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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

Proceeding	85791698
Applicant	No Surprises Software, LLC
Applied for Mark	VIEWABILL
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE TRADEMARK TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD**

In the Matter of

Application No. : 85/791,698
Applicant : No Surprises Software, LLC
Mark : **VIEWABILL**
Filing Date : November 30, 2012
Examining Attorney : Carolyn A. Pendleton
Law Office : 103

BRIEF FOR APPLICANT

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I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to a Notice of Appeal filed September 17, 2014, Applicant, No Surprises Software, LLC, hereby appeals the Examining Attorney's final refusal to register the mark VIEWABILL for "Providing a website featuring online technology that allows clients of hourly service providers and hourly service providers to share activity information on a real time basis" in International Class 5. The Examining Attorney rejected the application in International Class 35 pursuant to 15 U.S.C. §1052(e)(1) and TMEP §1209, *et seq.* on the grounds that the VIEWABILL mark is merely descriptive of the services that are the subject of the application. Applicant respectfully requests that the Trademark Trial and Appeal Board reverse the refusal to register the mark for the above services. In the alternative, in the event the Board does not agree with Applicant, Applicant requests that the present application be amended to the Supplemental Register.

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

On November 30, 2012, Applicant filed an application to register the mark VIEWABILL on the Principal Register for use in connection with the following services:

Providing an on-line system for clients of hourly service providers and the hourly service providers to share activity information on a real time basis in Class 35

The application was filed on the basis of intent-to-use the mark with the services.

On March 26, 2013, an Office Action was issued requiring that the description of the services be clarified. On September 16, 2013, a Response to Office Action was filed amending the description of the services to read:

Providing a website featuring online technology that allows clients of hourly service providers and hourly service providers to share activity information on a real time basis in Class 35.

At the same time, Applicant filed an Amendment to Allege use, claiming a first use date of March, 2013.

The Amendment to Allege Use was accepted. However, on October 9, 2013, the Examining Attorney issued a further Office Action refusing registration of Applicant's mark on the Principal Register pursuant to Section 2(e)(1) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1052(e)(1) and TMEP §§ 1209.01, 1209.03, *et seq.*, on the grounds the mark merely describes feature of applicant's services as follows:

Applicant's mark is VIEWABILL for providing a website featuring online technology that allows clients of hourly service providers and hourly service providers to share activity information on a real time basis. Applicant's mark is the telescope wording VIEW A BILL. According to applicant's specimen of record the online technology enables users to information on the details of legal bills. Therefore, the applicant's mark merely describes the function of the services, which is to provide the means to view a bill.

The Examining Attorney noted that Applicant could amend the application to seek registration on the Supplemental Register.

On February 18, 2014, Applicant filed a Response to Office Action in which it was pointed out that Applicant's mark was, at most, suggestive, as the services provided by Applicant under the VIEWABILL mark did not relate to a "bill", but rather, to entries made prior to receiving a bill. As Applicant stated in the February 18, 2014 Response:

The Examining Attorney in this case erroneously contends that the VIEWABILL mark is merely descriptive of Applicant's services because, contrary to the Examining Attorney's contention, Applicant's technology does not provide information or details regarding legal bills. Quite the contrary. Although the specimen that was submitted made reference to legal "bills", Applicant's technology does not relate to viewing of bills. Instead, as shown by a printout from Applicant's website, www.viewabill.com, Applicant's technology enables hourly service providers and their clients to review time and other entries, and make changes as agreed upon, on a real time basis and critically before a bill has ever been issued.

On March 21, 2014, the Examining Attorney issued an Office Action maintaining and making final the refusal to register the mark on the Principal Register on the grounds the mark is merely descriptive pursuant to Section 2(e)(1) of the Lanham Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1052(e)(1) and TMEP §§ 1209 *et seq.*

III. ARGUMENT

A. Applicant's VIEWABILL Mark is Not Merely Descriptive of the Services

As Applicant pointed out to the Examining Attorney in this case, the law is well settled that a mark will be deemed to be merely descriptive only if it "immediately conveys information" about an ingredient, characteristic, function or feature of a product or service." *See, e.g., In re MBNA America Bank N.A.*, 67 U.S.P.Q.2d 1778, 1780 (Fed. Cir. 2003); *In re Time Solutions Inc.*, 33 U.S.P.Q.2d 1156, 1157 (T.T.A.B. 1994); *see also Abercrombie & Fitch Co. v. Hunting World, Inc.*, 189 U.S.P.Q. 759, 765 (2d Cir. 1976) ("A term is descriptive if it forthwith conveys an immediate idea of the ingredients, qualities or characteristics of the goods."). It is not sufficient, however, that the term may convey an indefinite scrap of information about the goods or services, it must provide the consumer with an unambiguous idea as to the nature of those goods or services. *See Blisscraft of Hollywood v. United Plastics Co.*, 131 U.S.P.Q. 55, 60 (2d Cir. 1961) ("Unless a word gives some reasonably accurate — some tolerably distinct knowledge — as to [the goods], it is not descriptive within the meaning of trademark terminology.").

By contrast, a mark is suggestive if, when the goods or services are encountered under the mark, a multi-stage reasoning process, or the utilization of imagination, thought or perception, is required in order to determine what attributes of the goods or services the mark indicates. *See, e.g., In re Abcor Development Corp.*, 200 U.S.P.Q. 215, 218 (C.C.P.A. 1978); *In re Mayer-Beaton Corp.*, 223 U.S.P.Q. 1347, 1349 (T.T.A.B. 1984). Indeed, this Board has often recognized that there is a thin line of demarcation between a suggestive mark and a merely descriptive one, with the determination of which category a mark falls into frequently being a difficult matter involving a good measure of subjective judgment. *See, e.g., In re Atavio*, 25 U.S.P.Q.2d 1361 (T.T.A.B. 1992); *In re TMS Corp. of the Americas*, 200 U.S.P.Q. 57, 58 (T.T.A.B. 1978). As a result, to the extent any doubt exists as to whether a mark is descriptive,

that doubt must be resolved in the applicant's favor, and the mark will not then be refused registration on descriptiveness grounds. *See, e.g., Atavio*, 25 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1363; *In re Aid Laboratories, Inc.*, 221 U.S.P.Q. 1215, 1216 (T.T.A.B. 1983), and *In re Gourmet Bakers, Inc.*, 173 U.S.P.Q. 565 (T.T.A.B. 1972). Indeed,

[t]he burden is initially on the United States Patent and Trademark Office to make a prima facie showing that the mark or word in question is descriptive from the vantage point of purchasers of applicant's goods and, where doubt exists as to whether a term is descriptive, such doubt should be resolved in favor of the applicant. *In re Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, and Smith, Inc.*, 828 F.2d 1567, 4 USPQ2d 1141, 1144 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

In re Box Solutions Corp., 79 USPQ2d 1953, 1955 (TTAB 2006). The Examining Attorney has utterly failed to make such a *prima facie* showing as the VIEWABILL mark is not descriptive when used in connection with the services that are the subject of the present application and that are provided by Applicant.

Applicant's mark is VIEWABILL. The relevant inquiry is, what is a "bill". A "bill" in the context of the present application is the equivalent of a invoice. Specifically, a "bill" and "invoice" are defined as:

bill . . . 1. An itemized list of fees or charges. (*Webster's II New College Dictionary* at p. 109 (1999))

bill *n.* 1 an amount of money owed for goods supplied or services rendered, set out in a printed or written statement of charges (*The New Oxford American Dictionary* at p. 163 (Second Edition 2005))

invoice . . . 1. An itemized list of goods shipped or services rendered, with an account of all costs: BILL (*Webster's II New College Dictionary* at p. 584 (1999))

invoice *n.* 1 a list of goods sent or services provided, with a statement of the sum due for these; a bill (*The New Oxford American Dictionary* at p. 887 (Second Edition 2005))

Copies of the relevant pages from the above dictionaries are attached as Exhibit 1.¹

¹ The Board may take judicial notice of dictionary definitions. *See, e.g., In re SPX*, 63 USPQ2d 1592, 1593 n. 2 (TTAB 2002).

A "bill" is, by definition, a document that sets out an amount of money that is owed for goods purchased or services provided. However, the services provided by Applicant relate to providing clients of hourly service providers and hourly service providers the ability to share activity information on a real time basis before a bill is generated. As the specimen submitted by Applicant in its September 16, 2013 Amendment to Allege Use states:

With real-time access to all your outside counsel's time entries you can stop wondering, and start experiencing peace of mind that they are using best billing practices.

