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situation) motivated by or causing strong opinions: *disputatious council meetings*. —**dis-pu-ta-tious-ly** *adv.* —**dis-pu-ta-tious-ness** *n.*

dis-pute /di'spyoot/ ▶ *n.* a disagreement, argument, or debate: a territorial dispute | the question in dispute is altogether insignificant.

▶ *v.* [tr.] argue about (something); discuss heatedly: I disputed the charge | [intr.] he disputed with local poets. ■ question whether (a statement or alleged fact) is true or valid. ■ compete for; strive to win: two drivers disputing the lead. ■ archaic resist (a landing or advance): the Sudanese chose Teb as the ground upon which to dispute the advance. —**dis-pu-tant** /-pyootnt/ *n.* —**dis-puter** *n.*

dis-qual-i-fy /dis'kwälē,fi/ ▶ *v.* (-fies, -fied) [tr.] (often be disqualified) pronounce (someone) ineligible for an office or activity because of an offense or infringement: he was disqualified from driving for six months. ■ eliminate (someone) from a competition because of an infringement of the rules: he was disqualified after failing a drug test. ■ (of a feature or characteristic) make (someone) unsuitable for an office or activity. —**dis-qual-i-fi-ca-tion** /dis'kwälēfi'kāshən/ *n.*

dis-qui-et /dis'kwī-it/ ▶ *n.* a feeling of anxiety or worry.

▶ *v.* [tr.] [usu. as *adj.*] (disquieted) make (someone) worried or anxious: she felt disquieted at the lack of interest the girl had shown. —**dis-qui-et-ing** *adj.*

dis-qui-e-tude /dis'kwī-i,(y)ōōd/ ▶ *n.* a state of uneasiness or anxiety.

dis-qui-si-tion /diskwə'zishən/ ▶ *n.* a long or elaborate essay or discussion on a particular subject. —**dis-qui-si-tion-al** /-shən/ *adj.* (archaic).

dis-re-gard /disri'gärd/ ▶ *v.* [tr.] pay no attention to; ignore.

▶ *n.* the action or state of disregarding or ignoring something: blatant disregard for the law.

dis-re-pair /disri'pē(ə)r/ ▶ *n.* poor condition of a building or structure due to neglect: the station gradually fell into disrepair.

dis-rep-u-table /dis'repyetəbəl/ ▶ *adj.* not considered to be respectable in character or appearance: think twice before buying cheap fireworks from disreputable sources. —**dis-rep-u-table-ness** *n.* —**dis-rep-u-table-ly** /-blē/ *adv.*

dis-re-pute /dis'repyoot/ ▶ *n.* the state of being held in low esteem by the public: they're close to bringing the game into disrepute.

dis-re-spect /disri'spekt/ ▶ *n.* lack of respect or courtesy.

▶ *v.* [tr.] inf. show a lack of respect for; insult: a young brave who disrespects his elders. —**dis-re-spect-ful** /-fəl/ *adj.* —**dis-re-spect-ful-ly** /-fələ/ *adv.*

dis-robe /dis'rōb/ ▶ *v.* [intr.] take off one's clothes: the girl disrobed and climbed into the high bed. ■ take off the clothes worn for an official ceremony: they walked to the vestry to disrobe. ■ [tr.] undress (someone).

dis-rupt /dis'rəpt/ ▶ *v.* [tr.] interrupt (an event, activity, or process) by causing a disturbance or problem: a strike will disrupt service. ■ drastically alter or destroy the structure of (something): drugs disrupt cells. —**dis-rupt-er** (also **dis-ruptor** /-tər/) *n.* —**dis-rupt-ion** /-rəpshən/ *n.* —**dis-rupt-ive** *adj.* —**dis-rupt-ive-ly** *adv.*

diss ▶ *v.* variant spelling of **dis**.

