

giaour /*ˈdʒɑʊr*/ (archaic) *n* an infidel, a term applied by the Turks to non-Muslims. [Through Turk, from Pers *gaur*; see **Guebre**]

Giardia /*ˈdʒiː-ɑːr-ˈdi-ə*/ *n* a genus of parasitic protozoa which commonly infect the small intestine of mammals, including man. [A *Giard* (1846–1908), French biologist]

■ **giardiasis** *n* intestinal infestation with protozoa of the *Giardia* genus, a disease, often with diarrhoea, nausea, etc, contracted through drinking contaminated water.

Gib /*ˈdʒɪb*/ (*inf*) *n* Gibraltar.

gib¹ /*ˈdʒɪb* or *ˈdʒɪb*/ *n* a wedge-shaped piece of metal holding another in place, etc. ♦ *vt* (**gibbing**; **gibbed**) to fasten with a gib. [Origin obscure]

gib² /*ˈdʒɪb*/ (*obs*) *n* a tomcat, esp a castrated one (also (archaic and dialect) **gib-cat**); a term of reproach. [From the name *Gilbert*]

gibber¹ /*ˈdʒɪb-ər*/ *vi* to utter senseless or inarticulate sounds. [Imit]

gibber² /*ˈdʒɪb-ər*/ (*Aust*) *n* a stone; a boulder. [From an Aboriginal language]

Gibberella /*ˈdʒɪb-ər-el-ə*/ *n* a genus of fungi found esp on grasses, eg wheat scab.

■ **gibberellin** *n* any of several plant-growth regulators produced by a fungus of the genus.

□ **gibberellic** /-el-ik/ **acid** *n* an acid having similar effects.

gibberish /*ˈdʒɪb-ər-ish* or *ˈdʒɪb-ər*/ *n* rapid, gabbling talk; meaningless words. ♦ *adj* meaningless, nonsensical. [Imit]

gibbet /*ˈdʒɪb-ɪt*/ *n* a gallows, esp one on which criminals were suspended after execution; the projecting beam of a crane. ♦ *vt* to expose on, or as on, a gibbet. [OFr *gibet* a stick; origin unknown]

gibble-gabble /*ˈdʒɪb-əl-gab-əl*/ *n* senseless chatter. [gabble]

gibbon /*ˈdʒɪb-ən*/ *n* a SE Asian anthropoid ape (of several species) with very long arms. [Fr, used by Comte de Buffon, supposedly from an Ind word]

Gibsonian /*ˈdʒɪ-bō-ni-ən*/ *adj* relating to or associated with the English historian Edward Gibbon (1737–94).

gibbous /*ˈdʒɪb-əs*/, also **gibbose** /-əs/ *adj* hump-backed; humped; swollen or pouched; (of the moon or a planet) between half and full, unequally convex on two sides. [L *gibbōsus*, from *gibbus* a hump]

■ **gibbosity** or **gibbousness** *n*. **gibbously** *adv*.

gibbsite /*ˈdʒɪb-ziːt*/ *n* hydroxide of aluminium, Al(OH)₃, an important constituent of bauxite. [George Gibbs (died 1833), American mineralogist]

gibe or **jibe** /*ˈdʒɪb*/ *vi* to scoff; to flout, jeer. ♦ *vt* to scoff at; to taunt. ♦ *n* a flout; a taunt. [Origin obscure]

■ **gīber** or **jīber** *n*. **gībingly** *adv*.

gibel /*ˈdʒɪb-əl*/ *n* a common European and N Asian carp, without barbules, similar to a wild form of goldfish (also called **Prussian** or **Crucian carp**).

Gibeonite /*ˈdʒɪb-i-ən-ɪt*/ (*Bible*) *n* a slave's slave (from Joshua 9).

giblets /*ˈdʒɪb-lɪts*/ *n pl* the internal eatable parts of a fowl, etc; entrails. [OFr *giblet* a game stew; origin uncertain]

■ **giblet** *adj* made of giblets.

Gibraltarian /*ˈdʒɪb-rəl-tā-ri-ən*/ *n* and *adj* (an inhabitant) of Gibraltar.

