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home — Joseph Wechsberg) 3: UNOBTAINABLE, UNNOTICEABLE (followed at a distance) — **dis-creet-ly** *adv* — **dis-creet-ness** *n*

dis-crep-an-cy \dis-'kre-pən-sē\ *n*, *pl* -cies (ca. 1623) 1: the quality or state of being discrepant 2: an instance of being discrepant

dis-crep-ant \-pən\ *adj* [ME *discrepant*, fr. L *discrepans*, *discrepans*, pp. of *discrepare* to sound discordantly, fr. *dis-* + *crepare* to rattle, creak — more at RAVEN] (15c) 1: being at variance: DISAGREEING (widely ~ conclusions) — **dis-crep-ant-ly** *adv*

dis-crete (dis-'krēt, -dis-'ā) *adj* [ME, fr. L *discretus*] (14c) 1: constituting a separate entity; individually distinct 2 a: consisting of distinct or unconnected elements: NONCONTINUOUS b: taking on or having a finite or countably infinite number of values (~ probabilities) (a ~ random variable) *syn* see DISTINCT — **dis-crete-ly** *adv* — **dis-crete-ness** *n*

dis-cre-tion \dis-'kre-shən\ *n* (14c) 1: the quality of being discreet: CIRCUMSPECTION, esp.: cautious reserve in speech 2: ability to make responsible decisions 3 a: individual choice or judgment (left the decision to his ~) b: power of free decision or latitude of choice within certain legal bounds (reached the age of ~) 4: the result of separating or distinguishing

dis-cre-tion-ary \-kre-shə-'ner-ē\ *adj* (1698) 1: left to discretion (exercised at one's own discretion) 2: available for discretionary use (~ purchasing power)

discretionary account *n* (ca. 1920): a security or commodity market account in which an agent (as a broker) is given power of attorney so as to be able to make independent decisions and buy and sell for the principal's account

dis-crim-i-na-bil-ity \-kri-mə-'nā-bil-ē\ *n*, *pl* -ties (ca. 1901) 1: the quality of being discriminable 2: the ability to discriminate

dis-crim-i-na-ble \dis-'kri-mə-'nā-bəl\ *adj* (1736) 1: capable of being discriminated — **dis-crim-i-na-bly** *adv*

dis-crim-i-nant \-kri-mə-'nənt\ *n* (ca. 1948): a mathematical expression providing a criterion for the behavior of another more complicated expression, relation, or set of relations

discriminant function *n* (ca. 1936): a function of a set of variables (as measurements of taxonomic specimens) that is evaluated for samples of events or objects and used as an aid in discriminating between or classifying them

dis-crim-i-nate \dis-'kri-mə-'nāt\ *vb* -nated; -nating [L *discriminatus*, pp. of *discriminare*, fr. *discrimin*, *discrimen* distinction, fr. *discernere* to distinguish between — more at DISCERN] *vt* (1628) 1 a: to mark or perceive the distinguishing or peculiar features of b: to distinguish, DIFFERENTIATE (~ hundreds of colors) 2: to distinguish by discerning or exposing differences; esp.: to distinguish among his- torical sources) b: to use good judgment 2: to make a difference in treatment or favor on a basis other than individual merit (~ in favor of your friends) (~ against a certain nationality)

dis-crim-i-nat-ing *adj* (1647) 1: making a distinction: DISTINGUISH- ING 2: marked by discrimination: a: DISCERNING, JUDICIOUS b: DISCRIMINATORY — **dis-crim-i-nat-ing-ly** *adv*

dis-crim-i-na-tion \dis-'kri-mə-'nā-shən\ *n* (1648) 1 a: the act of discriminating b: the process by which two stimuli differing in some aspect are responded to differently 2: the quality or power of finely distinguishing 3 a: the act, practice, or an instance of discriminating categorically rather than individually b: prejudiced or prejudicial outlook, action, or treatment (racial ~) *syn* see DISCERNMENT — **dis-crim-i-na-tion-al** \-shə-nəl, -shə-'nəl\ *adj*

dis-crim-i-na-tive \dis-'kri-mə-'nā-tiv, -'kri-mə-'nāt\ *adj* (1677) 1: making distinctions 2: DISCRIMINATORY

dis-crim-i-na-tor \dis-'kri-mə-'nā-tər\ *n* (1828): one that discriminates; esp.: a circuit that can be adjusted to accept or reject signals of different characteristics (as amplitude or frequency)

dis-crim-i-na-tory \dis-'kri-mə-'nā-tōr-ē, -'tōr-, -'krim-nə\ *adj* (1828) 1: DISCRIMINATIVE 2: applying or favoring discrimination in treatment — **dis-crim-i-na-tor-i-ly** \-kri-mə-'nā-tōr-ē-lē, -'tōr-, -'krim-nə\ *adv*