dis-sat-is-fy /dis'satis,fi/ ▶ *v.* (-fies, -fied) [tr.] fail to satisfy (someone). —**dis-sat-is-fac-tion** /-,satis'fakshən/ *n.*

dis-sect /di'sekt; di-/ ▶ *v.* [tr.] (often be dissected) methodically cut up (a body, part, or plant) in order to study its internal parts. ■ analyze (something) in minute detail. —**dis-sec-tion** /-seksshən/ *n.* —**dis-sec-tor** /-tər/ *n.*

dis-sem-ble /di'sembəl/ ▶ *v.* [intr.] conceal one's true motives, feelings, or beliefs: an honest, sincere person with no need to dissemble. ■ [tr.] disguise or conceal (a feeling or intention): she smiled, dissembling her true emotion. —**dis-sem-blance** /-bləns/ *n.* —**dis-sem-bler** /-b(ə)lər/ *n.*

dis-sem-i-nate /di'semə,nät/ ▶ *v.* [tr.] spread or disperse (something, esp. information) widely: officials should disseminate information. —**dis-sem-i-na-tion** /-,semə'nāshən/ *n.* —**dis-sem-i-na-tor** /-,nätər/ *n.*

dis-sen-sion /di'senshən/ ▶ *n.* disagreement that leads to discord.

dis-sent /di'sent/ ▶ *v.* [intr.] hold or express opinions that are at variance with those previously, commonly, or officially expressed: two members dissented from the majority | [as *adj.*] (dissenting) there were only a couple of dissenting voices.

▶ *n.* the expression or holding of opinions at variance with those previously, commonly, or officially held: there was no dissent from this view. —**dis-sent-er** *n.*

dis-ser-ta-tion /disər'tāshən/ ▶ *n.* a long essay on a particular subject, esp. one written as a requirement for the Doctor of Philosophy degree: Joe wrote his doctoral dissertation on Thucydides | fig. she went on then into a dissertation on her family's love of Ireland. —**dis-ser-ta-tion-al** /-shən/ *adj.*

dis-serv-ice /dis'sərvīs/ ▶ *n.* a harmful action: you have done a disservice to the African people by ignoring this fact.

dis-si-dent /'disidənt/ ▶ *n.* a person who opposes official policy, esp. that of an authoritarian state: a dissident jailed by a military regime.

▶ *adj.* in opposition to official policy. —**dis-si-dence** *n.*

dis-sim-i-lar /dis'similər/ ▶ *adj.* not alike; different: dissimilar nations | the pleasures of the romance novel are not dissimilar from those of the chocolate bar. —**dis-sim-i-lar-i-ty** /-,simə'laritē/ *n.* —**dis-sim-i-lar-ly** *adv.*

dis-sim-i-late /di'simə,lāt/ ▶ *v.* [tr.] Linguistics change (a sound in a word) in order to be unlike the sounds near it: in "pilgrim," from Latin "peregrinus," the first "r" is dissimilated to "l." ■ [intr.] (of a sound) undergo such a change: the first "r" dissimilates to "l." —**dis-sim-i-la-tion** /-,simə'lāshən/ *n.* —**dis-sim-i-la-to-ry** /-lə,tōrē/ *adj.*

dis-sim-u-late /di'simyə,lāt/ ▶ *v.* [tr.] conceal or disguise (one's thoughts, feelings, or character): a man who dissimulates his wealth beneath ragged pullovers | [intr.] now that they have power, they no longer need to dissimulate. —**dis-sim-u-la-tion** /-,simyə'lāshən/ *n.* —**dis-sim-u-la-tor** /-,lātər/ *n.*

dis-si-pate /'disə,pāt/ ▶ *v.* 1 [intr.] disperse or scatter: the cloud of smoke dissipated. ■ (of a feeling or other intangible thing) disappear or be dispelled: the concern she'd felt for him had wholly dissipated. 2 [tr.] squander or fritter away (money, energy, or resources): he had dissipated his entire fortune. ■ (usu. be dissipated) Physics cause (energy) to be lost, typically by converting it to heat. —**dis-si-pa-tive** /-,pätiv/ *adj.* —**dis-si-pa-tor** /-,pätər/ (also **dis-si-pat-er**) *n.*

dis-si-pa-tion /,disə'pāshən/ ▶ *n.* 1 dissipated living: a descent into drunkenness and sexual dissipation. 2 squandering of money, energy, or resources: the dissipation of the country's mineral wealth.

