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di·a·crit·ic (dī′ə krit′ik) *adj.* [Gr *diakritikos* < *diakrinein*, to distinguish < *dia-*, across + *krinein*, to discern: see CRISIS] DIACRITICAL —*n.* a diacritical mark

di·a·crit·i·cal (-i kəl) *adj.* **1** serving to distinguish; distinguishing **2** able to distinguish —**di′a·crit′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

diacritical mark any of various marks, as a macron or cedilla, added to a letter or symbol to indicate its pronunciation or to distinguish it in some way

di·ac·tin·ic (dī′ak tin′ik) *adj.* capable of transmitting actinic rays of light —**di·ac′tin·ism′** *n.*

di·a·del·phous (dī′ə del′fəs) *adj.* [< DI-[1] + Gr *adelphos*, brother (see MONADELPHOUS) + -OUS] **1** arranged in two bundles or sets by the fusion of the filaments: said of stamens **2** having the stamens so arranged, as in the sweet pea

di·a·dem (dī′ə dem′, -dəm) *n.* [ME & OFr *diademe* < L *diadema* < Gr *diadēma*, a band, fillet < *dia-*, through + IE **demn*, a band < base **de-*, to bind > Gr *dein*] **1** a crown **2** an ornamental cloth headband worn as a crown **3** royal power, authority, or dignity —*vt.* to put a diadem on; crown

di·ad·ro·mous (dī ad′rə məs) *adj.* [DIA- + -DROMOUS] **1** *Bot.* with leaf veins radiating in a fanlike arrangement **2** *Zool.* migrating between fresh and salt water: said of certain fishes

di·aer·e·sis (dī er′ə sis) *n. alt. sp. of* DIERESIS

diag *abbrev.* **1** diagonal **2** diagram

di·a·gen·e·sis (dī′ə jen′ə sis) *n.* [ModL: see DIA- & -GENESIS] *Geol.* the physical, chemical, and biological changes in sediment from the time it is deposited until it is consolidated into sedimentary rock

di·a·ge·ot·ro·pism (dī′ə jē ä′trə piz′əm) *n.* [DIA- + GEOTROPISM] the tendency of the stems, branches, rhizomes, etc. of certain plants to grow in a direction horizontal to the surface of the earth —**di′a·ge′o·trop′ic** (-jē′ō träp′ik) *adj.*

Dia·ghi·lev (dē äg′ə lef), **Ser·gei (Pavlovich)** (ser′gā) 1872-1929; Russ. ballet producer

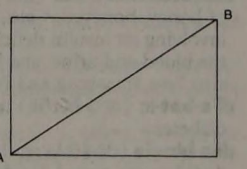
di·ag·nose (dī′əg nōs′, -nōz′; dī′əg nōs′, -nōz′) *vt., vi.* **-nosed′, -nos′ing** [back-form. < fol.] **1** to make a diagnosis of (a disease, a problem, etc.) **2** to identify a disease, condition, etc. in (a patient) [they *diagnosed* him as having mumps] —**di′ag·nos′a·ble** *adj.*

di·ag·no·sis (dī′əg nō′sis) *n., pl.* **-ses′** (-sēz′) [ModL < Gr *diagnōsis*, a distinguishing < *diagignōskein*, to distinguish: see DIA- & -GNOSIS] **1** the act or process of discovering or identifying a diseased condition by means of a medical examination, laboratory test, etc. **2** a careful examination and analysis of the facts in an attempt to understand or explain something [a *diagnosis* of the economy] **3** a decision or opinion based on such examination **4** *Taxonomy* a short scientific description for classification

di·ag·nos·tic (dī′əg näs′tik) *adj.* [ML *diagnosticus* < Gr *diagnōstikos*] **1** of or constituting a diagnosis **2** of value for a diagnosis; specif., characteristic **3** *Comput.* of or having to do with the use of computer diagnostics —*n.* **1** [*usually pl., with sing. v.*] the art, science, or method of diagnosis, esp. medical diagnosis **2** a distinguishing sign or symptom; characteristic **3** *Comput.* a routine for testing a piece of hardware or for locating an error in a program —**di′ag·nos′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

di·ag·nos·ti·cian (dī′əg näs tish′ən) *n.* a person who makes diagnoses; specif., a specialist in diagnostics

