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dark /dɑ:k/ *adj* [ME *derk*, fr. OE *deorlic*; akin to OHG *tarchannen* to defend (lecting), *derk* 1: a: devoid or partially devoid of light; not receiving (reflecting), transmitting, or radiating light (a room) b: transmitting only a portion of light (~ glasses) 2: a: wholly or partially black (~ clothing) b: of a color: of low or very low lightness c: being less light in color than other substances of the same kind (~ rum) 3: a: arising from or showing evil traits or desires; EVIL (the ~ power that lead to war) b: DISMAL, GLOOMY (had ~ view of the future) c: lacking knowledge or culture; UNENLIGHTENED (~ period in history) d: relating to grim or depressing circumstances (~ humor) 4: a: not clear to the understanding b: not known or explored because of remoteness (the ~ reaches of the continent) 5: a: not fair in complexion; SWARTHY b: sinister (kept his plans ~) 7: possessing depth and richness (~ voice) 8: closed to the public (the theater is ~ in the summer) *syn* see OBSCURE — **dark-ish** /dɑ:k-ɪʃ/ *adj* — **dark-ly** *adv* — **dark-ness** *n*

dark *n* (13c) 1: a: a place or time of little or no light; NIGHT, NIGHTFALL b: absence of light; DARKNESS 2: a: dark or deep color — *In the dark* 1: in obscurity (nurtured his plans ~) b: ~ view of the future 2: in ignorance (kept the public in the dark about the agreement)

dark *vi* (14c) *obs*: to grow dark ~ *vt*: to make dark
dark adaptation *n* (1900): the process including dilation of the pupil, increase in sensitivity of the retinal rods, and regeneration of rhodopsin by which the eye adapts to conditions of reduced illumination

dark-adapt /dɑ:k-ə'dæpt/ *adj* — **dark-adapted** /dɑ:k-ə'dæpt/ *adj*
dark age *n* (16c) 1: a time during which a civilization undergoes a decline as a *pl*, cap *D&A*: the European historical period from about A.D. 476 to about 1000; broadly: MIDDLE AGES b: *often pl*, *often cap D&A*: the Greek historical period of the three or four centuries from about 1100 B.C. to 400 B.C. *often cap D&A*: the primitive period in the development of something (in the dark ages of medicine) b: *often pl*, *often cap D&A*: a state of stagnation or decline
dark continent *n* (1829) 1: *often cap D&C*: the continent of Africa 2: something unknown or unexplored

dark-en /dɑ:k-ən/ *adj* — **dark-en-ing** /dɑ:k-ən-ɪŋ/ *adj* (14c)
dark-en *vt*: to grow dark; become obscured (the skies were ~ing) 2: to become gloomy (his mood ~ed) ~ *vi* 1: to make dark 2: to make less clear; OBSCURE (the financial crisis ~ed the future of the company) 3: TAINT, TARNISH (~ed his reputation) 4: to cast a gloom over 5: to make darker color — **dark-en-er** /dɑ:k-ən-ər/ *n*
dark energy *n* (1998): a hypothetical force or vacuum energy produces a force that opposes gravity and is thought to be the cause of the accelerating expansion of the universe
dark-eyed junco *n* (1974): a common No. American junco (*Junco hyemalis*)

dark field *n* (1865): the dark area that serves as the background for objects viewed in an ultramicroscope

dark-field microscope *n* (1926): ULTRAMICROSCOPE
dark horse *n* (1831) 1: a: a usu. little known contender (as a racehorse) that makes an unexpectedly good showing b: an entrant in a contest that is judged unlikely to succeed 2: a political candidate unexpectedly nominated as a compromise between factions
dark lantern *n* (1640): a lantern that can be closed to conceal the light
dark-ide /dɑ:k-ɪd/ *adj* — **dark-ide** /dɑ:k-ɪd/ *adj* — **dark-ling** /dɑ:k-ɪŋ/ *adj* (back-formation fr. *darkling*) (1800) 1: a: to become clouded or gloomy b: to grow dark 2: to become concealed in the dark

