

stance, as magnesite, and the basic slag in the charge serves as the refining agent. 4. Geol. designating or of igneous rocks with less than about 52 percent silica — n. 1. a basic principle, factor, etc.: usually used in pl. 2. basic military training — *bas'ic-al-ly* *adv.*

Basic English [British, American, Scientific, International, Commercial] a simplified form of the English language for international communication and for first steps into full English, devised by C. K. Ogden: it consists of a selected vocabulary of 850 essential words and is copyrighted **bas'ic-i-ty** (bə sis'ə tē) *n.* *Chem.* 1. the quality or condition of being a base 2. the capacity of an acid to react with a base, measured by the number of chemical equivalents of a base with which one gram molecular weight of the acid reacts

basic oxygen process a procedure used in certain processes for refining steel in which oxygen is introduced into the melt to produce higher temperatures, conserve fuel, increase production, etc.

basic slag & slag of steel manufacture having low silica (and high alkaline) content: also used as a fertilizer

bas'id-i-o-my-cete (bə sid'ē ō mī'sēt, -mī sēt') *n.* [**BASIDIUM** + **MYCETE**] *Bot.* any of a class (Basidiomycetes) of fungi, including the mushrooms, rusts, smuts, and puffballs, that produce spores on basidia — **bas'id-i-o-my-cet'ous** (-mī sēt'əs) *adj.*

bas'id-i-o-spore (bə sid'ē ō spōr') *n.* [**BASIDIUM** + **SPORE**] a spore produced on a basidium — **bas'id-i-o-spor'ous** (-spōr'əs) *adj.*

bas'id-i-um (bə sid'ē əm) *n., pl. -id'ī-a* (-ə) [ModL. < Gr. *basis*, base + ModL. dim. suffix *-idium*] *Bot.* any of a number of club-shaped cells in basidiomycetous fungi, bearing a definite number of external spores (usually four) on short, slender stalks — **bas'id-i-al** *adj.*

bas-i-fixed (bās'ə fiks't) *adj. Bot.* attached at the base

bas-i-fy (bās'ə fī') *vt.* to change into a base; alkalize

Bas-il (bāz'əl, bāz'əl) [**BASILIUS** < Gr. *Basileus*, lit., king < *basileus*, king] 1. a masculine name 2. Saint (called *Basil the Great*), 330?-379? A.D.; Gr. prelate, born in Cappadocia; bishop of Caesarea: his day is June 14 — **Bas-il-i-an** (bə zil'ē ən, -sil') *adj.*

bas-il (bāz'əl, bāz'əl) *n.* [ME. & OFr. *basile* < ML. *basilicum* < Gr. *basilikon* (*phylon*), basil, lit., royal (plant) < *basileus*, king] any of a group of fragrant plants of the mint family, esp. a white-flowered garden herb (*Ocimum basilicum*) whose leaves are used for flavoring in cooking

Bas-il-ian (bā sē'li ən) 1. city comprising a group of islands in the Philippines, southwest of Mindanao: pop. 181,000 2. largest island of this group

bas-i-lar (bās'ə lər) *adj.* [ModL. *basilaris* < L. *basis*, (-ler) of or at the base, esp. of the skull: also *bas'lar'y* (-ler'ē)

bas-il-ic (bə sil'ik) *adj.* [Fr. *basilique* < L. *basilicus* < Gr. *basilikos*: see **BASIL**] 1. designating or of a large vein of the upper arm, on the inner side of the biceps muscle 2. of a basilica; basilican 3. (Obs.) king; also **bas'il'i-cal**

bas-il-i-ca (bə sil'i kə) *n., pl. -cas* [L. < Gr. *basilikē* (*stoa*), royal (portico) < *basilikos*: see **BASIL**] 1. orig., a royal palace 2. in ancient Rome, a rectangular building with a broad nave ending in an apse, and flanked by colonnaded aisles, used as a courtroom, public hall, etc. 3. a Christian church built in this style 4. R.C.Ch. any of a number of churches granted certain ceremonial rights — **bas'il'i-can** (-kən) *adj.*

Bas-il-i-ca-ta (bā sē'li kə'tā) region in S Italy, on the Gulf of Taranto: 3,856 sq. mi.; pop. 648,000

bas-i-lisk (bās'ə lisk') *n.* [ME. < L. *basiliscus* < Gr. *basilikos*, dim. of *basileus*, king] 1. a mythical lizardlike monster with supposedly fatal breath and glance, fabled to have been hatched by a serpent from a cock's egg; see **COCKATRICE** 2. any of several tropical American lizards tail and an inflatable pouch on the back and kind of cannon

bas-in (bās'n) *n.* [ME. & OFr. *bacin* < VL. *baccinum* < *bacca*, water vessel] 1. a round, wide, shallow container, as for holding water to wash in 2. its contents or capacity 3. a washbowl or sink 4. any shallow, rounded hollow or depression, often containing water, as a pond 5. a bay or harbor (yacht *basin*) 6. all the land drained by a river and its branches 7. a great hollow in the earth's surface filled by an ocean 8. *Geol.* a wide, depressed area in which the rock layers all incline toward a center

bas-i-net (bas'ə nit) *n.* [ME. & OFr. *bacinet*, dim. of *bacin*, **BASIN**] a light, steel, medieval helmet

bas-i-on (bās'ē ən) *n.* [ModL. < Gr. *basis*: see **BASIS**] the midpoint of the front border of the foramen magnum

bas-i-p-e-tal (bā sip'i təl) *adj.* [**BASIC** + **PETAL**] *Bot.* developing or moving from the apex toward the base of the stem: used to describe the development of tissues or movement of hormones in plants

bas-is (bā'sis) *n., pl. bas'es (-sēz) [L. < Gr., a base, pedestal < *basinein*, to go < IE. base **gwem-*, to go, come, whence OE. *L. venire*] 1. the base, foundation, or chief supporting factor of anything 2. the principal constituent of any-*

thing 3. the fundamental principle or theory, as of a system of knowledge — *SYN.* see **BASE**

bask (bask, bāsk) *vi.* [ME. *basken*, to wallow (in blood); found only in Gower & Lydgate; < ?; modern use apparently due to Shakespeare's misunderstanding of Lydgate] 1. to warm oneself pleasantly, as in the sunlight 2. to enjoy a warm or pleasant feeling from being in a certain environment or situation (to *bask* in someone's favor) — *vt.* [Archaic] to expose to warmth

