

libel *vb* -beled or -belled; -bel-ing or -bel-ling \-b(ə)-līn\ *vi* (1570): to make libelous statements ~ *vt*: to make or publish a libel against — **libel-er** \-b(ə)-lər\ *n* — **libel-ist** \-b(ə)-lɪst\ *n*
libel-ant or **libel-lant** \-lɪ-b(ə)-lənt\ *n* (1726): one that institutes a suit by a libel

libel-ee or **libel-lee** \-lɪ-b(ə)-lē\ *n* (1856): one against whom a libel has been filed in a court
libel-ous or **libel-lous** \-lɪ-b(ə)-ləs\ *adj* (1619): constituting or including a libel: DEFAMATORY (a ~ statement)

lib-er-a \-lɪ-b(ə)-rə-, -lɪ-brə\ *n* [L. lit., deliver, imper. of *liberare* to liberate; fr. the first word of the responsory] (ca. 1903): a Roman Catholic funeral responsory

lib-er-al \-lɪ-b(ə)-rəl\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF, fr. L. *liberalis* suitable for a freeman, generous, fr. *liber* free; akin to OE *leodan* to grow, Gk *eleutheros* free] (14c) 1 *a*: of, relating to, or based on the liberal arts (~ education) **b** *archaic*: of or befitting a man of free birth 2 *a*: GENEROUS, OPENHANDED (a ~ giver) **b**: given or provided in a generous and openhanded way (a ~ meal) **c**: AMPLE, FULL 3 *obs*: lacking moral restraint: LICENTIOUS 4: not literal or strict: LOOSE (a ~ translation) 5: BROAD-MINDED; *esp*: not bound by authoritarianism, orthodoxy, or traditional forms 6 *a*: of, favoring, or based upon the principles of liberalism **b** *cap*: of or constituting a political party advocating or associated with the principles of political liberalism; *esp*: of or constituting a political party in the United Kingdom associated with ideals of individual esp. economic freedom, greater individual participation in government, and constitutional, political, and administrative reforms designed to secure these objectives — **lib-er-al-ly** \-rə-lē\ *adv* — **lib-er-al-ness** *n*

syn LIBERAL, GENEROUS, BOUNTIFUL, MUNIFICENT mean giving freely and unstintingly. LIBERAL suggests openhandedness in the giver and largeness in the thing or amount given; GENEROUS stresses warmhearted readiness to give more than size or importance of the gift; BOUNTIFUL suggests lavish, unremitting giving or providing; MUNIFICENT suggests a scale of giving appropriate to lords or princes.

liberal *n* (1816): one who is liberal: *a*: one who is open-minded or not strict in the observance of orthodox, traditional or established forms or ways **b** *cap*: a member or supporter of a liberal political party **c**: an advocate or adherent of liberalism esp. in individual rights

liberal arts *n pl* (14c) 1: the medieval studies comprising the trivium and quadrivium 2: the studies (as language, philosophy, history, literature, abstract science) in a college or university intended to provide chiefly general knowledge and to develop the general intellectual capacities (as reason and judgment) as opposed to professional or vocational skills

lib-er-al-ism \-lɪ-b(ə)-rə-, -lɪ-z-əm\ *n* (1819) 1: the quality or state of being liberal 2 *a* *often cap*: a movement in modern Protestantism emphasizing intellectual liberty and the spiritual and ethical content of Christianity **b**: a theory in economics emphasizing individual freedom from restraint and usu. based on free competition, the self-regulating market, and the gold standard **c**: a political philosophy based on belief in progress, the essential goodness of man, and the autonomy of the individual and standing for the protection of political and civil liberties **d** *cap*: the principles and policies of a Liberal party — **lib-er-al-ist** \-rə-lɪst\ *n* or *adj* — **lib-er-al-ist-ic** \-lɪ-b(ə)-rə-'lɪs-tɪk\ *adj*

lib-er-al-ity \-lɪ-b(ə)-rə-'lɪ-ti\ *n*, *pl* -ties (14c): the quality or state of being liberal; *also*: an instance of this

lib-er-al-ize \-lɪ-b(ə)-rə-'lɪ-z\ *vb* -ized; -iz-ing *vt* (1774): to make liberal or more liberal ~ *vi*: to become liberal or more liberal — **lib-er-al-iza-tion** \-lɪ-b(ə)-rə-'lɪ-zə-'tʃən\ *n* — **lib-er-al-izer** \-lɪ-b(ə)-rə-'lɪ-zər\ *n*

lib-er-ate \-lɪ-b(ə)-rət\ *vt* -at-ed; -at-ing [L. *liberatus*, pp. of *liberare*, fr. *liber*] (ca. 1623) 1: to set at liberty: FREE *specif*: to free (as a country) from domination by a foreign power 2: to free from combination (~ the gas by adding acid) 3: to take or take over illegally or unjustly (a... barricade was constructed... with material *liberated* from a nearby construction site — Thorne Dreyer) **syn** see FREE — **lib-er-a-tor** \-rət-ər\ *n*

