of a left-handed player); (horse racing) in flat racing, the randomly allocated position of a horse in the starting stalls; (lacrosse) the method of starting the women’s game in which the two centers balance the ball on the backs of their horizontally held sticks then toss it in the air as they pull the sticks up and away; (snooker) a stroke that makes the cue ball recoil after hitting another ball
draw stumps (cricket) to end a game by removing the wickets
draw weight (archery) the force required to pull back the bowstring to its maximum
drawn game (general) a game that ends in a draw
dream team (general) a perfect or ideally matched team
Dream Team (basketball) nickname of the U.S. national team that won gold at the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona
dress (angling) to prepare a fly for use on a hook
dressage (equestrianism) the performance of a horse in particular gaits and maneuvers in response to signals from the rider [French dressage, “training”]
dressing room (general) a changing room as a place where a team can discuss the game or the selection of players, be addressed by their manager or coach, and the like
dribble (general) a closely controlled gradual advancing of the ball by means of repeated movements of the hand or foot, as appropriate
dries (auto racing) tires, especially slicks, designed for use in dry-weather conditions
drift (auto racing) a controlled skid, used to negotiate bends
drill (association football) to kick the ball hard and straight, especially into the net
drive (American football) a sequence of plays by a team without losing possession; (badminton) a hard low shot over the net made with the racket horizontal; (basketball) a forceful advance toward the basket; (bowls) a fast, straight delivery that eliminates the bias; (cricket) a shot played with the bat held vertically so that the ball travels along the ground in front of the batsman; (golf) a powerful shot from the tee using a driver; (lacrosse) a fast, direct run for goal; (rowing) the action of pulling the oar through the water; (rugby union) a team’s pushing forward of a Maul; (table tennis, tennis) a fast, straight return delivered underarm
drive off (golf) to hit the ball from the tee
drive the green (golf) to hit the ball from a tee onto the green
drive-through penalty (auto racing) a penalty in which a driver must enter the pit lane, drive through it at the prescribed speed, then rejoin the race
driver (golf) a wooden-headed club used to hit the ball a long way, especially from the tee
driving iron (golf) an iron with an enlarged head used for tee shots when accuracy is required
driving range (golf) a place for golfers to practice their drives
drop (golf) the act of repositioning the ball from an unplayable position by letting it fall from one’s outstretched arm; (rugby league, rugby union) (1) shortening of drop goal; (2) shortening of drop kick
drop ball (association football) the dropping of the ball by the referee to restart play at the point where a game was temporarily suspended
drop fly (angling) an artificial fly attached to a leader above the tail fly
drop goal (rugby league, rugby union) a goal scored by means of a drop kick
drop in (skateboarding) to enter a half-pipe or obstacle from the top; (surfing) (1) to obstruct another surfer by starting to surf in his path; (2) to slide down the face of a wave immediately after takeoff
drop kick (rugby league, rugby union) a kick of the ball when it bounces from the ground after being dropped from the kicker’s hand; (wrestling) a kick made with both feet while jumping in the air
drop-knee (surfing) a turn with both knees bent and the trail leg crossed behind the lead leg
drop line (angling) a weighted line for fishing near the bottom of a river
drop one’s hands (horse racing) to relax one’s hold on the reins and allow the horse to coast home, an offense if done by miscalculation when crossing the finishing line
drop shot (badminton) a gentle shot from the baseline at the back of the court that just clears the net; (table tennis) a shot that falls just over the opponent’s side of the net; (tennis) a delicate shot that just clears the net and lands the other side of it
drop stroke (general) another term for a drop shot
drop volley (tennis) a gentle volley that just clears the net
dropout (rugby league) a drop kick to restart play after the ball has gone dead, taken from the center of the twenty-meter line; (rugby union) a drop kick to restart play after the ball has gone dead, taken from the center of the twenty-two meter line
dropped goal (rugby league, rugby union) another term for a drop goal
dropper (angling) another term for a drop fly
drops (cycling) the lower sections of the drop fly
drive-through penalty (auto racing) a penalty in which a driver must enter the pit lane, drive through it at the prescribed speed, then rejoin the race
driver (golf) a wooden-headed club used to hit the ball a long way, especially from the tee
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Dundalk (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland
dunk (basketball) a shot made by jumping up and pushing the ball down through the basket
dunker (basketball) a player who shoots a dunk
duster (baseball) a pitch aimed high in the direction of the batter
Dutch Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Zandvoort, Netherlands
Dutch 200 (tenpin bowling) colloquial term for a score of 200 points, achieved by bowling alternate strikes and spares
dyno (mountaineering) colloquial term for a vigorous leap for a distant hold [shortening of dynamic]
each way (horse racing) a bet for a win and a place

eagle (golf) a score of two strokes under par on a hole [a “bird” twice as impressive as a simple birdie]
Eagles (American football) short name of the Philadelphia Eagles team; (association football) nickname of the English club Crystal Palace [it can both “soar” and “swoop”]; (Australian Rules) short name of the West Coast Eagles team; (rugby league) short name of the English club Sheffield Eagles
eyearly bath (rugby league) colloquial term for an order to a player to leave the field after an infringement [he takes a bath in the changing room before the rest of the team]
earned run (baseball) a run conceded by a pitcher without the intervention of an error
earned run average (baseball) the number of earned runs conceded by a pitcher per nine innings pitched
earthworm (angling) the common worm used as bait
easy! (rowing) a command to stop rowing
easy all! (rowing) fuller form of easy!
Ebor (horse racing) an annual handicap run at York since 1843 [abbreviation of Eboracum, the Roman name of York]
ECB (cricket) abbreviation of England and Wales Cricket Board
echelon (cycling) a paceline in which the cyclists are arranged in a stepped formation to gain a slipstream effect [French échelon, from échelle, “ladder”]
eclectic (golf) a contest comprising a number of rounds played under strokeplay conditions, with each player selecting his lowest score at each hole
Eclipse Stakes (horse racing) an annual race run at Sandown Park since 1886 [named for the famous racehorse Eclipse (1764–1789)]
ecothon (general) a cross-country endurance race incorporating elements of running, mountain biking, kayaking, swimming, and abseiling [combination of eco-, denoting concern for the environment, and -thon, from marathon]
Edgbaston (cricket) the home ground of Warwickshire county cricket club, Birmingham
edge (cricket) to give a slight touch to the ball with the edge of the bat; (general) the edge of the board in a sport such as wakeboarding
edging (skiing) the technique of tilting the skis so that the edges dig into the snow, thus giving a better grip
egg position (skiing) another term for the tuck position
eggbeater (swimming) in synchronized swimming, a technique of treading water by rotating the legs, so keeping the body upright and the hands free
eggplant (snowboarding) a one-handed handplant through 180 degrees with the front hand planted on the lip of the wall and backside rotation
eight (rowing) a crew of eight rowers and a cox
eight-ball pool (pool) a form of the game played with 15 numbered object balls and a cue ball in which the black, numbered 8, is the last to be potted
eight-count (boxing) a count of eight seconds by the referee that a boxer who is down must take while the referee decides whether or not to continue the bout
800 meters (athletics) a foot race of the stated distance
eighteen (Australian Rules) a team of 18 players
eighteen-hole (golf) of a course having 18 holes (as is the norm)
eighteen-yard box (association football) another name for the penalty area [its extent in front of the goal]
egoats (rowing) a race between eights, especially those at Oxford University in Eights Week
Eights Week (rowing) the annual week in which bumping races between college eights are held at Oxford University
eightyfourth (golf) a round of golf played in 84 holes
Eisenhower Trophy (golf) the trophy awarded to the winner of a biennial international competition first held in 1958 [named for U.S. president Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890–1969)]
eisschisschien (sport) a German form of curling [German Eis, “ice,” and schiessen, “to shoot”]
elapsed time (auto racing) in drag racing, the time taken to cover the course from starting line to finishing line
ebelle (horse racing) a slight bend in a racecourse element (gymnastics) a move or maneuver in a routine
elevator (wrestling) a move in which a combatant
places his leg behind one of his opponent’s legs and raises it to throw him off balance
eleven (association football) a team of 11 players; (cricket) a team of 11 players
eligible receiver (American football) an offensive player, usually a back or a player on the end of the line of scrimmage, who is legally empowered to catch a pass
eliminator (general) a contest in which a competitor is eliminated, as from a bout in boxing
elite cyclist (cycling) a competent cyclist, especially one riding in a sponsored team
Elliott (sailing) a class of keelboat sailed by a crew of three [named for its New Zealand designer Greg Elliott]
Embassy Championship (darts) an annual championship first held in 1978 at Nottingham, now at Frimley Green, Surrey [name of sponsor]
Emirates Stadium (association football) the home ground of Arsenal football club, London [name of sponsors]
Empire Pool (swimming) a former swimming pool at Wembley, opened in 1934 for the Empire Games (the present Commonwealth Games) but closed after the 1948 Olympics
enclosure (horse racing) an area marked off for (specified) spectators at races, such as the Members’ Enclosure or the silver ring
end (American football) a player positioned at the extremity of the line of scrimmage; (archery) a group of (usually three) arrows shot in a single sequence [from one end of the range]; (bowls) a complete sequence of play in one direction [the bowls are delivered from one end of the green]; (curling) the completion of 16 stones [delivered from one end of the rink]; (general) one of the two halves of a playing area such as a court or field
end around (American football) an offensive play in which an end runs behind the line of scrimmage, is handed the ball, then continues running to the opposite side of the field
end run (American football) an attempt to run wide with the ball round the end of a defensive line rather than try to break through it
end zone (American football) the area behind the goal line into which the offensive team attempts to take the ball to score a touchdown
endo (gymnastics) a stalder in a forward position on the horizontal bar and asymmetric bars [introduced by the Japanese gymnast Yukio Endo (1937–2009)]; (motorcycle racing) a crash in which the rider and his bike flip end over end
endurance race (general) a race over a long-distance cross-country course
endurance riding (equestrianism) a test of a horse’s stamina over a long-distance cross-country course
enduro (auto racing, motorcycle racing) a long-distance cross-country race that tests the endurance of the vehicles rather than their speed [short form of endurance]
enforcer (ice hockey) an aggressive team player whose main role is not to score goals but to intimidate the opposition
en garde! (fencing) a command to fencers before a bout to assume a position from which they can either attack or defend [French en garde!, “on guard!”]
England and Wales Cricket Board (cricket) the administrative body of the game, both professional and recreational, in England and Wales
English (snooker) another term for side
English classics (horse racing) the five oldest and most important British flat races: the Two Thousand Guineas, One Thousand Guineas, Oaks, Derby, and St. Leger
English League (association football) another term for the Football League, distinguishing it from the Scottish League
En-Tout-Cas (tennis) proprietary name of a hard tennis court that can be used in all weathers [French en tout cas, “in any case”]
entry (swimming) the end point of a dive, when the swimmer enters the water
entry fee (horse racing) the fee paid to enter a horse in a race
épée (fencing) a narrow-bladed, sharp-pointed sword formerly used for dueling, now having a button on the end [French épée, “sword”]
Epsom (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Epsom Downs, near Epsom, Surrey, England, the location of the Derby, Oaks, and Coronation Cup
equalizer (association football) a goal that levels the score
equestrianism (sport) the riding and control of horses, involving such disciplines as dressage, showjumping, the three-day event, carriage driving, and endurance riding
équipe (general) a team and its equipment, especially in auto racing [French équipe, “team”]
Equirack (horse racing) proprietary name of a type of all-weather surface on a racecourse [perhaps blend of equi-, “equal,” and equine, “relating to horses,” with track]
ERA (baseball) abbreviation of earned run average
ergo (rowling) shortening of ergometer
ergometer (rowing) a land-based machine on which rowers can train and test themselves
error (baseball) an instance of a fielder failing to record an out
escape road (auto racing) a slip road off a circuit into which a car can be driven when failing to
negotiate a bend or otherwise running out of control

**Eskimo roll (canoeing)** a technique of using the paddle against the water to right a canoe or kayak that has tipped or rolled over [said to be the method used by Eskimos in kayaks]

**Eskimos (Canadian football)** short name of the Edmonton Eskimos team

**ET (auto racing)** abbreviation of elapsed time

**Eton field game (sport)** a form of association football played at Eton College [played in the field, as distinct from the Eton wall game]

**Eton fives (fives)** a form of fives played between doubles in a three-walled court [originally played between the buttresses of the chapel at Eton College]

**Eton wall game (sport)** a form of association football played against a wall at Eton College [played at a wall, as distinct from the Eton field game]

étrier (mountaineering) a small rope ladder used as a climbing aid [French étrier, “stirrup”]

**Europa League (association football)** the knockout competition that in 2009 replaced the UEFA Cup as a contest between European clubs finishing near the top of their domestic league

**European Champions’ Cup (association football)** the cup awarded to the champions in an annual competition played among European clubs since 1956

**European Championship (association football)** a championship competition played every four years among European clubs since 1960

**European Cup (association football)** short name of the European Champions’ Cup

**European Cup Winners’ Cup (association football)** the cup awarded to the winners of the main European domestic club competitions, first played in 1961 but discontinued in 1999, after which cup winners competed in an expanded UEFA Cup

**European Grand Prix (auto racing)** the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Valencia, Spain [so named for distinction from the Spanish Grand Prix]

**European Super Cup (association football)** the cup awarded to the winners of the Europa League and the European Champions’ Cup

**European Tour (golf)** an annual series of tournaments in European countries, now widened to include countries far outside Europe, as South Africa and Malaysia

**evening rise (angling)** the increased rise of trout to bait on a summer evening

**evens (horse racing)** a bet in which the amount staked is equal to the amount won if the horse wins

**event (equestrianism)** shortening of three-day event; (general) an item in a sporting contest

**eventing (equestrianism)** participation in a three-day event or equestrian events generally

**Everest of the sea (sailing)** nickname of the Vendée Globe

**exacta (horse racing)** alternate name for a perfecta [American Spanish quiniela exacta, “exact quinella”]

**execution (gymnastics)** the technical performance of an element or routine

**exercise bike (general)** a machine like a bicycle used for exercise in a gymnasium or in the home

**Exeter (horse racing)** a National Hunt racecourse at Kennford, near Exeter, Devon, England

**exhibition game (general)** a game played for instructional purposes or public entertainment

**Exiles (rugby union)** nickname of the club London Irish [formed in London as a club for Irishmen in 1898, following the earlier London Scottish (1878) and London Welsh (1885)]

**expansion bolt (mountaineering)** a bolt that expands inside a hole or crack in a rock face to provide a firm support

**expansion club (American football, basketball)** a club that has bought a franchise from a professional league so that it can now start to buy players from other teams

**expedite rule (table tennis)** a rule, applied in a long game, that obliges the server to win each rally within a given number of strokes or else forfeit the point to the receiver

**explosion shot (golf)** a shot that sends the ball in a high trajectory out of a bunker by striking the sand behind the ball with a strong swing of the club

**explosive ability (American football)** the ability of a running back to use strength, speed, and agility to dodge or ram through the defensive line in order to gain a touchdown

**Expos (baseball)** short name of the Montreal Expos team

**exposed (horse racing)** having a well-known racing form, unlike a dark horse

**exposing (wrestling)** a scoring variant in which points are won for exposing an opponent’s back to the mat at an angle of 90 degrees or more

**exposure (mountaineering)** the insecurity or precariousness of a position taken by a climber

**extension (horse racing)** the lengthening of a horse’s stride at a particular pace; (snooker) a section added to the end of a cue or inserted in the middle (of a two-piece cue) to increase its length when a shot with a standard cue is impossible

**extra (cricket)** a run scored from a bye, leg bye, wide or no-ball rather than by hitting the ball and then running

**extra cover (cricket)** a fielding position on the off side between cover and mid-off
extra innings (baseball) additional innings played to decide the winner if a game is tied after nine innings.

extra point (American football) a point scored after a touchdown by snapping the ball from the two-yard line and kicking it through the goalposts.

extra time (general) time added at the end of a game or match to produce a decisive result when there is a tie at the normal finishing time.

extreme fighting (sport) another name for ultimate fighting.

extreme sport (general) an unconventional sport, often a variant of a conventional one, that potentially exposes participants to danger, such as free running (from running).

f (horse racing) abbreviation of furlong (or furlongs) in racing reports.

FA (association football) abbreviation of Football Association.

FA Cup (association football) the cup awarded to the winners of the knockout competition for professional English clubs, inaugurated by the Football Association in 1871.

face-off (ice hockey) the procedure for starting or restarting play in which a linesman drops the puck between two opposing players; (lacrosse) the procedure for starting or restarting play in the men’s game by which the ball is placed between the crosses of the players as they squat down, the aim being to capture it or fling it to a player on the same side.

fade (golf) a stroke that deliberately causes the ball to move from left to right in the air (for a right-handed player) or from right to left (for a left-handed player).

façadeaway (basketball) a shot taken while leaning or falling away from the basket.

fail (athletics) to be unsuccessful in clearing the bar at a given height in the high jump or pole vault.

fair ball (baseball) a ball hit between the baselines into the field of play.

fair catch (American football) an unopposed catch by a member of the team receiving a punt or kickoff.

fair goal (American football) a score of three points gained by kicking the ball through the goalposts of the opposing team.

fair play (general) the principle of playing or participating in a sport according to the rules.

faire Fanny (pétanque) to lose a game 13–0 [French faire Fanny, “to do a Fanny,” from a legend that a French barmaid named Fanny allowed members of the losing team to kiss her as a consolation prize].

fairway (golf) the closely mown area of turf between the tee and the green, as distinct from the uncut rough or hazards.

daywood (golf) a wood other than a driver, used for shots from the fairway.

Fairyhouse (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse in Co. Meath, Ireland, the location of the Irish Grand National.

fake (general) a misleading movement to trick an opponent.

Fakenham (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Fakenham, Norfolk, England.

fakie (skateboarding, snowboarding, water skiing) a move in which the boarder rides backwards [origin uncertain].

Falcons (American football) short name of the Atlanta Falcons team; (rugby union) short name of the English club Newcastle Falcons.

fall (cricket) the loss of a wicket; (wrestling) (1) another term for a bout; (2) a throw that keeps an opponent on the mat for a particular time.

Fall Classic (baseball) colloquial term for the World Series.

fall guy (association football) jocular name for a player executing a dive.

fall line (skiing) the natural line of a route down a slope; (surfing) the line of fastest descent to the base of a wave [a term borrowed from geography, where it denotes the zone of falls and rapids between an upland region and a plain].

faller (horse racing) a horse that falls at a fence or hurdle and fails to complete the race.

falling leaf (association football) a long-range shot that sends the ball into a curving aerial trajectory.

false start (general) a start to a race made ahead of the official signal and therefore invalid.

fan (baseball) another term for strike out [the batter ineffectually “fans” his bat at a ball].

fancy (horse racing) to select a horse as the likely winner of a race; (general) a dated term for enthusiasts of a particular sport, especially originally boxing or horse racing [the word fancier is still current for a breeder of distinctive varieties, as of cats or pigeons].

fanny dipper (surfing) a surfer’s nickname for an ordinary swimmer [who merely “dips his fancy” in the water].

fantasy cricket (cricket) a competition on the lines of fantasy football but with cricketers instead of footballers.

fantasy football (association football) a competition in which entrants select an ideal team of real players from different clubs and score points according to the actual performance of those players for their respective clubs.

Far Eastern Games (Olympics) regional games held from 1913 to 1950 for competitors from China, Japan, and the Philippines.

far post (association football) the goalpost that is farthest from the ball at a given moment.
farm (cricket) to contrive, as a batsman, to receive most of the bowling

farm team (baseball) a minor league team that provides players as needed to a major league team

fartlek (athletics) a method of training for marathons and long-distance running in which bursts of fast running alternate with slower spells [Swedish fart, “speed,” and lek, “play”]

fast bowler (cricket) a bowler who usually bowls at a fast pace

fast break (basketball) an attempt to score by moving the ball forward quickly after gaining possession

fast leg theory (cricket) another name for bodyline bowling

fast side (association football) the shortest distance, as the goalkeeper sees it, for the ball to travel from a player toward or into the net

fast suit (swimming) another term for a bodysuit

fastball (baseball) a delivery from the pitcher thrown at maximum speed

Fastnet Cup (sailing) the cup awarded to the winner of a biennial race from Cowes, Isle of Wight, to the Fastnet Rock, off the southwest coast of Ireland, and back to Plymouth.

fat (golf) striking the ground before the ball, so that it does not travel far

fault (billiards, snooker) a failure to hit the correct ball, incurring a penalty point; (equestrianism) in showjumping, an error in performance, such as disobedience, that incurs a penalty point; (tennis) a serve that fails to land the ball within the service court

fault line (real tennis) the line parallel to the main wall in the hazard end which, with the service line at right angles to it, marks the area into which the server must send the ball

favorite (horse racing) the horse expected to win a race and which thus attracts the most bets

FC (association football) abbreviation of football club, as in the names of such clubs

feather (angling) a crudely made artificial fly resembling a small fish; (boxing) shortening of featherweight; (cricket) to strike the ball lightly with the edge of the bat; (rowing) to turn the oars parallel to the water when swinging them forward in order to reduce wind resistance; (snooker) (1) to run the cue back and forth across the bridge between finger and thumb while preparing a shot; (2) to touch the cue ball unintentionally while doing this

featherweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 57kg (126lb); (horse racing) the lightest weight that may be carried by a horse

feature race (horse racing) a steeplechase that prepares horses for a championship race

Fed Cup (tennis) the cup awarded to the winners of an international women’s team championship held from 1963 [inaugurated by the International Lawn Tennis Federation]

Federation Cup (tennis) former name of the Fed Cup

feed (general) in field games, to pass the ball to another player; (rugby league, rugby union) another term for a put-in

feeding station (cycling) a point in a road race where riders can pick up food and drink

feet (field hockey) the infringement that occurs when the ball comes into contact with the player’s foot

feint (boxing) the faking of a punch with the intention of disorientating one’s opponent; (fencing) a deceptive movement made to trick one’s opponent into changing his tactics

fence (equestrianism, horse racing) a structure (of varying design) for a horse to jump

fencer (horse racing) a horse trained to jump fences

fencing (sport) (1) the sport of attack and defense with a sword; (2) this sport as an element of the modern pentathlon in the Olympics

Fenway Park (baseball) the home ground of the Boston Red Sox team in Boston, Massachusetts

ferret (cricket) colloquial term for a poor batsman [he is sent in after a rabbit]

fevvers (darts) a score of 33 [said to derive from “Firty-free fahsand fevvers on a frush’s froat,” a Cockney pronunciation of “Thirty-three thousand feathers on a thrush’s throat”]

Ffos Las (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse in southwestern Wales

field (athletics) shortening of field events; (baseball, cricket) (1) the arrangement of the fielders; (2) collective term for the fielders themselves; (cycling) another term for a peloton; (general) (1) an enclosed area of grass or other ground marked out for playing a field game; (2) all the competitors or participants in a contest or sport; (3) all such competitors except a specified one; (horse racing) collective term for the horses in a race

field archery (archery) a form of the sport in which competitors move along a path aiming at targets (sometimes designed to look like animals), as distinct from target archery

field event (athletics) any event other than a race, such as the high jump, shot put, or discus

field game (general) a game played on a field or pitch, such as association football, field hockey, or rugby union
field general • fins

**field general** (American football) another term for a quarterback

**field goal** (American football) a score of three points made by kicking the ball through the goalposts, usually on the fourth down; (basketball) a goal scored from normal play, rather than from a free throw; (rugby league) another term for a drop goal

**field hockey** (sport) a field game played between teams of 11 players each who use sticks to hit the ball toward (and into) the goal of their opponents [as distinct from ice hockey]

**field judge** (American football) a member of the officiating team, positioned downfield of the line of scrimmage

**field player** (field hockey) a player other than the goalkeeper

**field sports** (general) outdoor pursuits traditionally associated with the English aristocracy and involving animals, such as hunting, shooting, and fishing [field in the sense “rural”]

**fielder** (baseball, cricket) a player who catches or stops (and returns) the ball, as a member of the side that is not batting; (horse racing) a person who backs the field against the favorite

**fielder’s choice** (baseball) a play in which a fielder allows a batter to reach first base but a baserunner ahead is put out

**fielding** (baseball, cricket) playing in the field, as distinct from batting

**fieldsman** (baseball, cricket) a dated alternate name for a fielder

**Fiesta Bowl** (American football) the bowl in Phoenix, Arizona, where a college football national championship is contested

**FIFA** (association football) the world governing body of association football, formed in 1904 [abbreviation of French Fédération Internationale de Football Association, “International Federation of Association Football”]

**Fifers** (association football) nickname of the Scottish club East Fife

**fifteen** (rugby union) a team of 15 players

**fifteen-all** (tennis) a level score of one point each

1,500 meters (athletics) a foot race of the stated distance

**fifteen-love** (tennis) a score of one point to nil to the server

50-meter arc (Australian Rules) a semicircular line around the goal at each end of the pitch

**fight-off** (fencing) a contest to decide a tie

**fighting weight** (boxing) the specified weight or weight range within which a boxer must come to be eligible to fight in a particular class

**figure** (ice skating) a movement or set of movements that follow a prescribed pattern and that often begin and end at the same point

**figure eight** (equestrianism) a dressage exercise in which the horse traces two connected circles, one clockwise, the other anticlockwise

**figure floating** (swimming) the forming of set patterns by swimmers floating in the water

**figure of eight** (general) the tracing of the outline of a figure “8,” as by a skater in ice skating

**figure skater** (ice skating) a skater who executes figures

**figure skating** (ice skating) the execution of figures

**Filberts** (association football) nickname of the English club Leicester City [from the team’s home ground, Filbert Street, Leicester]

**fill the bases** (baseball) alternate term for load the bases

**filly** (horse racing) a female horse under the age of four

**final** (general) the deciding heat or game in a contest

**final whistle** (association football) the whistle that ends the game, usually at full time

**find the back of the net** (association football) to score an accurate goal

**find the net** (association football) to score a goal

**find the open man** (basketball) to pass the ball to a player who is unmarked and so in a better position to receive it than others

**find water** (golf) to hit the ball into a water hazard, obliging the player to take a drop

**fine leg** (cricket) a fielding position on the leg side boundary at a more acute angle to the batsman than long leg

**finesses** (croquet) a strategic move in which a player apparently wastes a turn in order to gain a future advantage

**finger tab** (archery) a piece of leather worn on the finger to prevent injury when releasing an arrow

**finish** (general) (1) the end of a sporting contest; (2) the point where a race ends; (rowing) the final stage of a stroke, when the blade is brought out of the water

**finish line** (athletics) alternate form of finishing line

**finish straight** (auto racing) the straight section of track where the grid is and where races end

**finisher** (auto racing) a middle order batsman whose tactical skills help his side score a winning innings

**finishing line** (general) the line marking the end of a race

**finishing post** (horse racing) the post marking the end of a race

**Finn** (sailing) a class of single-handed dinghy [originated in Helsinki, Finland, in 1952]

**fins** (surfing) small vertical projections on the underside of the surfboard that aid stability; (water skiing) small projections located on the underside
of some skis that aid stability and help the skier make sharp turns
fire (bowl) to make a fast direct shot aimed simply to displace the bowls of one’s opponent; (cricket) the tendency of a bowled ball to fly up erratically
firing line (shooting) the line from which competitors shoot
firm (association football) a group of militant supporters, especially of a team in a derby; (horse racing) a category of going
first base (baseball) the first of the bases to which a batter must run, situated on the right side of the infield as viewed from home plate
first baseman (baseball) the fielder positioned near first base
first change (baseball) the third bowler brought on in an innings after one of the original two is changed
first-class (cricket) played between county cricket teams
first cut (golf) the area of rough with quite short grass bordering the fairway
first down (American football) the first in a series of four downs which a team must make to retain possession of the ball
first eleven (cricket) the best eleven to represent a school, college, or the like
first half (general) the half of a game or match before half time
first home (lacrosse) the first of the three homes positioned near the goal of the opposing team and usually acting as the main goalscorer
first pitch (baseball) a ceremonial opening pitch made at the start of a season or game and often thrown by an honored guest, as traditionally by the U.S. president currently in office.
first service (tennis) the first service of the two allowed at the start of a game
first slip (cricket) the nearest of the slips to the wicketkeeper
first touch (association football) a player’s initial contact with a pass or cross
fish and glove (darts) a score of 45 [said to derive from a fairground game in which a score of 45 would win the player a goldfish in a jar]
fish the water (angling) to place a fly in a likely spot for a bite or catch rather than make a cast to a particular fish
fisherman (angling) an everyday term for an angler fishing (sport) the everyday term for angling
fishing line (angling) the fine strong nylon filament used in a fishing rod
fishing net (angling) a net used for catching fish or lifting them out of the water when caught
fishing rod (angling) a long slender rod to which a line is fastened for catching fish
fishing tackle (angling) the equipment such as rods, lines, and nets used for catching fish
fistiana (boxing) colloquial term for anecdotes about boxers and the sport in general
fisticuffs (boxing) facetious term for the sport
fitness walker (athletics) a person who walks for exercise or pleasure (or both)
five (basketball) a team of five players
five-a-side (association football) a form of the game played, usually indoors and with a smaller pitch than usual, between teams of five players on each side [created in Uruguay in 1930 and now more popular than the traditional 11-a-side game]
five-eighth (rugby league) alternate term in Australia and New Zealand for a standoff [positioned between the scrum half (as if “four-eighth”) and the center three-quarter (as if “six-eighth”)]
five-fer (cricket) the taking of five wickets by a bowler for a given number of runs [respelling of five for (so many runs), based punningly on the name of the U.S. movie actress Michelle Pfeiffer (1958––)]
five-love (tennis) colloquial shortening of fifteen-love
five-meter line (rugby union) the line five meters in from the touchline behind which the lineout forms
Five Nations (rugby union) name of the Six Nations until 2000, when Italy joined
501 (darts) a popular form of the game in which players start at this figure and deduct all scores from it, aiming to reduce the starting score to exactly zero
5,000 meters (athletics) a long-distance race of the stated length run over 12.5 laps
five-yard line (rugby union) another term for the five-meter line
fives (sport) a game similar to squash played with a gloved hand in a walled court [said to refer to the five fingers of the hand but really of uncertain origin]
fivesome (golf) a game for five players
fixed odds (horse racing) a bet with odds that are predetermined, as distinct from the starting price
fixed rope (mountaineering) a rope anchored to a route by the lead climber and left for those following
fixed-wheel (cycling) (of) a rear wheel with no free-wheel so that the wheel and pedals turn together
fixture (general) a date fixed for a sporting event such as a match or race
fizzer (cricket) a fast and possibly wayward ball delivered by the bowler
flag (American football) a marker thrown by a member of the officiating team to denote the oc-
currence of an infringement; (general) a flag deployed by an official to convey immediate information, as the start of a race, an offside in association football, or a shot in shooting; (golf) a flag marking the location of a hole

flagman (polo) an official who signals a goal by waving a flag

flagstick (golf) another term for a flag

flair (gymnastics) a move performed on the pommel horse or floor in which the gymnast swings his open legs in front of or behind his arms, with only his hands touching the horse or floor

Flames (ice hockey) short name of the Calgary Flames team

flamingo (swimming) in synchronized swimming, a position in which one leg is extended perpendicular to the surface while the other is drawn up to the chest

flamme rouge (cycling) a red flag marking the point 1 km from the finish of a road race or stage [French flamme rouge, “red flame”]

flanconade (fencing) a thrust in the side [French flanconade, from flanc, “side”]

flank (general) another term for the wing

flank back (rugby union) another term for a flanker

flank forward (rugby union) another term for a flanker

flanker (American football) a player who lines up in a position on the end; (rugby union) one of the two players loosely bound on either side of the scrum

flannels (cricket) the white (properly flannel) trousers traditionally worn by cricketers

flapping (greyhound racing) a form of racing not registered under the National Greyhound Racing Club; (horse racing) a form of racing not subject to Jockey Club or National Hunt regulations

flapping meeting (greyhound racing, horse racing) a meeting for flapping

flapping track (greyhound racing) a racetrack for flapping

flaptrack (greyhound racing) another term for a flapping track

flare (American football) shortening of flare pass

flare pass (American football) a quick pass out to a back

flash the leather (baseball) to make a good defensive play [with the leather]

flashcard (general) one of a set of large colored cards held up by a spectator in a stadium and with other such cards forming a picture or message

flasher (cricket) a batsman who plays forcefully at balls delivered outside the off stump

flat (horse racing) (1) the level ground, without jumps, over which flat races are run; (2) shortening of flat racing [in this sense often spelled with a capital letter, as “the Flat”]

flat race (horse racing) a race over the flat

flat racing (horse racing) racing over the flat

flatwater (canoeing) calm water, as on a lake

flea fliker (American football) a deceptive play in which a runner or receiver pitches the ball back to a teammate who then attempts to advance it

flèche (fencing) a running attack [French flèche, “arrow”]

Flèche Wallonne (cycling) a race from Liège to Charleroi, Belgium [French Flèche Wallonne, “Walloon Arrow,” for its location in Wallonia, southern Belgium]

fleet race (sailing) a race for several single boats over the same course

fletching (archery) the feathers of an arrow [French flèche, “arrow”]

flic-flac (gymnastics) another term for a back handspring [French flic-flac, imitating the sounds of the hands and feet as they make contact with the floor or apparatus]

flick (field hockey) another term for a scoop; (general) a stroke made with a quick turn of the wrist, as when throwing or playing a ball

flick-on (association football) a light forward header of the ball to a teammate

flier (cricket, golf) an alternate spelling of flyer

flight (archery) the feathered or plastic attachment at the end of an arrow that stabilizes its trajectory; (athletics, horse racing) a series of hurdles on a racetrack; (badminton) one of the feathered or plastic attachments that stabilize the trajectory of a shuttlecock; (darts) the feathered or plastic attachment at the end of a dart that stabilizes its trajectory; (general) the trajectory of a ball through the air

flip (gymnastics) another term for a somersault

flip-flop (gymnastics) a backward somersault

flip jump (ice skating) another term for a toe jump

flipper (cricket) a ball delivered with a backward spin by a leg-spin bowler with an extra flip of the fingers, causing it to skid off the pitch

float (angling) a buoyant object made of cork or other material on the end of a fishing line that by its movement indicates a bite

float-fishing (angling) fishing while floating down a river

floatboard (windsurfing) a simple sailboard sometimes used by beginners in the sport

flaoter (surfing) a maneuver in which the surfer rides the very top of the wave

floor (gymnastics) the matted ground area in an arena where exercises and routines are performed

floor exercises (gymnastics) a routine of exercises
such as acrobatics and tumbling performed on the floor, as distinct from on apparatus

floorman (horse racing) an assistant to a tick-tack man

flop (golf) shortening of flop shot

flop shot (golf) a short pitch shot with a very high trajectory

flopper (skittles) a throw that knocks down all nine skittles

flub (golf) another term for a fluff

fluff (general) a misplayed shot or stroke

fluke (snoozer) a fortuitous pot, typically resulting from an unintended collision of balls or a random rebound from a cushion

flushgate (skiing) a series of three or more slalom gates on a slope

Flushing Meadows (tennis) the site in Queens, New York, of the U.S. Open

flutter kick (swimming) an element of a stroke such as the crawl in which the legs are held straight and moved alternately up and down

fly (American football) a specific pass pattern in which the receiver runs straight down the field; (angling) a hook dressed to look like a fly for use as bait; (swimming) shortening of butterfly

fly ball (baseball) a ball hit high in the air, as distinct from a ground ball

fly fishing (angling) the catching of fish with flies as bait

fly hack (rugby union) a kick of a ball lying loose on the ground

fly half (rugby union) another term for a standoff half

fly hook (angling) a hook baited with a fly

fly kick (rugby union) a kick of the ball while it is in the air

fly line (angling) a fishing line with an artificial fly

fly out (baseball) to be put out by a fielder catching a fly ball

fly rod (angling) a rod with an artificial fly

fly slip (cricket) a fielding position between the slips and the boundary

fly-tying (angling) the art or act of dressing a hook to represent a fly and serve as bait

flyaway (gymnastics) a move on the horizontal bar and asymmetric bars in which the gymnast swings down, releases his hold, and lands, usually via a backflip

flybook (angling) a case like a book for holding flies

flybox (angling) a small compartmented box for holding flies

flyer (cricket) a ball pitched short that flies up from the pitch; (golf) a mishit ball that travels further than intended

Flyers (ice hockey) short name of the Philadelphia Flyers team

flying camel (ice skating) a combination of a jump and a spin that ends in a camel spin

flying change (equestrianism) a move in which the leading leg in the canter position is changed while the horse is in the air

Flying Dutchman (sailing) a class of double-handed dinghy [named for the ghostly Dutch ship condemned to sweep the seas around the Cape of Good Hope for ever]

flying finish (auto racing) in rally driving, the crossing of the finishing line at speed at the end of a stage

Flying Finn (auto racing) in rally driving, a nickname for a fast Finnish rally driver [Finns are famed for their speed and the nickname was current for the long-distance runner Paavo Nurmi (1897–1973) before it was applied to the champion rally driver Hannu Mikkola (1942–)]

flying horse (wrestling) a throw similar to a flying mare

flying machine (horse racing) colloquial term for a fast racehorse

flying mare (wrestling) a throw in which one wrestler heaves another over his back using his opponent’s arm as a lever

flying rings (gymnastics) an apparatus consisting of rings suspended in pairs from wire cables

flying sit spin (ice skating) a combination of jump and spin that ends in a sit spin

flying start (general) a start in which the contestants pass the starting line at full speed

flying tackle (association football, rugby league, rugby union) a tackle made while running or jumping

flyweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 51kg (112lb)

foal (horse racing) a young horse up to the age of 12 months

foible (fencing) the part of a foil blade between the middle and the point [Old French foible, “weak”]

foil (fencing) a light blunt-edge sword with a button; (wrestling) an incomplete fall

Folkestone (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Westenhanger, near Folkestone, Kent, England

follow (general) to support a team or an individual in a particular sport; (horse racing) to back a particular horse whenever it runs in a race

follow on (cricket) to start a second innings immediately after the first after failing to reach a score a predetermined number of runs fewer than that of the opposing team’s first innings

follow through (cricket) (1) to complete the action of a stroke after the ball has been struck by the batsman; (2) to complete the action of a delivery after the ball has been released by the bowler; (golf) to complete the action of a stroke
footballer (association football) a professional or amateur player of football
footer (bowls) a round mat on which a player of crown bowls stands when delivering the bowl;
(sport) colloquial term for association football
foottault (tennis) a fault committed by stepping over the baseline when serving
foothold (mountaineering) a place to fix one’s foot in while climbing
foottie (sport) colloquial term for association football
footwork (association football) skillful use of the feet in maneuvering the ball
foothy (sport) another spelling of footie
foozle (golf) another term for a mishit [German dialect fuseln, “to work badly”]
force (billiards) a stroke in which the cue ball is struck off-center so that it stops or goes off at an angle; (real tennis) a powerful shot aimed at the dedans; (tennis) a powerful stroke played with the aim of forcing an error from one’s opponent
force the game (cricket) to take risks in order to increase the rate of scoring
force the pace (general) to adopt a fast pace in a race in order to tire one’s rival or rivals
forceout (baseball) the putting out of a baserunner by obliging him to advance to the next base when it is not safe to do so
fore! (golf) a warning cry to anyone in danger of being hit by the ball [probably from before]
fore-and-aft (sailing) lengthwise [of any sail not set on yards]
fore-and-after (sailing) a ship with a fore-and-aft rig
fore caddie (golf) a caddie formerly posted ahead to see where the ball went
forearm pass (volleyball) another term for a dig
forecheck (ice hockey) a check made to an opponent in his own defensive area
forcecourt (tennis) the part of the court between the service line and the net
forehand (badminton, table tennis, tennis) a stroke made with the arm extended away from the body and the palm of the hand facing one’s opponent; (bowls) the right side of the rink (for a right-handed bowler), where the bowl is delivered to the right and curves back to the left; (polo) a stroke of the ball forward or sideways to a teammate
forehand chop (table tennis) a chop made as a forehand
forehand drive (table tennis) a drive made as a forehand
foremast (sailing) the mast nearest to the bow of a boat
Forest (association football) short name of the English club Nottingham Forest
forkball (baseball) a pitch in which the ball is delivered with the thumb, forefinger, and middle finger spread apart, so that it falls down sharply or is otherwise unpredictable

form (general) (1) the condition of training and physical fitness of a competitor, especially a race-horse or athlete; (2) a record of a competitor's past performance

form book (horse racing) a record of a horse's form

form horse (horse racing) another term for the favorite

form sheet (horse racing) another term for a form book

formation (association football) the arrangement of the players (aside from the goalkeeper) into a particular disposition on the field, such as 4–4–2, denoting four defenders, four midfielders, and two attackers

formation lap (auto racing) a lap made before the race so the cars can warm up their tires

formula (general) a numerically ranked set of technical specifications for racing vehicles, especially in auto racing and motorcycle racing

Formula One (general) the top-ranking formula for vehicles entered in Grand Prix racing [so named as built according to an evolving formula established after World War I by the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile]

forte (fencing) the stronger, stronger half of a foil blade [French fort, “strong”]

forty-five (tennis) a score to the server of three points to one

forty-five (tennis) colloquial term for forty-five

45-meter kick (Gaelic football) a free kick awarded to an attacking team when the ball goes out of play beyond the goal line off a defender

forty-love (tennis) a score to the server of three points to nil

40-meter line (rugby league) a line marked across the pitch 40 meters from the try line at each end

49er (sailing) a class of double-handed dinghy [named for its length of 4.99 m]

49ers (American football) short name of the San Francisco 49ers team

40–20 rule (rugby league) a rule stating that if a player kicks the ball from inside his own 40-meter line, and it goes on the bounce into touch between the 20-meter line of the opposition and the try line, his side are awarded the put-in at the scrum

forward (basketball) a player who operates mainly in the area around the basket, unlike a guard; (general) in field games such as association football, an attacking player such as a center forward or a winger; (rugby league, rugby union) any of the players in the scrum; (sailing) at or toward the front of a boat

forward pass (rugby league, rugby union) an illegal pass in which the ball is thrown forward

forward pocket (Australian Rules) a player operating in the 50-meter arc near the goal

Fosbury (athletics) shortening of Fosbury flop

Fosbury flop (athletics) a style of high jump in which the athlete clears the bar headfirst with body extended face-up and lands on his back [introduced at the 1968 Olympic Games by the U.S. athlete Dick Fosbury (1947–)]

foul (general) an infringement of the rules, resulting in a penalty such as the award of a direct free kick to the opposing team in association football

foul ball (baseball) a ball struck behind the baseline that counts as a strike unless there are already two strikes against the batter

foul circle (basketball) the circular area marked behind the foul line, inside which a player taking a free throw stands

foul lane (basketball) the area between the basket and the foul line, outside which other players must stand when a free throw is attempted

foul line (basketball) a line 15 ft (4.6 m) from the backboard, from which free throws are taken

foul out (basketball) to be dismissed from the game for committing more than the permitted number of personal fouls

foul play (general) a foul of any kind, whether penalized or not

foul pole (baseball) one of the two structures marking the division between the edge of the outfield and foul territory

foul territory (baseball) any part of the ground that is outside the field of play

foul throw (association football) an improperly made throw-in

foul tip (baseball) a ball barely deflected by the bat

four (cricket) a score of four runs gained by hitting the ball over the boundary; (rowing) a boat with four oars worked by four rowers

four-cross (cycling) downhill BMX for four riders on mountain bikes

four-figure form (horse racing) the four-digit code in a racing form that denotes a horse's performance in the previous four races, so that 1320 means won, third, second, unplaced

400 meters (athletics) a sprint or hurdle race of the stated distance

four-meter line (handball) a mark 4 meters in front of the goal where the goalkeeper stands during a seven-meter throw but which he cannot cross

four-minute mile (athletics) a foot race over a mile run in four minutes or less, long an unbroken record [first broken in 1954 by the British athlete Roger Bannister]
Four Nations Championship (rugby league) an annual championship contested by the national teams of England, Australia, New Zealand, and France, founded in 1999 as the Tri-Series and known until 2009, when France was included, as the Tri-Nations Series.

four-point landing (sking) a landing from a jump with both poles planted in the snow.

470 (sailing) a class of double-handed dinghy [named for its length of 4.70m].

fourball (cricket) a poorly bowled ball with which the batsman can easily score a four; (golf) a match between two pairs of players, in which only the lower score of each pair for the hole is counted.

foursome (golf) a match between two pairs of players, in which each pair plays only one ball, players taking alternate strokes.

fourth official (association football) an official who assists the referee and assistant referees from the technical area.

fourth umpire (cricket) an official who assists in international matches and who takes the place of the third umpire if the latter has to stand in for one of the regular umpires.

Foxes (association football) nickname of the English club Leicester City [from the reputation of Leicestershire for fox hunting].

foxtrot (equestrianism) a horse’s pace with short steps, as in changing from trotting to walking.

frame (snooker) (1) the triangular form in which the balls are grouped for the break; (2) the balls themselves so grouped; (3) a single game.

franchise (American football) an organization that operates a team in the National Football League.

franchise player (American football) a player paid at a premium rate and not eligible to be signed by other teams.

free (Australian Rules) shortening of free kick.

free agent (general) a player not under contract to any professional team or club [the term gained currency in 1976, when a U.S. Court of Appeals ruled against the “reserve clause” that bound a professional baseball player to a particular team].

free ball (snooker) (1) the nomination of any ball as the object ball as a right granted after being snookered by a foul; (2) the ball itself so nominated.

free bounce (trampolining) a straight bounce with no movement made while in the air.

free climbing (mountaineering) climbing with the use of ropes but without any other aids.

free drop (golf) a rule allowing a player to lift a ball from its resting place and drop it elsewhere without penalty.

free fall (parachuting) the part of a descent before the parachute opens, especially in skydiving.

free flying (parachuting) the adoption of different positions while making a descent.

free-for-all (general) a contest open to anyone.

free gate (canoeing) a gate that can be entered from either direction.

free hit (field hockey) a shot taken when an offense has been committed outside the shooting circle or by an attacker inside the 23-meter line of the opposition.

free kick (association football) a kick, awarded after a foul or offside, which the opposing side is not allowed to hinder or block.

free pass (netball) a pass awarded after an infringement.

free pistol (shooting) a pistol shooting competition in which the pistol does not have to conform to the specifications required for other competition pistols.

free program (ice skating) a routine in which the skaters perform movements of their own choosing, as distinct from a short program.

free running (sport) an extreme sport in which participants use techniques from gymnastics, martial arts, and climbing to negotiate obstacles in an urban setting.

free shot (netball) another term for a penalty shot.

free skating (ice skating) a form of competitive figure skating in which the skater selects items from an officially approved list of moves and maneuvers such as jumps and spins.

free throw (basketball) an unrestricted throw to the basket, awarded as a penalty against the opposing side after an infringement; (handball) a throw awarded for various types of foul.

free-throw lane (basketball) another name for the foul lane.

free-throw line (basketball) another name for the foul line; (handball) another name for the nine-meter line.

freediver (aquatics) another term for a skindiver.

freediving (aquatics) another term for skindiving.

freeride (skiing) shortening of freeride skiing; (snowboarding) a type of board which can be used both on and off piste.

freeride skiing (skiing) an extreme form of the sport in which participants attempt difficult jumps and turns.

freeriding (cycling) a type of competition in mountain biking in which riders negotiate a track with demanding obstacles.

freeski (skiing) shortening of freestyle skiing.

freestyle (general) a style or method of performance that the competitor is free to choose; (swimming) another term for the front crawl [popularly chosen as the fastest stroke]; (wrestling) another term for all-in wrestling.

freestyle skiing (skiing) a form of the sport in
which competitors choose their events, the most popular being aerials and moguls
freewheel (cycling) the mechanism that can temporarily disconnect the rear wheel from the driving gear so that it continues to turn freely when the rider is not pedaling
freeze (curling) a draw in which a stone stops near another stone; (ice hockey) to try to regain control of the puck by holding it against an area of the boards or even by falling on it, in the process stopping play
French billiards (billiards) another term for carom billiards
French blinkers (horse racing) colloquial term for cheekpieces
French cricket (cricket) a simplified form of the game, popular among children, in which the batsman is out if struck by the ball on the legs below the knee
French drive (cricket) a fortuitous snick off the bat through the slips
French Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the Magny Cours circuit at Dijon, France
French Open (tennis) the international championship tournament held annually since 1891 on the clay courts of the Stade Roland-Garros, Paris
fresh (horse racing) not having raced recently
fried egg (golf) colloquial term for the hollow created by a ball that has landed in soft sand in a bunker
friendly (association football) a match arranged outside normal competition
fringe (golf) the area bordering the green, where the grass is slightly longer
fringe sports (general) sports regarded as less important or popular
Frisbee golf (sport) a game similar to golf but played with a Frisbee instead of a golf ball and clubs
frog hair (golf) the well-cut grass between the fairway and the green, in length somewhere between the two
front (trampolining) a forward somersault
front crawl (swimming) the crawl performed face down
front five (rugby union) another term for the tight five
front foot (general) the left foot (of a right-handed person), as the one nearer the target
front four (American football) the two ends and two tackles in a team's defensive line
front giant (gymnastics) a giant in which the gymnast swings counterclockwise, his palms facing in the same direction as his back
front handspring (gymnastics) a handspring that starts with a forward flip
front nine (golf) the first nine holes on a course
front row (rugby league, rugby union) the three forwards, comprising the two props and the hooker, in the front row of the scrum
front-row union (rugby league, rugby union) informal name for the front row [as a union of players of similar physique and temperament]
front walkover (gymnastics) a handstand performed with the legs split and then one foot brought over to be followed by the other foot into an upright position
frontenis (sport) a Latin-American ball game similar to handball and essentially consisting of jai alai or pelota played with tennis rackets [blend of fronton and Spanish tenis, “tennis”]
frontman (general) another term for a forward
frontron (pelota) the wall against which the game is played [Spanish fronión]
frontrunner (general) (1) a (human or animal) contestant who runs best when in the lead or who can set a fast pace; (2) a leading contestant
frontside air (snowboarding) an air performed off the frontside wall
frontside wall (snowboarding) the wall of the half-pipe in front of the boarder
frosh (general) colloquial term for a member of a freshman sports team [perhaps from German Frosch, “grammar-school pupil”]
frozen rope (baseball) colloquial term for a ball that travels on a fast, level trajectory
fuel load (auto racing) the amount of fuel on board a car
full (trampolining) a full twist executed in a somersault
full ball (snooker) a stroke that sends the cue ball against the full face of the object ball
full-bore (shooting) (of) a larger caliber than small-bore
full count (baseball) a situation in which the pitcher has thrown three balls and two strikes to the batter
full-court press (basketball) a tactic in which the defensive team challenges opponents in all areas of the court, not just in their own area
full forward (Australian Rules) an attacking player operating near the opponents' goal
full-in, back-out (gymnastics) a double salto with a full twist in the first salto
full nelson (wrestling) fuller term for a nelson
full pitch (cricket) another term for a full toss
full roll (croquet) the distance traveled by a struck ball when equal to that of the ball that struck it
full time (general) the end of a match, when the time allotted for it has expired
full toss (cricket) a ball delivered by the bowler that does not pitch before reaching the batsman
full twist (gymnastics) a complete twist
fullback (American football) an offensive player
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who lines up behind the quarterback and halfback and who is used primarily for line plunges and blocks: (association football, field hockey) a defensive player positioned near the goal; (rugby league, rugby union) the player who normally stands furthest back on the pitch in a defensive position.

fumble (American football) to lose hold of the ball when in possession of it.

fun run (athletics) a long-distance race usually less than a marathon in length staged either for amusement or to raise funds for charity rather than as a serious athletic competition.

funboard (windsurfing) a board specially designed to give greater speed.

fungo (baseball) a ball struck high in the air for fielders to practice catching [origin uncertain].

fungo bat (baseball) a special lightweight bat for striking fungos.

funny car (auto racing) in drag racing, a car with a fiberglass body built to resemble an ordinary car.

furlong (horse racing) a standard distance equal to one-eight of a mile.

furlong marker (horse racing) a post by a racecourse showing the number of furlongs to the winning post [the word "furlong" may be omitted in reports, as "Notre Pere fell five out when returning to action at Down Royal" (The Times, November 21, 2009)].

futsal (association football) an indoor version of the game between teams of five players. [blend of Spanish fútbol, "football," and sala, "room"].

futurity race (horse racing) a race for two-year-olds nominated even before they are foaled.

Gable Endies (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Montrose [local people are so nicknamed for the Flemish architecture of some town houses with gable ends].

Gaelic football (sport) a game somewhat similar to rugby union played in Ireland by teams of 15 a side with a round ball that can be kicked, bounced, or punched but not thrown or run with, the aim being to score goals and points.

gaff (angling) a hook used to catch large fish; (sailing) a spar to which the head of a fore-and-aft sail is fastened.

gaffer (general) colloquial term for a manager or coach.

gag (angling) a device for keeping the jaws of a newly caught fish open while the hook is extracted.

gain (trampolining) a movement along the bed in the opposite direction to that of the element being performed.

gain line (rugby league) an imaginary line on which a play-the-ball or scrum has taken place, as a defining point beyond which a player or team may take the ball; (rugby union) an imaginary line on which a set piece, ruck, or maul has taken place, as a defining point beyond which a player or team may take the ball.

gait (equestrianism) the rhythm and sequence of leg movements in which a horse moves.

galáctico (association football) a top-ranking signed footballer [Spanish galáctico, "superstar," a term originally used for a player signed for Real Madrid].

gallery (golf) the spectators at a tournament; (real tennis) one of the eight openings in the side penthouses of the court, shots into which count as chases.

gallery hit (cricket) a good shot appreciated and applauded by the spectators.

gallop (equestrianism) a horse's fastest gait, at each stride of which all four feet are off the ground.

Galway (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse in Co. Galway, Ireland.

game (general) (1) a competitive sport with established rules; (2) an episode or period of play, at the end of which there is usually a result or score; (sport) a byname of association football (as "the game").

game ball (general) another term for a game point.

game breaker (American football) a player who determines the outcome of a game.

game fish (angling) any freshwater fish of the salmon family except the grayling, as distinct from a coarse fish.

game of two halves (association football) a match in which the second half noticeably differs from the first half, for example in the style of play.

game on! (darts) traditional call of the announcer to signal the beginning of a game.

game plan (American football) a winning strategy worked out in advance.

game point (general) a stage in a game at which the next point wins.

game, set, and match (tennis) a complete and decisive victory, achieved by a player who has won a game, then a set, and finally the match.

game shot (darts) the shot that wins a leg of the game.

games (general) a session of competitive games.