* * *

The Columbus Dispatch

"Keep track of . . . attorneys' hours in real time so [clients] aren't surprised by the bill at the end of the month.

* * *

Prevent Crammed Hours

You can see each entry and when it was entered, encouraging your outside counsel to use best practices and to enter hours regularly

Manage all your outside counsel from one intuitive dashboard, or set alerts and notifications to stay informed on only the most important matters. Viewabill works for you, on your terms. Whether you actively review entries and collaborate with outside counsel in real time, or just want Viewabill to inform you before there is a problem, having the option to access your data anytime anywhere will encourage your outside counsel to use best practices.

The literal meaning of Applicant's VIEWABILL mark is that a consumer can "View" (see) his/her "Bill" (invoice). It, therefore, only describes a situation in which a user would be able to see a final bill of charges for services provided.

That is not what is provided by Applicant under the VIEWABILL mark. Rather, the services provided under the VIEWABILL mark serve as an interface between a customer and hourly service provider that enables real-time evaluation of time entries before a bill is issued.

That is, the entries can be seen, evaluated and acted upon, before an invoice setting out the

charges is issued – before there is a bill. In fact, users of Applicant's services will continue to receive the "bills" directly from the hourly service provider, they merely have the ability to see the entries of those hourly service providers before such a bill is issued. A consumer, seeing the mark, would therefore have to exercise his/her imagination to make a leap from the literal meaning of the mark – see a final bill of charges – to what is actually provided – see time entries from hourly service providers before a bill of charges is issued.

Applicant's mark is analogous to a mark like AIR-CARE, which was found by the Board to be suggestive, rather than merely descriptive, when used in connection with maintenance services for inhalation therapy equipment. *See Airco, Inc. v. Air Products & Chemicals, Inc.*, 196 U.S.P.Q. 832, 835 (T.T.A.B. 1977). Indeed, the Board's rationale in that case applies equally in this case.

The mark "AIR-CARE" is . . . not merely descriptive as applied to applicant's services. The literal meaning of the mark, namely, "care of the air", may, through an exercise of mental gymnastics and extrapolation suggest or hint at the nature of applicant's services, but it does not, in any clear or precise way, serve merely to describe applicant's preventive maintenance program for hospital and medical anesthesia and inhalation therapy equipment and the like.

Id. at 835. As with the AIR-CARE mark, Applicant's VIEWABILL mark does not in any clear or precise way serve merely to describe Applicant's technology is designed to enable a user to review time and cost entries on a real-time basis before a bill is generated, and Applicant's VIEWABILL mark is not merely descriptive of Applicant's services. There is in this case a multi-link chain or multi-stage reasoning process that is the hallmark of a suggestive, and not descriptive, term. *See, e.g., In re Tennis in the Round Inc.*, 199 U.S.P.Q. 496, 498 (T.T.A.B. 1978). Thus, Applicant's VIEWABILL mark is not descriptive of the services that are the subject of the present application and are, instead, at most merely suggestive.

B. In The Alternative, the Application Should be Amended to the Supplemental Register

In the event the Board disagrees with Applicant and concludes that the VIEWABILL mark is descriptive, Applicant respectfully requests and moves the Board that the present

application be remanded to the Examining Attorney for amendment of the application to the Supplemental Register, which Applicant notes the Examining Attorney advised was available in the October 9, 2013 Office Action.

IV. CONCLUSION

The burden to show a mark is ineligible for registration lies with the Trademark Office. *Cf. In re Merrill Lynch*, 4 U.S.P.Q.2d 1141, 1143 (Fed. Cir. 1987); *see also TMEP* § 1209.02 (indicating that a determination that a mark is merely descriptive should be supported with appropriate evidence). Applicant submits that the Examining Attorney has failed to carry this burden, and that the evidence of record is insufficient to show that the mark VIEWABILL is merely descriptive when used with Applicant's services of enabling customers and hourly service providers to share activity information on a real time basis. Moreover, to the extent any doubt exists as to whether applicant's KIDCARD mark is descriptive, that doubt must be resolved in Applicant's. *See, e.g., Atavio*, 25 U.S.P.Q.2d at 1363.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that its VIEWABILL mark is not merely descriptive of the services that are the subject of the present application, and the refusal to register should be reversed. Alternatively, in the event that the Board does not agree with Applicant that the VIEWABILL mark is not merely descriptive of Applicant's services, Applicant requests that the Board remand the application to the Examining Attorney to process the application as one seeking registration of the mark on the Supplemental Register.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

Dated: November 14, 2014

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EXHIBIT 1

Webster's II

New College Dictionary



Houghton Mifflin Company

Boston • New York

Words are included in this Dictionary on the basis of their usage. Words that are known to have current trademark registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. The inclusion of any word in this Dictionary is not, however, an expression of the Publisher's opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this Dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

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big league *n.* 1. A major league. 2. Big time. — **big leaguer** *n.*
big-league (big'lēg') *adj.* 1. Major-league. 2. Outstanding in one's
field <a big-league publisher>

big-mouth (big'mouth') *n.* 1. Any of various fishes with unusually
large mouths. 2. Slang. A gossipy or loud-mouthed person.

big-mouthed (big'mouthd', -mouth') *adj.* 1. Having a large
mouth. 2. Speaking indiscreetly or loudly: LOUD-MOUTHED.

big-name (big'nām') *adj.* 1. Of superior rank in popular acknowl-
edgment. 2. Of or involving one that is big-name.

big-no-ni-a (big-nō'nē-ə) *n.* [NLat. *Bignonia*, genus name, after
Jean-Paul Bignon (1662–1743).] A plant of the genus *Bignonia*, esp. *B.*
capreolata, a woody vine.

big-ot (big'ot) *n.* [Fr. < OFr.] One fanatically devoted to one's own
group, religion, race, or politics and intolerant of those who differ.

— **big'-ot-ed** *adj.* — **big'-ot-ed-ly** *adv.* — **big'-ot-ed-ness** *n.*
big-ot-ry (big'ot-ri) *n.* The attitude, state of mind, or behavior char-
acteristic of a bigot: INTOLERANCE.

big shot *n.* Slang. An influential or important person.

big stick *n.* A display or threat, esp. of military force.

big-tick-et (big'tik'it) *adj.* Informal. Having a high price: EXPEN-
SIVE <big-ticket items such as cars and private planes>

big time *n.* Slang. The most prestigious level of achievement in a
competitive field. — **big'-time'** *adj.* — **big'-tim'er** *n.*

big toe *n.* The largest toe of the human foot.

big top *n.* Informal. 1. CIRCUS 1c. 2. CIRCUS 1a, b.

big tree *n.* The giant sequoia.

big wheel *n.* Slang. A person of importance or authority.

big-wig (big'wig') *n.* Slang. A big wheel.

Bi-ha-ri (bi-hā're) *n.* pl. -ris. 1. A native or inhabitant of Bihar. 2.
The Indic language of the Biharis.

bi-jou (bē'zhōō') *n.* pl. -joux (-zhōō', -zhōōz') [Fr. < Breton *bizou*,
ring with a stone < *biz*, finger.] A small, exquisitely crafted trinket.

bi-jou-te-rie (bē'zhōō'tā-ri) *n.* [Fr.] A collection of trinkets.

bike (bik) *n.* [Short for BICYCLE.] 1. A bicycle. 2. A motorcycle. 3. A
motorbike. — *vi.* **biked**, **bik-ing**, **bikes**. To ride a bike.

bik-er (bi'kər) *n.* A motorcyclist, esp. a member of a motorcycle
gang.

bike-way (bik'wā') *n.* A roadway for bicycles.

bi-ki-ni (bi-kē'ne) *n.* [Fr. < *Bikini*, an atoll in the Marshall Islands.]
1. A very brief two-piece bathing suit for women. 2. Brief underpants
encircling the hips rather than the waist.

bi-la-bi-al (bi-lā'bē-əl) *adj.* 1. Pronounced or articulated with both
lips, as the consonants *b*, *p*, *m*, and *w*. 2. Relating to both lips. — *n.* A
bilabial sound or consonant. — **bi-la'/bi-al-ly** *adv.*

bi-la-bi-ate (bi-lā'bē-it, -āt') *adj.* Bot. Having two lips, as a flower
or corolla.

