

used in the phrase *or so* to indicate an estimate, approximation, or conjecture (stayed a week or ~) (cost \$15 or ~)

so \sō\ var of SOL
soak \sōk\ vb [ME *soken*, fr. OE *socian*; akin to OE *sūcan* to suck] vi (bef. 12c) 1: to lie immersed in liquid (as water) 2 a: to enter or pass through something by or as if by pores or interstices: PERMEATE b: to penetrate or affect the mind or feelings — usu. used with *in* or *into* 3: to drink alcoholic beverages intemperately ~ vt 1: to permeate so as to wet, soften, or fill thoroughly 2: to place in a surrounding element (as liquid) to wet or permeate thoroughly 3: to extract by or as if by steeping (~ the dirt out) 4 a: to draw in by or as if by suction or absorption (~ed up the sunshine) b: to intoxicate (oneself) by drinking alcoholic beverages 5: to cause to pay an exorbitant amount — **soak-er** n
syn SOAK, SATURATE, DRENCH, STEEP, IMPREGNATE mean to permeate or be permeated with a liquid. SOAK implies usu. prolonged immersion as for softening or cleansing; SATURATE implies a resulting effect of complete absorption until no more liquid can be held; DRENCH implies a thorough wetting by something that pours down or is poured; STEEP suggests either the extraction of an essence (as of tea leaves) by the liquid or the imparting of a quality (as a color) to the thing immersed; IMPREGNATE implies a thorough interpenetration of one thing by another.

soak n (1598) 1 a: the act or process of soaking; the state of being soaked b: that (as liquid) in which something is soaked 2: DRUNKARD 3 slang: PAWN 2

soak-age \sō-kij\ n (1766) 1: liquid gained by absorption or lost by seepage 2: the act or process of soaking; the state of being soaked

so-and-so \sō-ən-sō\ n, pl **so-and-sos** or **so-and-so's** \sōz\ (1596) 1: an unnamed or unspecified person, thing, or action 2: BASTARD 3

so-and-so adv (1631) 1: to an unspecified amount or degree 2: in an unspecified manner or fashion

soap \sōp\ n [ME *sōpe*, fr. OE *sāpe*; akin to OHG *seifa* soap, L *sebum* tallow] (bef. 12c) 1 a: a cleansing and emulsifying agent made usu. by action of alkali on fat or fatty acids and consisting essentially of sodium or potassium salts of such acids b: a salt of a fatty acid and a metal 2: SOAP OPERA

soap vt (1585) 1: to rub soap over or into 2: FLATTER
soap-bark \sōp-bārk\ n (1861): a Chilean tree (*Quillaja saponaria*) of the rose family with shining leaves and terminal white flowers; also: its saponin-rich bark used in cleaning and in emulsifying oils

soap-ber-ry \sōp-bēr-ē\ n (1693): any of a genus (*Sapindus* of the family Sapindaceae, the soapberry family) of chiefly tropical woody plants; also: the fruit of a soapberry and esp. of a tree (*S. saponaria*) that is saponin-rich and used as a soap substitute

soap-box \sōp-bāks\ n (1917): an improvised platform used by a self-appointed, spontaneous, or informal orator — **soapbox** adj

soap bubble n (1815): a hollow iridescent globe formed by blowing a film of soapsuds (as from a pipe)

soap-er \sōp-ēr\ n (1946): SOAP OPERA

soap opera n [fr. its frequently being sponsored by soap manufacturers] (1939): a serial drama performed usu. on a daytime radio or television program and chiefly characterized by tangled interpersonal situations and melodramatic or sentimental treatment

soap plant n (1844): a plant having a part (as a root or fruit) that may be used in place of soap; esp: a California plant (*Chlorogalum pomeridianum*) of the lily family

soap-stone \sōp-stōn\ n (ca. 1681): a soft stone having a soapy feel and composed essentially of talc, chlorite, and often some magnetite

soap-suds \sōp-sudz\ n pl (1611): SUDS 1

soap-wort \sōp-wōrt-, -wō(ə)r\ n (1548): BOUNCING BET

soapy \sō-pē\ adj **soap-i-er**, -est (1610) 1: smeared with soap: LATHERED 2: containing or combined with soap or saponin 3 a: resembling or having the qualities of soap; esp: being smooth and slippery b: UNCTUOUS, SUAVE 4: of, relating to, or having the characteristics of soap opera — **soap-i-ly** \sō-pē-lē\ adv — **soap-i-ness** \sō-pē-nəs\ n

