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## WEEK IN WORDS: ERIN MCKEAN



A field guide to unusual words in this week's Wall Street Journal.

Wire Service

### aerotaxy

*With aerotaxy...nanowires are continuously formed on tiny gold balls as they are floating along down a gas-filled chamber, Epstein says.*

—“Tiny Wires Reach Up to Grab Solar Energy,” Digits blog, WSJ.com, April 9

Aerotaxy comes from Greek roots meaning “air,” and “arrangement, order.” In aerotaxy, particles organize themselves in a stream of flowing gas. Aerotaxy is contrasted with epitaxy, where crystals are formed on a crystalline substrate which determines the orientation of their growth.