bil-an-der (bil'an-dər, bi'lən-) *n.* [Du. *bijlander*: *bij*, by (< MDu.
bie) + *land*, land (< MDu.).] A small two-masted sailing vessel, used
esp. along the coasts of, and on canals in the Low Countries.

bi-lat-er-al (bi-lāt'ər-əl) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or having two sides:
TWO-SIDED. 2. Having two symmetric sides. 3. Affecting or under-
taken by two sides equally: binding on both parties <a bilateral trade
agreement> — **bi-lat'er-al-ism** *n.* — **bi-lat'er-al-ly** *adv.* — **bi-
lat'er-al-ness** *n.*

bil-ber-ry (bil'bēr-ē) *n.* [Prob. of Scand. orig.] 1. Any of several
shrubby plants of the genus *Vaccinium*, having edible blue or blackish
berries. 2. The fruit of a bilberry plant.

bil-bo (bil'bō) *n.* pl. -boes. (Poss. after *Bilbao*, Spain.) An iron bar
with sliding fetters once used to shackle the feet of prisoners.

bil-dungs-ro-man (bil'dōōngz-rō-mān', -dōōngks-) or **Bil-
dungs-ro-man** *n.* [G.: *Bildung*, formation + *Roman*, novel.] A
novel whose subject is the moral, psychological, and intellectual de-
velopment of a usu. youthful main character.

bile (bil) *n.* [Fr. < Lat. *bilis*.] 1. A bitter, alkaline, brownish-yellow or
greenish-yellow liquid secreted by the liver, stored in the gallbladder,
and discharged into the duodenum, that helps digestion chiefly by sapo-
nifying fats. 2. Ill temper: IRASCIBILITY.

bile acid *n.* Any of the liver-generated steroid acids that appear in the
bile as sodium salts.

bile duct *n.* Any of the passages in the liver that convey bile from
the liver to the hepatic duct, uniting with the cystic duct to form the
common bile duct.

bile salt *n.* 1. Any of the sodium salts of the bile acids occurring in
the bile. 2. A mixture of ox-gall salts used medicinally as a laxative or
hepatic stimulant.

bilge (bilj) *n.* [Prob. alteration of BULGE.] 1. The lowest inner part of
a ship's hull. 2. Bilge water. 3. The bulging part of a cask or barrel. 4.
Slang. NONSENSE. — *v.* **bilged**, **bilg-ing**, **bilg-es**. — *vi.* 1. To spring
a leak in the bilge. 2. To swell or bulge. — *vt.* To break open the bilge
of. — **bilg'y** *adj.*

bilge keel *n.* Either of two beams or fins fastened lengthwise along
the outside of a ship's bilge to prevent heavy rolling.

bilge water *n.* Water that seeps into a ship's bilge.

bil-har-zi-a-sis (bil'hār-zī'ə-sīs) *n.* [< NLat. *Bilharzia*, genus
name, after Theodor Bilharz (1825–1862).] Schistosomiasis.

bil-i-ar-y (bil'ē-ēr'ē) *adj.* Of or relating to bile.

biliary cirrhosis *n.* Progressive inflammatory disease of the liver
caused by obstruction of the bile duct.

bi-lin-e-ar (bi-lin'ē-ər) *adj.* Math. Linear with respect to each of
two variables or positions.

bi-lin-gual (bi-ling'gwəl) *adj.* 1. Able to speak two languages with
equal facility. 2. Of, relating to, or expressed in two languages. — **bi-
lin'gual** *n.* — **bi-lin'gual-ly** *adv.*

bi-lin-gual-ism (bi-ling'gwa-liz'əm) *n.* Habitual use of two lan-
guages, esp. in speaking.

bil-ious (bil'yəs) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or containing bile: BILIARY.
2. Relating to, characterized by, or experiencing gastric distress caused
by sluggishness of the liver or gallbladder. 3. Like bile, esp. in color. 4.
Irascible; peevish. — **bil'ious-ly** *adv.* — **bil'ious-ness** *n.*

bil-i-ru-bin (bil'y-rōō'bin, bil'y-rōō'-) *n.* [Lat. *bilis*; bile + *ruber*, red
+ -IN.] A reddish-yellow organic compound, C₃₃H₃₆O₆N₄, derived
from hemoglobin during normal and pathological destruction of eryth-
rocytes.

bil-i-ver-din (bil'y-vür'd in, bil'y-vür'-) *n.* [Swed.: Lat. *bilis* + OFr.
verd, green. — see VERDANT.] A green compound, C₃₃H₃₄O₆N₄, occur-
ing in bile, occas. formed by oxidation of bilirubin.

bilk (bilk) *vt.* **bilked**, **bilk-ing**, **bilks**. (Perh. an alteration of BALK.)
1. To defraud, swindle, or cheat. 2. To evade payment of. 3. To thwart
or frustrate. 4. To elude. — *n.* 1. A cheat. 2. A swindle or hoax.
— **bilk'er** *n.*

bill (bil) *n.* [ME *bille* < Norman Fr. < Med. Lat. *billā*, alteration of
bulā, seal on a document < Lat., bubble.] 1. An itemized list of fees
or charges. 2. A list of items, as a menu. 3. Theatrical entertainment.
4. An advertising poster or public notice. 5. A piece of legal paper
money. 6. A commercial note, as a bill of exchange. 7. A draft of a
proposed law presented to a legislative body for approval. 8. Law. A
document presented to a court and containing a formal statement of a
case, petition, or complaint. — *vt.* **billed**, **bill-ing**, **bill-s**. 1. To pre-
sent a statement of charges or costs to. 2. To enter on a statement of
costs or on an itemized list. 3. To announce, advertise, or schedule by
public notice or as part of a program. — **fill the bill**. Informal. To
meet all requirements. — **foot the bill**. Informal. To pay the cost of
in full.

bill² (bil) *n.* [ME < OE *bile*.] 1. The horny beak of a bird. 2. A beaklike
mouth part, as of a turtle. 3. The visor of a cap. 4. The tip of an anchor
fluke. — *vi.* **billed**, **bill-ing**, **bill-s**. To touch beaks together.

bill¹ (bil) *n.* [ME *bil* < OE.] 1. A billhook. 2. A halberd or similar
weapon with a long handle and hooked blade.

bil-la-bong (bil'ə-bōng', -bōng') *n.* (Native word in Australia.)
Austral. 1. A dead-end channel extending from the main stream of a
river. 2. A streambed filled with water only in the rainy season. 3. A
backwater or stagnant pool.

bill-board (bil'bōrd', -bōrd') *n.* A structure that displays advertise-
ments in public places or alongside highways.

bill-er (bil'ər) *n.* One, as a clerk or a machine, that makes out bills.

bill-let (bil'let) *n.* [ME, official register < OFr. *billette*, dim. of *bulle*,
document < Med. Lat. *bulā*, document, seal < Lat., bubble.] 1. a.
Board and lodging for troops, esp. in a civilian building. b. A written
order to provide a billet. 2. Informal. A position of employment: JOB.
3. Archaic. A short letter: NOTE. — *v.* **-let-ed**, **-let-ing**, **-lets**.

— *vt.* 1. a. To quarter (soldiers), esp. in civilian buildings. b. To serve
(a person) with a written order to provide a billet. 2. To assign lodging to.
— *vi.* To be quartered: LODGE.

bill-let² (bil'let) *n.* [ME < OFr. *billette*, dim. of *bille*, log < Med. Lat.
bilus, poss. of Celt. orig.] 1. A short thick piece of wood, as firewood.
2. One of a series of log-shaped or square decorations on a molding. 3.
a. A bar of steel or iron in an intermediate manufacturing stage. b. A
small ingot of nonferrous metal. 4. a. The section of a harness strap
that passes through a buckle. b. A loop or pocket for holding the
tongue of a harness strap.

bill-let-doux (bil'ā-dōō') *n.*, pl. **bill-lets-doux** (-dōōz') [Fr.: *bil-
let*, short note + *doux*, sweet.] A love letter.

bill-fish (bil'fish') *n.*, pl. **billfish** or **-fish-es**. 1. A fish of the
family Istiophoridae, as a marlin or sailfish, with an elongated spear-
like or swordlike snout and upper jaw. 2. Any of various other fishes
with long pointed jaws.

bill-fold (bil'fōld') *n.* A folding pocket-sized case for money and per-
sonal papers.

bill-head (bil'hēd') *n.* A sheet of paper with a business name and
address printed at the top, used for invoicing.