soar \sō(ə)r-, sō(ə)r\ vi [ME *soren*, fr. MF *essorer* to air, soar, fr. (assumed) VL *exaurare* to air, fr. L *ex- + aura* air — more at AURA] (14c) 1 a: to fly aloft or about b (1): to sail or hover in the air often at a great height: GLIDE (2) of a glider: to fly without engine power and without loss of altitude 2: to rise or increase dramatically (as in position, value, or price) 3: to ascend to a higher or more exalted level 4: to rise to majestic stature — **soar-er** n

soar n (1596) 1: the range, distance, or height attained in soaring; the act of soaring; upward flight

soaring n (1575): the act or process of soaring; specif: the act or sport of flying a heavier-than-air craft without power by utilizing ascending air currents

Soa-ve \sō-wāv-(j)ā, sō-wāv-\ n [Soave, village near Verona, Italy] (1943): a dry white Italian wine

sob \sāb\ vb **sobbed**; **sob-bing** [ME *sobben*] vi (13c) 1 a: to catch the breath audibly in a spasmodic contraction of the throat b: to cry or weep with convulsive catching of the breath 2: to make a sound like that of a sob or sobbing ~ vt 1: to bring (as oneself) to a specified state by sobbing (*sobbed* himself to sleep) 2: to utter with sobs (*sobbed* out her grief)

sob n (14c) 1: an act of sobbing 2: a sound like that of a sob

SOB \sēs-, sō-bē\ n [son of a bitch] (ca. 1925): BASTARD 3, SON OF A BITCH
so-ber \sō-bēr\ adj **so-ber-er** \sō-bēr-ēr\; **so-ber-est** \sō-bēr-ēst\ [ME *sobre*, fr. MF, fr. L *sobrius*; akin to L *ebrius* drunk] (14c) 1 a: sparing in the use of food and drink: ABSTEMIOUS b: not addicted to intoxicating drink c: not drunk 2: marked by sedate or gravely or earnestly thoughtful character or demeanor 3 *archaic*: UNHURRIED, CALM 4: marked by temperance, moderation, or seriousness 5: subdued in tone or color 6: showing no excessive or extreme qualities of fancy, emotion, or prejudice **syn** see SERIOUS — **so-ber-ly** \sō-bēr-lē\ adv — **so-ber-ness** n

sober vt **so-bered**; **so-ber-ing** \sō-bēr-(ə)r-ŋ\ vt (14c): to make sober ~ vi 1: to become sober — usu. used with *up*

so-ber-ly \sō-bēr-lē\ adv (1831): tending to make one thoughtful or sober

so-ber-ize \sō-bēr-īz\ vt -ized; -iz-ing *archaic* (1706): to make sober

so-ber-sid-ed \sō-bēr-sīd-əd\ adj (1847): solemn or serious in nature or appearance

so-ber-sides \sō-bēr-sīdz\ n pl but sing or pl in constr (1705): one who is sobersided

so-bri-ety \sō-ˈbrī-ət-ē, sō-\ n [ME *sobrietie*, fr. MF *sobrieté*, fr. L *sobrietat*, *sobrietates*, fr. *sobrius*] (14c): the quality or state of being sober
so-bri-quet \sō-ˈbrī-kā-, -kēt, sō-ˈbrī-\ n [F] (1646): a descriptive name or epithet: NICKNAME

sob sister n (1912) 1: a journalist who specializes in writing or editing sob stories or other material of a sentimental type 2: a sentimental and often impractical person usu. engaged in good works

sob story n (1916): a sentimental story or account intended chiefly to evoke sympathy or sadness

so-cage \sāk-ij-, sōk-\ also **so-cage** \sāk-\ n [ME, fr. *soc* soke] (14c): a tenure of land by agricultural service fixed in amount and kind or by payment of money rent only and not burdened with any military service — **so-cag-er** \sō-kāj-ēr\ n

so-called \sō-kōld\ adj (1657) 1: commonly named: popularly so termed (<the ~ pocket veto) 2: falsely or improperly so named (<deceived by a ~ friend)

so-cer \sāk-ər\ n [by shortening & alter. fr. *association football*] (1891): a game played on a field between two teams of 11 players each with the object to propel a round ball into the opponent's goal by kicking or by hitting it with any part of the body except the hands and arms — called also *association football*

so-cia-bil-i-ty \sō-shā-ˈbil-ət-ē\ n, pl -ties (15c): the quality or state of being sociable; also: the act or an instance of being sociable

