

WEBSTER'S
NEW UNIVERSAL
UNABRIDGED
DICTIONARY

WEBSTER'S NEW UNIVERSAL UNABRIDGED DICTIONARY

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Noah Webster

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SYMBOLS, AND FORMS OF ADDRESS

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Dorset & Baber

WEBSTER'S NEW TWENTIETH CENTURY DICTIONARY

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FULL-PAGE

bird

of freedom in the coat of arms of the United States.
bird of ill omen; (a) a bearer of bad news; (b) an unlucky person.
bird of Jove; the eagle.
bird of Juno; the peacock.
bird of Minerva or *bird of night*; the owl.
bird of paradise; (a) a beautiful bird of the genus *Paradisea*, native in the Orient and New Guinea. One of the better known species has the head and back part of the neck lemon-colored, the throat emerald green, the breast black, and the wings of a chestnut color. (b) in Australia, the lyrebird, so named by early settlers; (c) in astronomy, a small constellation of the southern heavens.
bird of passage; a bird that migrates at the changes of season in spring and autumn; hence, anyone who roams about constantly.
bird of peace; the dove.
bird of prey; any of a number of flesh-eating birds, as the eagle, hawk, owl, vulture, etc.
birds of a feather; persons having like tastes or characteristics.
early bird; one who arrives or rises early. [Colloq.]
man-of-war bird; a raptorial sea bird, *Fregata aquila*, with a strong hooked bill and small webbed feet.
bird, *v.i.* to catch or shoot birds.
bird bath, *n.* a basinlike garden ornament for birds to bathe in.
bird bolt, *n.* an arrow, broad and blunt at the end, for killing birds by concussion, without injuring the plumage.
bird cage, a cage made of wires, small sticks, or wicker, for confining birds.
bird call, *n.* 1. the sound or song of a bird. 2. an imitation of this. 3. a device for imitating bird sounds.
bird cherry, a European tree or shrub, *Prunus Padus*, bearing small black fruit; also, the fruit of this tree.
bird dog, any dog trained to hunt birds, as a pointer, setter, or retriever.
bird duffer, one who alters the color or form of living or stuffed birds by artificial processes, usually with intent to deceive.
bird-eyed, *a.* quick-sighted; catching a glance as one goes.
bird fancier, one who is interested in birds; particularly, one who keeps, breeds, or trains birds, especially cage birds.
bird-foot, *n.* bird's-foot.
bird grass, a weed of the buckwheat family, with jointed stems, narrow leaves, and spikes of tiny, greenish flowers; knotgrass.
bird house, *n.* 1. a small box, often resembling a house, for birds to live in. 2. a building for exhibiting birds.
birdie, *n.* 1. a small bird; a child's word. 2. in golf, a score of one stroke under par for any hole.
birdiekin, *n.* one of the young of a bird.
birding, *n.* the hunting of birds.
birdlet, *n.* a small or very young bird.
birdlike, *a.* resembling a bird.
birdlime, *n.* 1. a sticky substance, usually made of the juice of holly bark or mistletoe berries, extracted by boiling. It is used to catch birds by smearing it on the twigs of a bush. 2. anything that ensnares or prevents escape.
birdlime, *v.t.* to ensnare and capture by the use of birdlime.
birdling, *n.* same as *birdlet*.
bird louse, a parasitic wingless insect infesting birds and some mammals.
birdman, *n.*; *pl.* *birdmen*, 1. a person whose work deals with birds, as an ornithologist or taxidermist. 2. an aviator. [Colloq.]
bird mite, a small parasitic mite, occurring in numerous species and mainly infesting birds.
bird pepper, a species of *Capsicum* (*Capsicum baccatum*), a pepper bearing small red fruit.
bird plant, a plant flourishing in Mexico, which bears a yellow flower suggestive of a bird.
bird's beak, a form of molding, a section of which somewhat resembles a bird's beak.
birdseed, *n.* a mixture of seeds used for feeding birds, as the seeds of hemp, millet, and canary grass.
bird's-eye, *n.* 1. a genus of plants, called also *pheasant's eye*, known in botany by the generic term *Adonis*. There are several species, some of which have small bright flowers. 2. a kind of smoking tobacco containing sections of stalk resembling a bird's eye. 3. a pattern of small diamond-shaped fig-