bill-hook (bil'hōōk') *n.* A tool with a curved blade attached to a
handle, used esp. for clearing brush and for rough pruning.

bill-liard (bil'yārd) *n.* A shot in billiards: CAROM. — **bill'liard** *adj.*

bill-liards (bil'yārdz) *pl. n.* [Fr. *billard*.] (*sing.* in number.) 1. A
game played on an oblong cloth-covered table with raised cushioned edges,
in which a long tapered cue is used to hit three small balls. 2. A game
similar to billiards, as one that is played on a table with pockets.

bill-ing (bil'ing) *n.* 1. Relative importance of theatrical performers
as indicated by the position and type size in which their names appear
on marquees, programs, or advertisements. 2. a. Advertising. b. *often*

ōō boot ou out th thin th this ū cut ūr urge y young
yōō abuse zh vision ə about, item, edible, gallop, circus

in vi-tro (in vē'trō) *adj.* *adv.* [NLat., in glass.] In an artificial environment outside the living organism.

in vi-vo (in vē'vō) *adj.* *adv.* [NLat., in a living body.] Within a living organism.

in-vo-ca-tion (in'və-kā'shən) *n.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *invocatio* < *invocare*, to invoke.] 1. The act or process of invoking, esp. an appeal to a higher power for assistance. 2. An invocatory prayer, as at the opening of a religious service. 3. a. An act of conjuring up a spirit by incantation. b. An incantation used in conjuring.

in-voc-a-to-ry (in-vōk'ə-tōr'ē, -tōr'è) *adj.* Of, relating to, or like an invocation.

in-voice (in'vois') *n.* [Alteration of obs. *invoyes*, pl. of *invoy*, invoice < Fr. *envoy* < *envoyer*, to send. — see ENVOY.] 1. An itemized list of goods shipped or services rendered, with an account of all costs: BILL. 2. The goods or services listed in an invoice. — *vt.* **-voiced, -voicing, -voic-es.** To make an invoice of or submit an invoice to: BILL.

in-voke (in-vōk') *vt.* **-voked, -vok-ing, -vokes.** [OFr. *invocuer* < Lat. *invocare* : *in-*, in + *vocare*, to call.] 1. To call on for aid, support, or inspiration. 2. To appeal to or cite in support or justification. 3. To call for earnestly: SOLICIT. 4. To call forth with incantations: CONJURE. 5. To resort to: IMPLEMENT <The dictator invoked martial law.> — **in-vok'er** *n.*

in-vol-u-cel (in-vōl'yə-sēl') *n.* [NLat. *involutellum*, dim. of *involutum*, involucre.] Bot. A secondary involucre, as at the base of an umbellule in a compound umbel.

in-vo-lu-cra (in'və-lōō'krə) *n.* *pl.* of INVOLUCRUM.

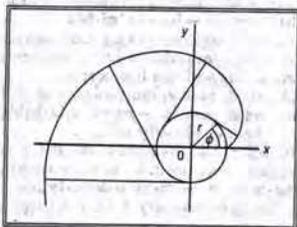
in-vo-lu-cra (in'və-lōō'krə) *n.* [NLat. *involutum*, involucre.] A whorl of bracts beneath or around a flower or flower cluster. — **in-vo-lu-cral** (-krəl), **in'vo-lu'crate** (-krit, -krāt') *adj.*

in-vo-lu-crum (in'və-lōō'krəm) *n.*, *pl.* **-cra** (-krə) [NLat. < Lat., wrapper, envelope < *involvere*, to enwrap. — see INVOLVE.] An enveloping envelope or sheath.

in-vol-un-tar-y (in-vōl'ən-tēr'ē) *adj.* 1. a. Not done willingly or on purpose. b. Not involving or based on conscious choice. 2. Not subject to control: AUTOMATIC. — **in-vol'un-tar'i-ly** (-tār'ə-lē) *adv.* — **in-vol'un-tar'i-ness** *n.*

* **syns:** INVOLUNTARY, AUTOMATIC, INSTINCTIVE *adj.* *core meaning:* not involving or based on conscious choice <an involuntary exclamation of pain> INVOLUNTARY refers to what is not subject to the control of the will <involuntary heart muscles> What is AUTOMATIC is done or produced by the body without conscious control or awareness <automatic reflexes> INSTINCTIVE actions are directed by unlearned inner drives <the instinctive migrations of birds> <instinctive revulsion> **ant:** VOLUNTARY

in-vo-lute (in'və-lōōt') *adj.* [Lat. *involutus*, p.part. of *involvere*, to enwrap. — see INVOLVE.] 1. Intricate: complex. 2. Bot. a. Having the margins rolled inward. b. Having whorls that obscure the axis or other volutions, as the shell of a cowry. — *n.* **Math.** 1. The locus of a fixed point on a taut, inextensible string as it unwinds from a fixed plane curve. 2. The locus of any point on a tangent line as it rolls but does not slide around a fixed curve. — **in'vo-lute'ly** *adv.*



involute
Involute of a circle:
 $x = r \cos \phi + r \phi \sin \phi$
 $y = r \sin \phi - r \phi \cos \phi$

in-vo-lu-tion (in'və-lōō'shən) *n.* [Lat. *involutio* < *involvere*, to enwrap. — see INVOLVE.] 1. The act of involving or state of being involved. 2. a. Complexity: intricacy. b. Something intricate or complex, as a complicated grammatical construction. 3. **Math.** Multiplication of a quantity by itself a specified number of times. 4. **Biol.** Formation of a gastrula from a blastula by ingrowth of blastomeres at the dorsal lip. — **in'vo-lu'tion-al** *adj.*

in-volve (in-vōlv') *vt.* **-volved, -volv-ing, -volves.** [ME *involveren* < OFr. *involver* < Lat. *involvere*, to enwrap : *in-*, in + *volvere*, to roll, turn.] 1. To include or contain as a part. 2. To have as an essential feature or consequence: ENTAIL. 3. To draw in as a participant <involved me in the discussion>. 4. To occupy or engross: ABSORB. 5. To make intricate: COMPLICATE. 6. To wrap: ENVELOP. 7. **Archaic.** To coil about. 8. **Math.** To raise (a number) to a specified power. — **in-volve'ment** *n.* — **in-volv'er** *n.*

in-volved (in-vōlvd') *adj.* 1. Intricate: complicated. 2. Involute: twisted. 3. Confused: tangled. — **in-volv'ed-ly** (-vōl'vid-lē) *adv.*

in-vul-ner-a-ble (in-vūl'nər-ə-bəl) *adj.* [Lat. *invulnerabilis* : *in-*, not + *vulnerare*, to wound < *vulnus*, wound.] 1. Immune to attack: IMPREGNABLE. 2. Incapable of being injured, damaged, or wounded.

— **in-vul'ner-a-bil'i-ty, in-vul'ner-a-ble-ness** *n.* — **in-vul'ner-a-bly** *adv.*

in-ward (in'wərd) *adj.* [ME < OE *inweard*.] 1. Located inside: INNER. 2. Moving or directed toward the interior. 3. Of, relating to, or existing in the thoughts or mind. 4. Closely acquainted: FAMILIAR.

— *adv.* 1. Toward the inside, center, or interior. 2. Toward the mind or the self. — *n.* 1. An inner or central part. 2. An inner spirit or essence. 3. **inwards.** Entrails; innards. — **in'wards** *adv.*

in-ward-ly (in'wərd-lē) *adv.* 1. On or in the inside: WITHIN. 2. To oneself: PRIVATELY <inwardly laughing>

in-ward-ness (in'wərd-nīs) *n.* 1. Intimacy: familiarity. 2. Preoccupation with one's own thoughts or feelings: INTROSPECTION. 3. Essential or fundamental nature. 4. Internal quality or essence.

in-weave (in-wēv') *vt.* **-wove** (-wōv'), **-wo-ven** (-wō'vən), **-weav-ing, -weaves.** To weave into a fabric or design.

in-wind (in-wind') *v.* *var.* of ENWIND.

in-wrap (in-rāp') *v.* *var.* of ENWRAP.

in-wreath (in-rēth') *v.* *var.* of ENWREATH.

in-wrought (in-rōt', in'rōt') *adj.* 1. Worked or woven in. 2. With a decorative pattern worked or woven in.