Games (Olympics) shortening of Olympic Games [often preceded by the name of an Olympic city to refer to a specific contest, as London Games, Moscow Games].

gamesmanship (general) the art of defeating an opponent by purely psychological means [from the title of a humorous book by Stephen Potter, The Theory and Practice of Gamesmanship, or the Art of Winning Games Without Actually Cheating (1947)].
gap (baseball) another term for an alley
gaper (cricket) colloquial term for an easy catch
[anything that “gapes” offers easy access]
gapper (hockey) a ball hit into an alley
garbage (general) colloquial term for an easy shot or scoring opportunity
gardening (cricket) colloquial term for the tamping down of a loose area of turf on the pitch, as carried out by a batsman with his bat
garland (skiing) alternate left and right turns across a slope
garryowen (rugby union) another term for an up-and-under [popularized by the Garryowen club in Limerick, Ireland]

**gate**
- (canoeing) an obstacle in the form of two free-hanging poles on a slalom course, which participants must pass between without touching them; (cricket) the gap between the pad and bat of a batsman as he plays a ball; (equestrianism) a high, narrow fence; (general) collective term for the people who pay to see a game or match [they pay at the gate]; (horse racing, motorcycle racing, skiing) shortening of starting gate; (rowing) the U-shaped attachment at the outer end of the outrigger that holds the oar at the point where it pivots; (skiing) the two flagged poles between which a skier must pass in a slalom event
- (golf) payment collected from a gate
- (baseball, rugby football) to catch a ball as it moves through the air; (cricket) to pick up a rolling ball

Gatorade (athletics) proprietary name of a soft drink containing ingredients that include glucose, citric acid, sodium bicarbonate, and potassium chloride, drunk by athletes instead of water to replenish rapidly lost body fluids and salts [so named as an “aid to the Gators,” nickname of the University of Florida college football team]

Gaylord flip (gymnastics) a routine on the horizontal bar comprising a front giant and a one-and-a-half front salto over the bar followed by a regrasp of the bar [introduced in 1978 by the U.S. gymnast Mitch Gaylord (1961–)]
gazunder (cricket) colloquial term for a low ball [which goes under]

GB&I (golf) abbreviation of Great Britain and Ireland as a professional or amateur team in an international contest
gee-gees (horse racing) colloquial term for the horses in a race as the object of a bet [from gee-gee, a child’s word for a horse]
gelding (horse racing) a castrated male horse
general classification (cycling) the positions of riders in a race based on overall time
general impression (equestrianism) an aspect of dressage for which points are awarded
genoa (sailing) a large jib that overlaps the mainsail
gentle (angling) a soft maggot used as bait
gentle art (sport) another term for angling

**Gentlemen v. Players (cricket)** an annual match between a team of amateurs (“Gentlemen”) and a team of professionals (“Players”), first staged at Lord’s in 1906 but discontinued from 1962, when amateur status was abolished
genuine (greyhound racing, horse racing) relied on to perform well in a race

**German Grand Prix (auto racing)** the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the Nürburgring circuit near Bonn, Germany

Gers (association football) short name of the Scottish club Rangers

get (squash, tennis) colloquial term for a difficult shot successfully reached and returned
get down (golf) to manage to get the ball in the hole
get the trip (horse racing) to stay the distance of a hole
get up (horse racing) to win a race by a close margin

ghillie (angling) another spelling of gillie

**ghost goal (association football)** (1) a goal generally judged to be fair but disallowed by the referee; (2) a goal judged to be fair by the referee but in reality not valid

gi (martial arts) another spelling of gie

giant (gymnastics) a move on the asymmetric bars, rings, parallel bars, or horizontal bar in which the gymnast, from a handstand position, describes a 360-degree circle by swinging down past the ground then right up into a handstand again

giant slalom (skiing, snowboarding) an event similar to the slalom, but over a longer course and with greater intervals between the gates

giantkiller (general) an individual or team that defeats a far superior opponent

Giants (American football) short name of the New York Giants team; (baseball) short name of the San Francisco Giants team; (rugby league) short name of the English club Huddersfield Giants

gie (martial arts) a judo or karate costume [Japanese ki, “clothing”]

Gienger (gymnastics) a routine on the horizontal bar and asymmetric bars comprising a flyaway with a half-twist followed by a regrasp of the bar [introduced in 1978 by the German gymnast Eberhard Gienger (1951–)]
gill net (angling) a type of fishing net in which fish are caught by their gills

Gillette Cup (cricket) original name of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy
gillie (angling) a hired guide and adviser to an angler, mainly in Scotland and Ireland, perform-
ing much the same role as a caddie to a golfer [Gaelic gille, “lad”]

Gill (association football) nickname of the English club Gillingham
gim (golf) a short putt that an opponent is excused from playing as it is virtually unmissable [respelling of give me]
gimp (angling) a fishing line bound with wire
Gi (girls) nickname used by forwards for backs
Giro d'Italia (cycling) an annual stage race held in Italy since 1909 and modeled on the Tour de France [Italian Giro d'Italia, “Tour of Italy”]
give a horse its head (horse racing) to let a horse go freely
give a miss (billiards) to allow an opponent to score by deliberately failing to hit the object ball
give a ten (rowing) to row flat out for ten strokes
give-and-go (association football) another term for a one-two [the player passes the ball ("gives") then runs ("goes")]
give way! (rowing) the spoken instruction to begin rowing
glance (cricket) a stroke by the batsman that deviates the ball only slightly from its line of flight as delivered by the bowler
glass (basketball) colloquial term for the backboard [it deflects the ball as a mirror reflects an image]
glass arm (baseball) colloquial term for a sore arm resulting from tendons damaged by throwing or pitching balls
Glaziers (association football) former nickname for the English club Crystal Palace, now known as the Eagles [from the club's original location at the Crystal Palace, London, a huge glass conservatory built for the 1851 Great Exhibition]
Gleneagles (golf) a noted golf course in the grounds of a hotel near Perth, Scotland
Gli Azzurri (association football) nickname for the Italian national team [Italian gli azzurri, “the blues,” from the color of their strip]
glide (cricket) another term for a glance; (skiing) a smooth downhill run
glide wax (skiing) a substance applied to skis in order to decrease their friction against the snow
glider (gliding) the engineless aircraft used in gliding; (hang-gliding) shortening of hang-glider
Gliding (sport) the competitive sport of flying in gliders, which are towed to a high altitude by a powered aircraft then released, leaving the pilot to use thermals to maintain altitude or soar even higher
glissade (mountaineering) the act of sliding down a slope in a standing or squatting position, often using an ice ax for braking
Globetrotters (basketball) short name of the Harlem Globetrotters team

Glorious Goodwood (horse racing) traditional epithet for the annual races at Goodwood
glove (baseball) a player regarded in terms of his ability, like a bat in cricket; (cricket) to strike the ball, as a batsman, with one's glove rather than the bat
gloveman (cricket) colloquial term for a wicket-keeper [who wears large gloves]
Glovers (association football) nickname for the English club Yeovil Town [from the local glove-making industry]
gloves (boxing) shortening of boxing gloves; (general) the special gloves worn in various ball games, as by the goalkeeper in association football or the wicket-keeper in cricket
glovework (cricket) colloquial term for the skills of the gloveman
go about (sailing) to change course
go close (horse racing) to finish in second or third place [a term often used as a prediction of a horse's chances in a race]
go down (general) to be defeated in a contest; (horse racing) to go from the paddock to the start of a race
go in (cricket) to begin an innings
go-kart (auto racing) a low racing vehicle consisting basically of a frame with wheels, engine, and steering gear but now often closer in design and form to a light racecar
go on (cricket) to begin bowling
go one better (horse racing) to finish a race in a higher position than previously, especially when this was a place
go the distance (boxing) to complete the scheduled duration of a fight
go the route (baseball) to pitch for the entire game
go yard (baseball) to hit a home run
goal (general) (1) in association football and many other games, the pair of posts with a crossbar into or over which the ball is kicked, hit, or carried to make a score; (2) a corresponding structure in other sports, as a basket in basketball or a net in netball; (3) the score itself
goal area (general) the area in front of the goal
goal-area line (general) a line parallel to the goal line
goal attack (netball) an attacking player restricted to the shooting circle, attacking third, and center third
goal average (association football) a method, replaced in 1976 by the goal difference, of deciding the league position of two or more clubs with the same total of points, in which the number of goals scored by a club was divided by the number scored against them
goal celebration (association football) an exuberant
or extravagant display of triumph by a player who has just scored a goal
goal circle (field hockey, netball) another name for the shooting circle
goal crease (lacrosse) the circle around the goal which only defensive players may enter
goal defense (netball) a defensive player restricted to the shooting circle, defending third, and center third
goal difference (association football) a method, replacing the goal average in 1976, of deciding the league position of two or more clubs with the same total of points, in which the number of goals scored against a club is deducted from the number it has itself scored
goal hit (shiny) the method of bringing the ball back into play after it has gone over the goal line
goal kick (association football) a free kick awarded to the defending team in the six-yard area of the penalty box when the opposing team puts the ball behind the goal line (but not between the goalposts to score a goal)
goal line (American football, association football, field hockey, ice hockey) the line marking the end of the pitch, on which the goals stand; (rugby league, rugby union) another term for the try line
goal shooter (netball) an attacking player restricted to the shooting circle and attacking third
goal square (Australian Rules) a square marked in front of the goal
goalball (sport) a game designed specifically for the blind, played on an indoor court with a ball containing a bell, the aim being to roll the ball past the opposing team into their goal
goalhanger (association football) a player who spends much of the game lurking near the goal of the opponents for an opportunity to score
goalice (association football) colloquial shortening of goalkeeper
goalkeeper (general) the player who defends the goal in a game such as association football
goalless draw (general) a draw with a score of 0–0, no goals having been scored by either team
goalminder (ice hockey) another term for the goaltender
goalmouth (association football) the area immediately in front of the goal
goalposts (general) the posts that form the goal
goalscorer (general) a player who regularly or reliably scores goals
goaltender (ice hockey) a player whose role is to stop the puck from entering the net
goaltending (basketball) the illegal touching of the ball as it comes down toward the basket
gobble (golf) colloquial term for a putt played so powerfully that if the ball had not gone into the hole it would have gone far beyond it [the hole “gobbled” it up]
goer (horse racing) a horse that runs fast
gofer (baseball) a pitch that can be hit for a run, especially a home run [the batter can go for it]
golf (golf) an archaic spelling of golf, reflecting the word’s old-fashioned pronunciation
going (horse racing) the condition of the ground at a racecourse in terms of its moisture and “give,” conventionally divided into heavy (very wet and soft), yielding, soft, good-to-soft, good, good-to-firm, firm, standard, and hard [parts of the course may be placed in a subsidiary category, giving a formula such as “good (good-to-firm in places)”]
gold (Olympics) shortening of gold medal
Gold Cup (horse racing) shortening of Ascot Gold Cup, Cheltenham Gold Cup, Hennessy Gold Cup, or any similarly named trophy
gold glove (baseball) an annual award made to the outstanding fielder in the league at each position
gold medal (Olympics) the medal awarded as first prize [gold is a more valuable metal than silver or bronze]
Golden Boot (association football) the name until 1991 of the Golden Shoe
golden duck (cricket) a duck scored by a batsman who is out first ball [from gold as the first award]
golden girl (Olympics) journalistic epithet for a female winner, or potential winner, of a gold medal, especially if fair-haired and good-looking
Golden Globe Race (sailing) a quadrennial single-handed round-the-world race first held in 1968 [name of the trophy awarded]
Golden Gloves (boxing) an amateur competition originating in 1927 as a U.S. intercities tournament, the winner receiving a gold medal and a pair of miniature golden gloves
golden goal (association football) the first goal scored in extra time, as a method of settling a draw [introduced in 1996 but abandoned in 2004, like the silver goal, in favor of the penalty shoot-out]
Gold medal (Olympics) an annual award made to the player scoring the most goals in league matches from the top division of every European national league [formerly known, under different and less stringent rules, as the Golden Boot]
golden sombrero (baseball) a notional award given to a batter who strikes out four times in a game [a feat cynically regarded as greater than a hat trick]
Goldie (rowing) the reserve eight of Cambridge University, who race their Oxford counterpart,
golf • grand slam

Isis, immediately before the Boat Race [named for a Cambridge boatman]
golf (sport) a game played with a club used to propel a ball into each hole on a course [perhaps from Dutch golf, “club”]
golf bag (golf) a bag for carrying golf clubs
golf ball (golf) the small rubber-cored ball with which golf is played
golf cart (golf) a small motorized vehicle used to drive around a golf course
golf club (golf) (1) a long-handled metal-faced (formerly wooden-faced) club with which the ball is struck; (2) an association of players with its own golf course and clubhouse
golf course (golf) the area of specially prepared ground with fairways and hazards on which golf is played
golf croquet (croquet) a shorter and faster form of the game in which each turn consists of a single stroke
golf links (golf) another term for a golf course, properly one on low ground by the sea [not from link, “ring in a chain,” but an Old English word meaning “bank”]
golf widow (golf) a woman whose husband spends a good deal of time playing golf
golfer (golf) a player of golf
golfiana (golf) a collector’s term for items of golfing interest
golfing (golf) the sport of playing golf
good (golf, tennis) (of) a shot made accurately; (horse racing) a category of going; (wrestling) (of) a lift approved by the majority of the three judges

good areas (cricket) colloquial term for those parts of a pitch where a ball delivered by the bowler makes it difficult for the batsman to score easily

good ball (rugby union) a ball whose possession has potential for scoring a try or at least a good run up the field

Goodwood (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Goodwood Park, near Chichester, West Sussex, England, the picturesque setting of Glorious Goodwood

Goodwood Revival (auto racing) an annual race of classic (period) cars held from 1998 on the former Formula One racetrack at Goodwood

goofy footer (snowboarding) a boarder who rides with the right foot in front of the left, as distinct from a regular footer; (surfing) a surfer who rides with the right foot in front of the left, as distinct from a natural footer

googly (cricket) an off break bowled with an apparent leg-break action by a right-arm bowler to a right-handed batsman (or the converse) [origin uncertain]
goony squad (ice hockey) a group of specially selected players whose role is to intimidate the opposition

Gooneers (association football) another spelling of Gunners

goose egg (general) a zero score [from the egg-shaped figure 0 for zero]
goose step (rugby union) a hitch-kick action performed by a player while running so that he seems to be slowing down although is really speeding up [from the military march step]
gopher (baseball) another spelling of gofer
gore (parachuting) the sector-like section of a canopy
gorge (angling) a bait intended to be swallowed by the fish

GP (auto racing) abbreviation of Grand Prix

Grace Road (cricket) the home ground of Leicestershire county cricket club, Leicester

grade cricket (cricket) a form of the game in Australia in which clubs compete in grades

graduation race (horse racing) a race designed to develop inexperienced horses

Graham (mountaineering) a Scottish mountain peak between 2,000 and 2,400 feet in height with a reascent of 500 feet on all sides [named for Fiona Torbet, née Graham, who published a list of them in 1992]

grand amplitude (wrestling) a throw in which the combatant’s center of gravity is lower than that of his opponent

Grand Challenge Cup (rowing) the cup awarded to the winner of a race for eights at Henley Royal Regatta, inaugurated in 1839

Grand Final (rugby league) a system of play-offs introduced to the Super League in 1996 to replace the earlier premiership system

Grand National (horse racing) Britain’s most famous steeplechase, run annually at Aintree since 1839

Grand Prix (auto racing) an international race for Formula One cars first held in France in 1906 and now staged on a number of circuits around the world [name originally used for the Grand Prix de Paris]; (general) a title for any major contest or championship, as the MotoGP

Grand Prix de Paris (horse racing) an international race for three-year-olds run annually at Longchamp since 1863 [French Grand Prix de Paris, “chief prize of Paris”]

grand prix freestyle (equestrianism) the final round of a grand prix dressage competition, in which horse and rider perform a series of maneuvers to music

grand salami (baseball) colloquial alteration of grand slam

grand slam (association football) the winning of
the domestic league, all domestic cups, and the European Champions’ Cup; (baseball) a home run hit when there is a baserunner at each base; (cycling) the winning of the Tour de France, Giro d’Italia, and Volta a España in the same season; (equestrianism) the winning of the Kentucky Three-Day Event and the equivalent contests in England at Badminton and Burghley; (golf) the winning of the four Majors; (rugby union) the winning of all matches in the Six Nations; (tennis) the winning of the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, and the U.S. Open [a term from card playing, as the winning of every trick in a game, with slam of unknown origin but popularly associated with the sense “bang”].

Grande Boule (cycling) (1) an annual stage race for female cyclists equating to the Tour de France; (2) a nickname for the Tour de France [French Grande Boule, “Great Loop”]

grandstand (general) an elevated structure for spectators at a racecourse or other venue

grandstand finish (general) a close and exciting finish to a race or other contest

granny gear (cycling) colloquial term for a very low gear

grapevine (ice skating) a figure in which the skates trace interlacing lines on the ice; (wrestling) a hold in all-in wrestling in which a combatant uses his legs to turn his opponent

glass (angling) to bring a fish to the bank; (cricket), to drop a catch; (rugby league, rugby union) to knock an opponent to the ground

glass court (tennis) a court with a grass surface, as distinct from a hard court

glass hockey (sport) another name for field hockey

glass skis (skiing) skis similar to roller skates that are used for skiing down grassy slopes

glass-track racing (motorcycle racing) a form of speedway over grass tracks

grasshopper (angling) the live insect used as bait

Grasstex (tennis) proprietary name of an artificial surface for tennis courts consisting of a composition base with a top layer of natural fibers reinforced by emulsified asphalt [blend of grass and texture]

gravel trap (auto racing) an area of gravel near a corner, used to slow cars down if they run off the track

grey race (horse racing) an annual race at Newmarket for gray horses only

great game (sport) an epithet for golf

Great North Run (athletics) an annual half marathon run in and around Portsmouth, Hampshire, as the southern equivalent of the Great North Run

Grecians (association football) nickname of the English club Exeter City [said to derive from a local reenactment of the Trojan War, in which the Greeks besieged the city of Troy]

Greco-Roman (wrestling) a type of wrestling in which only the upper body and arms, not the legs, may be used for moves and holds [from the supposed classical form of the sport]

green (bowls) the area of closely mown grass on which the game is played; (golf) the area of closely mown grass around the hole where putting takes place; (snooker) the green ball, worth three points

green card (field hockey) a card shown by the referee as a warning to a player after a relatively minor infringement

green cloth (billiards, snooker) a term for the billiard table [shortening of board of green cloth, for its baize covering]

green flag (auto racing) a flag shown to a driver to indicate that a hazard has been cleared and that cars can return to normal racing speed

green horse (equestrianism, horse racing) a horse that has not yet been trained, or that has only just begun training

green jacket (golf) the jacket presented to the winner of the Masters by the winner from the previous year

green jersey (cycling) (1) the jersey worn by the winner of the points competition in the Tour de France [French maillot vert, “green jersey”]; (2) the jersey awarded to the King of the Mountains in the Giro d’Italia [Italian maglia verde, “green jersey”]

green spot (snooker) the spot on the billiard table where the green is positioned, in the left corner of the D as viewed from the balk end

greenback (surfing) a wave before it breaks

greenie (surfing) another term for a greenback
greenkeeper (bowls) the person who has the care of the green; (golf) the person who has the care of the course

greensome (golf) a type of fourball play in which all players drive, then each pair selects the ball with which they aim to complete the hole [blend of green and foursome]
gremlin (surfing) (1) colloquial term for a young surfer; (2) colloquial term for a troublemaker who frequents the beach but is not a surfer [probably alteration of goblin]
gremmy (surfing) colloquial shortening of gremlin

Grey Cup (Canadian football) the cup awarded
Greyhound • guard

annually to the champion team of the Canadian Football League [donated in 1909 by Earl Grey (1851–1917), governor general of Canada]

Greyhound Derby (greyhound racing) the sport's top race in Britain, first held in 1927 [named after the Derby]
greyhound racing (sport) a sport in which (usually) six greyhounds pursue a lure around a circular or oval track, the first dog to finish being the winner
grid (American football) shortening of gridiron; (auto racing) a pattern of lines painted on the racetrack to indicate the positions of the cars at the start
gridder (American football) a player of the game
gridiron (American football) the field on which the game is played, with lines marked across every five yards; (sport) a byname of American football
grille (real tennis) a square opening in a corner of the end wall of the court, a shot into which scores a point
grind (skateboarding) a move in which one of the trucks is scraped along the grind rail or other surface
grind rail (skateboarding) a long narrow bar on which stunts can be performed
grip (general) the manner in which a player holds a cricket bat, golf club, tennis racket, or the like
griptape (skateboarding) a tough adhesive tape used on the board to provide extra grip for the feet
gripxwax (skiing) a substance applied to skis to increase friction and thus also traction
Grizzlies (basketball) short name of the Vancouver Grizzlies team

grommet (general) colloquial term for any sort of young boarder [perhaps from grommet, "ship's boy," influenced by gremlin]
groom (equestrianism) an assistant and adviser to the driver in carriage driving
gross (horse racing) (of) a horse that is naturally large-girthed, as distinct from overweight

ground (cricket) the area behind the popping crease with which the batsman must be physically in contact to avoid being stumped or run out; (general) the area on which a game is regularly played

ground angling (angling) fishing without a float, with a weight placed close to the hook
ground ball (baseball) a ball hit along the ground, as distinct from a fly ball
ground fielding (cricket) catching or stopping a ball near the ground
ground line (equestrianism) in show jumping, the line along the base of a fence, used to judge the point of a horse's takeoff
ground out (baseball) to hit a ground ball and be put out by not reaching first base before the throw from a fielder
ground shot (tennis) another term for a ground stroke
ground staff (cricket) a paid staff of promising young players kept by a club; (general) a group of people who look after a sports ground or playing field
ground stroke (tennis) a stroke played after the ball has bounced, especially one made from the baseline
ground under repair (golf) an area of the course that is being repaired and therefore not valid for play
groundbait (angling) bait dropped to the bottom of a stream or river to attract fish there
grounder (baseball, cricket) a batted ball that rolls along the ground instead of flying through the air
groundhopper (association football) a supporter who travels to different grounds to see as many matches as possible
groundman (general) another spelling of groundsman

groundsman (general) a person who takes care of a sports ground or playing field
group (horse racing) one of the categories of pattern races, group 1 including the English classics and other important international races; group 2 the less important international races, and group 3 mainly domestic races; (shooting) a cluster of hits on a target
group race (horse racing) another term for a pattern race
grovet (wrestling) a hold in which a combatant grips his opponent’s head between his chest and forearm, forcing his rival’s shoulders to the mat with his other arm [origin uncertain]
grub (cricket) a ball that runs flat along the ground after leaving the hand of the bowler
grub kick (rugby league, rugby union) a ball dropped from the hand and kicked along the ground

grubber (cricket) another term for a grub; (rugby league, rugby union) shortening of grub kick
grudgeby (rugby union) colloquial term for the keenly contested annual varsity match between Oxford and Cambridge universities, first held in 1872 [blend of grudge match, “contest aiming to settle longstanding rivalry,” and rugby]
grummet (general) another spelling of grommet

gruppetto (cycling) another term for an autobus [Italian gruppetto, “little group”]
guard (American football) a lineman positioned immediately to the left or right of the center; (basketball) a player who mainly operates away from the basket, unlike a forward; (bowls) a delivery of the bowl that blocks an opponent’s
path to the jack or to another bowl; (bowling) a defensive stance, with the gloves raised to protect the face; (cricket) the position of the bat taken by the batsman in front of the wicket when he is ready to receive a ball; (curling) a stone played into a position where it can protect another stone from being hit; (fencing) the metal cup at the end of the hilt that protects the hand from being hit

**guernsey (Australian Rules)** a type of sleeveless shirt worn by team players

**guide runner (athletics)** a person who accompanies a visually impaired **track athlete**

**Guineas (horse racing)** shortening of One Thousand Guineas or Two Thousand Guineas

**gulley** (octopus) the long tray that serves as a goal

**Gulls (association football)** nickname of the English club Torquay United [from the seagulls that frequent the coastal town]

**gully** (cricket) a fielding position on the off side, between point and slips [from gully in its basic sense “channel,” referring to the gap between the named positions]

**gumshield** (boxing) another term for a mouthpiece

**gun** (surfing) a large heavy **surfboard** used for riding big waves

**Gunners (association football)** nickname of the English club Arsenal [from the workers at the Royal Arsenal, London, who founded the club in 1886]

**gunwale** (rowing) the top section on the sides of a shell, to which the outriggers are fixed

**gutters** (tenpin bowling) the gutters that run the length of the lane and to either side of it

**gut wrench** (wrestling) a move in which a combatant rolls his opponent onto his back while in a bridge position

**gutty** (golf) an old-fashioned type of golf ball [made from gutta percha]

**gybe (sailing)** to swing a sail from one side of the boat to the other in order to alter course

**gybe mark** (sailing) a mark showing where yachts must gybe in an ocean race

**gym** (gymnastics) familiar shortening of gymnasi-um or gymnastics

**gym rat** (general) a person who regularly attends a gym

**gymkhana** (auto racing) an autocross contest; (equestrianism) a contest between amateur or young riders in various equestrian sports [Hindi gend khana, “ball house,” influenced by gym]

**gymnasium** (general) a place, hall, or building for gymnastics or indoor sports [originally, in ancient Greece, a public place where youths exercised, from Greek gymnos, “naked”]

**gymnast** (general) a person who performs or practices gymnastics

**gymnastics** (sport) a range of moves or exercises performed on the floor or on apparatus, either competitively or to tone the body and improve agility and coordination

**gyoji (sumo)** the referee [Japanese gyoji, “referee”]

**hack** (curling) footholds of metal or rubber at each end of the rink from which players can push off; (general) to kick the shins of another player (illegally); (rugby union) shortening of fly hack

**hacker** (golf; tennis) colloquial term for a poor player [who hacks at the ball]

**hacking** (sport) the riding of a horse in the countryside for recreation

**hackle** (angling) an artificial fly made of a cock’s hackle or neck feather

**Hacky Sack** (sport) proprietary name of a game of U.S. origin in which players attempt to kick a footbag without letting it touch the ground [from hack, “kick,” and sack]

**hail** (shinty) (1) a goal; (2) a score [apparently from hail, the shout with which the player scored a goal]

**hail Mary** (American football) colloquial term for a high pass thrown into the end zone at the very end of a game [a desperate move for which a prayer is needed]

**hailkeeper** (shinty) a goalkeeper

**hairdryer treatment** (association football) a berating by a manager of his team for their poor play [his scolding hits them like a blast of hot air]

**hairpin** (auto racing) a sharp double bend on the track [shaped like a hairgrip or bobby pin]; (skiing) two successive vertical gates on a slalom course

**hairy Mary** (angling) a kind of artificial fly [from its appearance]

**hajime** (judo) the command with which the referee starts a bout [Japanese hajime, “beginning”]

**haka** (rugby union) the Maori war dance performed by the All Blacks before the start of a match [Maori haka, “dance”]

**half** (American football) shortening of half time; (general) (1) one of the two periods of equal length into which a game is divided; (2) one of the two parts of the field of play either side of the halfway line; (3) shortening of center half, left half, right half, or halfback

**half ball** (snooker) a stroke that sends the cue ball against the edge of the object ball

**half bisque** (croquet) a restricted bisque in which no point can be scored

**half blue** (general) a person who is second choice for a blue or who is chosen to play in a minor sport such as badminton or lacrosse

**half butt** (snooker) a cue longer than the standard cue, usually used with a rest

**half century** (cricket) a score of 50 runs; (snooker) a break of 50 points
half cock (cricket) a stroke made by a batsman that plays the ball neither forward nor back
half-court line (squash) a line on the floor of the court that divides the back of the court into two
half-forward flank (Australian Rules) an attacking player who plays on the flank near the 50-meter arc
half gainer (swimming) a dive in which a backflip is followed by a head-first plunge into the water facing the board
half-in, half-out (gymnastics) a move comprising a double salto with a half twist on each salto
half marathon (athletics) a foot race just over half the length of a marathon (13 miles 352 yards, 21.243km)
half mile (athletics) the former equivalent of the 800 meters
half miler (athletics) a runner specializing in the former half mile or present 800 meters
half nelson (wrestling) a nelson applied on one side only, with one of the combatant’s arms under one of his opponent’s arms
half one (golf) a handicap of one stroke every second hole
half pass (aerobatics) in dressage, a sideways and forward movement in which the horse crosses its legs
half-pipe (skateboarding) a U-shaped structure made of concrete from which boar- ders launch the board to perform aerial maneuvers; (snowboarding) a U-shaped channel cut into the snow from which boarders launch the board to perform aerial maneuvers
half pirouette (aerobatics) a half-circle turn by the horse with its inside hind foot as a pivot
half roll (croquet) a croquet in which the opposing ball, when struck, travels two or three times as far as the striker’s ball
half shot (golf) a shot played with about half the usual swing
half strike (tenpin bowling) alternate term for a spare
half time (general) the interval between the first half of a game and the second
half twist (gymnastics) a half-rotation of the body around the spine
half volley (association football) a kick in which the player’s boot makes contact with the ball as it begins to bounce up off the ground; (cricket) a stroke by the batsman of a ball as it starts to rise after pitching; (tennis) a shot of the ball immediately after it bounces
halfback (American football) a running back positioned between the quarterback and fullback; (rugby league) either of the players scrum half and standoff half; (rugby union) either of the players scrum half and fly half, providing a link between the forwards and the three quarters
halfback flank (Australian Rules) a running defender who plays on the flank
halfway line (association football, rugby league, rugby union) the line that separates the two equal halves of the pitch
halieutics (angling) a formal term for the art of fishing, especially as the title of a treatise [Greek halieutes, “fisher,” from hals, “sea”]
Hall of Fame (general) an institution that honors outstanding figures in the history of a particular sport, as the Baseball Hall of Fame, Cooperstown, New York, the Golf Hall of Fame, St. Augustine, Florida, and the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Canton, Ohio
halt! (fencing) a command to stop fencing
halve (golf) to play a hole or match in the same number of strokes as one’s opponent
halyard (sailing) a rope used for raising or lowering a sail
ham (boxing) an incompetent boxer
Hambletonian (horse racing) an annual harness race for trotters, first held in 1926 at Syracuse, New York, but now at the Meadowlands race- track, New Jersey [named for Hambletonian (foaled 1849), the ancestor of most harness rac- ers]
Hamilton Park (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Hamilton, central Scotland
hammer (athletics) (1) a heavy metal ball attached to a long flexible wire which is thrown by being swung around the thrower’s head and then released; (2) the field event in which it is thrown
hammerlock (wrestling) a hold in which the opponent’s arm is twisted up behind his back
Hammers (association football) nickname of the club West Ham United [not directly from the placename but from the shipbuilding department of the Thames Ironworks, London, where workers formed the club in 1895]
Hampden Park (association football) the home ground in Glasgow, Scotland, of both the Scottish club Queens Park and the national team
Hampden roar (association football) traditional term describing the vociferous support for the home or national team at matches at Hampden Park
hand (general) a round or innings
hand line (angling) a fishing line without a rod
handbags (association football, rugby union) collo- quial term used by radio and TV commentators for a confrontation between players [from the concept of a woman’s handbag used to belabor a rival or opponent]
handball (association football) the offense of touching or striking the ball with one’s hand; (Aus-
handcycle • Har-Tru
trian Rules) the act of passing the ball by holding it in one hand and striking it with the fist of the other; (sport) (1) a game with seven players a side played on an indoor court between goals in which the ball is struck with the palm of the hand; (2) a game similar to fives in which a ball is struck with the gloved hand against a wall
handcycle (cycling) a hand-cranked tricycle used in races by disabled riders
handhold (mountaineering) a projection or other feature that one can grasp while climbing
handicap (general) a race or competition in which an inferior competitor’s chances are improved by some means, as being given a head start; (golf) the number of strokes by which a player’s average score exceeds par for the course, this number being subtracted from the player’s score in strokeplay competitions; (horse racing) a race in which each horse carries a weight determined by its handicap mark in order to equalize its chances against other runners; (polo) a value assigned to each player based on previous performances [ap-�](2) a horse running in a handicap race
handicap mark (horse racing) the assessment of a horse’s form, expressed as a figure between 0 and 140 and used as the basis for calculating the weight it carries in a handicap
handicap race (horse racing) a race run as a handicap
handicapper (horse racing) (1) an official who assigns a handicap to a horse; (2) a horse running in a handicap race
handin (badminton, real tennis, squash) the player whose side has the service
handle (association football) to commit the offense of handball; (horse racing) the total takings from bets placed on a race
handled the ball (cricket) the offense committed by a batsman who deliberately touches the ball with a hand not holding the bat, as a result of which he is out
handler (boxing) a person who trains and acts as a second to a boxer; (horse racing) another term for a trainer
handling game (rugby union) play in which the ball is primarily advanced by being handled, as against a kicking game
handoff (American football) the passing of the ball from the quarterback to a running back; (rugby league, rugby union) a [legal] move in which a player with the ball pushes away an opponent
handout (badminton, real tennis, squash) (1) the player whose side is receiving the service; (2) the situation when the first player on the serving side loses his service
handover (athletics) the passing of the baton from one runner to another in a relay race; (rugby league) the change in possession after the sixth tackle
handpass (Australian Rules) another term for a handball
handplant (snowboarding) a move in which a boarer plants one or both hands on the rim of the halfpipe to pivot into a turn
hands (association football) alternate term for handball
hands and heels (horse racing) riding without the use of a whip [using the hands and heels only to direct and encourage the horse]
handsliding (cycling) a method used to change places in the madison, by which teammates grip hands, then release the grip, so that one rider can propel the other forward
handspring (gymnastics) a movement in which the gymnast moves forward or backward onto his hands from a standing position, then completes a somersault, landing on his feet.
handstand (gymnastics) a move in which the gymnast supports his body vertically on his hands in an upside-down position
handy (horse racing) in a prominent position in a race
hang (horse racing) to veer to one side while running
hang a left (skiing) to turn to the left
hang a right (skiing) to turn to the right
hang five (surfing) to have the five toes of one foot projecting over the nose of the board, usually to gain speed
hang-glider (hang-gliding) the light engineless aircraft used in hang-gliding
hang-gliding (sport) a sport in which the participant glides from a height such as a cliff top hanging in a harness from a hang-glider, which he controls by shifting his body weight in opposition to the control frame
hang ten (surfing) to have the ten toes of both feet projecting over the nose of the board, usually to gain speed
hang up one’s boots (association football) to retire from the sport
hang up one’s gloves (boxing) to retire from the sport
hanging lie (golf) the position of the ball when it is resting on a slope
hangtime (American football) the time that a kicked ball remains in the air; (basketball) the time a player is able to remain in the air when shooting or jumping for the ball
Har-Tru (tennis) proprietary name of an artificial surface for tennis courts, made from crushed greenstone [combination of hard and true]
harbor race (sailing) a race around a course marked out by buoys, often in several laps
hard (horse racing) a category of going
hard court (tennis) a court laid with clay, cement, or the like, as distinct from a grass court
hardball (sport) another term for baseball [as against softball]
hare (athletics) another term for a pacemaker [he sets the pace, like the artificial hare or lure in greyhound racing]
hare and hounds (general) a race in which a runner with a head start (the hare) leaves a trail for the others (the hounds) to follow; (motorcycle racing) a form of enduro with no checkpoints
harl (angling) a type of artificial fly [made from a harl, the barb of a feather]
Harmsworth Cup (powerboat racing) the cup awarded to the winner of an international race for boats under 40ft (12m) in length [presented in 1903 by Sir Alfred Harmsworth (1865–1922), later Lord Northcliffe]
harness race (horse racing) a race between trotters or pacers harnessed to sulkies
harness racing (horse racing) the staging of harness races as a sporting contest
harriers (athletics) in cross-country running, a group or club of participants in the sport [with Harriers often part of their name]
Harriers (association football) short name of the English club Kidderminster Harriers
Harrow drive (cricket) another term for a Chinese cut [presumably from Harrow School]
Harry Sunderland Trophy (rugby league) the trophy awarded since 1965 to the man of the match in the Super League Grand Final [named in commemoration of Australian tour manager Harry Sunderland (1890–1964)]
Harry Wragg (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Partick Thistle [rhyming slang for the more common nickname Jags, from the English jockey Harry Wragg (1902–1985)]
Hart Memorial Trophy (ice hockey) the trophy awarded annually to the Most Valuable Player [named for Cecil Hart, manager of the Montreal Canadiens 1926–39]
hash marks (American football) the marks at intervals of one yard that run the length of the field, the two sets of such marks on the gridiron marking the furthest distance from the center of the field at which the ball can be placed to restart play [so called from their resemblance to hash marks, “military service stripes”]
hat trick (association football) the scoring of three goals by the same player in a single match; (cricket) the feat of taking three wickets with consecutive balls; (general) three successes of any kind in any sport [so called as deserving the award of a new hat]
Hatters (association football) nicknames of the English clubs Luton Town and Stockport County [from the hat-manufacturing industry in each town]
haul (cricket) a good number of wickets taken by a bowler in a match [as if loot in a robbery]
haute école (equestrianism) a group term for the more difficult feats of horsemanship [French haute école, “high school”]
have the mount (horse racing) to ride a particular horse in a race
Hawk-Eye (general) proprietary name of a computer program that uses high-speed video cameras around a tennis court or cricket ground to create a 3D image of the ball as it moves and calculate the path it would have taken [invented by Paul Hawkins as an aid to radio and TV commentators]
Hawks (Australian Rules) short name of the Hawthorn Hawks team; (basketball) short name of the Atlanta Hawks team; (rugby league) short name of the English club Hunslet Hawks
Haydock Park (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse near Ashton-in-Makerfield, northwestern England
haymaker (boxing) colloquial term for a wild swinging punch; (cricket) colloquial term for a sweeping stroke with the bat [suggestive of a sweeping scythe in haymaking]
hazard (billiards, snooker) a stroke in which one of the balls goes into a pocket as either a winning hazard or a lozing hazard; (fives) a feature of a court that affects the behavior of a ball played on to it, as the pepperbox in Eton fives; (golf) an obstacle in the form of a bunker or water hazard; (real tennis) any of the openings or galleries around the court that are not winning openings
hazard side (real tennis) the half of the court into which the ball is served
head (bowls) the grouping of bowls around the jack; (greyhound racing) the length of a greyhound’s head, used to describe the distance between two dogs at the finish; (horse racing) the length of a horse’s head, used to describe the distance between two runners at the finish
Head of the River (rowing) the title given the crew finishing first in the bumping races at Oxford and Cambridge
Head of the River Race (rowing) an annual race for eights over the reverse Boat Race course, first held in 1926
head pin (tenpin bowling) the frontmost pin in the triangular arrangement
head start (general) an advantage given to a con-
head string • high dive

testant at the start of a race [in horse racing that of a horse in front of others by the length of a head]

head string (pool) a line a quarter the length of the table from the top, behind which a player must make any break

header (association football) a pass or shot at goal made by directing the ball with the head

headhunter (baseball) colloquial term for a pitcher who throws bean balls; (ice hockey) a player who by physical means in this contact sport aims with others to remove star opposition players from the game

Headingley (cricket) the home ground of Yorkshire county cricket club, Leeds

headless spin (ice skating) a spin like the upright spin but with the head tilted away

headlock (wrestling) a hold in which a combatant puts his arms around his opponent’s head and tightens his grip by interlocking the fingers of both hands

Headquarters (horse racing) another term for Newmarket as the center of English racing

headwork (association football) the directing of the ball by means of headers; (cycling) smart tactical riding at the start of a sprint race

Hearts (association football) short name of the Scottish club Heart of Midlothian

heat (general) (1) a single eliminating round in a race; (2) a division of a contest in which the winner goes on to a final test [so called because it is intense or “burning”]

Heat (basketball) short name of the Miami Heat team

heater (baseball) colloquial term for a fast ball

heavy (horse racing) a category of going

heavy artillery (golf) colloquial term for the driver

heavyweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 91kg (201lb)

hecht (gymnastics) a dismount from the horizontal bar or asymmetric bars in which the gymnast releases the bar at the height of a back swing, sails forward with arms outstretched, and lands upright on the feet [presumably introduced by a gymnast named Hecht]

heel (golf) the lowest part of the clubhead; (rugby league, rugby union) to send the ball out at the back of the scrum with the heel

Heineken Cup (rugby union) the cup awarded annually since 1996 to the winner of a competition for major European clubs and provincial teams [name of sponsor]

Heisman Trophy (American football) the trophy awarded annually since 1935 to the outstanding player in college football [named in honor of U.S. collegiate football coach John Heisman (1869–1936)]

helicopter (skiing) an upright aerial spin of 360 degrees

heliskiing (sport) an extreme sport in which a skier is dropped by helicopter at the top of a mountain, then skis down to the treeline

Hell of the North (cycling) nickname of the Paris–Roubaix race [French l’enfer du nord, “hell of the north,” from the devastated World War I landscape through which the course formerly ran]

helmsman (sailing) the steersman

Henley (rowing) short name of Henley Royal Regatta

Henley Royal Regatta (rowing) Britain’s oldest regatta, with many prestigious trophies, held annually at Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, since 1839

Hennessy (horse racing) short name of the Hennessy Gold Cup

Hennessy Gold Cup (horse racing) the cup awarded to the winner of an annual race at Newbury, first contested in 1957 [name of sponsor]

heptathlete (Olympics) a competitor in a heptathlon

heptathlon (Olympics) a women’s event consisting of seven separate contests held on two consecutive days: 100-meter hurdles, shot put, high jump, and 200 meters on day one, long jump, javelin, and 800 meters on day two [Greek hepta, “seven,” and athlon, “contest”]

Hereford (archery) a round of 72 arrows at 80yds (73m), 48 at 60 (55m), and 24 at 50 (46m); (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse near Hereford, Herefordshire, England

herringboning (skiing) a technique for climbing a slope in cross-country skiing by which the tips of the skis are angled outward [they make a herringbone-like pattern in the snow]

hesitation dribble (basketball) a dribble in which a player feints to stop before continuing to take the ball forward [based on hesitation dance, which has pauses at intervals]

Hexham (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Hexham, Northumberland, England

Hibees (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Hibernian

Hibs (association football) short name of the Scottish club Hibernian

Hickstead (equestrianism) the location in West Sussex, England, of many showjumping events

high bar (gymnastics) (1) the higher of the two asymmetric bars; (2) another term for the horizontal bar

high cheese (baseball) colloquial term for a fastball thrown at the top of or above the strike zone

high dive (swimming) a dive from a high diving board
high house • hold

high house (shooting) the higher trap in skeet
high hurdles (athletics) a race in which the hurdles are 107cm (42in) high
high jump (athletics) a field event consisting of a jump over a high bar
high post (basketball) an offensive position on the court near the foul circle
high-sticking (ice hockey) an offense in which a player touches an opponent with the stick above shoulder level
high tackle (association football) a tackle in which the player’s foot is dangerously high, resulting in a foul
high-toss serve (table tennis) a serve in which the ball is tossed high in the air
highboard (swimming) (of) a high diving board
Highland games (general) an annual contest held in the Scottish Highlands with competitions in sports (including tossing the caber and tug of war), piping, and traditional dancing
hiking (sailing) a maneuver to keep the boat flat in the water by which the helmsman balances between the middle of the boat and the side or sits on the edge of the boat, sometimes leaning far out
hilt (fencing) the handle of the sword, including the guard
Hindenburg (kitesurfing) an accident in which the kite stalls and crashes into an onshore structure [after the disastrous crash in 1937 of the German dirigible Hindenburg]
hip circle (gymnastics) a move on the horizontal bar or asymmetric bars in which the gymnast executes a circle with his hips touching the bar
hiplock (wrestling) a form of cross-buttock
hit (baseball) a stroke that sends the ball into the field of play, allowing the batter to reach first base safely; (fencing) an accurate contact of the sword with the target; (general) a stroke or shot that sends a ball or other missile (as an arrow in archery or a round in shooting) to a target or simply through the air; (rugby union) another term for a tackle
hit and giggle (cricket) derisory name for one-day cricket [pun on slap and tickle, a euphemism for amorous frolicking, by comparison with a dedicated five-day test match]
hit-and-run (baseball) a maneuver in which the baserunner at first base begins to run as soon as the pitcher begins to throw the ball, expecting the batter to put the ball into play, thus giving the baserunner more time to advance safely and force the infielders to move out of position
hit-in (polo) the hitting of the ball into the field of play
hit-out (field hockey) a pass awarded to a defending team to restart play after the ball has been sent over the goal line (without a goal being scored) by the attacking team
hit the ball twice (cricket) a (possibly inadvertent) stroke by the batsman in which he hits the ball twice and so is out
hit the post (association football) to kick or head the ball against one of the goalposts
hit the wall (athletics) to lose energy suddenly in long-distance running, such as a marathon, so that it is a physical and psychological struggle to complete the course
hit wicket (cricket) a stroke by a batsman in which he hits the wicket with his bat or a part of his body and dislodges the bails, so that he is out
hitch and kick (athletics) another term for a hitch kick
hitch kick (athletics) a style of long jump in which the jumper makes two or more strides in the air before landing feet together
Hitler’s Games (Olympics) a byname for the 1936 Olympic Games, held in Berlin, Germany, where they were turned to advantage by Hitler as a showcase to demonstrate his theory of the superiority of the Aryan races
hitter (baseball) another term for the batter
hockey (sport) general name in British use for field hockey or in North American use for ice hockey
hockey ball (field hockey) the hard white ball with which the game is played
hockey mom (ice hockey) colloquial term for a mother who dedicates many hours to driving her children to organized sports activities, especially hockey games, and to supporting their participation in these, often with a greater degree of commitment than a soccer mom
hockey stick (field hockey) the long wooden stick with a curved end with which the ball is struck; (ice hockey) the long (formerly wooden) stick with an angled blade with which the puck is struck
Hockeyroos (field hockey) nickname for the Australian national women’s team [blend of hockey and Kangaroos]
hodad (surfing) colloquial term for a person who hangs around surfing beaches but does not surf [origin uncertain]
hog (curling) a stone that fails to reach the hog line
hog line (curling) a line drawn across each end of the rink, 10m (33ft) from the hack and 6.4m (21ft) from the tee, which a stone must cross to count
hog score (curling) another term for the hog line
hoist (ice hockey) an illegal trapping of an opponent by two players
hold (boxing) a grip of the opponent that prevents him from throwing punches; (judo, wrestling) a
particular manner of gripping and immobilizing the opponent; (mountaineering) shortening of handhold or foothold

hold-down (judo) a grip in which the opponent is held down on the ground

hold serve (tennis) to win one's own service game

hold service (tennis) alternate form of hold serve

hold the throw (darts) to win a leg in which one threw first

hold up (horse racing) the keep a horse toward the rear of the field in a race

holding (American football) the act of illegally grasping an opponent with the hands; (ice hockey) the act of illegally grasping an opponent with the hands or stick

hole (association football) colloquial term for the space between the midfielders and the attackers where the attacking midfielders play; (baseball) colloquial term for the area of the infield between shortstop and third base; (golf) (1) the cylindrical hollow 4½ inches in diameter in the center of the green into which the ball is played; (2) the distance, or the part of the game, between the tee and the hole; (3) the score for playing a ball into the hole in the fewest strokes

hole in one (golf) a shot from the tee that sends the ball straight into the hole

hole out (cricket) to be caught by a fielder and so out; (golf) to play the ball into the hole

home (association football) in football pools, a match won by a team playing on their home ground; (baseball) shortening of home plate; (general) (1) an area where a player is free from attack; (2) another term for the goal; (3) arrived at the finish of a race; (golf) on the second nine holes of the course; (lacrosse) one of the three players first home, second home, and third home

home advantage (general) the means used by the hosts of a sporting contest to gain a tactical advantage over the visitors, as by giving athletes advance access to venues, arranging competition schedules to suit domestic participants, and block-booking seats near the finish line to create a vociferous concentration of supporters

home base (baseball) another term for the home plate

home brew (Canadian football) a player who is a native of the city for which his team is named

home game (general) a game played on a team's home ground

home ground (general) the ground where a team is normally based

home gym (gymnastics) an installation of gymnastic equipment in a person's private home

home plate (baseball) the plate over which the pitcher aims the ball and to which the batter must return to score a run

home run (baseball) a hit that goes far enough to enable the batter to make a complete circuit of all four bases

home straight (horse racing) the final stretch of a racecourse, leading to the finish

home stretch (horse racing) another term for the home straight

home thrust (fencing) a thrust that reaches the point where it is aimed

homer (baseball) colloquial term for a home run

Honest Men (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Ayr United [from Robert Burns's description of the town in “Tam o’ Shanter”: “Auld Ayr, wham ne’er a town surpasses / For honest men and bonnie lasses”]

honest player (ice hockey) colloquial term for a player who is equally effective as attacker and defender

honk (cycling) to pedal while standing up out of the saddle, as a way to gain greater power or to rest the legs while making an ascent [perhaps from honk, “to sound a horn,” as of a driver seeking to power ahead]

honor (golf) the right to play first from the tee

hook (angling) the barbed piece of wire that is attached to the fishing line to carry the bait; (association football) a kick of the ball from the angle of the ankle and boot; (boxing) a swinging blow with the elbow bent; (cricket) a stroke played with a horizontal or rising bat that sweeps the ball to the leg side behind the wicket; (general) the curve of a ball in flight; (golf) a mishit of the ball that sends it through the air from right to left (for a right-handed player) or the converse; (rugby league, rugby union) to obtain possession of the ball in the scrum by using the foot to kick it backward; (surfing) the top part of a wave

hook shot (basketball) a shot made by a player side-on to the basket by curving up the arm farther away from it

hooker (rugby league, rugby union) the forward who binds between the two props in a scrum and who hooks the ball back

hooking (ice hockey) the offense of using a stick as a hook to hinder an opponent

hoop (basketball) the hard circular part of the basket from which a net is suspended; (croquet) one of the metal arches through which the ball must pass; (horse racing) one of the bands in contrasting colors on the silks of a jockey

hoops (sport) colloquial term for basketball

Hoops (association football) nickname of the English club Queens Park Rangers [from the team’s blue and white hooped shirts]
hop (athletics) the first stage of the triple jump
hop, skip, and jump (athletics) a former term for the triple jump
hop, step, and jump (athletics) a former term for the triple jump
horizontal bar (gymnastics) a steel bar, suspended on a frame above the ground, used in men's competition for the rhythmic execution of various swinging and turning movements
Hornets (association football) nickname of the English club Watford [from the team's black shirts with yellow and red trim]; (basketball) short name of the Charlotte Hornets team; (rugby league) short name of the English club Rochdale Hornets
horse (gymnastics) a leather-covered wooden block used for vaulting (lengthwise by men, widthwise by women) [its use suggests the feat of mounting a horse by leaping onto it]

**Horse of the Year Show (equestrianism)** an annual competitive event presented by the British Show Jumping Association, first held in 1949 and currently staged at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham

**horse race (horse racing)** a race between horses with (usually professional) riders, especially as a spectator sport intimately associated with money and the placing of bets

**horse racing (sport)** the conducting of horse races as a competitive sport

**horse trials (equestrianism)** a general term for a three-day event

**horsebox (horse racing)** a road trailer or railcar designed to transport one or more horses

**horseman (equestrianism)** a person skilled in horsemanship

**horsemanship (equestrianism)** the art of riding, training, and managing horses

**horsewoman (equestrianism)** a woman who rides horses and is knowledgeable about them

hosel (golf) the socket for the shaft in the clubhead

**hospital ball (association football)** colloquial term for a poorly executed pass, so placing the recipient (typically a defender or the goalkeeper) in a risky situation

**hosts (general)** the team who arrange and manage a match with rivals on their home ground

**hot corner (baseball)** colloquial term for third base, where the fielder has little time to react to balls hit in his direction

**hot dog (surfing)** (1) a surfboard of above-average size; (2) a surfer who performs showy maneuvers on such a board

**hot-rod racing (auto racing)** the racing of hot rods, as cars specially modified to give added power and speed

**hotpot (horse racing)** colloquial term for a horse that has been heavily backed

**hotshot (baseball)** a player renowned for making accurate shots at the basket

**house (curling)** the target for the stones, as a set of three concentric rings on the ice with the tee in the center

**how's that? (cricket)** the appeal of the fielding side to the umpire to declare that the batsman is out

**howzat? (cricket)** an alternate spelling of how's that? [a representation of the spoken form]

**huddle (American football)** the gathering together of a team behind their line of scrimmage to receive instructions before the next play

**hull (sailing)** the frame or body of a boat

**Hull KR (rugby league)** short name of the English club Hull Kingston Rovers

**hundred (cricket)** a score of 100 runs

**Hungarian Grand Prix (auto racing)** the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the Hungaroring circuit near Budapest, Hungary

**Huns (association football)** a (derogatory) nickname for the Scottish club Rangers

**hunter (horse racing)** a horse used for hunting

**hunter chase (horse racing)** a steeplechase for amateur riders on hunters

**Huntingdon (horse racing)** a National Hunt racecourse at Brampton, near Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, England

**hurdle (athletics)** one of the barriers which contestants jump in hurdling; (horse racing) (1) one of the barriers (lighter and lower than a fence) which horses jump in a steeplechase; (2) a race with these

**hurdler (athletics)** an athlete good at hurdles; (horse racing) a racehorse good at hurdles

**hurdles (athletics, horse racing)** a race over hurdles

**hurley (hurling)** the wooden broad-bladed stick used both to hit and to carry the ball

**hurling (sport)** an Irish game similar to field hockey played between teams of 15 using hurleys and a hide-covered cork ball [from hurl, “fling violently”]

**Hurlingham Club (polo)** the organization responsible for governing polo, first played at this London sporting club in 1874

**Hurricanes (ice hockey)** short name of the Carolina Hurricanes team

**hurry-up offense (American football)** an offensive strategy in which the minimum time is taken to huddle and line up between plays

**hutch (cricket)** colloquial term for the pavilion [as the place where the players eat and drink, with an implied pun on rabbit]

**hybrid (golf)** another term for a utility club

**I-formation (American football)** an offensive formation in which two backs line up behind the
quarterback [the formation is I-shaped, perpendicular to the line of scrimmage]

ICC (cricket) abbreviation of International Cricket Council

ice ax (mountaineering) an ax used by climbers to cut footholds in ice or compacted snow

ice dance (ice skating) an alternate term for ice dancing

ice dancing (ice skating) a form of ice skating based on the movements of ballroom dancing

ice diving (aquatics) scuba diving below the surface of frozen water

ice hockey (sport) an evolution of field hockey, played between teams of six on a rink, in which players equipped with skates and sticks try to send a puck into the goal of their opponents

ice rink (ice hockey, ice skating) a rink with a prepared layer of ice

ice skates (ice hockey, ice skating) skates mounted on blades for moving over ice

ice skating (sport) a sport in which competitors, either singly or in pairs, execute figures on a rink

ice the puck (ice hockey) to shoot the puck from a team’s own side of the red line to beyond the opposing team’s goal line, as a result of which play is stopped and a face-off takes place in the offending team’s zone on the face-off spot nearest to where they last touched the puck

ice track (ice skating) a frozen track used in speed skating

ice yacht (sailing) a lightly built boat with runners and a sail, used in ice yachting

ice yachting (sailing) the sport of traveling over ice in an ice yacht

icing (ice hockey) the action of a player who ices the puck

Iditarod Race (sled dog racing) an annual dogsled race run from Anchorage to Nome, Alaska [named for the village on the historic trail followed by the race]

IM (swimming) abbreviation of individual medley

impost (horse racing) the weight carried by a horse in a handicap

Imps (association football) nickname of the English club Lincoln City [from the “Lincoln Imp,” a grotesque carving of a gnome-like figure in the city’s cathedral]

in chancery (boxing, wrestling) (of) a combatant’s head held under his opponent’s arm

in front (general) ahead in scoring

in-goal (rugby league, rugby union) the area between the goal line and the dead-ball line, in which a try may be scored

in hand (billiards) (of) a ball that has to be played from the D; (croquet) (of) a ball after a roquet has been made and until croquet has been taken

in-lap (auto racing) the lap made before a pit stop

in-off (billiards, snooker) a stroke, also known as a losing hazard, in which a player’s own ball goes into a pocket after striking another ball

in the hole (baseball) (of) a batter due to bat in two places after the current batter

in the money (horse racing) among the winners, whether as runners or bettors

Ina Bauer (ice skating) a move similar to a spread eagle but executed with one knee bent and the other leg stretched out behind [invented by the German skater Ina Bauer (1941–)]

inbounds (general) the central, usually marked-out area of a field or court

incomplete (American football) (of) a pass that is not caught by a receiver

Indian dribble (field hockey) a dribble technique in which a player drives the ball repeatedly from right to left and left to right while moving over the pitch [introduced by the national team of India at the 1956 Olympics]

Indian wrestling (wrestling) (1) a form of the sport in which opponents lie on their backs side by side, head to toe, interlock one arm and leg, and attempt to force each other’s leg down; (2) a form of the sport in which opponents stand face to face, interlock one arm, brace the outsides of corresponding feet against each other, and attempt to unbalance each other; (3) another term for arm wrestling

Indianapolis 500 (auto racing) a race of 500 miles (200 laps) held annually since 1911 at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indiana

Indians (baseball) short name of the Cleveland Indians team

indicator board (association football) the electronic number board held up by the fourth official to indicate the amount of added time to be played or the identity of a substitute

indirect free kick (association football) a free kick, awarded after a foul, from which a goal cannot be scored unless the ball is touched by another player first (as distinct from a direct free kick)

individual medley (swimming) a medley raced between individual swimmers

individual pursuit (cycling) a track race ridden by two riders head-to-head

indoor bowls (bowls) a form of the game played indoors on a carpet with a single rink

indoor cricket (cricket) a form of the sport adapted for play indoors

indoor football (association football) a form of the game played indoors, usually as five-a-side

indoor hockey (field hockey) a form of the game adapted for play indoors, with up to seven players a side

indoor target archery (archery) a form of target archery staged indoors
indoor volleyball  •  inward

indoor volleyball (volleyball) the original indoor form of the sport, as distinct from beach volleyball

Indy car (auto racing) the low-slung, fenderless (open-wheel) racecar that competes in the Indianapolis 500

Indy 500 (auto racing) colloquial name of the Indianapolis 500

infield (auto racing, horse racing) the area enclosed by the racetrack; (baseball) the area enclosed within the baselines; (cricket) the part of the field near the wicket

infielder (baseball) any player positioned around the infield

infighting (boxing) engaging at very close quarters, so that it is impossible to throw full-length punches

injury time (association football) stoppage time that is added on to the regulation 90 minutes of a match to make up for time lost because of injuries

inline skates (roller skating) another term for rollerblades

inner (archery, shooting) the part of the target next to the bull

inning (baseball) a turn at batting for each team

innings (cricket) a turn at batting for a batsman or for a whole team

inquiry (horse racing) shortening of stewards’ inquiry

inrun (skiing) the portion of a ski jump during which the skier travels down the ramp

inside center (rugby union) the center who plays between the fly half and the outside center

inside edge (cricket) a deflection of the ball from the inner edge of the bat; (ice skating) the inner of the two edges of the blade of a skate

inside left (association football, field hockey) an attacking position on the left side toward the center of the field

inside right (association football, field hockey) an attacking position on the right side toward the center of the field

inside-the-park home run (baseball) a home run scored without the ball going beyond the field of play

inside track (general) the inner track of a racetrack or racecourse, which is shorter because of a curve and therefore advantageous

inspection (horse racing) an examination of the course by stewards before a race or meeting when racing is in doubt because of bad weather

instant replay (general) another term for an action reply

insurance (general) a tactical or strategic form of play that enables a team to build up an unbeatable or unmatchable lead

inswinger (association football) a ball kicked so as to swing in toward the goal or the center of the pitch; (cricket) a ball bowled so as to swerve from off to leg

intentional grounding (American football) the offense of deliberately throwing the ball to a place where it cannot be caught in order to avoid being sacked

Inter (association football) short name of the Italian club Inter Milan

Intercalated Games (Olympics) the special Olympic Games held in Athens in 1906 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the birth of the modern Games [they were intercalated, or inserted in the calendar, between the quadrennial 1904 and 1908 Games]

interception (American football) a pass thrown by the quarterback that is caught by a member of the defense

interchange (Australian Rules, rugby league) another term for a substitute

intercollegiate football (American football) another term for college football

intermediates (auto racing) tires used in changeable weather, having more grooves and tread than dry-weather tires but fewer than wets

international (general) (1) (of) a contest between teams of different countries; (2) a participant in such a contest

International Cricket Council (cricket) the governing body of the world game, with headquarters at Lord’s, founded in 1909 as the Imperial Cricket Conference and until 1993 administered by the MCC

