

reduce sharply: CUT ~ vi: to lash out, cut, or thrash about with or as if with an edged blade — **slash-er** n
slash n (1576) 1: the act of slashing; also: a long cut or stroke made by or as if by slashing 2: an ornamental slit in a garment 3 a: an open tract in a forest strewn with debris (as from logging) b: the debris in such a tract 4: DIAGONAL 3 — called also *slash mark*
slash n [prob. alter. of *plash* (marshy pool)] (1652): a low swampy area often overgrown with brush
slash-and-burn adj (1939): characterized or developed by girdling, felling, and burning trees to make land arable usu. for a temporary purpose
slashing \ˈslɑːʃ-ɪŋ/ n (1596) 1: the act or process of slashing 2: an insert or layer of contrasting color revealed by a slash (as in a garment) 3: SLASH 3
slashing adj (1735) 1: incisively satiric or critical 2: DRIVING, PELTING 3: VIVID, BRILLIANT — **slashing-ly** \-ɪŋ-lē/ adv
slash pine n [ˈslɑːʃ] (1882): a southern pine (*Pinus elliottii*) that is an important source of turpentine and lumber
slash pocket n (1942): a pocket suspended on the wrong side of a garment from a finished slit on the right side that serves as its opening
slat \ˈslɑːt/ vt **slat**-ted; **slat**-ting [prob. of Scand origin; akin to ON *slatta* to slap, throw] (13c) 1: to hurl or throw smartly 2: STRIKE, PUMMEL
slat n [ME, slate, fr. MF *esclat* splinter, fr. OF, fr. *esclater* to burst, splinter] (1764) 1: a thin narrow flat strip esp. of wood or metal: as a: LATH b: LOUVER c: STAVE d: one of the thin flat members in the back of a ladder-back chair 2 pl. *slang*: RIBS — **slat** adj
slat vt **slat**-ted; **slat**-ting (1886): to make or equip with slats
slate \ˈslɑːt/ n [ME, fr. MF *esclat* splinter] (15c) 1: a piece of construction material (as laminated rock) prepared as a shingle for roofing and siding 2: a dense fine-grained metamorphic rock produced by the compression of various sediments (as clay or shale) so as to develop a characteristic cleavage 3: a tablet of material (as slate) used for writing on 4: a written or unwritten record (as of deeds) b: a list of candidates for nomination or election 5 a: a dark purplish gray b: any of various grays similar in color to common roofing slates — **slate** adj — **slate-like** \-lɪk/ adj
slate vt **slat**-ted; **slat**-ting (1530) 1: to cover with slate or a slate-like substance (~ a roof) 2: to register, schedule, or designate for action or appointment
slate vt **slat**-ted; **slat**-ing [prob. alter. of 'slat] (1825) 1: to thrash or pummel severely 2 chiefly *Brit*: to criticize or censure severely
slate black n (1889): a nearly neutral slightly purplish black
slate blue n (1796): a variable color averaging a grayish blue
slate-r \ˈslɑːr-/ n (15c) 1: one that slates 2 [ˈslɑːt; fr. its color] a: WOOD LOUSE b: any of various marine isopods
slath-er \ˈslɑːθ-ər/ n [origin unknown] (1876): a great quantity — often used in pl.