I-o (i'ō) *n.* [Lat. < Gk. *Io*.] Gk. Myth. A maiden loved by Zeus and transformed by Hera into a heifer.

iod- *pref.* *var.* of IODO-

i-o-date (i'ə-dāt') *vt.* **-dat-ed, -dat-ing, -dates.** To iodize. — *n.* (i'ə-dāt', -dīt). A salt of iodic acid. — **i'ō-da'tion** *n.*

i-od-ic acid (i-ōd'ik) *n.* [Fr. *iodique* < *iode*, iodine.] A colorless or white crystalline powder, HIO_3 , used as an antiseptic and deodorant.

i-o-dide (i'ə-did') *n.* A binary compound of iodine with a more electropositive atom or group.

i-o-dine (i'ə-dim', -dīn, -dēn') *n.* [Fr. *iode*, iodine (< Gk. *iōdēs*, violet-colored < *ion*, violet) + *-ine*.] 1. **Symbol** I A lustrous, grayish-black, corrosive, poisonous element having radioactive isotopes, esp. I 131, used as tracers, in thyroid disease diagnosis and therapy, and in compounds as germicides, antiseptics, and dyes; atomic number 53; atomic weight 126.9044. 2. A tincture of iodine and sodium iodide, NaI , or potassium iodide, KI , used as an antiseptic.

i-o-dize (i'ə-diz') *vt.* **-dized, -diz-ing, -diz-es.** To treat or combine with iodine or an iodide.

iodo- or **iod-** *pref.* [Fr. *iode*, iodine.] Iodine <iodoform>

i-o-do-form (i-ō'də-fōrm', i-ōd'ə-) *n.* [IODO- + FORM(YL).] A yellowish iodine compound, CHI_3 , used as an antiseptic.

i-o-do-phor (i-ō'də-fōr') *n.* [IODO- + PHOR(E).] A substance made up of iodine and a solubilizing agent that releases free iodine when in solution.

i-o-dop-sin (i'ə-dōp'sin) *n.* A light-sensitive pigment in the retinal cones of the eye.

i-o moth (i'ō) *n.* [After *Io*, who was tormented by gadflies sent by Hera as a punishment.] A large yellowish moth, *Automeris io* of North America, with large eyelike spots on the hind wings.

ion (i'ən, i'ōn') *n.* [< Gk. *ion*, something that goes, neuter p.part. of *ienai*, to go.] An atom or a group of atoms that has acquired a net electric charge by gaining or losing one or more electrons.

-ion *suffix* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *-io*, *n.* suffix.] 1. a. Action or process <oxidization> b. Result of an action or process <indentation> 2. State or condition <hydration>

ion engine *n.* A rocket engine that develops thrust by expelling ions rather than gaseous combustion products.

ion exchange *n.* A reversible chemical reaction between a solid and a fluid mixture by means of which ions may be interchanged, used in softening water and separating radioactive isotopes.

I-o-ni-an (i-ō'nē-ən) *adj.* IONIC 1. — **I-o'ni-an** *n.*

ion-ic (i-ōn'ik) *adj.* Of, having, or involving ions.

ion-ic (i-ōn'ik) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to Ionia or the Ionians. 2. Relating to or designating the Ionic order of architecture. — *n.* The ancient Greek dialect of Ionia.

ionic bond *n.* A chemical bond typical of salts, formed by the complete transfer of one or more electrons from one kind of atom to another.

ionic order *n.* An order of classical Greek architecture marked by two opposed volutes in the capital.



Ionic order

ā pat ā pay ār care ā father ē pet ē be hw which I pit
i tie īr pier ō pot ō toe ō paw, for oi noise ōo took

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Bi-har /bi'hār/ a state in northeastern India; capital, Patna.

Bi-hari /bi'hārē/ ▶ **n.** 1 a native or inhabitant of Bihar. 2 a group of three closely related Indic languages, Bhojpuri, Maithili, and Magahi, spoken principally in Bihar.

▶ **adj.** of or relating to this people, their languages, or Bihar. ▶ from Hindi *Bihārī*.

bi-jou /'bēzhōō/ ▶ **adj.** (esp. of a residence or business establishment) small and elegant: *the greasy spoons have given way to bijou restaurants.*

▶ **n.** (pl. -joux /-zhōō(z)/) archaic a jewel or trinket. ▶ French, from Breton *bizou* 'finger ring,' from *biz* 'finger.'

bi-jou-te-rie /bē'zhōōtērē/ ▶ **n.** jewelry or trinkets: *strewn about were bric-a-brac and bijouterie.* ▶ French, from *BIJOU*.

bike /bik/ ▶ **n.** informal a bicycle or motorcycle: *I'm going by bike* | [as *adj.*] a bike ride.

▶ **v.** [*intrans.*] ride a bicycle or motorcycle: *we hope to encourage as many people as possible to bike to work* | [as *n.*] (biking) the terrain is perfect for biking. ▶ late 19th cent.: abbreviation.

bike lane ▶ **n.** a division of a road marked off with painted lines, for use by cyclists.

bike path ▶ **n.** a path or road for bicycles and not motor vehicles.

biker /'bikər/ ▶ **n.** informal a motorcyclist: [as *adj.*] her biker boyfriend. ■ a member of a motorcycle gang or club. ■ a cyclist: a mountain biker.

bike-way /'bik,wā/ ▶ **n.** a path or lane for the use of bicycles.

Bi-ki-ni /bi'kēnē/ an atoll in the Marshall Islands, in the western Pacific Ocean, used by the U.S. 1946–58 as a site for testing nuclear weapons.

bi-ki-ni /bi'kēnē/ ▶ **n.** (pl. -nis) a very brief two-piece swimsuit for women. ■ (also **bi-ki-nis**) scanty underpants. ▶ 1940s: named after **BIKINI**, where an atomic bomb was exploded in 1946 (because of the supposed 'explosive' effect created by the garment).

bi-ki-ni line ▶ **n.** the area of skin around the edge of the bottom half of a bikini, used esp. with reference to the cosmetic removal of the pubic hair in this area.

Bi-ko /'bēkō/, Steve (1946–77), South African radical leader; full name *Stephen Biko*. He was banned from political activity in 1973. After his death in police custody, he became a symbol of heroic resistance to apartheid.

Bi-kol /bi'kōl/ (also **Bi-col**) ▶ **n.** (pl. same or -kols) a member of an indigenous people of southeastern Luzon in the Philippines. ■ the Austronesian language of this people.

▶ **adj.** of or relating to this people or their language.

bi-la-bi-al /bi'lābēəl/ ▶ **adj.** Phonetics (of a speech sound) formed by closure or near closure of the lips, as in *p, b, m, w*.

▶ **n.** a consonant sound made in such a way.

bi-lat-er-al /bi'lātērəl/ ▶ **adj.** having or relating to two sides; affecting both sides: *bilateral hearing is essential for sound location.* ■ involving two parties, usually countries: *the recently concluded bilateral agreements with Japan.* — **bi-lat-er-ally** *adv.*

bi-lat-er-al sym-me-try ▶ **n.** the property of being divisible into symmetrical halves on either side of a unique plane.

bi-lay-er /'bi,lāər/ ▶ **n.** Biochemistry a film two molecules thick (formed, e.g., by lipids), in which each molecule is arranged with its hydrophobic end directed inward toward the opposite side of the film and its hydrophilic end directed outward.

Bi-la-o /bil'bou/ a seaport and industrial city in northern Spain; pop. 372,200.

bil-ber-ry /bil,bērē/ ▶ **n.** (pl. -ries) a hardy dwarf shrub closely related to the blueberry, with red drooping flowers and dark blue edible berries. ■ Genus *Vaccinium*, family Ericaceae; several species, including the **tundra bilberry** (*V. uliginosum*). ■ the small blue edible berry of this plant. ▶ late 16th cent.: probably of Scandinavian origin; compare with Danish *billebær*.

bil-bo /'bilbō/ ▶ **n.** (pl. -bos or -boes) a sword used in former times, noted for the temper and elasticity of its blade. ▶ mid 16th cent.: from *Bilboa*, an earlier English form of the name **BILBAO**, noted for the manufacture of fine blades.

bil-boes /'bilbōz/ ▶ **plural n.** an iron bar with sliding shackles formerly used for confining a prisoner's ankles. ▶ mid 16th cent.: of unknown origin.

