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di-a-crit-ic (dī'ə kritt'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-* + Gr *adelphos*, brother (see MON-DELPHOUS) + *-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-ri-mous (dī'ə drə mās) *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-aere-sis (dī'ər'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'm) *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 trāp'ik) *adj.*

Di-ghi-lev (dē'ə g'ə lef), **Ser-gei** (Pavlovich) (ser'gā) 1872-1929; Russ. ballet producer

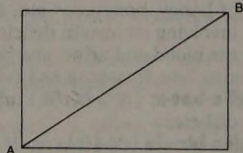
di-ag-nose (dī'əg nōs', -nōz'; dī'əg nōs', -nōz') *vt., vi.* -nosed', -nos'ing [back-form. < *fol.*] 1 to make a diagnosis of (a disease, a problem, etc.) 2 to identify a disease, condition, etc. in (a patient) [they *diagnosed* him as having mumps] —*di'ag-nos'a-ble* *adj.*

di-ag-no-sis (dī'əg nō'sis) *n., pl. -ses' (-sēz')* [ModL < Gr *diagnōsis*, a distinguishing < *diagnōskein*, 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-no-s-tic (dī'əg nās'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 nās tish'ən) *n.* a person who makes diagnoses; specif., a specialist in diagnostics

di-ag-o-nal (dī'əg ə nəl, -əg'nəl) *adj.* [L *diagonalis* < Gr *diagōnios* < *dia-*, through + *gōniā*, 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.*



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'ing 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, -ki-) *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' (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, -aling or -alling 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-er*

dial *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 *dialekto*, discourse, discussion, dialect < *diagesthai*, 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 *Linguistics* *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-lect'al* *adj.* —*di'a-lect'al-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-lect-ic (dī'ə lek'tik) *n.* [ME *dialectik* < OFr *dialectique* < 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-lect-i-cal (-ti kəl) *adj.* 1 of or using dialectic 2 of or characteristic of a dialect; dialectal —*di'a-lect'i-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-lect-i-cian (dī'ə lek tish'ən) *n.* [Fr *dialecticien*] [Now Rare] an expert in dialectic; logician

di-a-lect-to-log-y (-tāl'ə jē) *n.* the scientific study of dialects —*di'a-lect-tol'o-gist* *n.* —*di'a-lect-to-log'i-cal* (-tə lāj'i kəl) *adj.* —*di'a-lect-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 lōg', -lāg') *n., vi., vt.* *alt. sp. of* DIALOGUE

di-a-log-i-cal (dī'ə lāj'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'ə lāj'ist, dī'ə lōg'ist) *n.* 1 a writer of dialogues 2 a person who takes part in a dialogue —*di-a-log-is-tic* (dī'ə lāj'istik, dī'ə lōg'istik) *adj.*

di-a-logue (dī'ə lōg', -lāg') *n.* [ME *dialog* < OFr *dialogue* < L *dialogus* < Gr *dialogos* < *diagesthai*: 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'əl 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 liz') *vt.* -lyzed', -lyz'ing to apply dialysis to or separate by dialysis —*vi.* to undergo dialysis

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