Bas-ker-ville (bas'kər vil), John 1706-75; Eng. printer & type designer

bas-ket (bas'kit, bās'ə) *n.* [ME.; origin obscure] 1. a container made of interwoven cane, rushes, strips of wood, etc. and often having a handle or handles 2. the amount that a basket will hold 3. anything like a basket in shape or use 4. the structure hung from a balloon to carry personnel and equipment *5. **Basketball** a) the goal, a round, open net hanging from a metal ring attached to a raised backboard b) a toss of the ball through this net, counted as a score when properly made

***bas-ket-ball** (-bōt') *n.* 1. a game played by two opposing teams of five players each, usually in a zoned floor area; points are scored by tossing a ball through a raised goal (basket) at the opponent's end of the playing court: the game was invented in 1891 by James A. Naismith of Springfield, Mass. 2. the large, round, inflated ball used in this game

basket hilt a hilt with a basketlike guard for the hand, as on some swords — **bas'ket-hilt'ed** *adj.*

Basket Maker 1. any of several early American Indian cultures of the southwestern U.S. (c. 100-700 A.D.) characterized by great skill in basket making and by the later development of basket molds for the construction and drying of mud pottery 2. a member of the people who produced this culture

bas-ket-of-gold (-əv gōld') *n.* a yellow-flowered perennial plant (*Alyssum saxatile*) of the mustard family, often used in borders

bas-ket-ry (bas'kə trē, bās'ə) *n.* 1. the craft of making baskets 2. baskets collectively; basketwork

basket star any of a genus (*Gorgonocephalus*) of small sea animals related to the starfish with narrow, branching, interlaced arms or rays; also called **basket fish**

basket weave a weave of fabrics resembling the weave used in basket making

bas-ket-work (bas'kit wɜrk') *n.* work that is interlaced or woven like a basket; wickerwork

basking shark a large shark (*Cetorhinus maximus*) with small, weak teeth that feeds on plankton: often found basking on the surface in northern seas

Basle (bāl) *older name for BASEL*

bas miz't-vah, **bas miz-vah** (bās mits'və) *same as* **BAT MITZVAH**

bas-net (bas'nit) *n.* *same as* **BASINET**

bas-ō-phil (bās'ə fil', -fil') *n.* [**BASIC** + **PHILE**] *Biol.* a cell or tissue that is readily stained with basic dyes; also **bas'ō-phil'** (-fil') — **bas'ō-phil'ic** (-fil'ik) *adj.*

Basque (bask, bāsk) *n.* [Fr. < Sp. *Vasco*, ult. < L. *Vascones*, the Basques] 1. any member of a certain people living in the western Pyrenees 2. their language, which is unrelated to any other known language — *adj.* of the Basques, their language, etc.

basque (bask) *n.* [Fr. < Pr. *basto* < ?; altered by association with Fr. *basquine*, kind of petticoat < Sp. *basquina* < *basco, vasco*, **BASQUE**] a woman's tightfitting bodice or tunic

Basque Provinces region comprising three provinces in N Spain, inhabited by Basques: Sp. name, **VASCONGADAS**

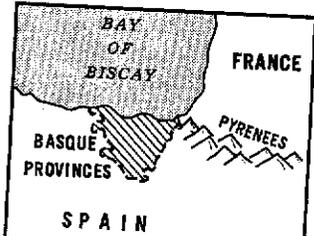
Bas-ra (bus'rə, buz'ə) port in SE Iraq, on the Shatt al Arab: pop. 328,000

bas-re-lief (bā'rə lēf', bas'ə) *n.* [Fr. < It. *basso-rilievo*: see **BASO** & **RELIEF**] sculpture in which figures are carved in a flat surface so that they project only a little from the background

bas's (bās) *n.* [ME. *bas*, **BASE**; *sp.* influenced by It. *basso*] 1. the range of the lowest male voice, below baritone 2. a male voice of this range, or a man with such a voice 3. a low, deep sound or tone, as of such a voice

4. an instrument of the lowest range; specif., a double bass 5. a musical part for such a voice or instrument — *adj.* of, for, or having the range of a bass

bass' (bas) *n., pl. bass*, *bass'es*: see **PLURAL**, II, D, 2 [ME. *bas*, earlier *baers* < OE. *baers* < IE. **bhor(s)-*, point, bristle (in reference to the dorsal fins), whence ON. *barr*, needle, G. *Barsch*, perch] any of various families of spiny-finned food and game fishes of fresh or salt water: cf.



BASQUE PROVINCES

āpe, cār; ten, ēven; is, bīte; gō, hōrn, tōōl, look; oil, out; up, fūr; get; joy; yet; chin; she; thin, shen; zh, leisure; ŋ, ring; for a in ago, e in agent, i in sanity, o in comply, u in focus; * as in able (ā'b'l); Fr. bāi; &, Fr. coeur; ō, Fr. feu; Fr. mor; ō, Fr. coq; Fr. due; r, Fr. cri; H, G. ich; kh, G. doch. See inside front cover. * Americanism; † foreign; * hypothetical; < derived from