

schoolboy (or **schoolgirl**) ▶ n. a boy (or girl) attending school.

schoolchild ▶ n. (pl. **schoolchildren**) a child attending school.

schooldays ▶ pl. n. the period in someone's life when they attended school.

schoolfellow ▶ n. more formal term for **SCHOOLMATE**.

schoolhouse ▶ n. **1** a building used as a school, especially in a rural community. **2** Brit., chiefly historical a house adjoining a school, lived in by the schoolteacher.

schoolie ▶ n. Austral. informal & dialect a schoolteacher or school student.

– PHRASES **schoolies week** (in Australia) a week of celebrations to mark the end of the final year of senior school.

schooling ▶ n. **1** education received at school. **2** riding the training of a horse on the flat or over fences.

schoolkid ▶ n. informal a schoolchild.

school leaver ▶ n. Brit. a young person who is about to leave or has just left school.

schoolman ▶ n. (pl. **schoolmen**) historical **1** a teacher in a university in medieval Europe. **2** a scholastic theologian.

schoolmarm ▶ n. chiefly N. Amer. a schoolmistress, especially one regarded as prim and strict.

– DERIVATIVES **schoolmarmish** adj.

schoolmaster ▶ n. chiefly Brit. **1** a male teacher in a school. **2** an experienced horse that is used to train or give confidence to inexperienced riders or horses.

– DERIVATIVES **schoolmastering** n. **schoolmasterly** adj.

schoolmate ▶ n. informal a fellow pupil.

schoolmistress ▶ n. chiefly Brit. a female teacher in a school.

schoolroom ▶ n. a room used for lessons, especially the main classroom in a small school.

schoolteacher ▶ n. a person who teaches in a school.

– DERIVATIVES **schoolteaching** n.

schoolwork ▶ n. work that is done or to be done by school students.

schoolyard ▶ n. chiefly N. Amer. a school playground.

school year ▶ n. the period in the year during which pupils attend school, from the beginning of the autumn term to the end of the summer term.

schooner /'sku:nə/ ▶ n. **1** a sailing ship with two or more masts, typically with the foremast smaller than the mainmast. **2** Brit. a large glass for sherry. ■ N. Amer. & Austral./NZ a tall beer glass.

– ORIGIN C18: perh. from dial. *scan* 'skim along', influenced by Du. words beginning with *sch*.

schorl /ʃɔ:l/ ▶ n. a black iron-rich variety of tourmaline.

– ORIGIN C18: from Ger. *Schorl*, of unknown origin.

schottische /ʃɒ'ti:ʃ, 'ʃɒ'ti:ʃ/ ▶ n. a dance resembling a slow polka.

– ORIGIN C19: from Ger. *der schottische Tanz* 'the Scottish dance'.

S Schrödinger equation ▶ n. Physics a differential equation which forms the basis of the quantum-mechanical description of a particle.

– ORIGIN 1920s: named after the Austrian physicist Erwin Schrödinger.

schtuck ▶ n. variant spelling of **SHTOOK**.

schtum /ʃtʊm/ ▶ adj. variant spelling of **SHTUM**.

schtup /ʃtʊp/ ▶ v. variant spelling of **SHTUP**.

schuss /ʃʊs/ ▶ n. a straight downhill run on skis.

▶ v. perform a schuss.

– ORIGIN 1930s: from Ger. *Schuss*, lit. 'shot'.

schwa /ʃwə/ ▶ n. Phonetics the unstressed central vowel (as in a moment ago), represented by the symbol /ə/ in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

– ORIGIN C19: from Ger., from Heb. *šəwā*.

sciagraphy /sa'ɪagrəfi/ (also **skiagraphy**) ▶ n. the use of shading to show perspective in architectural or technical drawing.

– DERIVATIVES **sciagraphic** adj.

– ORIGIN C16: from Fr. *sciagraphie*, via L. from Gk. *skiagraphia*, from *skia* 'shadow'.

sciatic /sa'ɪatɪk/ ▶ adj. **1** relating to the hip. **2** of or affecting the sciatic nerve. ■ suffering from or liable

to sciatica.