dark-ling /dɑ:k-ɪŋ/ *adv* [ME *derkeŷing*, fr. *derk* dark + *-ing* -ling]

dark-ling *adj* (1718) 1: DARK 2: done or taking place in the dark
darkling beetle *n* (1816): any of a family (Tenebrionidae) of firm-bodied mostly dark-colored vegetable-feeding nocturnal beetles which often have vestigial and functionless wings and whose larvae are usu. hard cylindrical worms (as mealworms) — called also *tenebrionidae*
dark matter *n* (1982): nonluminous matter not yet directly detected by astronomers that is hypothesized to exist to account for various observed gravitational effects

dark reaction *n* (1927): any of a series of chemical reactions in photosynthesis not requiring the presence of light and involving the reduction of carbon dioxide to form carbohydrate; *esp*: CALVIN CYCLE
dark-room /dɑ:k-rum, -rʊm/ *n* (1841): a room with no light or with a safelight for developing light-sensitive photographic materials
dark-some /dɑ:k-səm/ *adj* (ca. 1530): gloomily somber: DARK
darky or **dark-le** /dɑ:k-ke/ *n*, *pl* *darkies* (1775) *usu* offensive: a black person

darling /dɑ:r-lɪŋ/ *n* [ME *derling*, fr. OE *dōrling*, fr. *dēore* dear] (bef. 12c) 1: a dearly loved person 2: FAVORITE (a director who is the ~ of the critics)

darling *adj* (15c) 1: dearly loved: FAVORITE 2: very pleasing
CHARMING — **dar-ling-ly** /dɑ:r-lɪŋ-ly/ *adv* — **dar-ling-ness** *n*
data-dad-ti-um /dɑ:tə-dæd-ti-əm/ *n* [NL *datadati-um*, Germany] (2003): a short-lived radioactive element produced artificially — see ELEMENT table

darn /dɑ:rn/ *v* [perh. fr. F dial. *darnier*] *vt* (ca. 1600) 1: to mend with interlacing stitches 2: to embroider by filling in with long running or interlacing stitches ~ *vi*: to do darnings
darn *n* (1720): a place that has been darned (a sweater full of ~s)
darn /dɑ:rn/ *also* *durn* /dɑ:rn/ *adj* or *adv* [euphemism] (1781): DAMNED

darn also durn *vb* (1781): DAMN — **darned** /dɑ:rn(d)/ *also* **durned** /dʊ:rn(d)/ *adj* or *adv*

darn also durn *n* (1840): DAMN

darn /dɑ:rn/ *n* [ME] (14c): any of several usu. weedy ryegrasses (genus *Lolium*)

darning needle *n* (1742) 1: a long needle with a large eye for use in darning 2: DRAGONFLY, DAMSELFLY

DARPA *abbr* Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

dart /dɑ:t/ *n* [ME, fr. AF, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *darst* dart, OE *darst* (14c) 1: a: a: a: a light spear; b: (1) a: a small missile usu. with a pointed shaft at one end and feathers at the other (2) *pl* *but* *sing* in *constr*: a game in which darts are thrown at a target 2: a: something projected with sudden speed; *esp*: a sharp glance b: something causing sudden pain or distress (~s of sarcasm) 3: something with a slender pointed shaft or outline; *specif*: a stitched tapering fold in a garment 4: a quick movement (made ~s for the door)

dart *vt* (1573) 1: to throw with a sudden movement 2: to thrust or move with sudden speed 3: to shoot with a dart containing a usu. tranquilizing drug ~ *vi*: to move suddenly or rapidly (~ed across the street)

dart-board /dɑ:t-bɔ:rd/ *n* (1901): a usu. circular board (as of compressed bristles) used as a target in the game of darts

dash /dɑ:ʃ/ *n* (1796) 1: a SHINGA 2: any of numerous small No. American freshwater bony fishes (esp. genera *Ammocrypta*, *Etheostoma*, and *Percina* of the family Percidae)

dash-wan-lan /dɑ:ʃ-wi-nə-n/ *adj* (1860) 1: of or relating to Charles Darwin, his theories esp. of evolution, or his followers 2: of, relating to, or being a competitive environment or situation in which only the fittest persons or organizations prosper — **Darwinian** *n*