lib-er-at-ed *adj* (1946): freed from or opposed to traditional social and sexual attitudes or roles (a ~ woman) (a ~ marriage)

lib-er-a-tion \-lɪ-b(ə)-rə-'tʃən\ *n* (15c) 1: the act of liberating: the state of being liberated 2: a movement seeking equal rights and status for a group (women's ~) — **lib-er-a-tion-ist** \-tʃən-ɪst\ *n*

lib-er-tar-i-an \-lɪ-b(ə)-tər-'e-ən\ *n* (1789) 1: an advocate of the doctrine of free will 2: one who upholds the principles of absolute and unrestricted liberty esp. of thought and action — **lib-er-tar-i-an-ism** \-tər-'e-ən-ɪz-əm\ *n*

lib-er-tin-age \-lɪ-b(ə)-tɪ-nɪj\ *n* (1611): LIBERTINISM

lib-er-tine \-lɪ-b(ə)-tɪ-n\ [ME *libertyn*, freedman, fr. L. *libertinus*, fr. *libertinus*, *adj.*, of a freedman, fr. *libertus* freedman, fr. *liber*] (1563) 1: a freethinker esp. in religious matters — usu. used disparagingly 2: a person who is unrestrained by convention or morality; *specif*: one leading a dissolute life

libertine *adj* (1577): of, relating to, or characteristic of a libertine

lib-er-tin-ism \-lɪ-b(ə)-tɪ-n-ɪz-əm-, -tɪ-n\ *n* (1611): the quality or state of being libertine

lib-er-ty \-lɪ-b(ə)-tɪ\ *n*, *pl* -ties [ME fr. MF *liberté*, fr. L. *libertas*, *libertas*, fr. *liber* free — more at LIBERAL] (14c) 1: the quality or state of being free: *a*: the power to do as one pleases **b**: freedom from physical restraint **c**: freedom from arbitrary or despotic control **d**: the positive enjoyment of various social, political, or economic rights and privileges 2: the power of choice 3: *a*: a right or immunity enjoyed by prescription or by grant: PRIVILEGE **b**: permission esp. to go freely within specified limits 3: an action going beyond normal limits: *a*: a breach of etiquette or propriety: FAMILIARITY **b**: RISK, CHANCE (took foolish liberties with his health) **c**: a violation of rules or a deviation from standard practice **d**: a distortion of fact 4: a short authorized absence from naval duty usu. for less than 48 hours **syn** see FREEDOM — **at liberty** 1: FREE 2: at leisure: UNOCCUPIED

liberty *n* (1770): the French revolutionists and in the U.S. before 1800 **liberty pole** *n* (1770): a tall flagstaff surmounted by a liberty cap or the flag of a republic and set up as a symbol of liberty

lib-idi-nal \-lɪ-'bɪd-nəl-, -bɪd-nəl\ *adj* (1922): of or relating to the libido — **lib-idi-nal-ly** \-lɪ-'bɪd-nəl\ *adv*

lib-idi-nous \-lɪ-'bɪd-nəs-, -bɪd-nəs\ *adj* [ME, fr. MF *libidinosus*, fr. L. *libidinosus*, fr. *libidin-*, *libido*] (15c) 1: having or marked by lustful desires: LASCIVIOUS 2: LIBIDINAL — **lib-idi-nous-ly** *adv* — **lib-idi-nous-ness** *n*
lib-ido \-lɪ-'bɪd-(-)ō-, -lɪ-b(ə)-dō\ *n*, *pl* -dos [NL *libidin-*, *libido*, fr. L. desire, lust, fr. *libere* to please — more at LOVE] (1909) 1: emotional or psychic energy that in psychoanalytic theory is derived from primitive biological urges and that is usu. goal-directed 2: sexual drive
lib-ra (for 1 & 2a *lib-er-a* or *lib-er-a*) or *lib-er-a* or *lib-er-a* *n* [ME, fr. L. (gen. *Librae*), lit. scales, pound] 1 *cap*: *a*: a southern zodiacal constellation between Virgo and Scorpio represented by a pair of scales **b** (1): the 7th sign of the zodiac in astrology — see ZODIAC table (2): one born under this sign 2 *a* *pl* **lib-er-a** \-lɪ-'brə-, -lɪ-'brɪ\ [L]: an ancient Roman unit of weight equal to 327.45 grams **b** [Sp & Pg, fr. L]: any of various Spanish, Portuguese, Colombian, or Venezuelan units of weight

lib-er-a \-lɪ-brə-, -lɪ-ə\ *n* (1967): LIBRA 1b(2)

lib-er-a-ian \-lɪ-'brer-ē-ən\ *n* (1713): a specialist in the care or management of a library — **lib-er-a-ian-ship** \-ən-'shɪp\ *n*

lib-er-ary \-lɪ-'brer-ē\ *n* [ME, fr. ML *librarium*, fr. L. neut. of *librarius* of books, fr. *libr-*, *liber* book — more at LEAF] (14c) 1 *a*: a place in which literary, musical, artistic, or reference materials (as books, manuscripts, recordings, or films) are kept for use but not for sale **b**: a collection of such materials 2 *a*: a collection resembling or suggesting a library (a ~ of computer programs) (wine ~) **b**: MORGUE 2 3 *a*: a series of related books issued by a publisher **b**: a collection of publications on the same subject

usage While the pronunciation \-lɪ-'brer-ē- is the most frequent variant in the U.S., the other variants are not uncommon. The contraction \-lɪ-'br- and the dissimilated form \-lɪ-'ber- result from the relative difficulty of repeating \r\ in successive syllables and are heard from educated speakers, including college presidents and professors, as well as with somewhat greater frequency from less educated speakers.