International Olympic Committee (Olympics) the body that administers the modern Olympic Games, set up in 1894 and comprising representatives of national Olympic associations from all of the member countries

interstate (baseball) a batting average below 100 [all U.S. interstate highways have two-digit numbers]

interval running (athletics) another term for interval training

interval training (athletics) alternate fast and slow running at timed intervals in a single session, carried out as training for marathons and other long-distance races

intervarsity (general) (of) a game or match between universities, especially Oxford and Cambridge

inverted cross (gymnastics) a holding move on the rings in a handstand position, with the arms stretched out perpendicular to the body

invitational (general) a match or contest open only to those invited

inward (swimming) a dive in which the diver starts
with his back to the water and continues with a rotation toward the board
inwick (curling) a wick in which the stone slides close to the tee
IOC (Olympics) abbreviation of International Olympic Committee
ippon (judo, karate) a winning score of one full point, awarded for a perfectly executed throw or hold [Japanese ip (from ichi), “one,” and pon, a numerical counter for something long, as a staff or sword]
Irish (rugby union) short name of the English club London Irish
Irish Derby (horse racing) an annual race run at the Curragh since 1866 [named for the English Derby]
Irish Grand National (horse racing) an annual race run at Fairyhouse since 1870 [named for the English Grand National]
Irish whip (wrestling) a one-handed throw in which the arm is whipped back and forth forcing the opponent to execute an aerial somersault
iron (golf) a club with a thin metal head, used for shorter shots than a wood
Iron (association football) nickname of the English club Scunthorpe United [from the town’s iron and steel industry]
iron man (athletics) a powerful athlete
Ironman (general) a test of endurance in the form of a triathlon at a surf carnival, held in Hawaii since 1978 and comprising a swim in the sea of 2.4 miles (3.9km), a cycle race of 112 miles (180km) around the island of Oahu, and a marathon
ironmongery (mountaineering) colloquial term for all the metal tools and equipment used for climbing, such as ice axes, crampons, and pitons
irons (horse racing) colloquial term for stirrups
Irons (association football) occasional nickname of the English club West Ham United [of the same origin as the better-known nickname Hammers]
Ironwoman (general) the semi-official title of a female winner of an Ironman
Iroquois Cup (lacrosse) the cup awarded since 1890 to the winners of the annual English club championship [named for the Iroquois people of Canada from whom the game was adopted]
Isis (rowing) the reserve eight of Oxford University, who race their Cambridge counterpart, Goldie, immediately before the Boat Race [name of the Thames River at Oxford]
Island Games (general) a biennial festival of sporting contests similar to the regional games of the Olympics held since 1985 for competitors from an island community, the venue varying but always on an island
Islanders (ice hockey) short name of the New York Islanders team
Isthmian Games (general) a festival of sporting contests similar to the Olympic Games held in ancient Greece on the Isthmus of Corinth
Italian Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Monza, Italy
Ivy League (American football) a conference of colleges and universities in the northeastern United States whose teams largely founded and developed college football in the late 19th century [from the nickname of the colleges themselves]
jab (boxing) a short straight punch
jack (bowls) the small white (occasionally yellow) object ball, which in crown green bowls has a bias
Jack Adams Award (ice hockey) the trophy awarded annually to the coach of the year [named after Jack Adams, manager of the Detroit Red Wings in the late 1940s and early 1950s]
jack high (bowls) a bowl that is level with the jack [a term now officially obsolete]
jacket (horse racing) the loose-fitting silk or satin blouse (formerly jacket) worn by a jockey in the distinctive colors of the owner of the racehorse
jackknife (swimming) a dive in which the swimmer bends his body in two, grasps or touches his ankles, then straightens his body out again on entering the water
jackpot (general) a cash prize won on certain conditions, especially one that accumulates
jaffa (cricket) a well-bowled ball that is likely to take a wicket [said to be so called because “sweeter” than the other balls in a bowler’s spell, as a Jaffa orange is sweeter than others]
Jags (association football) colloquial name of the Scottish clubs Inverness Caledonian Thistle and Partick Thistle [local term for the jagged leaves of a thistle, the Scottish national emblem]
Jaguars (American football) short name of the Jacksonville Jaguars team
jai alai (sport) a type of pelota resembling handball, played with a long curved basket strapped to the wrist [Spanish, from Basque jai, “festival,” and alai, “merry”]
jam (mountaineering) the act of twisting a hand or foot in a crack to secure a hold
Jam Tarts (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Heart of Midlothian [rhyming slang for Hearts, with an additional reference to the maroon color of the team’s shirts]
Jambos (association football) nickname for supporters of the Scottish club Heart of Midlothian [variant form of Jam Tarts]
James Norris Memorial Trophy (ice hockey) the trophy awarded to the outstanding defenseman
throughout a season [named for James Norris, owner of the Detroit Red Wings from 1932 to 1952]
jamming (baseball) a pitch aimed at the body of the batter so as to cramp his swing and rob him of power to hit the ball
Japanese Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Suzuka, Japan
jar (horse racing) another term for firm going, especially as adversely affecting horses who perform better on softer ground
javelin (athletics) (1) a light spear for throwing; (2) the field event in which it is thrown
 jaws (snoozer) the corners of the cushion either side of a pocket
 Jazz (basketball) short name of the Utah Jazz team
 jenny (billiards, snoozer) an in-off into one of the middle pockets made with the object ball close to a cushion
 jerk (weightlifting) the second phase of the clean and jerk movement in which the weightlifter lifts the barbell from shoulder height to above his head with straightened arms and legs
 Jesters Cup (fives) the trophy awarded annually to the winner of the Rugby fives national championship [named for the Jesters Club, founded in 1928 as a cricket club but now mostly associated with court games]
 jet ski (aquatics) a jet-propelled craft, comparable to a motorcycle, used to skim across the surface of the water on a keel resembling a ski
 jet skiing (aquatics) the riding of a jet ski in a competition or as a form of recreation
 Jets (American football) short name of the New York Jets team
 jeu de paume (sport) a former name for real tennis [French, jeu de paume, "game of the palm (of the hand)"]
 jeu provençal (sport) a game similar to boules played in Provence, France [French jeu provençal, "Provençal game"]
 jib (sailing) a triangular sail stretched in front of the foresmast
 jibe (sailing) another spelling of gybe
 jigger (golf) a former type of iron used for approach shots
 Jillarooos (field hockey) nickname of the Australian national under-21 women's team [from Jillarooos, female novices on a sheep or cattle station, as an equivalent of the male jackarooos, from Jack and kangaroo, the national animal]
 Jim Thorpe Trophy (American football) the trophy awarded annually since 1955 to the Most Valuable Player in the National Football League [named for the all-around athlete and talented football player Jim Thorpe (1888–1953)]
jink (rugby union) a quick deceptive turn, as made on getting the ball out from a ruck
 jock (general) (1) colloquial term for a jockstrap; (2) colloquial term for a sportsman
 Jock Scott (angling) a type of artificial fly [named for Jock Scott, the Scottish fisherman who designed it in the mid-19th century]
 jockey (association football) to move backward, forward, or sideways in order to cover changes in direction by opposition players; horse racing a (usually professional) rider in a horse race [pet form of the male name Jock, applied to a young male, as jockeys were originally boys]
jockey cap (horse racing) a reinforced cap with a long peak, worn by jockeys
 Jockey Club (horse racing) the organization founded at Newmarket in about 1750 to promote and regulate the sport and subsequently becoming the controlling authority for flat racing [in 2007 its regulatory powers passed to the British Horseracing Authority]
jockstrap (general) a genital support worn by sportsmen [from jock, slang term for the genitals, and strap]
jodhpur boots (equestrianism) ankle-high boots worn with jodhpurs
 jodhpurs (equestrianism) riding breeches that are loose around the hip but tight-fitting from the knee to the ankle [originally worn in Jodhpur, northwestern India]
jods (equestrianism) colloquial shortening of jodhpurs
 Joeys (field hockey) nickname of the Australian national junior men's team [from joey, a young kangaroo, the national animal]
jog (athletics) to run at a slow, steady pace, especially for exercise
 jogging (athletics) running at a slow, steady pace, especially for exercise
 John Player League (cricket) a former equivalent of the Pro40 League [name of sponsor]
 join the dots (cricket) to bowl a maiden over [a delivery which scores no run is a dot ball, so that the six dots (in two columns of three) conventionally entered by the scorer for a maiden over can be joined up to form a capital “M” for "maiden"]
 judge (angling) a type of artificial fly; (boxing) one of the three ringside officials who keep a record of the scoring hits in a bout; (greyhound racing, horse racing) the official who determines the finishing order in a race; (weightlifting) one of the three officials who decide whether a lift is valid or not; (wrestling) one of the three officials in charge of a bout, the others being the chairman and the referee
 judo (sport) a Japanese martial art that evolved
from jujitsu as a physical discipline based on unarmed self-defense techniques involving principles of movement and balance [Japanese ju, “gentleness,” and do, “way”]
judogi (judo) the costume of loose-fitting jacket and pants secured by a belt worn by a judoka judoka (judo) a practitioner of or expert in judo Jug, The (horse racing) colloquial name of the Little Brown Jug harness race juggler (baseball) to fumble a hit ball without dropping it, thus failing to prevent a runner from reaching a base jujitsu (sport) a Japanese martial art that evolved as system of unarmed combat, now often practiced in physical training, in which the aim is to turn an opponent’s strength and weight to their disadvantage [Japanese ju, “gentle,” and jutsu, “skill”]
juke (American football) to trick an opposing player by pretending to make one move but actually making another
jukskei (sport) a South African sport similar to quoits, in which bottle-shaped pegs (originally yoke pins) are thrown at stakes fixed in the ground [Afrikaans yuk, “yoke,” and skei, “pin”]
Jules Rimet Trophy (association football) the trophy awarded from 1930 to 1970 that preceded the World Cup [donated by French FIFA president Jules Rimet (1871–1956)]
jumar (mountaineering) (1) a clamp which grips the rope when a weight is applied but which runs freely when it is removed; (2) a climb using such clamps [of Swiss origin]
jump (athletics) (1) a jump made as the main part of a movement or exercise, as a high jump or long jump; (2) a jump as the third and final phase of the triple jump; (general) (1) a natural or man-made obstacle that has to be jumped over or across, as a fence in horse racing; (2) a leap in the air as part of a routine, as in ice skating; (3) a leap to catch, hit, or throw a ball, as in basketball; (4) a place from which a jump is made, as for a ski jump; (parachuting) a descent by parachute
jump ball (basketball) a ball thrown up by the referee between opposing players to restart the game
jump cue (pool) a cue used to make the cue ball jump
jump hook (basketball) a hook shot made while the player’s feet are off the ground
jump jockey (horse racing) a jockey who rides in steeplechases
jump-off (equestrianism) in showjumping, an extra round to decide the winner if two or more riders tie for first place
jump racing (horse racing) racing over jumps, as distinct from flat racing
jump shot (basketball, handball) a shot made when the player’s feet are off the ground; (billiards, snooker) a shot that makes the cue ball jump over another ball
jump the gun (athletics) to make a false start [by leaving before the starting gun]
jump turn (skiing) a turn made while jumping
jumper (basketball) colloquial term for a jump shot; (general) a person or animal, such as a horse, that jumps; (rugby union) a player who jumps to gain the ball in a lineout
jumping jack (athletics) a jumping exercise in which the legs are spread apart then brought together while the arms are swung above the head then back down to the sides
jumping pole (athletics) the pole used in the pole vault
jumpmaster (parachuting) a person in charge of parachutists
jungle (golf) colloquial term for tall rough, bushes, or trees
junior (boxing) lighter than the standard for a particular weight
junior bantamweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 52kg (115lb)
junior circuit (baseball) colloquial term for the American League [so called as formed after the National League]
junior featherweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 55kg (122lb)
junior flyweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 49kg (108lb)
junior lightweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 59kg (130lb)
junior middleweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 70kg (154lb)
Junior TT (motorcycle racing) the lesser annual TT race [for smaller bikes than in the Senior TT]
junior welterweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 63.5kg (140lb)
juvenile (horse racing) a two-year-old horse
K (baseball) colloquial abbreviation for a strikeout
k point (skiing) the point at which the hill flattens out in a ski jump, expressed as so many meters from the takeoff and for a normal hill rated as around 90 meters [part-translation of German K-Punkt, shortening of kritischer Punkt, “critical point”]
kabaddi (sport) a sport of Indian origin played between two teams of 7 players, in which players in turn make “raids” into the opposing teams’ court in which they try to touch one of their opponents while chanting “kabaddi” to show that they are holding their breath as the rules require [said to derive from a word related to Kannada kabalisu, “to gulp”]
kaboom (trampolining) a type of somersault in which one part of the body lands on the bed immediately after another, such as the heels after the back [imitative of the action]
kahuna (surfing) a fictitious “god” of the sport [Hawaiian kahuna, “priest,” “wise man”]
kamikaze (surfing) a deliberate wipeout [from the Japanese suicide pilots in World War II]
Kangaroos (Australian Rules) short name of the North Melbourne Kangaroos team; (rugby league) nickname of the Australian national team [from the Australian national animal]
karabiner (mountaineering) another spelling of carabiner
karate (sport) a Japanese martial art as a form of self-defense using blows of the hands and kicks of the feet, together with special breathing and shouts [Japanese kara, “empty,” and te, “hand,” denoting a weaponless sport]
karate chop (karate) a sharp, slanting blow of the hand
karateka (karate) a practitioner of or expert in karate
kart (auto racing) shortening of go-kart
karging (auto racing) the sport of racing in go-karts
kata (karate) a formal series of practice exercises and movements
kayak (canoeing) a type of small canoe based on an Inuit (Eskimo) original and propelled by a paddle with a blade on each end (or on one end only)
kayaker (canoeing) a person who paddles in a kayak
kayaking (canoeing) the sport or recreation of paddling in a kayak
kayo (boxing) a knockout [phonetic spelling of KO]
keel (rowing) the structure of the bottom of the boat that runs from bow to stern; (sailing) the fixed, fin-like structure on the bottom of the hull that stabilizes the boat
keelboat (sailing) a boat with a heavy keel that provides weight to offset the sails
keep goal (association football) to act as goalkeeper
keep one’s end up (cricket) to be content to keep one’s wicket standing without trying to score
keep wicket (cricket) to act as wicketkeeper
keeper (American football) an offensive play in which the quarterback keeps the ball and runs with it instead of attempting a pass to his receiver; (association football) shortening of goalkeeper; (cricket) shortening of wicketkeeper
keepnet (angling) a cone-shaped net in which the fish that have been caught are kept in the water until they can be weighed
keepy-uppy (association football) the feat of keeping the ball from touching the ground by repeatedly flicking it up with the feet, knees, or chest
kegler (general) a person who plays tenpin bowling, skittles, or any related game [German Kegel, “skittle”]
keirin (cycling) a track event over 8 laps in which the riders follow a motorcycle pacer for the first 51/2 laps then sprint the remaining 21/2 laps after the motorcycle leaves the track [Japanese keirin, “bicycle race”]
Kelso (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Kelso, southeastern Scotland
Kempton (horse racing) short name of Kempton Park
Kempton Park (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Sunbury, near London, England
kendo (sport) a Japanese martial art that uses cuts or thrusts from a bamboo sword to score blows on one’s opponent [Japanese ken, “sword,” and do, “way”]
kendoka (kendo) a practitioner of or expert in kendo
kennel (greyhound racing) a business that owns and races greyhounds
Kentucky Derby (horse racing) a race for three-year-old horses, run annually at Churchill Downs, Louisville, Kentucky, since 1875
Kentucky Futurity (horse racing) a harness race for three-year-old trotters, run annually at the Red Mile, Lexington, Kentucky, since 1893
Kentucky Three-Day Event (equestrianism) the nation’s prime three-day event, held annually at the Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington, Kentucky, since 1978
kermesse (cycling) a criterium raced around a short town-center circuit, especially in Belgium [Flemish kermesse, “kermis” (an annual fair, literally “church mass”)]
KERS (auto racing) acronym of kinetic energy recovery system, used by drivers to increase speed on a lap, as when overtaking [the system was abandoned in 2010]
key (basketball) the (usually painted) area on the court that includes the foul lane and the foul circle [so called because in shape it resembles a keyhole]
kick (athletics) a sudden increase in speed, as in the final lap of a long-distance race; (shooting) the recoil of a gun when fired; (snooker) a bad contact between the cue ball and the object ball, caused by dust or chalk on the billiard table
kick-and-rush (association football) (of) a type of play that is more energetic than skillful
kick from the hand (rugby league, rugby union) a kick of the ball as it is let fall from the hand of the kicker
kick-in (association football) a practice in goal shooting before the start of a match
kick-nose (skateboarding) the curved front end of the skateboard
kick out (basketball) to pass the ball from inside the foul lane to a player outside it
kick shot (pool) a shot in which the cue ball bounces off one or more cushions before hitting the object ball
kick-tail (skateboarding) the curved back end of the skateboard
kick turn (skateboarding) a 180-degree turn on the skateboard made by pressing down and pivoting on the back wheels; (skiing) a turn in which one ski is raised so that its tail touches the ground and then pivoted to point in the desired direction
kickabout (association football) an informal game
kickback (association football) a simple form of the game using a larger ball which is kicked, not batted
kickboxing (sport) a martial art of American origin similar to karate in which combatants kick with bare feet and punch with gloved fists
kicker (cricket) a ball that rebounds sharply from the pitch; (general) a player whose job is to take special kicks, as in set pieces; (skiing, snowboarding) a steep ramp used to propel performers into the air
kickflip (skateboarding, snowboarding) a jump into the air that makes the board rotate before the jumper lands on it
kicking coach (rugby union) a coach in kicking skills, and especially place kicks
kicking game (rugby union) play in which the ball is primarily advanced by being kicked, as against a handling game
kicking tee (rugby union) a plastic device used to hold the ball stationary for a place kick
kickoff (American football) a kick from the 35-yard line made at the start of each half; (association football) a kick to a teammate from the center spot made at the start or resumption of a game
kickout (surfing) a maneuver executed by pressing down on the rear of the surfboard and then turning it so as to ride up and over the crest of a wave
kickwax (skiing) another term for grip wax
Kilbeggan (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath, Ireland
kilian (ice skating) a fast ice dance performed by a pair of skaters side by side [origin uncertain]
kill (association football, field hockey) to stop a ball dead; (badminton, tennis) a smash that cannot be returned; (boxing) a knockout; (trampolining) the act of absorbing the recoil from the bed by flexing the body at the hips, knees, and ankles; (volleyball) another term for a spike
kill-devil (angling) an artificial fly that spins in the water like a wounded fish
Killarney (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland
Killies (association football) short name of the Scottish club Kilmarnock
kilo (cycling) colloquial term for a 1km time trial
King George (horse racing) short name of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes
King George V Gold Cup (equestrianism) the trophy awarded for an international men's showjumping competition held at Hickstead since 1934 [named for George V (1865–1936)]
King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes (horse racing) an annual race at Ascot founded in 1951 to mark the Festival of Britain [named for George VI (1895–1952) and his wife Queen Elizabeth (the Queen Mother) (1900–2002)]
King George VI Chase (horse racing) an annual race run traditionally on Boxing Day (December 26) at Kempton Park since 1947 [named for George VI (1895–1952)]
King of the Mountains (cycling) the title given to the leader in the competition for points gained on climbs in the Tour de France or Giro d'Italia
king pair (cricket) a golden duck in both innings of a match
King Willow (sport) a personification of cricket [from the willow from which the bat is traditionally made]
Kings (basketball) short name of the Sacramento Kings team; (ice hockey) short name of the Los Angeles Kings team
Kinnaird Cup (fives) the cup awarded since 1926 to the winner of an annual contest in Eton fives [donated by Lord Kinnaird (1880–1972)]
kip (gymnastics) a movement in which the body is rapidly straightened from an inverted pike position by pushing the hips forward and the legs back [origin uncertain, but perhaps related to Low German Kippe, “point”]
kiss (billiards, snooker) a light contact between two balls in motion
kiss the mistress (bowls) to lightly graze the jack [mistress in former sense “jack”]
kit (general) a set of sports clothes or equipment
kite (general) a type of specially designed parachute on which a person is suspended when being towed in a sport such as kitesurfing or parakiting
kiteboarding (sport) another term for kitesurfing
kitesurfing (sport) a sport similar to windsurfing
in which a person is towed on a board like a wakeboard behind a steerable kite

kitty (bowls) another term for the jack

Kiwis (general) a New Zealand sports team [from the country’s national bird]

knee drop (trampolining) a landing position on the knees and shins with the rest of the body vertical

kneeboard (water skiing) a short board like a surfboard on which the rider kneels while sitting on his heels

Knickerbockers (basketball) short name of the New York Knickerbockers team

Knicks (basketball) short colloquial name for the Knickerbockers

Knights (rugby league) short name of the English club City Knights

knock (cricket) the score achieved by a batsman in a single innings; (cycling) another term for bonk

knock-back (association football) a downward header for a nearby teammate to take on

knock-down (association football) a downward header for a teammate to run to

knock in (polo) to put the ball back into play from one’s own baseline

knock-on (rugby league, rugby union) a contravention of the rules in which the ball is knocked forward with the hand or arm

knock out (general) to defeat in a knockout competition

knock the balls about (billiards) to play an informal game

knock up (cricket) to score runs rapidly

knock-up (squash, tennis) a practice game before a match

knockout (boxing) a blow that renders the opponent unconscious or incapable of recovering before the end of the count

knockout competition (general) a contest in which the losers in each round are eliminated

knots (surfing) the cuts and bruises sustained by a surfer that serve as a status symbol

knuckleball (baseball) a slow pitch with an unpredictable trajectory, effected by gripping the ball with the fingertips

knuckler (baseball) colloquial term for a knuckleball

knur and spell (sport) a game resembling trapball played chiefly in northern England in which a knur (ball) is thrown up by a spell (trap) to be hit with a stick or bat

KO (boxing) abbreviation of knockout

koka (judo) the lowest score awarded for a throw or hold, worth three points [Japanese koka, “result”]

kook (surfing) a novice or incompetent surfer

Kookaburras (field hockey) colloquial name of the Australian national men’s team [from the bird associated with Australia]

kop (association football) a high bank of terraces for standing spectators at a match, especially that originally at Anfield [from the hill Spion Kop, near Ladysmith, South Africa, the site of a British defeat during the Boer War]

korfball (sport) a game of Dutch origin resembling basketball played between two teams of eight, the aim being to score goals in suspended baskets made of woven rattan or wicker [Dutch korf, “basket,” and bal, “ball”]

Kovacs (gymnastics) a flyaway on the horizontal bar and asymmetric bars in which the gymnast, after swinging around the bar, releases the bar, performs a back somersault in the air, then regrasps the bar [introduced in 1979 by the Hungarian gymnast Peter Kovacs]

krav maga (sport) a form of self-defense using martial art techniques that was originally developed for Israeli defense forces as a system of unarmed combat [Hebrew krav maga, “contact fighting”]

kumite (karate) a form of sparring similar to that in boxing except that attacks are stopped short of contact with the target [Japanese kumite, “set,” and te, “hand”]

Kumuls (rugby league) nickname of the Papua New Guinea national team [from the bird of paradise native to the islands]

kung fu (sport) a martial art of Chinese origin covering both armed and unarmed combat techniques and self-defense [Chinese kung, “merit,” and fu, “master”]

kyu (judo, karate) one of the novice grades of proficiency [Japanese kyu, “class”]

kyudo (archery) a form of the sport designed to develop concentration and coordination [Japanese kyu, “bow,” and do, “way”]

lacks (sport) colloquial term for lacrosse

lacrosse (sport) a field game of French–Canadian origin played by men and women (with different rules for each) in which a crosse is used to throw, catch, and cradle the ball and drive it into the opponents’ goal [Canadian French (le jeu de) la crosse, “(the game of) the hooked stick”]

lad (horse racing) shortening of stable lad

ladder tournament (general) a tournament in which players are ranked according to performance and can move up only by defeating a higher-ranked player

Ladies’ Day (horse racing) colloquial name of the day when the Ascot Gold Cup is run at Royal Ascot or the Cheltenham Gold Cup at Cheltenham, the emphasis being on fashion rather than racing

Ladies’ Plate (rowing) the trophy awarded to the
winner of a race for men's eights at Henley Royal Regatta [first offered as a prize in 1845 by the local ladies of Henley]

Lady Byng Memorial Trophy (ice hockey) the trophy awarded annually to the player best combining clean play with a high standard of skill [presented in 1925 by Lady Byng, née Marie Evelyn Moreton (1870–1925), wife of Lord Byng (1862–1935), governor general of Canada (1921–26)]

lag (billiards) another term for string

lag a putt (golf) to play a putt with the aim of getting the ball near the hole but not necessarily in it

Lake Placid (Olympics) a noted bobsled course in New York State that was the venue of the Winter Olympics in 1932 and 1980 and remains so for world championships

Lakers (basketball) short name of the Los Angeles Lakers team

lamé (fencing) the metal mesh that covers the target area of a fencer, used with electronic recording equipment [French]

Lance Todd Trophy (rugby league) the trophy awarded to the man of the match in the Challenge Cup final [named in memory of the British player Lance Todd (1883–1942)]

land (general) to win a race or a prize

land yacht (sailing) a wheeled boat with sails for running on land, usually along beaches

landing mat (gymnastics) the mat on which a gymnast lands on completing a routine on apparatus

landing net (angling) a special net in which fish are landed after being caught.

lane (athletics) a marked division of the track within which an athlete must stay when running a sprint race; (cycling) a marked division of the track in a velodrome; (swimming) a marked channel of a swimming pool in which a swimmer must stay when competing in a race; (tenpin bowling) the smooth wooden runway along which the balls are bowled to the pins

langlauf (skiing) another term for cross-country skiing [German lang, “long,” and Laufl, “run”]

lanterne rouge (cycling) the rider in last place in the general classification in a stage race [French lanterne rouge, “red light,” from the red light on the rear of a train]

lap (general) a completed circuit of a track or course

lap of honor (general) a celebratory circuit of a field or track made by a team or individual competitor after a victory

lap shot (cricket) a hit by a batsman that goes straight into the lap of the wicketkeeper

lapped (cycling) more than one lap behind the leader in a track race

lappery (sport) colloquial term for auto racing [in which contestants complete laps of the race-track]

large hill (skiing) the larger of the two ski-jump hills in the Winter Olympics, usually measuring 120m

Laser (sailing) a class of single-handed dinghy introduced in 1971 [apparently random name]

last man (association football) a sole defender between an attacker and the goal, who commits a foul if he prevents the attacker from taking a clear opportunity to score a goal; (cricket) the last batsman of his side to go in

late cut (cricket) a cut with a stroke played later than usual

late tackle (association football) a mistimed tackle made after the ball has been played and making contact with the player rather than with the ball, so resulting in a foul

lateral (American football) a sideways or backward pass

lateral water hazard (golf) a water hazard that runs parallel to the hole

lath (equestrianism) a thin white strip marking the boundary of a water jump, used to indicate if a horse fails to clear the jump.

Latics (association football) colloquial name of the English clubs Oldham Athletic and Wigan Athletic [apparently a form of athletic]

laugher (baseball) an easily won match [it was so easy to win it was laughable]

law 29 (rugby union) an imaginary law relating to conduct on the field that effectively equates to a law of common sense

lawn bowls (bowls) the outdoor game, as distinct from indoor bowls

lawn tennis (sport) the formal name of tennis, as distinct from real tennis

lay (angling) to lower a weight or shot into the water until it rests on the bottom with the hook and bait; (horse racing) to place a bet on a horse in a race

lay-in (basketball) a shot made at the top of a jump, usually by bouncing the ball off the backboard into the basket

lay off (association football, field hockey) to pass the ball to a teammate who is in a better position to make progress with it

lay on (association football, field hockey) to pass the ball accurately so that a teammate can make the next move

lay-up (basketball) a shot made at the top of a jump in which the ball enters the basket after being gently tipped onto the backboard; (croquet) a shot that leaves the balls in a position
that favors the player but puts his opponent at a disadvantage; (golf) a shot played deliberately short of a hazard or green

layback (mountaineering) a method of climbing a crack by leaning back with the feet against the rock face; (surfing) an extreme maneuver in which the surfer lies back on a wave

layback spin (ice skating) an upright spin made with the back arched

layout (gymnastics) a position in which the body is fully extended, either straight or slightly arched; (swimming) a dive in which the body and legs are straight, with the feet together and the toes pointed

Laytown (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Laytown, Co. Meath, Ireland

lb (cricket) abbreviation of leg before wicket

lead [“first place”] (bowls) the first bowler in a team, who has the advantage of bowling the jack; (boxing) the first punch of two or more from the same fist; (curling) the member of the rink who plays first; (equestrianism) the leg that the horse puts first in a canter; (general) (1) the position of a competitor ahead of others in a race; (2) the distance by which a competitor is ahead of others; (mountaineering) the climber who goes first, attaching safety aids such as belays

lead [“metal”] (angling) the lead weight or piece of shot used at the end of a fishing line

lead change (equestrianism) a maneuver in dressage in which the horse’s lead changes

lead dog (sled dog racing) the dog in the front place in the team formation

lead-off hitter (baseball) the player who bats first for the batting side

lead-out (cycling) the tactic whereby a rider allows a teammate to slipstream behind him as he rides at high speed in order to give him an advantage as he prepares to go into a sprint; (greyhound racing) the official who parades the dogs before a race and who retrieves them after it

lead pass (association football) a pass into the space in which a teammate has run forward, so creating a potential opportunity to score a goal

lead through (mountaineering) to act as an alternate leader over a particular stretch of rock

lead with one’s chin (boxing) to adopt an awkward stance that makes one vulnerable to punches [a boxer normally leads with his fists]

leader (angling) a translucent connection between the end of a fishing line and the hook or fly; (general) (1) the player or animal (as a horse or dog) in the front place in a team; (2) the player or team ahead of others in a race or match

leaderboard (golf) the scoreboard that lists the names and scores of the current leaders in a competition

league (general) a group of clubs or teams who compete with one another for a championship

League Cup (association football) the former name of the Carling Cup

league football (Australian Rules, rugby league) the game as played in leagues

league match (general) a match between two clubs in the same league

league table (general) a table in which clubs in a league are listed according to their results

Leander (rowing) Britain’s oldest and most prestigious rowing club, founded in London in 1818 but now based at Henley, the site of the Henley Royal Regatta [name of the rowboat from which it evolved]

leash (surfing) the rubber cord used to attach the surfboard to the surfer’s ankle

leather (general) colloquial term for the ball in sports such as association football, baseball, and cricket [from the leather covering (or formerly covering) the ball]

leather on willow (sport) a byname for cricket [from the leather struck by the willow]

leave (billiards) the position of the balls at the end of a player’s stroke or break; (tenpin bowling) the pins that remain standing after the first ball

ledger (angling) short name for ledger bait, ledger line, or ledger tackle

ledger bait (angling) bait that is anchored to the bottom [from a word related to lay or lie]

ledger line (angling) a fishing line fixed in one place

ledger tackle (angling) the tackle used to keep the ledger bait on the bottom

lee-oh! (sailing) the warning called by the helmsman when the boat is about to come about

leech (sailing) the outside edge of a sail

leeward (sailing) toward the direction in which the wind is blowing, as distinct from windward

left (boxing) a punch with the left fist

left arm (cricket) a player who bowls with the left arm

left back (field games) a back who plays primarily on the left side of the pitch

left center (field games) a player who plays primarily to the left of the center of the pitch

left cross (boxing) a punch delivered from the left side

left defender (field games) a left half who plays deep

left field (baseball) the part of the outfield to the left of the second base as viewed from home plate

left fielder (baseball) a fielder positioned in left field

left half (field games) a halfback who plays primarily on the left side of the pitch
left-hander (boxing) a punch delivered with the left hand; (general) a player whose left hand is dominant, as against the more common right-hander; (surfing) a wave breaking to the left, as seen by a surfer facing the beach.

left mid (field games) the midfield players who play primarily on the left side of the pitch

left wing (field games) the part of the pitch to the left of its center

left winger (field games) an attacking player on the left wing

leftie (general) colloquial term for a left-hander

leg (athletics) (1) a stage of a race; (2) a single runner’s section of a relay; (cricket) shortening of leg side; (general) a distinct part of a contest or competition; (sailing) the distance covered on a single tack

leg bail (cricket) the bail nearest the batsman

leg before (cricket) shortening of leg before wicket

leg before wicket (cricket) an infringement in which the lower part of the leg of the batsman prevents the ball bowled by the bowler from hitting the wicket, as a result of which the batsman is out

leg break (cricket) a ball bowled by a slow bowler that deviates from the leg side to the off side on bouncing

leg bye (cricket) a bye scored after the ball bowled by the bowler has touched any part of the batsman’s person except his hands or the bat

leg circle (gymnastics) a move on the pommel horse in which the legs are kept together and swung in complete circles around the horse, the hands being lifted to allow the legs to pass

leg cutter (cricket) a ball bowled by a fast bowler that deviates from the leg side to the off side on bouncing

leg drive (cricket) a drive to the leg side

leg glance (cricket) a glance to the leg side

leg rope (surfing) another name for a leash

leg side (cricket) the side of the pitch on which the batsman stands when waiting to receive a ball from the bowler [his legs are on that side]

leg slip (cricket) a fielder positioned slightly behind the batsman on the leg side

leg spin (cricket) the spin given to the ball by the bowler so that it causes a leg break

leg spinner (cricket) a bowler who bowls leg spins

leg stump (cricket) the stump nearest the batsman

leg theory (cricket) the theory that favors bowlinwe bowling, with a large number of fielders on the leg side close to the wicket

leg trap (cricket) a group of fielders positioned for catches on the leg side close to the wicket

Leger (horse racing) short name of the St. Leger

leggy (cricket) another spelling of leggy

leggy (cricket) colloquial term for a leg spinner

Leicester (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at South Knighton, near Leicester, Leicestershire, England

Le Mans (auto racing) short name of the Le Mans 24-Hour race

Le Mans 24-Hour race (auto racing) an annual 24-hour race for sports cars held since 1923 on an 8.3 miles (13.4km) circuit near Le Mans, northwestern France

length (cricket) a suitable distance for pitching a ball, a “good length” being one that the batsman finds hard to play; (greyhound racing) the length of a greyhound’s body, used to indicate the distance between two dogs finishing a race; (horse racing) the length of a horse, used to indicate the distance between two horses at the finishing post; (rowing) the length of a boat, used to judge the distance between two boats in a race; (swimming) the length of a swimming pool, as a measure of distance covered by a swimmer; (tennis) the consistent ability of a player to make shots to the back of the court

Lents (rowing) the boat races held in the Lent (spring) term between colleges at Cambridge University

Leonard Trophy (bowls) the trophy awarded to the country with the best overall performances in the men’s world championship [donated in 1966 by W.M. Leonard, managing director of the Australian company that originally sponsored it]

Leopardstown (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse near Dublin, Ireland

leotard (gymnastics) a close-fitting one-piece garment worn by gymnasts [first worn by the French trapeze artist Jules Léotard (1830–1870)]

les autres (Olympics) the term used for competitors in the Paralympic Games whose disability does not fit into any of the other defined groups [French les autres, “the others”]

Les Bleus (rugby union) nickname of the French national team [French les bleus, “the blues,” for the color of their strip]

Lester B. Pearson Award (ice hockey) the trophy awarded to the outstanding player of the year [named in honor of the Canadian prime minister Lester B. Pearson (1897–1972)]

Lester Patrick Trophy (ice hockey) the trophy awarded since 1966 for outstanding service to the sport in the United States [named for Lester Patrick (1883–1960), manager and coach of the New York Rangers]

let (squash) a replayed point following unintentional obstruction; (table tennis) a replayed point; (tennis) (1) a serve that hits the net cord before landing, and is accordingly replayed; (2) a replayed point [not let, “permit,” but let, “hinder”]

let-off (cricket) the reprieve of a batsman because
a fielder has missed an opportunity of getting
him out

letter (general) an award to a player for achievement
in sport made by a school or college in the
form of a monogram (letter) representing the
name of the awarding establishment

letter jacket (general) a blouson-style jacket in
school or college colors bearing an embroidered
or sewn-on letter (originally as a sporting award
but now more generally)

letterbox (mountaineering) a rectangular opening in
a narrow rock ridge

levade (equestrianism) a movement in dressage in
which the horse rears up to balance on its
hindlegs with its forelegs drawn up [French levade, “a raising”]

leveller (association football) another term for an
equalizer

libero (association football) another term for a
sweeper; (volleyball) a player who can be brought
on at any time to play in a defensive position
[short for Italian battitore libero, literally “free
beater” (i.e. “defender”)]

lido (swimming) an open-air swimming pool
[originally the name of a bathing beach near
Venice, Italy]

lie (golf) the position from which the ball has to be played

Lierre-Bastogne-Liége (cycling) an annual road
race in Belgium from Liège to Bastogne and
back (via a different route), first held in 1892

Liffey Descent (canoeing) an annual long-distance
race in Ireland down the Liffey River, first held
in 1959

lift (ice skating) in pair skating, a movement in
which the man lifts the woman in the air, as in
an axel lift; (weightlifting) the movement by
which a weightlifter lifts the barbell; (wrestling)
the movement by which a wrestler lifts an opponent

lifter (cricket) a ball, especially one bowled fast,
that rises sharply after striking the pitch

liftoff (general) another term for a takeoff

ligger (angling) a fishing line with a float and bait
which is left in the water, especially as a
nightline for pike fishing [related to lie]

Light Blues (association football) a nickname of the
Scottish club Rangers [the team’s shirts are
lighter in color than those of the Dark Blues]

light flyweight (boxing) another term for junior
flyweight

light heavyweight (boxing) the professional weight
category of maximum 79kg (175lb)

light middleweight (boxing) another term for junior
middleweight

light welterweight (boxing) the professional
weight category of maximum 63.5kg (140lb)

Lightning (ice hockey) short name of the Tampa
Bay Lightning team

lightweight (boxing) the professional weight
category of maximum 61kg (135lb)

lightweight rowing (rowing) a contest for rowers
weighing less than 70kg (154lb)

Lilienthal Medal (gliding) the sport’s highest
award, instituted in 1928 [named in memory of
the German aeronautical pioneer Otto Lilien-
thal (1848–1896)]

Lilywhites (association football) nickname of the
English club Preston North End [so called from
the color of the team’s strip]

limb (archery) the upper or lower half of a bow

Limerick (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt
racecourse in Co. Limerick, Ireland

limited-over (cricket) (of) a match in which the
number of overs is restricted

Lincoln Handicap (horse racing) a flat race
run annually at Doncaster [until 1965 run at
Lincoln and known as the Lincolnshire Handi-
cap]

line (American football) (1) the odds set by book-
makers; (2) the players who line up on or near the
line of scrimmage; (angling) shortening of
fishing line; (cricket) the direction of flight of a
ball bowled by the bowler; (general) (1) a mark
that limits an area of play or that must be crossed
to score or to win a race; (2) a strategic formation
of players in a row in a team game such as
American football or ice hockey; (golf) the direction
of the hole from the position of a player’s ball

line call (tennis) a call on the status of a shot, made
by an umpire or line judge

line drive (baseball) a hard-hit ball with a flat tra-
jectory

line-fishing (angling) fishing with a line rather
than a net

line judge (American football) the member of the
officiating team who monitors the line of scrim-
mage; (tennis) an official who watches a line to
judge whether a shot is in or out

line of scrimmage (American football) an imaginary
line across the field behind which the line-
men of a team position themselves at the start of
play

line orienteering (orienteering) the following of a
set route marked on a master map

line player (handball) another term for a pivot

linebacker (American football) a defensive player
positioned just behind the line of scrimmage

lineman (American football) any player who lines
up on the line of scrimmage

lineout (rugby union) the means of restarting play
after the ball has gone into touch, in which the
two sets of forwards form a line facing the
touchline and a player from the opposing team
throws the ball in, upon which the jumpers attempt to gain possession.

**liner** (baseball) a ball which when struck flies through the air in a nearly straight line not far from the ground.

**linesman** (American football, tennis) another term for a line judge; (association football) the former name of an assistant referee; (ice hockey) an official responsible for calling any infraction regarding the blue line or red line.

**lineup** (billiards) the positioning of three balls in a direct line, with one's opponent's ball between the cue ball and the red; (general) a list of proposed or actual members of a team, entrants for a race, or the like; (surfing) the place where surfers wait for waves to break, lining themselves up with a particular point on the shore.

**Lingfield Park** (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse near Lingfield, Surrey, England.

**linkman** (association football, field hockey) a player who acts as a link between the center forwards and the backs.

**links** (golf) shortening of golf links.

**lino** (association football) colloquial name for a linesman.

**Lions** (American football) short name of the Detroit Lions team; (association football) nickname of the English club Millwall [from their self-acclaimed prowess]; (Australian Rules) short name of the Brisbane Lions team; (Canadian football) short name of the British Columbia Lions team; (rugby league) short name of the English club Swinton Lions; (rugby union) popular name of the British and Irish Lions, a touring team made up of players from the British Isles [named from the lion on the team's official necktie].

**lip** (golf) the edge or rim of the hole.

**lip out** (golf) to hit the lip of the hole but not fall in.

**liptrick** (snowboarding) a trick performed on or near the lip of the wall of the half-pipe.

**listed race** (horse racing) a flat race that is less important than a pattern race but still highly prized.

**Listowel** (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Listowel, Co. Kerry, Ireland.

**Little Brown Jug** (horse racing) an annual harness race for three-year-old pacers, run at Delaware, Ohio, since 1946 [named by newspaper vote after the popular song of 1869].

**Little League** (baseball) an international organization for children and young people, founded in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, in 1939.

**Little Three** (American football) the college football teams of Amherst College, Wesleyan University, and Williams College; (basketball) the teams of Canisius College, Niagara University, and St. Bonaventure College.

**live bait** (angling) a living worm or small fish used as bait.

**Livi Lions** (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Livingston.

**load** (horse racing) to ride or lead a horse into the starting stalls before a race.

**load the bases** (baseball) to place baserunners at first base, second base, and third base.

**loan** (association football) the temporary transfer of a player from one club to another with no transfer fee involved.

**lob** (cricket) a low underhand ball bowled by the bowler; (general) a hit or kick that sends the ball in a high arc, usually for strategic reasons, for example to score a goal.

**lob wedge** (golf) a wedge with a high degree of loft, used to play pitch shots and flop shots.

**local derby** (association football) a brief between rival teams from the same area [after the Derby].

**lock** (rugby league, rugby union) one of the two players in the second row of the scrum, behind the hooker; (wrestling) a hold that prevents an opponent from moving the part held.

**lock forward** (rugby league, rugby union) an alternate name for the forward who is a lock.

**locker room** (general) (1) a room for changing clothes and storing belongings in a locker, as in a pavilion, gymnasium, or sports center or at a swimming pool; (2) the equivalent of a changing room as a place where individual participants and team members can discuss tactics or fellow players, be addressed by their captain, manager, or coach, and the like.

**loft** (general) a stroke or hit that sends a ball up high; (golf) the degree of angle at which a club-head is set.

**lofter** (golf) a golf club, especially an 8-iron, used for a loft.

**log** (surfing) a large, cumbersome surfboard.

**lollipop** (association football) colloquial term for a stepover; (auto racing) colloquial term for the sign on a stick used to give instructions to a driver during a pit stop; (bouls) colloquial term for one of the small colored lollipop-shaped pieces of plastic held up by the marker to indicate the number of shots gained in an end.

**lolly** (cricket) colloquial term for an easy catch [shortening of lollipop, with a suggestion of dolly].

**London Marathon** (athletics) an annual marathon run since 1981 over a course in London, England, to raise money for charity.

**London to Brighton Walk** (athletics) an annual 53-mile (85km) race walking event between...
London and Brighton, England, first held in 1919 but discontinued in 2003

**long ball** (general) a ball hit, kicked, or thrown a long way

**long bomb** (American football) a play in which a quarterback throws a long ball to a receiver positioned near the end zone to score a touchdown

**long corner** (field hockey) a free hit taken from the corner of the goal line

**long-distance race** (general) a race over a long distance, as in long-distance running

**long-distance runner** (athletics) a runner in a long-distance race

**long-distance running** (athletics) a blanket term for the 5,000 meters and 10,000 meters foot races

**long field** (cricket) a fielding position near the boundary on the bowler’s side, or more specifically long off or long on

**long game** (golf) the various kinds of play needed to reach the green

**long hop** (cricket) a ball bowled so that it makes a long flight after pitching or bouncing

**long iron** (golf) an iron used to play long shots

**long jump** (athletics) a field event in which an athlete sprints down a runway then leaps as far as possible off the board to land in the pit

**long leg** (cricket) a fielding position on the boundary behind the batsman on the leg side

**long odds** (horse racing) odds in a bet that are unfavorable in terms of risk but favorable in terms of potential gain

**long off** (cricket) a fielding position on the boundary behind the bowler on the off side

**long on** (cricket) a fielding position on the boundary behind the bowler on the leg side

**long reliever** (baseball) a relief pitcher used to pitch several innings if the starting pitcher has to be removed from the game

**Long Room** (cricket) a large room in the pavilion at Lord’s which every player must pass through before going out to the field of play

**long throw** (association football) a throw-in that sends the ball into or near the goal area of the opposing team, thus giving an opportunity for a teammate to score

**long-track racing** (motorcycle racing) a form of speedway over 1,000-meter tracks

**Long Western** (archery) a round of 48 arrows for men and women respectively at 80 and 60yds (73m and 55m)

**longboard** (surfing) an extra long surfboard, such as a Malibu

**Longchamp** (horse racing) a noted racecourse near Paris, France

**longeur** (equestrianism) in vaulting, the person who leads round the horse while the rider performs gymnastic maneuvers [French longeur, “person who walks alongside”]

**longstop** (cricket) a now rarely used fielding position directly behind the wicket to stop balls missed by the wicketkeeper

**Lonsdale Belt** (boxing) the trophy in the form of a belt awarded for winning the same title three times in succession [presented in 1909 by Lord Lonsdale (1857–1944), president of the National Sporting Club]

**look for runs** (cricket) to take every opportunity, as a batsman, to score a run

**look-in** (American football) a quick pass made to a receiver running diagonally across the center of the field

**loom** (rowing) the long section of the oar between the handle and the blade

**Loons** (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Forfar Athletic [Scots loon, “boy,” “lad”]

**loop** (ice skating) shortening of loop jump; (table tennis) a shot that places heavy topspin on the ball

**loop jump** (ice skating) a jump in which the skater takes off from the back outside edge, makes a full turn in the air, then lands on the same edge

**loose** (rugby union) (of) forward play that does not involve scrums or lineouts

**loose ball** (association football) a ball not in the possession of either team

**loose box** (horse racing) a part of a stable where horses are kept untied [“loose” because they can move about]

**loose forward** (rugby league) the forward who binds at the back of the scrum behind the two second-row forwards; (rugby union) (1) either of the two wing forwards; (2) the forward who binds at the back of the scrum

**loose head** (rugby league, rugby union) the forward in the front row of the scrum closest to the scrum half as he puts the ball in

**loose-head prop** (rugby league, rugby union) the prop forward on the left of the front row in the scrum

**loose scrum** (rugby league, rugby union) a scrum formed by the players around the ball during play, as distinct from one ordered by the referee

**loosen up** (general) to exercise gently in preparation for a full effort, as in athletics

**loosener** (cricket) an indifferent ball bowled by the bowler before he is fully warmed up

**Lord’s** (cricket) the home ground of Middlesex county cricket club, London, that is the headquarters of the Marylebone Cricket Club and a regular venue for test matches [founded in Marylebone in 1787 by Thomas Lord (1755–1832) but in 1814 moved to St. John’s Wood, to the northwest]
loser (billiards, snooker) colloquial term for a losing hazard

losing hazard (billiards, snooker) a stroke in which a player’s own ball goes into a pocket after contact with another ball

lost ball (cricket) a situation in which the ball cannot be found or recovered, as a result of which it is declared dead

lot (horse racing) a batch of horses grouped for daily exercise, as in a gallop

love (tennis) a zero score [probably from love in the sense “nothing,” as in “labor of love”]

love-all (tennis) a score of no points on either side

love-fifteen (tennis) a score of no points to the server and one point to the opponent

love-five (tennis) colloquial term for a score of love-fifteen

love-forty (tennis) a score of no points to the server and three points to the opponent

love game (tennis) a game in which a player fails to score a point

love set (tennis) a set in which a player fails to score a point

love-thirty (tennis) a score of no points to the server and two points to the opponent

low bar (gymnastics) the lower of the two asymmetric bars

low house (shooting) the lower trap in skeet

low post (basketball) the part of the court just outside the foul lane and under the basket

low side (golf) an underestimate of the borrow required when making a putt

lowball (baseball) a ball pitched in such a way that it passes over the plate below the level of the batter

Ludlow (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Bromfield, near Ludlow, Shropshire, England

luff (sailing) to turn a boat toward the wind

lug (sailing) to carry too much sail

Lugano Trophy (athletics) the trophy awarded to the winner of the world championship in race walking [first won in 1961 in Lugano, Switzerland]

luge (sport) a race on the specially designed light toboggan so named [Swiss French luge]

lugworm (angling) a sluggish worm found in the sand on the seashore, used for bait

lunch (cricket) the first meal break of the day during a match, regarded as a time point for the number of runs scored

lunge (fencing) a sudden attack with the sword, made with the back leg straightened and the body and front leg thrust forward; (gymnastics) a sudden movement forward or sideways, made with one leg bent at the knee and the other stretched out behind

Lupi (association football) nickname of the Italian club AS Roma [Italian lupi, “wolves,” from the legend that Rome was founded by Romulus and Remus, who were suckled by a she-wolf]

lure (angling) a type of brightly-colored artificial fly; (greyhound racing) the object resembling a hare that is chased by the dogs in a race as it is electrically driven around the inside of the track

lutz (ice skating) a jump from the back outside edge of one skate to the same edge of the other skate, with a complete rotation while in the air [said to have been invented by the Swiss skater Gustave Lussi (1898–1993)]

Luzhniki (general) a sports complex in Moscow, Russia, that was one of the main arenas for the 1980 Olympic Games

Lynx (rugby league) short name of the English club Chorley Lynx

m (horse racing) abbreviation of mile (or miles) in racing reports

M (cricket) abbreviation of maiden over in scoring

mace (cricket) the trophy in the form of an orb atop a stump awarded since 2001 to the top-ranked world team [official title ICC Test Championship Mace]

machine (auto racing) colloquial term for a racecar

MacRobertson International Shield (croquet) the trophy awarded to the winner of a tournament played between Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States [donated in 1925 by the Australian philanthropist Sir MacPherson Robertson (1860–1945)]

made pony (polo) an experienced pony

madhouse (darts) the score of a double one [from the frustration felt by a player struggling to finish the game with this difficult double]

madison (cycling) a 50km track race with two teams of two riders competing for points during intermittent sprints [first ridden at Madison Square Garden in 1892]

Madison Square Garden (general) a major indoor sporting and entertainment center in New York City, successively rebuilt and renewed since its original opening in 1879

Magic (basketball) short name of the Orlando Magic team

magic ball (cricket) an unplayable ball which will invariably dismiss the batsman

magic minute (general) a time of one minute in a race or other contest, regarded as a challenge for a new record in a shorter time [as in the 1964 Olympic Games by the Australian swimmer Dawn Fraser in the women’s 100 meters freestyle with a time of 59.5 seconds]

magic sponge (association football) colloquial term for the damp sponge at one time traditionally applied by the trainer to a sprain or muscular injury sustained by a player
magpie (shooting) the penultimate outermost division of a target, a hit on which is signaled by a black and white flag
Magpies (association football) nickname of the English club Newcastle United [from the players’ black and white striped shirts]; (Australian Rules) short name of the Collingwood Magpies team
maiden (cricket) shortening of maiden over; (greyhound racing) a dog that has not run an official race; (horse racing) (1) a horse that has never won a race; (2) shortening of maiden race
maiden century (cricket) a batsman’s first century
maiden over (cricket) an over in which no runs are scored by the batsmen
maiden race (horse racing) a race for horses that have never won a race
maiden stakes (horse racing) a race for horses that have never won a race
maiden test (horse racing) the prize in a maiden race
main course (sailing) the mainsail on a square-rigged boat
main wall (real tennis) the long wall of the court without a penthouse
mainmast (sailing) the principal mast on a boat
mainsail (sailing) the principal sail on a boat, usually attached to the mainmast
maître d’armes (fencing) an instructor in the sport [French maître d’armes, “master of arms”]
major (angling) a type of artificial fly used for salmon fishing; (golf) one of the four majors
major league (baseball) either of the two majors
majors (baseball) the two most prestigious leagues, as the National League and the American League; (golf) the four most important championships: the British Open, U.S. Open, U.S. PGA, and U.S. Masters
make all (horse racing) to lead all the way in a race
make the cut (golf) to equal or better a stated score, so avoiding elimination from the last two rounds of a four-round tournament
make-up game (baseball) a previously postponed game which is played to complete the number of scheduled league matches
makiwara (karate) an object designed to be struck during training to toughen the skin of the hands and feet [Japanese maki, “roll,” and wara, “straw,” referring to the original post or board covered with straw used for this purpose]
makonouchi (sumo) the highest division in the sport [Japanese]
Malaysian Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
malhini (surfing) a novice or beginner [Hawaiian malhini, “stranger”]
malibu (surfing) a long narrow surfboard [originally used at Malibu, California]
mallet (croquet, polo) the long-handled hammer with which the ball is struck
Man City (association football) short name of the English club Manchester City
man coverage (American football) the strategy of assigning a defender to each eligible receiver
man in black (association football) colloquial term for a referee [who traditionally wears black to be differentiated from the colors of the two teams]
man in motion (American football) an offensive back allowed to move during a scrimmage before the ball is put into play
man in white (Australian Rules) colloquial term for an umpire [who wears white for distinction from the colors of the two teams]
man marking (association football) a defensive strategy in which a player is assigned an opposing player to mark throughout the game
Man of Steel (rugby league) the award made from 1977 by the Super League to the outstanding player of the season
man of the match (general) a semiofficial title granted to a player judged to have played best in a particular match, typically in association football or cricket
man-on-man (general) (of) a position in a team game in which one defense man is assigned to one offensive player
Man U (association football) short name of the English club Manchester United
man who beat the man (boxing) a way of defining a champion, as the man who beat the previous champion
manager (general) the person who controls, counsels, and promotes a sports person or sports team
manege (equestrianism) the art of training horses [French manège, “training of a horse,” from Italian mane giatre, “to manage,” from Latin manus, “hand”]
manhattan (cricket) a bar chart showing the number of runs scored in each over of a game [the bars supposedly resemble the Manhattan skyline]
mankad (cricket) a way of causing a batsman to be run out, in which the bowler removes the bails instead of bowling if the batsman at the non-striker’s end backs up too far [popularized by the Indian player Mulvantrai Mankad]
Maple Leafs (ice hockey) short name of the Toronto Maple Leafs team
marathon (athletics) (1) a long-distance foot race, properly of 26 miles 385 yards (42.195km); (2) a city race run by professionals or amateurs, as the Boston Marathon, London Marathon, or
New York Marathon; (equestrianism) a cross-country time trial in carriage driving; (general) any demanding race or contest (originally so named from the tradition that a Greek messenger ran from Marathon to Athens with news of victory in a battle of 490 BC)

Marathon des Sables (athletics) an annual ultramarathon run over six days through the Sahara desert, North Africa [French marathon des sables, “marathon of the sands”]

Marcel Corbillon Cup (table tennis) the cup awarded to the winner of the women’s world team championship [presented in 1934 by Marcel Corbillon (1890–1958), president of the French Table Tennis Association]

March Madness (baseball) the postseason tournament for colleges held in March

mare (horse racing) a female horse over the age of four

margin fishing (angling) a technique for catching carp at night, in which a rod is set up on the side of a lake with its bait floating on the water

Marilyn (mountaineering) any British hill with a reascent of 500 feet on all sides [named for U.S. movie actress Marilyn Monroe (1926–1962), punning on Munro]

marina (sailing) a specially-equipped berthing area for yachts and smaller craft

Mariners (association football) nickname of the English club Grimsby Town [from the town’s seaside location]; (baseball) short name of the Seattle Mariners team

mark (athletics) (1) a measured achievement, as the distance of a throw or height of a jump, especially when a record or personal best; (2) the starting line in a race; (Australian Rules) a catch of the ball from a kick of at least 10 meters; (bouls) another term for the jack; (boxing) the pit of the stomach; (general) in field games, to stay close to an opposing player in order to prevent him from obtaining or passing the ball; (horse racing) shortening of handicap mark; (rugby union) a catch of the ball from a kick or knock-on or throw-forward by an opponent, formerly claimed by calling “mark!” and digging one’s heel in the ground

mark someone’s card (horse racing) to tip a possible winner at a race meeting [the card is the racecard]

marker (billiards) the person who records the score; (bouls) a person who generally assists the players; (darts) (1) a dart just outside the required double that helps the aiming of subsequent darts; (2) the person who records the score; (general) in field games, a player assigned to mark an opponent; (real tennis) another term for the umpire

market leader (horse racing) another term for the favorite [the market being the betting on a race]

Market Rasen (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Market Rasen, Lincolnshire, England

marksman (shooting) a person who shoots well

marksmanship (shooting) the skill or art of a marksman

markswoman (shooting) a woman who shoots well

Marlins (baseball) short name of the Florida Marlins team

maroon jersey (cycling) the jersey worn by the points leader in the Giro d’Italia [Italian maglia ciclamina, “maroon jersey”]

marquee player (general) an outstanding player in a professional sports team [his name is as prominent as that of an entertainer billed on a marquee]

married man’s side (darts) the lefthand side of the dartboard [where a player is less likely to make an expensive mishit, a married man being one who should aim to “play safe”]

marshals (auto racing) one of the officials posted around the racetrack to ensure the safety of drivers and spectators; (general) an official at a sporting event who supervises arrangements for competitors, controls spectators, and generally monitors proceedings

martial artist (general) a practitioner of the martial arts

martial arts (sport) a range of (mainly Japanese) combative sports and methods of self-defense such as judo, karate, and kendo

Marylebone Cricket Club (cricket) the club founded in 1787, with its headquarters at Lord’s, that was formerly the governing body of the sport in England, is still responsible for making its laws, and is the official title of English teams when on tour

mascot (association football) a child supporter who with others accompanies the team on to the pitch at the start of a match, dressed in a scaled-down version of the team’s strip; (general) a symbol of luck, often in the form of an animal or insect, representing a team or club and visibly present (as an outsize toy or a costumed person) at a match or meeting

mashie (golf) the former name of a 5-iron [perhaps from French masse, “club”]

mashie iron (golf) the former name of a 4-iron

mashie niblick (golf) the former name of a 7-iron [combining the features of a mashie and a niblick]

mass start (general) a start to a race in which all of the competitors set off together

massé (billiards, snooker) a stroke made with the cue held vertically or nearly so, causing the cue
ball to swerve sharply [French, from masse, “mace”]
mast (sailing) a long upright pole that carries the sail of a boat
mast foot (windsurfing) the part of the sailboard whose top fits into the lower end of the mast
Masters (golf) shortening of U.S. Masters; (snooker) an invitational tournament played at Wembley since 1979; (tennis) shortening of Masters Cup
Masters Club (golf) an annual dinner held since 1952 at the Augusta National Golf Club during the U.S. Masters for all previous winners of the tournament, hosted by the defending champion
Masters Cup (tennis) the trophy awarded to the winner of an annual men’s championship featuring the top eight world players for the particular year
mat (boules) the small piece of rubber on which players place their back foot when delivering a bowl; (gymnastics, wrestling) the area of padded material or canvas on which participants perform and which absorbs the shock when they land or fall
match (general) a formal contest or game
match angler (angling) an angler who takes part in match fishing
match ball (cricket) a ball that in its physical composition meets the standard of the sport; (tennis) a ball that could decide a match
match book (cricket) a book containing the scores of a club or particular team; (horse racing) a book containing the dates and venues of races
match card (cricket) a card that summarizes the score and lists the players in batting order
match fishing (angling) in central and northern England, a contest between teams at fixed locations to win the greatest weight of fish caught during a particular period of time
match-fixing (general) the fraudulent manipulation of a match result by a gambling syndicate
match point (tennis) the stage in a match at which only one point is needed to win
match race (sailing) a one-design race between two boats
match rifle (shooting) a rifle used in official competitions
match winner (general) a team player whose skill or performance helps win a match
matchday doctor (general) a physician who attends a match to give treatment if needed
matchmaker (boxing) a person who arranges matches
matchplay (golf) a score based on the number of holes won by each side rather than the overall total of strokes taken
matchup (general) a game or contest between two players
Matildas (association football) nickname of the Australian national women’s team [from the colloquial phrase waltz Matilda, “carry one’s swag”]
matman (wrestling) colloquial term for a wrestler [who performs on the mat]
maul (rugby union) a loose scrum formed by a teams’ forwards around the player who holds the ball after a lineout and who has not been brought down by an attempted tackle
Mavericks (basketball) short name of the Dallas Mavericks team
maxi (sailing) a class of large yacht 15 to 20 meters in length
maximum (darts) a score of 180 with three darts, achieved through three treble 20s; (snooker) a break of 147 points, comprising 15 reds and 15 blacks followed by all six colors
May Week (rowing) the week in late May or early June when boat races are held between colleges at Cambridge University
mayfly (angling) (1) a natural fly of the genus Ephemerida; (2) an artificial fly imitating it
Mays (rowing) the boat races held in May Week
MCC (cricket) abbreviation of Marylebone Cricket Club
McCarthy Cup (hurling) the trophy awarded to the winner of the All-Ireland senior championship [donated in 1921 by the player Liam McCarthy]
McHawk (skateboarding) a 720-degree rotational flip [introduced by the U.S. skateboarder Tony Hawk, with Mc- added from the McTwist]
McTwist (skateboarding) a 540-degree rotational flip [from the name of U.S. skateboarder Mike McGill, who introduced it, and the motion of the flip]
measure (boules) the use of measuring instruments on completion of an end to determine which bowl is closer to the jack when this cannot be done with the naked eye
measuring line (cycling) another term for pole line
meat (cricket) the center of the blade of the bat
medal (general) an award, usually in the form of a coin with an inscription, for a sporting achievement
medal round (golf) a round of medalplay
medalist (general) a competitor who has been awarded a medal
medalplay (golf) another term for strokeplay
medicine ball (general) a heavy ball thrown and caught for exercise [it acts as a “medicine”]
Mediterranean draw (archery) a method of drawing and loosing an arrow in which the string is pulled back with three fingers, one above the arrow, the other two below
Mediterranean Games (Olympics) regional games held since 1951 for competitors from Mediterranean countries (in northern Africa or southern Europe)

medium bowler (cricket) a bowler who bowls at a medium pace, between a fast bowler and a slow bowler

medley (athletics) a relay race in which each participant runs a different distance; (swimming) a relay race in which the four main strokes (backstroke, breaststroke, butterfly, and freestyle) are used

meet (general) a gathering of athletes or cyclists for a competition or race

meeting (general) a gathering for a sports event or program, as typically in athletics; (horse racing) shortening of race meeting

Melbourne Cup (horse racing) a race for three-year-olds run at Flemington Park, Melbourne, Australia, since 1861

member’s bounce (golf) a favorable bounce of the ball on to the fairway or green [so called because it is often a club member rather than a visitor who benefits]

Members’ Enclosure (horse racing) an enclosure at a racecourse reserved for members of the racecourse club

Memorial Coliseum (American football) the home ground of the Los Angeles Rams team, Los Angeles, California

Mendoza line (baseball) a batting average of .200, regarded as the lower limit of respectability for a professional hitter [named for the weak-hitting player Mario Mendoza]

Merry Miller (association football) nickname of the English club Rotherham United [from their home ground at Millmoor Ground]

Messenger Stake (horse racing) an annual harness race held since 1957 for three-year-old pacers at Yonkers, New York [named for the English thoroughbred Messenger (foaled 1780), the great-grandfather of Hambletonian]

metric mile (athletics) colloquial name for the 1,500 meters race

metronome (cricket) colloquial term for a consistently reliable bowler, especially a seam bowler [he will repeatedly “hit the spot” just as a metronome regularly ticks out the time]

Mets (baseball) short name of the New York Mets team

Mexican Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Mexico City, Mexico

Mexican wave (general) the effect produced when adjacent groups of spectators stand up in turn with hands raised then sit down again to create an undulating movement around a stadium

[popularized during the 1986 association football World Cup in Mexico]

Michelle (cricket) alternate term for a five-fer

mid-off (cricket) a fielding position behind the bowler on the off side

mid-on (cricket) a fielding position behind the bowler on the on side

midcourt (tennis) the area at the center of the court

middle (cricket) (1) shortening of middle guard; (2) to hit the ball with the middle of the bat

middle and leg (cricket) a guard taken by the batsman in front of his middle stump and leg stump

middle and off (cricket) a guard taken by the batsman in front of his middle stump and off stump

middle-distance race (general) a race over a medium distance, as in middle-distance running

middle-distance running (athletics) a blanket term for the 800 meters and 1,500 meters foot races

middle for diddle (darts) colloquial term for a method of starting a game, in which both players throw a single dart and the player who throws nearer the bull begins

middle guard (American football) a defensive lineman who plays between the defensive tackles; (cricket) a guard taken by the batsman in front of his middle stump

middle linebacker (American football) a defensive player positioned behind the middle of the line of scrimmage

middle order (cricket) the batsmen who come in the middle of the batting order

middle reliever (baseball) any relief pitcher other than the closer

middle stump (cricket) the middle stump of the wicket

middleman (mountaineering) the middle member of a climbing or descending team

Middleton Cup (bowls) the cup awarded since 1922 to the winner of an intercounty championship [presented by P.C. Middleton to replace an original award of 1911]

middleweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 73kg (160lb)

midfield (association football) (1) the area in the center of the pitch; (2) the players who play between the defense and the attack

midfielder (association football) any of the players who play in midfield

midiron (golf) (1) a 5-, 6-, or 7-iron, used to play medium-range shots; (2) the former name of a 2-iron