– ORIGIN C16 (as n.): from Fr. *sciatique*, via late L. from Gk. *iskhiadikos* 'relating to the hips', from *iskhion* 'hip joint'.

sciatica ▶ n. pain affecting the back, hip, and outer side of the leg, caused by compression of a spinal nerve root in the lower back.

– ORIGIN ME: from late L. *sciatica (passio)* '(affliction) of sciatica' (see **SCIATIC**).

sciatic nerve ▶ n. Anatomy a major nerve extending from the lower end of the spinal cord down the back of the thigh.

SCID ▶ abbr. severe combined immune deficiency, a rare genetic disorder in which affected children have no resistance to disease.

science ▶ n. **1** the intellectual and practical activity encompassing the systematic study of the structure and behaviour of the physical and natural world through observation and experiment. **2** a systematically organized body of knowledge on any subject. **3** archaic knowledge.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr., from L. *scientia* 'knowledge', from *scire* 'know'.

science fiction ▶ n. fiction based on imagined future worlds portraying scientific or technological changes.

science park ▶ n. an area devoted to scientific research or the development of science-based industries.

scienter /sa'ɪɛntə/ ▶ n. Law the fact of an act having been done knowingly, especially as grounds for civil damages.

– ORIGIN L., from *scire* 'know'.

sciential /sa'ɪɛn(ə)l/ ▶ adj. archaic concerning or having knowledge.

– ORIGIN ME: from late L. *scientialis*, from *scientia* (see **SCIENCE**).

scientific ▶ adj. **1** relating to or based on science. **2** systematic; methodical.

– DERIVATIVES **scientifically** adv. **scientificity** n.

– ORIGIN C16: from Fr. *scientifique* or late L. *scientificus* 'producing knowledge', from *scientia* (see **SCIENCE**).

scientification /sa'ɪntɪfɪk(ə)ʃn/ ▶ n. science fiction.

– ORIGIN early 20th cent.: blend of **SCIENTIFIC** and **FICTION**.

scientism ▶ n. thought or expression regarded as characteristic of scientists. ■ excessive belief in the power of scientific knowledge and techniques.

– DERIVATIVES **scientistic** adj.

scientist ▶ n. a person who is studying or has expert knowledge of one or more of the natural or physical sciences.

Scientology ▶ n. trademark a religious system based on the seeking of self-knowledge and spiritual fulfilment through graded courses of study and training.

– DERIVATIVES **Scientologist** n.

– ORIGIN from L. *scientia* 'knowledge' + **-LOGY**.

sci-fi ▶ n. informal short for **SCIENCE FICTION**.

scilicet /sɪlɪsɪt, 'saɪlɪsɪt, 'ski:lɪkət/ ▶ adv. that is to say; namely (introducing a missing word or an explanation).

– ORIGIN L., from *scire licet* 'one is permitted to know'.

scilla /sɪlə/ ▶ n. a plant of the lily family which typically bears small blue star- or bell-shaped flowers and glossy strap-like leaves. [Genus *Scilla*.]

– ORIGIN mod. L., from L. *scilla* 'sea onion', from Gk. *skilla*.

Scillonian /sɪ'lɒniən/ ▶ n. a native or inhabitant of the Scilly Isles. ▶ adj. relating to the Scilly Isles.

scimitar /sɪmɪtə/ ▶ n. a short sword with a curved blade that broadens towards the point, used originally in Eastern countries.

– ORIGIN C16: from Fr. *cimeterre* or Ital. *scimitarra*, of unknown origin.

scintigraphy /sɪn'tɪgrəfi/ ▶ n. Medicine a technique in which a scintillation counter or similar detector is used with a radioactive tracer to obtain an image of a bodily organ.

– DERIVATIVES **scintigram** n. **scintigraphic** adj.

– ORIGIN 1950s: from **SCINTILLATION** + **-GRAPHY**.

scintilla /sɪn'tɪlə/ ▶ n. a tiny trace or amount: *not a scintilla of doubt*.

– ORIGIN C17: L., 'spark'.