dis-cur-sive \dis-'kər-siv\ *adj* [ML *discursivus*, fr. L *discursus*, pp. of *discurrere* to run about — more at DISCOURSE] (1598) 1 a: moving from topic to topic without order: RAMBLING b: proceeding coherently from topic to topic 2: marked by analytical reasoning — **dis-cur-sive-ly** *adv* — **dis-cur-sive-ness** *n*

dis-cus \dis-'kəs\ *n*, *pl* **dis-cus-es** [L — more at DISH] (1656): a disk (as of wood or plastic) that is thicker in the center than at the perimeter and that is hurled for distance as a track-and-field event; also: the event

dis-cuss \dis-'skəs\ *vt* [ME, fr. L *discussus*, pp. of *discutere* to disperse, fr. *dis-* apart + *cutere* to shake — more at DIS. QUASH] (14c) 1 *obs*: DISPEL 2 a: to investigate by reasoning or argument b: to present in detail for examination or consideration (~ed plans for the party) c: to talk about 3 *obs*: DECLARE — **dis-cuss-able** or **dis-cuss-ible** \-'ska-sə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis-cuss-er** *n*

syn DISCUSS, ARGUE, DEBATE mean to dis- course about in order to reach conclusions or to convince. DISCUSS implies a sifting of possibilities esp. by presenting considerations pro and con (discussed the need for a new highway). ARGUE implies the offering of reasons or evidence in support of convictions already held (argued that the project would be too costly). DEBATE suggests formal or public argument between opposing parties (debated the merits of the amendment); it may also apply to deliberation with oneself (I'm debating whether I should go).

dis-cus-sant \dis-'skə-sənt\ *n* (1926): one who takes part in a formal discussion or symposium

dis-cus-sion \dis-'ska-shən\ *n* (14c) 1: consideration of a question in open and usu. informal debate 2: a formal treatment of a topic in speech or writing

dis-dain \dis-'dān\ *n* [ME *desdeynen*, fr. OF *desdeign*, fr. *desdeignier*] (14c): a feeling of contempt for what is beneath one: SCORN

disdain *vt* [ME *desdeynen*, fr. MF *desdeignier*, fr. OF, fr. (assumed) VL



discus

dis-dignare, fr. L *dis-* + *dignare* to deign — more at DEIGN] (14c) look on with scorn 2: to refuse or abstain from because of scorn

dis-dain-ful \dis-'dān-fəl\ *adj* (ca. 1542): full of or expressing scorn

dis-dain-ful-ly \-fəl-ē\ *adv* — **dis-dain-ful-ness** *n*

dis-ease \di-'zēz\ *n* [ME *desaise*, fr. MF *desaise*, fr. *des-* + *ais* to be at ease] (14c) 1 *obs*: TROUBLE 2: a condition of the living animal body or of one of its parts that impairs normal functioning: MALADY 3: a harmful development (as in a social institution)

dis-ease \-zēz\ *adj*

dis-econ-o-my \di-'si-'kā-nə-mē\ *n* (1937) 1: a lack of economy: a factor responsible for an increase in cost

dis-em-bark \di-'səm-'bārk\ *vb* [MF *desembarquer*, fr. *des-* + *embarquer* to embark] *vt* (1582): to remove to shore from a ship 1: to go ashore out of a ship 2: to get out of a vehicle or craft

dis-em-bar-ka-tion \di-'səm-'bār-'kā-shən, -bār-\ *n*

dis-em-bar-rass \di-'səm-'bar-'as\ *vt* (1726): to free (as oneself) something troublesome or superfluous *syn* see EXTRICATE

dis-em-body \di-'səm-'bā-dē\ *vt* (1714): to divest of a body, of real existence, or of reality

dis-em-bogue \di-'sim-'bög\ *vb* -bogued; -bogue-ing [modif. of *desembocar*, fr. *des-* + *boca* mouth, fr. L *bucca*] *vt* (1595): to come forth from or as if from a channel ~ *vt*, *archaic*: to come forth from or as if from a container

dis-em-bow-el \di-'səm-'bāw-'ə\ *vt* (1618) 1: to take out the bowels of: EVISCERATE 2: to remove the substance of — **dis-em-bow-ement** \-mənt\ *n*

dis-en-chant \di-'sən-'chant\ *vt* [MF *desenchanter*, fr. *des-* + *enchanter* to enchant] (ca. 1586): to free from illusion — **dis-en-chant-er** *n* — **dis-en-chant-ing** *adj* — **dis-en-chant-ingly** *adv* — **dis-en-chant-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis-en-chant-ed \di-'chan-'təd\ *adj* (1838): DISAPPOINTED, DISABUSED

dis-en-cum-ber \di-'sən-'kəm-'bər\ *vt* [MF *desencombrer*, fr. *des-* + *encombrer* to encumber] (1598): to free from encumbrance: DEN *syn* see EXTRICATE

dis-en-dow \di-'sən-'daū\ *vt* (1861): to strip of endowment — **dis-en-dow-er** \-daū-(ə)r\ *n* — **dis-en-dow-ment** \-daū-'mənt\ *n*