Bil-dungs-ro-man /'bildōngzrō,mān; 'bēldōngks-/ ▶ **n.** a novel dealing with one person's formative

years or spiritual education. ▶ German, from *Bildung* 'education' + *Roman* 'a novel.'

bile /bil/ ▶ **n.** a bitter greenish-brown alkaline fluid that aids digestion and is secreted by the liver and stored in the gallbladder. ■ figurative anger; irritability: *that topic is sure to stir up plenty of bile.* ▶ mid 16th cent.: from French, from Latin *bilis*.

bile duct ▶ **n.** the duct that conveys bile from the liver and the gallbladder to the duodenum.

bi-level /'bi,lēvəl/ (also **bi-level**) ▶ **adj.** [*attrib.*] having or functioning on two levels; arranged on two planes: *the unit's bi-level design keeps water in the sink.*

■ denoting a style of two-story house in which the lower story is partially sunk below ground level, and the main entrance is between the two stories; split-level. ■ denoting a railroad passenger coach or a bus with seats on two levels.

▶ **n.** a bi-level house: a three-bedroom bi-level.

bilge /bilj/ ▶ **n.** the area on the outer surface of a ship's hull where the bottom curves to meet the vertical sides. ■ (bilges) the lowest internal portion of the hull. ■ bilgewater. ■ figurative, informal nonsense; rubbish: *romantic bilge dreamed up by journalists.*

▶ **v.** [*trans.*] archaic break a hole in the bilge of (a ship): *she was hopelessly bilged, her back broken.* ▶ late 15th cent.: probably a variant of **BULGE**.

bilge keel ▶ **n.** each of a pair of plates or timbers fastened under the sides of the hull of a ship to provide lateral resistance to the water, prevent rolling, and support its weight in dry dock.

bil-har-zia /bil'härzēə/ ▶ **n.** a chronic disease, endemic in parts of Africa and South America, caused by infestation with blood flukes (schistosomes). Also called **BILHARZIASIS** or **SCHISTOSOMIASIS**. ■ the fluke (schistosome) itself. ▶ mid 19th cent.: modern Latin, former name of the genus *Schistosoma*, named after T. Bilharz (1825–62), the German physician who discovered the parasite.

bil-har-zia-sis /bil'här'ziāsīs/ ▶ **n.** Medicine another term for **BILHARZIA** (the disease).

bil-lar-y /'bil,erē; 'biljərē/ ▶ **adj.** Medicine of or relating to bile or the bile duct. ▶ mid 18th cent.: from French *biliaire*, from *bile* 'bile.'

bi-lin-e-ar /bi'linēər/ ▶ **adj.** Mathematics 1 rare of, relating to, or contained by two straight lines. 2 of, relating to, or denoting a function of two variables that is linear and homogeneous in both independently.

bi-ling-ual /bi'linggwəl/ ▶ **adj.** (of a person) speaking two languages fluently: a bilingual secretary. ■ (of a text or an activity) written or conducted in two languages: *bilingual dictionaries* | *bilingual education*. ■ (of a country, city, or other community) using two languages, esp. officially: *the town is virtually bilingual in Dutch and German.*

▶ **n.** a person fluent in two languages. ▶ mid 19th cent.: from Latin *linguis*, from *bi-* 'having two' + *lingua* 'tongue' + *-AL*. — **bi-ling-u-al-ism** /-līzəm/ **n.**

bil-ious /'biljəs/ ▶ **adj.** affected by or associated with nausea or vomiting: *I had eaten something that didn't agree with me and I was a little bilious.* ■ (of a color) lurid or sickly: a bilious olive hue. ■ figurative spiteful; bad-tempered: *outbursts of bilious misogyny.* ■ Physiology of or relating to bile. ▶ mid 16th cent. (in the sense 'bilious'): from Latin *biliosus*, from *bilis* 'bile.' — **bil-ious-ly** *adv.* — **bil-ious-ness** **n.**

bil-i-ru-bin /'bil,rōōbin/ ▶ **n.** Biochemistry an orange-yellow pigment formed in the liver by the breakdown of hemoglobin and excreted in bile. ▶ late 19th cent.: coined in German from Latin *bilis* 'bile' + *ruber* 'red' + *-IN*.

bil-i-ver-din /'bil,ivərdn; 'bil,ivərdn/ ▶ **n.** Biochemistry a green pigment excreted in bile. It is an oxidized derivative of bilirubin.

bilk /bilk/ ▶ **n.** informal ▶ **v.** [*trans.*] 1 obtain or withhold money from (someone) by deceit or without justification; cheat or defraud: *government waste has bilked the taxpayer of billions of dollars.* ■ obtain (money) fraudulently: *some businesses bilk thousands of dollars from unsuspecting elderly consumers.* 2 archaic evade; elude: *I ducked into the pantry, bilking Edward for the third time this week.* ▶ mid 17th cent. (originally used in cribbage meaning 'spoil one's opponent's score'): perhaps a variant of **BALK**. — **bilk-er** **n.**

bill /bil/ ▶ **n.** 1 an amount of money owed for goods supplied or services rendered, set out in a printed or written statement of charges: *he was running up a bill of hundreds of dollars* | *the bill for their meal came to \$17.* 2 a draft of a proposed law presented to parliament for discussion: *a debate over the civil rights bill.* 3 a program of entertainment, esp. at a theater: *she was top of the bill at America's leading vaudeville house.*

4 a banknote; a piece of paper money: *a ten-dollar bill.* 5 a poster or handbill: *the circus promoters were posting bills all over town.*

▶ **v.** [*trans.*] 1 (usu. **be billed**) list (a person or event) in a program: *they were billed to appear but didn't show up.*

■ (bill someone/something as) describe someone or something in a particular, usually promotional, way, esp. as a means of advertisement: *he was billed as "the new Sean Connery."* 2 send a note of charges to (someone): *we shall be billing them for the damage caused* | [*with two objs.*] *he had been billed \$3,000 for his license.*

■ charge (a sum of money): *we billed her \$400,000.* ▶ Middle English (denoting a written list or catalog): from Anglo-Norman French *billie*, probably based on medieval Latin *bullā* 'seal, sealed document' (see also **BULL**). — **bill-a-ble** **adj.**

▶ **PHRASES** □ fit (or fill) the bill be suitable for a particular purpose: *a partner is an ally or a companion, and you don't seem to fit the bill.* □ foot (or pick up) the bill see **FOOT** (sense 1 of the verb).

bill ▶ **n.** the beak of a bird, esp. when it is slender, flattened, or weak, or belongs to a web-footed bird or a bird of the pigeon family. ■ the muzzle of a platypus. ■ the point of an anchor fluke. ■ Brit. a stiff brim at the front of a cap.

▶ **v.** [*intrans.*] (of birds, esp. doves) stroke bill with bill during courtship. ▶ Old English *bile*, of unknown origin. — **billed** **adj.** [*usu. in combination*] the red-billed weaverbird.

▶ **PHRASE** □ bill and coo informal exchange caresses or affectionate words; behave or talk in a very loving or sentimental way.

bill ▶ **n.** a medieval weapon like a halberd with a hook instead of a blade. ▶ Old English *bil*; related to German *Bille* 'ax.'

bil-la-bong /bil,blōng/ ▶ **n.** Austral. a branch of a river forming a backwater or stagnant pool, made by water flowing from the main stream during a flood. ▶ mid 19th cent.: from *Wiradhuri bilabang* (originally as the name of the Bell River, New South Wales), from *bilā* 'water' + *bang* 'channel that is dry except after rain.'

bill-board /bil,bōrd/ ▶ **n.** a large outdoor board for displaying advertisements.

bill-bug /bil,bəg/ ▶ **n.** a typically large weevil that feeds on various grasses and grains. ■ Genus *Sphenophorus*, subfamily Rhynchophorinae, family Curculionidae; numerous species, including the maize billbug (*S. maidis*), which can cause serious damage to corn plants and can harm or kill poultry by clamping on to the bird's throat or tongue.

Bille-rica /bil'rikə; 'bēlə-/ a town in northeastern Massachusetts, south of Lowell; pop. 37,609.

bil-let /'bilit/ ▶ **n.** a place, usually a civilian's house or other nonmilitary facility, where soldiers are lodged temporarily.