di·ag·o·nal (dī ag′ə nəl, -ag′nəl) *adj.* [L *diagonalis* < Gr *diagōnios* < *dia-*, through + *gōnia*, an angle, corner: see KNEE] **1** extending between the vertices of any two nonadjacent angles in a polygonal figure or between any two vertices not in the same face in a polyhedral figure **2** moving or extending obliquely, esp. at a 45° angle; slanting **3** having slanting markings, lines, etc. —*n.* **1** *a)* a diagonal line or plane *b)* VIRGULE **2** any diagonal course, row, order, or part **3** cloth woven with diagonal lines; twill —**di·ag′o·nal·ly** *adv.*



diagonal (AB)

di·a·gram (dī′ə gram′) *n.* [Gr *diagramma* < *diagraphein*, to mark out by lines, draw < *dia-* (see DIA-) + *graphein*, to write (see GRAPHIC)] **1** a geometric figure, used to illustrate a mathematical statement, proof, etc. **2** a sketch, drawing, or plan that explains a thing by outlining its parts and their relationships, workings, etc. **3** a chart or graph explaining or illustrating ideas, statistics, etc. —*vt.* **-gramed′** or **-grammed′, -gram′ing** or **-gram′ming** to show or represent by a diagram; make a diagram of —**di′a·gram·mat′ic** (-grə mat′ik) *adj.*, **di′a·gram·mat′i·cal** —**di′a·gram·mat′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

di·a·ki·ne·sis (dī′ə ki nē′sis, -kī-) *n.* [ModL < DIA- + Gr *kinēsis*, motion < *kinein*, to move: see CITE] in the first meiotic division of germ cells, a late prophase stage in which the maternal and paternal chromosomes have paired within the nucleus —**di′a·ki·net′ic** (-net′ik) *adj.*

di·al[1] (dī′əl) *n.* [ME < ML *dialis*, daily < L *dies*, day: see DEITY] **1** a sundial **2** the face of a watch or clock **3** *a)* the face of a meter, gauge, compass, etc. on which a pointer or the like indicates an amount, degree, direction, etc. *b)* an illuminated strip on a radio, marked with frequency numbers and equipped with a pointer, for indicating the station selected **4** a usually graduated disk or knob for controlling some function, as the selection of a TV channel or the temperature of an oven **5** *a)* a rotating disk on a telephone, used in making connections automatically *b)* loosely, an arrangement of numbered push buttons on a telephone, used for this purpose —*vt., vi.* **-aled** or **-alled, -al·ing** or **-al·ling** **1** to measure (something) with or as with a dial **2** to tune in (a radio station, television channel, program, etc.) ☆**3** to call (a person, telephone number, etc.) on a telephone by using a dial, keypad, etc. —**di′al·er** *n.*, **di′al·ler**

dial[2] *abbrev.* **1** dialect(al) **2** dialectic(al)

di·al-a- (dī′əl ə) [prob. < *Dial-a-Prayer*, an early telephone service of this kind] *combining form forming nouns* naming a service or product that can be accessed or ordered by telephone

di·a·lect (dī′ə lekt′) *n.* [L *dialectus* < Gr *dialektos*, discourse, discussion, dialect < *dialegesthai*, to discourse, talk < *dia*, between (see DIA-) + *legein*, to choose, talk (see LOGIC)] **1** the sum total of local characteristics of speech **2** [Rare] the sum total of an individual's characteristics of speech; idiolect **3** popularly, any form of speech considered as deviating from a real or imaginary standard speech **4** *Linguis.* *a)* a form or variety of a spoken language, including the standard form, peculiar to a region, community, social group, occupational group, etc.: in this sense, *dialects* are regarded as being, to some degree, mutually intelligible while *languages* are not mutually intelligible *b)* any language as a member of a group or family of languages [English is a West Germanic *dialect*] —*adj.* of or in a dialect [*dialect* ballads] —**di′a·lec′tal** *adj.* —**di′a·lec′tal·ly** *adv.*

SYN.—**dialect**, in this comparison, refers to a form of a language peculiar to a locality or group and differing from the standard language in matters of pronunciation, syntax, etc.; **vernacular** today commonly refers to the informal or colloquial variety of a language as distinguished from the formal or literary variety; **cant**, in this connection, refers to the distinctive stock words and phrases used by a particular sect, class, etc. [clergymen's *cant*]; **jargon** is used of the special vocabulary and idioms of a particular class, occupational group, etc., esp. by one who is unfamiliar with these; **argot** refers esp. to the secret jargon of thieves and tramps; **lingo** is a humorous or mildly contemptuous term applied to any language, dialect, or jargon by one to whom it is unintelligible