dis-so-ci-ate /di'sōshē,āt; -sōsē-/ ▶ *v.* [tr.] 1 disconnect or separate (used esp. in abstract contexts): voices should not be dissociated from their social context. ■ (dissociate oneself from) declare that one is not connected with or a supporter of (someone or something): he took pains to dissociate himself from the radicals. ■ [intr.] become separated or disconnected: the area would dissociate from the country. 2 (usu. be dissociated) Chem. cause (a molecule) to split into separate smaller atoms, ions, or molecules, esp. reversibly: these compounds are dissociated by solar radiation. ■ [intr.] (of a molecule) undergo this process. —**dis-so-ci-a-tion** *n.* —**dis-so-ci-a-tive** /-,ätiv; -shätiv/ *adj.*

dis-so-lute /'disə,lōōt/ ▶ *adj.* lax in morals; licentious. —**dis-so-lute-ly** *adv.* —**dis-so-lute-ness** *n.*

dis-so-lu-tion /,disə'lōōshən/ ▶ *n.* 1 the closing down or dismissal of an assembly, partnership, or official body. ■ technical the action or process of dissolving or being dissolved: minerals susceptible to dissolution. ■ disintegration; decomposition: the dissolution of the flesh. ■ formal death. 2 debauched living; dissipation: an advanced state of dissolution.

dis-solve /di'zälv/ ▶ *v.* 1 [intr.] (of a solid) become incorporated into a liquid so as to form a solution: glucose dissolves easily. ■ [tr.] cause (a solid) to become incorporated into a liquid in this way: dissolve a bouillon cube in hot water. ■ (of something abstract, esp. a feeling) disappear: my courage dissolved. ■ deteriorate or degenerate: policy could dissolve into chaos. ■ subside uncontrollably into (an expression of strong feelings): she dissolved into tears. ■ (in a movie) change gradually to (a different scene or picture): dissolve to view down the street. 2 [tr.] close down or dismiss (an assembly or official body): the president can dissolve parliament. ■ annul or put an end to (a partnership or marriage).

▶ *n.* (in a film) an act or instance of moving gradually from one picture to another. —**dis-solv-a-ble** *adj.* —**dis-solv-er** *n.*

dis-so-nant /'disənənt/ ▶ *adj.* Mus. lacking harmony: irregular, dissonant chords. ■ unsuitable or unusual in combination; clashing: Jackson employs both harmonious and dissonant color choices. —**dis-so-nance** *n.* —**dis-so-nant-ly** *adv.*

dis-suade /di'swād/ ▶ *v.* [tr.] persuade (someone) not to take a particular course of action: his friends tried to dissuade him from flying. —**dis-suad-er** *n.* —**dis-sua-sion** /-'swāzhən/ *n.* —**dis-sua-sive** /-'swāsiv/ *adj.*

dis-taff /'distaf/ ▶ *n.* a stick or spindle onto which wool or flax is wound for spinning. ■ [as *adj.*] of or concerning women.

dis-taff side ▶ *n.* the female side of a family. ■ the female members of a group.

dis-tal /'distl/ ▶ *adj.* Anat. situated away from the center of the body or from the point of attachment. The opposite of **PROXIMAL**. —**dis-tal-ly** *adv.*

dis-tance /'distəns/ ▶ *n.* 1 an amount of space between two things or people. ■ the condition of being far off; remoteness: distance makes things look small. ■ a far-off point or place: watching from a distance. ■ (the distance) the more remote part of what is visible or discernible: I hear sirens in the distance | they sped off into the distance. ■ an interval of time: a distance of more than twenty years. ■ fig. the avoidance of familiarity; aloofness or reserve: a mix of warmth and distance makes a good neighbor. 2 the full length of a race: he claimed the title in only his second race over the distance. ■ (the distance) Boxing the scheduled length of a fight: he has won five fights inside the distance.

▶ *v.* [tr.] make (someone or something) far off or remote in position or