Midsummer Classic (baseball) another name for the All-Star game

midwicket (cricket) a fielding position on the leg
side about midway between mid-on and square leg
Milan–San Remo (cycling) an annual road race from Milan to San Remo, northwestern Italy, first held in 1907
mile (athletics) the predecessor of the 1,500 meters; (horse racing) a standard unit of distance [1 mile = 1.60934km], together with the furlong
miler (athletics) an athlete running the mile; (horse racing) a horse running in a race of a mile or more
militaire (equestrianism) a continental European term for a three-day event [French militaire, "military," as originally a cavalry test for officers' horses]
military medium (cricket) straight, regular, medium-paced bowling
Milk Race (cycling) the former popular name of the Tour of Britain [sponsored by the Milk Marketing Board from 1958]
Mille Miglia (auto racing) an Italian road race from Brescia to Verona, Ferrara, Pesaro, Pescara, Rieti, Rome, Florence, Bologna, Cremona, and back to Brescia, a distance of around 1,600km, held from 1927 to 1957 [Italian mille miglia, "thousand miles"]
Millennium Dome (general) original name of the O₂
Millennium Stadium (general) a stadium built in Cardiff, Wales, in 1999 as the home of Welsh rugby football
miller (trampolining) a triple-twisting double back [named for its originator]
mini flyweight (boxing) the professional weight category of under 48kg (105lb)
miniature golf (golf) a simple, scaled-down version of the game in which a club is used to put a small ball into a series of holes on a green
minibasketball (basketball) a simplified form of the game designed for young players
minibreak (tennis) a point against the serve in a tie-break
minigolf (golf) shortening of miniature golf
minilacrosse (lacrosse) a simplified form of the game designed for young players
minimal (surfing) a shorter version of a Malibu, popular with beginners
minirugby (rugby union) a simplified form of the game designed for young players
miniskis (skiing) short, slightly thick skis worn by beginners or in skibobbing
minitennis (tennis) a simplified form of the game designed for young players
minivolley (volleyball) a simplified form of the game designed for young players
minor county (cricket) a British county not having first-class status but with its own team.
minor league (baseball) any of the less prestigious professional leagues, often used to groom younger players for the major leagues
minors (baseball) short name for the minor leagues
Minstermen (association football) nickname of the English club York City [from York Minster, the city's medieval cathedral]
miscall (general) a bad or inaccurate call
miscue (billiards, snooker) a faulty stroke that results from a poor contact between the cue tip and the cue ball
misfield (cricket) a mistake made by a fielder, as when a catch is dropped
mishit (general) a faulty hit
miskick (general) a kick made with the wrong part of the foot, as in association football
misplay (general) an incorrect or faulty move or play
miss (billiards, snooker) a (sometimes deliberate) failure to hit the object ball, as a result of which the player is penalized; (general) a failure to hit the object aimed at, as in shooting
miss move (rugby union) a maneuver in which the attacking three-quarters miss out a back in order to move the ball more quickly to a player in a wider position
miss the break (horse racing) to start after the other horses in a race
miss the cut (golf) to fail to qualify for the final round of a tournament
miss the water (rowing) to start the drive before the catch has been completed
mittens (boxing) colloquial term for boxing gloves
mitts (baseball) the special padded leather gloves used to catch the ball
mix zone (general) an area at a sporting contest where reporters can interview players or performers immediately after their appearance
mixed doubles (tennis) a match with male and female players on the same side
mixed martial arts (sport) a combat sport that incorporates boxing, wrestling, jujitsu, and other disciplines
MK Dons (association football) short name of the English club Milton Keynes Dons
mod-pen (Olympics) colloquial abbreviation of modern pentathlon
modern pentathlon (Olympics) a contest in swimming, riding, cross-country running, fencing, and pistol shooting; introduced in 1912 as a variant of the original pentathlon
mogul (skiing) a mound of hard snow forming an obstacle on a ski slope [probably from a Norwegian dialect word meaning "heap," "mound"]
mohawk (ice skating) a turn from either edge of
the skate to the same edge on the other foot in the opposite direction [as distinct from a choctaw]

**Monaco Grand Prix** ([auto racing](auto racing)) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Monte Carlo, Monaco

**Monday morning quarterback** ([American football](American football)) a person (not just a quarterback) who expresses opinions about strategic decisions after the outcome of a game is known [the big games are played on Sunday afternoons]

**Monkeyhangers** ([association football](association football)) nickname of the English [club](club) Hartlepool United [from a local legend about the hanging of a monkey for spying, represented by the team’s [mascot](mascot), H–Angus, depicted by a man in a monkey costume]

**monocoque** ([auto racing](auto racing)) a one-piece structure housing the [cockpit](cockpit) of a [race car](race car); ([cycling](cycling)) a one-piece construction method for bicycle frames and wheels [French monocoque, literally “single shell”]

**monofil** ([angling](angling)) a fishing line made of a single strand of synthetic fiber

**monohull** ([sailing](sailing)) a boat with a single hull, as distinct from a [catamaran](catamaran) or trimaran

**monoski** ([skiing](skiing)) a ski on which both feet are placed

**moonball** ([cricket](cricket)) colloquial term for a high, looping ball delivered by the [bowler](bowler); ([tennis](tennis)) colloquial term for a very high [lob](lob)

**moonshot** ([baseball](baseball)) another term for a tape-measure shot

**morning glory** ([horse racing](horse racing)) a horse that runs faster in morning training than in the actual race

**Mosconi Cup** ([pool](pool)) the trophy awarded since 1994 to the winner of an annual competition in [nine-ball pool](nine-ball pool) between the United States and Europe [named commemoratively for the U.S. champion player Willie Mosconi (1913–1993)]

**Most Valuable Player** ([baseball](baseball)) the annual award made to the player judged the most valuable to his team in the annual [major leagues](major leagues); ([basketball](basketball)) the annual award made to the outstanding player in the NBA; ([general](general)) a similar award in other sports

**moto** ([cycling](cycling)) colloquial name of BMX [from the full form of the name]; ([motorcycle racing](motorcycle racing)) (1) shortening of motocross; (2) a heat in this sport

**motocross** ([motorcycle racing](motorcycle racing)) a form of the sport on solo motorcycles, motorcycles with sidecars, or quad bikes on a cross-country circuit with natural obstacles such as jumps

**MotoGP** ([motorcycle racing](motorcycle racing)) an annual race for 500cc motorcycles, first held in 1949 [from [motorcycle](motorcycle) and [GP](GP)]

**motor racing** ([sport](sport)) another term for [auto racing]

**motorcycle racing** ([sport](sport)) the racing of motorcycles, usually categorized by modification or engine size, around a specially-built [track](track) or over a [cross-country circuit](cross-country circuit)

**motorcyclist** ([motorcycle racing](motorcycle racing)) the rider of a motorcycle

**motorsport** ([sport](sport)) any sport that involves motor-powered vehicles, as cars or motorcycles

**mound** ([baseball](baseball)) the raised area a short distance from [home plate](home plate) from which the [pitcher](pitcher) throws the [ball](ball) to the [batter](batter)

**mount** ([equestrianism](equestrianism), [horse racing](horse racing)) the horse that a person is riding

**mountain bike** ([cycling](cycling)) a bicycle with strong heavy tires designed for cross-country use, whether in competition or for recreation

**mountain biking** ([cycling](cycling)) the sport or recreation of riding a mountain bike

**mountainboard** ([general](general)) a narrow board mounted on wheels and fitted with a steering mechanism, ridden down mountain tracks or other hilly terrain

**mountaineer** ([mountaineering](mountaineering)) a person who climbs mountains

**mountaineering** ([sport](sport)) the climbing of rocks or mountains, either in competition or as a self-imposed physical challenge

**mousetrap** ([American football](American football)) a play in which a defensive player crosses the [line of scrimmage](line of scrimmage) and is then blocked from the side while the ball carrier advances through the gap he has left

**mouth guard** ([rugby league, rugby union](rugby league, rugby union)) a guard worn to protect the mouth

**mouthpiece** ([boxing](boxing)) the piece of plastic placed in a boxer’s mouth to protect his teeth and prevent him from biting his tongue

**movement** ([equestrianism](equestrianism)) a single maneuver in [dressage](dressage)

**mow** ([cricket](cricket)) another term for a [haymaker]

**mud wrestling** ([wrestling](wrestling)) a form of the sport in an [arena](arena) with a floor of wet mud

**mudder** ([horse racing](horse racing)) colloquial term for a horse that performs well in muddy conditions

**mudlark** ([horse racing](horse racing)) another term for a [mudder]

**muff** ([general](general)) (1) a bungling or inapt player or competitor; (2) a failure in a move or maneuver, as a dropped catch in [cricket](cricket) or a slip from a piece of [apparatus](apparatus) in [gymnastics](gymnastics)

**Muirfield** ([golf](golf)) a championship golf course east of Edinburgh, Scotland

**mulligan** ([golf](golf)) a free extra shot allowed to a player who has made a bad shot [perhaps from the Canadian player David Mulligan, who played a “correction shot” after a bad shot]

**multigym** ([gymnastics](gymnastics)) (1) a piece of exercise equipment that can be used in several ways or by several people simultaneously; (2) a room with such equipment
multihull (sailing) a boat with two or more hulls, as a catamaran or trimaran
multiplier (angling) a geared reel on a fishing rod, used to draw the line in quickly [one turn of the handle makes the spool rotate several times]
Munro (mountaineering) a Scottish (now also English, Welsh, or Irish) mountain peak over 3,000 feet in height [named for the Scottish mountaineer Sir Hugh Thomas Munro (1856–1919), who published his original list in 1891]
Munro-bagger (mountaineering) a person who attempts to climb every (Scottish) Munro
Murrayfield (rugby union) the sport's Scottish home ground, in Edinburgh
musette (cycling) a small shoulder bag containing food handed to riders at feeding stations [French musette, “horse’s nosebag”]
mush (surfing) the foam produced when a wave breaks
mush! (sled dog racing) the command to the dogs to start moving or to move faster [probably from French marcher, “to walk”]
musher (sled dog racing) the driver of a dog team [he calls mush!]
Musselburgh (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Musselburgh, central Scotland
muzzle (greyhound racing) a small shoulder bag containing food to be carried by the dogs while racing and to serve as an aid in a photo finish
MVP (general) abbreviation of Most Valuable Player
Naas (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland
nail (baseball) to put a runner out by throwing; (general) to defeat
naked bootleg (American football) a bootleg in which no players attempt to block in front of the quarterback
nap (horse racing) a horse that a tipster reckons has the best chance of winning [abbreviation of napoleon, a card game in which a player may try to win all five tricks]
NASCAR (auto racing) a form of stock car racing in specially modified cars [acronym of National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing]
nassau (golf) (1) a match in which a point is scored for winning the front nine, another for the back nine, and a third for the complete round; (2) a bet on these three results [from Nassau Country Club, New York, where it originated]
National (horse racing) shortening of Grand National
National Football Conference (American football) one of two conferences into which the National Football League was divided in 1969, the other being the American Football Conference
National Football League (American football) the major professional organization of the sport, founded in 1920 and merging (under its own name) with the American Football League in 1970
National Hockey League (ice hockey) the major professional organization of the sport, formed by five Canadian teams in 1917
National Hunt (horse racing) the term used in Britain for racing over jumps, as distinct from flat racing [short name of National Hunt Committee, the body that regulates the sport, founded in 1866 to fulfill a function similar to that of the Jockey Club in flat racing]
National League (baseball) one of the two most prestigious North American professional leagues, founded in 1876, the other being the American League
natural aid (equine) a signal given to a horse by its rider, whether as a spoken command or by movement of the hands or legs
natural break (cycling) a euphemism for relieving oneself while continuing to ride, as in a long road race
natural fly (angling) a real insect such as a mayfly used as bait, as distinct from an artificial fly
natural footer (surfing) a surfer who rides with the left foot in front of the right
Navan (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse near Navan, Co. Meath, Ireland
navigator (auto racing) in rally driving, a term used for the codriver in a road rally, as the person who describes the route and directs the driver
nb (cricket) abbreviation of no-ball in scoring
near post (association football) the post nearest to where the ball is
neck (horse racing) the length of a horse’s head and neck, used to measure its lead in a race [a scale exists whereby four noses equal one head, two heads equal one neck, and two necks equal half a length]
neck and neck (general) running level in a race
neck roll (gymnastics) a swing of the body backward to rest on the back of the neck
neck shot (polo) a hit of the ball made under the horse’s neck
neck spring (gymnastics) a vault in which the weight of the body is initially borne by the neck and hands
needle match (general) a keenly competitive and critical match
negative split (swimming) a strategy whereby a swimmer completes the second half of a race faster than the first
nelson (cricket) a score of 111 runs, held to be unlucky because the figure resembles the three
stumps of the wicket with the bails missing [so called from the popular belief that Admiral Nelson had one eye, one arm, and one leg]; (wrestling) a hold in which a combatant passes his arms under both of his opponent’s arms from behind and joins his hands so that he can exert pressure with his palms on the back of the other’s neck [apparently from Nelson, Lancashire, England, a town noted for its wrestling matches]

Nemean Games (Olympics) the games held in Nemea, near Argos, Greece, in the second and fourth years of each Olympiad

Nerazzurri (association football) nickname of the Italian club Inter Milan [Italian nero, “black,” and azzurro, “blue,” the colors of the team’s blue and black striped shirts]

net (angling) shortening of fishing net; (association football) (1) the wide mesh attached to the goalposts and crossbar that stops the ball when a goal is scored; (2) the entire structure forming the goal; (badminton, real tennis, tennis, volleyball) the length of netting that divides the court; (field hockey, ice hockey) the mesh across the goal that serves the same function as in association football; (netball) the net, hanging from a horizontal ring attached to a high pole, into which the ball is thrown; (tennis) another term for a let

net cord (tennis) the string or tape that runs across the top of the net and supports it

net fishing (angling) fishing with a net as distinct from a rod and line

net judge (tennis) an official who formerly sat with one hand resting on the net cord to feel if a serve was a let

net play (badminton, tennis) play near the net

net practice (cricket) a practice session in the nets

netball (sport) a game between two teams of seven in which goals are scored by throwing the ball into a net

netminder (ice hockey) another term for the goaltender

nets (cricket) (1) a practice pitch surrounded by nets to stop the ball from traveling too far; (2) a practice session in such nets

Nets (basketball) short name of the New Jersey Nets team

neutral corner (boxing) one of the two corners in the ring where neither boxer sits

neutral support (cycling) a mechanic who follows the riders in a race to give mechanical assistance where necessary

neutral zone (American football) the area between the two lines of scrimmage; (cycling) the section of a road race where the riders must ride behind a leading vehicle and cannot make an attempt; (ice hockey) the area between the attacking and defending zones in the middle of the rink

never up, never in (golf) a comment made to a putter who has hit the ball too gently

new ball (cricket) the new ball that a captain of either side (batting or fielding) may demand at the start of each innings or, in a match of more than a day’s duration, that the captain of the fielding side may demand after a prescribed number of overs

New Den (association football) the home ground of Millwall football club, London

New Road (cricket) the home ground of Worcestershire county cricket club, Worcester

New York Marathon (athletics) a marathon run annually through all five boroughs of New York City since 1970

Newbury (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Newbury, Berkshire, England

Newcastle (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Newcastle upon Tyne, northeastern England

Newmarket (horse racing) the town in Suffolk, England, that is the historic center of English racing, with a flat racecourse where the One Thousand Guineas and Two Thousand Guineas are held as well as the Cambridgeshire and Cesarewitch

Newton Abbot (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Newton Abbot, Devon, England

NFC (American football) abbreviation of National Football Conference

NFL (American football) abbreviation of National Football League

NHl (ice hockey) abbreviation of National Hockey League

nibble (cricket) to play indecisively at a ball bowled outside the off stump

niblick (golf) the former name of an 8- or 9-iron, used for playing out of a bunker [origin uncertain]

nick (cricket) a slight touch of the ball made by the batsman with the edge of the bat; (real tennis, squash) (1) the angle between two walls or between the wall and the floor in a court; (2) a shot that hits this angle

nickel defense (American football) a defensive formation involving five defensive backs rather than the usual four [so called because a nickel is worth five cents]

nickelback (American football) an additional defensive back brought into the game when the offensive team is likely to pass the ball

night crawler (angling) a large earthworm that comes to the surface at night, used as bait

night fishery (angling) a method or place of fishing at night
nightcap (baseball) the second of the two games in a double header; (horse racing) the last race of the day
nightline (angling) a fishing line set at night
nightwatchman (cricket) a relatively unskilled batsman sent in to bat after the fall of a wicket near the end of a day's play so that a better batsman does not have to go in and risk being out in unfavorable conditions [the player remains “in” overnight]
nil (general) a score of zero
nine (baseball) a team of nine players
nine-ball pool (pool) the game played with nine colored object balls, numbered 1 to 9
nine-dart finish (darts) a game of 501 won with nine darts, the fewest number with which the feat is possible
nine-hole (golf) a course with only nine holes, as against the standard 18
nine-meter line (handball) an arcing dotted line parallel to the six-meter line, extending 9m from the goal, marking the area where offensive players resume play after a foul by a defender inside it
nine, ten, jack (cricket) colloquial term for the last three batsmen in a team [numbers 9, 10, and 11, compared to playing cards]
ninepins (sport) a game in which nine pins are set up and bowled at to be knocked down
nineteenth hole (golf) a jocular name for the clubhouse, to which players usually repair after the 18th green [they can “sink” a drink in the bar there rather than sink a putt]
nineteenth man (Australian Rules) the first substitute player in a team (of 18)
ninjutsu (sport) a Japanese martial art originating in feudal times as a form of espionage and teaching stealth and camouflage [Japanese nin, “stealth,” and jutsu, “art”]
niramiai (sumo) a method of intimidating an opponent before a fight by stamping, slapping one's thighs, and glaring [Japanese niramai, “to glare”]
no (cricket) abbreviation of not out in scoring
no-ball (cricket) a ball bowled in a way that is disallowed by the rules and so counts one run to the batting side, as when the front foot of the bowler is over the popping crease
no-cut contract (American football) a contract guaranteeing that a professional player will not be subject to a cut during either the pre-season practice or the subsequent season
no-hitter (baseball) a game in which a pitcher does not allow an opponent to score a hit
no-hoper (horse racing) a horse not good enough to stand a chance of winning
no-huddle offense (American football) an offensive strategy in which players line up for a play without a huddle
no-jump (athletics) a foul in the long jump or triple jump
no-lift (weightlifting) a lift deemed unsuccessful by the majority of the three judges
no man's land (tennis) the area of the court between the baseline and the service line [an area where effective action is difficult, as that between enemy trenches in World War I]
no-score draw (association football) a match in which neither side manages to score
no side (rugby union) the official end of a match
no-throw (general) a throw that is disallowed because it does not comply with the rules
noble art (sport) another term for boxing [short for “the noble art of self-defense”]
noble science (sport) another term for boxing [short for “the noble science of self-defense”]
nock (archery) the notch at the rear of an arrow that holds it in place on the bowstring
nod in (association football) to head the ball into the goal
nollie (skateboarding) an aerial maneuver in which the front foot pushes down on the kick-nose and then the feet stay close to the board in flight before the back foot guides the board back to the ground [the opposite of an ollie]
non-combativity (judo) the failure of a judoka to make an attack
non-contact (general) (of} a sport such as handball or netball in which no personal contact with the opponent is allowed
non-runner (horse racing) another term for a non-starter
non-starter (horse racing) a horse that was originally entered for a race but that was pulled out shortly before it
non-striker (cricket) the batsman who is not facing the bowling
Nordic skiing (skiing) the form of the sport that includes cross-country skiing and ski jumps [originating in Nordic countries such as Norway and Finland]
Nordic walking (general) walking as a form of exercise using poles like ski sticks to aid propulsion and strengthen the upper body
normal hill (skiing) the smaller of the two ski-jump hills in the Winter Olympics, usually measuring 90 or 95m
North End (association football) short name of the English club Preston North End
North Stars (ice hockey) short name of the Minnesota North Stars team
northpaw (baseball) a right-handed player [as distinct from a southpaw]
nose (greyhound racing) the smallest distance be-
tween two greyhounds finishing a race [as if by the length of a dog’s nose]; (horse racing) the narrowest winning margin in a race [as if by the length of a horse’s nose]; (snowboarding) the front edge of the snowboard; (surfing) the front of the surfboard
nose guard (American football) another term for a nose tackle
nose riding (surfing) a maneuver that involves standing on the very front of the board
nose tackle (American football) a defensive lineman lined up opposite the offensive center
not (cricket) abbreviation of not out in scoring
not out (cricket) of a batsman at the end of an innings, not having been dismissed
not out! (cricket) the response of an umpire to an appeal when giving his decision that the batsman has not been dismissed and so is not out
not up! (squash) the call made when the ball is not successfully retrieved
notch up (general) to score, as a run (or total of runs) in cricket
Notre Dame shift (American football) a former offensive maneuver in which the backs move just before the snap of the ball from their T-formation [popularized in the 1920s by Knute Rockne as college football coach at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana]
Nottingham (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, England
Nottingham Road (cricket) the home ground of Derbyshire county cricket club, Derby
novice (horse racing) a horse that has not won a race in a season before the current one
nudge (association football) a gentle header; (cricket) a slight tap of the ball with the bat
Nuggets (basketball) short name of the Denver Nuggets team
number eight (rugby union) the loose forward, who binds in the back row of the scrum [the position has no other name, although all other team players have alternate numerical designations, as follows: 1 loose-head prop, 2 hooker, 3 tight-head prop, 4, 5 second-row forwards, 6 blind-side flanker, 7 openside-flanker, 9 scrum half, 10 standoff half, 11, left winger, 12 inside center, 13 outside center, 14 right winger, 15 fullback]
nunchaku (general) a Japanese martial arts weapon consisting of two short sticks joined by a length of chain [Japanese nunchaku, from Okinawan dialect]
NürburgRing (auto racing, motorcycle racing) the circuit near Bonn, Germany, where the German Grand Prix is held
nurdle (cricket) to score runs by gently pushing the ball with the bat rather than hitting it [per-
oche (darts) the line behind which a player must stand when throwing darts [origin uncertain, but perhaps related to notch]
octave (fencing) the eighth of eight basic parrying positions, used to protect the lower outside of the body [French octave, “eighth”]
octopush (sport) a kind of underwater field hockey played in a swimming pool, in which a squid is used in place of a ball and pushers in place of sticks [devised in southern England in 1954 by subaqua divers and named as blend of octopus, both for the creature and punningly for the eight (now ten) team members, and push]
odd (golf) a stroke that makes a player’s total for a hole one more than that of his opponent
odds (horse racing) the chances that a horse has of winning a race, as determined by the amount staked on it in a bet
odds-on (horse racing) odds in a bet that are better than those in evens, so that the winnings are less than double the amount staked
ODI (cricket) abbreviation of one-day international
off (auto racing) colloquial term for an accident in which the car leaves the track; (cricket) shortening of off side; (horse racing) the start of a race
off base (baseball) in between one base and the next, and so liable to be tagged
off-break (cricket) a ball bowled by a slow bowler that breaks from the off side toward the leg side on pitching
off course (horse racing) away from the racetrack
off cutter (cricket) a cutter from a fast bowler that moves from the off side to the leg side on pitching
off drive (cricket) a drive to the off side
off piste (skiing) away from a prepared ski run
off-roading (auto racing) the sport or recreation of driving over rough terrain in specially designed vehicles, often as a race
off side (cricket) the half of the field on the opposite side to that on which the batsman stands when waiting to receive the ball from the bowler
off spin (cricket) the spin imparted to a ball to turn it into an off break
off spinner (cricket) a bowler who bowls off breaks
off stump (cricket) the stump furthest from the batsman
off the ball (association football) (of) a dispute or fight between players away from the point where the ball is being played
off the bridle (horse racing) not running freely and having to be urged on by the jockey
off the pace (horse racing) lagging behind other runners in a race
off theory (cricket) a theory that favors concentrating the fielders on the off side and bowling the ball at the off stump
off track (auto racing) away from the racetrack
off-track betting (horse racing) a system for placing bets away from the racetrack
offense (American football) the team that has possession of the ball at the start of a play; (general) a breach of the rules
office manager (auto racing) colloquial term for the codriver
offload (rugby league) a very short pass made to a teammate running past; (rugby union) a very short pass made by a player taking a tackle to a teammate running past
offshore race (sailing) a race in which competing boats sail at some distance from the shore, often from one port to another
offside (American football) a situation in which a player is in front of the line of scrimmage at the time of the snap; (association football) a situation in which a player is nearer the goal line than one or both of the last two defenders when the ball is played toward him by a member of his own team; (ice hockey) a situation in which a player precedes the puck over the blue line of the opposition
offside trap (association football) a strategy in which defensive players move together toward the halfway line in order to catch attacking players offside when a forward pass is being made
Oilers (ice hockey) short name of the Edmonton Oilers team
Old Firm (association football) joint nickname for the Scottish clubs Celtic and Rangers, long traditional rivals
Old Trafford (cricket) the home ground of Lancashire county cricket club, Manchester
olive (angling) an artificial fly imitating a mayfly with an olive-colored body, especially Ephemerella ignita
ollie (skateboarding) an aerial maneuver in which the rider presses his back foot down on the kick-tail then keeps his feet close to the board in flight before guiding the board back to the ground with his front foot [said to be invented by U.S. skateboarder Alan “Ollie” Gelfand (1963–)]
Olympia (Olympics) the plain in southern Greece where the ancient Olympic Games were held [not to be confused with Mt. Olympus, the home of the gods in northeastern Greece]
Olympiad (general) alternate term for Olympics in its nonathletic application; (Olympics) (1) a period of four years between the ancient Olympic Games; (2) a celebration of either the ancient or the modern Olympic Games
Olympian (Olympics) a competitor in the Olympic Games

Olympian Games (Olympics) an alternate term for the ancient Olympic Games

Olympic city (Olympics) a city where the Olympic Games have been or will be held, among them Athens, Beijing, London, Los Angeles, Moscow, Munich, Paris, Rome, and Sydney

Olympic flame (Olympics) the flame lit by the Olympic torch that burns throughout the modern Olympic Games

Olympic Games (Olympics) (1) the festival in honor of Zeus held first held in ancient Greece in 776 B.C. and comprising athletic, literary, and musical competitions; (2) the modern international athletic contests inspired by this, first held in Athens, Greece, in 1896 and subsequently in different Olympic cities, sometimes more than once

Olympic motto (Olympics) the Latin slogan that has formed an integral part of the Olympic Games since 1920: “Citius, altius, fortius” (“Swifter, higher, stronger”)

Olympic oath (Olympics) the pledge instituted in 1920 that is traditionally pronounced by a representative of the host country at the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games: “In the name of all competitors, I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportmanship, for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams”

Olympic sport (Olympics) a sport officially recognized by the International Olympic Committee

Olympic torch (Olympics) the lighted torch brought from Olympia since 1936 to kindle the Olympic flame

Olympic village (Olympics) a specially designed residential and commercial center for participants and officials in the modern Olympic Games

Olympics (general) (1) a commonly used designation of the modern Olympic Games; (2) an international contest in a nonathletic sport or pastime, as chess or bridge

Olympism (Olympics) the spirit and ideals of the modern Olympic Games

Olyroos (association football) nickname of the Australian national under-23 men's team, who represent Australia at the Olympics [blend of Olympic and kangaroo, the national animal]

Omnium (cycling) a series of contests in which competitors are awarded points on the basis of their performance in each [Latin omnium, “of all”]

On (baseball) shortening of on base; (cricket) another term for leg

On base (baseball) having safely reached a base

On board (equestrianism, horse racing) mounted on a horse

On deck (baseball) scheduled to bat after the next batter

On-deck circle (baseball) a circular area in foul territory where the next player to bat waits

On-drive (cricket) a drive to the leg side

On guard! (fencing) the equivalent of en garde!

On points (boxing) reckoned by the number of points scored rather than by a knockout

On side (cricket) another term for the leg side

On strike (cricket) facing the bowling

On the clock (golf) subject to time constraints as a result of playing too slowly

On the hill (pool) with one more game to win to gain victory

On the line (horse racing) at the finishing post

On the mark (horse racing) likely to win a bet

On the nose (horse racing) a bet to win only, not to come second or third

On the rails (horse racing) on the track of a racecourse nearest the rails

On the rivet (cycling) riding as fast as possible [from the rivet formerly at the front of a leather saddle]

On the rope (mountaineering) roped together

On the ropes (boxing) forced against the ropes by an opponent’s attack, and thus in danger of defeat

On the up (cricket) (of) a stroke played as the ball rises from a bounce

On your marks! (athletics) the command given by the starter of a foot race to prepare the runners for the starting signal [the mark being the starting line]

One-base (baseball) (of) a hit that enables the batter to reach first base

One-day cricket (cricket) a match lasting only one day, with a limited number of overs

One-day international (cricket) an international one-dayer

One-dayer (cricket) colloquial term for one-day cricket

One-design (sailing) a class of boat with identical specifications

One down (general) one point behind in a game

One-horse race (general) a race with a single likely winner

100-meter hurdles (athletics) a race over high hurdles for women over the stated distance

100 meters (athletics) a sprint of the stated distance

110-meter hurdles (athletics) a race over high hurdles for men over the stated distance

One-old-cat (baseball) a form of the sport in which a batter runs to one base and home again, remaining as batter until put out
one short (cricket) a run in which the batsman, in turning to make another run, touches the ground with the bat short of the popping crease
One Thousand Guineas (horse racing) an annual race for three-year-old fillies run over the Rowley Mile at Newmarket since 1814 [original value of prize, a guinea being 21 shillings]
one-timer (ice hockey) a move in which the puck is hit toward the goal at the moment it is received in a pass
one-touch (association football) (of) a fast-moving play in which each player controls or passes the ball with a single touch of the foot
one-two (association football) a move in which a player makes a pass to a teammate, runs past an opponent, then receives the ball back; (boxing) a jab with the leading hand followed by a cross with the other hand; (horse racing) a double victory for a trainer whose horses finished first and second in a race
one-two-three (horse racing) a triple victory for a trainer whose horses were the first three to finish in a race
one up (general) ahead of an opponent by one point
onion bag (association football) colloquial term for the net behind the goal
onside (association football) not offside
onside kick (American football) a kickoff that travels only a short distance forward, enabling the kicking team to regain possession of the ball
Opals (basketball) nickname of the Australian national women’s team [the opal is the national gemstone]
open (general) (1) a sporting contest or tournament that anyone can enter; (2) (of) a game or play that is spread out over the field; (3) (of) a player who is unmarked by a member of the opposing team
Open (golf) (1) shortening of Open Championship; (2) shortening of U.S. Open; (tennis) shortening of U.S. Open
open! (wrestling) the command of the referee to a wrestler to alter his position and use more open tactics
open championship (general) a championship that is open to both professional and amateur entrants
Open Championship (golf) (1) the world’s leading championship in the sport, first held in Scotland in 1860 [formally the British Open]; (2) a similar championship elsewhere, as the U.S. Open, Open de España, Open de France, or European Open
open date (general) a future available date for which no fixture has yet been arranged
open goal (association football) (1) an undefended goal; (2) a goal scored into it
open one’s account (cricket) (1) as a batsman, to begin scoring runs; (2) as a bowler, to take one’s first wicket; (horse racing) as a horse or jockey, to achieve a first win in a race
open one’s shoulders (cricket) to hit a drive [from the stance assumed by the batsman]
open side (rugby league) the side of the pitch with more space between the scrum or play-the-ball and the touchline than the blind side; (rugby union) the side of the pitch with more space between the scrum, ruck, or maul and the touchline than the blind side
open-side flanker (rugby union) the flanker binding on the open side
open table (pool) a situation in eight-ball pool in which a player can hit either the solid ball or the stripe ball
open-top bus (general) a double-decker bus with a roofless top deck on which a victorious team traditionally ride through their home town and parade their trophy as an equivalent of a lap of honor
open-water (swimming) (of) an event held in open water rather than in a swimming pool
opener (cricket) one of the two batsmen who start the side’s innings; (horse racing) the first race of the day in a meeting
opening (general) (1) an initial move in a game; (2) an enterprising move during a game, that could lead to the advantage of one’s team or oneself
opening batsman (cricket) one of the two openers
opening bowler (cricket) the bowler who bowls first
opposition (general) the team against which a given team is playing
Opposition (basketball) the team (who never wins) against which the Harlem Globetrotters play their exhibition games
option play (American football) a play in which an offensive player runs with the ball and, depending on the defensive formation, may either continue running or make a pass
Orange Bowl (American football) the intersectional college football game played annually since 1935 at the Orange Bowl stadium, Miami, Florida
order (cricket) shortening of batting order
order off (association football) alternate term for send off
Orient (association football) short name of the English club Leyton Orient
orienteering (sport) a form of cross-country running in which individuals or teams use a map and compass to reach their destination via a number of specified control points [Swedish orientering, literally “orientating”]
Orioles (baseball) short name of the Baltimore Orioles team
O’s (association football) short name of the English club Leyton Orient
osaekomi waza (judo) the technique of holding down one’s opponent [Japanese osae, “to press on,” komi, “to be packed up,” and waza, “technique”]
ottering (angling) shortening of otterboard
otterboard (angling) a board manipulated to carry the end of a fishing line, or several hooked and baited lines, when fishing in a lake [from otter, the aquatic animal]
O₂ (general) an entertainment and exhibition center with a concert and sports arena in London, England, originally opened in 1999 as the Millennium Dome [name of sponsors]
out (general) (1) dismissed from a game, as a batsman who has been bowled in cricket; (2) the dismissal itself, as in baseball, in which an inning ends when three outs are recorded
out cricket (cricket) bowling and fielding, as distinct from batting
out for the count (boxing) failing to beat the count of the referee when down on the canvas
out lap (auto racing) (1) the lap covered by a driver after a pit stop; (2) in qualifying, the lap covered after leaving the pits and before doing the measured lap
out of (horse racing) born to a named dam [often coupled with by to name the sire]
out of bounds (golf) an area of the course designated as not to be played on, obliging a player whose ball enters it to play again and incur a penalty
out of the screws (golf) (of) a perfect drive [from the screws formerly surrounding the middle of the clubface of a wooden driver, an area now known as the sweet spot]
outbrake (auto racing) to brake later than another driver at a corner and so overtake him
outclassed (boxing) judged by the referee to be taking undue punishment from an opponent, in consequence of which the bout is stopped
outdoor bowls (bowls) the sport played on a green, as distinct from indoor bowls
out (archery, shooting) the outermost ring of the target; (darts) the green circle around the bull on a dartboard
outfield (baseball) the part of the playing area beyond the baselines; (cricket) the outer part of the field, near the boundary
outfield player (association football) any player other than the goalkeeper
outfielder (baseball, cricket) a fielder in the outfield
outhalf (rugby league) another term for a standoff half
outing (general) an appearance in a match or race; (horse racing) another term for a race
outjump the hill (skiing) in ski jumping, to jump beyond the k point
outlet receiver (American football) a receiver near the line of scrimmage who can catch a pass if players further downfield are covered
outtrigger (canoeing) a projecting device on a float, fixed to the side of a canoe to give extra stability; (rowing) a projecting rowlock that gives extra stability to the oar; (sailing) a projecting spar used to extend the sails
outrun (skiiing) in a ski jump, the flat area at the bottom of the hill where skiers slow down and stop
outshot (darts) another term for a checkout
outside (general) a player nearer the edge of the field than a center; (surfing) the expanse of sea outside the breakers
outside center (rugby union) the center who plays between the inside center and the winger
outside edge (cricket) a deflection of the ball from the outer edge of the bat; (ice skating) the outer of the two edges of the blade of a skate
outside half (rugby union) another term for the fly half
outside lane (athletics, cycling) the outermost lane of the track, which is longest because of the curve
outside left (association football, field hockey) an attacking position on the left side away from the center of the field
outside right (association football, field hockey) an attacking position on the right side away from the center of the field
outsider (horse racing) a horse not regarded as a favorite to win a race and therefore at long odds as a bet
outswinger (association football) a pass that swerves away from the goal or from the center of the pitch; (cricket) a ball bowled so as to swing from leg to off
outwrick (curling) to strike the outside of another stone and so send it within a circle [from wick]
oval (Australian Rules) a ground where the game is played; (auto racing) in Indy car and NASCAR racing, an oval-shaped circuit with gentle bends that can be taken at high speed
Oval (cricket) the home ground of Surrey county cricket club, London, where test matches are played [so named from the oval road built around the original area of land, which became a sports ground in 1845]
oval-ball game (sport) colloquial name for rugby union, as distinct from the round-ball game
over (cricket) a series of six balls bowled by the
bowl er, after which a change is made from one end of the wicket to the other

over rate (cricket) the rate at which overs are bowled

over the sticks (horse racing) colloquial term for a steeplechase

over the top (association football) (of) a tackle in which a player goes over the ball

over the wicket (cricket) (of) a ball bowled with the arm of the bowler near the wicket, as against round the wicket

overarm (cricket) (of) a delivery by the bowler made with the hand raised above the shoulder; (swimming) (of) a stroke in which one or both arms are lifted out of the water and brought forward and down to their original position; (tennis) (of) a serve made with the hand raised above the shoulder

overbump (rowing) a bump in a bumping race in which the bumping boat goes up more than one place because the boat it bumps has also just bumped

overhand (swimming) an overarm stroke

overhead (tennis) a shot played with the racket above the head

overhead kick (association football) another term for a bicycle kick

overhit (golf) a putt that sends the ball further than intended

overlap (association football) a situation in which a player moves up to overtake the player in possession, usually to take a pass; (rugby league, rugby union) a situation in which the team in possession has more players in an attack than can be marked by the defenders; (sailing) a situation in a race in which the stern of one boat is ahead of the bow of another, obliging the overtaking boat, if not yet clear, to give way

overpitch (cricket) to bowl a ball that pitches close enough to the batsman to be easily hit by him

overplay (golf) to hit the ball beyond the green

overreach (horse racing) an injury caused when a horse’s hindfoot strikes against the corresponding forefoot, typically on landing after jumping a fence

overrule (tennis) a call by the umpire to overturn the call of a line judge

overswing (golf) to swing the club too hard and so follow through more than is necessary

overthrow (baseball) a throw from a fielder that sends the ball beyond a baseman; (cricket) a return throw of the ball by a fielder to the wicket that not only misses it but is missed by the bowler or wicketkeeper, enabling the batsmen to run again and score another run

overtime (American football) an extra period of 15 minutes played at the end of a tied game

Owls (association football) nickname of the English club Sheffield Wednesday [from the district of Owlerston, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, where the club is based]

own goal (association football) a goal scored inadvertently against one’s own team

owner (horse racing) the person who owns a particular racehorse and who, in consultation with the trainer, decides which races it should run

oxer (equestrianism) in showjumping, a jump consisting of a brush fence with a guardrail on one or both sides [short form of ox and fence]

ozeki (sumo) a champion wrestler [Japanese]

p (basketball) abbreviation of personal foul

p point (skiing) the expected landing point in a ski jump

pa-kua (sport) a Chinese martial art in which fighters are arranged around a circle in positions they must defend [Chinese pa, “eight,” and kua, “trigrams”]

Pac Ten (American football) colloquial shortening of Pacific Ten

pace (cricket) the speed of a bowled ball; (equestrianism, horse racing) (1) the gait of a horse, as walk, trot, canter, gallop; (2) a mode of stepping in horses in which the legs on the same side are lifted together

pace bowler (cricket) a fast bowler

pace car (auto racing) a car that sets the pace in the formation lap of a race but does not take part in the race

pace lap (auto racing) another term for formation lap

pace notes (auto racing) in rally driving, notes used by the codriver to alert the driver to bends and hazards ahead and to recommend a suitable speed for each section

pacleline (cycling) a group of riders who each slip-stream behind the one in front, taking turns to ride at the front to set the pace

pacemaker (general) a competitor who sets the pace in a race; (horse racing) a horse entered in a race to set the pace in such a way that it benefits a stablemate

paceman (cricket) another term for a pace bowler

pacer (equestrianism, horse racing) a horse whose usual gait is a pace, especially one bred to take part in harness racing

Pacers (basketball) short name of the Indiana Pacers team

Pacific Ten (American football) a conference of ten college football teams, comprising the universities of California at Berkeley, California at Los Angeles, Southern California, Oregon, Oregon
pacing • parajetting

State, Stanford, Washington, Washington State, Arizona, and Arizona State

**pacing** *(cycling)* a technique of increasing speed by riding in the slipstream of a vehicle; *(horse racing)* harness racing for pacers

**pack** *(general)* the largest group of competitors in a race, especially when bunched together; *(parachuting)* the parachute when folded in its container; *(rugby league, rugby union)* the forwards in a team; *(snooker)* the reds when grouped together between the black spot and pink spot

**pack down** *(rugby league, rugby union)* to form a scrum

**pack leader** *(rugby union)* the forward assigned to organize the pack

**Packers** *(American football)* short name of the Green Bay Packers team

**pad** *(cricket)* the protective covering for the front of the legs worn by batsmen and wicketkeepers; *(general)* a guard shaped to protect a particular part of the body

**pad up** *(cricket)* to put on one's pads before a game

**paddle** *(canoeing)* the short, broad oar used to propel a canoe; *(paddleball, paddle tennis)* the wooden or plastic bat used to strike the ball; *(rowing)* to row at less than full speed; *(table tennis)* another term for a bat

**paddle sweep** *(cricket)* a gentle sweep played with a short stroke

**paddle tennis** *(sport)* a variant of tennis played on a small court with a deadened (deflated) tennis ball and a paddle

**paddleball** *(sport)* a variant of handball played between two or four players in a four-walled court with a light ball and a paddle

**paddler** *(canoeing)* a competitor in a canoe or kayak

**paddock** *(auto racing)* the enclosed area behind the pits where teams park their transporters and motorhomes; *(greyhound racing)* the area on a track where the dogs are kept before the start of the race; *(horse racing)* the area where the horses are displayed to spectators before the start of a race

**PADres** *(baseball)* short name of the San Diego Padres team

**paint** *(basketball)* another term for the key

**pair** *(cricket)* a score of no runs in each innings of a match; *(rowing)* a boat rowed by two people

**pair of spectacles** *(cricket)* another term for a pair [from the two zeros on the scoreboard]

**pair skating** *(ice skating)* a coordinated performance by a male and a female skater

**pajama cricket** *(cricket)* jocular term for one-day cricket [from the brightly-colored clothes often worn instead of whites]

**Pak** *(gymnastics)* a move on the asymmetric bars in which the gymnast releases the high bar, executes a backward flip, then catches the low bar [introduced by the North Korean gymnast Gyong Sil Pak]

**Palace** *(association football)* short name of the English club Crystal Palace

**pallone** *(sport)* an Italian game on the lines of tennis, in which a large ball is struck with an armguard [Italian pallone, "big ball"]

**palm ball** *(baseball)* a pitch with the ball gripped by the thumb and palm rather than with the fingers

**palmer** *(angling)* a type of bristly artificial fly imitating a hairy caterpillar

**palooka** *(boxing)* an inexperienced or incompetent boxer [from the comic strip Joe Palooka by the U.S. artist Ham Fisher, first published in 1930]

**Pan-African Games** *(Olympics)* regional games held since 1965 for contestants from African countries

**Pan-American Games** *(Olympics)* regional games held since 1951 for contestants from North, Central, and South America, Canada, and the Caribbean

**Panthers** *(ice hockey)* short name of the Florida Panthers team

**par** *(golf)* the number of strokes that a good average player should take for a particular hole or course, two putts being allowed on each green [Latin par, "equal"]

**parachute** *(parachuting)* the large, umbrella-like sheet of fabric with wires or ropes attached to a harness worn by a person jumping from an aircraft to slow his descent or, in modified form, to generate lift in a sport such as paragliding

**parachuting** *(sport)* the activity of descending from an aircraft by parachute, in competition involving the disciplines of style and accuracy jumping

**parade** *(fencing)* a general term for a parry; *(greyhound racing)* the display of the dogs to spectators before the start of a race; *(horse racing)* the display of the horses to spectators before the start of a race; *(motorcycle racing)* in speedway, the introduction of the riders to the public

**parade lap** *(auto racing)* another term for a formation lap

**parade ring** *(horse racing)* a circuit at a racecourse around which horses can be walked to warm up before a race

**paraglider** *(paragliding)* a type of modified parachute in the form of a flexible wing

**paragliding** *(sport)* the activity of drifting through the air to the ground on a paraglider after being towed up by an aircraft or jumping from it

**parajetting** *(sport)* another term for paramotorizing
parajump (parachuting) a descent made by jumping from an aircraft with a parachute
parakiting (sport) the activity of soaring on a kite while being towed by a motorboat, car, or other fast-moving vehicle
parallel bars (gymnastics) a pair of horizontal bars arranged side by side and supported on posts used in men’s competition for routines that include giant swings, releasing and regrasping movements, and handstands
parallel slalom (skiing, snowboarding) a slalom event in which two competitors race head-to-head down identical courses
parallel turn (skiing) a turn made by shifting the body while keeping the skis parallel
Paralympian (Olympics) a competitor in the Paralympic Games
Paralympic Games (Olympic) a series of sporting contests, run on the lines of the traditional Olympic Games since 1948, for competitors in six disability groups, each group subdivided into classes based on the type and extent of their disabilities [blend of parallel and Olympic but also suggesting paraplegic]
Paralymics (Olympics) popular name of the Paralympic Games
paramotor (paramotoring) a two-stroke engine that powers a propeller
paramotoring (sport) an adventure sport similar to paragliding, in which the participant flies suspended from a wing while propelled by a paramotor worn on the back, where there is also a packed parachute
parapenting (sport) an activity blending hang-gliding and parachuting, in which the participant jumps from a height wearing a modified type of parachute, which is then used as a hang-glider [blend of parachute and French pente, “slope”]
Paraplegic Games (Olympics) a former name for the Paralympic Games
parasailing (sport) the activity of soaring on a modified parachute while being towed by a motorboat, car, or other fast-moving vehicle
parascending (sport) an activity similar to paragliding, in which the participant is towed into the wind by a motor vehicle
paraskiing (skiing) an activity in which participants ski from a place to which they have been dropped by parachute
Parc des Princes (rugby union) the stadium in Paris where France have played most of their international matches since 1973
parc fermé (auto racing) (1) the cordoned-off area into which cars are driven after qualifying and the race itself and where teams can carry out servicing; (2) in rally driving, the cordoned-off area into which cars are driven after each day’s rallying [French parc fermé, “closed park”]
pari-mutuel (horse racing) a form of totalizator in which those who backed the winner share the total stakes [French pari mutuel, “mutual stake”]
Paris-Dakar rally (auto racing) a periodical race for cars, motorcycles, and trucks from Paris, France, to Dakar, Senegal, first held in 1979
Paris-Roubaix race (cycling) an annual road race from Paris to Roubaix, France, first held in 1896
park (association football) colloquial term for the pitch; (general) another term for a stadium
parkour (sport) another term for free running [from French parcours, “route,” “course”]
parry (association football) a save in which the goalkeeper pushes the ball away with his hands without actually catching it; (fencing) the blocking of an opponent’s thrust
Par (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Dunfermline Athletic [of disputed origin, but perhaps from a mocking alteration of “Athletic” to “Paralytic”]
partner (general) one of two people who play on the same side in a game
partnership (cricket) (1) the length of time for which two batsmen bat together; (2) the number of runs scored during such a time
pass (fencing) another term for a thrust; (general) a hit, kick, throw, or header of the ball (or its equivalent) to a teammate; (real tennis) a service which drops in the pass court; (tennis) a shot that goes beyond the reach of an opponent
pass court (real tennis) the area in front of the grille on the hazard side of the court, enclosed by the end wall, the main wall, the service line, and the pass line
pass interference (American football) illegal contact with an opponent made in order to stop a catch
pass line (real tennis) another term for the fault line
pass play (American football) a sequence of passes between members of the same team
pass roll (croquet) a shot that rolls a player’s ball further than the one from which croquet is being taken
pass rush (American football) an attempt to tackle the quarterback before he can pass the ball
pass rusher (American football) a player who makes a pass rush
passage (equestrianism) a slow trot in which the horse raises its feet high before bringing them down
passback (American football) another term for a snapback; (association football) a pass back to a teammate, often the goalkeeper
passbook (boxing) the record of a boxer’s matches,
including injuries sustained, medical procedures applied, and the like

**passed ball** (*baseball*) a correctly thrown pitch that the catcher fails to gather in time to prevent a baserunner from advancing

**passing game** (*association football*) a style of play in which a player retains possession of the ball until an opportunity to score a goal arises

**passing shot** (*tennis*) a shot beyond the reach of one’s opponent

**passive play** (*handball*) a team’s undue delay with the ball, resulting in a foul

**passivity** (*judo*) another term for *non-combativity*; (*wrestling*) stalling tactics in which moves are avoided

**passivity zone** (*wrestling*) the outer circle of the mat

**pathball** (*general*) any simple or gentle *ball game* in which the ball is hit back and forth between two players; (*sport*) derisory nickname for *tennis*, especially when played lazily or deliberately slowly for tactical reasons

**paternoster** (*angling*) a *fishing line* similar to a ledger [its many hooks are like the beads in a rosary that mark the saying of the paternoster (Lord’s Prayer)]

**Patriots** (*American football*) short name of the New England Patriots team

**pattern** (*general*) a fixed sequence of tactical movements; (*shooting*) the arrangement of shot marks on a target

**pattern race** (*horse racing*) a flat race open to all comers in a particular category, as of age or weight, the aim being to find the best among the top-rank horses entered [so called for the organization of such races by groups]

**pavé** (*cycling*) shortening of *pavilion*

**pavé** (*cycling*) the cobbled roads that form part of certain *road races* in France and Belgium [French pavé, “paved (way)”]

**pavilion** (*cricket*) a building for players and (certain) spectators at the side of a pitch

**pay-as-you-play** (*association football*) a contract that pays players for their appearances in a match, often with a bonus for goals scored or a team win

**PB** (*general*) abbreviation of *personal best*

**pearling** (*surfing*) the dipping of the nose of the surfboard under the waves

**Pebble Beach** (*golf*) a championship golf course near Monterey, California

**pedigree** (*horse racing*) (1) the ancestry of a racehorse, especially with regard to the identity of its progenitors and the purity of its stock; (2) the record of a horse’s performance [apparently from French pied de grue, “crane’s foot,” from the arrowhead mark used to denote succession in a genealogical tree]

**peel** (*croquet*) to send another player’s ball through the next hoop [from the British player Walter H. Peel (fl.1868)]; (*curling*) a *takeout* in which both the stone played and the stone hit leave the house

**peel off** (*general*) to leave a set formation or group, as a *scrum* in rugby union or a *peloton* in cycling

**peg** (*angling*) a stretch of a river or lake allocated to a single *angler* in *match fishing*; (*baseball*) a long, low throw at a *base*; (*cricket*) colloquial term for a *stump*; (*croquet*) the short wooden post in the center of the lawn; (*mountaineering*) another term for a *piton*

**peg back** (*general*) to reduce the lead of another contestant in a race

**peg out** (*croquet*) to finish a *game* by hitting the ball against the peg

**pelota** (*sport*) a *game* played in Spain, southern France, and Latin America in which two players hurl a ball against a marked wall using a basket-like wicker *racket* attached to a glove [Spanish pelota, “ball”]

**peloton** (*cycling*) the main group of riders in a stage race [French peloton, “small ball”]

**pen** (*association football*) abbreviation of *penalty* in sports reports

**penalty** (*association football*) shortening of *penalty kick*; (*general*) a punishment for a foul, usually involving the imposition of some sort of disadvantage or the award of an advantage to an opponent or opponents; (*horse racing*) an additional weight carried by a horse as a result of previous wins in a *handicap*; (*ice hockey*) suspension from play for a violation of the rules, especially for unruly behavior

**penalty area** (*association football*) the area in front of the goal in which a foul by the defending team may result in the award of a *direct free kick* to the attacking team as a *penalty kick*

**penalty bench** (*ice hockey*) the enclosed area at the side of the rink where players who have violated the rules must stay for the *penalty* period

**penalty box** (*association football*) another term for the *penalty area*; (*ice hockey*) another term for the *penalty bench*

**penalty corner** (*field hockey*) a *shot* taken on the back line for an offense committed within the *shooting circle* or twenty-three-meter line

**penalty goal** (*general*) a goal scored as the result of a *penalty*

**penalty kick** (*association football*) a *direct free kick* at goal taken from the *penalty spot*

**penalty killer** (*ice hockey*) a player responsible for preventing a member of the opposing side from scoring when his own team is reduced in number as a result of *penalties*
penalty line (handball) another term for the seven-meter line  
penalty pass (netball) a free pass awarded when a team has committed a foul  
penalty shoot-out (association football) a method of settling a tied match by having each team take a series of penalty kicks  
penalty shot (netball) a shot awarded after an infringement in the shooting circle  
penalty spot (association football) the spot in the penalty area from which a penalty kick is taken; (field hockey) the spot in the front of the goal from which a penalty stroke is taken  
penalty stroke (field hockey) a shot at goal awarded after an infringement  
penalty try (rugby league, rugby union) a try awarded by the referee if a foul has prevented the opposing team from scoring a try  
pendulum (mountaineering) a move in which a climber uses momentum to swing to a new position  
Penguins (ice hockey) short name of the Pittsburgh Penguins team  
penholder (table tennis) a grip in which the bat is held between thumb and forefinger, like a pen  
pennant (baseball) a flag awarded to the winners of a league championship  
Pensioners (association football) former nickname of the English club Chelsea (from the Chelsea pensioners, or veteran soldiers resident at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea)  
pentathlete (Olympics) a competitor in the modern pentathlon  
pentathlon (Olympics) (1) in ancient Greece, an athletic contest in leaping, running, discus-throwing, spear-throwing, and wrestling; (2) shortening of modern pentathlon [Greek pente, “five,” and athlon, “contest”]  
penthouse (real tennis) the roofed corridor that runs around three sides of the court  
pepperbox (five) in Eton fives, an irregular buttress that protrudes into the court and that serves as a hazard  
percher (cricket) a bouncer that seems to hang in the air for a long time  
perfect game (baseball) a game in which a pitcher does not allow any batter to reach base  
perfect ten (general) a full score, achieved in ideal circumstances  
perfecta (horse racing) a bet on which two horses will come first and second in a race [American Spanish quiniela perfecta, “perfect quinella”]  
perfume ball (cricket) a bouncer on or just outside the off stump that narrowly misses the batsman’s face [it is so close that he can smell it]  
perimeter (basketball) the area of the court beyond the key  

period (ice hockey) one of the three time divisions that make up a game, each of 20 minutes  
personal best (athletics) the best time or distance achieved by a particular athlete  
personal foul (basketball) a foul by individual player in the form of physical contact that resulted in an unfair advantage  
Perth (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Perth, eastern Scotland  
pesade (equestrianism) a former maneuver in dressage in which a horse rises up on its hind legs without moving forward [French pesade, from Italian posata, “pause”]  
pesäpallo (sport) a Finnish form of baseball [Finnish pesä, “home,” and pallo, “ball”]  
pétanque (sport) a French game similar to boules in which steel bowls are rolled or hurled toward a wooden marker ball [French pétanque, from Provençal péd tanco, “feet fixed,” describing the throwing position]  
petit final (canoeing) a race that determines the placing of paddlers who did not reach the final [French petit final, “little final”]  
petticoat (archery) the part of a target outside the scoring area  
phantom (angling) an artificial bait that closely resembles live bait  
phantom goal (association football) another term for a ghost goal  
Philadelphia Gold Cup (Olympics) the cup awarded to the winner of the men’s single scull championship [presented in 1920 by Philadelphia rowing men in honor of John B. Kelly, Sr., that year’s winner]  
Phillies (baseball) short name of the Philadelphia Phillies team  
photo finish (general) (1) a finish in a race that is so close that a special type of photography is needed to determine the winner; (2) any close finish  
photograph (general) another term for a photo finish  
physio (general) colloquial shortening of physiotherapist or physiotherapay  
physiotherapist (general) a person who treats an injured player or sports participant by physical means such as massage, infrared heat treatment, exercise, and the like, rather than by drugs  
physiotherapy (general) treatment administered by a physiotherapist  
piaffe (equestrianism) in dressage, a type of slow trot in which the horse’s neck is raised and arched [French piaffer, “to strut”]  
pick (basketball) a (legitimate) maneuver in which an attacker who does not have the ball obstructs a defender from challenging the player who has the ball; (general) (1) a game, or a team, for
which the captains select their players alternately from a single group or squad; (2) a player who is selected to play in such a team; (horse racing) a horse fancied as a likely winner

**pick-and-roll** (basketball) a maneuver in which an attacker frees a teammate holding the ball by using a pick on a defender then moves toward the basket for a pass

**pick off** (baseball) to put out a runner who has stranded off base by throwing the ball to a fielder who tags the runner before he is able to return to the base

**pick up** (horse racing) to take hold of the bit and run faster

**pick-up** (angling) the loop of metal that pays back the line onto the spool as it is reeled in; (athletics) the process of increasing speed at the beginning of a race; (general) a game or team for which captains select players alternately from a single group

**pick up the bridle** (horse racing) fuller term for pick up

**picnic race** (horse racing) in Australia and New Zealand, a rural race for amateurs

**pie chucker** (cricket) colloquial term for an inexpert bowler

**pig board** (surfing) a surfboard with a wide tail and a narrow nose

**pigskin** (American football) colloquial term for the football [originally made of leather from the skin of a pig]

**pike** (gymnastics) a position of the body in which the legs are kept straight but the torso bent at the hips; (swimming) a position for a dive in which the body is bent at the waist with the legs straight and toes pointed [not related to other senses of pike, as “fish” or “weapon”]

**pile-up** (auto racing) a large-scale collision of cars on the track; (horse racing) a tangled heap of fallen horses and jockeys on the course, usually the other side of a jump

**piledriver** (general) a strong blow or kick; (wrestling) the act of slamming down one’s opponent’s head so that it hits the mat

**Pilgrims** (association football) (1) nickname of the English club Boston United; (2) nickname of the English club Plymouth Argyle [for the Pilgrim Fathers who came to America from the English towns of Boston, Lincolnshire, and Plymouth, Devon]

**pill** (general) colloquial term for a ball, as a basketball, football, golf ball, or tennis ball

**pills** (billiards) colloquial term for the balls in a game

**pilot** (croquet) the ball off which a player will run a hoop in a break in which the pioneer and the pivot have already been set up

**pin** (golf) (1) the rod of a flag; (2) another term for the flag itself; (ninepins, tenpin bowling) one of the wooden pieces used as a target; (wrestling) another term for a throw

**pin high** (golf) (of) an approach shot or chip that finishes near the pin

**pin hole** (archery) the exact center of the bullseye

**pin position** (golf) the position of the flag on the green

**pin splitter** (golf) a shot that lands dead on the pin

**pin spotter** (tenpin bowling) the device that replaces the pins in position after each player’s turn

**pinch** (horse racing) to overurge a horse

**pinch hitter** (baseball) a batter who bats in place of a teammate at a critical point in a game, as through injury or for tactical reasons; (cricket) a batsman in a game of limited overs who bats higher up the batting order than usual with the aim of scoring quick runs

**pinch runner** (baseball) a substitute baserunner who runs in place of a batter who has reached base, especially toward the end of a close game

**Pine Valley** (golf) a golf course at Clementon, New Jersey

**ping** (horse racing) (1) to jump a fence well; (2) to leave the starting stalls quickly

**ping-pong** (sport) another name for table tennis [properly a trademark, Ping-Pong, with ping as the sound of the bat striking the ball, pong as that of the ball hitting the table]

**pink** (snooker) the pink ball, worth six points

**pink jersey** (cycling) the jersey worn by the overall leader of the Giro d’Italia [Italian maglia rosa, “pink jersey”]

**pink spot** (snooker) the spot on the billiard table where the pink is positioned, in the center of the bottom half of the table, at the apex of the triangle of reds