▶ **v.** (-let-ed, -let-ing) [*trans.*] (often **be billeted**) lodge (soldiers) in a particular place, esp. a civilian's house or other nonmilitary facility: *he didn't belong to the regiment billeted at the hotel.* ▶ late Middle English (originally denoting a short written document); from Anglo-Norman French *billette*, diminutive of *bille* (see **BILL**). The verb is recorded in the late 16th cent., and the noun sense 'a written order requiring a householder to lodge the bearer, usually a soldier,' from the mid 17th cent.; hence the current meaning.

bil-let ▶ **n.** a thick piece of wood. ■ a small bar of metal for further processing. ■ Architecture each of a series of short cylindrical pieces inserted at intervals in decorative hollow moldings. ■ Heraldry a rectangle placed vertically as a charge. ▶ late Middle English: from Old French *billette* and *billot*, diminutives of *bille* 'tree trunk,' from medieval Latin *bilis*, *billus* 'branch, trunk,' probably of Celtic origin.

bil-let-doux /bil'ā'dōō; 'bēyā-/ ▶ **n.** (pl. **bil-lets-doux** *pronunc.* same or /-dōōz/) dated or humorous a love letter. ▶ late 17th cent.: French, literally 'sweet note.'

bill-fish /'bil,fish/ ▶ **n.** (pl. same or -fish-es) a large, fast-swimming fish of open seas or a streamlined body and a long, pointed, spearlike snout. It occurs on the surface in warmer waters and is a popular sporting fish. ■ Family Istiophoridae: three genera and several species, including the marlins, sailfish, and spearfishes.

bill-fold /'bil,fōld/ ▶ **n.** a thin wallet with few compartments, typically made of leather. ■ any wallet.

Pronunciation Key *ə* ago; *æ* over; *ə* or *er*; *ə* or *er* *fur*; *a* hat; *ā* rate; *ā* car; *CH* chew; *ē* let; *ē* see; *ē* or *air*; *i* fit; *i* by; *i* (ə) ear; *NG* sing; *ō* go; *ō* for; *oi* boy; *ōō* good; *ōō* goo; *ou* out; *SH* she; *TH* thin; *TH* then; *(h)w* why; *ZH* vision

systematic study; an investigation has been launched into the potential impact of the oil spill. ▶late Middle English: from Latin *investigatio(n)-*, from the verb *investigare* (see INVESTIGATE). —*in-ves-ti-ga-tion-al* /-ʃənəl/ *adj.*

in-ves-ti-ga-tive /in'vesti,gə'tiv/ (also **in-ves-ti-ga-to-ry** /-gə,tōrē/) ▶*adj.* of or concerned with investigating something: a special investigative committee to look into the strikers' demands. ■ (of journalism or a journalist) inquiring intensively into and seeking to expose malpractice, the miscarriage of justice, or other controversial issues.

in-ves-ti-ture /in'vestɪtʃər; -,CHÖÖr/ ▶*n.* 1 the action of formally investing a person with honors or rank: the investiture of bishops. ■ a ceremony at which honors or rank are formally conferred on a particular person. 2 the action of clothing or robing. ■ a thing that clothes or covers. ▶late Middle English: from medieval Latin *investitura*, from *investire* (see INVEST). —*in-vest-ment* /in'ves(t)mənt/ ▶*n.* 1 the action or process of investing money for profit or material result: a debate over private investment in road-building | a total investment of \$50,000. ■ a thing that is worth buying because it may be profitable or useful in the future: a used car is rarely a good investment. ■ an act of devoting time, effort, or energy to a particular undertaking with the expectation of a worthwhile result: the time spent in attending a one-day seminar is an investment in our professional futures. 2 archaic the surrounding of a place by a hostile force in order to besiege or blockade it.

in-vest-ment bank ▶*n.* a bank that purchases large holdings of newly issued shares and resells them to investors. —*in-vest-ment bank-er* *n.* —*in-vest-ment banking* *n.*

in-vest-ment casting ▶*n.* technical a technique for making small, accurate castings in refractory alloys using a mold formed around a pattern of wax or similar material which is then removed by melting.

in-vest-ment grade ▶*n.* a level of credit rating for stocks regarded as carrying a minimal risk to investors.

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in-ve-t-er-ate /in'vetərət/ ▶*adj.* [attrib.] having a particular habit, activity, or interest that is long-established and unlikely to change: he was an inveterate gambler. ■ (of a feeling or habit) long-established and unlikely to change. ▶late Middle English (referring to disease, in the sense 'of long standing, chronic'): from Latin *inveteratus* 'made old,' past participle of *inveterare* (based on *vetus*, *veter-* 'old'). —*in-ve-t-er-a-cy* /-rəsē/ *n.* —*in-ve-t-er-a-t-ly* *adv.*

in-vid-i-ous /in'vidiəs/ ▶*adj.* (of an action or situation) likely to arouse or incur resentment or anger in others: she'd put herself in an invidious position. ■ (of a comparison or distinction) unfairly discriminating; unjust: it seems invidious to make special mention of one aspect of his work. ▶early 17th cent.: from Latin *invidiosus*, from *invidia* (see ENVY). —*in-vid-i-ous-ly* *adv.* —*in-vid-i-ous-ness* *n.*

in-vig-i-late /in'vi:gə,lət/ ▶*v.* [intrans.] Brit. supervise candidates during an examination. ▶mid 16th cent. (in the general sense 'watch over, keep watch'): from Latin *invigilat-* 'watched over,' from the verb *invigilare*, from *in-* 'upon, toward' + *vigilare* 'watch' (from *vigil* 'watchful'). —*in-vig-i-l-a-tion* /-,vi:gə'ləʃən/ *n.* —*in-vig-i-l-a-tor* /-,lätər/ *n.*

in-vig-or-ate /in'viga,rət/ ▶*v.* [trans.] give strength or energy to: the shower had invigorated her | [as *adj.*] (*in- vigorating*) a brisk, invigorating walk. See note at QUICKEN. ▶mid 17th cent.: from medieval Latin *invigorat-* 'made strong,' from the verb *invigorare*, from *in-* 'toward' + Latin *vigorare* 'make strong' (from *vigor* 'vigor'). —*in-vig-or-a-t-ing-ly* *adv.* —*in-vig-or-a-tion* /-,viga'rəʃən/ *n.* —*in-vig-or-a-tor* /-,rätər/ *n.*

in-vin-ci-ble /in'vinsəbəl/ ▶*adj.* too powerful to be defeated or overcome: an invincible warrior. ▶late Middle English (earlier than *vincible*): via Old French from Latin *invincibilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *vincibilis* (see VINCIBLE). —*in-vin-ci-bil-i-ty* /-,vinsə'billitē/ *n.* —*in-vin-ci-bly* /-blē/ *adv.*

in-vi-no-ver-i-tas /in'venō'veri,təs; 'vinō'veri,təs/ ▶*ex- clam.* under the influence of alcohol, a person tells the truth. ▶Latin, literally 'truth in wine.'

in-vi-o-la-ble /in'viələbəl/ ▶*adj.* never to be broken, infringed, or dishonored: an inviolable rule of chastity | the Polish-German border was inviolable. ▶late Middle English: from French, or from Latin *inviolabilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *violabilis* 'able to be violated' (from the verb

violare). —*in-vi-o-la-bil-i-ty* /-,viələ'billitē/ *n.* —*in-vi-o-la-bly* /-blē/ *adv.*

in-vi-o-late /in'viəlit/ ▶*adj.* free or safe from injury or violation: an international memorial which must remain inviolate. ▶late Middle English: from Latin *inviolatus*, from *in-* 'not' + *violare* 'violate.' —*in-vi-o-la-cy* /-ləsē/ *n.* —*in-vi-o-la-t-ly* *adv.*

in-vis-ible /in'vizəbəl/ ▶*adj.* Physics having no or negligible viscosity.

in-vis-i-ble /in'vizəbəl/ ▶*adj.* unable to be seen; not visible to the eye: this invisible gas is present to some extent in every home. ■ concealed from sight; hidden: he lounged in a doorway, invisible in the dark. ■ figurative (of a person) treated as if unable to be seen; ignored or not taken into consideration: before 1971, women artists were pretty well invisible. ■ Economics relating to or denoting earnings that a country makes from the sale of services or other items not constituting tangible commodities: tourism is the most important of our invisible exports.

▶*n.* an invisible thing, person, or being: religion is the attempt to eternalize the invisible. ■ (*invisibles*) invisible exports and imports. ▶Middle English: from Old French, or from Latin *invisibilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *visibilis* (see VISIBLE). —*in-vis-i-bil-i-ty* /-,vizə'billitē/ *n.* —*in-vis-i-bly* /-blē/ *adv.*

in-vis-i-ble ink ▶*n.* a type of ink used to produce writing that cannot be seen until the paper is heated or otherwise treated.

in-vi-ta-tion /in'vɪtəʃən/ ▶*n.* a written or verbal request inviting someone to go somewhere or to do something: a wedding invitation. ■ the action of inviting someone to go somewhere or to do something: a club with membership by invitation only | an herb garden where guests can go only at the invitation of the chef. ■ [in *sing.*] a situation or action that tempts someone to do something or makes a particular outcome likely: tactics like those of the colonel would have been an invitation to disaster. ▶late Middle English: from French, or from Latin *invitatio(n)-*, from *invitare* (see INVITE).

in-vi-ta-tion-al /in'vɪtəʃənəl/ ▶*adj.* (esp. of a competition) open only to those invited.