□ **Gibraltar board**[®] *n* (NZ) a type of plasterboard.

gibus /*ˈdʒɪ-bəs*/ *n* a collapsible top hat. [Fr, from the maker's name]

gid /*ˈdʒɪd*/ *n* sturdy, a disease of sheep. [giddy]

giddap /*ˈdʒɪd-əp*/ or *ˈdʒɪd-əp*/, **giddup** /*ˈdʒɪd-ʊp*/ or *ˈdʒɪd-ʊp*/ or **giddy-up** /*ˈdʒɪd-i-ʊp*/ or *ˈdʒɪd-i-ʊp*/ (*inf*) *interj* used to urge on a horse or other animal; hurry up, get along (often *playful* or *joc*). [From *inf* pronunciation of **get up**]

giddy /*ˈdʒɪd-i*/ *adj* unsteady, dizzy; causing giddiness; whirling; light-headed; flighty. ♦ *vi* and *vt* to make or become giddy. [OE *gidig*, *gydig* insane, possessed by a god]

■ **giddily** *adv*. **giddiness** *n*.

□ **giddy-headed** *adj* thoughtless, frivolous. **giddy-paced** *adj* (*Shakesp*) moving irregularly.

■ **play the giddy goat** to act the fool.

giddy-up see **giddap**.

Gideon /*ˈdʒɪd-i-ən*/ *n* a member of an organization of Christian businessmen, founded in the US in 1899, best known for putting Bibles (**Gideon Bibles**) in hotel rooms, etc. [Named after *Gideon*, the judge of Israel (Bible, Judges 6 ff)]

gidgee or **gidjee** /*ˈdʒɪ-ˈdʒi*/ (*Aust*) *n* a small acacia tree, the foliage of which at times emits an unpleasant odour. [From an Aboriginal language]

gie¹ /*ˈdʒi*/ *v* (*pat* **gied** /*ˈdʒi*/ or **gae** /*ˈdʒi*/; *pap* **gien** /*ˈdʒi*/) a Scots form of **give**¹.

gie² or **gi** /*ˈdʒi*/ *n* a judo or karate costume. [Jap *ki* clothing]

gien see **gie**¹.

gier-eagle /*ˈdʒi-er-ˈe-gl*/ (*Bible*) *n* a vulture. [Du *gier*]

GIF /*ˈdʒɪf*/ (*comput*) *abbrev*: graphic interchange format, a standard image file format.

gif /*ˈdʒɪf*/ *conj* an obsolete form of **if**.

Giffen good /*ˈdʒɪf-ən-ɡud*/ (*econ*, etc) *n* a foodstuff of relatively low quality which forms an important part of the diet of low-income households, demand for which (contrary to the normal rule) increases when its price rises and decreases when it falls. [Scottish economist Sir Robert *Giffen* (1837–1910) noted this effect in regard to potatoes]

giff-gaff /*ˈdʒɪf-ˈɡaf*/ (*Scot*) *n* give and take. [give¹]

GIFT *abbrev*: gamete intra-Fallopian transfer, an infertility treatment involving direct transfer of eggs and sperm into the woman's Fallopian tubes, where conception may occur.

gift /*ˈdʒɪft*/ *n* a thing given; a quality bestowed by nature, a talent; the act of giving; something easily obtained, understood, etc (*sl*); a bribe (*obs*). ♦ *vt* to endow, esp with any power or faculty; to present, give as a gift (esp *Scot*). [See **give**¹]

■ **gifted** *adj* highly endowed by nature with talents, abilities, etc; (*esp*) of a child, exceptionally clever. **giftedly** *adv*. **giftedness** *n*.

□ **Gift Aid** *n* a UK government scheme allowing charities to reclaim the tax paid on donations. **gift-book** *n* a book suitable or intended for presentation. **gift horse** *n* a horse given as a present (see also below). **gift shop** *n* a shop selling articles suitable for presents. **gift token** or **voucher** *n* a printed card that can be used in payment or exchange for buying certain products to the value of the amount shown. **gift-wrap** *vt* to wrap (a present) in coloured paper, with ribbons, etc.