**pintail** (surfing) a surfboard with a tapering tail

**piolet** (mountaineering) a two-headed ice ax [French piolet, from Piedmontese dialect]

**pioneer** (croquet) a ball sent to the hoop after the one next in turn, so as to be ready for when that hoop is attempted

**pipe-opener** (general) a practice game or trial run; (horse racing) a gallop or first race that gets a horse fit for subsequent races [it “opens the pipes” or clears the wind]

**pipeline** (surfing) the hollow formed by the breaking of a large wave

**Pirates** (association football) nickname of the English club Bristol Rovers [from the port city’s connection with shipping]; (baseball) short name of the Pittsburgh Pirates team

**pirouette** (equestrianism) in dressage, a full turn made by pivoting on a hind leg; (gymnastics) a
turn made by swiveling the foot through 180 degrees while standing erect or by moving the hand similarly when in a **handstand** position [French *pisteur*, “spinning top”]

**piste** (fencing) the dueling area; (skiing) a prepared downhill trail [French *piste*, “track”]

**piste-basher** (skiing) (1) a machine that compacts and levels the snow on a **piste**; (2) colloquial term for a person who enjoys skiing on pistes

**pisteur** (skiing) a person who prepares the snow on a **piste** [French *pisteur*, from *piste*]

**pistol** (shooting) the small, hand-held gun used in competitive **shooting**

**Pistons** (basketball) short name of the Detroit Pistons team

**pit** (American football) the center of the line, where opposing players battle to attack or defend the **quarterback** [from *pit* as an enclosure where animals fight]; (athletics) the sanded landing area in the **long jump** and **triple jump**; (auto racing) an area (in early days below ground level) close to the **circuit** where cars can be serviced or repaired during a race

**pit area** (auto racing) fuller term for the **pit**

**pit babe** (auto racing) colloquial term for an attractive young woman engaged by a team to grace its **pit area**

**pit board** (auto racing) a board held out from the **pit wall** to tell a driver his position, the time gap to the car ahead or behind, and the number of laps remaining

**pit lane** (auto racing) the lane that leads to the **pits** from the **circuit**

**pit lizard** (auto racing) colloquial term for a female fan or follower of the sport

**pit road** (auto racing) the road that leads to the **pits** from the **circuit**

**pit stop** (auto racing) a stop made by a driver in the **pits** to refuel or repair his car

**pit wall** (auto racing) the wall that separates the **pit** area from the **start straight** and **finish straight**

**pitch** (angling) the place in a river assigned to a particular angler; (association football) the area, bounded by the **goal lines** and **touchlines**, on which a **match** is played; (baseball) (1) to throw the **ball** to the **batter**; (2) the ball so thrown; (cricket) (1) the area of ground between the wickets; (2) the manner of bowling the **ball** so that it lands at a particular point or from a particular direction; (3) the point where the ball bounces; (general) the area of play in a **field game**; (golf) shortening of **pitch shot**; (horse racing) an area at a **racecourse** assigned to a **bookmaker**; (mountaineering) (1) a section of rock or ice between two **belay** points; (2) a steep descent; (rowing) the angle at which the blade of the **oar** enters the water

**pitch-and-putt** (golf) a type of miniature golf, in which the **green** can be reached in a single stroke

**pitch-and-run** (golf) a **pitch shot** played so that the **ball** runs some distance on landing

**pitch invasion** (association football) the incursion of spectators onto the **pitch** during or at the end of a **match**, either in celebration or in protest

**pitch mark** (golf) a dent or small depression left by a **ball** when it lands on the **green**

**pitch-out** (baseball) a tactic by which the **pitcher** deliberately throws the **ball** wide of the **plate** in order to make it easier for the **catcher** to throw out a **baserunner** regarded as likely to attempt to steal a base

**pitch shot** (golf) a **shot** that sends the **ball** in a high arc so that it runs only a short distance on hitting the ground

**pitch the wickets** (cricket) to fix the **stumps** in the ground and place the **bails** on them

**pitcher** (baseball) the player who throws the **ball** to the **batter**

**pitching wedge** (golf) a **claw** giving good **loft** for playing **pitch shots**

**piton** (mountaineering) an iron peg that can be hammered into the rock and have a rope attached to it [French *piton*, “eyebolt”]

**pits** (auto racing) the area close to the **circuit** where each team is assigned its **pit**

**pivot** (basketball) a move in which the player with the **ball** takes a step while keeping the other foot on the floor; (croquet) a **ball** positioned between the **pioneer** and the **hoop** being attempted, in order to allow the **striker’s** **ball** to change direction

**place** (horse racing) the positions of second and third (and sometimes fourth) in a race

**place bet** (horse racing) a **bet** on a horse to finish second or third (or sometimes fourth) in a race

**place horse** (horse racing) a horse that finishes second or third (or sometimes fourth) in a race

**place kick** (rugby league, rugby union) a kick taken with the **ball** placed on the ground, as for a **penalty kick** or **conversion**

**placepot** (horse racing) a **bet** staked on a **place horse** in the first six **races** on the **racecard**

**plain ball** (billiards) the all-white **cue ball**, as distinct from the **spot white**; (snooker) a **stroke** in the center of the **cue ball**, as distinct from a **top spin**

**planche** (gymnastics) a position in which the body is supported by the arms parallel to the ground, as on the **parallel bars** or the **rings** [French *planche*, “plank”]

**plane** (surfing) to ride a wave with the hands forming a spear shape to protect the face and cut through the water
plank (auto racing) a wooden board fitted to the underside of Formula One cars as a check that they are not too close to the ground
plant (snooker) a stroke in which the cue ball strikes the object ball which then (intentionally) strikes another ball into a pocket
plasticine (athletics) the soft rubber section of the board in the long jump and triple jump that is imprinted by the jumper’s spikes on takeoff and so determines whether the jump was a foul or not [from Plasticine, the proprietary name of a kind of soft modeling material]
plastron (fencing) a padded protective garment worn under the fencing jacket [French plastron, from Italian piastrone, “breastplate”]
plate (baseball) the five-sided white slab over which the pitcher must throw the ball; (general) a cup or other prize awarded to the winner of a race; (horse racing) a light racing horseshoe
plerter (horse racing) a moderate horse entered for a selling race
platform (swimming) a rigid diving board, as distinct from a springboard
platinum duck (cricket) a duck scored by a batsman who is out on the first ball of the season [it ranks as the rarest kind, above a golden duck]
platoon (American football) a group of players trained to act as a single unit of attackers or defenders, and sent into a game (or taken out of it) as a body; (general) a group of players who alternate in the same position in a team
play (American football) a single period of activity, beginning with the snap, in which players follow prearranged actions; (angling) to allow a fish to exhaust itself by its struggles to get away; (general) a particular move or maneuver
play! (cricket) the call of the umpire at the bowler’s end of the start of a match and on resumption of play after any interval
play across the line (cricket) as a batsman, to play a strong but potentially risky shot of the ball that sends it far off its course on a line between the wickets
play action (American football) an attempt to disguise a passing play as a running play
play away (general) to play a game on an opponent’s ground
play back (cricket) to step back to play a stroke
play-by-play (general) a running commentary on a sporting event
play forward (cricket) to step forward to play a full toss
play line (real tennis) the line running around the walls of the court above which the ball must not be hit
play off (golf) (1) to play the ball from the tee; (2) to have as a handicap
play-off (general) (1) an additional game or match played to decide a draw or tie; (2) a series of games or matches played to decide a championship or promotion
play on (cricket) to play the ball onto one’s own wicket, thus putting oneself out; (general) to continue playing after a particular incident or temporary stoppage
play pepper (baseball) to warm up by catching and returning balls
play-the-ball (rugby league) a means of restarting play after a tackle, in which the tackled player rolls the ball behind him with his foot
play the percentages (general) to play safe shots or moves rather than risky ones on the basis that this is more likely to bring eventual success
play through (golf) to continue to play, overtaking other players who have temporarily ceased playing to allow this
player-manager (general) a person who both plays in a team and manages it
playfield (Australian Rules) the area of the pitch marked by the boundary lines within which the game is played
playing field (general) a field where a sport is regularly played
playmaker (general) a member of a team who is skilled at initiating plays that might lead to a score
pleasure angler (angling) an angler who fishes alone, as distinct from a competing match angler
plug (angling) a type of lure with one or more hooks attached; (golf) to become stuck in a hazard
plumb (cricket) indisputably leg before wicket [as a ruling on a batsman]
plummet (angling) a weight attached to a fishing line, used with a float to gauge the depth of the swim or to keep the float upright
Plumpton (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Plumpton Green, East Sussex, England
plunge (American football) a quick thrust into the line, as often made by a fullback
plunging back (American football) another term for a fullback
plus fours (golf) a type of baggy knickerbockers formerly worn by golfers [so named from the four extra inches of cloth required to create the overhang at the knee]
plus twos (golf) a shorter and less baggy form of plus fours [from the two extra inches of cloth]
poach (association football) to lurk around the penalty area of the opposing team on the chance of scoring an opportunists goal; (tennis) to take a ball that should have been left to one’s partner in doubles
pocket (American football) the area behind the offensive linemen, usually affording protection to the quarterback when attempting a pass; (billiards, snooker) one of the six open-mouthed bags or pouches at the corners and sides of the billiard table into which the balls are struck; (general) a position in a race in which a competitor is hemmed in by others and so has no chance of winning; (lacrosse) the strung part of the head of the stick which holds the ball
pocket billiards (sport) an alternate name for pool
podium (general) the raised platform on which the winners of a race or other contest stand
podium finish (auto racing) a finish in first, second, or third place, giving the winner a stand on the podium
point (cricket) a fielding position on the off side fairly near the batsman on a line with the popping crease [so called as originally close to the point of the bat]; (general) a unit of count in scoring or judging; (lacrosse) a defensive player positioned a short distance in front of the goalkeeper and behind the cover point, with the role of marking the opposing team's first home
point after (American football) another term for an extra point
point guard (basketball) a player positioned away from the basket who directs attacking play
point-to-point (horse racing) an amateur steeple-chase for hunters over a cross-country course [from one point to another]
point-to-pointer (horse racing) a horse entered in a point-to-point
pointbreak (surfing) the place where a wave breaks around an exposed pointed rock
pointer (horse racing) shortening of point-to-pointer
pointing (horse racing) competing in a point-to-point
points competition (cycling) a subsidiary competition in a stage race, won by the rider who has accumulated the most points from his finishing positions in stages and from primes
points race (cycling) a track race in which riders gain points for their position at the end of each lap and in individual sprints throughout the race
poke (cricket) a stroke made by jabbing at the ball
pole (athletics) the long rod used in the pole vault; (auto racing) shortening of pole position; (horse racing) the starting position closest to the inside fence surrounding a racecourse; (skiing) shortening of ski pole
pole line (cycling) the innermost line painted around the track in a velodrome
pole position (auto racing) the position on the grid in the front row and on the inside of the first bend; (general) the most advantageous position in any race or competition
pole-sitter (auto racing) a driver who stays in pole position
pole vault (athletics) a field event in which the competitor uses a pole to clear a high bar
poleman (auto racing) a driver in pole position
policeman (ice hockey) a hefty player whose main role is to protect his own goalscorers
polka-dot jersey (cycling) the red polka-dot jersey won by the King of the Mountains in the Tour de France [French maillot à pois rouge, "polka-dot jersey"]
polo (sport) a game of Eastern origin similar to field hockey played on horseback between teams of four, using mallets to propel a small hard ball into the opponent's goal [Tibetan pulu, "ball"]
polo ground (polo) the dedicated area where the game is played, as a grass field with marked white lines and goalposts at either end
polo pony (polo) fuller term for a pony
polo stick (polo) the mallet used in playing polo
polocrosse (sport) a game similar to polo played on horseback with sticks having a head resembling the crosse used in lacrosse
Polytrack (horse racing) proprietary name of a type of synthetic surface on a racecourse
pommel (gymnastics) one of the two handrails fitted to a pommel horse
pommel horse (gymnastics) a piece of apparatus similar to a vaulting horse having a stuffed leather body with pommels and used in men's competition for a variety of routines, including swings, scissors, splits, and handstands
Pompey (association football) nickname of the English club Portsmouth [of disputed but almost certainly naval origin]
Pontefract (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Pontefract, West Yorkshire, England
pony (polo) a horse used in the game
pony goal (polo) a goal that results from the ball making contact with a horse
poosh kick (American football) a short high kick made with the aim of making the receiving team restart behind its own 20-yard line
Pool (association football) short name of the English clubs Hartlepool United and Liverpool
pool (sport) a form of billiards played with a cue and balls on a table similar to (but smaller than) a billiard table and having the three main types nine-ball pool, eight-ball pool, and straight pool [from the collective bet formerly placed by players]; (swimming) shortening of swimming pool
pools (association football) popular name of the football pools
pools panel (association football) a specially con-
vended group of advisers who decide the results of football matches that have been postponed through bad weather, enabling bets to be placed as usual on the football pools.

pop (baseball) shortening of pop-up

pop lacrosse (lacrosse) a simplified form of the game designed for young players

pop-up (baseball) a ball hit high in the air by the batter and giving an easy catch

Pop Warner football (American football) a junior league program for young boys, founded in Philadelphia in 1929 [named for college football coach Glenn Scobey (“Pop”) Warner (1871–1954)]

popinjay (archery) a target consisting of bunches of plumage arranged atop a pole

popout (surfing) a poorly made surfboard

popping crease (cricket) a horizontal line marked across the pitch in front of the bowling crease, behind which the batsman must have a foot or the bat in order not to be run out or stumped and which the bowler must not overstep when releasing the ball in order to avoid delivering a no-ball [the crease was originally a depression into which the batsman had to “pop” the bat on completing a run]

port (bowls) a passage remaining open between two bowls: (curling) a passage remaining open between two stones: (sailing) the left side of a boat when facing forward

Portuguese Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Estoril, Portugal

Posh (association football) nickname of the English club Peterborough United [said to derive from a “posh” (smart) team that originally played on the ground before the club was founded in 1934]

position (field games) the desired location of a player or the ball

position player (baseball) any player other than a pitcher

possession (general) (1) the state of having control of the ball in a game such as association football; (2) the length of time that a team has such control during a match

post (association football) one of the two pillars that support the crossbar and net of the goal; (general) shortening of starting post, finishing post or winning post; (greyhound racing) a greyhound’s box or position number at the start of a race

post and rail (horse racing) (of) a fence consisting of posts and one or more rails

post pattern (American football) a route taken by a receiver that involves running straight up the field then turning in toward the goalposts
desperate pass, especially when there is no obvious receiver to catch it

**pre-season** (general) (of) a period of games before the regular season begins

Preakness Stakes (horse racing) an annual race for three-year-old thoroughbreds held at Pimlico, Baltimore, Maryland, since 1873 [named for the colt Preakness]

Predators (ice hockey) short name of the Nashville Predators team

Premier League (association football) the division of 20 English clubs formed in 1992 from the old Division 1 of the Football League

premiership (general) a competition between the top clubs in a sport

Premiership (association football) another name for the Premier League

prep (horse racing) shortening of prep race

prep race (horse racing) a minor race that tests a horse's capabilities before the major one (shortening of preparatory race)

prep run (horse racing) another term for a prep race

present (horse racing) a sum of money paid by the owner of a horse to the winning jockey

President's Cup (equestrianism) the trophy awarded since 1965 to the winner, based on the results of earlier competitions, of a team showjumping championship

press (basketball) any kind of close guarding by the defending team; (golf) to send the ball in the wrong direction by trying to hit it too hard; (gymnastics) the raising of the body by continuous muscular effort; (weightlifting) the raising of a weight to shoulder level, then its gradual extension above the head

press-out (weightlifting) an illegal move in which the arms are not straight when a lift is attempted but are then straightened when it is completed

press-up (gymnastics) an exercise performed face down in which the body is raised and lowered on the arms while the trunk and legs are kept straight

pressure hold (mountaineering) a hold made by applying pressure downward or sideways

prevent defense (American football) a defensive strategy in which the offense is allowed to advance the ball by small degrees but denied the opportunity to advance and score quickly

priest (angling) a club or mallet for killing fish [by administering the "last rites"]

primary receiver (American football) the offensive receiver ear-marked to catch the ball

Primavera (cycling) an alternate name for the Milan–San Remo road race [Italian primavera, "spring," the season when it is held]

prime (cycling) the place in a road race or stage of a stage race at which points are assigned in the points competition; (fencing) the first of eight basic parry positions, used to protect the upper inside of the body [French prime, “first”]

primitive bow (archery) a competitive bow made of wood

Princess Elizabeth Cup (rowing) the trophy awarded to the winner of a race for school eights at Henley [presented in 1946 by Princess Elizabeth, later Queen Elizabeth II (1926–)]

Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe (horse racing) a prestigious race for colts and fillies held annually at Longchamp since 1920 [named for the Arc de Triomphe, Paris, a noted commemorative monument]

prize (general) a reward or symbol of success, such as a sum of money or a trophy, won in a sporting contest

prize ring (boxing) a ring where prizefights are held

prizefight (boxing) a boxing match fought for a prize in the form of money

prizefighter (boxing) a contestant in a prizefight

prizewinner (general) the winner of a prize

pro (general) shortening of professional

pro-am (golf) a tournament for both professionals and amateurs

Pro Bowl (American football) a game played in Hawaii at the end of the season between teams selected from the best players in the AFC and NFC

pro-celebrity (golf) (of) a tournament involving professionals and celebrities

pro football (American football) shortening of professional football

Pro-Ride (horse racing) proprietary name of a type of synthetic surface on a racecourse

pro shop (golf) a shop run by a resident professional at a golf club

Probables v. Possibles (general) a trial match to select a team in a sport such as association football ["Probables" being more likely to be selected than “Possibles”]

procession (cricket) the rapid loss of a number of wickets [the outgoing and incoming batsmen form something of a procession across the pitch]; (general) a race in which the winner is so far ahead that the rest of the field trails in a long line behind him

proette (golf) a female professional [combination of pro and the feminine suffix -ette, designed to avoid the undesirable sense of pro]

professional (general) a person who regularly takes part in sport for payment, as distinct from an amateur

professional football (American football) the sport as played by professionals, introduced in 1895

professional foul (association football) an inten-
tional foul made to prevent the opposing team from scoring
professional’s side (golf) colloquial term for the high side [a player who misses a putt on this side has not underestimated the borrow, as an amateur might do]
profit foul (basketball) the equivalent of a professional foul
Pro40 League (cricket) a league of county cricket teams who play 40 overs a side
promoter (general) the organizer of a sporting event such as a boxing match
promotion (association football) the elevation of a club from a lower division to a higher following a season in which the club has finished in a high position in the league; (general) the staging for profit of a sporting event such as a boxing match
prone (shooting) a position lying face down in a small-bore rifle competition
prop (boxing) the extended arm of a boxer; (horse racing) to stop suddenly [the horse’s rigid forelegs are like a prop]; (rugby league, rugby union) one of the two outside front-row forwards who support the hooker in a scrum
prop forward (rugby league, rugby union) fuller term for a prop
propeller (angling) a type of artificial bait with blades that rotate when drawn through the water
protection (mountaineering) the running belays necessary to safeguard a pitch
protection area (wrestling) the border of the mat beyond the passivity zone
proximity flying (sport) an extreme form of base jumping in which the participant, deploying a parachute and sometimes wearing a special "wingsuit," keeps deliberately close to the surface of the structure from which he jumps
prusik (mountaineering) a type of rope sling that enables a climber to ascend or descend a climbing rope [devised by the Austrian climber Karl Prusik (1895–1961)]
puck (hurling) a stroke of the ball; (ice hockey) the hard thick rubber disk used instead of a ball [origin unknown]
puck carrier (ice hockey) the player in possession of the puck during play
puck-chaser (ice hockey) colloquial term for a player of the game
puddle (rowing) the whirlpool effect when the oar comes out of the water at the end of a stroke
pugilism (sport) a formal alternate name for boxing [Latin pugil, "boxer”]
pugilist (boxing) an alternate term for a boxer
puissance (equestrianism) a showjumping competition that tests a horse’s power to jump large obstacles [French puissance, “power”]
pull (American football) to withdraw from the line of scrimmage and cross behind it in order to block opposing players and clear the way for a runner; (cricket) short for pull the ball; (general) to withdraw a player from a game; (golf) short for pull a shot; (horse racing) (1) to hold back a horse in order to prevent it from winning; (2) an advantage in weight over another horse; (rowing) short for pull the oars
pull! (shooting) the command given in trapshooting to release the clay pigeon
pull a punch (boxing) to hold back the full force of a punch
pull a shot (golf) to play a shot that sends the ball too much to the left (for a right-handed player) or to the right (for a left-handed player)
pull back (association football) to score a goal that brings a losing team level with the opposing side
pull drive (cricket) a drive that brings the ball from the off side to the leg side
pull hitter (baseball) a hitter who consistently pulls the ball
pull-out (surfing) the ending of a ride by steering the surfboard over or through the back of a wave
pull stroke (cricket) a stroke that brings the ball from the off side to the leg side
pull the ball (baseball) to hit the ball into left field from a right-handed stance (or into right field from a left-handed stance); (cricket) to hit the ball with a horizontal bat at waist height round to the leg side
pull the goalie (ice hockey) to replace the goalie during a game with an additional attacking player
pull the oars (rowing) to row [by pulling the oars through the water]
pull the string (baseball) to throw a slow ball
pull up (equestrianism, horse racing) to come to a halt
pull-up (gymnastics) an exercise in which the gymnast hangs from a bar by his hands then pulls himself up so that his chin is level with the bar
Pumas (rugby union) nickname of the Argentine national team [so dubbed as a rival to the Springboks by a journalist who mistook the jaguar on the team’s crest for a puma]
pump (sailing) to increase the speed of a boat by rapidly pulling the sails in and out
pump iron (general) to exercise with weights as a form of bodybuilding
punch (boxing) a blow with the fist; (golf) a shot that sends the ball in a low trajectory
Punch-and-Judy hitter (baseball) a batter who hits the ball softly [as if merely a puppet like Punch beating his wife Judy]
punch and retreat (boxing) a strategy of gradually wearing down an opponent by delivering a series
of individual punches while otherwise avoiding any direct engagement or action

**punch drunk (boxing)** suffering from cerebral concussion inflicted by past blows in the sport [the sufferer moves as if drunk]

**punch out (baseball)** colloquial equivalent of stop

**punchbag (boxing)** a large stuffed bag for boxers to practice punching

**punchball (boxing)** a suspended ball for boxers to practice punching; (sport) a game similar to baseball in which a rubber ball is punched with the fist or head

**Punchestown (horse racing)** a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland

**punching bag (boxing)** another term for a punching-bag

**punishment (general)** damaging treatment, as in the repeated punches of a boxer on his opponent or, in cricket, in the ready runs scored by a batsman from the balls of a bowler

**punt (American football)** the kick of a ball dropped from the hands before it touches the ground, and specifically such a kick upfield into the opposing team's territory, usually on the fourth down, so that the opposing team have to move the ball a greater distance when they gain possession; (general) a kick made by dropping the ball from the hands and kicking it before it touches the ground, as in rugby league

**punter (American football)** a player who specializes in punts; (horse racing) a person who bets on the results of races

**Pura Cup (cricket)** the cup awarded to the winner of an annual Australian interstate competition, first held in 1893 [name of sponsor]

**pursuit (cycling)** shortening of pursuit race

**pursuit race (cycling)** a race in which two riders start at opposite sides of a track and try to overtake each other

**push (cricket)** a stroke by the batsman that merely eases the ball away; (snooker) shortening of push stroke; (table tennis) a defensive shot played with backspin

**push a shot (golf)** to play a shot that sends the ball too much to the right (of a right-handed player) or to the left (of a left-handed player)

**push and run (association football)** a style of play in which players pass the ball quickly then run to receive a return pass

**push hold (mountaineering)** another term for a pressure hold

**push-in (field hockey)** the act of pushing the ball into play from the sideline

**push-off (swimming)** the act of pushing oneself off the end of the pool in turning

**push pass (athletics)** a method of handover in a relay race in which the incoming runner pushes the baton into the palm of the outgoing runner; (general) a pass made by pushing rather than hitting or kicking the ball

**push shot (general)** a shot in which the ball is pushed instead of being hit; (snooker) another term for a push stroke

**push stroke (snooker)** an illegal stroke in which the cue is still in contact (or comes into contact again) with the cue ball when the latter touches the object ball

**push the ball (field hockey)** to propel the ball in a continuous movement with the stick across the pitch in such a way that the ball does not leave the ground

**push-up (gymnastics)** (1) another term for a press-up; (2) an exercise on the parallel bars in which the body is supported on bent arms and raised when they are straightened

**pushball (sports)** a simple game for two teams in which one team tries to push a very large ball toward and into the opponent's goal

**pusher (octopush)** the stick used to propel the squid

**pushout (pool)** a shot allowed after the break in which a player can hit the ball anywhere on the table and the opponent can either take the next shot from where it finishes or ask the first player to begin again; (wrestling) the act of pushing an opponent out of the ring

**pushover (rugby union)** shortening of pushover

**pushover try (rugby union)** a try scored after a maul or scrum close to the try line has been pushed over the line and enabled a touchdown

**put down (cricket)** to drop a catch

**put-in (rugby league, rugby union)** the throwing of the ball into the scrum

**put on (general)** to add a particular number of points or runs to a score

**put out (general)** to cause a player in a game or match to be out

**put up (cricket)** to score a particular number of runs

**putt (golf)** (1) to hit the ball gently so that it goes across the green and, ideally, into the hole; (2) a stroke that sends the ball thus [a Scottish form of put]

**put out (golf)** to finish a game by putting into the hole

**putter (golf)** (1) a short-handed club with an up-right striking face, used for hitting a putt; (2) a player hitting a putt; (putting) a player engaged in the sport

**putting (golf)** the act of hitting a putt; (sport) a game similar to miniature golf, played with putters and golf balls on a small course with several holes
putting cleek (golf) an old-fashioned putter similar to a cleek, with a long narrow blade running direct from the shaft

putting green (golf) (1) a formal term for the green; (2) a small golf course with several holes used for practice or for the sport of putting

putting the shot (athletics) another term for the shot put

pyramid (snooker) the triangle of 15 reds set up at the start of the game in the top half of the billiard table

pyramid rest (billiards, snooker) another term for a spider

pyramid spot (billiards) the spot on the table midway between the center spot and the top cushion, corresponding to the pink spot in snooker

pyramids (snooker) a variant of the game played with 15 reds arranged into a pyramid and one white cue ball (but no colors)

Q school (golf) abbreviation of qualifying school

QPR (association football) short name of the English club Queen’s Park Rangers

quad (rowing) shortening of quadruple scull

quad bike (motorcycle racing) a four-wheeled motorcycle

quadrella (horse racing) a bet on the winners of a group of four races in a meeting [Latin quadr-, “four”, with diminutive suffix -ella]

quadruple scull (rowing) a four-manned boat in which each rower has a pair of sculls

Quakers (association football) nickname of the English club Darlington [from the town’s long association with the Quakers (Society of Friends)]

qualifier (general) shortening of qualifying round

qualifying round (general) a preliminary round of a competition, designed to limit the number of entrants

qualifying school (golf) a six-round competition held annually for players seeking one of 35 places on the European Tour

quarte (fencing) the fourth of eight basic parry positions, used to protect the upper inside of the left of the body [French quarte, “fourth”]

quarter (American football) (1) one of the periods of 15 minutes into which a game is divided; (2) shortening of quarterback; (Australian Rules) one of the periods of 20 minutes into which a match is divided

quarter court (squash) one half of the back part of the court

quarter-final (general) the round before the semifinal in a knockout competition

quarter-line (rugby union) another term for the twenty-two

quarter-miler (athletics) an expert in running the quarter-mile (now 400 meters)

quarter-pipe (skateboarding) half of a half-pipe, as a curved ramp

quarter-race (horse racing) a race over a quarter of a mile

quarter stretch (horse racing) a part of a racecourse that is a quarter of a mile long

quarterback (American football) the player between the linemen and the running backs, who directs his team’s attacking play

quarterback club (American football) an association of supporters who actively promote their team

quarterback sack (American football) an attack on a quarterback before he can make a pass

quarterback sneak (American football) a play in which a quarterback carries the ball instead of passing it to another back

quasimodo (surfing) a crouched position adopted when riding a surfboard [from the name of the “Hunchback of Notre Dame,” the deformed bellringer in Victor Hugo’s 1831 novel Notre Dame de Paris]

Queens (association football) short name of the Scottish club Queen of the South

Queen’s Prize (shooting) the leading award for rifle shooting [founded in 1860 by Queen Victoria (reigned 1837–1901)]

Queensberry Rules (boxing) the standard rules of the modern form of the sport [introduced in 1867 under the patronage of the 8th Marquis of Queensberry (1844–1900)]

quickie (cricket) colloquial term for a fast bowler

quickstick (lacrosse) a shot made by a player without using a cradle between receiving the ball and sending it on

quinella (horse racing) a bet on the horses that will finish first and second in a race (but not on their order of finishing) [American Spanish quinella]

Quins (rugby union) short name of the English club Harlequins

quinte (fencing) the fifth of eight basic parry positions, used to protect the lower inside of the body [French quinte, “fifth”]

quiver (archery) a long narrow case for holding arrows

quoit (quoits) a ring made of rubber, rope, or the like (originally iron), used for throwing in the game named for it

quoits (sport) a game in which a quoit is thrown to encircle or land as near as possible to a peg or small post [origin uncertain]

R&A (golf) abbreviation of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews

rabbit ( athletics) colloquial term for a pacemaker;

(cricket) (1) colloquial term for a poor batsman;

(2) colloquial term for a batsman often dismissed by the same bowler; (golf) colloquial
term for a poor player [from the characteristic
timidity of a rabbit]
rabbit ball (baseball) a ball that is lively in action
[it springs like a rabbit]
rabbit punch (boxing) an illegal punch to the back
of the neck [like that used by hunters and farm-
ers to kill a rabbit]
Rabbitohs (rugby league) short name of the Aus-
tralian team South Sydney Rabbitohs
rabbity (general) (1) a poor player; (2) poor per-
formance in a game [like that of a rabbit]
race (general) a competitive trial of speed, as in
auto racing, cycling, greyhound racing, horse
racing, rowing, sailing, and swimming
race-fixing (general) the fraudulent manipulation
of the result of a race
race meeting (horse racing) a series of races on a
particular day at a racecourse
race walking (athletics) a form of racing in which
the competitors walk as fast as possible, with one
or other of the feet always in contact with the ground
raceball (horse racing) a ball held in connection
with a race meeting
racecar (auto racing) a specially constructed or
modified automobile used for the sport
racecard (horse racing) the program of a day of
races at a race meeting
racecourse (horse racing) a delimited area or
track, with or without obstacles, that is specially pre-
pared for racing
raceday (horse racing) the day when a particular
race or meeting is held
racegoer (horse racing) a person who regularly vis-
tits race meetings, usually to place bets
racehorse (horse racing) a horse specially bred and
trained to take part in racing
racer (general) a person or vehicle that takes part
in a race
races (horse racing) another term for a race meeting
racetrack (general) an area marked out as the lo-
cation of a race; (horse racing) another term for
a racecourse
racewalk (athletics) a contest in race walking
raceway (horse racing) a track or circuit for running
horses in harness racing
racing (general) the act of taking part in a race;
(sport) shortening of (especially) horse racing or
of any sport specified by the first word, as auto
racing, greyhound racing
racing car (auto racing) another term for a racecar
racing colors (horse racing) the distinctive colors
worn by a jockey to identify the owner of the horse
racing dive (swimming) a dive approached by a run-up
racing flag (sailing) a private flag flown on a boat
or yacht when racing
racing form (horse racing) a record of a horse’s per-
formance in previous races
racing line (auto racing) the optimum line on a
track on which to drive between one corner and the
next
rack (equestrianism) a horse’s gait in which the legs
on the same side move almost simultaneously;
(pool) (1) the arrangement of the balls at the be-
ginning of the game; (2) a single game
racket (general) a bat with a round or oval frame
strung with catgut or nylon, used in sports such as
tennis and squash
racket abuse (tennis) an impetuous act in which a
player hurts his racket to the ground or smashes it against something
racketball (sport) a British version of racquetball,
played on a smaller court with a slower ball
rackets (sport) a game similar to squash, in which
two or four people alternately strike a hard white
ball with a racket against one of the walls of a
four-walled court
racquet (general) another spelling of racket
racquetball (sport) a game of U.S. origin blending
elements of handball and squash, played between
two or four players with a short-handled racket
and a small rubber ball in a four-walled court
racquets (sport) alternate spelling of rackets
rafting (sport) the sport of traveling down a river,
especially over rapids, on a raft
ragworm (angling) the burrowing marine worm
Nereis diversicolor used as bait
raider (horse racing) a horse brought over from
abroad to run in a particular race
Raiders (American football) short name of the
Oakland Raiders team; (rugby league) short name of the English club Barrow Raiders
rail (equestrianism) a wooden bar in an obstacle;
(pool, snooker) another term for the cushion;
(squash) a shot hit close to the side walls of the
court; (surfing) the edge of the surfboard
rail turn (surfing) a trick turn in which the rail of
the surfboard is submerged
rails (horse racing) the fence forming the inside
boundary of a racecourse
Railwaymen (association football) nickname of the
English club Crewe Alexandra [from the town’s
historic importance as a railroad center]
rainbow jersey (cycling) the multicolored jersey
awarded to the winner of the World Road Race
Championships
rainbow shot (basketball) a shot that curves from
the player’s hand down into the basket
raincheck (general) a ticket for future use given to
a spectator if a game or sports meeting is rained off
rained off (general) cancelled or prematurely ended because of rain
raise (curling) a draw that knocks another stone into the house or into a better position within it
rally (auto racing) (1) formerly, a race as both a test of endurance and speed and a method of recording the performance of automobiles; (2) today, a competition to test skill in driving over long distances, sometimes over an unknown route, as either a road rally or a stage rally; (badminton, squash, table tennis, tennis) a vigorous or extended exchange of shots, especially to decide a point; (boxing) a sustained exchange of blows [French rallier, “re-ally,” “bring together again”]
rally driver (auto racing) a driver in a rally
rally driving (auto racing) the sport of driving in a rally
rallycross (auto racing) a form of the sport that combines elements of rally driving and autocross, with a circuit that consists partly of paved road and partly of rough ground
rallye (auto racing) alternate spelling of rally
rallying (auto racing) shortening of rally driving
Rams (American football) short name of the St. Louis Rams team; (association football) nickname of the English club Derby County [from a local legend about the mythical Derby Ram]; (rugby league) short name of the English club Dewsbury Rams
randolph (trampolining) a forward somersault with two and a half twists [named from its similarity to a ruddolph]
randy (trampolining) colloquial name for a ruddolph
ranfurly shield (rugby union) the trophy awarded to the winner of a New Zealand interprovincial competition [presented in 1902 by the 5th Earl of Ranfurly (1856–1933), governor of New Zealand]
range (golf) shortening of driving range; (shooting) shortening of rifle range or shooting range
ranger (golf) an official who monitors the rate of play on a course, encouraging slow players to speed up or to allow others to play through
Rangers (association football) short name of the English club Queen’s Park Rangers [not to be confused with either of the Scottish clubs Queen’s Park or Rangers]; (baseball) short name of the Texas Rangers team; (ice hockey) short name of the New York Rangers team
rappel (mountaineering) another term for abseil [French rappel, “recall”]
Raptors (basketball) short name of the Toronto Raptors team
rapture of the deep (aquatics) colloquial term for nitrogen narcosis, the intoxicating and anesthetic effect of too much nitrogen in the brain, experienced by divers at considerable depths
rate (horse racing) to ride at a moderate pace so as to save the horse’s energy for the finish
rating (rowing) the total of strokes rowed per minute, used to advise a crew of its work rate
rattle (association football) a wooden instrument with a ratchet wheel which when whirled around makes a loud clacking noise, formerly sounded by a team’s supporters at a match
Ravens (American football) short name of the Baltimore Ravens team
RBI (baseball) abbreviation of run batted in
reach (boxing) the distance between the fingertips of the outstretched arms of a boxer; (cricket) the extent to which a batsman can play forward without moving his back foot
reaction time (athletics) the fraction of time between the firing of the starting pistol and the departure of the athlete from the starting block
read the green (golf) to assess the physical features of the green on making an approach shot
ready golf (golf) a mode of playing in which players aim to keep up with those playing in front of them, as by selecting a club while walking to the ball rather than when stationary
Real (association football) short name of the Spanish club Real Madrid
real tennis (sport) the original form of tennis, played between two or four players, who hit a hard ball with a racket and forth across a net in a court reminiscent of medieval cloisters with a penthouse along three of its sides [so named by contrast with lawn tennis]
rebound (basketball) an instance of catching the ball after a missed shot has bounced off the backboard or the edge of the basket
rec (general) colloquial abbreviation of recreation ground
recce (auto racing) in rally driving, inspection of the course by the driver and codriver in advance of the rally in order to draw up the pace notes
receiver (American football) an offensive player eligible to catch a pass from the quarterback; (table tennis, tennis) the player to whom the server serves the ball
record (general) an unsurpassed achievement or performance in a competitive sport
recordbreaker (general) a person who has set a new record
recordholder (general) a person whose record has not been beaten
recovery (golf) a stroke that brings the ball out of a hazard; (rowing) the phase in the stroke cycle in which the rower swings forward to take the next catch
recreation ground (general) a public open area for sports and games, often including tennis courts and a park
red flag

red card

Red Devils

recycle

red belt

red-ball game

red card

recumbent

red zone

Red Stockings

red line

Red Imps

reefbreak

reef
cricket

reef

register

reef

reef

Redcar

recurve

red

red

recumbent

reef

registered

ref

re-entry

referral

refusal

regatta

regional games

registered player

recurve

registered

regular footer (snowboarding) a boarder who rides with the left foot in front of the right
reining (equestrianism) a discipline in which the rider uses the reins to perform a routine of figures, including turns and stops at different speeds
relative work (parachuting) a free fall in which competitors execute maneuvers relative to each other before opening the parachute
relay (athletics) shortening of relay race; (baseball) a throw to the infield by a cut-off man after he has intercepted a throw from the outfield
relay race (athletics) a race run by a team of four athletes over the same distance, each passing a baton to the next member of the team on completing a stage
release (gymnastics) the action of letting go one’s hold of a piece of apparatus during or on completing a routine
relegation (association football) the demotion of a club from a higher division to a lower following a season in which they finished at or near the bottom of their division
relegation zone (association football) the positions at the bottom of a league which will result in relegation at the end of the season
reliability test (auto racing) former name for a rally reliability trial (auto racing) alternate term for a reliability test
relief (golf) the option of moving one’s ball if a normal stroke is obstructed
relief pitcher (baseball) a pitcher who enters the game as a substitute
reliever (baseball) another term for a relief pitcher
reload (golf) to take a second tee shot because the first ball is lost or out of bounds
rematch (general) (1) a second match, especially when the first had a questionable result; (2) a re-match
remise (fencing) a second thrust made after the first one has missed [French remise, “put back”]
remove (cricket) to dismiss a batsman
rep (general) abbreviation of replacement in sports reports
repechage (canoeing, cycling, fencing, rowing) an extra contest in which competitors who lost in an earlier heat have a second chance to go on to the final [French répechage, “fishing out again”]
repetition training (athletics) a training exercise in which an athlete alternately runs and rests over set distances
replacement (general) a player who replaces another, especially in a field game
replay (general) (1) a game or match that is played again, as when the original did not result in a winning score or was for some reason abandoned; (2) shortening of action replay
replay umpire (cricket) another term for a third umpire
reserve (general) a substitute kept in readiness
resistance (equestrianism) movements by a horse that indicate an imminent refusal
rest (billiards, snooker) a long wooden pole with a bridge at one end on which a player rests his cue when he cannot form a bridge with his hand; (bowls) a shot in which a bowl is delivered to push an opponent’s bowl through and take its place [the opposing bowl is given a “rest”]; (real tennis) a series of strokes concluding with the dead ball
rest day (general) a day free of activity in an extended contest such as a cycle race
rest on one’s oars (rowing) to stop rowing without removing the oars from the rowlocks
restart (rugby union) a drop kick from the halfway line to recommence play after the scoring of points by the opposing team
result (general) a satisfactory outcome against an opponent
retain (association football) to keep a player on in a club although his actual contract has expired
retire (fencing) to give ground before one’s adversary
retired hurt (cricket) (of) a batsman who has left the pitch because of injury
retired shirt (association football) the symbolic removal of a former player’s squad number in recognition of his value to the club
retrieve (angling) to reel in a line; (association football) to obtain possession of a shot or pass that is difficult to reach; (tennis) to make a shot that returns the ball successfully into the court when it seemed that it would land outside it
return (general) a shot that sends a ball back to an opponent, as in tennis
return crease (cricket) a line marked at right angles to the bowling crease and popping crease on either side of the wicket, inside which the bowler must bowl the ball
return match (general) a second match played at a different venue by the same teams
returner (American football) a player who collects the ball from a kick downfield and carries it back toward the opposing team
reversal (wrestling) a maneuver enabling a wrestler to escape from the hold of his opponent and move into a dominant position
reverse (American football) a play in which a player passes the ball to a teammate moving in the opposite direction, thus reversing the direction of attack; (swimming) a dive in which the diver starts facing forward then turns back to face the board
reverse cut (lacrosse) another term for a backdoor play
reverse pass (association football) a pass made when a player runs in one direction but passes in another direction

reverse sticks (field hockey) a move in which a player turns the stick so that the flat blade faces to the right, enabling a shot to be made in the opposite direction

reverse sweep (cricket) a sweep played on the off side, made by reversing the grip on the bat

reverse swing (cricket) the observed swing in a different direction to a new ball of a used ball that has been roughened on one side

revirginization (ice skating) the process by which professional skaters were declared “amateurs” so that they could compete in the 1994 Olympics

Rhinos (rugby league) short name of the English club Leeds Rhinos

rhubarb (baseball) an argument on the field of play between players or between the umpire and managers [from the use of the word to denote the indistinct sound of voices]

rhythmic gymnastics (gymnastics) a combination of traditional floor exercises and classical ballet in which female gymnasts perform with a ball, hoop, rope, ribbon, or the like

ride (horse racing) to urge a horse at an excessive speed

ride off (polo) to bump against an opponent’s horse moving in the same direction

ride-off (equestrianism) an extra round to resolve a tie in a competition

ride out (horse racing) to exercise a horse by riding it

rider (cycling) a cyclist in a race; (equestrianism) a person riding a horse in a contest; (general) a person riding a board in a sport such as skateboarding or surfing; (horse racing) a person riding a horse in a race, as a jockey; (motorcycle racing) a person riding a motorcycle in a race

riding (general) the riding of horses for exercise or pleasure; (Olympics) another term for showjumping in the modern pentathlon

riding school (equestrianism) a school or establishment for teaching skills in the sport

rifle (shooting) (1) a firearm with a spirally grooved (rifled) barrel; (2) shortening of air rifle; (3) shortening of small-bore rifle

rifle range (shooting) a special enclosed area with targets for practice or competition in rifle shooting

rifle shooting (shooting) the discipline of shooting with a rifle

rig (sailing) the disposition of the sails, masts, and spars in a boat or yacht that define its type

rigger (rowing) shortening of outrigger

rigging (sailing) the wires and ropes that support a boat’s masts and control or set the sails

right arm (cricket) a bowler who bowls with the right arm

right back (field games) a back who plays primarily on the right side of the pitch

right center (field games) a player who plays primarily to the right of the center of the pitch

right cross (boxing) a punch delivered from the right side

right defender (field games) a right half who plays deep

right field (baseball) the part of the outfield to the right of second base as viewed from home plate

right fielder (baseball) a fielder positioned in right field

right half (field games) a halfback who plays primarily on the right side of the pitch

right-hander (boxing) a punch delivered with the right hand; (general) a player whose right hand is dominant, as against the less common left-hander; (surfing) a wave breaking to the right, as seen by a surfer facing the beach

right midfielder (field games) the midfield players who play primarily on the right side of the pitch

right wing (field games) the part of the pitch to the right of its center

right winger (field games) an attacking player on the right wing

rightie (general) colloquial term for a right-hander

rikishi (sumo) a wrestler [Japanese riki, “strength,” and shi, “warrior”]

rim out (basketball) to hit the edge of the basket and bounce away

ring (boxing, wrestling) the roped rectangular area on a raised platform in which a match takes place [originally the space for a match surrounded by a circle of spectators]; (2) the sport itself as a profession; (horse racing) (1) an enclosure for bookmakers at a racecourse; (2) bookmaking itself as a profession; (3) shortening of parade ring; (sumo) the circular area within which a match takes place

ring rust (boxing) staleness of performance shown by a boxer who has been out of the ring

ring tennis (sport) a combination of tennis and quoits similar to deck tennis [played with rubber rings]

ring the bell (American football) to hit another player so hard on his helmeted head that he is disorientated and may even suffer slight concussion

ringer (athletics) an athlete competing under a false name; (curling) a stone inside the circle drawn around the tee; (horse racing) a horse raced under the name of another horse

ringette (sport) a sport similar to ice hockey, played mainly by women and girls, in which a rubber ring is used instead of a puck
ringman (general) colloquial term for a bookmaker
rings (gymnastics) two cylindrical handles suspended from wire cables on which, in men's competition, the gymnast executes swings and handstands
ringside (boxing) the area immediately surrounding the ring
ringside physician (boxing) the doctor who checks the physical condition of a boxer before the start of a bout and who determines whether a dazed boxer is fit enough to continue
ringside seat (boxing) a seat immediately next to the ring
ringsider (boxing) a spectator at a prizefight
rink (bowl) (1) one of the playing areas into which a green is divided; (2) a team of four players; (curling) (1) the playing area of prepared ice; (2) a team in this sport; (ice hockey, ice skating) shortening of ice rink; (roller skating) a smooth floor or area, usually of wood or asphalt, prepared for skating on roller skates
rip (swimming) a dive with an ideal entry [from the sound as the diver enters the water]
ripcord (parachuting) a cord pulled to inflate a parachute by opening the pack in which it is folded
Ripon (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Ripon, North Yorkshire, England
riposte (fencing) a quick thrust given after a parry [French riposte, from Italian risposta, "reply"]
rise (angling) the movement of a fish to the surface of the water to take food or a bait; (cricket) the upward course of a bowled ball after pitching
riverboarding (sport) the riding of a bodyboard down rapids
Riverside (cricket) the home ground of Durham county cricket club, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham
ro (cricket) abbreviation of run out in scoring
road bike (cycling) a bicycle designed for road races, with dropped handlebars and several gears
road book (auto racing) in rally driving, a book of instructions, information, and maps issued to drivers by the organizers of a rally
road game (general) (1) a game played by a team on a tour; (2) another term for an away game
road race (cycling) a race ridden on roads, as distinct from a track race
road rash (cycling, skateboarding) colloquial term for skin abrasions caused by sliding across the road or other hard surface after a fall or crash
Road World Championships (cycling) an annual road race held in various countries since 1927
rodeo (sport) a contest and display of driving skills among truck drivers [blend of road and rodeo]
roadman (cycling) a competitor in a road race
roads and tracks (equestrianism) a phase of the cross-country section of the three-day event, involving riding on the flat
roadwork (general) running on roads as a method of training for marathon runners, boxers, and the like
roar (curling) to send a stone with great speed [in the roaring game]
roaring game (sport) another name for curling [from the sound made by the stones as they travel over the ice]
Robin Hood (archery) the feat of splitting the shaft of an arrow already in the target with another arrow [from the legendary English outlaw, who was skilled in archery]
Robins (association football) nickname of the English clubs Bristol City, Charlton Athletic, Cheltenham Town, and Swindon Town, and the Welsh club Wrexham [from the teams' red shirts]
rock climbing (mountaineering) the climbing of rock faces
rocker (ice skating) a figure in which the skater makes a 180-degree turn and continues to travel backward in the same direction; (surfing) the upward curve on a surfboard
Rockets (basketball) short name of the Houston Rockets team
Rockies (baseball) short name of the Colorado Rockies team
rod (angling) (1) shortening of fishing rod; (2) another term for an angler; (3) a permit to fish a particular stretch of river
rodeo (sport) a competitive display of riding and other skills among cowboys
rodman (angling) another term for an angler
Roehampton (general) a fashionable London sports club, founded in 1901, with polo grounds, croquet lawns, tennis courts, a golf course, and a clubhouse
Rokerites (association football) former nickname of the English club Sunderland [from Roker Park, their home ground until 1997, when they moved to the Stadium of Light]
role player (basketball) a player who performs a specific function and is brought on only when required
roll (gymnastics, swimming) a move in which the body, in a tuck position, rolls forward or backward
roll cast (angling) a cast in which the tip of the rod is rolled so that the line is picked off the water without being thrown behind the angler, as is more usual
roll-off (tenpin bowling) an extra game played to resolve a tie
roll-out (American football) a play in which a
quarterback moves out from the blockers before attempting a pass
roll with the punches (boxing) to move the body away to lessen the impact of an opponent's blows
roller (baseball) a ball that rolls along the ground after being hit; (cricket) a ball apparently bowled with a spin but actually running straight along the ground after pitching
roller arena (roller skating) another term for a rink
roller derby (roller skating) a speed skating race on roller skates [as a derby]
roller hockey (roller skating) a game resembling ice hockey played on a rink by teams on roller skates with a short hockey stick and a hard ball instead of a puck
roller seat drop (trampolining) a full twist to a seat drop
roller skates (roller skating) skates with four wheels instead of blades, the wheels set either at the corners of the shoe or in a single line to make rollerblades
roller skating (sport) the sport or competitive display of skating on roller skates, either on a rink or on a public street or other hard-surface area
roller sports (general) sports played on roller skates, as roller hockey
rollerblades (roller skating) roller skates in which the wheels are fixed in a single line akin to the blades of ice skates
rollerblading (roller skating) skating on rollerblades
rollerdrome (roller skating) another term for a rink
rolling maul (rugby union) a maul that is rolled or wheeled by its members with the aim of preventing the opposition from obtaining the ball
romp (general) an easily won game or race
romp home (general) to win by a substantial margin, as in a race
rookie (general) a person new to a sport or inexperienced in it
rooster tail (surfing) the curved plume of water thrown up by a surfboard
rope (baseball) shortening of frozen rope; (horse racing) to hold back a horse in order to lose a race intentionally; (mountaineering) (1) shortening of climbing rope; (2) a climbing party roped together; (rodeo) to lasso, as in calf-roping and team roping
rope-a-dope (boxing) a tactic in which a boxer pretends to be trapped on the ropes in order to incite his opponent to tire himself out with punches [an expression popularized in the 1970s by heavyweight champion Muhammad Ali, a noted employer of the tactic, the “dope” being the baited opponent]
rope down (mountaineering) another term for abseil
rope (horse racing) a jockey who pulls on the reins to slow his horse down and so lose a race, usually for financial reasons
ropes (boxing) the cords around the ring; (cricket) the cords marking the boundary of the field
roque (croquet) a version of the game with nine hoops played on a walled, hard-surface court [from croquet]
roquet (croquet) a stroke in which the striker's ball is played against another ball, whereupon the striker can play a croquet shot [probably from croquet]
Roscommon (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, Ireland
Rose Bowl (American football) (1) a postseason college football contest held annually (from 1916) in Pasadena, California, where it was first organized in 1902 as part of the festival inaugurated in 1890 as the Battle of the Flowers; (2) the stadium opened in 1922 for this game; (cricket) the home ground of Hampshire county cricket club, Southampton
rossette (general) (1) a rose-shaped badge of colored ribbons worn by a sports participant or animal (such as a horse) as a symbol of a prize; (2) a similar badge worn by a supporter
Rossoneri (association football) nickname of the Italian club AC Milan [Italian rosso, “red,” and nero, “black,” the colors of the team’s red and black striped shirts]
rot (cricket) a rapid loss of wickets in an innings
rotation (baseball) the order of play assigned to pitchers for the matches of a particular series; (gymnastics) the period during which a team of gymnasts work on a particular piece of apparatus; (volleyball) the clockwise movement of players when the service changes
rouge (Canadian football) a single point awarded when the ball is played into the opponents’ goal area and becomes dead; (Eton field game) a score awarded when a attacker touches a ball that has been sent over the goal line by a defender [origin obscure, apparently not French rouge, “red”]
rough (golf) an area of rough ground, especially uncut grass, around a fairway or green; (tennis) the side of a racket from which the loops of twisted string project, used as a call (opposed to smooth) when the racket is spun to decide on the server or choose an end
Rough Riders (Canadian football) short name of the Ottawa Rough Riders team
Roughriders (Canadian football) short name of the Saskatchewan Roughriders team
Roughyeds (rugby league) short name of the English club Oldham Roughyeds
rouleur (cycling) a cyclist who specializes in rid-
round (archery) a specified number of arrows shot over different distances; (boxing) a subdivision of a bout in the form of a period of action over a given number of minutes, separated from the next period by a rest; (general) a specified stage in a competition; (golf) a complete series of played holes; (shooting) a single shot fired from a rifle

round-arm (cricket) (of) a ball bowled with an almost horizontal swing of the arm

round-ball game (sport) colloquial name for association football [played with a round ball, as against the oval-ball game]

round heels (boxing) colloquial term for a poor boxer [who might easily fall]

round-off (gymnastics) a move in which the gymnast begins a cartwheel but lands on both feet instead of one, facing the opposite direction

round robin (general) a tournament in which each competitor competes once with each of the others; (horse racing) a form of multiple bet on three horses that adds up to ten bets

round-the-cans (sailing) colloquial term for a harbor race [the cans being the buoys]

round-the-clock shooting (shooting) colloquial term for skeet

round-the-houses (auto racing) colloquial term for a street race

Round-the-Island Race (sailing) an annual 50-mile race around the Isle of Wight, southern England, starting from and returning to Cowes, the location of Cowes Week

round the wicket (cricket) bowled from the hand of the bowler that is further away from the wicket

round trip (baseball) to score a home run and so make a complete circuit of all four bases

rounder (rounders) a complete circuit of the bases run by the batter

rounders (sport) a game similar to baseball in which players hit the ball with a bat and run to a base or if possible around all four bases (scoring a rounder) before the ball is thrown back to the bowler

roundhouse (baseball) a pitch made with a sweeping swing of the arm; (boxing) a wild swinging punch

route (horse racing) a long race of more than a mile

Route du Rhum (sailing) a solo transatlantic race held every four years from St. Malo, France, to Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe [French route du rhum, “run route”]

route one (association football) (of) a style of play in which long high passes are made uphill

route orienteering (orienteering) a form of the sport in which the route is marked on the ground but not on the map

route goer (baseball) a pitcher who goes the route

routine (general) a series of movements in a display, as in gymnastics or ice skating

rover (American football) a defensive linebacker assigned to anticipate the moves of the opposing team; (archery) a competitor in field archery; (Australian Rules) a (usually small and fast) player who forms part of the ruck and is skilful at receiving the ball; (croquet) a ball that has passed through all the hoops and is now ready to peg out

rover hoop (croquet) the last hoop through which a ball must pass before it can peg out

Rovers (association football) short name of the English clubs Blackburn Rovers, Bristol Rovers, Doncaster Rovers, and Tranmere Rovers, and the Scottish club Raith Rovers; (rugby league) short name of the English clubs Featherstone Rovers and Hull Kingston Rovers

row (rowing) to propel a boat through water by making strokes with one or more oars

row over (rowing) to win a heat in a race by rowing the course unopposed

rower (rowing) a person who rows or is a member of a rowing club

rowing (sport) the sport or recreation of using oars to propel a boat through water

rowing club (rowing) a club for people who row, especially competitively in a race

Rowley Mile (horse racing) a racecourse at Newmarket, on which the One Thousand Guineas and Two Thousand Guineas are run [from “Old Rowley,” nickname (from a favorite horse) of Charles II, who proclaimed Newmarket as the headquarters of racing]

rowlocks (rowing) U-shaped swivels that hold the oars in place [originally oarlock]

Royal and Ancient (golf) short name of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews

Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews (golf) a golf club in St. Andrews, eastern Scotland, dating back to 1754 and today the accepted international authority on the game (“Royal” from 1834, when William IV agreed to be its patron]

Royal Ascot (horse racing) an annual race and society occasion at Ascot attended by the monarch [founded in 1711 by Queen Anne]

Royal Birkdale (golf) a golf course near Southport, Lancashire, northwestern England

royal duck (cricket) a duck scored by a opening batsman on the first ball of the innings

Royal Lytham (golf) a golf course at Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire, northwestern England

Royal Melbourne (golf) a golf course at Black Rock, near Melbourne, Australia
Royal Portrush (golf) a golf course at Portrush, northeastern Northern Ireland
Royal St. George’s (golf) a golf course at Sandwich, Kent, England
royal tennis (sport) another spelling of real tennis
[despite the historically attested association of royalty with the sport, the derivation of the name is in real, not royal]
Royal Troon (golf) a golf course at Troon, southwestern Scotland
Royals (association football) nickname of the English club Reading [from the royal blue of the team’s strip]; (baseball) short name of the Kansas City Royals team
Rozelle rule (general) the provision in a contract between a free agent and a professional team which requires the team to give the free agent’s former team an agreed compensation [established by Alvin Ray Rozelle (1927–1996) commissioner of the National Football League from 1960]
Rs (association football) colloquial abbreviation for the English club Queens Park Rangers
rub (bould) an interference to the course of a rolling bowl caused by a snap on the green
rub of the green (golf) an accidental interference with the course of the ball
rubber (baseball) colloquial term for the mound, and formerly for the home plate; (general) a series of games, as in cricket or tennis
ruck (Australian Rules) the three players (a rover and two ruckmen) who follow the ball closely but do not have fixed positions; (rugby union) a loose scrum formed by the players around the ball on the ground with the aim of pushing back their opponents
ruckman (Australian Rules) one of the three players in a ruck whose function is to knock the ball to the rover
ruckrover (Australian Rules) fuller term for a rover
rudolph (trampolining) a forward somersault with one and a half twists [performed in the music hall of the 1920s by Dave Rudolph]
rudy (gymnastics) a vault consisting of a handspring off the springboard followed by a forward salto with one and a half twists off the horse; (trampolining) shortening of rudolph
rugby (sport) short name of either rugby league or rugby union [the basic sport evolved from football in the early 19th century at Rugby School, Warwickshire, England]
rugby academy (rugby union) a national or regional organization set up with the support of England’s Rugby Football Union to recruit good players
Rugby fives (fives) the most common variant of the game, played between singles or doubles and distinguished from Eton fives in that the court is four-walled and the hazards different [originally played at Rugby School]
rugby football (sport) another term for rugby union
rugby league (sport) a field game based on rugby union, played with an oval ball between teams of 15 players, each side having six attempts or tackles to move the ball upfield and score a try by grounding the ball in the in-goal area [mostly played in northern England, where an association of clubs was formed in 1892 as the Rugby League (originally Northern Union)]
rugby tackle (rugby league, rugby union) fuller term for a tackle
rugby union (sport) a field game played with an oval ball between teams of 15 players, with handling of the ball permitted and each side aiming to amass more points than the other [named for the Rugby Union, an association of clubs formed in 1871 to regularize the original form of rugby]
rugger (sport) colloquial term for rugby football
rugger bugger (rugby football) colloquial term for a player or fan, especially if burly or boisterous
Rules (horse racing) (1) shortening of the National Hunt Rules of Racing; (sport) shortening of Australian Rules
run (baseball) a point scored by the batter after completing a circuit of the bases and returned to home plate; (cricket) (1) the basic unit of scoring; (2) a point scored by a batsman after running from one popping crease to the other; (general) a spell of forward movement, as by an athlete in a foot race or a player with the ball in American football; (horse racing) another term for a race; (skiing) (1) a snow slope prepared for skiers; (2) a descent on such a slope
run a cracker (horse racing) to perform excellently in a race
run a hoop (croquet) to hit the ball through a hoop
run-and-gun (basketball) (of) a style of fast free-flowing play with few set plays
run-and-shoot (American football) (of) a style of play in which a fast-paced quarterback makes quick short passes while evading tacklers
run batted in (baseball) a credit awarded to a batter for every run scored as a result of his action, as a hit, sacrifice, or walk
Run for the Daisies (horse racing) colloquial name of the Preakness Stakes [from the chain of daisies hung around the winner’s neck]
Run for the Roses (horse racing) colloquial name of the Kentucky Derby [from the chain of roses hung around the winner’s neck]
rungreen (horse racing) to be distracted during a race through lack of experience
run-in (horse racing) another term for the home straight; (rugby league, rugby union) the act of running over the touchline of the opposite side with the ball
run interference (general) in team games, the offense of hindering opposing players while a teammate is in possession of the ball or puck
run-off (auto racing) an area of gravel or other material near a corner, designed to slow down cars if they run off the track; (general) an additional contest such as a race to decide a winner in the event of a dead heat or tie
run out (cricket) to dismiss a batsman by dislodging the balls of the wicket while he is still running and so out of his ground
run-out (mountaineering) the length of rope required to climb a particular pitch
run rate (cricket) a statistic in which a team's total number of runs scored is divided by the number of overs faced
run the line (association football) to act as assistant referee [on the touchline]
run up (golf) to send the ball rolling or low in the air toward the hole
run-up (general) a running approach to a key physical action such as a jump or throw in athletics or a bowl in cricket
runback (American football) a forward run made after catching a kick or intercepting a pass; (tennis) the area behind the baseline at either end of the court [in which the receiver can run back to make a return]
rundown (baseball) a play in which defending players attempt to tag out a runner caught between two bases; (horse racing) a list of entries and odds for the horses in a race
runner (American football) a player who runs with the ball in an attacking play; (baseball) shortening of baserunner; (cricket) a player who runs on behalf of an injured batsman; (general) a person who runs in a foot race such as a marathon; (horse racing) a horse entered in a race
runner-up (general) a competitor taking second place in a race
runner’s high (athletics) the sense of euphoria that can be experienced by a runner at a particular stage in a long-distance race such as a marathon
running (general) fast forward motion on foot, either for exercise or as a race; (Olympics) another term for cross-country running in the modern pentathlon
running back (American football) a back whose main function is to run with the ball from the line of scrimmage
running delay (mountaineering) a device attached to the rock face through which the rope runs freely, acting as a pulley if the climber falls
running mate (horse racing) a horse entered in a race to set the pace for another horse from the same stable which is intended to win
running rugby (rugby union) play in which the ball is primarily advanced by being carried, as against a kicking game
running shot (handball) a shot made while running
running side (snooker) a side that causes the cue ball to rebound off the cushion at a greater angle than in a normally struck shot
running target (shooting) a target that moves across a track to simulate a moving animal or another target
runway (athletics) the section of track along which an athlete approaches a jump or throw; (gymnastics) the approach on which a gymnast makes his run-up to the vaulting horse
rush (American football) (1) to run with the ball or gain ground by doing so; (2) a move to push through a line of defenders while in possession of the ball; (croquet) a form of roquet in which the ball is struck with a strong swing of the mallet; (rugby league, rugby union) an attempt by one or more players to force the ball through a line of defenders
rush line (American football) a line of defenders, prepared for a rush
rusher (American football) a player, such as a forward, who specializes in rushing
rushing (American football) attempting to advance the ball by means of a rush
Ryder Cup (golf) the trophy awarded to the winners of a biennial tournament for male professionals, held since 1927 between teams from the United States and Europe (until 1979 USA and Britain) [donated by British seed merchant Samuel A. Ryder (1859–1936)]
saber (fencing) a light sword with a flattened triangular blade and a blunt point
sabermetrics (baseball) the measurement and analysis of statistics for the sport [from SABR, abbreviation of Society for American Baseball Research, and -metrics, as in biometrics]
sabre (fencing) another spelling of saber
Sabres (ice hockey) short name of the Buffalo Sabres team
sack (American football) to tackle a quarterback behind the line of scrimmage before he can pass the ball; (baseball) another term for a base; (general) another term for a footbag
sacker (baseball) a fielder who guards a base
sacrifice (baseball) a play in which a batter deliberately makes an out in order to enable a baserunner to score or advance to another base
saddle (general) a seat for a rider, as on a horse, bicycle, or motorcycle; (horse racing) (1) to put a
saddle on a horse; (2) to be responsible, as a trainer, for preparing and entering a horse in a race.

