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washer-up noun (BrE, informal) a person who washes dishes

washer-woman /'wɒʃəwʊmən; NAmE 'wɔ:ʃər-; 'wɔ:ʃər- noun (pl. -women /-wimɪn/) a woman in the past whose job was to wash clothes, etc. for other people

washing 0= /'wɒʃɪŋ; NAmE 'wɔ:ʃ-; 'wɔ:ʃ- noun [U] 1 ⇒ the act of cleaning sth using water and usually soap: a gentle shampoo for frequent washing ○ I do the washing (= wash the clothes) in our house. ○ see also BRAINWASHING 2 ⇒ (BrE) clothes, sheets, etc. that are waiting to be washed, being washed or have just been washed: a pile of dirty washing ○ Would you hang the washing out (= hang it outside to dry)?

washing day noun = WASHDAY

washing line noun (BrE) = CLOTHES LINE

washing machine noun an electric machine for washing clothes

washing powder noun [U] (BrE) soap or DETERGENT in the form of powder for washing clothes

washing soda noun [U] = SODIUM CARBONATE

washing-up (BrE) noun [U] 1 the act of washing plates, glasses, pans, etc. after a meal: If you cook, I'll do the washing-up. ○ a washing-up bowl 2 the dirty plates, glasses, pans, etc. that have to be washed after a meal: The sink was still full of last night's washing-up.

washing-up liquid noun [U] (BrE) liquid soap for washing dishes, pans, etc.

wash-out /'wɒʃaʊt; NAmE 'wɔ:ʃ-; 'wɔ:ʃ- noun (informal) an event, etc. that is a complete failure, especially because of rain

wash-room /'wɒʃru:m; -rum; NAmE 'wɔ:ʃ-; 'wɔ:ʃ- noun (old-fashioned, NAmE) a toilet/bathroom, especially one that is in a public building

wash-stand /'wɒʃstænd; NAmE 'wɔ:ʃ-; 'wɔ:ʃ- noun (especially in the past) a special table in a bedroom that holds a BASIN for washing yourself in

wash-tub /'wɒʃtʌb; NAmE 'wɔ:ʃ-; 'wɔ:ʃ- noun (in the past) a large metal container for washing clothes, etc. in

wasn't /'wɒznt; NAmE also 'wɒznt/ ○ BT

Wasp /wɒsp; NAmE wɒsp/ (also WASP) noun (especially NAmE, usually disapproving) the abbreviation for 'White Anglo-Saxon Protestant' (a white American whose family originally came from northern Europe and is therefore thought to be from the most powerful section of society); a privileged Wasp background

wasp /wɒsp; NAmE wɒsp/ noun a black and yellow flying insect that can sting: a wasp sting ○ a wasps' nest ○ VISUAL VOCAB page V3

wasp-ish /'wɒspɪʃ; NAmE 'wɒs-ɪ/ adj. (formal) bad-tempered and unpleasant ○ irritably ⇒ wasp-ish-ly adv.

was-sail /'wɒseɪl; NAmE 'wɒs-ɪ/ verb (old use) 1 [I] to enjoy yourself by drinking alcohol with others 2 [I] to go from house to house at Christmas time singing CAROLS ⇒ was-sail-er noun

waste 0= /weɪstɪdʒ/ noun 1 [U, sing.] ⇒ (of sth) the fact of losing or destroying sth, especially because it has been used or dealt with carelessly: It was a new production technique aimed at minimizing waste. 2 [U] the amount of sth that is wasted: There is little waste from a lean cut of meat. 3 [U] (BrE) the loss of employees because they stop working or move to other jobs; the number of students who do not finish a particular course of study: Half of the posts will be lost through natural waste. ○ student waste-age rates

waste 0= /weɪst/ verb, noun, adj.