slather vt **slath-ered**; **slath-er-ing** \-(ə-)rɪŋ/ (1881) 1 a: to spread thickly or lavishly b: to spread something thickly or lavishly on 2: to use or spend in a wasteful or lavish manner: SQUANDER
slat-ting \ˈslɑːt-ɪŋ/ n (1579): the work of a slater
slat-tern \ˈslɑːt-ər-n/ n [prob. fr. G *schlottern* to hang loosely, slouch; akin to D *slodderen* to hang loosely, *slodder* slud] (ca. 1639): an untidy slovenly woman; also: SLUT, PROSTITUTE
slattern adj (1716): SLATTERNLY
slat-tern-ly \ˈslɑːt-ər-n-lē/ adj (1830) 1: untidy and dirty through habitual neglect; also: CARELESS, DISORDERLY 2: of, relating to, or characteristic of a slut or prostitute — **slat-tern-li-ness** n
slaty also **slat-ey** \ˈslɑːt-ē/ adj (1529): of, containing, or characteristic of slate; also: gray like slate
slaughter \ˈslɑːt-ər/ n [ME, of Scand origin; akin to ON *slátra* to slaughter; akin to OE *sleat*h slaughter, *slean* to slay — more at SLAY] (14c) 1: the act of killing; *specif*: the butchering of livestock for market 2: killing of great numbers of human beings (as in battle or a massacre): CARNAGE
slaughter vt (1535) 1: to kill (animals) for food: BUTCHER 2 a: to kill in a bloody or violent manner: SLAY b: to kill in large numbers: MASSACRE — **slaugh-ter-er** \-ər-ər/ n
slaugh-ter-house \ˈslɑːt-ər-ˈhɑːs/ n (14c): an establishment where animals are butchered
slaugh-ter-ous \ˈslɑːt-ər-əs/ adj (1582): of or relating to slaughter: MURDEROUS — **slaugh-ter-ous-ly** adv
Slav \ˈslɑːv, ˈslɑːv/ n [ME *Sclav*, fr. ML *Sclavus*, fr. LGk *Sklabos*, fr. *Sklabēnoi* Slavs, of Slav origin; akin to OSlav *Slovēne*, a Slavic people in the area of Salonika] (14c): a person who speaks a Slavic language as his native tongue — **Slav** adj
slave \ˈslɑːv/ n [ME *sclave*, fr. OF or ML; OF *esclave*, fr. ML *sclavus*, fr. *Sclavus* Slav; fr. the reduction to slavery of many Slavic peoples of central Europe] (13c) 1: a person held in servitude as the chattel of another: BONDMAN 2: one that is completely subservient to a dominating influence 3: a device (as the typewriter unit of a computer) that is directly responsive to another 4: DRUDGE, TOILER — **slave** adj
slave vb **slaved**; **slaving** vt (1602) 1 *archaic*: ENSLAVE 2: to make directly responsive to another mechanism ~ vi 1: to work like a slave: DRUDGE 2: to traffic in slaves
slave driver n (1807) 1: a supervisor of slaves at work 2: a harsh taskmaster
slave-holder \ˈslɑːv-ˈhɔːl-dər/ n (1776): an owner of slaves — **slave-holding** \-dɪŋ/ adj or n
slave-making ant \ˈslɑːv-mə-kiŋ-/ n (1817): an ant that attacks the colonies of ants of other species and carries off the larvae and pupae to be reared in its own nest as slaves
slaver \ˈslɑːv-ər, ˈslɑːv-/ n **slav-er-ed**; **slav-er-ing** \-(ə-)rɪŋ/ [ME *slaveren*, of Scand origin; akin to ON *slavra* to slaver; akin to MD *slaben* to slaver, L *labi* to slip — more at SLEEV] v (14c): DROOL, SLOBBER ~ vt, *archaic*: to smear with or as if with saliva
slaver n (14c): saliva dribbling from the mouth
slav-er \ˈslɑːv-ər/ n [ˈslɑːv] (1827) 1 a: a person engaged in the slave trade