Darwin-ism /dɑ:ʃ-wi-nə-zəm/ *n* (1864) 1: a theory of the origin and perpetuation of new species of animals and plants that offspring of a given organism vary, that natural selection favors the survival of some of these variations over others, that new species have arisen and may continue to arise through the processes, and that widely divergent groups of plants and animals have arisen from the same ancestors
EVOLUTION 4, NEO-DARWINISM 2: a theory that inherent dynamic forces allow only the fittest persons or organizations to prosper in a competitive environment or situation (economic ~) — compare **SOCIAL DARWINISM** — **Darwin-ist** /dɑ:ʃ-wi-nɪst/ *n* or *adj*
Darwin's finch /dɑ:ʃ-wi-nə-z/ *n* *pl* (Charles Darwin) (1947): finches of a subfamily (Geopizinae) having a variation in bill shape and confined mostly to the Galápagos Islands

Darwin tulip /dɑ:ʃ-wi-nə/ *n* (1889): a tall late-flowering tulip with the flowers single and of one color

dash /dɑ:ʃ/ *vb* [ME *dasshen*, prob. fr. MF *dachier* to impel forward] *vt* (14c) 1: to break by striking or knocking 2: to knock, hurt, or injure violently 3: SPASH, SPATTER 4: a: RUN, DUTTER (the news ~ed his hopes) b: DEPRESS, SADDEN c: to make ashamed 5: to affect by mixing in something different (his delight was ~ed with bitterness) 6: to complete, execute, or finish off hastily — used with *down* or *off* (~ed down a drink) (~ off a letter) 7: [euphemism] "DASH" *vt* (14c) 1: to move with sudden speed 2: to SMASH

dash *n* (14c) 1: a: a sudden burst or splash (2) the sound produced by such a burst 2: a: a stroke of a pen b: a punctuation mark — that is used esp. to indicate a break in the thought or structure of a sentence 3: a small *usu* display (a ~ of salt) (a ~ of humor) 4: flashily display 5: animation in style and action (a ~ of sudden onset, rush, or attempt) b: a short fast race 7: a long click or buzz forming a letter or part of a letter (as in Morse code) 8: DASHBOARD 2

dash-board /dɑ:ʃ-bɔ:rd/ *n* (1842) 1: a screen on the front of a usu. horse-drawn vehicle to intercept water, mud, or snow 2: a panel extending across the interior of a vehicle (as an automobile) below the wheels and the seat, containing instrument and controls

dashed /dɑ:ʃt/ *adj* (ca. 1889): made up of a series of dashes

dash-ee /dɑ:ʃ-ee/ *n* [origin unknown] (ca. 1899): TARO

dash-er /dɑ:ʃ-ər/ *n* (1790) 1: a dashing person 2: one that dashes 3: a device having blades for agitating a liquid or semisolid

dash /dɑ:ʃ-ə/ *n* [Jp, broth] (1955): a fish brood made from dried bonito

dash-iki /dɑ:ʃ-ɪ-ki/ *n* [modif. of Yoruba *dashiki*] (ca. 1968): a usu. brightly colored loose-fitting pullover garment

dash-ing *adj* (ca. 1697) 1: marked by vigorous action 2: SPIRITED (a ~ young horse) 2: marked by smartness *esp*. in dress and manners

dash-ing-ly /-ɪŋ-ly/ *adv*

dash-pod /dɑ:ʃ-pɔ:d/ *n* (1861): a device for cushioning or dampening movement (as of a mechanical part) to avoid shock

dash-sle /dɑ:ʃ-sle/ *n* [Afrik] (1814): HYRAX

dash-tard /dɑ:ʃ-tɑ:rd/ *n* [ME] (15c) 1: COWARD 2: a person who acts treacherously or underhandedly

dash-tard-ly /-le/ *adj* (1542) 1: COWARDLY 2: characterized by underhandedness or treachery (~ as an attack) (~ as a villain) *syn* see COWARDLY

dash-tard-i-ness *n*

dash-tard-i-ness *n*

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