■ **in one's gift** within one's power to bestow. **look a gift horse in the mouth** to criticize, delay or niggle over a gift or lucky opportunity (*orig* to look at a gift horse's teeth to tell its age).

gig¹ /*ˈdʒɪɡ*/ *n* a light, two-wheeled carriage; a long, light boat; a machine for raising the nap on cloth (in full, **gig mill**); a whipping-top (*obs*); a flighty girl (*obs*); sport, fun (*dialect*). [ME *gigge* a whirling thing (cf **whirligig**); origin obscure]

■ **gigg** *vt* and *vi* (*old US*) to convey or move rapidly.

□ **gig-lamps** *n pl* the lamps fixed on either side of a gig (carriage); spectacles (*old sl*). **gig man** *n* a man who drives or keeps a gig; a narrow middle-class philistine (*Carlyle*). **gigmanity** *n*.

gig² /*ˈdʒɪɡ*/ (*sl*) *n* an engagement, esp of a band or pop group for one performance only; such a performance. ♦ *vi* (**giggling**; **giggled**) to play a gig. [Ety unknown]

gig³ /*ˈdʒɪɡ*/ *n* a pronged spear for fishing, a fishgig. [**figzig**]

giga see **gigue**.

giga- /*ˈdʒɪ-gə-, ˈdʒɪ-gə-, ˈdʒi-gə-* or *ˈdʒɪ-gə-*/ *combining form* denoting 10⁹, or (*comput*) 2³⁰. [Gr *gigas* giant]

■ **gi gabyte** *n* (*comput*) (loosely) a thousand million bytes or a thousand megabytes; 2³⁰ bytes. **giga-elec tron-volt** *n* a unit equal to a thousand million electronvolts. **gi gaflop** *n* (*comput*) a unit of processing speed equal to 2³⁰ floating-point operations per second. ♦ *adj* able to perform at this speed, as in *giga-flop computer*. **gi gahertz** *n*. **gi gawatt** *n*.

gigantic /*ˈdʒɪ-gan-ˈtɪk*/ *adj* (also **gigantēan**) of, like or characteristic of a giant; huge. [L *gigās*, *gigantis*, Gr *gigās*, -antos a giant]

■ **gigantesque** *adj* befitting or suggestive of a giant. **gigantically** *adv*. **giganticide** *n* the act of killing a giant. **gigantism** *n* (of a business concern, etc) hugeness; excessive overgrowth, *usu* owing to overactivity of the pituitary gland (*med*); abnormal increase in size, often associated with polyploidy (*bot*). **gigantology** *n* giant-lore. **giganto-machy** /-ki/ or **gigantomachia** /-tō-māk-i-ə/ *n* (Gr *machē* fight) a war of giants, esp against the gods.

giggle /*ˈdʒɪɡ-əl*/ *vi* to laugh with short catches of the breath, or in a silly manner. ♦ *n* a laugh of this kind; an amusing person or thing, a laugh (*inf*); (in *pl*) uncontrollable giggling. [Echoic]

■ **giggler** *n*. **gigglesome** or **giggly** *adj* inclined to giggle. **giggling** *n*.

giglet or **giglot** /*ˈdʒɪɡ-lɪt* or -lət/ (*obs*) *n* a giddy girl; a wanton person. ♦ *adj* (*Shakesp*) inconstant. [Perh connected with **gig**; later associated with **giggle**]

GIGO /*ˈdʒɪɡ-ō, ˈdʒɪ-ˈgō* or *ˈdʒi-ˈgō*/ (*comput*, etc) *abbrev*: garbage in, garbage out, ie incorrect input results in incorrect output.

gigolo /*ˈdʒɪɡ-ō-lō*/ (*n pl*) **gig olos** a professional male dancing partner or escort; a young man living at the expense of an older woman, esp one to whom he gives sexual favours in return. [Fr]

gigot /*ˈdʒɪɡ-ət*/ *n* a leg of mutton, etc; a leg-of-mutton sleeve. [Fr]

gigue /*ˈdʒɪ-ˈɡi*/ or (*Ital*) **giga** /*ˈdʒi-ˈɡa*/ (*music*) *n* a lively dance form *usu* in 6–8 or 12–8 time, often used to complete 18c dance suites. [Fr; cf **jig**]

gila /*ˈhɪ-ˈlə*/ (in full **gila monster**) *n* either of the two *Heloderma* species, the only venomous lizards known. [After the *Gila* River in south-western US]