See Also child table, constraint, DML, foreign key, NULL.

FTS

In most contexts, an acronym for **full-text search**. Sometimes in performance discussions, an acronym for **full table scan**.
See Also full table scan, full-text search.

full backup

A **backup** that includes all the **tables** in each MySQL **database**, and all the databases in a MySQL **instance**. Contrast with **partial backup**.
See Also backup, database, instance, partial backup, table.

full table scan

An operation that requires reading the entire contents of a table, rather than just selected portions using an **index**. Typically performed either with small lookup tables, or in data warehousing situations with large tables where all available data is aggregated and analyzed. How frequently these operations occur, and the sizes of the tables relative to available memory, have implications for the algorithms used in query optimization and managing the **buffer pool**.

The purpose of indexes is to allow lookups for specific values or ranges of values within a large table, thus avoiding full table scans when practical.
See Also buffer pool, index.

full-text search

The MySQL feature for finding words, phrases, Boolean combinations of words, and so on within table data, in a faster, more convenient, and more flexible way than using the SQL `LIKE` operator or writing your own application-level search algorithm. It uses the SQL function `MATCH()` and **FULLTEXT indexes**.
See Also FULLTEXT index.

FULLTEXT index

The special kind of **index** that holds the **search index** in the MySQL **full-text search** mechanism. Represents the words from values of a column, omitting any that are specified as **stopwords**. Originally, only available for `MyISAM` tables. Starting in MySQL 5.6.4, it is also available for **InnoDB** tables.
See Also full-text search, index, InnoDB, search index, stopword.

fuzzy checkpointing

A technique that **flushes** small batches of **dirty pages** from the **buffer pool**, rather than flushing all dirty pages at once which would disrupt database processing.
See Also buffer pool, dirty page, flush.

G

GA

"Generally available", the stage when a software product leaves **beta** and is available for sale, official support, and production use.
See Also beta.

GAC

Acronym for "Global Assembly Cache". A central area for storing libraries (**assemblies**) on a **.NET** system. Physically consists of nested folders, treated as a single virtual folder by the **.NET** CLR.
See Also .NET, assembly.

gap

A place in an `InnoDB` **index** data structure where new values could be inserted. When you lock a set of rows with a statement such as `SELECT ... FOR UPDATE`, `InnoDB` can create locks that apply to the gaps as well as