Saddlers (association football) nickname of the English club Walsall [from the town’s saddle-making industry].

safe (baseball) having reached base before being thrown out by the fielding side.

safety (American football) (1) one of two defensive players positioned behind the other defenders; (2) a play in which the offense carries the ball over their own goal line rather than back into the field of play, an act that scores two points for the defense; (snooker) a period of play in which each player tries to prevent his opponent from scoring points by keeping the cue ball in positions where he will find it hard to pot it.

safety bindings (skiing) devices that hold the feet to the skis and that release automatically to prevent injury if the wearer falls.

safety car (auto racing) a saloon car that comes out on to the track after an accident and that sets the speed of the race cars that follow it, especially if there are marshals on the track.

safety play (snooker) fuller term for a safety.

safety shot (snooker) a defensive shot designed to make it hard for one’s opponent to pot the cue ball, as in a safety.

safety squeeze (baseball) a tactical maneuver in which a baserunner at third base begins to run toward home plate as soon as the batter makes contact with the ball.

safetyman (American football) fuller term for a safety.

sag wagon (cycling) colloquial term for a vehicle that follows the cyclists in a road race to give mechanical assistance or pick up exhausted riders.

sail (sailing) a sheet of material spread to catch the wind and so propel a boat through the water.

sail-off (sailing) an additional contest held in case of a tie.

sailboard (windsurfing) a craft consisting of a board like a surfboard with a mast that has a single sail.

sailboarding (sport) another term for windsurfing.

sailor (baseball) a pitched fastball that takes off [it “sails”].

sailing (sport) the sport or recreation of traveling across water in a boat or yacht propelled by one or more sails, as a competitive sport alternately known as yachting until 2000.

sailplane (gliding) a glider that can rise with an upward current and remain long in the air.

St. Andrews (golf) the golf course of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews.

St. George’s (archery) a round of 36 arrows each for men at 100, 80, and 60yds (91m, 73m, and 55m).

St. Leger (horse racing) an annual race for three-year-old colts and fillies run at Doncaster since 1778 [founded by Colonel Barry St. Leger (1737–1789)].

St. Moritz (bobsledging) a town in eastern Switzerland with a run constructed in 1902.

Saints (American football) short name of the New Orleans Saints team; (association football) (1) nickname of the English club Southampton [from the club’s original name, Southampton St. Mary’s]; (2) short name of the Scottish club St. Johnstone; (Australian Rules) short name of the St. Kilda Saints team; (rugby league) short name of the English club St. Helens; (rugby union) short name of the English club Northampton Saints.

Salchow (ice skating) a jump in which the skater takes off from the back inside edge of one skate, spins in the air, then lands on the back outside edge of the other skate [first performed by the Swedish figure skater Ulrich Salchow (1877–1949)]

sales race (horse racing) a race of horses purchased at a sale in which they were grouped by age or sex (as yearlings, colts, or fillies).


Sally Gunnell (golf) colloquial name for a shot that travels a long distance along the fairway [after the English champion athlete Sally Gunnell (1966–)].

salto (gymnastics) an aerial somersault in which the gymnast’s feet come up over his head and his body rotates around his waist [Italian salto, “leap”].

Saltoun (angling) a type of artificial fly [probably after the 18th Lord Saltoun (died 1886)].

salute (fencing) the formal performance of certain movements before engaging.

sambo (wrestling) a variant of the sport resembling judo [Russian acronym of samozashchita bez oruzhiya, “self-defense without weapons”].

San Marino Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Imola, northern Italy, there being no circuit in San Marino itself.

San Siro (association football) a stadium in Milan, Italy, that shared as a home ground by the clubs AC Milan and Inter Milan.

sand iron (golf) another term for a sand wedge.

sand save (golf) a shot with a wedge from a bunker followed by a single putt that sends the ball into the hole.
sand trap (golf) another term for bunker
sand wedge (golf) a club giving a good loft that is specially adapted to lift the ball out of a bunker
sandbag (motorcycle racing) to let the rest of the field go on ahead in the confidence that one can regain the lead and win the race
Sandown Park (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Esher, Surrey, England, the location of the Eclipse Stakes
sandwich boat (rowing) the crew that finishes top of a division in a bumping race, when they have the option of starting again at the bottom of the next higher division on the chance of making another bump and remaining in that higher division
Sanzar (rugby union) an acronymic name for the competitive union of South Africa, New Zealand, and Australia, who individually contest the Tri-Nations Championship
Sarries (rugby union) short name of the English club Saracens
sausage board (surfing) a surfboard rounded at both ends
savate (boxing) a form of the sport in which both feet and fists are used [French savate, originally a type of shoe]
save (association football) a goalkeeper’s successful attempt at stopping the ball from entering the net; (baseball) the credit given a relief pitcher for successfully preserving a team’s narrow lead to the end of a game
SBX (snowboarding) abbreviation of snowboard cross
Scarlets (rugby union) short name of the Welsh club Llanelli Scarlets
scatback (American football) colloquial term for a fast-running backfield player
scatter (baseball) to keep the score down as a pitcher with a play that yields few hits
school (aesthistranism, horse racing) to train a horse
schuss (skiing) a straight slope on which a fast downhill run can be made [German Schuss, “shot”]
schussboom (skiing) to ski at high speed [combination of schuss and boom, “to sail fast”]
scissor kick (association football) a kick in which the player jumps in the air with one leg outstretched then brings forward the other leg to kick the ball
scissors (association football) shortening of scissors kick; (athletics) a high jump in which the athlete crosses the bar in a seated position, bringing his trailing leg up as his leading leg goes down on the other side of the bar; (gymnastics) any movement involving the opening and closing of the legs; (rugby league, rugby union) shortening of scissors pass; (swimming) shortening of scissors kick; (wrestling) a hold in which a contestant uses his legs to grip his opponent’s head and then locks them at the instep or ankles to apply pressure
scissors hold (wrestling) fuller term for scissors
scissors kick (swimming) a kick used in the side-stroke in which the legs are parted slowly then brought suddenly together
scissors pass (rugby league, rugby union) a move in which the ball is passed by a player running diagonally across the pitch to a teammate running behind him at a different angle
sclaff (golf) a stroke in which the sole of the club scrapes the ground before striking the ball [probably alteration of scrub]
scoop (general) a sweeping shot that sends the ball up into the air, as with the bat in cricket or the stick in field hockey; (surfing) the upturned nose of the surfboard
scope (horse racing) the potential of a horse to improve with age
scorcher (general) a fast or powerful shot or stroke
score (general) a total or record of points won in a game, either by an individual or a team
score draw (association football) a drawn game in which both teams have scored at least once
score orienteering (orienteering) a form of the sport in which the competitors must visit as many control points as they can, each point having a different score value
scoreboard (general) a large board for publicly displaying the current score in a game, as in cricket or tennis
scorebook (cricket) a book specially prepared for entering the score
scorebox (cricket) a hut or other structure in which the scorers work
scorecard (general) a card specially prepared for entering the score, as in baseball, cricket, or golf
scoreline (general) a line in a newspaper or other publication giving the score in a contest
scorer (association football) a player who scores goals; (general) an official who keeps a record of the score in a game or contest
scoresheet (general) a sheet specially prepared for entering the score, as in association football, baseball, or cricket
scoring hit (boxing) a fair hit which, if the judges agree, earns the boxer one point
scoring space (association football) the part of the pitch in which most of the goals are scored
scorpion kick (association football) an unconventional save by a goalkeeper in which he places his hands on the ground and then, in a near handstand, raises his legs to kick the ball away with his heels [his body assumes the shape of a scorpion with raised tail]
Scottish FA Cup (association football) the trophy awarded to the winners of the final in a competition held by the Scottish Football Association since 1874

Scottish Football League (association football) a league of 3 divisions founded in 1890

Scottish League (association football) shortening of Scottish Football League

Scottish Premier League (association football) a league formed in 1998 by the top teams in the Scottish Football League

scout (general) a person who searches for new talent among the players of a team or club other than his own

scramble (American football) a series of movements made by a quarterback to evade tacklers; (auto racing, motorcycle racing) a race with a course over rough or hilly terrain; (golf) to play erratically but with the odd good stroke and even a chance of winning a match

scramble leg (skiing) the first leg of a relay race in cross-country skiing [so called from its bunched mass start]

scrambler (golf) a player who scrambles; (motorcycle racing) a modified motorcycle of the type used in a scramble

scrambling (auto racing, motorcycle racing) dedicated participation in scrambles

scratch (golf) having a handicap of zero; (horse racing) to remove a horse from a race after entering it; (snooker) to hit the cue ball into a pocket, thereby incurring a penalty

scratch hit (baseball) a poor hit that even so allows the batter to reach first base

scratch race (cycling) a straightforward track race over a distance of 15km (10km for women)

scratch sheet (horse racing) a publication listing horses scratched from races and giving their odds

screamer (general) a powerful shot or kick, as in tennis or association football

screen (American football, basketball) a maneuver in which an attacking player is protected by a group of teammates; (cricket) shortening of sight screen

screw (billiards, snooker) a stroke that imparts backspin or sidespin to the cue ball by striking it below its center so that it recoils backward or sideways after striking the object ball

screw shot (billiards, snooker) fuller term for a screw

screwball (baseball) a pitch that breaks in the opposite direction to a conventional curveball or slider

scrimmage (American football) (1) a sequence of play beginning with the snap and ending when the ball is dead; (2) a practice session of this sequence

scrum (general) (1) an inferior player; (2) a team made up of such players; (horse racing) a back-and-forth movement of the arms and legs made by a jockey on the neck and flanks of a horse to urge it forward, especially near the end of a race

scrubber (general) an inferior player

screw (golf) alternate form of sclaff

scrum (rugby league, rugby union) a formation to restart play in which the forwards of both teams close in, in three rows, then with arms interlocked and heads down push against each other, whereupon the ball is thrown in between them and they attempt to kick it out to their own team [shortening of scrimmage]

scrum down (rugby league, rugby union) to form a scrum

scrum half (rugby league, rugby union) the half-back who puts the ball into the scrum and attempts to secure it as soon as it emerges and send it to the backs

scrummage (rugby league, rugby union) formal term for a scrum [variant of scrimmage]

scutineering (auto racing) the inspection of cars by the officials before a race to ensure compliance with technical regulations; (motorcycle racing) the inspection of bikes before a race by the officials to ensure compliance with technical regulations

scuba (aquatics) an apparatus used by skindivers, consisting in a breathing tube attached to a cylinder of compressed air [acronym of self-contained underwater breathing apparatus]

Scuderia (auto racing) a name used to refer to the Ferrari Formula One team [Italian scuderia, “stable”]

Scudetto (association football) informal name of the Italian Serie A championship [Italian scudetto, “shield,” from the shield that the winners wear on their shirts for the following season]

scull (rowing) (1) a short, spoon-bladed oar used in pairs by a single rower; (2) a light boat propelled by such oars; (swimming) a movement of the hands against the water in synchronized swimming

sculling race (rowing) a race between rowers who are each in a scull

sculls (rowing) another term for a sculling race

scurry (equestrianism) a short race in show-jumping and carriage-driving, a contest in which a fault is counted as a time penalty

Seagulls (association football) nickname of the English club Brighton and Hove Albion [for the birds that frequent the coastal city]

Seahawks (American football) short name of the Seattle Seahawks team

seam (cricket) the raised stitching on a cricket ball
seam bowler (cricket) a bowler who uses the seam of the ball to make it deviate on pitching

seam bowling (cricket) the fast or medium-paced bowling of a seam bowler

seamer (cricket) (1) shortening of seam bowler; (2) a ball bowled by a seam bowler

Seasiders (association football) nickname of the English club Blackpool [from the town's fame as a seaside resort]

season (general) (1) the natural period of the year appropriate for a particular sport, as traditionally (in Britain) the summer for cricket and the winter for association football; (2) the calendar period of the year usually devoted to a particular sport; (3) the period during which an individual or team has played a particular sport

season’s best (athletics) the best time or distance achieved by an athlete in a season

seat drop (trampolining) a basic landing in a seated position with the legs fully extended

second (boxing) an assistant who helps a boxer before a bout and during the rests between rounds; (mountaineering) the second climber of a team, who follows the leader

second base (baseball) the second of the bases to which a player must run, located on the far side of the mound from home plate

second baseman (baseball) the fielder stationed near second base, on the side nearer first base

second eleven (cricket) the second-best eleven to represent a school, college, or the like

second five-eighth (rugby league) a player positioned on the outside of a five eighth [a term used in Australia and New Zealand]

second half (general) the half of a game or match after half time

second home (lacrosse) the attacking player who is the second of the three homes

second row (rugby league, rugby union) the two forwards who make up the second row of the scrum

second service (tennis) the second of a player’s two permitted serves

second slip (cricket) the second of the three fielders positioned in the slips

secondary (American football) the defensive backfield, behind the linebackers

seconde (fencing) the second of eight basic parry positions, used to protect the lower outside of the right of the body [French seconde, “second”]

sedge (angling) an artificial fly resembling a sedge fly

Sedgefield (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Sedgefield, Co. Durham, England

see off the new ball (cricket) to bat until the shine has been removed from the new ball at the start of an innings

seed (tennis) a good player who as the result of a draw has been assigned a place in the order of playing that will avoid an encounter with another good player early in a tournament [the player is listed numerically in programs, for example No. 6 seed]

selection (horse racing) a horse selected by a bettor as likely to win a race

selector (cricket) an official who selects a team captain

self-defense (general) the principle of physically protecting oneself that applies in most of the martial arts and that originally applied to boxing, regarded as the art of self-defense

sell a dummy (association football, rugby league, rugby union) to deceive an opponent by means of a dummy

seller (horse racing) shortening of selling race

selling race (horse racing) a race whose winner must be put up for auction at a previously fixed price

selling plate (horse racing) another term for a selling race

semi (general) colloquial shortening of semifinal

semiamateur (general) not playing for payment, like a professional, but partly supported by a sponsor

semifinal (general) a match or round held immediately before the final

semipro (general) shortening of semiprofessional

semiprofessional (general) a part-time professional player, receiving payment for his participation but not relying on it for a living

Senators (ice hockey) short name of the Ottawa Senators team

send back (cricket) to dismiss a batsman [he is sent back to the pavilion

send down (cricket) to bowl a ball [the bowler sends it down the pitch]

send in (cricket) (1) to send a batsman into the field to bat; (2) to nominate the opposing side to bat first after winning the toss

send off (association football) to order a player to leave the pitch following an offense that merited a red card or two offenses that merited two yellow cards

senior circuit (baseball) colloquial term for the National League [so called as formed before the American League]

Senior TT (motorcycle racing) the principal annual TT race [for larger bikes than in the Junior TT]

sensei (karate) an instructor in the sport [Japanese sen, “previous,” and sei, “birth”]

seoi nage (judo) a shoulder throw [Japanese seoi, “to bear on the back,” and nage, “throw”]

sepak takraw (sport) a game of Asian origin resembling a cross between badminton and vol-
leyball played with a rattan ball on a badminton court [Malay sepak, “kick,” and Thai takran, “rattan ball”]

septime (fencing) the seventh of eight basic parry positions, used to protect the lower inside of the body [French septime, “seventh”]

Serie A (association football) the premier division in the Italian national league

serve (tennis) the opening shot of a point, in which the player throws the ball up into the air then hits it diagonally across the net to his opponent; (general) the opening shot in a game such as badminton or squash

serve and volley (tennis) a style of play in which a player runs up to the net after a serve in order to take up a position for a volley

server (general) the player making a serve

service (tennis) another term for a serve

service box (squash) the square area in each quarter court within which the server serves

service court (badminton) one of the two boxes into which the rear part of the court is divided and from which the server serves; (tennis) the box on the other side of the net into which the server must place the ball when serving

service game (tennis) a game in which it is a particular player’s turn to serve

service line (badminton, tennis) the boundary of the service court

service park (auto racing) in rally driving, the area where a crew carries out any running repairs to a car

service side (real tennis) the half of the court from which the ball is served

service winner (tennis) a shot by the receiver that sends the ball out of court [it is a winner because the serve was an ace]

session (cricket) one of the three periods of play in a full day’s play, the first being from the start of play to lunch, the second from lunch to tea, and the third from tea to the close of play

set (badminton, squash) to extend a game by a specified number of points; (general) a group of games counting as a unit, as in volleyball; (snooker) another term for a plant; (tennis) a series of games in which the winner is the first to win at least six games and at least two games more than his opponent

set! (general) the command given by the starter of a race to prepare competitors for the starting signal [short for “get set!”]

set blow (shinty) the equivalent of a free hit

set one (squash) a winning score of nine points

set piece (association football) a carefully planned and executed play from a corner kick or free kick near the penalty area; (rugby union) a scrum or a lineout

set play (general) a prearranged maneuver carried out after a restart by the team then in the lead

set point (tennis) a point that wins a set

set scrum (rugby league, rugby union) an organized scrum, as ordered by the referee

set shot (basketball) a shot at the basket made by a stationary player

set-to (boxing) a renewed attack

set two (squash) a winning score of ten points

set up (general) (1) to prepare the way for a move or maneuver, as a shot at goal in association football; (2) to contrive to place a player or team in a vulnerable position

set-up (billiards, snooker) a position of the balls from which it is easy to score; (boxing) a boxer who can be easily defeated by a particular opponent and who is selected for this very reason

set-up man (baseball) a relief pitcher who usually enters the game in the seventh or eight inning with the aim of preserving a lead for the closer

setter (volleyball) a player who plays the ball in a volley for a teammate to spike

seven-a-side (rugby union) a form of the game played by seven players on each side instead of 15, the emphasis being on speed and ball skills

seven-meter line (handball) the line, seven meters from the goal, from where a seven-meter throw is taken

seven-meter throw (handball) a penalty throw taken as a direct shot on goal from the seven-meter line, which the player must not cross before the ball leaves his hand

sevens (rugby union) shortening of seven-a-side

seventh-inning stretch (baseball) a break after the top half of the seventh inning, during which spectators can stand up and walk about before settling again to watch the climax

76ers (basketball) short name of the Philadelphia 76ers team

sex test (general) popular name for a gender verification test, a medical procedure that determines the sex of a female competitor suspected of being wholly or partly male

shadow boxing (boxing) sparring practice with an imaginary opponent

shadow skating (ice skating) a routine in pair skating in which the skaters perform with coordinated movements but not in physical contact with each other

shaft (darts) the part of the dart that screws into the barrel and holds the flight; (golf) the long handle of the club, on which the clubhead is set

shag (baseball) to chase after fly balls as part of fielding practice

shake ’n’ bake (basketball) colloquial term for
showy play, with rapid changes of direction and near handling of the ball
shakedown (auto racing) in rally driving, the testing of cars by their drivers on roads similar to those used in a rally, usually carried out the day before the rally itself
shakehands (table tennis) a grip of the bat that resembles “shaking hands” with it
Shakers (association football) nickname of the English club Bury [from the religious sect of “Shaking Quakers” (not the American Shakers), historically connected with the town]
shamateur (general) rather dated term for a sportsperson who retains amateur status while receiving payment (like a professional) for playing or competing [a “sham amateur”]
shanghi (darts) colloquial term for the feat of scoring a single, double, and treble of the same number with a set of three darts [from a form of the game in which players failing to score were eliminated or “shanghaied”]
shank (golf) a mishit close to the heel of the club in which the ball makes contact with the hosel, causing it to fly to the right (for a right-handed player)
Sharks (ice hockey) short name of the San Jose Sharks team; (rugby union) short name of the English club Sale Sharks
sharpshooter (general) a player having very good aim
Shaymen (association football) nickname of the English club Halifax Town [from the Shay, the team’s home ground]
sheet (curling) the strip of ice on which the game is played; (sailing) a rope attached to the lower corner of a sail
Sheffield Shield (cricket) name until 1999 of the Pura Cup [from the 3d Lord Sheffield, who took an English team to Australia in 1891 and donated £150 for a trophy]
shell (rowing) a light narrow racing boat
shell out (baseball) to score heavily against an opposing team
shepherding (Australian Rules) the (legitimate) blocking of an opponent from tackling a teammate in possession of the ball
shield (general) a trophy in the form or shape of a shield, awarded to the winner of a contest
shift (American football) the movement of two or more offensive players into different starting positions before the snap
shime-waza (judo) a stranglehold [Japanese shimeru, “to tighten,” and waza, “technique”]
shinty (sport) a game of Scottish origin similar to field hockey, played between teams of 12 with a caman and a leather-covered cork ball [said to derive from shin ye!, a cry used in the game]
Shire (association football) short name of the Scottish club East Stirlingshire
shirt swapping (association football) a traditional exchange of shirts between a player and his marker at the end of a match
shirtfront (cricket) (of) a smooth and even pitch
shodan (judo, karate) a degree of proficiency equivalent to first dan or first degree black belt [Japanese sho, “primary,” and dan, “grade”]
shoo-in (horse racing) a horse allowed to win a race fraudulently [the jockeys decide which horse is to win and everyone else “shoos it in” past the post]
shoot (association football) to take a shot at goal; (shooting) a match or contest
shoot-off (shooting) an additional contest to resolve a tie
shoot-out (American football) a method of resolving a tie in which five players from both teams are given five seconds each to score against the goalkeeper, the team with the most goals receiving one point to break the tie; (association football) shortening of penalty shoot-out; (general) a keen and decisive contest
shoot set (volleyball) a volley in the form of a pass that travels fast and low over the net
shooter (cricket) colloquial term for a bowled ball that stays low after pitching
shooting (sport) the competitive sport of firing at a target with a pistol or rifle
shooting circle (field hockey, netball) the D-shaped area in front of the goal from which a shot at goal must be taken
shooting glove (archery) a glove worn to protect the hand when drawing a bow
shooting guard (basketball) a guard who specializes in taking long-range shots
shooting range (shooting) a specially prepared area with targets for practice or competition in the sport
shop (billiards) to pot one’s opponent’s ball [as when one “shops” (betrays) an accomplice to the police]
short (cricket) (1) a fielding position closer than normal to the batsman; (2) (of) a bowled ball that bounces at some distance from the batsman; (horse racing) not on top form
short ball (cricket) a ball that pitches with a short length
short corner (field hockey) another term for a penalty corner
short field (baseball) the part of the field in which the shortstop plays
short fielder (baseball) another term for a shortstop
short game (golf) play on and around the green
short-handed (ice hockey) having one or more players on the penalty bench
short head (greyhound racing, horse racing) a narrow win that is shorter than a head but longer than a nose
short iron (golf) an iron (usually an 8- or 9-iron or a wedge) used to play shots from close to the green
short leg (cricket) a fielding position very near (and in line with) the batsman on the leg side
short line (squash) a line extending the full width of the court 18ft (5.44m) from the front wall
short odds (horse racing) odds in a bet that are favorable in terms of risk but unfavorable in terms of potential gain
short program (ice skating) a routine in which the skaters have to perform preset movements, unlike a free program
short run (cricket) a run not properly completed by the batsman
short slip (cricket) another term for first slip
short square leg (cricket) a fielder at a square leg position close to the wicket
short stuff (golf) colloquial term for the fairway [where the grass is short by contrast with the rough]
short tennis (tennis) a form of the game for children, played on a small court with a small racket and a soft ball
short-track (speed skating) a form of the sport in which contestants race in packs around an oval track over distances varying from 500m to 5,000m
shortarm (boxing) (of) a punch delivered with a bent arm rather than an extended one
shortboard (surfing) a board shorter than the norm, ridden mainly by experienced surfers
shorten up (rowing) to row too fast at too high a rating, with the oar not pulled its full length through the water
shortstop (baseball) the fielder positioned between second base and third base
shot (angling) a cast of the net; (archery) (1) a discharged arrow; (2) the point where it strikes the target; (association football) a kick of the ball at goal; (athletics) the heavy metal ball resembling a cannonball thrown in the shot put; (bowls) (1) the point gained for placing one’s bowl nearer the jack than the nearest bowl of one’s opponent; (2) the position closest to the jack; (general) a stroke, throw, or hit; (rowing) an attempt to overtake and touch the boat in front in a bumping race; (shooting) (1) a discharged bullet; (2) the point where it strikes the target
shot bowl (bowls) the bowl nearest the jack
shot clock (basketball) the clock that records the length of time a team retains possession of the ball before attempting a shot, an excess of the prescribed time being an offense
shot put (athletics) a field event in which an athlete throws a shot as far as possible
shot to nothing (snooker) an attempt to pot a ball in such a way that if the shot is missed the player’s opponent will not be left with an easy opportunity
shotgun (American football) an offensive formation to facilitate passing in which the quarterback stands some way behind the center and the other backs are stationed to act as pass receivers or blockers
shotmaker (basketball, golf, tennis) a player noted for making skillful shots
shotokan (karate) one of the five main forms of the sport [Japanese sho, “true,” to, “way,” and kan, “mansion”]
shoulder (cricket) the curved upper edge of the blade, near to where it joins the handle; (surfing) the calm portion of a wave breaking on the beach
shoulder arms (cricket) to hold the bat over one’s shoulder in order to allow the ball to pass without attempting a stroke
shoulder stand (gymnastics) a movement in which the gymnast holds his body and legs up in the air, supporting them on his shoulders
shovel pass (American football) a pass in which a player flicks the ball out of his hand without extending his arm
show (horse racing) the third place in a race
show eyes (bowls) to roll with a wobble so that the side disk of the bowl continually “winks”
show the bowler the maker’s name (cricket) to bat defensively with a straight bat [so that the bowler can read the name of the bat’s manufacturer]
showjumper (equestrianism) a horse or rider who takes part in showjumping
showjumping (equestrianism) a discipline in which horse and rider clear a number of obstacles on a fixed course, usually within a time limit, earning penalty points for faults
shredding (snowboarding) to travel fast downhill while moving one’s body from one side of the board to the other
Shrews (association football) short name of the English club Shrewsbury Town
Shrimpers (association football) nickname of the English club Southend United [from the shrimps gathered in the sands of this seaside resort]
shunt (auto racing) an accident in which one car crashes into another
shuriken (martial arts) a missile in the form of a star with projecting blades or points [Japanese shu, “hand,” ri, “inside,” and ken, “blade”]
shut the door (auto racing) to steer across the track in order to prevent a rival from passing
shuto (judo, karate) a movement of the hand in the
manner of a sword [Japanese shu, “hand,” and to, “sword”]

**shutout** (general) a game in which the opposition fails to score

**shuttle** (badminton) shortening of shuttlecock

**shuttlecock** (badminton) the object hit back and forth in the game, as a lightweight cone in the form of a rounded cork stuck with flights

**side** (billiards, snooker) a spin given to a ball by striking it to left or right of its center, causing it to swerve and alter its angle of rebound

**side charge** (Gaelic football) a shoulder charge on an opponent who is in possession of the ball or about to play it

**side judge** (American football) a member of the officiating team whose duties are similar to those of the back judge

**sideboards** (polo) the short boards along the side of the field which help to keep the ball in play

**sidecar** (motorcycle racing) a small passenger car attached to a motorcycle

**sidefoot** (American football, association football) to kick with the inside of the foot

**sideline** (general) to remove a player from a team because of injury; (table tennis) a white line along each side of the table

**sideline kick** (Gaelic football) a kick taken from the side of the pitch after the ball has gone out of play

**sidelines** (general) in field games, the lines marking either side of the playing area

**sideslip** (skiing) a sideways downward slide

**sidespins** (table tennis) spin imparted to the ball by striking it sideways with the bat

**sidestep** (rugby league, rugby union) a sudden change of direction made in order to avoid a tackle from an opponent

**sidestroke** (swimming) a stroke performed by a swimmer lying on one side

**sideshow** (boxing) a blow struck from the side

**sight** (archery) a guide to the eye on a bow; (shooting) a guide to the eye on a rifle

**sight screen** (cricket) a white board on wheels placed outside the boundary behind the bowler, used to help the batsman pick out the approaching ball

**sighter** (archery, shooting) a practice shot fired at the beginning of a match to check the adjustments of the sights

**signal** (general) a sound or gesture made by an official to convey a particular point of information during play, as of a referee in association football or an umpire in cricket

**signal caller** (American football) a player who signals the next move or formation to his teammates

**Silkmen** (association football) nickname of the English club Macclesfield Town [from the local silk-manufacturing industry]

**silks** (horse racing) the shirt and cap worn by a jockey, made in the racing colors of the horse’s owner

**silly** (cricket) (of) a fielding position very close to the batsman [where one risks being struck by the ball]

**silly mid-off** (cricket) a fielder positioned in front of the bowler on the off side, close to the batsman

**silly mid-on** (cricket) a fielder positioned in front of the bowler on the on side, close to the batsman

**silly point** (cricket) a fielder positioned on the off side very close to the batsman on a line with the popping crease

**silver** (Olympics) shortening of silver medal

**silver duck** (cricket) a duck scored by a batsman on his second ball [from silver as a second award]

**Silver Ferns** (netball) nickname of the New Zealand national team [from the tall tree fern native to New Zealand]

**silver goal** (association football) the first goal scored in a period of 15 minutes extra time, as a method of settling a draw, with a further 15 minutes if still a draw, at the end of which, if still a draw, a penalty shoot-out was held [a system in force from 2002 to 2004, when it was withdrawn, like the golden goal]

**Silver Goblets and Nickalls Challenge Cup** (rowing) the trophy awarded to the winner of a race for coxless pairs at Henley Royal Regatta [inaugurated in 1845 with the Goblets introduced as presentation prizes in 1850 and the Nickalls Challenge Cup donated in 1895 by Tom Nickalls in commemoration of his sons, Guy Nickalls (1866–1935) and Vivian Nickalls (1870–1947), who between them won II Goblets]

**silver medal** (Olympics) the medal awarded as second prize [silver is a less valuable metal than gold but more valuable than bronze]

**silver ring** (horse racing) an enclosure at a racecourse where smaller bets are laid [the bets were originally laid in silver coins rather than banknotes]

**silver slugger** (baseball) an annual award made to the outstanding batter in the league at each position

**Silverstone** (auto racing) a circuit at the village of Silverstone, Northamptonshire, England, the regular location of the British Grand Prix

**silverware** (general) sporting trophies made from (or coated with) silver

**simple grip** (weightlifting) a grip for holding the barbell that has four fingers on one side balanced by the thumb on the other side
sink-and-draw
sit out

(1) single scull

(2) sit spin

golf

(1) single leg tackle

(2) single-foot

sin • skeg

Singapore Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the Marina Bay street circuit in Singapore

single (baseball) a hit that allows the batter to reach first base; (cricket) a hit for one run; (tennis) a game played with one player on each side

single-foot (equestrianism) in dressage, a brisk walking pace with one foot on the ground at a time

single leg tackle (wrestling) a move in which a wrestler brings his opponent down by using an armhold on one of his legs

single scull (rowing) a one-manned boat in which the rower has a pair of sculls

single-wicket (cricket) a form of the game in which individual players take it in turns to bat for a limited number of overs

sink (billiards, snooker) colloquial term for pot

sink a putt (golf) to send a putt into the hole

sink-and-draw (angling) a method of taking fish by weighting a deadbait with lead, arming it with hooks, and allowing it to sink to the bottom, after which it is drawn up in a motion that causes it to dive and swoop

sinker (angling) a weight used to sink a fishing line; (baseball) a fastball with a downward movement; (windsurfing) a short board used by experienced surfers for sailing in high winds

sire (greyhound racing) the father of a greyhound; (horse racing) the father of a foal

sit down (golf) to land on the green and not roll any further

sit in (cycling) to ride close to the rider in front in order to slipstream

sit on the splice (cricket) to bat defensively [as if sitting on the splice of the bat]

sit out (sailing) to keep the boat flat in the water by hiking

sit spin (ice skating) a spin performed in a seated position close to the ice, with one leg bent and the other fully extended [originated by the U.S. skater Jackson Haines (1840–1879)]

sit-up (general) a series of exercise movements, typically carried out in a gymnasium, in which the head and torso are raised from a lying position while the legs remain still

sitter (general) (1) an easy catch, as in baseball or cricket; (2) an easy shot

sitting sports (general) sports in which the participant is seated, as cycling, equestrianism, rowing or sailing

sitzmark (skiing) an impression in the snow made by a skier falling backward [German sitzen, “to sit,” and English mark]

six (cricket) a score of six runs gained by hitting the ball over the boundary without its touching the ground

six-day race (cycling) a track race held on six successive evenings

six-meter line (handball) the curving line six meters from the goal that marks the goal area

Six Nations (rugby union) an annual championship in which teams from England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, France, and Italy compete against one another [until 2000, when Italy joined, known as the Five Nations]

six-yard area (association football) another term for the six-yard box

six-yard box (association football) the rectangular area in front of the goal from which a goal kick can be taken

six-yard line (association football) the line marking the limit of the six-yard box

six-zero defense (handball) a defensive formation in which all of the players (except the goalkeeper) line up along the six-meter line to block the attackers

sixte (fencing) the sixth of eight basic parry positions, used to protect the upper right-hand side of the body [French Sixte, "sixth"]

sixth man (basketball) the best substitute player in a team

sixth tackle (rugby league) the last of the six allowable tackles in the set, leading to a handover

skateboard (skateboarding) a narrow board, similar to a small surfboard, that is mounted on trucks that bear small wheels

skateboarding (sport) the sport of riding on a skateboard, on which the rider stands and coast along, turning it by shifting his weight and occasionally pushing one foot against the ground, in the manner of a scooter, in order to maintain forward progress

skatepark (skateboarding) a park or area for riding a skateboard

skates (ice hockey, ice skating) shortening of ice skates; (roller skating) shortening of roller skates

skating (sport) (1) shortening of ice skating; (2) shortening of roller skating

skating rink (ice hockey, ice skating) alternate term for an ice rink; (roller skating) fuller term for a rink

skeet (shooting) a form of clay-pigeon shooting in which the targets are thrown from traps and the shooter moves in a semicircle to different stations [apparently alteration of shoot]

skeg (rowing) a stabilizing fin attached to the stern section of the hull; (surfing) a
stabilizing fin on the underside of a surfboard [Dutch sleg, “cutwater”]
skeleton (bobsledding) shortening of skeleton bob
skeleton bob (bobsledding) a form of bobsled with no brakes or steering mechanism on which a person races head-first down an ice-covered course [“skeleton” because basic]
ski archery (sport) a combination of archery and cross-country skiing
ski blades (skiing) a type of very short skis, although often wider than regular skis, resembling a cross between a ski and a snowboard
ski boat (water skiing) a type of small powerboat, used to tow water skiers
ski bum (skiing) a devotee of the sport, especially one who travels widely in search of snowy conditions
ski-flying (skiing) jumping from a high takeoff point, so that a greater time is spent in the air
ski jump (skiing) (1) a steeply-sloping, snow-covered track ending in an elevated platform from which a skier jumps; (2) the jump itself
ski-kiting (water skiing) a form of the sport in which the skier holds on to a bar attached to a kitesklike device
ski lift (skiing) a mechanism for carrying skiers uphill, consisting of seats suspended from an overhead cable
ski mountaineering (sport) a combination of skiing and mountaineering, using light skis
ski-o (orienteering) a form of orienteering on skis
ski pole (skiing) another term for a ski stick
ski run (skiing) a snow slope prepared for skiing on
ski slope (skiing) a snowy slope prepared for skiers to descend
ski stick (skiing) one of a pair of pointed sticks, with a disk near the tip, used by skiers for balance, propulsion, or braking
ski touring (skiing) the sport or recreation of traveling across country on skis
ski tow (skiing) a type of ski lift in the form of an endless moving chain of bars or seats, suspended from an overhead cable; (water skiing) a tow rope for water skiers
skibob (skiing) a vehicle resembling a bicycle with skis, used for descending a snow slope
skibobbing (skiing) the sport of riding on a skibob
skid lid (cycling) colloquial term for a helmet
skier (cricket) a ball hit high in the air by the batsman
skiff (rowing) a type of small light boat
skiing (sport) the recreation or competitive sport of descending a snowy slope on skis
ski-joring (skiing) a form of the sport in which the skier is towed by a horse or motor vehicle [Norwegian skikjøring, from ski, “ski,” and kjøring, “driving”]
skimboard (surfing) a type of thin surfboard without a skeg used for riding shallow water
skimmer (cricket) a ball from the bowler that travels with a low trajectory
skin the cat (gymnastics) to execute a move in which the gymnast passes his feet and legs between his arms while hanging by his hands from the horizontal bar, so drawing his body up and over the bar
skindiver (aquatics) a person who engages in skindiving
skindiving (aquatics) the recreation of diving and swimming underwater, with breathing equipment (usually a scuba or aqualung) carried on the back
skis (golf) a type of matchplay in which each hole is worth a particular number of points; (skiing) strips of fabric (originally sealskin) attached to the underside of skis to prevent a skier from slipping backward when climbing
skinsuit (cycling) an aerodynamic garment like a swimsuit worn by racing cyclists
skip (athletics) another term for step; (bowls, cycling) colloquial abbreviation of skipper
skipper (bowls, cycling) the captain of a team
skipping (golf) the technique of hitting a ball over water so that it skips the surface
skis (skiing) long narrow runners (originally of wood), usually pointed and turned up at the front, fastened under the feet to enable travel over snow downhill or on the level; (water skiing) shortening of water skis [a Norwegian word]
skish (angling) a contest in which fishing tackle is used to cast on dry land [origin uncertain but perhaps a blend of skill and fish]
skitter (angling) to fish by drawing the bait over the surface of the water
skittle (skittles) one of the pins used in the game
skittle alley (skittles) fuller term for an alley
skittle out (cricket) to dismiss a team for a low score [their wickets fall like skittles]
skittles (sport) (1) a game in which nine skittles are set up at the end of an alley to be bowled at and knocked down in as few attempts as possible
Skolars (rugby league) short name of the English club London Skolars
skull (golf) another term for thin
skurfing (skateboarding) colloquial term for the sport [blend of skating and surfing]
Sky Blues (association football) (1) nickname of the English club Coventry City; (2) nickname of the Scottish club Forfar Athletic [from the color of the teams’ shirts]
skyboard (parachuting) a board similar to a skateboard, used by skysurfers
sleeper (cricket) another spelling of skier
skyhook (baseball) a variant of the hook in which the ball is released from a point high above the shooter’s head; (mountaineering) a type of grappling-iron in the form of a small flattened hook with an eye for attaching a rope, fixed temporarily into a rock face
skyscraper
skydiver
skydive
slam dunk (basketball) a forceful (and usually dramatic) dunk
slam-dunk smash (tennis) a smash suggestive of a slam dunk in which a player jumps above the ball to strike it down as forcefully as possible [popularized in the 1990s by the U.S. player Pete Sampras (1971–)]
slamball (sport) a game resembling basketball with eight trampolines
slant (American football) a play in which the player in possession of the ball enters or leaves the line of scrimmage diagonally
slant pattern (American football) the route of a receiver running diagonally from the outside of the field toward the middle
slap skates (speed skating) another term for clap skates
slapshot (ice hockey) a fast powerful shot made with the stick taken above the player’s head
sled (sled dog racing) a low conveyance on runners drawn over snow by horses or dogs
sled dog racing (sport) races between teams of dogs harnessed to sleds, especially as organized in Alaska
sledge (sled dog racing) alternate form of sled
sledging (cricket) the barricaging of a batsman by fielders in order to upset his concentration [from sledge in the sense “sledgehammer”]
sleeper (tenpin bowling) a pin that is not easily seen because it is hidden behind another pin; (horse racing) an apparently indifferent runner that suddenly livens up and wins a race
sleigh (sled dog racing) another term for a sled
slice (association football) a miskick that sends the ball in an unintended direction; (golf) a mishit that sends the ball from left to right in the air (for a right-handed player) or from right to left (for a left-handed player); (tennis) a shot played with a slicing action that imparts backspin to the ball
slicks (auto racing)untreaded tires, used in dry-weather conditions [following a Formula One ruling, slicks had grooves from 1998 through 2009]
slide (baseball) a sliding approach along the ground to a base; (rowing) shortening of sliding seat; (surfing) a ride across the face of a wave
slider (baseball) a fast pitch that deviates from its original path; (bobsledding) colloquial term for a participant in the sport; (cricket) a ball to which the bowler has imparted backspin, so that it bounces less than the batsman expects
sliding seat (rowing) a seat that slides back and forth with the movement of the rower
sliding tackle (rugby league, rugby union) a tackle made by a player in a sliding approach
Sligo (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt race-course in Co. Sligo, Ireland
sling (mountaineering) a short length of rope that provides extra support for the body in abseiling
sliotar (hurling) the leather-covered ball [Irish sliotar]
slip (cricket) one of the three fielders (first slip, second slip, third slip) positioned next to the wicketkeeper on the off side
slips (cricket) the positions of the three slips
slipstream (auto racing) to drive close behind another car in order to benefit from the vacuum created and so attempt to pass; (cycling) to ride close behind another rider or riders in order to benefit from the decreased wind resistance and so save energy
slob (angling) a large soft worm, used as bait
slog (cricket) a forceful and often unrefined hit of the ball
slog overs (cricket) in limited-over games, the overs at the end of an innings, when batsmen attempt to score a large number of runs
slog sweep (cricket) a sweep in which the ball is hit hard and in the air
slope soaring (gliding) increasing altitude in a sailplane by using the moving air forced up by a ridge
slopes (skiing) the snowy areas on a hill or mountain down which skiers make their descent
slot (American football) a gap in the defense line, usually between the end and the tackle; (auto racing) in rally driving, a turning or opening marked for the driver to take; (ice hockey) an (unmarked) area in front of the goal where an at-
tacking player would be well placed to take a successful shot at goal

**slugger** (baseball) a batter who specializes in hitting home runs

**smack** (cricket) a hit with the bat

**smoother** (rugby league) a high tackle in which a player overpowers an opponent

**smokey** (box) colloquial term for punch drunk

**smug fest** (baseball, boxing) colloquial term for a hard-hitting contest

**slugfest** (baseball) a back positioned behind the shot

**slower** (horse racing) a jockey who deliberately rides slowly in the early stages of a race

**toggle** (horse) a direction to a new player when the club is swung back from the ball in making a stroke

**slow bowler** (cricket) a bowler who bowls the ball at a slow speed

**slow bowling** (cricket) bowling by a slow bowler

**slow side** (association football) the longest distance, as the goalkeeper sees it, for the ball to travel from a player toward or into the net

**smack out** (boxing) colloquial term for a dangerous fast ball delivered by the wrestler

**smack** (cricket) a dangerously fast ball delivered by the bowler

**snow bunny** (skiing) an inexperienced skier, especially if female

**snow blading** (snowboarding) a form of the sport using short skis and no poles

**snowboard** (snowboarding) a board similar to a skateboard but without wheels, guided by the user with movements of the feet and body

**snowboard cross** (snowboarding) an event in which groups of competitors race down a course featuring jumps, turns, and moguls

**snowboarding** (sport) a sport similar to skiing or skateboarding in which participants travel down snow-covered slopes with their feet strapped to a snowboard rather than skis

**snowcross** (motorcycle racing) races between snowmobiles over a motocross circuit

**snowdome** (general) an indoor arena where winter sports can take place around the year

**snowmobile** (motorcycle racing) a motorized sled or tractorlike vehicle for traveling over snow

**snowplow** (skiing) the act of turning the front points of the skis inward to slow down

**snowsurfing** (skiing) the sport of traveling downhill on a large single ski like a surfboard

**soar** (general) the act of flying high in a glider or while being towed when suspended from a kite

**soccer** (sport) colloquial term for association football, originally used to distinguish it from rugby football [from assoc., abbreviation of association]

**soccer fan** (association football) a keen supporter of the sport

**soccer field** (association football) a field where the sport is played

**sneak** (American football) an attempt to advance the ball a short distance by diving forward straight after receiving the snap; (cricket) another term for a daisycutter

**sneak** (angling) to catch a fish by hooking it with a slight turn of the wrist

**snooker** (sport) (1) a game played on a standard billiard table by two players with 21 colored balls (15 of them red) and one white cue ball, the aim being to pot the colored balls in a certain order and gain more points than one's opponent in doing so; (2) a situation in which the path between the cue ball and the object ball is blocked, obliging the player to take an indirect shot [said to derive from army slang for a raw recruit, a term adopted for the game among British troops in India, where it originated in 1875]

**snorkel** (aquatics) a short breathing tube used by submerged swimmers [German Schnorchel]

**snorter** (cricket) a dangerously fast ball delivered by the bowler

**snow bunny** (skiing) an inexperienced skier, especially if female

**snow sports** (general) sports that take place on snow, such as skiing and snowboarding

**snow blading** (skiing) a form of the sport using short skis and no poles

**snowboard** (snowboarding) a board similar to a skateboard but without wheels, guided by the user with movements of the feet and body

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**snowsurfing** (skiing) the sport of traveling downhill on a large single ski like a surfboard

**surfing** (skiing) colloquial name for snowsurfing [blend of snow and surfing]

**soaring** (general) the act of flying high in a glider or while being towed when suspended from a kite

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**soccer fan** (association football) a keen supporter of the sport

**soccer field** (association football) a field where the sport is played
spear (soccer) another term for mosh
souple (wrestling) a hold in which a wrestler holds his opponent from behind and throws him in a sweeping movement
southpaw (baseball) a left-handed pitcher; (boxing) a left-handed boxer, who leads with his right hand [when right-handed batters faced east to avoid the afternoon sun in their eyes, pitchers faced west, but if left-handed would throw with their south-side hand]
Southwell (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Rolleston, Nottinghamshire, England.
SP (horse racing) abbreviation of starting price
Spa (auto racing) a town in eastern Belgium, whose Spa-Francorchamps circuit is the venue for the Belgian Grand Prix
spaceball (sport) a game of American origin played by two or four players on a trampoline divided into two courts by a gantry holding a fumneled basket, each court having a backstop below a rebound net, the aim being to throw the ball through the basket so that it scores by hitting the court or the backstop
spade mashie (golf) the former name of a 6-iron
spaghetti-legs routine (association football) a wobbling of the legs performed by a supposedly fearful goalkeeper as a ruse to distract the taker of a penalty kick
Spanish Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Barcelona, Spain
Spanish walk (equestrianism) another term for the piaffe
spangler (sailing) a fore-and-aft sail on the mast nearest the stern of a boat
spar (boxing) to exchange light blows by way of practice or demonstration; (sailing) a general term for a boom, gaff, mast, or yard
spare (skittles, tenpin bowling) knocking down all the pins with one’s first two balls [so that one has a ball to spare]
spare ride (horse racing) a ride by a jockey on a horse for which he has not been booked
sparring partner (boxing) a boxer chosen to spar with another
spartakiad (general) a sporting competition with a great number of participants in a wide range of events [Russian spartakiada, after Spartacus, 1st-century B.C. leader of a slave revolt against Rome]
spear (American football) to butt an opponent with one’s helmet; (athletics) colloquial term for a javelin; (ice hockey) to use one’s stick as a spear to attack opponents
spear chucker (athletics) colloquial term for a javelin thrower
spear tackle (rugby league, rugby union) an illegal
tackle in which a player is lifted up and thrown down head first [like a spear]

Special Olympics (Olympics) a series of motivational games for the physically and mentally disabled, first held in the United States in 1968

special stage (auto racing) in rally driving, a timed competitive section of the rally

special team (American football) a group of players used for kickoffs, punts, and other special plays, as distinct from the regular offense and defense

spectator sport (general) a sport that is exciting and entertaining to watch as well as to play, such as American football or hurling

speed and endurance (equestrianism) the second day of a three-day event, consisting of a steeplechase, a cross-country obstacle course, and roads and tracks

speed bag (boxing) a small punchbag used for practicing quick punches

speed riding (skiing) an extreme sport in which the skier skis downhill until the wind inflates a wing on his back, allowing him to fly over obstacles

speed skating (ice skating) a form of the sport in which two or more skaters race on an oval track

speed walking (athletics) another term for race walking

speedball (boxing) a type of small fast punchball; (sport) a field game, played between teams of 11 players, that grew out of association football and that resembles Gaelic football in that the ball can be handled

speedway (motorcycle racing) a form of the sport in which riders on bikes with fixed gears and no brakes race several laps around an oval shale track in a stadium

speleology (sport) a formal term for caving

spell (cricket) a number of overs bowled successively by a particular bowler

spelunker (caving) colloquial term for a caver [whose sport or pastime is speleology]

spairistike (sport) the name under which lawn tennis was patented in 1874 and by which it was quite widely known for a time [Greek spairistike techne, "the art of playing ball”]

spider (billiards, snooker) a rest with wide arches that can be placed over a ball without touching it; (darts) the wire grid fixed to the front of a dartboard that shows the score numbers

Spiders (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Queen’s Park [from the black and white hoops on the team’s shirts, which suggest a spider’s web]

spike (American football) to throw the ball forcefully to the ground, as when celebrating a touchdown; (volleyball) a forceful downward hit of the ball into the opposing team’s court

spikes (athletics) running shoes with spiked soles

spin (general) (1) a twisting motion imparted to a ball, as by a spin bowler in cricket; (2) a rapid rotation of the body, as in ice skating; (horse racing) another term for a race

spin bowler (cricket) a slow bowler who imparts spin to a ball by means of his wrist or fingers, so that it deviates after pitching

spinach (golf) alternate term for cabbage

sprinter (sailing) a three-cornered lightweight sail, set forward of or opposite the mainmast to increase sail area when running before the wind

spinner (angling) an artificial fly that revolves when pulled through the water; (cricket) (1) another term for a spin bowler; (2) a ball that has had spin imparted to it

spinning (angling) fishing with a spinner

spinout (auto racing) a spinning skid that throws a car off the road or track

spiral (American football) a kick or pass that causes a ball to spin around its long axis