library paste *n* (1953): a thick white adhesive made from starch
library science *n* (1902): the study or the principles and practices of library care and administration

lib-er-a-tion \-lɪ-'brə-'tʃən\ *n* [L. *liberatio-*, *libratio*, fr. *liberatus*, pp. of *liberare* to balance, fr. *libra* scales] (1669): an oscillation in the apparent aspect of a secondary body (as a planet or a satellite) as seen from the primary object around which it revolves — **lib-er-a-tion-al** \-tʃən-əl-, -tʃən-'l\ *adj* — **lib-er-a-tor-y** \-lɪ-'brə-, -tɔr-ē-, -tɔr-'l\ *adj*

lib-er-et-ist \-lɪ-'brət-ət\ *n* (1862): the writer of a libretto
lib-er-et-to \-lɪ-'brət-(-)ō\ *n*, *pl* -tos or -ti \-(-)ē\ [It. dim. of *libro* book, fr. L. *libr-*, *liber*] (1742) 1: the text of a work (as an opera) for the musical theater 2: the book containing a libretto

lib-er-iform \-lɪ-'brə-'fɔrm\ *adj* [L. *libr-*, *liber* + ISV -*iform*] (1877): resembling phloem fibers

lib-er-i-um \-lɪ-'br-əm\ *trademark* — used for a preparation of chlordiazepoxide

lib-er-ian \-lɪ-b(ə)-rən\ *n* (1607) 1: a native or inhabitant of Libya 2: a Berber language of ancient No. Africa — **Libyan** *adj*

lice *pl* of LOUSE
li-cense or **li-cence** \-lɪ-'sɪn-(t)s\ *n* [ME, fr. MF *licence*, fr. L. *licentia*, fr. *licent-*, *licens*, pp. of *licere* to be permitted; akin to Latvian *likt* to come to terms] (14c) 1 *a*: permission to act **b**: freedom of action 2 *a*: a permission granted by competent authority to engage in a business or occupation or in an activity otherwise unlawful **b**: a document, plate, or tag evidencing a license granted 3 *a*: freedom that allows or is used with irresponsibility **b**: disregard for rules of personal conduct: LICENTIOUSNESS 4: deviation from fact, form, or rule by an artist or writer for the sake of the effect gained **syn** see FREEDOM

license *also* **licence** *vt* **li-cens-ed**; **li-cens-ing** (15c) 1: to issue a license to 2: to permit or authorize esp. by formal license — **li-cens-able** \-n-sə-'bəl\ *adj* — **li-cens-er** \-sər\ or **li-cens-or** \-sər-, lɪ-'sɪn-'s(ə)r\ *n*

licensed practical nurse *n* (1951): a person who has undergone training and obtained a license (as from a state) conferring authorization to provide routine care for the sick

li-cens-ee \-lɪ-'sɪn-'sē\ *n* (1864): one that is licensed
license plate *n* (1926): a plate or tag (as of metal) attesting that a license has been secured and usu. bearing a registration number

li-cens-ure \-lɪ-'sɪn-'ʃər-, -ʃu(ə)r\ *n* (ca. 1846): the granting of licenses esp. to practice a profession

li-cen-tē \-lɪ-'sɛnt-ē\ *n*, *pl* **li-cen-tē** or **li-cen-ti** \-ē\ [native name in Lesotho] (1966) — see *loti* at MONEY table

li-cen-ti-ate \-lɪ-'sɛn-ti-ət-, *esp* in sense 2 *li-*\ *n* [ML *licentiatius*, fr. pp. of *licentiare* to allow, fr. L. *licentia*] (14c) 1: one who has a license granted esp. by a university to practice a profession 2: an academic degree ranking below that of doctor given by some European universities

li-cen-tious \-lɪ-'sɛn-tʃəs\ *adj* [L. *licentiosus*, fr. *licentia*] (1535) 1: lacking legal or moral restraints; *esp*: disregarding sexual restraints 2: marked by disregard for strict rules of correctness — **li-cen-tious-ly** *adv* — **li-cen-tious-ness** *n*

li-chee *var* of LITCHI

li-chen \-lɪ-'kən\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *leichen*, *lichēn*; akin to Gk *leichen* to lick] (1601) 1: any of numerous complex thallophytic plants (group Lichenes) made up of an alga and a fungus growing in symbiotic association on a solid surface (as a rock) 2: any of several skin diseases characterized by a papular eruption — **li-chen-ed** \-kən-d\ *adj* — **li-chen-ous** \-kə-'nəs\ *adj*



lichen 1