• verb

• NOT USE WELL 1 ⇒ to use more of sth than is necessary or useful: ~ sth to waste time/food/energy ○ ~ sth on sth Why waste money on clothes you don't need? ○ ~ sth (in) doing sth She wasted no time in rejecting the offer (= she rejected it immediately). ○ You're wasting your time trying to explain it to him (= because he will not understand). 2 ~ sth (on sb/sth) to give, say, use, etc. sth good where it is not

1737

waste paper

valued or used in the way that it should be: Don't waste your sympathy on him—he got what he deserved. ○ Her comments were not wasted on Chris (= he understood what she meant). 3 ⇒ [usually passive] to not make good or full use of sb/sth: ~ sb/sth It was a wasted opportunity. ○ ~ sb/sth as sth You're wasted as a sales manager—you should have been an actor.

• KILL SB 4 ~ sb (informal, especially NAmE) to get rid of sb, usually by killing them

• DEFEAT SB 5 ~ sb (NAmE, informal) to defeat sb very badly in a game or competition

○ waste your 'breath to say sth that nobody takes any notice of, waste not, 'want not (saying) If you never waste anything, especially food or money, you will always have it when you need it

○ waste a 'way (of a person) to become thin and weak, especially because of illness ○ become emaciated

• noun

• NOT GOOD USE 1 ⇒ [U, sing.] ⇒ (of sth) the act of using sth in a careless or unnecessary way, causing it to be lost or destroyed: I hate unnecessary waste. ○ It seems such a waste to throw good food away. ○ I hate to see good food go to waste (= be thrown away). ○ The report is critical of the department's waste of resources. ○ What a waste of paper! 2 ⇒ [sing.] a situation in which it is not worth spending time, money, etc. on sth: These meetings are a complete waste of time. ○ They believe the statue is a waste of taxpayers' money.

• MATERIALS 3 ⇒ [U] (also wastes [pl.]) materials that are no longer needed and are thrown away: household/industrial waste ○ toxic wastes ○ waste disposal (= the process of getting rid of waste) 4 (also, waste 'matter) [U] material that the body gets rid of as solid or liquid material: The farmers use both animal and human waste as fertilizer.

• LAND 5 wastes [pl.] (formal) a large area of land where there are very few people, animals or plants: the frozen wastes of Siberia

○ a waste of 'space (informal) a person who is useless or no good at anything

• adj. [usually before noun]

• LAND 1 ⇒ not suitable for building or growing things on and therefore not used ○ derelict: The car was found on a piece of waste ground.

• MATERIALS 2 ⇒ no longer needed for a particular process and therefore thrown away: waste plastic

○ lay sth 'waste | lay 'waste (to) sth (formal) to destroy a place completely

waste-bas-ket /'weɪstbæskɪt; NAmE -bæʃ- / (NAmE) (BrE, 'waste-'paper basket) noun a BASKET or other container for waste paper, etc. ○ picture at BASKET

waste bin noun (BrE) a container that you put rubbish/garbage in

wasted /'weɪstɪd/ adj. 1 [only before noun] (of an action) unsuccessful because it does not produce the result you wanted: We had a wasted trip—they weren't in. 2 too thin, especially because of illness: thin wasted legs 3 (long) strongly affected by alcohol or drugs

waste-disposal unit (also 'waste disposer) noun (NAmE usually garbage disposal, disposal) a machine connected to the waste pipe of a kitchen sink, for cutting food waste into small pieces

waste-ful /'weɪstfʊl/ adj. using more of sth than is necessary; not saving or keeping sth that could be used: The whole process is wasteful and inefficient. ○ = of sth an engine that is wasteful of fuel ⇒ waste-ful-ly /-fʊli/ adv.

waste-ful-ness noun [U]

waste-land /'weɪstlənd/ noun [C, U] an area of land that cannot be used or that is no longer used for building or growing things on: industrial wasteland ○ the desert wastelands of Arizona ○ (figurative) The mid 1970s are seen as a cultural wasteland for rock music.

'waste 'paper noun [U] paper that is not wanted and is thrown away