slave trade n (1734): traffic in slaves; esp: the buying and selling of Negroes for profit prior to the American Civil War
slav-ey \ˈslɑːv-ē/ n, pl **slaves** (ca. 1812): DRUDGE esp: a household servant who does general housework
Slavic \ˈslɑːv-ɪk, ˈslɑːv-/ adj (1813): of, relating to, or characteristic of the Slavs or their languages
Slavic n (1866): a branch of the Indo-European language family containing Belorussian, Bulgarian, Czech, Polish, Serbo-Croatian, Slovene, Russian, and Ukrainian — see INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES table
Slav-ic-ist \ˈslɑːv-ɪ-sɪst, ˈslɑːv-/ n (1943): a specialist in the Slavic languages or literatures
slav-ish \ˈslɑːv-ɪʃ/ adj (1565) 1 a: of or characteristic of a slave; esp: basely or abjectly servile b *archaic*: DESPICABLE, LOW 2 *archaic*: OPPRESSIVE, TYRANNICAL 3: copying obsequiously or without originality: IMITATIVE *syn* see SUBSERVIENT — **slav-ish-ly** adv — **slav-ish-ness** n
Slav-ist \ˈslɑːv-ɪst, ˈslɑːv-/ n (1863): SLAVICIST
slav-oc-ra-cy \ˈslɑːv-ək-rə-sē/ n (1840): a faction of slaveholders and advocates of slavery in the South before the Civil War
Slavo-ni-an \ˈslɑːv-ō-nē-ən/ n [Slavonia, region of southeast Europe, fr. ML *Slavonia*, *Slavonia* land of the Slavs, fr. *Sclavus* Slav] (1601): SLOVENE 1b
Slavonian adj (1605) 1: SLOVENE 2 *archaic*: SLAVIC
Slav-on-ic \ˈslɑːv-ən-ɪk/ adj [NL *slavonicus*, fr. ML *Slavonia*, *Slavonia*] (1645): SLAVIC
Slavonic n (1668) 1: SLAVIC 2: OLD CHURCH SLAVONIC
slav-o-ph-ile \ˈslɑːv-ə-fɪl, ˈslɑːv-/ or **Slav-o-phil** \-fɪl/ n (1877): an admirer of the Slavs; an advocate of Slavophilism
Slav-oph-il-ism \ˈslɑːv-ə-fɪl-ɪz-əm, ˈslɑːv-ə-,fr-ɪl-ɪz-/ n (1877): advocacy of Slavic and specif. Russian culture over western European culture esp. as practiced among some members of the Russian intelligentsia in the middle 19th century
slaw \ˈslɔː/ n (1861): COLESLAW
slay \ˈslɑː/ vb **slew** \ˈsljuː/; **slain** \ˈslɑːn/; **slay-ing** [ME *slen*, fr. OE *slean* to strike, slay; akin to OHG *slahan* to strike, Mlr *slaccian* I beat] v (bef. 12c) 1: to kill violently, wantonly, or in great numbers 2 *slang*: to affect overpoweringly: OVERWHELM ~ vi: KILL, MURDER *syn* see KILL — **slay-er** n
sleave \ˈslēv/ n, *archaic* (1605): SKEIN (sleep that knits up the raveled ~ of care — Shak.)
sleave vt [(assumed) ME *sleven*, fr. OE *slæfan* to cut — more at SLIVER] obs (1628): to separate (silk thread) into filaments
sleave silk n, obs (1588): floss silk that is easily separated into filaments for embroidery
sleazy \ˈslēz/ also \ˈslɑːz/ n [back-formation fr. *sleazy*] (1954): a sleazy quality or appearance
slea-zy \ˈslē-zē/ also \ˈslɑː-zē/ adj **slea-zier**; **-est** [origin unknown] (ca. 1670) 1 a: lacking firmness of texture: FLIMSY b: carelessly made of inferior materials: SHODDY 2: marked by cheapness of character or quality: TAWDRY — **slea-zily** \-zē-lē/ adv — **slea-ziness** \-zē-nəs/ n
sled \ˈsled/ n [ME *slædde*, fr. MD; akin to OE *slidan* to slide] (14c) 1: a vehicle on runners for transportation esp. on snow or ice; esp: 1: a small steerable one used esp. by children for coasting down snow-covered hills 2: ROCKET SLED