▶*n.* a competition of such a type.

in-vi-ta-to-ry /in'vɪtə,tōrē/ ▶*adj.* containing or conveying an invitation. ■ (in the Christian Church) denoting a psalm or versicle acting as an invitation to worshippers, esp. Psalm 95. ▶Middle English: from late Latin *invitatorius*, from Latin *invitare* (see INVITE).

in-vite ▶*v.* /in'vɪt/ [trans.] make a polite, formal, or friendly request to (someone) to go somewhere or to do something: we were invited to a dinner at the embassy | [trans.] she invited Patrick to sit down. ■ make a formal or polite request for (something, esp. an application for a job or opinions on a particular topic) from someone. ■ (of an action or situation) tend to elicit (a particular reaction or response) or to tempt (someone) to do something: his use of the word did little but invite criticism.

▶*n.* [in *vit*] informal an invitation. ▶mid 16th cent.: from Old French *inviter*, or from Latin *invitare*. —*in-vi-tee* /in'vɪtē/ *n.* —*in-vi-ter* /in'vɪtər/ *n.*

in-vit-ing /in'vɪtɪŋ/ ▶*adj.* offering the promise of an attractive or enjoyable experience: the sea down there looks so inviting. —*in-vit-ing-ly* *adv.*

in-vi-tro /in've,tro/ ▶*adj.* & *adv.* Biology (of processes or reactions) taking place in a test tube, culture dish, or elsewhere outside a living organism: [as *adj.*] *in vitro* fertilization. The opposite of *in vivo*. ▶Latin, literally 'in glass.'

in-vi-vo /in'vevō/ ▶*adv.* & *adj.* Biology (of processes) taking place in a living organism. The opposite of *in vitro*. ▶Latin, 'in a living thing.'

in-vo-ca-tion /in'vokəʃən/ ▶*n.* the action of invoking something or someone for assistance or as an authority: the invocation of new disciplines and methodologies. ■ the summoning of a deity or the supernatural: his invocation of the ancient mystical powers. ■ an incantation used for this. ■ (in the Christian Church) a form of words such as "In the name of the Father" introducing a prayer, sermon, etc. ▶late Middle English: via Old French from Latin *invocatio(n)-*, from the verb *invocare* (see INVOKE). —*in-voc-a-to-ry* /in'vøkə,tōrē/ *adj.*

in-voice /in'voɪs/ ▶*n.* a list of goods sent or services provided, with a statement of the sum due for these; a bill.

▶*v.* [trans.] send an invoice to (someone). ■ send an invoice for (goods or services provided). ▶mid 16th cent.: originally the plural of obsolete *invoy*, from obsolete French *envoy*, from *envoyer* 'send' (see ENVOY1).

in-voke /in'vök/ ▶*v.* [trans.] cite or appeal to (someone or something) as an authority for an action or in support of an argument: the antiquated defense of insanity is rarely invoked today. ■ call on (a deity or spirit) in prayer, as a witness, or for inspiration. ■ call earnestly for: she invoked his help against this attack. ■ summon (a spirit) by charms or incantation. ■ give rise to; evoke: how could she explain how the accident happened without invoking his wrath? ■ Computing cause (a procedure) to be carried out. ▶late 15th cent.: from French *invocuer*, from Latin *invocare*, from *in-* 'upon' + *vocare* 'to call.' —*in-vok-er* *n.*

in-vo-lu-cre /in'vələ,kreɪ/ (also **in-vo-lu-crum** /-krəm/) ▶*n.* Botany a whorl or rosette of bracts surrounding an inflorescence (esp. a capitulum) or at the base of an umbel. ▶late 16th cent.: from French, or from Latin *involutum*, from *involvere* 'roll in, envelop' (see INVOLVE). —*in-vo-lu-cral* /in'vələ'kɔ:krəl/ *adj.*

in-vol-un-tary /in'vələnt,terē/ ▶*adj.* 1 done without conscious control: she gave an involuntary shudder. ■ (esp. of muscles or nerves) concerned in bodily processes that are not under the control of the will. ■ caused unintentionally, esp. through negligence: involuntary homicide. 2 done against someone's will; compulsory: a policy of involuntary repatriation. —*in-vol-un-tar-i-ly* /in,vələnt'te(ə)rəli; -vələnt,ter-/ *adv.* —*in-vol-un-tar-i-ness* *n.*

in-vo-lute /in'vələ,lūt/ ▶*adj.* 1 formal involved; intricate: the art novel has grown increasingly involute. 2 technical curled spirally. ■ Zoology (of a shell) having the whorls wound closely around the axis. ■ Botany (of a leaf or the cap of a fungus) rolled inward at the edges.

▶*n.* Geometry the locus of a point considered as the end of a taut string being unwound from a given curve in the plane of that curve. Compare with EVOLUTE.

▶*v.* [intrans.] become involute; curl up. ▶mid 17th cent.: from Latin *involutus*, past participle of *involvere* (see INVOLVE).

in-vo-luted /in'vələ,lūtəd/ ▶*adj.* complicated; abstruse: his involuted prose.

in-vo-lu-tion /in'vələ'lūʃən/ ▶*n.* 1 Physiology the shrinkage of an organ in old age or when inactive, e.g., of the uterus after childbirth. 2 Mathematics a function, transformation, or operator that is equal to its inverse, i.e., which gives the identity when applied to itself. 3 formal the process of involving or complicating, or the state of being involved or complicated: periods of artistic involution. ▶late Middle English (in the sense '[part] curling inward'): from Latin *involutio(n)-*, from *involvere* (see INVOLVE). —*in-vo-lu-tion-al* /-ʃənəl/ *adj.* —*in-vo-lu-tion-ary* /-,nerē/ *adj.*

in-volve /in'vɔlv/ ▶*v.* [trans.] (of a situation or event) include (something) as a necessary part or result: his transfer to another school would involve a lengthy assessment procedure. ■ cause (a person or group) to experience or participate in an activity or situation: what kind of organizations will be involved in setting up these projects? ▶late Middle English (in the senses 'enfold' and 'entangle'; formerly also as *envolve*): from Latin *involvere*, from *in-* 'into' + *volvere* 'to roll.'

in-volved /in'vɔlvəd/ ▶*adj.* 1 [predic.] connected or concerned with someone or something, typically on an emotional or personal level: Angela told me that she was involved with someone else. 2 difficult to comprehend; complicated: a long, involved conversation.

in-volve-ment /in'vɔlvmənt/ ▶*n.* the fact or condition of being involved with or participating in something: he was imprisoned for his involvement in a plot to overthrow the government. ■ emotional or personal association with someone.

in-vul-ner-a-ble /in'vʌlnərəbəl/ ▶*adj.* impossible to harm or damage. ▶late 16th cent. (earlier than *vulnerable*): from Latin *invulnerabilis*, from *in-* 'not' + *vulnerabilis* (see VULNERABLE). —*in-vul-ner-a-bil-i-ty* /-,vʌlnərə'billitē/ *n.* —*in-vul-ner-a-bly* /-blē/ *adv.*

-in-wait-ing ▶*comb. form* 1 awaiting a turn, confirmation of a process, etc.: a political administration-in-waiting. ■ about to happen: an explosion-in-waiting. 2 denoting a position as attendant to a royal personage: lady-in-waiting.

in-wale /in,wəl/ ▶*n.* a longitudinal structural piece on the inside of a boat; an internal gunwale.

in-ward /in'wərd/ ▶*adj.* [attrib.] directed or proceeding toward the inside; coming in from outside: the

Pronunciation Key ə go; ər over; 'ə or, ə up; 'ər or, 'ər fur; a hat; ā rate; ā car; CH chew; e let; ē see; e(ə)r air; i fit; i by; i(ə)r ear; NG sing; o go; o for; oi boy; oo good; oo goo; ou out; SH she; TH thin; TH then; (h)w why; ZH vision