Spires (association football) nickname of the English club Chesterfield [from the unusual twisted spire of the town’s parish church]

spitball (baseball) the swerving pitch of a ball moistened with saliva or spit

SPL (association football) abbreviation of Scottish Premier League

splice (cricket) the wedge-shaped part of the handle of a bat that fits into the blade

split (croquet) shortening of split shot; (general) the time taken to complete a particular part of a race; (horse racing) the widening gap between two horses running side by side in a race that is entered by a following rider; (tenpin bowling) a leave situation in which the remaining pins are widely spaced; (weightlifting) the action of thrusting forward with one foot and back with the other during a lift

split decision (boxing) a decision made by a majority of the judges but not by all of them

split end (American football) an offensive player lined up a few yards from the end of the line of scrimmage so that he can immediately run downfield to catch passes

split-finger pitch (baseball) another term for a splitter

split jump (ice skating) a jump in which the legs are briefly kicked out into the splits position

split roll (croquet) another term for a split shot

split shot (croquet) a stroke that drives two touching balls in different directions

splits (gymnastics) the action of lowering the body to the floor or a piece of apparatus with the legs extended to either side or one forward and one back
splitter (baseball) a fastball thrown with fingers apart, giving it a late downward movement
spoon (angling) an artificial bait in the form of the bowl of a spoon, used in spinning or trolling; (cricket) a weak hit which sends the ball high in the air; (golf) an old-fashioned club with a slightly hollowed face, corresponding to a 3-wood; (surfing) the slight upward slope of a surfboard
spoonbait (angling) formal term for a spoon
sport fishing (angling) a name for the sport that distinguishes it from commercial fishing
sport of kings (sport) a byname for horse racing [a sport long patronized by royalty]
sportfish (angling) a fish caught for sport rather than as food
sports car (auto racing) a specially designed high-performance car built for highway driving
sports day (general) a meeting at a school or college for contests in various sports
sports ground (general) an area with equipment and facilities for sports
sports injury (general) an injury suffered as a result of participation in a sport
sports medicine (general) the branch of medicine concerned with the treatment of sports injuries and the assessment and improvement of the health of those involved in sport
sports writer (general) a person such as a reporter or columnist who writes regularly on sport
sportscast (general) a broadcast about sport
sportscaster (general) (1) a presenter of sports programs on radio or television; (2) a sports commentator
sportsman (general) a person who practices or is skilled in sport
sportsmanship (general) the performance or practice of a sportsman, especially one showing fairness and good humor
sportsperson (general) a person of either sex who practices or is skilled in sport
sportswoman (general) a woman who practices or is skilled in sport
spot (billiards) (1) one of the three marked points on the billiard table (billiard spot, center spot, pyramid spot) on which the balls are placed at certain stages in the game; (2) shortening of spot white; (greyhound racing) one hundredth of a second as a timing unit; (snooker) one of the six marked points on the billiard table on which the colors are placed at the start of a frame and to which they are returned (so long as there are still reds on the table) after being sent into a pocket
spot ball (billiards) another term for the spot white
spot-barred (billiards) bound to the rule that the spot stroke may not be played more than twice consecutively
spot kick (association football) a kick made from the penalty spot
spot stroke (billiards) a stroke by which a player pots the red from the spot, leaving his own ball in place to repeat the stroke
spot white (billiards) the white cue ball that has two small black spots on it to differentiate it from the plain ball
spotter (archery) a person appointed to identify the score of an archer; (gymnastics, trampolining) a person stationed to prevent a possible accident
spray deck (canoeing) a waterproof cockpit cover worn around the waist by a kayaker and attached to the coaming to prevent water entering the kayak
spray skirt (canoeing) another term for a spray deck
spread (general) a term used in betting for the number of points or goals by which a stronger team may be expected to beat a weaker team in a match
spread a plate (horse racing) to lose a shoe or plate during (or before) a race
spreadeagle (ice skating) a maneuver performed on the outside edges or inside edges of both skates in which the skates point in opposite directions; (skiing) an aerial maneuver in which the skier extends his arms and legs to the side while keeping the skis parallel and perpendicular to his body
spring double (horse racing) a bet on the Lincoln Handicap and Grand National, both races run in the spring
springboard (gymnastics) a flexible board used by a gymnast to take off when executing a vault; (swimming) a flexible diving board
Springboks (rugby union) nickname of the South African national team [from the agile antelope native to South Africa that is the team’s emblem]
springer (horse racing) a horse on which the betting odds suddenly shorten
spring (athletics) a 100 meters, 200 meters, or 400 meters race; (cycling) a track race ridden over 1km by individuals against one or two opponents; (general) (1) a short spell or burst of forward motion, as in running, rowing, or cycling; (2) a short race; (horse racing) a short race of five or six furlongs on the flat
spring car (auto racing) a fast racecar used for racing over short distances
spring hurdles (athletics) the 100-meter hurdles or 110-meter hurdles
sprinter (cycling) a cyclist whose specialty is the sprint
sprinters’ lane (cycling) the inner lane of a track in a velodrome, between the pole line and the sprinters’ line
sprinters' line (cycling) the red line on a track in a velodrome, between the stayers' line and the pole line, used by riders to overtake the lead rider
sprit (sailing) a spar set diagonally to extend a fore-and-aft sail
Spurs (association football) short name of the English club Tottenham Hotspur; (basketball) short name of the San Antonio Spurs team
spurt (general) a sudden increase of speed or energy, as in a sprint
squad (general) (1) a group of players trained in readiness to form a team; (2) the team itself
squad number (association football) the number on a player's shirt that identifies him and that originally indicated his playing position
square (association football) in a line across the pitch at right angles to the direction of play; (cricket) (1) the close-cut, rectangular area in the center of the ground on which the wickets are prepared; (2) at right angles to the wicket
square cut (cricket) a cut hit square on the off side
square drive (cricket) a drive hit square on the off side
square hit (cricket) a hit to square leg
square leg (cricket) a fielding position on the leg side in a line with the popping crease
square leg umpire (cricket) the umpire at square leg, who answers appeals for run out and stumped, as against the umpire who stands behind the wicket of the bowler
square-rigged (sailing) with square sails placed at right angles to the length of the boat
square-rigger (sailing) a square-rigged boat
squash (sport) a game played by two or four players with a small rubber ball that is struck with a racket against the walls of an enclosed court [the ball squashes on impact]
squash rackets (sport) the formal name of squash
squash tennis (sport) a game for two players similar to squash but played with an inflated ball and larger rackets
squat (gymnastics) shortening of squat thrust; (weightlifting) a lift in which the competitor squats with a barbell across his shoulders then rises again
squat rack (weightlifting) a pair of posts with a support that holds a barbell at a convenient height for a squat
squat thrust (gymnastics) a move in which the gymnast thrusts his legs back to their full extent from a squatting position while supporting his weight on his hands
squatter (cricket) another term for a shooter
squeaker (general) colloquial term for a shooter
squeeze (baseball) shortening of squeeze play
squeeze play (baseball) a tactic in which a batter uses a bunt so that a runner at third base can attempt to reach home plate safely
squib (American football) a kickoff with a short kick
squid (octopus) the circular lead disk used as a puck in the game
st (cricket) abbreviation of stumped in scoring
stab (billiards, snooker) a short sharp stroke that makes the ball stop dead or travel slowly after making contact with the object ball
stab stroke (billiards, snooker) fuller term for a stab
stabilizer (archery) a device attached to the bow to increase stability during a shot
stable (horse racing) (1) an establishment where racehorses are kept and trained; (2) the horses belonging to a single trainer; (3) an establishment in which a group of wrestlers live and receive training
stable lad (horse racing) a man or boy employed to look after horses at a stable, one of his jobs at the racecourse being to lead a horse around the parade ring
stable lass (horse racing) a woman or girl employed to look after horses at a stable
Stableford (golf) a competition in which points are awarded for scores achieved on each hole, the player's handicap and the stroke index being used to help calculate the points [named for its inventor in 1931, English physician Frank Stableford (1870–1959)]
stablemate (horse racing) a horse from the same stable as another
Stade (rugby union) short name of the French club Stade Français [French stade, "stadium"]
stadium (general) a sports ground or arena with rows of seats or stands for spectators [Latin stadium, "racecourse," from Greek stasion, "running track for foot races," originally a unit of length in ancient Greece equivalent to 6063/4 ft (184 m), the most noted track or course at Olympia being of this length]
Stadium of Light (association football) (1) the stadium of the English club Sunderland, built in 1997 [named from the lamps formerly worn by local miners]; (2) English name of the Estádio da Luz, the stadium of the Portuguese club Benfica, Lisbon, built in 1954 [translated as if "stadium of light" but really named for its location in the suburb of Luz]
stag leap (ice skating) a leaping jump performed with the leading leg tucked under the body and the trailing leg kicked out straight behind
stage (general) one of the timed sections into which a long-distance race or rally is divided
stage race (cycling) a race in stages, usually as a series of road races ridden on successive days
stage rally (auto racing) in rally driving, a rally in stages, usually ridden over several days
staggered start (athletics) the start to a race in which the athletes are spaced at intervals along the track to compensate for the curve of the bend; (general) a race in which competitors leave the start at timed intervals
Stags (association football) nickname of the English club Mansfield Town [apparently from the animal on the town’s former coat of arms, denoting its proximity to Sherwood Forest]
stake (horse racing) the money wagered on a bet
stake and rider fence (horse racing) a fence made of stakes with a top bar
stake boat (rowing, sailing) a boat anchored to mark the start or course of a race
stakes (greyhound racing, horse racing) (1) money staked or contributed as a prize in a race; (2) the race itself
Stalder (gymnastics) in the horizontal bar and asymmetric bars, a 360-degree swing around the bar in a straddle pike position [first performed by the Swiss gymnast Josef Stalder]
stallion (horse racing) a male horse kept for breeding
Stallions (Canadian football) short name of the Baltimore Stallions team
stalls (horse racing) shortening of starting stalls
Stamford Bridge (association football) the home ground of Chelsea football club, London
Stampeder (Canadian football) short name of the Calgary Stampeders team
stance (boxing) the position adopted by a boxer in readiness to land or receive punches; (cricket) the position adopted by a batsman in front of the wicket as he holds his bat in readiness for a ball from the bowler; (golf) the position of a player’s feet when making a stroke
stand (cricket) another term for a partnership; (general) a raised structure with sitting or standing accommodation for spectators at a match or on a racecourse
stand down (general) to withdraw from a game, match, or race
stand still (cycling) to stop altogether in a sprint as a tactical maneuver to avoid taking the lead before the climax of the race
stand-up (boxing) a fight in which the contestants stand up fairly to each other without any special moves or maneuvers
standard (horse racing) a category of going
standardbred (horse racing) a breed of horse developed as trotters and pacers in harness racing [they are bred to attain a minimum standard speed]
standing (general) a current ranking in a grade scale
standing count (boxing) a count of eight taken by a boxer who although not knocked down appears unable to continue fighting
standing shot (handball) a shot taken from a stationary position
standoff (rugby league, rugby union) shortening of standoff half; (rugby union) another term for a fly half
standoff half (rugby league, rugby union) a back who stands next to the scrum half and links play with the three-quarters
stands (general) another term for a stand, especially where extensive or arranged in sections
Stanley Cup (ice hockey) the cup awarded annually since 1893 to the winner of the world professional championships [donated by Frederick Arthur Stanley, Lord Stanley of Preston (1841–1908), governor general of Canada]
stanza (general) a half or other period of a game
Star (sailing) a class of double-handed keelboat
star drag (angling) an adjustable tension device in a reel [so called for its star-shaped nut]
star jump (gymnastics) a jump in which the arms and legs are thrust out to give a star shape
starboard (sailing) the right side of a boat when facing forward
Stars (ice hockey) short name of the Dallas Stars team
start (general) (1) the beginning of a sporting contest; (2) the point where a race begins
start hut (skiing) the small building from which skiers start in a downhill race or slalom
start straight (auto racing) the straight section of track where the grid is and where races start
starter (baseball) shortening of starting pitcher; (general) (1) the official who gives the signal for the start of a race or other contest; (2) one of the competitors assembled for the start of a race; (golf) a member of the pro shop staff who marshals the players starting the first hole; (horse racing) one of the horses assembled for the start of a race
starting block (athletics) a device for helping a sprinter make a quick start to a race, in the form of a framework with wood or metal blocks attached, on which the sprinter braces his feet; (cycling) a device that holds the rear wheel of a bicycle at the start of track race, releasing the wheel when the start is signaled
starting box (greyhound racing) the boxlike stall from which a greyhound is released at the beginning of a race
starting gate (horse racing) the mechanical barrier behind which the horses are held in their stalls before the start of a race and which opens to release them simultaneously; (motorcycle racing) in motocross, the board across the starting area
that drops down to start the race; (skiing) the point from which skiers start their run in downhill racing
starting grid (auto racing) fuller term for a grid
starting gun (general) another term for a starting pistol
starting line (general) a line marking the start of a race
starting pistol (general) a small pistol used to give the signal for the start of a race
starting pitcher (baseball) the pitcher who initiates play in a game
starting post (general) a post marking the starting point of a race
starting price (horse racing) the odds on a horse at the start of a race
starting signal (general) the signal given to competitors to begin a race
starting stalls (horse racing) the stalls with starting gates in which the horses are held before the start of a race
start line (general) another term for a starting line
State of Origin series (rugby league) a series of annual matches played since 1980 between the Australian states of Queensland and New South Wales
station (rowing) the position on one or other side of a river occupied by the crew of an eight at the start of a boat race [the crews in the Boat Race start from the Middlesex station and Surrey station, named for their historic counties on the respective north and south banks of the Thames River]
Statue of Liberty (American football) a play in which the quarterback holds the ball up as if to throw it while a back circles behind to take it from him and then attempt to advance it by rushing
stay all day (horse racing) to consistently maintain speed and stamina in a race
stay on (horse racing) of a racehorse, to give of its best toward the end of a race
stayer (horse racing) a horse that does not tire as quickly as others in a race
stayers’ line (cycling) the blue outermost line on a track in a velodrome used by riders in a madison to ease up and ride slowly between efforts
steady (cricket) (of) a batsman who is reliable and does not take risks
steal (baseball) to gain a base without the help of a hit or error by running to it without being tagged out; (basketball) to take possession of the ball from an opponent; (golf) to play a long putt with a delicate stroke that sends the ball into the hole
steamer (horse racing) a horse whose odds shorten rapidly because a large sum of money has been unexpectedly staked on it
steam (golf) a short shot or putt that passes over or through the green
Steelers (American football) short name of the Pittsburgh Steelers team
Steelmen (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Motherwell [from the town’s former noted steel industry]
steep (baseball) to gain a base without the help of a hit or error by running to it without being tagged out; (basketball) to take possession of the ball from an opponent; (golf) to play a long putt with a delicate stroke that sends the ball into the hole
steep (cricket) (of) a batsman who is reliable and does not take risks
steep (skiing) to gain a base without the help of a hit or error by running to it without being tagged out; (basketball) to take possession of the ball from an opponent; (golf) to play a long putt with a delicate stroke that sends the ball into the hole
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step (athletics) the second phase of the triple jump; (fives) in Eton fives, the shallow step that divides the court into an inner and outer part
step up (horse racing) a “promotion” to a race with a greater distance
stepover (association football) a move in which a player aims to throw an opponent off balance by stepping over the ball without actually kicking it
stepover turn (water skiing) a maneuver executed on one or two skis in which the skier lifts a ski over the tow rope while executing a 180-degree turn
stern (rowing, sailing) the rear part of a boat
steward (auto racing) a senior official who makes decisions about the running of a race, including the awarding of penalties; (horse racing) an official who supervises arrangements on a racecourse and sees that the rules of the sport are upheld
Stewards’ Challenge Cup (rowing) the cup awarded to the winner of a race for coxless fours at Henley Royal Regatta, inaugurated in 1841
Stewards’ Cup (horse racing) a famous annual sprint at Goodwood
stewards’ inquiry (horse racing) an investigation by stewards into the conduct of a race in cases where a contravention of the rules is suspected, the result being signaled by the hoisting of flags on the racecourse

stick (athletics) colloquial term for the baton in a relay race; (general) (1) the implement with which the ball is struck in field hockey, ice hockey, and rounders; (2) the implement with which the ball is struck in some regional or improvised games such as trapball and knur and spell; (gymnastics) to make a perfect landing, without any movement of the feet; (polo) another term for a mallet; (skiing) shortening of ski stick; (surfing) colloquial term for a surfboard

stick up (cricket) to put a batsman on the defensive

stickball (sport) a form of baseball or lacrosse adapted to playing in a small area, often with a makeshift stick and nonstandard ball

sticker (cricket) a batsman who plays slowly and carefully and who is hard to dismiss

stickhandling (general) the controlling of a ball or puck in a game played with a stick

stickout (general) colloquial term for an excellent sports player or performer

sticks (association football) colloquial term for the goalposts; (cricket) colloquial term for the wicket (with its three stumps); (field hockey) a foul committed by raising the stick above the shoulder when swinging it back to play the ball; (horse racing) the hurdles in a steeplechase

stickwork (general) another term for stickhandling

sticky dog (cricket) another term for a sticky wicket

sticky wicket (cricket) a wicket made soft and sticky by rain [a condition less common than formerly thanks to the use of covers]

stiff (general) a competitor who is sure to fail; (golf) another term for stone dead; (horse racing) a horse that is certain not to win

stiff-arm (American football, rugby league, rugby union) to fend off an opponent with the arm straight

stiff track (horse racing) a physically demanding course, as one with a long home straight or an uphill finish, as at Cheltenham

still-ball game (general) a game such as golf or snooker in which the ball is always still when being played

stimp meter (golf) a device that measures the speed of a green by rolling a golf ball down a ramp at a standard initial velocity and measuring how far it travels [named for its U.S. inventor, Edward Stimpson (died 1985)]

stock bowler (cricket) a dependable but unenterprising bowler

stockcar (auto racing) a car with a basically standard chassis that has been specially modified and strengthened for use in stockcar racing

stockcar racing (auto racing) a race between stockcars in which the cars are often damaged and even destroyed in collisions

stocker (auto racing) colloquial term for a stockcar or its driver

stomach roll (athletics) a form of high jump in which the athlete clears the bar stomach down

stone (curling) the heavy smooth stone with a handle at the top that players send over the ice

stone dead (golf) (of) a ball that is so near the hole that a putt seems a mere formality

stonewall (cricket) to bat extremely defensively

stonewaller (cricket) a batsman who stonewalls

stockball (sport) a game resembling cricket, now played mainly by children, in which a hard ball is bowled underarm at a wicket defended by a player with a bat

Stoop (rugby union) the home ground of the game at Twickenham [in full Stoop Memorial Ground, named commemoratively for Adrian Stoop, an England back]

stopball (sport) a game resembling baseball, in which the ball is thrown against a stoop (a set of steps leading to the front door of a house) instead of to a batter

stop (boxing) (1) a guard or attack that prevents a punch from landing on its mark; (2) to defeat an opponent with a knockout; (cricket) shortening of longstop; (horse racing) to slow down (but not actually stop) in a race

stop-go penalty (auto racing) a penalty imposed for exceeding the speed limit in the pit lane, obliging the driver to return to the lane and remain stationary for a stated period of time (10 seconds in Formula One) before rejoining the race

stop hit (fencing) a thrust made at the precise moment the opponent prepares for his own thrust

stop shot (croquet) a croquet shot that sends the croqueted ball as far as possible in relation to the striker’s ball

stop thrust (fencing) another term for a stop hit

stop volley (tennis) a blocked volley, played close to the net, causing the ball to drop dead on the other side

stoppage time (association football) time added on to the regulation time (90 minutes) for a game to make up for time lost through injury or other interruptions

stopper (association football) a defender noted for his ability to block attacks on goal; (baseball) (1) a pitching ace relied on to win a game or re-
verse a losing streak; (2) a relief pitcher who prevents the opposing team from scoring highly

Stow (association football) short name of the English club Walthamstow

straddle (archery, shooting) a combination of one shot beyond the mark and one short of it; (athletics) a style of high jump in which the athlete clears the bar horizontally and face down, with his legs straddled either side; (gymnastics) a position with the legs spread far apart to the side, as assumed in a vault or when dismounting from apparatus

straight (general) a straight section of a track or course

straight-arm (rugby league, rugby union) (of) a tackle with the arms extended straight

straight bat (cricket) a bat held so as not to deviate to either side

straight bet (horse racing) a bet that backs a horse to win

straight drive (cricket) a drive in which the batsman hits the ball back down the pitch toward (or past) the bowler

straight games (tennis) a series of games won in succession

straight pool (pool) a variant of eight-ball pool in which any object ball can be pocketed in any order

straight red (association football) a red card shown to a player for a serious offense, entitling the referee to send off the offender immediately

straight sets (tennis) a run of sets won in succession

straight tip (horse racing) a tip for a bet that comes straight from an owner or trainer

straightaway (auto racing, horse racing) another term for a straight

strangle (horse racing) to hold back a horse from winning by pulling hard on the reins

stranglehold (judo, wrestling) another term for a choke hold

Stratford-on-Avon (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire, England

strawweight (boxing) the professional weight category of under 48kg (105lb)

streaker (general) a spectator who runs naked across the pitch during a match

streamer (angling) an artificial fly with feathers attached, resembling a small fish

street circuit (auto racing) a circuit laid out with temporary walls for a street race

street hockey (roller skating) a type of field hockey played on roller skates, originally in the street

street race (auto racing) a race with a circuit over the streets of a city, rather than on a special track, as for the European Grand Prix in Valen-

cia, Spain, or the Singapore Grand Prix in Singapore

stretch (baseball) a pitching stance that is more upright than a wind-up, used when a baserunner is likely to steal a base; (general) another term for a straight [the words straight and stretch are related in origin]

stretcher (rowing) an adjustable support for the feet of the rowers; (wrestling) a bout with no rounds, timeouts, or breaks for injury [it ends when one of the contestants leaves the ring on a stretcher]

stride (horse racing) (1) an act of forward movement by a horse, completed when its feet have returned to their original position; (2) a horse’s regular movement in a race

strike (American football) a forward pass straight to a receiver; (angling) a sudden jerk of the line to impale the hook in the mouth of a fish; (association football) another term for a shot; (baseball) (1) a ball thrown by the pitcher into the strike zone; (2) a ball at which the batter swings and misses; (cricket) the position of a batsman ready to receive the next ball from the bowler; (rugby league, rugby union) an attempt to hook the ball from the scrum; (tenpin bowling) the knocking down of all of the pins with the first ball bowled

strike out (baseball) to dismiss or be dismissed from a game by means of three strikes

strike zone (baseball) the area above home plate extending from the knees of the batter to the middle of his torso, as a target for the pitcher to aim at

striker (association football) an attacking player whose main role is to score goals; (cricket) the batsman facing the bowling; (general) a player who hits the ball

striker’s ball (croquet) the ball played at the start of a turn

striking circle (field hockey) another term for the shooting circle

string (archery) the cord of a bow; (billiards) (1) the beads hung on a wire that serve to keep the score; (2) to decide the order of play by striking the cue ball from balk to rebound off the top cushion, the first stroke going to the player whose ball comes to rest nearer the bottom cushion; (horse racing) (1) the horses belonging to a particular yard or stable; (2) a single file of horses led out for morning exercise

strip (cricket) colloquial term for the pitch; (general) (1) to take off one’s normal clothing in preparation for a contest; (2) the distinctive clothing worn by members of a sports team, typically in the colors of their club

strip fitter (horse racing) to be revealed as a horse
in good physical shape when its blankets are taken off just before a race
stripe ball (polo) a ball with a broad colored stripe and a number on it
stroke (general) to hit or kick the ball smoothly and carefully; (golf) a hit of the ball that serves as a unit of scoring; (rowing) (1) the complete single movement of the oars in and out of the water; (2) the rower who sits nearest the stern of the boat and whose stroke sets the time for the rest of the rowers; (squash) a point awarded to a player who has been deliberately obstructed; (swimming) a particular set of movements of the arms and legs, appropriate for the position of the body, that propel a swimmer through the water
stroke index (golf) a measure of the relative difficulty of the holes on a course
stroke oar (rowing) fuller term for the stroke
strokeless (cricket) unable to play strokes freely because of the style of bowling
strokemaker (cricket) a batsman who plays well-executed attacking strokes
strokeplay (cricket, tennis) the playing of a range of well-executed strokes; (golf) a method of scoring by counting the number of strokes played rather than the number of holes won
stroke side (rowing) the right side of the boat as viewed by the rowers
stroll (baseball) another term for a base on balls; (general) another term for a walkover
strong safety (American football) a defensive back positioned opposite the strong side that usually covers the tight end
strong side (American football) the side of a standard offensive formation on which the tight end lines up
stud (horse racing) (1) a male horse used for breeding; (2) a horse-breeding establishment
studbook (horse racing) a record of horses’ pedigrees
stuff (basketball) to throw or slam the ball down through the basket
stump (cricket) (1) one of the three small posts which, together with the bails, form the wicket; (2) as a wicketkeeper, to dismiss a batsman who is out of his ground by dislodging a bail or by knocking down a stump while holding the ball
stumped (cricket) dismissed from a game because stumped by the wicketkeeper
stumps (cricket) (1) another term for the wicket; (2) the end of a game, when it is time to draw stumps
stun (snooker) to check the forward momentum of the cue ball by imparting a small amount of backspin to it
stun and be gone (boxing) another term for punch and retreat
style jumping (parachuting) a jump in which a series of predetermined maneuvers are carried out while in free fall
stymie (golf) a situation on the green in which an opponent’s ball blocks the way to the hole (an impasse overcome by a rule of 1951 which allowed the obstructed ball to be lifted and its position marked) [origin obscure]
sub (general) colloquial shortening of substitute
subaqua (aquatics) the sport or recreation of underwater swimming or diving using an aqualung or similar apparatus
submission (wrestling) the surrender of a competitor to a hold
subsidiary goal (polo) a goal scored by sending the ball into a space to the side of each goalpost
substitute (general) a player who replaces a teammate during a match, either as a tactical move or as the result of injury or sickness
subway alumni (American football) city-dwelling supporters of a college football team who are not graduates (alumni) of the college in question
sucker (golf) a ball embedded in mud which can be lifted without penalty
sucker punch (boxing) a punch that takes advantage of an opponent’s momentary lack of concentration
sudden death (general) (1) an extra period of play to settle a tie, ending when one of the competitors scores; (2) a game or match shortened from its usual duration by a time limit
Sugar Bowl (American football) a postseason college football contest held annually (from 1935) at New Orleans, Louisiana, where it was conceived in 1927
sugarbag (wrestling) to toss an opponent onto the canvas [as if he were a bag of sugar]
suicide squad (American football) the team who defend the player who took the kickoff [so called as subjecting themselves to a continuing onslaught from their opponents]
suicide squeeze (baseball) a tactical maneuver in which a baserunner at third base begins to run toward home plate as soon as the pitcher begins to throw the ball
sulky (horse racing) a light two-wheeled vehicle used in harness racing
sumi-gaeshi (judo) a move in which one of the contestants falls to the mat and throws his opponent over his left shoulder [Japanese sumi, “corner,” and kaeshi, “overturning”]
Summer Eights (rowing) another name for Eights Week
Summer Olympics (Olympics) a name sometimes used for the main Olympic Games to distinguish them from the Winter Olympics
sumo (sport) a Japanese form of wrestling in which the aim is to force an opponent out of the ring or force him to touch the ground within it with any part of the body other than the soles of the feet [Japanese sumo]

sumo wrestling (sport) fuller name of sumo

sumotori (sumo) another term for a rikishi [combination of sumo and tori]

Sunday League (cricket) the name of the Pro40 League until 2007

Suns (basketball) short name of the Phoenix Suns team

super bantamweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 69kg (130lb)

Super Bowl (American football) the annual championship of the National Football League, played since 1976 between the respective champions of the National Football Conference and American Football Conference

super featherweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 63.5kg (140lb)

Super 14 (rugby union) a competition established in 1996 for the 14 (originally 12) leading state and provincial teams in Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa

super G (skiing) an event combining downhill and giant slalom [G for giant (slalom)]

super heavyweight (boxing) the amateur weight category of above 91kg (201lb)

Super League (rugby league) an annual competition held since 1996 between the top six teams in the league

super lightweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 63.5kg (140lb)

super middleweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 76kg (168lb)

super over (cricket) an extra over added to settle the score after a match ends in a tie

Super Saturday (general) nickname for a key contest held on a Saturday, as the men's semifinals in the U.S. Open on Saturday, September 12, 2009, the day before the finals

super special stage (auto racing) in rally driving, a short special stage with two parallel tracks

Super Sunday (general) nickname for a key contest held on a Sunday, as on Sunday, November 29, 2009, when in association football there was a double header in two Premier League derbies: Arsenal v. Chelsea and Everton v. Liverpool

super welterweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 70kg (154lb)

supercross (motorcycle racing) the racing of motocross bikes in a stadium on a temporary dirt or sand track with obstacles such as jumps

superspeedway (auto racing) in NASCAR and Indy racing, a track over a mile long

supersub (association football) a player who often scores as a substitute [shortening of supersubstitute]

suplex (wrestling) a hold in which the opponent is grasped around the waist from behind and thrown [apparently Latin supplex, “suppliant”]

supplement (horse racing) to pay a supplementary fee

supplementary fee (horse racing) a (high) fee paid on top of an entry fee to enter a horse late in a race

supporter (general) a person who maintains a loyal interest in the fortunes of a club and who regularly attends their matches, in many cases wearing their colors

surf (surfing) shortening of surf riding

surf bum (surfing) an enthusiast who frequents beaches suitable for the sport

surf canoe (surfing) a canoe or kayak used for the sport

surf riding (sport) an older term for surfing

surface fishing (angling) a method of fishing that involves a cast of bait (rather than an artificial fly) that floats on the surface of the water

surfboard (surfing) the long narrow board used in the sport

surfer (surfing) (1) a person who participates in the sport; (2) shortening of windsurfer

surfie (surfing) a young unemployed person who spends a lot of time engaged in the sport

surfing (sport) the sport or recreation of riding breaking waves on a surfboard

Surflyn (golf) proprietary name of a tough thermoplastic resin used to cover golf balls

suspension (general) the temporary barring of a player from a game

sutemi-waza (judo) the technique of throwing from a lying position [Japanese sute-mi, “self-abandonment,” and waza, “art,” referring to the thrower’s sacrifice of an upright posture]

downhill surfing (surfing) made with the arms outstretched to the sides [like the wings of a swallow]

swallow dive (swimming) another term for a swallow dive [with arms like the wings of a swan]
Swans • synchronized

**Swans** *(association football)* short name of the Welsh club Swansea City; *(Australian Rules)* short name of the Sydney Swans team

**Swaythling Cup** *(table tennis)* the cup awarded since 1926 to the winner of the world men’s team championship [presented by Lady Swaythling, later president of the English Table Tennis Association]

**sweat (horse racing)** a training run given to a horse before a race

**sweat serve** *(table tennis)* an illegal serve in which the ball has been deliberately coated in sweat by the server, making it difficult to return

**sweatband** *(tennis)* an absorbent wristlet worn to prevent sweat running down to a player’s hands

**Swedish fall** *(gymnastics)* a move in floor exercises in which the gymnast drops straight to the ground, his hands shooting out for support at the last moment

**sweep** *(cricket)* a stroke in which the batsman goes down on one knee to play the ball to the leg side with a horizontal bat; *(general)* victory in all of the games in a contest by a team or competitor

**sweep rowing** *(rowing)* rowing with only one oar, worked with both hands

**sweeper** *(association football)* a player who plays behind the defenders but who does not mark any opponent [he “sweeps up” any problems if the line of defenders is breached]; *(cricket)* a fielder positioned on the boundary in front of square to stop balls hit through the infield; *(cycling, motorcycle racing)* the negotiation of a bend or turn with a controlled sideways skid of the rear wheel

**sweepstake** *(horse racing)* a race in which the competitors’ stakes are taken by the winner or winners

**sweet science** *(sport)* a byname for boxing

**sweet spot** *(cricket)* the area on the face of the bat where the ball bowled by the bowler should ideally make contact for a good stroke; *(golf)* the spot on the clubface where the ball should ideally make contact for best effect and control; *(tennis)* the point on the face of a racket where the ball should ideally make contact for a good return

**swerve** *(baseball)* a ball that deviates in flight from the spin imparted to it by the pitcher; *(cricket)* a ball that deviates in flight from the spin imparted to it by the bowler

**swim** *(angling)* a stretch of river fished by a particular angler

**swim the stream** *(angling)* to send bait along the course of a swim by means of float tackle

**swimathon** *(swimming)* a long-distance swimming race

**swimmer** *(swimming)* a person who takes part in swimming or diving

**swimming** *(sport)* the competitive sport or leisure activity of propelling one’s body through the water, which may be entered by a dive

**swimming pool** *(swimming)* an indoor or outdoor pool designed for swimming

**swimpool** *(swimming)* another term for a swimming pool

**swing** *(boxing)* a punch made with a sweep of the arm; *(cricket)* a curving deviation of the ball in its path through the air after its delivery by the bowler; *(golf)* the curving path of a golf club as a player makes a stroke, first moving up and back from the ball then down and through to strike it; *(gymnastics)* a rotation of the body on a piece of apparatus such as the asymmetric bars, horizontal bar, parallel bars, pommel horse, or rings

**swing bowler** *(cricket)* a bowler who imparts a swing to the ball

**swing pass** *(American football)* a short pass to a back running to the outside

**swinger** *(cricket)* a ball from the bowler that travels with a swing

**swingman** *(general)* a versatile player, who can play in different positions

**swingtime** *(trampolining)* a movement performed immediately after another, with no free bounce in between

**swish** *(basketball)* a shot that drops the ball cleanly into the basket; *(cricket)* colloquial term for a careless attacking stroke

**Swiss ball** *(general)* a large inflatable plastic ball used in fitness exercises

**switch** *(horse racing)* to race a horse under the name of another horse

**switch hitter** *(baseball, cricket)* a player who can bat equally well right-handed or left-handed

**switchfoot** *(surfing)* a surfer who can ride the board with either foot forward

**swivel** *(angling)* a device that prevents rotary action of the bait in the water from twisting or kinking of the line

**swivel hips** *(trampolining)* a seat drop followed by a half twist into another seat drop

**SW19** *(tennis)* a byname of the courts at Wimbledon [the local London postcode]

**swordplay** *(sport)* another term for fencing

**synchro** *(swimming)* shortening of synchronized swimming

**synchronized diving** *(swimming)* an event in which divers perform side by side

**synchronized skating** *(ice skating)* a discipline in which teams of skaters perform routines in formation

**synchronized swimming** *(swimming)* a form of
the sport in which groups of swimmers carry out gymnastic and balletic routines to music
syndicate (horse racing) a group of people who own a racehorse
T (basketball) abbreviation of technical foul; (squash) the T-shaped configuration formed by the juncture of the half-court line and the short line
T-car (auto racing) a team’s reserve car [originally known as the training car]
T-formation (American football) a T-shaped formation of offensive players, with the left halfback, fullback, and right halfback lined up parallel to the line of scrimmage and the quarterback in front of them directly behind the center
table (billiards, snooker) shortening of billiard table; (general) shortening of league table
table tennis (sport) a game like tennis played on a table, with players using a small rubber-coated ball to propel a hollow celluloid ball over a net strung across the table
tabletop (skiing) (1) a large jump constructed with a flat surface before it and a big drop after it; (2) a freestyle event using this jump
tac-au-tac (fencing) a combination of a parry and a riposte [French tac-au-tac, “clash for clash”]
tack (horse racing) a general term (from tackle) for riding harness, saddles, bridles, and the like; (riding harness) the course of a boat with respect to the side of the sail against which the wind is blowing; (2) one of the port or starboard sections of a zigzag course made when sailing to windward
tack room (horse racing) a room in or near a stable where tack is kept
tackle (American football) (1) an offensive player positioned outside a guard on the line of scrimmage; (2) a defensive player positioned on the inside of the line of scrimmage; (3) the act of forcing the player with the ball to the ground; (angling) shortening of fishing tackle; (association football) an attempt to win the ball from an opponent by using the leg or foot; (Australian Rules) an attempt to stop an opponent; (field hockey) an attempt to take the ball from an opponent by using the stick; (rugby league) one of six attempts to move the ball up the field by running, passing, and kicking; (rugby union) the stopping of an opponent by using one’s arms to bring him down
tackler (general) a player who executes a tackle
tackling bag (American football, rugby league, rugby union) a suspended stuffed bag used for practicing tackles
tackling dummy (American football) another term for a tackling bag
tae kwon do (sport) a Korean martial art similar to karate but differing from it in its wide range of kicking techniques and the importance it attaches to different methods of breaking objects [Korean tae, “kick,” kwon, “fist,” and do, “way”]
tag (angling) a piece of brightly-colored wire or fabric tied to the tail of an artificial fly; (baseball) to put out a baserunner by touching him with the ball or with the hand holding the ball
tag team (wrestling) a team of wrestlers engaged in tag wrestling
tag wrestling (wrestling) a contest between two teams of two wrestlers in which only one wrestler from each team is in the ring at any one time and may be replaced by the wrestler outside the ring after touching (“tagging”) the latter’s hand
tagout (baseball) fuller term for a tag
t’ai chi (sport) a Chinese martial art centering on sequences of very slow controlled movements [Chinese t’ai, “greatest,” and ji, “limit”]
t’ai chi ch’uan (sport) fuller form of t’ai chi [Chinese quàn, “fist”]
tai-otoshi (judo) another term for a body drop [Japanese tai, “body,” and otoshi, “drop”]
tail (cricket) the weaker batsmen at the end of a team’s batting order
tail fly (angling) the fly at the end of the leader
tail shot (polo) the hitting of the ball behind and under the pony’s rump
tailback (American football) a running back who lines up behind a fullback
tailer (angling) a device with a metal loop for landing large fish such as salmon by the tail	
tailgate (general) to picnic around the trunk of one’s car outside a stadium before a match
take (cricket) (1) to catch the ball after it has been struck by the batsman (before it touches the ground); (2) to dismiss a batsman by catching the ball thus; (3) to dismiss a batsman by bowling a ball that hits his wicket; (rugby league, rugby union) an act of catching the ball
take a dive (boxing) to feign a knockout [by a dive to the canvas]
take a toss (equestrianism, horse racing) to fall from a horse
take a wicket (cricket) to dismiss a batsman with a bowled ball
take off (cricket) to replace a bowler after a spell
take strike (cricket) to prepare, as a batsman, to face the bowling
takeaway (golf) the initial movement of the club at the beginning of a backswing
takedown (wrestling) a move in which a standing wrestler throws his opponent to the ground
takeoff (croquet) a stroke in a croquet in which the striker’s ball goes further than the croqueted one; (general) (1) the moment when a person,
animal, or vehicle leaves the ground, water, or other surface in a jump, dive, or flight; (2) the point where this happens, as the end of the inrun in a ski jump
takeoff area (cricket) the area by the wicket where the bowler ends his run-up and releases the ball
takeout (bowls) a shot that knocks an opponent's bowl away from the jack; (curling) a shot that hits an opponent's stone and removes it from play
takeover zone (athletics) the section of track in which the baton must be passed in a relay race
Talbot Handicap (bowls) an annual competition in crown green bowls [first held in 1873 at the Talbot Hotel, Blackpool, Lancashire]
Tall Blacks (basketball) nickname of the New Zealand national men's team [referring to the players' height and strip color and punning on the name of the All Blacks]
Tall Ships Race (sailing) an international biennial race for high-masted square-riggers and fore-and-afters crewed partly by trainees and held over different courses since 1956
tally (baseball) a single run	tambour (real tennis) a projecting part of the main wall of the court on the hazard side [French tambour, "drum"]
tandem (cycling) a bicycle for two riders, one behind the other [punning use of Latin tandem, "at length"]
Tangerines (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Dundee United [from the orange color of the players' strip]
tank (tennis) to lose or fail to finish a match deliberately
tap (bowls) a shot in which a bowl makes light contact with another bowl that is touching the jack
tap-in (association football) a simple shot from a short distance into an undefended goal; (basketball) an act of striking the ball in the air with the hand so that it goes into the basket, typically following an unsuccessful shot
tap kick (rugby union) a light kick of the ball to restart play from a penalty, the same team retaining possession of the ball
tap penalty (rugby union) a penalty taken with a tap kick
tap tackle (rugby union) a tackle made by diving and touching the ankle of the player with the ball, so that he falls over
tap up (association football) to approach a player under contract to a club with the aim of persuading him to leave that club and move to another
tape (athletics) a strip of material stretched across the track at the finishing line of a foot race
tape-measure shot (baseball) a home run that travels far beyond the field of play
Targa Florio (auto racing) the trophy awarded to the winner of an annual time trial held in Sicily, Italy [Italian Targa Florio, “Florio Shield”]
target (archery, shooting) a mark to shoot at for practice or competition; (boxing, fencing) the part of an opponent's body to which an attack is directed
target archery (archery) a form of the sport in which competitors shoot at circular targets
target man (association football) a tall forward in a central position to whom a high pass can be made
target pin (archery) a mark on a bow used as a sight
tariff (gymnastics) the degree of difficulty of a vault
tartan (angling) an artificial fly used in salmon fishing
Tartan (athletics) proprietary name of a synthetic resin material used to lay all-weather running tracks
Tartan Army (association football) nickname of the supporters of Scotland's national team, especially when playing abroad
Tartans (association football) nickname of a Protestant youth gang in Northern Ireland, the traditional supporters of the Scottish club Glasgow Rangers
tatami (judo) the rectangular vinyl-coated foam mat on which contests take place [Japanese tatami]
Tattersalls (horse racing) (1) a leading auction house for thoroughbreds, based in Newmarket [founded in 1766 by Richard Tattersall (1724–1795)]; (2) an enclosure at a racecourse, with cheaper admission than the Members' Enclosure
tattoo (greyhound racing) an identification number on the inside of a registered greyhound's ear
Tatts (horse racing) colloquial abbreviation of Tattersalls
Taunton (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Taunton, Somerset, England
taxi squad (American football) players who train with a team but are not selected for matches [originally a nickname for a group of extra players which Arthur McBride, owner of the Cleveland Browns in the 1940s, kept on in the team by employing them in a taxi company which he owned]
tchoukball (sport) a game in which one team throws the ball against a highly sprung net and the other team tries to prevent it from landing when it rebounds, physical contact with other players being against the rules [from the sound of the ball hitting the net]
tea (cricket) the second meal break of the day during a match, regarded as a time point for the number of runs scored

team foul (basketball) a personal foul that counts toward a team’s permitted number of fouls in a period of play

team game (general) a (usually outdoor) game played by two teams in opposition

team handball (sport) the formal name for handball

team orders (auto racing) an agreement that applies when teams have more than one driver in a race, whereby drivers can allow another member of their team to win if they are leading themselves and their teammate is in second place

team pursuit (cycling) a track race ridden on the same principle as a pursuit race, but by teams of four instead of two individual riders

team race (sailing) a race in which two or more teams of evenly matched boats compete against one another

team roping (rodeo) a form of calf-roping involving two mounted competitors, one of whom heads off the calf, then throws and ties it after the other has lassoed it

team sport (general) another term for a team game

team sprint (cycling) a track race ridden in teams of three over three laps, with competing teams starting on opposite sides of the track

team tactics (horse racing) a prearranged agreement on a maneuver to favor a particular rider, as when one rider moves off the rails to let another through

team time trial (cycling) a time trial ridden by a team of riders

Team 2012 (Olympics) a collective name for all competitors in the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

teamsheet (cricket) a final list of the members of a team, exchanged with that of the opposing side before a match

teapot (cricket) colloquial term for a fielder who stands with hands on hips and fails to stop the ball [from the pose, suggesting the handle and spout of a teapot]

teaser (cricket) a ball that is difficult for the batsman to play

technical area (association football) an area marked by white lines at the side of the pitch to which managers, trainers, and substitutes are restricted during play

technical crew (auto racing) the team of mechanics and engineers who service and repair cars in the pit area during a race

technical foul (basketball) a foul awarded for a non-contact offense such as unsporting conduct

technical knockout (boxing) a decision by the referee that one of the combatants, although not losing to a physical knockout, is too badly beaten to continue the fight, so that his opponent is the winner

technical points (wrestling) points scored from moves other than falls

technical superiority (wrestling) a lead of ten points by one wrestler over the other, resulting in a win

Teddy Bears (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Rangers [rhyming slang for Gers in a local pronunciation]

tee (curling) the spot aimed at in the center of the house; (golf) (1) a small support for the ball, with a concave top, used when it is first played at each hole; (2) the place where this is done; (rugby union) shortening of kicking tee

tee box (golf) a box containing sand for filling divots made on the tee

tee marker (golf) a colored marker on the ground showing the forward limit of the tee

tee-off (golf) to start play with a shot from the tee

tee-off (golf) the strip of ground where tees are placed and where play begins at each hole

tee shot (golf) the first shot at a hole

tee time (golf) the moment when a golfer moves to tee off

tee up (golf) to place a ball on a tee ready for a shot

teeing ground (golf) a fuller term for the tee

teeline (curling) the line that passes through the tee across the width of the sheet

teesra (cricket) a ball similar to a doosra but with an extra bounce from the topspin but with the bowler [Hindi tisra, “third”]

telegraph (general) a large board displaying scores, results, or other information at a cricket match, race meeting, or the like

telemark (canoeing) a sudden turn made with the paddle; (skiing) a sudden turn on the outer of the two skis [first practiced by skiers in the Telemark region of southern Norway]

telemark position (skiing) the position adopted by a skier on landing in a ski jump, with one of the skis in front of the other

telemetry (auto racing) the system used to relay information on a car’s performance back to the technical crew in the pit area

telltale (squash) another term for the tin

1080 (wakeboarding) a triple spin [in which the body turns through 1080 degrees]

ten-foot rule (ice hockey) a rule that prohibits a player from standing within 10 feet of the two players engaged in a face-off

ten-man rugby (rugby union) a style of play in which the eight forwards and scrum half or fly half are dominant
ten strike (tenpin bowling) a throw that knocks down all ten pins

10,000 meters (athletics) a long-distance race of the stared distance run over 25 laps

tenikoi (tennis) another name for deck tennis [blend of respelled tennis and quoits]
tennis (sport) a game for two or four players played with racket and ball on a court, the aim being to gain points by hitting the ball over a net dividing the court in such a way that the opposing player or players cannot return it [probably from French tenez!, “take (it)!” “here you are!” as the call of the server to his opponent]
tenpin (tenpin bowling) one of the pins aimed at in the game

tenpin bowling (sport) an indoor game for individuals and teams similar to skittles, in which the aim is to knock down as many pins as possible by rolling a heavy ball down a lane at them
tenpins (sport) shortening of tenpin bowling

terminal speed (auto racing) in drag racing, the speed that is recorded as the racer crosses the finishing line

terraces (association football) the open areas rising in tiers around a stadium, where spectators stand

Terriers (association football) nickname of the English club Huddersfield Town

Terrors (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Dundee United

test (cricket) shortening of test match; (croquet, rugby league) an international match

test match (cricket) a five-day match played as one of a series between international teams, the first taking place between England and Australia in 1877 [so called as a test of which is the better team]
tester (cycling) a time trial specialist

testimonial (general) shortening of testimonial match

testimonial match (general) a match played to raise money for a player nearing retirement

tettrathlon (general) a scaled-down version of the modern pentathlon for younger competitors, comprising swimming, riding, running, and shooting [Greek tetra, “four,” and athlon, “contest”]

Texans (American football) short name of the Houston Texans team

Texas leaguer (baseball) a blooper that drops between an infielder and an outfielder, resulting in a base hit

Texas scramble (golf) an informal version of the game in which all of the players hit each shot from the same place, the best ball fixing the location of the next shot

Texas wedge (golf) a putter when used to putt from off the green [from the shots made on the dry, hard fairways of some Texas golf courses]

Thai boxing (boxing) a form of the sport practiced in Thailand, using not only gloved fists but feet, knees, and elbows

Thames Cup (rowing) the cup awarded since 1868 to the winner of a race for eights at Henley Royal Regatta [from the river on which Henley stands]
thermal (gliding) an ascending current of warm air, used by gliders to gain height

thermaling (gliding) the exploitation of thermals to gain altitude

thin (golf) to hit the ball too near the top so that it travels parallel to the ground but only just above it

third (curling) the member of the rink who plays third; (netball) one of the three equal areas (attacking third, center third, and defending third) into which the court is divided

third-ball attack (table tennis) a strategy intended to win the point on the third shot of the rally, with the server attempting a loop or smash as the return

third base (baseball) the third of the bases to which a player must run, located on the left-hand side of the infield as viewed from home plate

third baseman (baseball) the fielder stationed near third base

third half (rugby union) colloquial term for the invariable drinking session after a game [following the first half and second half]

third home (lacrosse) the attacking player who is the third of the three homes

third man (boxing) colloquial term for the referee; (cricket) a fielder positioned near the boundary on the off side behind the slips; (lacrosse) a defensive player whose role is to mark the third home of the opposing team; (polo) an official who sits on the sidelines and makes a final decision when the two mounted umpires are in disagreement

third slip (cricket) the third of the three fielders positioned in the slips

third umpire (cricket) an official who does not appear on the field of play but who adjudicates on disputed decisions by the umpire by means of TV replays or the record of special cameras such as Hawk-Eye [he is third after the umpire behind the bowler and the square leg umpire]

Thirsk (horse racing) a flat racecourse at Thirsk, North Yorkshire, England

thirty-all (tennis) a level score of two points each

thirty-five (tennis) a score of two points to one

to the server

thirty-five (tennis) colloquial shortening of thirty-five...
three-quarter back (rugby league, rugby union) fuller term for a three-quarter
three-year-old (horse racing) the prime age category for racehorses, as the colts and fillies entered in the English classics
threeperson (general) the winning of a trophy or other award on three consecutive occasions [blend of three and repeat]
three-way (golf) a match in which one person, playing his own ball, plays against two opponents, who play one ball alternately
Throstles (association football) nickname of the English club West Bromwich Albion [from local throstle, “song thrush,” a bird formerly seen and heard in large numbers in the hawthorn bushes that gave the name of The Hawthorns, the team’s home ground]
through ball (association football) a ball passed forward between defenders
through pass (association football) another term for a through ball
through the green (golf) a term for the whole area of the golf course except the teeing ground, the putting green of the hole being played, and all hazards
throw (boxing) to deliver a punch; (cricket) to bowl the ball illegally by bending and then suddenly straightening the elbow; (general) to cast an object such as a ball, bowl, discus, or javelin through the air or along the ground; (judo, wrestling) to cast one’s opponent to the ground
throw-down (cricket) a throw of a ball from a short distance to a batsman as practice
throw down (cricket) to knock down a wicket with a throw-in and so run out the batsman
throw forward (rugby league, rugby union) another term for a forward pass
throw-in (association football) the act of throwing the ball back into play from behind the touchline when it has been put out by an opposing player; (cricket) the act of throwing in the ball from the outfield, either to the bowler or in order to throw out the batsman; (polo) the start or resumption of a match in which an umpire rolls the ball down the center of a line-up of players
throw-off (handball) a throw of the ball from the center line of the court at the beginning of a game or after a goal
throw out (baseball) to put out the batter by throwing the ball to a fielder to prevent the batter from reaching a base; (cricket) to dismiss a batsman who is out of his ground by throwing the ball (and hitting) his wicket
throwaway (athletics) the pushing away of the pole by a competitor as he clears the bar in the pole vault

thirty-forty (tennis) a score of two points to three against the server
thirty-love (tennis) a score of two points to nil to the server
Thomas Cup (badminton) the cup awarded to the winner of an international championship for men, first held in 1949 [donated in 1939 by Sir George Thomas (1881–1972), winner of many national and international championship titles]
thoroughbred (horse racing) a racehorse bred from a dam and a sire of the best blood [all thoroughbreds descend from three Arab stallions that were mated with English mares]
thrash (auto racing) colloquial term for a fast and exciting race
Thrashers (ice hockey) short name of the Atlanta Thrashers team
thread the needle (American football) to pass the ball into a small gap between defenders
three (bouls) the third bowler in a rink, who assists the skipper and measures disputed shots
three-ball (golf) a match between three players, each with their own ball
three-cushion (billiards) (of) a form of the game in which the cue ball must contact a cushion at least three times, as well as both object balls, in order to score
three-day event (equestrianism) a contest in dressage, showjumping, and cross-country, held over three days
three-letter man (general) a competitor awarded a mark of distinction in three different sports
Three Peaks Challenge (mountaineering) the challenge to climb the three mountains Ben Nevis (Scotland), Scafell Pike (England), and Snowdon (Wales) within 24 hours.
Three Peaks Race (cyclo-cross) an annual race with a course over the summits of Pen-y-gent, Whernside, and Ingleborough, all in Yorkshire, England
three-point goal (basketball) a field goal worth three points, scored from beyond the three-point line
three-point line (basketball) an arc painted on the court at a specified distance from the basket, a line beyond which a field goal scores three points rather than two
three-pointer (basketball) shortening of three-point goal
three positions (shooting) the standing, kneeling, and prone positions taken by competitors in a small-bore rifle contest
three-quarter (rugby league, rugby union) one of the four backs, between the halfbacks and the fullbacks, who aim to run with the ball and prevent their opponents from doing so

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thrown in (horse racing) given a lenient weight in a handicap
thrust (fencing) a sudden attack with the sword, but without the body moves of a lunge
thruster (surfing, windsurfing) a sailboard or surfboard with one or more additional fins and a more streamlined shape than usual, giving increased speed and maneuverability
thumb ring (archery) a ring for the thumb to help draw the bow
Thuder (rugby league) short name of the English club Gateshead Thunder
Thurles (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Ireland
tic-tac (horse racing) another spelling of tick-tack
tice (croquet) a ball played as a decay to tempt one’s opponent (in the hope that they will miss it) [shortening of entice]
tick-tack (horse racing) a system of communication by hand signals used by bookmakers on a racecourse to exchange information on current odds [imitation of semaphore arms]
tick-tack man (horse racing) a man who uses tick-tack to communicate the current odds
ticket tout (general) a person who buys up numbers of tickets for a sporting event and sells them at a profit, often in the vicinity of the event itself	
tickle (cricket) another term for feather
tie (general) an equal score in a game or match
tie break (tennis) a further game played when the score in a set is six games all, a situation in which a player must go on to be two games ahead of his opponent to win the set
tie game (general) a game that ends in a tie
tie-off (equestrianism) another term for a jump-off
tierce (fencing) the third of eight basic parry positions, used to protect the upper sword-arm portion of the body [Old French tierce, “third”]
tiercè (horse racing) (1) the French equivalent of a tricast or trifecta, as a bet in which the first three horses to finish a race must be named in the correct order; (2) a race at which this method prevails [as tierce]
tifosi (auto racing) followers of the Scuderia [Italian tifosi, “fans”]
tiger (general) an outstanding sportsman; (mountaineering) a skillful and confident climber
Tiger Cats (Canadian football) short name of the Hamilton Tiger Cats team
tiger country (golf) colloquial alternate term for jungle
tiger line (golf) the most direct line for a drive or approach shot [so called from its risk] 
Tigers (association football) nickname of the English club Hull City; (Australian Rules) short name of the Richmond Tigers team; (baseball) short name of the Detroit Tigers team; (rugby league) short name of the English club Castelford Tigers; (rugby union) short name of the English club Leicester Tigers
tight (rugby union) (of) forward play in set pieces, and especially scrums; (squash) (of) a shot played so that the second bounce lands so close to a side wall that it is unreturnable
tight end (American football) an eligible receiver lined up next to a tackle at the end of the line of scrimmage
tight five (rugby union) the front row and second row of the scrum
tight head (rugby union) shortening of tight-head prop
tight-head prop (rugby union) the prop forward on the right of the front row of the scrum [with his head right inside the scrum]
timbers (cricket) colloquial term for the stumps
Timberwolves (basketball) short name of the Minnesota Timberwolves team
time (general) the end of a contest or match, as of a round in boxing
time control (auto racing) in rally driving, the location where cars must stop to have their time recorded by officials
time fault (equestrianism) a penalty for exceeding the time limit in a round of jumps
time hit (fencing) a hit made on a time thrust
time on (Australian Rules) time added on for injuries or for when the ball was out of play
time thrust (fencing) a former term for a stop hit
time trial (cycling) an event in which competitors set off individually or in small teams and attempt to achieve the fastest time over a set distance (or the furthest distance in a set time)
time-trial bike (cycling) a road bike specially designed for a time trial, usually with closer ratio gears, aero bars, and more aerodynamic wheels and frame
time wasting (association football) a tactic of prolonging the time taken for throw-ins, corner kicks, goal kicks, and the like by a team in a winning position, a ruse punishable by the referee in the form of stoppage time added at the end of the match
timed out (cricket) failing to take guard at the wicket within three minutes of the fall of the previous wicket, as a result of which the incoming batsman is out
Timeform (horse racing) proprietary name of a rating in pounds based on the past performance of racehorses as recorded by the periodical Timeform, with horses in flat races given different ratings to those in steeplechasestimekeeper (general) a person who records the time (as of a start or finish) or the time taken (as in a race) in a sporting contest
timeless test (cricket) a former type of test match, the last being that of 1938 between South Africa and England, in which there was no restriction on the length of the game
timeout (general) a brief break in a game or match in order to rest, discuss tactics, substitute a player, or the like
tin (cricket) a metal rectangle with a number painted on it, set on a scoreboard to show the score during a match; (squash) a strip of tin along the lower boundary of the playable area of the front wall of the court, serving to rule out of play any ball heard to strike it
tip (angling) the topmost joint of a fishing rod; (archery) the pointed end of an arrow; (basketball) to send the ball into the net with a light touch; (cricket) to hit the ball lightly with the edge of the bat; (horse racing) a horse selected as a likely winner of a race; (ice hockey) to send the puck into the net with a light touch; (snooker) the small circular area made of leather at the narrow end of the cue, as the part that strikes the cue ball
tip-and-run (sport) an informal type of cricket in which the batsman must run if he hits the ball
tip-in (basketball) a score made by tipping the ball into the basket
tip-off (basketball) the opening jump ball in a game
tipster (horse racing) a person who offers tips to punters, often making a living by doing so
Titans (American football) short name of the Tennessee Titans team
title (general) another term for a championship
title fight (boxing) a match held to decide a championship
Tkatchev (gymnastics) a form of release on the horizontal bar or asymmetric bars in which the gymnast swings up in an arched position as in a back giant, sails over the bar with his back to it, then sits up and catches the bar again [introduced in 1977 by the Soviet gymnast Aleksandr Vasilyevich Tkachyov (1957–)]
TKO (boxing) abbreviation of technical knockout
toe (field hockey) the tip of the curved end of a hockey stick; (golf) the part of the clubhead furthest from the player
toe jump (ice skating) a jump in which the skater pushes off with his free foot
toe loop (ice skating) a jump in which the skater takes off and lands on the same back outside edge
toe pick (ice skating) the serrated teeth at the front of the blade of a skate, used in certain jumps and spins
toe poke (association football) a powerful shot struck with the end of the foot
toe rake (ice skating) another term for a toe pick
toe spin (ice skating) a spin made on the toe or toes of the skates
toe-tap (Gaelic football) another term for solo
toe the line (athletics) to line up before a race with one’s toes touching the starting line
toeboard (athletics) the board marking the limit of the thrower’s run in the shot put
toeclips (cycling) devices on the pedals that hold the foot firm, now generally superseded by clipless pedals
toehold (mountaineering) a small foothold used in climbing; (wrestling) a hold in which the wrestler grasps his opponent’s toes and twists his foot or bends it back
Toffeemen (association football) nickname of the English club Everton [from the local manufacture of toffee]
Toffees (association football) colloquial shortening of Toffeemen
tombstoning (swimming) a hazardous form of diving in which the participant jumps into the sea from a height [his descent is vertical and upright, like a tombstone]
ton (cricket) colloquial term for a century [originally a measure of 100 cubic feet]
Ton (association football) short name of the Scottish club Greenock Morton
tonguestrap (horse racing) a band that prevents the horse’s tongue from going over the bit, making it easier for the rider to control him
tonk (cricket) a powerful stroke with the bat
tonker (cricket) a batsman with a hard-hitting style [of tonks]
tools of ignorance (baseball) colloquial term for the protective equipment worn by the catcher
Toon Army (association football) nickname for the supporters of the English club Newcastle United [from local dialect toon, “town”]
top (baseball) the first part of an inning, during which the visiting team bats; (golf) to hit the ball (usually inadvertently) on its upper part, so that it travels only a short distance along the ground
top and tail (rugby league, rugby union) an illegal tackle in which one player grasps an opponent by the knees and another by the chest, so wrenching him to the ground
top edge (cricket) (1) the upper edge of a bat as held by the batsman; (2) a (usually inadvertent) stroke off this part
top order (cricket) the batsmen who come first in the batting order
top out (mountaineering) to reach the top of the route
top pocket (billiards, snooker) one of the two pockets at the far end of the billiard table
top-score \( \text{to score the greatest number of runs in an innings} \)

top shelf \( \text{(ice hockey)} \) the roof of the net, into which the puck is sometimes hit

top weight \( \text{(horse racing)} \) the heaviest weight carried by a horse in a handicap

topo \( \text{(mountaineering)} \) a diagram showing the route of a rock climb [short for topographical map]

toprope \( \text{(mountaineering)} \) a rope fixed at the top of a route

topspin \( \text{(general)} \) a forward-spinning motion imparted to a ball as it is struck or thrown, making it travel higher, further, or faster

topslinger \( \text{(cricket)} \) (1) a bowler who imparts a topspin to the ball; (2) a ball given such a spin

tori \( \text{(judo)} \) the active partner in carrying out a hold [Japanese tori, “taking”]

Tornado \( \text{(sailing)} \) a class of double-handed multihull

Torpedos \( \text{(rowing)} \) an annual bumping race between college eights at Oxford University [originally held for second eights, regarded as unenthusiastic or lethargic]

toss \( \text{(general)} \) the tossing of a coin before a match to give one of the sides the choice of play, such as whether to bat or field in cricket or which end to take in association football

toss the oars \( \text{(rowing)} \) to raise the oars vertically in a victory salute

tossing the caber \( \text{(sport)} \) in Highland games, an event in which the contestant holds a caber upright in both hands against one side of his neck, moves slowly forward while balancing it, then brings his hands up to up-end it, so that it describes a loop in the air before falling

total football \( \text{(association football)} \) a style of the game in which all of the players, including defenders, can be involved in attack

totalizator \( \text{(horse racing)} \) (1) a ticketed betting system in which the total amount staked is divided among the winners in proportion to the size of their stake; (2) a machine that shows the number and amount of bets placed on each horse under this system

tote \( \text{(horse racing)} \) abbreviation of totalizator

Tote \( \text{(horse racing)} \) proprietary name of the Horserace Totalisator Board, established in 1963 to operate totalizators on British racecourses (and subsequently offering bets on any sporting event)

touch \( \text{(association football, rugby league, rugby union)} \) the area outside the field of play; \( \text{(general)} \) shortening of touch football or touch rugby

touch-finder \( \text{(rugby union)} \) (1) a player who kicks the ball into touch; (2) the kick itself

touch football \( \text{(American football)} \) a form of the game in which touching takes the place of tackling

touch in \( \text{(swimming)} \) to touch the end of the swimming pool on winning a race, as the equivalent of breasting the tape in a foot race

touch-in-goal \( \text{(rugby league, rugby union)} \) the areas at each end of the pitch behind the try lines and outside the touchlines

touch judge \( \text{(rugby league, rugby union)} \) an official who marks with a flag when and where the ball goes into touch, corresponding to the assistant referee (formerly linesman) in association football

touch kick \( \text{(rugby union)} \) a kick of the ball into touch

touch rugby \( \text{(rugby union)} \) a form of the game in which touching takes the place of tackling

touch rugger \( \text{(rugby union)} \) another name for touch rugby

touch shot \( \text{(tennis)} \) a gentle stroke of the ball with the racket

touchback \( \text{(American football)} \) a play in which the ball is made dead by a player on or behind his own goal line after it has been sent over the line by the opposing team

touchball \( \text{(rugby union)} \) another name for touch rugby

touchdown \( \text{(American football)} \) possession of the ball by a player behind the goal line of the opposing team; \( \text{(rugby league, rugby union)} \) the touching of the ball to the ground by a player behind the try line

touché! \( \text{(fencing)} \) an acknowledgment of a hit [French touché, “touched!”]

toucher \( \text{(bowls)} \) a bowl that touches the jack before coming to rest when first bowled on the green

touching ball \( \text{(snooker)} \) a situation in which the cue ball is touching another ball and must be played away from it without moving it

touchline \( \text{(association football)} \) the line around the pitch within which play takes place; \( \text{(rugby union)} \) the line marking the edge of the pitch, from which lineouts are taken

touchline ban \( \text{(association football)} \) a ban on a seat in the dugout imposed for a stated period on a player or official as a penalty for improper conduct or other offense

tour \( \text{(auto racing)} \) (1) a circuit or lap of the track; (2) to travel very slowly; \( \text{(general)} \) a visit abroad by a sports team to play a series of matches

Tour de France \( \text{(cycling)} \) an annual stage race over the roads of France and adjoining countries to finish in Paris, first held in 1903 [French Tour de France, “Tour of France”]

Tour de l’Avenir \( \text{(cycling)} \) an annual stage race similar to the Tour de France for riders under the age of 23, first held in 1963 [French Tour de l’Avenir, “Tour of the Future”]

Tour of Britain \( \text{(cycling)} \) an annual stage race over
the roads of England and Wales (but rarely Scotland) on the pattern of the Tour de France, first held in 1952

