

## Word from Stories

### **ecosystem** (n)

A community of organisms together with their physical environment, viewed as a system of interacting and interdependent relationships and including such processes as the flow of energy through trophic levels and the cycling of chemical elements and compounds through living and nonliving components of the system.

### **dexterity** [dɛk'stɛrɪtɪ]

*n*

1. physical, esp manual, skill or nimbleness
2. mental skill or adroitness: cleverness
3. (Life Sciences & Allied Applications / Physiology) *Rare* the characteristic of being right-handed

### **precision** [prɪ'sɪʒən]

*n*

1. the quality of being precise; accuracy
2. (Engineering / Mechanical Engineering) (*modifier*) characterized by or having a high degree of exactness *precision grinding a precision instrument*

### **geometry** [dʒɪ'ɒmɪtri]

*n*

1. (Mathematics) the branch of mathematics concerned with the properties, relationships, and measurement of points, lines, curves, and surfaces See also [analytical geometry](#), [non-Euclidean geometry](#)
2. (Mathematics)
  - a. any branch of geometry using a particular notation or set of assumptions *analytical geometry*
  - b. any branch of geometry referring to a particular set of objects *solid geometry*
3. a shape, configuration, or arrangement
4. (Fine Arts & Visual Arts / Art Terms) *Arts* the shape of a solid or a surface

### **intricate** ['ɪntrɪkɪt]

*adj*

1. difficult to understand; obscure; complex; puzzling
2. entangled or involved *intricate patterns*  
[from Latin *intrīcāre* to entangle, perplex, from in-<sup>2</sup> + *trīcae* trifles, perplexities]

### **heif-er** (hfr)

*n.*

A young cow, especially one that has not yet given birth to a calf.

**spec·ta·cle** (spkt-kl)

*n.*

1.

a. Something that can be seen or viewed, especially something of a remarkable or impressive nature.

b. A public performance or display, especially one on a large or lavish scale.

c. A regrettable public display, as of bad behavior: *drank too much and made a spectacle of himself.*

2. **spectacles**

a. A pair of eyeglasses.

b. Something resembling eyeglasses in shape or suggesting them in function.

**ace** (s)

*n.*

1.

a. A single spot or pip on a playing card, die, or domino.

b. A playing card, die, or domino having one spot or pip.

2. In racket games:

a. A serve that one's opponent fails to hit.

b. A point scored by such a serve.

3. The act of hitting a golf ball in the hole with one's first shot.

4. A military aircraft pilot who has destroyed five or more enemy aircraft.

5. An expert in a given field.

*adj.*

Top-notch; first-rate.

*tr.v.* **aced, ac-ing, ac-es**

1. To serve an ace against in racket games.

2. To hit an ace on (a hole) in golf.

3. *Slang* To get the better of (someone): *a candidate who aced his opponents in the primaries.*

4. *Slang*

a. To receive a grade of A on: *She aced the exam.*

b. To perform with distinction on: *aced the interview.*

**Idioms:**

**ace in the hole/up one's sleeve**

A hidden advantage or resource kept in reserve until needed.

**within an ace of**

On the verge of; very near to: *came within an ace of losing the election.*

**hoof** (hf, hf)

*n. pl.* **hooves** (hvz, hvz) or **hoofs**

1.

a. The horny sheath covering the toes or lower part of the foot of a mammal of the orders Perissodactyla and Artiodactyla, such as a horse, ox, or deer.

b. The foot of such an animal, especially a horse.

2. *Slang* The human foot.

**v. hoofed, hoof-ing, hoofs**

*v.tr.*

To trample with the hoofs.

*v.intr. Slang*

1. To dance, especially as a professional.

2. To go on foot; walk.

**Idioms:**

***hoof it*** *Slang*

1. To walk.

2. To dance.

***on the hoof***

Not yet butchered; alive. Used especially of cattle.