so-cia-ble \sō-shā-bal\ adj [MF or L; MF, fr. L *sociabilis*, fr. *sociare* to join, associate, fr. *socius*] (1553) 1: inclined by nature to companionship with others of the same species: SOCIAL 2 a: inclined to seek or enjoy companionship b: conducive to friendliness or pleasant social relations **syn** see GRACIOUS — **so-cia-ble-ness** n — **so-cia-bly** \sō-shā-blē\ adv

social n (1826): an informal social gathering frequently involving a special activity or interest

so-cial \sō-shē\ adj [L *socialis*, fr. *socius* companion, ally, associate; akin to L *sequi* to follow — more at SUE] (1665) 1: involving allies or confederates (the Social War between the Athenians and their allies) 2 a: marked by or passed in pleasant companionship with one's friends or associates (leads a very full ~ life) b: SOCIABLE c: of, relating to, or designed for sociability (< ~ club) 3: of or relating to human society, the interaction of the individual and the group, or the welfare of human beings as members of society (~ institutions) 4: tending to form cooperative and interdependent relationships with one's fellows: GREGARIOUS b: living and breeding in more or less organized communities (~ insects) c of a plant: tending to grow in groups or masses so as to form a pure stand 5 a: of, relating to, or based on rank or status in a particular society (a member of our ~ set) b: of, relating to, or characteristic of the upper classes c: FORMAL

social n (1870): SOCIABLE

social climber n (1924): one who attempts to gain a higher social position or acceptance in fashionable society — **social climber** n

social contract n [trans. of *F contract social*] (1849): an actual or hypothetical agreement among individuals forming an organized society or between the community and the ruler that defines and limits the rights and duties of each

social Darwinism n (1939): an extension of Darwinism to social phenomena; specif: a theory in sociology: sociocultural advance is the product of intergroup conflict and competition and the socially elite classes (as those possessing wealth and power) possess biological superiority in the struggle for existence

social democracy n (ca. 1890): a political movement advocating a gradual and peaceful transition from capitalism to socialism by democratic means — **social democrat** n — **social democratic** adj

social disease n (1918) 1: VENEREAL DISEASE 2: a disease (as tuberculosis) whose incidence is directly related to social and economic factors

social engineering n (1925): management of human beings in accordance with their place and function in society: applied social science — **social engineer** n

social gospel n (1920) 1: the application of Christian principles to social problems 2 *cap* S&G: a movement in American Protestant Christianity esp. in the first part of the 20th century to bring the social order into conformity with Christian principles

social insurance n (1917): protection of the individual against economic hazards (as unemployment, old age, or disability) in which the government participates or enforces the participation of employers and affected individuals

so-cial-ism \sō-shā-ˈlīz-əm\ n (1839) 1: any of various economic and political theories advocating collective or governmental ownership and administration of the means of production and distribution of goods 2 a: a system of society or group living in which there is no private property b: a system or condition of society in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state 3: a stage of society in Marxist theory transitional between capitalism and communism and distinguished by unequal distribution of goods and pay according to work done

socialist \sō-shā-(ə)-līst\ n (1833) 1: one who advocates or practices socialism 2 *cap*: a member of a socialist party or political group — **socialist** adj, often *cap* — **so-cial-ist-ic** \sō-shā-ˈlīz-tīk\ adj — **so-cial-ist-i-cal-ly** \sō-shā-ˈlīz-tī-k(ə)-lē\ adv

socialist realism n (ca. 1943): a Marxist aesthetic theory calling for the didactic use of literature, art, and music to develop social consciousness in an evolving socialist state — **social realist** n

so-cial-ite \sō-shā-ˈlīt\ n (1929): a socially prominent person

so-cial-i-ty \sō-shē-ˈal-ət-ē\ n, pl -ties (1649) 1 a: SOCIABILITY b: an instance of social intercourse or sociability 2: the tendency to associate in or form social groups

so-cial-ize \sō-shā-ˈlīz\ vb -ized; -iz-ing vt (1836) 1: to make social; esp: to fit or train for a social environment 2 a: to constitute on a socialistic basis (~ industry) b: to adapt to social needs or uses (~ science) 3: to organize group participation in (~ a recitation) ~ vi 1: to participate actively in a social group — **so-cial-iza-tion** \sō-shā-ˈlīz-ə-shən\ n — **so-cial-iz-er** \sō-shā-ˈlī-zər\ n

socialized medicine n (1938): medical and hospital services for the members of a class or population administered by an organized group (as a state agency) and paid for from funds obtained usu. by assessments, philanthropy, or taxation