Tour of Spain (cycling) a frequently used English name for the Vuelta a España
touring car (auto racing) a large automobile with room for passengers, entered in races on the same circuits as purpose-built racecars [properly a car designed for touring]
tourist (general) a member of a sports team making a tour
Tourist Trophy (motorcycle racing) the trophy awarded to the winner of an annual race held on the roads of the Isle of Man since 1907 but discontinued as a world championship in 1976 because of the high incidence of injuries [originally open to motorcycles known as "touring machines"]
tournament (general) a series of games to determine a winner (or winning team) by process of elimination
Tourment of the Roses (American football) alternate name for the Rose Bowl
tourney (general) alternate form of tournament
tout (general) shortening of ticket tout; (horse racing) a person who lurks around stables to report on the movements and condition of racehorses
tow (athletics) to spur on competitors by setting a fast pace on the track
Towcester (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Towcester, Northamptonshire, England
Town (association football) short name of the English club Ipswich Town and Shrewsbury Town
towplane (gliding) an aircraft that tows gliders
toxophily (sport) a formal term for archery
trace (angling) a short piece of wire or nylon that connects the hook to the fishing line
track (cricket) another term for the pitch between the wickets; (general) the prepared course, often oval-shaped, on which races are held between people (as in athletics), animals (as in greyhound racing), or machines (in auto racing); (horse racing) shortening of racetrack
track and field (athletics) a collective term for track events and field events
track athlete (athletics) an athlete specializing in track events
track bike (cycling) a bicycle with a fixed rear wheel and no brakes, designed for track races
track event (athletics) any form of foot race, as the middle-distance race, long-distance race, sprint, hurdles, relay, and steeplechase [all run on a track, unlike field events]
track race (cycling) a race that takes place in a velodrome
track record (general) a record of past performance, especially of an athlete

track shoes (athletics) lightweight spiked running shoes worn by participants in track events
trackman (athletics) another term for a track athlete
trackwork (athletics) practice or performance on a track
Tractor Boys (association football) nickname of the English club Ipswich Town [from the local agricultural industry]
traffic (auto racing) cars that are further back in the field and going more slowly than the leaders; (general) the bunching together of players in a team of runners or riders in a race
traffic problems (general) problems experienced by participants in a race when caught up in traffic
trail (general) to be losing in a game or contest
trail the jack (boules) to send down a bowl that strikes the jack flush and moves it along in the same direction as that of the bowl itself [which thus trails the jack or follows behind it]
Trailblazers (basketball) short name of the Portland Trailblazers team
trailing (boules) a form of the game in which the object is to send down a bowl that will trail the jack into a semicircle marked beyond two bowls three feet apart
trails (cycling) a variant of dirt jumping in BMX in which riders ride over a series of dirt jumps
train (general) (1) to instruct and rehearse a person or team (or animal) in a sport; (2) to prepare oneself by practice and discipline for participation in a sport
train down (general) to reduce one’s weight by diet and exercise in order to be fit for a particular sport or sporting event
trainer (general) a person whose profession is to train others in a sport; (horse racing) a person who schools racehorses and prepares them for races
training camp (general) a training center or venue for sports participants
Tralee (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Tralee, Co. Kerry, Ireland
tramlines (tennis) a pair of parallel lines either side of the court, the inner line in each case marking the boundary of the court for singles and the outer marking the boundary for doubles [the lines suggest those along which trams (streetcars) run]
Tramore (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Tramore, Co. Waterford, Ireland
trumpet (gymnastics) a small trampoline used in place of a springboard in vaulting
trampoline (trampolining) an apparatus in the form of a strong fabric sheet connected by springs to a horizontal frame, on which various bouncing routines can be performed
trampolining (sport) the performance in competition or for recreation of routi-nes on a trampoline
transfer (association football) the move of a professional player from one club to another, usually for a transfer fee
transfer fee (association football) the sum of money paid by one club to another in exchange for the acquisition of a professional player
transfer list (association football) a list of players available for transfer to another club
transfer window (association football) the time limit within which a transfer must be made
transition (basketball) the period of play immediately following a change of possession
transition phase (Olympics) the phase in the triathlon between the disciplines of swimming and cycling or cycling and running, during which competitors exchange one form of dress for another
transverse lines (netball) the lines dividing the court into thirds
trap (American football) a tactic in which an attacking team allows a defender to cross the line of scrimmage and blocks him from the side, enabling the player in possession of the ball to pass unopposed through the gap created; (association football) to control the ball with the feet and stop it dead; (basketball) to guard the player in possession of the ball with two defenders so that he has little or no opportunity to make a pass; (golf) shortening of sand trap (as an alternate term for a bunker); (greyhound racing) another name for the starting box; (shooting) a mechanical device that releases the clay pigeons at a particular speed and trajectory; (trapball) a shoe-shaped wooden device with a pivoted bar used to send the ball into the air
trap play (American football) fuller term for a trap
trapball (sport) a game in which a ball placed on one end of a trap is sent up into the air and struck with a stick
trapshooting (shooting) the sport of shooting at clay pigeons catapulted into the air by a trap
trash sports (general) competitive sports featuring celebrities and shown on television as popular entertainment
travel (horse racing) to run (in a specified manner) along a racetrack
traveling (basketball) the offense of carrying the ball for too many steps without dribbling; (netball) the offense of carrying the ball
traverse (mountaineering) a sideways progression across a rock face or slope from one conventional line of ascent (or descent) to another; (skiing) (1) a zigzag course down a slope; (2) one of the diagonal runs made in such a descent
treadmill (general) a machine in a gymnasium used for exercising, having a continuously moving surface of adjustable speed on which the user can run or walk
treble (association football) the winning of three trophies in a single season; (darts) a score of three times the normal amount, gained by hitting the inner bed of the dartboard; (horse racing) (1) a bet on three races, in which the winnings and stake from the first race are transferred to the second, and those from the second, if successful, to the third; (2) a total of three races won by the same horse; (3) a total of three races won by the same jockey in a meeting
treble chance (association football) a form of betting in football pools, in which three points are awarded for a score draw, two points for a no-score draw, and one point for a home win or away win
treble hook (angling) a hook with three points
trebles for show, doubles for dough (darts) big scorers do not always win matches, as although trebles give a high score, it is the doubles that often bring in the money (dough)
trench (shooting) a concrete structure in front of a firing line from which clay pigeons are thrown up by traps
trenches (American football) the offensive and defensive lines, as a scene of strenuous effort
Trent Bridge (cricket) the home ground of Nottinghamshire county cricket club, Nottingham
trey (basketball) a three-point field goal
tri (sailing) colloquial abbreviation of trimaran
Tri-Nations Championship (rugby union) an annual championship contested by the national teams of Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa since 1996
Tri-Nations Series (rugby league) former name of the Four Nations Championship
trial (general) a match or competition to select members of a major team
trial of strength (general) a contest such as wrestling in which two or more opponents strive to determine who has the greater strength
trialist (general) a competitor or player under consideration for a place in a major team
trials (motorcycle racing) an event held over a cross-country circuit with a series of sections in which competitors have to negotiate obstacles
triangle (angling) a set of three hooks fastened together so that the bars form a triangle; (snooker) a triangular wooden frame in which the red balls are positioned before the start of a game
triathlete (Olympics) a competitor in a triathlon
triathlon (Olympics) a race in which athletes compete in swimming, cycling, and long-distance
running [Greek tri-, “three,” and athlon, “contest”]
tricast (horse racing) a bet on the first three horses in a race in the correct order [blend of tri-, “three,” and forecast]
trick skiing (water skiing) the execution of different maneuvers, such as somersaults
trickle (golf) to strike a ball so that it travels slowly over the ground
Tricolores (rugby union) nickname of the French national team [French tricolores, “tricolors,” the blue, white, and red colors of the team’s strip, those of the national flag]
trifecta (horse racing) a bet on the first three horses to finish in a race in the correct order [blend of tri-, “three,” and perfecta]
trifis (trampolining) a triple somersault with a twist
trimaran (sailing) a boat with three hulls [blend of tri-, “three,” and catamaran]
trimmer (angling) a float with a reel attached to a line with a baited hook, used in fishing for pike
trip (horse racing) the distance of a race
triple (baseball) a hit that allows the batter to reach third base; (horse racing) another term for a trifecta; (trampolining) a triple somersault
triple bogey (golf) a score of three strokes over par for a hole, three times that of a bogey
triple century (cricket) a score of 300 runs by a batsman, the equivalent of three centuries
triple crown (auto racing) the (unofficial) feat of winning the Indianapolis 500, Le Mans 24-Hour race, and Monaco Grand Prix; (baseball) the feat of leading the league in home runs, batting average, and runs batted in in a single season; (cycling) a collective name for the Giro d’Italia, Tour de France, and World Road Race Championship; (horse racing) (1) a collective name for the Two Thousand Guineas, Derby, and St. Leger or (in modern times) Prix de l’Arc de Triomphe; (2) a collective name for the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes; (3) a collective name for the Hambletonian, Yonkers Futurity, and Kentucky Futurity; (4) a collective name for the William H. Cane Futurity, Messenger Stake, and Little Brown Jug; (rugby union) the victory by England, Scotland, Wales, or Ireland in all three matches against the other British Isles teams in the Six Nations championship
triple double (basketball) the feat of recording double figures in points, rebounds, and assists in a single game
triple event (horse racing) another name for the triple crown, as three of the five English Classics
triple header (general) an event at which three consecutive matches are held
triple jump (athletics) an event in which an athlete sprints down a runway then performs a hop, step, and jump into a pit; (ice skating) a jump incorporating three aerial turns
triple play (baseball) a defensive play that puts out three runners in a row
triples (bowls) a game in which three play against three, each playing three bowls
troll (angling) to fish by drawing a revolving or otherwise moving bait through the water
trophy (general) a cup or other decorative object awarded to the winner of a sporting contest
trot (angling) shortening of trotline; (equestrianism) a slowish gait in which the horse’s legs move in diagonal pairs; (horse racing) colloquial term for a trotting race
trotline (angling) a long line across a stream or river to which shorter lines with baited hooks are attached
trotter (horse racing) a horse bred or trained for trotting in a harness race
Trotters (association football) nickname of the English club Bolton Wanderers [so named from the team’s early home ground next to a piggery]
trotting (horse racing) the action of moving or racing at a trot
trotting race (horse racing) a harness race in which trotters compete
trot rod (angling) a fishing rod for trout
trot spoon (angling) a small revolving spoon used as a lure for trout
truck (skateboarding) the steerable axle on a skateboard
truck and trailer (rugby union) an illegal move in which the player carrying the ball (the “trailer”) moves forward in loose play behind a teammate (the “truck”) who shields him
trudgen (swimming) a stroke similar to the crawl in which each hand in turn is raised above the surface, thrust forward, and pulled back through the water [first demonstrated in 1873 by the English swimmer John Trudgen (1852–1902)]
trudgeon (swimming) an alternate (but incorrect) spelling of trudgen
try (American football) an attempt to score an extra point after a touchdown; (rugby league, rugby union) the act of placing the ball down in the in-goal area, scoring points and entitling the scoring side to a kick at goal
try a fall (wrestling) to take a bout
try line (rugby league, rugby union) the line on which the goalposts stand and over which a touchdown is made
Tsukahara (gymnastics) a vault consisting of a quarter-turn or half-turn onto the horse fol-
lowed by one and half somersaults off it [introduced by the Japanese gymnast Mitsuo Tsukahara (1947–)]

tsukikomi (judo) the technique of lifting and pulling one's opponent off balance during a throw [Japanese tsuri, “lifting,” and komi, “pushing in”]

TT (motorcycle racing) abbreviation of Tourist Trophy

tube (surfing) another term for a barrel

tubing (sport) the activity of floating down a stream or sliding downhill on snow on the inflated inner tube of an automobile tire

tuck (gymnastics) a position in which the gymnast folds his body at the waist with his knees and hips bent and pulled up into his chest; (skiing) a squatting position adopted by some downhill skiers, with the poles tucked under their arms; (swimming) a position in diving in which the diver pulls his thighs up to his chest, bends his knees, and clasps his hands around his shins

tuck position (gymnastics, skiing, swimming) fuller term for a tuck

tucked up (gymnastics) a squatting position adopted by some ski-folds his body at the waist with his knees and hips bent and pulled up into his chest; (skiing) a contest, formerly included in floor exercises

tumble run (gymnastics) a run incorporating a roll in floor exercises

tumble turn (swimming) an underwater roll at the end of a length in which the swimmer pushes off from the end of the pool with his feet

tunnel (general) a covered way by which players enter or leave the field of play in a sport such as association football

turbo tennis (tennis) a sudden death match with a 30-minute time limit imposed [from turbo- in its implied sense of “boosted”]

turf (horse racing) (1) the grass surface of a racecourse, as distinct from an all-weather one; (2) a synonym for the sport itself and its world [in this sense often spelled with a capital letter, as “the Turf”]

turf accountant (horse racing) another term for a bookmaker

turf season (horse racing) the traditional flat-racing season, from March to November

turfite (horse racing) colloquial term for a person devoted to the sport

turfman (horse racing) alternate term for a turfite

TurfTrax (horse racing) proprietary name of a solar-powered weather system used at racecourses to give readings for atmospheric conditions and ground and soil temperatures

turkey (tenpin bowling) colloquial term for three successive strikes

turkey brown (angling) the mayfly Paraleptophlebia submarginata as an artificial fly

Turkish grand prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on the circuit at Istanbul, Turkey

turn (cricket) the deviation of a ball on a turner; (golf) the halfway point on a golf course, at which the players turn to begin the return nine holes

turn of foot (horse racing) a horse's speed

turn one's arm over (cricket) to bowl, especially when not a regular bowler

turnaround (general) the point in a team game at which the two teams change ends

turnaround jump shot (basketball) a jump shot in which the player turns his back to the basket and twists in midair

Turnberry (golf) a golf course at the village of the same name on the east coast of Scotland

turner (cricket) a pitch on which the ball spins a long way after landing

turnover (general) the loss of possession of the ball to the opposing team, due to error or breach of a rule

turntable (trampolining) a front drop with a lateral rotation of 360 degrees as a side somersault performed in the horizontal plane

turnverein (gymnastics) a club on the lines of those founded for German immigrants to the United States by Friedrich Ludwig Jahn (1778–1852) [German turnen, “to do gymnastic exercises,” and Verein, “club”]

TV umpire (cricket) an official who has access to TV replays and who may be consulted by a fielder in cases of a questionable decision by the umpire in response to an appeal

tweaker (cricket) colloquial term for a spin bowler

Tweddle (gymnastics) a release on the horizontal bar or asymmetric bars in the form of a Tkatchev with a late half twist [pioneered by the British gymnast Beth Tweddle (1985–)]

twelfth man (association football) colloquial term for the supporters of a team or club (cricket) a player selected beyond the regular eleven as a reserve

twelve men (association football) colloquial phrase implying that a regular team of eleven had been unfairly advantaged in a match by an erroneous decision of the referee

twenty-five (field hockey, rugby league, rugby union) shortening of twenty-five-yard line

twenty-five-yard line (field hockey) former name
of the twenty-three-meter line; (rugby league) a line formerly marked 25 yards from the try line, replaced by the twenty-meter line; (rugby union) a line formerly marked 25 yards from the try line, replaced by the twenty-two-meter line.

24 Hours of Le Mans (auto racing) another name for the Le Mans 24-Hour race [translation of French name les vingt-quatre heures du Mans].

twenty-meter line (rugby league) a line marked 20 meters from the try line.

twenty-three-meter line (field hockey) a line marked 23 meters from the backline.

twenty (cricket) a fast-paced form of the game introduced in 2002 in which each side can bat for a maximum of 20 overs.

Twenty20 Cup (cricket) the cup awarded to the winner of the annual competition in the twenty20 form of the game between first-class counties, first held in 2003 and superseding the Benson & Hedges Cup.

Twenty20 World Championship (cricket) an annual international championship in the twenty20 form of the game, first held in 2007.

twenty-two-meter line (rugby union) shortening of twenty-two-meter line.

two (bowls) the second bowler in a rink, who usually updates the scorecard; (cricket) (1) a hit for two runs; (2) a guard of middle and leg [shortening of two leg].

two and six (darts) a score of 26, gained by hitting 20, 5, and 1 when aiming for a treble 20.

two-bagger (baseball) another term for a double.

two-eyed stance (cricket) the stance of a batsman in which he turns his head to face the oncoming ball as far as possible, keeping his left shoulder on the line of the ball.

two-fisted (tennis) holding the racket with both hands.

two-footed (association football) able to kick the ball equally well with either foot.

200 meters (athletics) a sprint of the stated distance.

two-minute suspension (handball) a suspension of two minutes awarded by the referee to a player who has received a second warning or shown faulty or unsportsmanlike conduct.

two-minute warning (American football) a mandatory timeout occurring when two minutes remain in the second and fourth quarters of a game.

two-platoon system (American football) the system of training and playing two separate platoons.

Two Thousand Guineas (horse racing) an annual race for three-year-old colts and fillies run over the Rowley Mile at Newmarket since 1809 [original value of prize, a guinea being 21 shillings].

two-wheeler (cycling) colloquial term for a cyclist.

twosome (golf) a game between two players.

Tykes (association football) nickname of the English club Barnsley [from tyke, local term for a Yorkshireman].

Uber Cup (badminton) the cup awarded to the winner of a biennial international team competition for women first held in 1957 [named for the English player Betty Uber (c.1905–1983)].

uchimata (judo) an inner thigh throw made with the thrower’s leg braced between the legs of his opponent [Japanese uchi, “inside,” and mata, “thigh”].

ude-garami (judo) an armlock applied to the arm of an opponent when bent at the elbow [Japanese ude, “arm,” and karami, “lock”].

ude-gatame (judo) an armlock applied to the arm of an opponent when straight [Japanese ude, “arm,” and katemae, “hold”].

UEFA (association football) abbreviation of Union of European Football Associations.

UEFA Champions League (association football) formal name of the European Champions’ Cup.
UEFA Cup (association football) the cup awarded from 1958 to 2009 (when renamed the Europa League) to the winners of a contest between clubs finishing near the top of their domestic league uglies (rugby union) colloquial term applied to a team’s forwards by the backs 

uke (judo) general term for the combatant who is in a hold or the object of a throw [Japanese ukeru, “to receive”]

ukemi (judo) the art of falling safely [uke and Japanese mi, “body”]

uki-gatame (judo) a ground hold applied after an opponent has been thrown [Japanese uki, “floating,” and katame, “to lock”]

uki-otoshi (judo) a throw made with the hand alone [Japanese uki, “floating,” and otoshi, “dropping”]

ultimate fighting (sport) a combat sport in which two opponents fight each other without protective gear and with only minimal rules as to the type of blow permitted

ultimate Frisbee (sport) another name for airborne soccer

ultra (athletics) colloquial shortening of ultramarathon

ultramarathon (athletics) a long-distance race greater than a marathon, especially a foot race of 36 miles or more

ump (general) colloquial abbreviation of umpire

umpire (general) an official in sports such as baseball, cricket, and tennis, in many ways corresponding to a referee, who supervises a game or match, enforces the rules, and decides disputes

uncapped (cricket) not having been awarded the cap given to regular members of a county cricket team; (general) not having been selected to play for a national team

Uncle Charlie (baseball) colloquial term for a curveball

under (golf) under par [in this adverbial usage, under is invariably preceded by the number of strokes involved, as “three under”]

under orders (horse racing) shortening of under starter’s orders

under starter’s orders (horse racing) ready to begin a race and awaiting the starting signal

under way (sailing) having begun to move in the water

under wraps (horse racing) (of) a horse restrained from running at its best in order to disguise its true form before an important race

underarm (cricket) (of) a delivery made with the hand lower than the level of the shoulders, now not generally permitted; (swimming) (of) a stroke made with the arm below the level of the body; (tennis) (of) a serve made with the hand lower than the level of the shoulders

undercard (boxing) a contest placed second on the billing

underclub (golf) to use a club with too much loft, so that the ball is not sent far enough

undercut (golf) to strike a ball below the center, causing it to rise high; (mountaineering) to cut a handhold from below in order to maintain the climber’s balance; (tennis) to slice down on a ball below the center so that backspin is imparted

underedge (cricket) the inside or bottom edge of a bat

undergrip (gymnastics) a hold on the horizontal bar made by passing the hands beneath it, rather than over it, so that the palms face the gymnast

underhold (mountaineering) a hold in which the climber grasps a downturned edge or point from beneath with his palm turned upward in order to maintain his balance

underpitched (cricket) not pitched far enough by the bowler, so that the ball falls short

underspin (general) a backward spin imparted to a ball so that it stops quickly or bounces backward on making contact with the ground or some other surface

undertie (angling) to tie the wings of a fly so that they cover the point of the hook

underwater sports (aquatics) sports played below the surface of the water, some being submerged versions of field games such as field hockey or rugby union

underwater swimming (aquatics) a former term for sports such as skin diving or subaquan

underwear cricket (cricket) mocking term for twenty20 cricket [as punningly compared to pajama cricket, both being shortened forms of the game]

unearned run (baseball) a run conceded because of an error by the fielding side

uneven bars (gymnastics) another term for the asymmetric bars

unexposed (horse racing) having an unknown or uncertain racing form, like a dark horse

Union of European Football Associations (association football) the sport’s international association for Europe, founded in 1954 and affiliated to FIFA

United (association football) short name of a British club with “United” in its name, as Leeds United or Manchester United

United States Grand Prix (auto racing) the Formula One international Grand Prix held on various circuits, such as those at Detroit (Michigan), Long Beach (California), the Indianapolis Motor Speedway (site of the Indianapolis 500), Caesars Palace, Las Vegas (California), Riverside
University Boat Race (rowing) formal name of the Boat Race
unload (boxing) to deliver a forceful punch
unpaced (general) without the assistance of a pace-maker
unplaced (horse racing) not among the first thee horses to win a race
unplayable (golf) in a position where the ball cannot be struck
unseated (equestrianism, horse racing) thrown from a horse
unseeded (tennis) not placed in the draw of top players
unshipped (equestrianism, horse racing) another term for unseated
unsuited (horse racing) disadvantaged in a race by factors adversely affecting a horse’s best performance, as by the state of going
up (baseball) another term for at bat; (equestrianism, horse racing) mounted on a horse; (general) ahead in scoring
up-and-down (golf) an act of completing a hole from a point close to the green with a single pitch shot or chip shot (“up”) and a single putt (“down”)
up-and-under (rugby league, rugby union) a very high kick (“up”) that gives the kicker and his teammates time to rush forward to the point (“under”) where the ball will come down
up the jumper (rugby union) a style of play in which a team advances the ball down the pitch through the forwards, with little passing and much use of the drive [the ball in such a move is difficult to locate, as if one of the players had put it “up his jumper”]
upfield (general) in or toward the farther end of a playing field
upercut (boxing) an upward punch that comes from underneath the opponent’s guard
upright (association football) another term for a goalpost
upright spin (ice skating) a spin in which the skater stands and rotates on one foot
upset (general) an unexpected defeat of the favorite
upshot (archery) the final shot of a contest
upstart (gymnastics) a series of movements on the parallel bars or asymmetric bars, especially at the start of a routine, by which a gymnast swings to a position in which he supports his body by his arms above the bars
upstream gate (canoeing) on a slalom course, a gate to be negotiated against the direction of the current
urn (cricket) the trophy awarded to the winner of the Ashes
U’s (association football) short name of a club with “United” in its name, as Cambridge United, Colchester United, Oxford United
US Masters (golf) an annual invitational contest held at the Augusta National Club since 1934
US Open (golf) an annual tournament first held in 1895; (tennis) an annual tournament first held in 1881 and since 1978 played at Flushing Meadows [so named as open to both amateur and professional players]
US PGA (golf) a U.S. championship first held in 1916 and a matchplay event until 1958 [abbreviation of Professional Golfers’ Association]
useful (general) playing or performing competently, if not outstandingly well
utility club (golf) a club, often used for long shots from difficult rough, that combines the favorable characteristics of an iron with those of a wood
utility player (association football) a player capable of playing in different positions
Uttoxeter (horse racing) a National Hunt race-course at Uttoxeter, Staffordshire, England
V (general) abbreviation of versus (“against”), used to name the two teams or individuals in a game or match, as “France v New Zealand,” “Rangers v Celtic”
V (cricket) the area on the field between mid-off and mid-on, used to describe the path of a ball hit by the batsman
V-position (skiing) the position of the skis adopted by most skiers during a ski jump, touching at the tail and spread apart at the tips to form a “V”
Valderrama (golf) a golf course at San Roque, southwestern Spain
Vale (association football) short name of the English club Port Vale
Valentine’s Brook (horse racing) a difficult jump on the Grand National course at Aintree [named for a horse that spectacularly cleared it]
valet (horse racing) the person responsible for looking after a jockey’s equipment
Valiants (association football) nickname of the English clubs Charlton Athletic and Port Vale
van (tennis) abbreviation of advantage
Vardon grip (golf) a common grip of the club, in which the pinkie of the right hand overlaps the forefinger of the left [popularized by the English champion Harry Vardon (1870–1937)]
varsity (general) a team representing a university or college
varsity match (general) an annual match between the teams of Oxford and Cambridge universities, notably in association football and rugby union
vault (athletics) shortening of pole vault; (gymnastics) a leap from a springboard onto and over
a vaulting horse, on which the hands are briefly rested to gain height during the flight; (equestrianism) a gymnastic leap or routine made by a rider on horseback

vaulting (gymnastics, equestrianism) the execution of a vault as a distinctive event or discipline

vaulting horse (gymnastics) a piece of apparatus in the form of a wooden block used for vaulting [it represents a horse to be mounted by a vault]

veer (American football) an offensive play in which a modified T-formation with a split backfield gives the quarterback the option of either passing to the fullback, pitching to a running back, or running with the ball himself; (sailing) to change course away from the wind

velodrome (cycling) an indoor or outdoor stadium with a banked track for races [borrowing of French velodrome, from vélo, “bicycle,” and -drome as in hippodrome]

Vendée Globe (sailing) a solo, non-stop round-the-world race held every four years, sailing westward from and back to Les Sables d’Olonne on the west coast of France [from Vendée, the French department where the race begins and ends]

vent (parachuting) the opening in a canopy through which air escapes at a controlled rate

venue (general) the chosen location for a match or other sporting contest

verbal abuse (general) the offense by a player of berating a referee or other official for an apparent misjudgment, such as an alleged miscall by a line judge in tennis (where it may be accompanied by racket abuse)

vert (skateboarding, snowboarding) a vertical extension to a ramp, from which stunts are performed [abbreviation of vertical]

vertical (equestrianism) a high obstacle

vertical gate (skiing) a gate on a slalom course with poles placed vertically rather than horizontally

Vezina Trophy (ice hockey) the trophy awarded annually since 1927 to the goalkeeper voted the best at his position [named in commemoration of the Canadian player Georges Vézina (1887–1926)]

victor ludorum (general) a title awarded in some schools and colleges to the overall champion in a sports competition [Latin victor ludorum, “winner of the games”]

Victorian Football League (Australian Rules) former name of the Australian Football League

victory lane (auto racing) in NASCAR, the place on the infield of the racetrack where the winner parks for the prize-giving

victory lap (athletics) a celebratory lap run by an athlete after winning a race

video referee (rugby league, rugby union) an official in the stands who has access to TV replays and who may be consulted by the referee in cases of a doubtful try

video review (general) the video replay of an incident during a match in order to determine whether an offense had been committed

vigor (sport) a team game played mainly by women that combines elements of cricket and baseball [abbreviation of vigorous]

VIII (rowing) conventional designation of an eight in sports reports [Roman numerals]

Vikings (American football) short name of the Minnesota Vikings team; (rugby league) short name of the English club Widnes Vikings

Villa (association football) short name of the English club Aston Villa

village cricket (cricket) an informal game or match, as played between local village teams

Villains (association football) short name of the English club Aston Villa [pun on villains]

Vince Lombardi Trophy (American football) the trophy awarded since 1967 to the winners of the Super Bowl [named for Vince Lombardi (1913–1970), coach and manager of the Green Bay Packers team]

violation (basketball) a breach of the rules not considered to be a foul, such as traveling

visitors (general) a team that comes to play a match on the home ground of their rivals

visor (horse racing) a headpiece worn by a horse to concentrate its attention on the course ahead in the manner of blinkers but unlike them having slits that allow some side vision

voiture balai (cycling) alternate French term for the broom wagon

volley (association football) a shot or pass in which the ball is struck before it hits the ground; (squash, tennis) a shot played before the ball bounces; (volleyball) a shot of the ball over the net with the fingers, fist, or forearm

volleyball (sport) a game for two teams of six players with a large ball on a court, the aim being to gain points by hitting the ball by a volley over a high net dividing the court in such a way that the opposing team cannot return it

volte (equestrianism) the gait of a horse moving sideways around the center of a circle [French volte, from Italian volta, “turn”]

Volvo Ocean Race (sailing) a round-the-world race for one-design boats, first held in 1973 [name of sponsors]

vorlage (skiing) a position in which the skier leans forward without lifting his heels from the skis [German Vorlage, “presentation”]

vorläufer (skiing) a skier who travels a course before a race to check that it is within the capacity of the competitors [German, Vorläufer, “runner ahead”]

Vorlage, “presentation”
vs (general) another form of v as an abbreviation of versus ("against"), as in "Barbarians vs All Blacks"

Vuelta a España (cycling) an annual stage race over the roads of Spain, first held in 1935 [Spanish Vuelta a España, "Tour of Spain"]

w (cricket) abbreviation of wide in scoring

waders (angling) high waterproof boots, used by anglers for standing in streams or rivers

wager (horse racing) another term for a bet

wagonwheel (cricket) a graphic representation or "map" of the paths of the balls hit by a particular batsman [the lines resemble the spokes of a wagonwheel]

WAGS (association football) acronym of "wives and girlfriends," referring to the glamorous, free-spending partners of celebrity footballers, as depicted in the British TV drama series Footballers' Wives (2002–06)

wahine (surfing) colloquial term for a young female surfer [Maori wahine, "woman"]

wait out (baseball) to force a pitcher to throw a maximum number of pitches by deliberately not striking at them

waiting blocks (karate) an area where nonplaying members of a team wait as reserves or where players go when out

waiting race (horse racing) a race in which a horse is kept a little way behind the leaders until the final stages

waive (association football) to refrain from using the right to buy or sign a player from a club in the same league before he is offered to a club in another league

wake (water skiing) the V-shaped track of water behind a boat as it moves forward

wakeboard (water skiing) the short wide board similar to a snowboard used in wakeboarding

wakeboarding (water skiing) the sport of riding and performing acrobatic maneuvers on a wakeboard while it is towed behind a motorboat

walk (baseball) another term for base on balls; (cricket) to leave the pitch when dismissed without waiting for the umpire to adjudicate on an appeal; (equestrianism) a horse's slowest gait, in which the legs move individually in a diagonal pattern

walk-on (general) a member of a team who has no regular status

walk-up (general) (of) spectators who attend a sporting contest without buying tickets in advance; (horse racing) the walking of a horse up to the starting line

walkathon (athletics) a long-distance competitive walk, undertaken to raise funds for charity [blend of walk and marathon]

walkaway (general) a race in which the winner leaves the other competitors far behind

Walker Cup (golf) the cup awarded to the winner of a biennial competition between amateur men's teams from the United States and the British Isles, first held in 1922 [named for George H. Walker, president of the United States Golf Association in the 1920s]

walking (athletics) shortening of race walking

walkover (general) (1) a race in which there is only one competitor, who has merely to walk over the finishing line to win; (2) an easy victory

wall (association football) a formation of defensive players lined up to defend their goal against a free kick; (athletics) the onset of extreme fatigue encountered by runners in a long-distance race or marathon as a physical and psychological barrier to be overcome; (baseball) the barrier marking the outer limit of the outfield; (equestrianism) a high jump built to look like a wall; (Eton wall game) each of the players who form the bulk against the wall; (mountaineering) a steep smooth rock face; (surfing) the steep face of a wave before it breaks

wall bars (gymnastics) a set of horizontal bars extending up the wall of a gymnasium

wall game (sport) short name of the Eton wall game

wall pass (association football) another term for a one-two

Wallabies (rugby union) nickname of the Australian national team [from the animal, a member of the kangaroo family, that is native to Australia]

walley (ice skating) a jump that starts from a back inside edge and lands on the back outside edge of the same blade [origin disputed]

wallyball (volleyball) a form of the game played in a walled court [blend of wall and volleyball]

Walthamstow (greyhound racing) the stadium in the district of this name in London, England, that until its closure in 2008 was the country's leading venue for the sport

waltz (ice skating) a jump in the form of a takeoff from a front outside edge of one blade, a half-revolution, and a landing on the back outside edge of the other blade

ward (fencing) a defensive posture or movement

warm-down (general) a period of gentle exercise after keen physical exertion

warm-up (general) a practice exercise before a contest

warm-up lap (auto racing) another term for a formation lap

warn off (horse racing) to ban a person from all race meetings or from a particular course
warning • weight 170

warning (boxing) an official admonition from the referee, three of which lead to a disqualification from the bout
warning track (baseball) a grass-free strip around the outside of the outfield, warning approaching fielders that they are near a wall
Warriors (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Stenhousemuir; (basketball) short name of the Golden State Warriors team; (rugby league) short name of the English clubs Whitehaven Warriors and Wigan Warriors; (rugby union) short name of the English club Worcester Warriors
Warwick (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Warwick, Warwickshire, England
wash (rowing) (1) the rough water behind a moving boat that can affect the progress of competing boats in a race; (2) the water disturbed by an oar
washboard (motorcycle racing) in motocross, a series of hillocks [suggesting the corrugations on a washboard]
Wasps (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Alloa Athletic [from the yellow and black colors of the team strip]; (rugby union) short name of the English club London Wasps
watchet (angling) an artificial fly imitating a pale blue mayfly [name of color]
water ballet (swimming) another term for synchronized swimming
water hazard (golf) a hazard in the form of a lake, river, stream, ditch, or other body of water, defined by stakes or lines painted on the ground
water jump (athletics) an obstacle in the steeplechase, in which athletes land in a shallow pool of water; (equestrianism, horse racing) an obstacle in the form of a fence or hedge followed by a stretch of water
water polo (sport) a game played in a pool between two teams of seven swimmers, the aim being to throw a large ball into the netted goal of the opposing side [the game has no connection with or resemblance to polo but merely borrowed its name]
water skiing (sport) the sport of being towed at speed on one or two skis behind a motorboat
water skis (water skiing) lightweight runners made of fiberglass, in some versions fitted with fins, that enable the skier to skim the surface of the water
water sports (sport) another term for aquatics
Waterloo Cup (bowls) the cup awarded to the winner of a contest in crown green bowls first held at the Waterloo Hotel, Liverpool, in 1907
watery grave (golf) colloquial term for a stretch of water into which a ball has been hit
wave sailing (windsurfing) a form of the sport in which participants attempt to become airborne and perform stunts on the edges of waves
wave soaring (gliding) the gaining of altitude by riding vertical waves of wind, as on the lee side of a mountain
Waysiders (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Airdrie United
waza-ari (judo) a score of half a point, or half an ippon, awarded to a contestant for an incompletely executed throw or hold [Japanese waza, “act,” and arai, from aru, “to be”]
weak side (American football) the side of a standard offensive formation on which there is no tight end
weasel (cricket) a very poor batsman [as one “sent in after a rabbit”]
weave (boxing) to dodge punches by making twisting and turning movements
wedeln (skiing) a style of traveling downhill in which the skis, kept parallel and close together, are swiveled rapidly from side to side [German wedeln, “to wag the tail”]
wedge (golf) a club, especially a 10-iron, with a broad low-angled face and a high degree of loft
Wednesday (association football) short name of the English club Sheffield Wednesday
Wee Rangers (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Berwick Rangers [they are “wee” (small) as less successful and prosperous than Rangers]
Wee Rovers (association football) nickname of the Scottish club Albion Rovers [they are “wee” (small) as less successful and prosperous than Raith Rovers]
weigh in (boxing) to be weighed as a boxer before a match; (horse racing) to be weighed as a jockey after a race
weigh-in (angling) the weighing of a catch after a competition; (boxing) the weighing of a boxer before a match; (horse racing) the weighing of a jockey after a race
weigh out (horse racing) to be weighed as a jockey before a race
weigh-out (horse racing) the weighing of a jockey before a race
weigh-sling (angling) a bag attached to a sling, used for weighing a catch
weighing room (horse racing) the room in which the jockeys and their saddles are weighed before and after a race
weight (athletics) another term for the shot; (bowls) the force given a delivery of a bowl; (boxing) the standard amount that a boxer should weigh [categorized by a defining prefix, as flyweight, heavyweight]; (horse racing) the weight that a handicap assigns to a horse to carry, based on its form; (weightlifting) shortening of disk weight
weight cloth (horse racing) a cloak under a horse’s saddle that contains lead weights to bring the horse’s weight up to the required amount
weight training (weightlifting) the sport as a form of physical exercise or training
weightlifter (weightlifting) a person who takes part in the sport
weightlifting (sport) a sport in which competitors strive to lift and hold above their heads a barbell which becomes increasingly heavy (by the addition of disk weights) as the competition progresses
weights (weightlifting) (1) shortening of weightlifting or weight training; (2) the barbell or other heavy object of a particular weight used in these
Well (association football) short name of the Scottish club Motherwell
Wellydrome (cycling) nickname of the roofless Meadowbank velodrome, Edinburgh, Scotland [pun on welly, short form of wellington boot, worn in wet conditions]
welsh (horse racing) to run off from a racecourse without settling one’s bets [of uncertain origin, not related to Welsh]
welter (horse racing) an unusually heavy weight, carried mostly in steeplechases and hurdle races [origin uncertain]
welter race (horse racing) a race in which a welter is carried
welterweight (boxing) the professional weight category of maximum 67kg (147lb)
Wembley (general) shortening of Wembley Stadium
Wembley Arena (general) a former sports venue near Wembley Stadium, London, that is now used for rock concerts, comedy acts, and musical shows
Wembley Stadium (general) a stadium in Wembley, London, England, that opened in the 1920s as a general sports center but was rebuilt in 2007 primarily as a covered association football stadium with facilities for staging concerts and athletics events
Wentworth (golf) a golf course and tennis club at Virginia Water, Surrey, England
West Brom (association football) short name of the English club West Bromwich Albion
Westchester Cup (polo) the cup awarded to the winner of a contest inaugurated in 1886 between England and the United States [named for the Westchester Polo Club, Westchester County, New York]
Western (archery) a round of 48 arrows for men and women respectively at 60yds and 50yds (55m and 46m)
western grip (table tennis) another term for the shakehands
western roll (athletics) a style of high jump in which the athlete takes off from the inside foot, swings up the other leg, and rolls over the bar face downward
wet bob (rowing) a boy at Eton College who rows during the summer term, as distinct from a dry bob
wet fly (angling) an artificial fly that sinks below the surface of the water
Wetherby (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Wetherby, West Yorkshire, England [the name has no connection with Weatherbys, the firm founded in 1773 that now performs major administrative duties in British racing]
wets (auto racing) tires with a full tread designed to disperse surface water in wet conditions [colloquial shortening of wet-weather tires]
wetsuit (general) a close-fitting waterproof garment worn mainly by skin divers and surfers for protection against the cold
Wexford (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Wexford, Co. Wexford, Ireland
wheel (rugby union) to scrub the scrum unevenly, so that it rotates
Wheelchair Games (Olympics) an early name for the Paralympic Games
Wheelchair Olympics (Olympics) alternate name for the Wheelchair Games
wheelchair sports (general) sports played by people with physical disabilities (not just wheelchair users), with wheelchair prefixed to the name of the sport, as wheelchair tennis
wheeler (cycling) colloquial term for a cyclist [some clubs use the word in their name, as the Manchester Wheelers]
wheelhouse (baseball) the area immediately surrounding a batter, especially when favoring a good swing at a pitch
wheele (general) a stunt in which a cyclist or motorcyclist travels a short distance with the front wheel of the machine off the ground, or in which a boarder travels on a skateboard with one pair of wheels off the ground
wheelieing (cycling) colloquial term for the technique of riding close to the rider in front in order to slipstream
whereabouts rule (general) a requirement whereby athletes must give advance notice of the location where they can be reached by dope control officers at any time
whiff (baseball) to cause a batter to strike out; (general) to aim at a ball but miss it; (golf) another term for an air shot
whiffleball (baseball) a light, hollow, plastic ball used in a form of the game as played by young children [from whiffle, “puff of air”]
whip (cricket) a springy action of the wrist in hitting or bowling a ball; (equestrianism) the driver...
in carriage driving; (horse racing) the flexible switch with which a jockey urges on his horse; (wrestling) a technique by which an opponent is forced into a somersault by a sudden wrench of his forearm

whipback (gymnastics) a back handspring in which the hands do not touch the floor

whipper-in (horse racing) colloquial term for the last horse in a race at any given moment [a term borrowed from hunting, in which the whipper-in keeps the hounds from straying by driving them back into the main body of the pack with a whip]

whippet (greyhound racing) a racing dog developed from a cross between a greyhound and a spaniel or terrier

whistle (general) a blast on a whistle by a referee, typically in association football, to signal a halt in play, either because a foul has occurred or because it is half time or full time

Whitbread Round the World Race (sailing) name of the Volvo Ocean Race to 2001 [name of sponsor]

white (snooker) the white cue ball

white-ball game (sport) byname of cricket when played with a white ball, as against the traditional red-ball game

White City (general) a former stadium and center of greyhound racing in west London [originally an exhibition center of white-stuccoed buildings laid out in 1908]

white flag (athletics) a flag waved to an athlete to indicate a fair jump or throw; (auto racing) a flag waved to show that a slow-moving vehicle such as the safety car is on the track

White Hart Lane (association football) the home ground of Tottenham Hotspur football club, London

white jersey (cycling) the jersey awarded to the best-placed rider aged 25 or under [French maillot blanc, “white jersey”]

white rose (general) the emblem of a Lancashire sports team, as opposed to the red rose [from the Wars of the Roses, the 15th-century dynastic struggle between the English houses of Lancaster and York, whose respective emblems were a white rose and a red rose]

White Sox (baseball) short name of the Chicago White Sox team

Whitcomb (billiards) a shot that unintentionally sends an opponent’s ball into a pocket [from Whitcomb, a formerly poor district of London, where the game was popular]

whites (cricket, tennis) the white clothes traditionally worn by players

Whites (association football) nickname of the English club Leeds United [the color of the team strip]

whitewash (general) a total defeat in a game or series of games

whitewater (canoeing) the type of foaming water created by rapids, as found in slalom

whoop (general) a bump on a track or course in off-roading or rally driving

wick (curling) to strike another stone and move it

wicket (cricket) (1) the upright arrangement of three stumps with two bails atop which the batsman defends against the bowling; (2) a batsman’s turn at this; (3) a batsman’s innings; (4) another term for the pitch, especially with regard to its condition (as a soft wicket)

wicket-taker (cricket) a bowler regularly able to take a wicket

wicketkeeper (cricket) the fielder who stands immediately behind the wicket defended by the batsman and whose main aim is stop any balls that the latter misses

wide (cricket) a delivery of the ball by the bowler judged by the umpire to be beyond the reach of the batsman and so counting one run to the batsman’s side; (horse racing) running on a course that deviates from the most direct, as a horse may be obliged to do when starting from an unfavorable draw

wide receiver (American football) a receiver who stands to the side of the rest of the team, his prime task being to catch passes and run quickly downfield with the ball

wideout (American football) another term for a wide receiver

whiffleball (baseball) another spelling of whiffleball

Wightman Cup (tennis) the cup awarded to the winner of an annual championship played between British and American women’s teams from 1923 to 1989 [donated in 1923 by the U.S. player Hazel Hotchkiss Wightman (1886–1974)]

Wild (ice hockey) short name of the Minnesota Wild team

wild card (general) a player or team allowed to enter a sporting contest although lacking the usual qualifications or not meeting the official requirements [from the term for a playing card having any value its player chooses to give it]

wild pitch (baseball) a pitch thrown so inaccurately that it is not hit by the batter or stopped by the catcher, thus enabling a baserunner to advance

Wildcats (rugby league) short name of the English club Wakefield Wildcats

William H. Cane Futurity (horse racing) an annual harness race for three-year-old pacers run at Yonkers, New York, since 1955 [named for breeder William H. Cane (1874–1956), who in 1950 converted the former Empire City race-track to the Yonkers Raceway]
windsurfing (sport) a blend of surfing and sailing, consisting in riding the waves on a sailboard
windward (sailing) toward the direction from which the wind is blowing, as distinct from leeward
wing (general) (1) another term for a winger; (2) the part of the field in which he plays; (paragliding, paramotoring) an equivalent to the parachute in the form of an inflatable elliptical canopy with small air pockets
wing attack (netball) an attacking player restricted to the attacking third and center third
wing defense (netball) a defensive player restricted to the defending third and center third
wing forward (rugby union) another term for a flanker
wingback (association football) a player on the wing with a greater attacking role than a conventional fullback
winger (general) in field games, a player on the right or left wing, who in association football has the prime task of sending crosses into the penalty box and in rugby league and rugby union tries to run fast with the ball down the side of the pitch
Wingfield Sculls (rowing) the trophy awarded to the winner of an annual sculls race over the Boat Race course in London [inaugurated in 1830 by Henry C. Wingfield, a lawyer]
winner (tennis) the stroke that ends a rally, so winning a point
winning gallery (real tennis) the last gallery on the hazard side of the court, a shot into which wins a point
winning hazard (billiards, snooker) a stroke in which the object ball goes into a pocket
winning line (general) another term for the finishing line
winning opening (real tennis) each of the three openings around the court into which the ball may be struck from the far side of the net, these being the dedans, the grille, and the winning gallery
winning post (horse racing) the post marking the finishing line on a racecourse
winter book (horse racing) the estimate made by a bookmaker of the odds for races in the coming season
winter football (sport) alternate name for bandy
Winter Olympics (Olympics) an international festival of winter sports introduced in 1924 as an independent extension of the Olympic Games
winter sports (general) open-air sports practiced mainly (but not exclusively) in winter on snow and ice, such as ice hockey, ice skating, and skiing
wipeout (general) a fall from a surfboard, skateboard, skis, or the like, especially when spectacular
wire (croquet) (1) the part of the hoop above the ground; (2) to play a shot in such a way that a ball is hampered by a hoop; (greyhound racing, horse racing) another term for the finishing line [formerly marked by a wire stretched across the racetrack]
wired (croquet) prevented from making an intended shot because a ball, or a proper swing of the mallet, is hampered by a hoop
Wisden (cricket) short title of Wisden Cricketers’ Almanack, an annual comprehensive and definitive record of the sport [first published in 1864 by John Wisden (1826–1884)]
wishbone (American football) a variant of the T-
formation, in which the two halfbacks are set back from the fullback to form an inverted “V” or “wishbone”

with the darts (darts) winning a leg with the advantage of throwing first

Wizards (basketball) short name of the Washington Wizards team

WM (association football) a formation of five defenders (three backs and two halves) in the shape of a “W” and five attackers (five forwards) in the shape of an “M”

wobbler (angling) a lure that wobbles and does not spin

wobbly duck (American football) colloquial term for a badly-thrown pass [it wobbles instead of going straight]

Wolverhampton (horse racing) a flat and National Hunt racecourse at Wolverhampton, near Birmingham, England

Wolves (association football) nickname of the English club Wolverhampton Wanderers; (rugby league) short name of the English club Warrington Wolves

wood (bouls) another term for a bowl [originally made of wood, but now of a composite material]; (golf) a club with a bulky head [traditionally made of wood, but now usually of metal]

wood shot (tennis) a shot inadvertently played off the rim of the racket [formerly made of wood]

wooden spoon (general) the last place in a competition [originally a spoon made of wood presented to the candidate coming last in the mathematical tripos at Cambridge]

woodwork (association football) colloquial term for the goalposts and crossbar

Worcester (horse racing) a National Hunt racecourse at Worcester, Worcestershire, England

work (cricket) the manipulation of the ball by the bowler to give it a swing or spin; (horse racing) exercise in preparation for a race

work out (boxing) to fight a practice bout

worker (golf) colloquial term for a shot, especially a putt, that runs a long way

workout (boxing) a practice bout

world (general) shortening of world championship

World Bowl (American football) an annual contest first held in 1991 as the championship game of the World League of American Football but from 1995 that of NFL Europe

world champion (general) the champion of a sport in an international contest

world championship (general) an international sports contest whose winner will become world champion

World Cup (general) the cup awarded to the winner of an international tournament in a particular sport, the best-known being that first held in 1930 in association football, formerly known as the Jules Rimet Trophy [other sports with World Cup contests are (with year of inauguration) athletics (1977), baseball (1938), cricket (1975), field hockey (1971), golf (1953), lacrosse (1982), polo (1987), rugby league (1954), rugby union (1987), skiing (1967), table tennis (1980), volleyball (1965), water polo (1979)]

World Matchplay Championship (golf) an international championship with a valuable prize inaugurated in 1964 and until 2008 played at Wentworth

world record (general) an internationally unsurpassed record

World Road Race Championship (cycling) an annual international road race competition first held in 1927

World Series (baseball) a series of games contested annually since 1903 between the champions of the National League and the American League

world title (general) another term for a world championship

worm (angling) the earthworm used as bait

wormer (angling) a person who collects worms for bait

wrap (gymnastics) a person who collects worms for bait

wrestle down (wrestling) to bring an opponent to the ground

wrestler (wrestling) a person who participates in the main sport or in sumo

wrestling (sport) a combat sport in which two contestants grapple, each trying to throw his opponent to the ground and pinion him there

wrestling match (wrestling) a contest between two wrestlers

Wrigley Field (American football) the home ground of the Chicago Bears team in Chicago

wrist play (cricket) a technique in which a batsman scores runs by tipping the ball with a turn of the wrist rather than by wielding a full-on stroke with the bat

wrist wrestling (wrestling) a variant of arm wrestling in which the contenders lock right thumbs instead of hands in an attempt to force down each other’s arm

wrong-foot (general) to destabilize an opponent by means of a deceptive move or shot

wrong ’un (cricket) another term for a googly; (horse racing) a horse dishonestly held back so as to lose a race

wushu (general) a term for the Chinese martial arts [Chinese wu, “military,” and shu, “art”]

X Games (Olympics) an alternate form of Olympic Games devoted to extreme sports, held since 1995 in the United States, where they are con-
trolled and arranged by the sports broadcaster ESPN [so named as designed for “Generation X,” who became adults in the early 1990s]

XI (cricket) conventional designation of an eleven, especially in fixtures [Roman numerals]

Xs and Os (American football) a formula adopted by coaches when explaining tactical maneuvers to players by means of diagrams, “X” being an attacker and “O” a defender

XV (rugby union) conventional designation of a fifteen, especially in fixtures [Roman numerals]

yacht (sailing) a sailing vessel equipped for racing [Dutch jacht, formerly jagt, from jagen, “to chase”]

yacht club (sailing) a club for yacht owners or participants in yacht races

yacht race (sailing) a race among yachts

yacht racing (sailing) the competitive racing of yachts

yachting (sport) a former alternate term for sailing, officially dropped for competitions in 2000

yachtsman (sailing) a person who owns or sails a yacht

yachtswoman (sailing) a woman who sails in a yacht

yakker (baseball) colloquial term for a curveball

Yankee (horse racing) a multiple bet on four horses in four races, consisting of six doubles, four trebles, and an accumulator

Yankee Stadium (baseball) the home ground of the New York Yankees team in the Bronx, New York City

Yankees (baseball) short name of the New York Yankees team

yard (horse racing) the stables, grounds, and facilities owned by a trainer; (sailing) a long beam on a mast for spreading sails

yard-on (bowls) a heavy shot to break up or disturb the head

yardage (American football, golf) a distance measured in yards

Yarmouth (horse racing) a flat racecourse near Great Yarmouth, Norfolk, England

yaw (sailing) to deviate temporarily from a course

yearling (horse racing) a racehorse that is officially one year old, as calculated from January 1 in its year of foaling

yell (general) a rhythmic cheer or chant, often containing nonsense words or syllables, used to encourage sports teams, as in college football

yellow (snooker) the yellow ball, worth two points

yellow card (association football) a card shown to a player by the referee as an official warning after an infringement; (rugby league, rugby union) a card shown to a player by the referee following an infringement and sending him to the sin bin

yellow flag (auto racing) a flag waved to show that there is danger ahead and that there must be no overtaking

yellow jersey (cycling) (1) the jersey worn by the leader in the general classification at the end of particular day in the Tour de France [French maillot jaune, “yellow jersey”]; (2) a similar jersey in the Tour of Britain

yellow spot (snooker) the spot on the billiard table where the yellow is positioned, in the right corner of the D (viewed from the balk end)

yielding (horse racing) a category of going

yipper (golf) a golfer suffering from the yips

yips (golf) nervous twitching caused by tension before playing a putt [a word coined by Scottish professional Tommy Armour in the 1920s]

Yngling (sailing) a class of keelboat sailed by a crew of three [Norwegian jørgen, “youngster”]

yoko-shiho-gatame (judo) a hold from the side in which a combatant pins his opponent’s shoulders and hips to the ground [Japanese yoko, “side,” “across,” shiho (from shi, “four,” and ho, “direction”), and katame, “to lock”]

yokozuna (sumo) a grand champion, as the highest rank of wrestler [Japanese yoko, “across,” and tsuna, “rope,” from the garland originally presented to a champion]

Yonkers Futurity (horse racing) an annual harness race for three-year-old trotters, first held in 1958 at Yonkers, New York

york (cricket) to dismiss a batsman by bowling a yorker

York (archery) a round of 72 arrows for men at 100yds (91m), 48 at 80yds (73m), and 24 at 60yds (55m); (horse racing) a flat racecourse at York, North Yorkshire, England

yorker (cricket) a delivery of the ball that pitches on the popping crease and passes under the bat of the batsman [said to have been introduced by Yorkshire players]

Yoyos (association football) nickname for the Scottish club Stirling Albion [from the team’s alternating promotions and relegations, sending them up and down like a yo-yo]

yuko (judo) a score of five points, awarded for a throw or hold not worthy of a waza-ari [Japanese]

yump (auto racing) in rally driving, to leave the ground when going over a ridge or crest [Norwegian jump, “jump”]

Yurchenko (gymnastics) a routine in the vault consisting of a round-off onto the springboard, then a flic-flac onto the vault, then a dismount by way of a backflip [first performed in com-
petition in 1982 by the Soviet gymnast Natalya Yurchenko (1965–)

Zamboni (ice hockey) proprietary name of a machine used to clean, resurface, and smooth the ice on a rink [invented in 1949 by Frank J. Zamboni (1901–1988)]

zebra (American football) colloquial term for a member of the officiating team [from their black-and-white striped shirts]

Zebras (association football) nickname of the Italian club Juventus [from the team’s black-and-white striped shirts]

zero tackle (rugby league) an additional tackle awarded at the beginning of the standard set of six, awarded after a knock-on or a forward pass

zip (general) to beat a team without allowing them to score

zippers (American football) the permanent scars that disfigure the bodies of many players as a result of tough contact play

zonal marking (general) another term for zone defense

zone (ice hockey) one of the three equal parts of the playing area, as the center or neutral zone, attacking zone, and defending zone

zone defense (American football, association football) a method of defense in which a player patrols a particular area of the field rather than mark a specific opponent; (basketball) a method of defense in which a player patrols a particular area of the court rather than mark a specific opponent; (ice hockey) a method of defense in which a player patrols a particular area of the rink rather than mark a specific opponent

zoo (surfing) colloquial term for a crowded lineup

zooter (cricket) a ball bowled by a leg spinner that does not spin but dips late in flight to the batsman [apparently a random word]

zorb (general) a large transparent ball containing a smaller ball within which a person is secured and then rolled along the ground, down hills, and the like [apparently a random word, perhaps meant to evoke a science-fiction creation]

zorbing (general) the extreme sport of traveling in a zorb
Appendix:
Abbreviations of Ruling Bodies
and Administrative Organizations

Below are some of the many abbreviations used for the various sports ruling bodies and administrative organizations, whether international or national. Abbreviations with their own entries in the book are printed in bold (e.g. AFL). Translations of foreign titles are provided.

AAA
AFC
AFL
AIBA (boxing) Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur (International Amateur Boxing Association)
ATP (tennis) Association of Tennis Professionals
BHA
BWF (badminton) Badminton World Federation
CFU (Canadian football) Canadian Football League
CIPS (angling) Confédération Internationale de Pêche Sportive (International Sport Fishing Confederation)
CMSB (boules) Confédération Mondiale de Sports Boules (World Boules Confederation)
ECB
FA
FAI (ballooning, gliding, parachuting) Fédération Aéronautique Internationale (International Aeronautical Association)
FEI (equestrianism) Fédération Équestre Internationale (International Equestrian Federation)
FFPB (pelota) Fédération Française de la Pelote Basque (International Pelota Federation)
FIA (auto racing) Fédération Internationale de l’Automobile (International Automobile Federation)
FIB (bandy) Federation of International Bandy
FIBA (basketball) Fédération Internationale de Basketball (International Basketball Federation)
FIBT (bobsledding) Fédération Internationale de Bobsleigh et Toboganning (International Bobsleigh and Toboganning Federation)
FIE (fencing) Fédération Internationale d’Escrime (International Fencing Federation)
FIFA
FIG (gymnastics, trampolining) Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (International Gymnastics Federation)
FILA (wrestling) Fédération Internationale de Lutte Amateur (International Wrestling Federation)
FIM (motorcycle racing) Fédération Internationale de Motocyclisme (International Motorcycling Federation)
FINA (swimming, water polo) Fédération Internationale de Natation (International Swimming Federation)
FIP (polo) Federation of International Polo
FIPV (pelota) Federación Internacional de Pelota Vasca (International Pelota Federation)
FIQ (tenpin bowling) Fédération Internationale des Quilleurs (International Skittles Federation)
FIRS (roller hockey, roller skating) Fédération Internationale de Roller Sports (International Roller Sports Federation)
FIS (skiing, snowboarding) Fédération Internationale de Ski (International Ski Federation)
FISA (rowing) Fédération Internationale des Sociétés d’Aviron (International Rowing Federation)
FITIA (archery) Fédération Internationale de Tir à l’Arc (International Archery Federation)
FIVB (volleyball) Fédération Internationale de Volley-ball (International Volleyball Federation)
GHA (hurling) Gaelic Athletic Association
IAAF (athletics) International Association of Athletics Associations
IAF (aikido) International Aikido Federation
IBAF (baseball) International Baseball Federation
IBF (boxing) International Boxing Federation
IBSF (snooker) International Billiards and Snooker Federation
ICC
ICF (canoeing) International Canoe Federation
IFNA (netball) International Federation of Netball Associations
IFWLA (lacrosse) International Federation of Women’s Lacrosse Associations
IHF (1) (field hockey) International Hockey Federation; (2) (handball) International Handball Federation
IIHF (ice hockey) International Ice Hockey Federation
IJF (judo) International Judo Federation
IKF (1) (kendo) International Kendo Federation; (2) (korfball) International Korfball Federation
ILF (lacrosse) International Lacrosse Federation
IOC
IOF (orienteering) International Orienteering Federation
IRB (rugby union) International Rugby Board
IRF (racquetball) International Racquetball Federation
ISA (surfing) International Surfing Association
ISAF (sailing, windsurfing) International Sailing Federation
ISDRA (sled dog racing) International Sled Dog Racing Association
ISF (1) (skateboarding) International Skateboarding Federation; (2) (softball) International Softball Federation
ISJA (ju-jitsu) International Sport Ju-jitsu Association
ISSF (shooting) International Shooting Sport Federation
ISU (ice skating) International Skating Union
ITTF (table tennis) International Table Tennis Federation
IWF (weightlifting) International Weightlifting Federation
IWUF (kung fu) International Wushu Federation
JJIF (ju-jitsu) Ju-jitsu International Federation
JSA (sumo) Japan Sumo Association
MCC
MLB (baseball) Major League Baseball
NBA (basketball) National Basketball Association
NCAA (American football) National Collegiate Athletic Association
NFC
NFL
NHL
NPA (paddleball) National Paddleball Association
NRA (rounders) National Rounders Association
PBA (bowls) Professional Bowls Association
R&A
RFL (rugby league) Rugby Football League
RFU (rugby union) Rugby Football Union
RORC (sailing) Royal Ocean Racing Club
RYA (powerboat racing) Royal Yachting Association
T&RA (rackets, real tennis) Tennis and Rackets Association
UCI (cycling) Union Cycliste Internationale (International Cycling Union)
UEFA
UIAA (mountaineering) Union Internationale des Associations d’Alpinisme (International Union of Mountaineering Associations)
UMB (billiards) Union Mondiale de Billard (World Billiards Union)
USGA (golf) United States Golf Association
USPTA (paddle tennis) United States Paddle Tennis Association
WAKO (kickboxing) World Association of Kickboxing Associations
WBA (boxing) World Boxing Association
WBC (boxing) World Boxing Council
WBO (boxing) World Boxing Organization
WCBS (billiards) World Confederation of Billiard Sports
WCF (1) (croquet) World Croquet Federation; (2) (curling) World Curling Federation
WDF (darts) World Darts Federation
WGRF (greyhound racing) World Greyhound Racing Federation
WIBC (bowls) World Indoor Bowls Council
WKF (1) (kabaddi) World Kabaddi Federation; (2) (karate) World Karate Federation
WPA (billiards, pool) World Pool-Billiards Association
WPBSA (snooker) World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association
WSF (1) (snooker) World Snooker Federation; (2) (squash) World Squash Federation
WTF (tae kwon do) World Taekwondo Federation
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As well as the titles listed above, the following general dictionaries were also consulted:


*The Sunday Times Sport Calendar 2009* was used for the names, dates, and venues of scheduled world sporting events.