sled vb **sled-ded**; **sled-ding** vt (1706): SLEDGE ~ vi: to ride on a sled or sleigh — **sled-der** n
sled-ding n (1682) 1 a: the use of a sled 2: the conditions under which one may use a sled 2: GOING 4
sled dog n (1692): a dog trained to draw a sledge esp. in the Arctic regions — called also *sledge dog*
sledge \ˈsleɪ/ n [ME *slegge*, fr. OE *slecca*, akin to ON *sleggia* sledgehammer, OE *slean* to strike — more at SLAY] (bef. 12c): SLEDGEHAMMER
sledge vb **sledged**; **sled-ging** (1654): SLEDGEHAMMER
sledge n [D *diel*, *sleedse*; akin to MD *slædde* sled] (1617) 1 *Brit*: SLEIGH 2: a vehicle with low runners that is used for transporting loads esp. over snow or ice
sledge vb **sledged**; **sled-ging** vt (1853) 1 *Brit*: to ride in a sleigh 2: to travel with a sledge ~ vt: to transport on a sledge
sledge-ham-mer \ˈsleɪ-ˌhɑːm-ər/ n [ˈsledge] (15c): a large heavy hammer that is wielded with both hands; also: something that resembles a sledgehammer in action
sledgehammer vt (1834): to strike with or as if with a sledgehammer ~ vi: to strike blows with or as if with a sledgehammer
sledgehammer adj (1844): marked by heavy-handed directness or the unsubtle use of force (trusting in ~ warfare — C.J. Rolo)
sleek \ˈsliːk/ vb [ME *sleken*, alter. of *sliken*] vt (15c) 1: SLICK 2: to cover up; gloss over ~ vi: SLICK
sleek adj [alter. of *slick*] (1589) 1 a: smooth and glossy as if polished (~ dark hair) b: having a smooth well-groomed look (~ cattle grazing) c: healthy-looking 2: SLICK 3 3 a: having a prosperous air: THRIVING b: having slender graceful lines: ELEGANT, STYLISH — **sleek-ly** adv — **sleek-ness** n
syn SLEEK, SLICK, GLOSSY, SILKEN mean having a smooth bright surface or appearance. SLEEK suggests a smoothness or brightness resulting from attentive grooming or physical conditioning (a *sleek* racehorse). SLICK suggests extreme smoothness that results in a slippery surface (slipped and fell on the *slick* floor). GLOSSY suggests a surface that is smooth and highly polished (photographs having a *glossy* finish). SILKEN implies the smoothness and luster as well as the softness of silk (*silken* hair).
sleek-en \ˈsliːk-ən/ n **sleek-en-ed**; **sleek-en-ing** \ˈsliːk-(ə-)nɪŋ/ (1621): to make sleek
sleek-it \ˈsliːk-ɪt/ adj [Sc, fr. pp. of *sleek*] (1513) 1 chiefly *Scot*: SLEEK, SMOOTH 2 chiefly *Scot*: CRAFTY, DECEITFUL
sleep \ˈsliːp/ n [ME *slēpe*, fr. OE *slæpan*; akin to OHG *slāf* sleep, L *labi* to slip, slide] (bef. 12) 1: the natural periodic suspension of consciousness during which the powers of the body are restored 2: a state

slavery \ˈslɑːv-(ə-)rē/ n (1551) 1: DRUDGERY, TOIL 2: submission to a dominating influence 3 a: the state of a person who is a chattel of another b: the practice of slaveholding
slave state n (1809) 1: a state of the U.S. in which Negro slavery was legal until the Civil War 2: a nation subjected to totalitarian rule

\ə/ about \ˈkɪtən/ kitten, F table \ər/ further \ə/ ash \ə/ ace \ə/ cot, cart \aʊ/ out \tʃ/ chin \e/ bet \eɪ/ easy \g/ go \h/ hit \ɪ/ ice \j/ job \j/ sing \ɔ/ go \d/ law \ɔɪ/ boy \θ/ thin \t/ the \u/ loon \u/ foot \v/ yet \z/ vision \ɑ/ k, ɪ, e, ɪ, ɛ, ʌ/ see Guide to Pronunciation