dis-en-fran-chise \di-'sən-'fran-'chiz\ *vt* (1664): to deprive of franchise — **dis-en-fran-chise-ment** \-chiz-'mənt, -chaz-\ *n*

dis-en-gage \di-'sən-'gaj\ *vb* [F *désengager*, fr. MF, fr. *des-* + *engager* to engage] *vt* (1611): to release from something that engages involves ~ *vi*: to release or detach oneself: WITHDRAW — **dis-en-gage-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis-en-tail \di-'sən-'tā\ *vt* (1641): to free from entail

dis-en-tan-gle \di-'sən-'tanj-gəl\ *vt* (1598): to free from entanglement ~ *vi*: to become disentangled *syn* see EXTRICATE

dis-en-tan-gle-ment \-mənt\ *n*

dis-en-thral also **dis-en-thral** \di-'sən-'thrəl\ *vt* (1643): to free from bondage: LIBERATE

dis-en-tit-le \di-'sən-'ti-tl\ *vt* (1654): to deprive of title, claim, or right

dis-en-tit-ment \di-'si-'kwī-lə-'brāt\ *vt* (1891): to put out of order

dis-equi-librate \di-'si-'kwī-lə-'brā-shən\ *n*

dis-equi-libra-tion \di-'si-'kwī-lə-'brā-shən\ *n*

dis-equi-lib-ri-um \di-'sē-'kwā-'li-brē-əm, -sē-'kwā-\ *n* (1640): or lack of equilibrium

dis-es-tab-lish \di-'sə-'stab-lish\ *vt* (1598): to deprive of established status; esp.: to deprive of the status and privileges of an established church — **dis-es-tab-lish-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis-es-tab-lish-men-tar-i-an \-stab-lish-'men-'ter-ē-ən, -mə-'tər-ē-ən\ *n* (1885): one who opposes an established institution

dis-es-teem \di-'sə-'stēm\ *vt* (1594): to regard with disfavor

dis-es-teem *n* (1603): DISFAVOR, DISREPUTE

dis-seuse \dē-'zi:z, -zēz\ *n*, *pl* **dis-seuses** [same] [F, fem. of *disseuer*, fr. *dire* to say, fr. L *dicere* — more at DICTION] (1896): a professional woman reciter

dis-fa-vor \di-'fə-vər\ *n* [prob. fr. MF *desfaveur*, fr. *des-* + *faveur* favor, fr. OF *favor*] (ca. 1533) 1: DISAPPROVAL, DISLIKE 2: the state or fact of being disfavored (fell into ~) 3: DISADVANTAGE

dis-fa-vor *vt* (1570): to withhold or withdraw favor from

dis-fig-ure \dis-'fi-gyər, esp. Brit. -'fi-gər\ *vt* [ME, fr. MF *desfigurer*, fr. *des-* + *figure* figure] (14c) 1: to impair (as in beauty) 2: to cause and persistent injuries (a face disfigured by smallpox) 2 *obs*: to disfigure

dis-fig-ure-ment \-mənt\ *n*

dis-fran-chise \di-'fran-'chiz\ *vt* (15c): to deprive of a franchise, a legal right, or of some privilege or immunity; esp.: to deprive a right to vote — **dis-fran-chise-ment** \-chiz-'mənt, -chaz-\ *n*

dis-frock \di-'frāk\ *vt* (1837): DEFROCK

dis-function *var* of DYSFUNCTION

dis-fur-nish \di-'fər-nish\ *vt* [MF *desfournir*, stem of *desfourner*, fr. *des-* + *fournir* to furnish] (1531): to make destitute of: DIVEST — **dis-fur-nish-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

dis-gorge \di-'gōrj\ *vb* [ME, fr. MF *desgorger*, fr. *des-* + *gorger* to gorge] *vt* (15c) 1 a: to discharge by the throat and mouth: disgorged its passengers) c: to give up on request the contents (refused to ~ his ill-gotten gains) 2: to discharge the contents (where the river ~ed the stomach) ~ *vi*: to discharge contents (where the river ~ed into the sea)

dis-grace \di-'skrās, dis-'grās\ *vt* (1580) 1 *archaic*: to dishonor 2: to be a source of shame to (your actions ~ed the family) 3: to cause to lose favor or standing (graced by the hint of scandal) — **dis-grace-er** *n*

dis-grace *n* [MF, fr. OF *disgrazia*, fr. *dis-* (fr. L) + *gratia* grace] (1586) 1 a: more at GRACE] (1586) 1 a: the condition of being dishonored from grace or honor b: loss of grace, favor, or honor — **dis-grace-ful** \-fəl\ *adj* — **dis-grace-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

syn DISGRACE, DISHONOR, DISREPUTE, INFAMY, IGNOMINY mean loss of honor or condition of suffering loss of esteem and sometimes ostracism. DISGRACE often implies humiliation and sometimes ostracism (he was disgraced by the loss of his job). DISHONOR emphasizes the loss of honor (he was dishonored by the loss of self-esteem). DISREPUTE stresses loss of one's good name or the loss of respect.