☆**dialect atlas** LINGUISTIC ATLAS

dialect geography LINGUISTIC GEOGRAPHY

di·a·lec·tic (dī′ə lek′tik) *n.* [ME *dialetik* < OFr *dialetique* < L *dialectica (ars)* < Gr *dialektikē (technē)*, the dialectic (art) < *dialektikos*: see DIALECT] **1** [*often pl.*] the art or practice of examining opinions or ideas logically, often by the method of question and answer, so as to determine their validity **2** logical argumentation **3** [*often pl.*] *a)* the method of logic used by Hegel and adapted by Marx to observable social and economic processes: it is based on the principle that an idea or event (*thesis*) generates its opposite (*antithesis*), leading to a reconciliation of opposites (*synthesis*) *b)* the general application of this principle in analysis, criticism, exposition, etc. —*adj.* DIALECTICAL

di·a·lec·ti·cal (-ti kəl) *adj.* **1** of or using dialectic **2** of or characteristic of a dialect; dialectal —**di′a·lec′ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

dialectical materialism the philosophy stemming from the writings of Marx and Engels which applies Hegel's dialectical method to observable social processes and to nature

di·a·lec·ti·cian (dī′ə lek tish′ən) *n.* [Fr *dialecticien*] [Now Rare] an expert in dialectic; logician

di·a·lec·tol·o·gy (-täl′ə jē) *n.* the scientific study of dialects —**di′a·lec·tol′o·gist** *n.* —**di′a·lec′to·log′i·cal** (-tə läj′i kəl) *adj.* —**di′a·lec′to·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

di·al·lage (dī′ə lij′) *n.* [Fr < Gr *diallagē*, change, interchange < *diallassein*, to interchange < *dia*, through (see DIA-) + *allassein*, to alter < *allos*, other (see ELSE): so named from having unlike fracture planes] a greenish mineral that is a laminated variety of monoclinic pyroxene

di·a·log (dī′ə lôg′, -läg′) *n., vi., vt. alt. sp. of* DIALOGUE

di·a·log·i·cal (dī′ə läj′i kəl) *adj.* of or marked by dialogue: also **di′a·log′ic** —**di′a·log′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

di·al·o·gist (dī al′ə jist, dī′ə lôg′ist) *n.* **1** a writer of dialogues **2** a person who takes part in a dialogue —**di·a·lo·gis·tic** (dī′ə lə jis′tik, dī al′ə-; dī′ə lôg′is′-) *adj.*

di·a·logue (dī′ə lôg′, -läg′) *n.* [ME *dialog* < OFr *dialogue* < L *dialogus* < Gr *dialogos* < *dialegesthai*: see DIALECT] **1** a talking together; conversation **2** interchange and discussion of ideas, esp. when open and frank, as in seeking mutual understanding or harmony **3** a literary work in the form of a conversation on a single topic **4** the passages of talk in a play, story, etc. —*vi.* **-logued′, -logu′ing** to hold a conversation —*vt.* to express in dialogue

☆**dial tone** a buzzing or humming sound indicating to the user of a telephone that the line is open and a number may be dialed

di·al-up (dī′əl up′) *adj. Comput.* of or having to do with the use of standard telephone lines [*dial-up* access to the internet]: often written **dialup**

di·al·y·sis (dī al′ə sis) *n., pl.* **-ses′** (-sēz′) [L < Gr, separation, dissolution < *dialyein*, to separate, dissolve < *dia-*, apart + *lyein*, to loose: see LOSE] **1** *Chem.* any process in which the smaller dissolved molecules in a solution separate from the larger molecules by diffusing through a semipermeable membrane **2** *Med.* any of various procedures, usually performed on a regular basis on patients who have impaired kidney function, in which chemical dialysis is used to remove toxic waste, chemicals, etc. from the blood —**di·a·lyt·ic** (dī′ə lit′ik) *adj.* —**di′a·lyt′i·cal·ly** *adv.*

di·a·lyze (dī′ə līz′) *vt.* **-lyzed′, -lyz′ing** to apply dialysis to or separate by dialysis —*vi.* to undergo dialysis

di·a·lyz·er (-lī′zər) *n.* an apparatus for dialyzing, esp. one used as an artificial kidney