ures, each with a dot like a bird's eye in the center, woven into cotton and linens.
 4. a cotton or linen cloth with such a pattern; used for diapers, napkins, etc.
bird's-eye, *a.* 1. seen from above or a distance, as if by a flying bird; hence, general; not minute, or entering into details; as, a *bird's-eye* view of a city; a *bird's-eye* view of a subject or proposition. 2. having spots looking like birds' eyes.
bird's-eye maple; a kind of curly-grained maple, the wood of which when dressed and polished has many eyelike markings.
bird's-eye rot; same as *anthracnose*.
bird's-eye spot; in plant pathology, a fungus, *Cercospora theae*, which attacks the leaves of the tea plant.
bird's-foot, *n.* any of various plants of the genus *Ornithopus*, whose leaves resemble a bird's claw.
bird's-foot fern; a kind of fern with small, wiry leaves in groups of three.
bird's-foot trefoil; a species of *Lotus* with pods resembling claws and having small yellow flowers.
bird's-foot violet; a kind of violet bearing large, purple flowers with dark upper petals and pale lower ones.
bird shot, small shot for shooting birds.
bird's mouth, in architecture, an interior angle or notch cut across a piece of timber, for its reception on the edge of another, as that on a rafter to be laid on a plate.
bird's nest, the nest in which a bird lays eggs and hatches her young.
bird's-nest, *n.* 1. a British orchid, *Neottia nidus-avis*. 2. in cookery, the nest of a small swallow of the Malay Archipelago, much prized in China as an article of food, being mixed with soups. It is of a gelatinous consistency, and formed of a marine plant partly digested by the bird. 3. the wild carrot. 4. same as *crow's-nest*.
bird's-nest pudding; an apple pudding in which the apples are cored and the hollows filled with sugar; also, a plain pudding with a fresh fruit dressing.
bird's nestling, the act of searching for and taking bird's nests or their eggs.
bird spider, a large hairy South American spider that sometimes preys on small birds.
bird's tongue (tung), same as *bird weed*.
bird thistle (this'l), the bull thistle.
bird tick, an insect, usually winged, that is parasitic on birds.
bird weed, the knotgrass, *Polygonum aviculare*.
bird-wit, *a.* flighty; passing rapidly from one subject to another; not having the faculty of attention.
birdwom, *n.* (-woom), *n.*; *pl.* *birdwom*, *n.* (-wim), a female aviator. [Colloq.]
bi-rec-tan-gu-lar, *a.* [*bi-*, and *L. rectus*, right, and *angulus*, angle.] having two right angles; as, a *birectangular* spherical triangle.
bi-ref-rin-gence, *n.* [*bi-*, and *L. refringere*, to break open.] in optics, the power of double refraction.
bi-ref-rin-gent, *a.* having the quality of birefringence.
bi-rème, *n.* [*L. biremis*, a two-oared boat.] an ancient galley with two banks or tiers of oars on each side, one under the other.
bi-ret-ta, *bi-ret-ta*, *n.* [It. *birretta*; LL. *birretum*, dim. of *birrus*, a hood or cloak.] a square cap with three projections and a tassel on top, worn by prelates and priests of the Roman Catholic Church. The *birretta* of a cardinal is scarlet; a bishop's is purple; those of priests are black. Also spelled *baretta*, *beretta*, etc.
bir-gan-dër, *n.* a bergander. [Obs.]
bi-ri-bi-ri, *n.* same as *beriberi*.
bi-ri-möse, *a.* [*bi-*, and *L. rimosus*, from *rima*, a chink.] in botany, having two slits or fissures.
bir-k, *n.* and *a.* [Prov. Eng.] birch.
bir-ken, *v.t.* to beat with a birch rod. [Obs.]
bir-ken, *a.* relating to the birch; birchen. [Scot.]



BIRETTA

birthright

bir'kle, *n.* [Scot.] 1. a pert or lively young fellow. 2. a game of cards.
bir'l, *v.t.* and *v.i.* [Scot.] to twirl or spin; to make a humming noise by spinning.
bir'law, *n.* same as *byrlaw*.
birle, *v.t.* and *v.i.* [ME. *birlen*; AS. *byrlan*, *byrelian*, to pour out drink; *byrele*, a cupbearer, from *beran*, to bear.] to ply or furnish with drink; to pour out (drink). [Obs.]
bir'ling, *n.* a competitive game among lumberjacks in which each tries to keep his balance while revolving a floating log with his feet.
bi-ros'trate, *bi-ros'trate*, *a.* [*bi-*, and *L. rostrum*, a beak.] having a double beak or a process resembling two beaks.
birr, *v.i.*; *birred*, *pl.*, *pp.*; *birring*, *ppr.* to make a whirring noise, as of wheels in motion; also, to move with a whirring sound.
birr, *n.* 1. a whirring or buzzing sound. 2. force or energy; a rushing, as of wind. 3. emphatic speech or statement.
bir-ret-ta, *n.* same as *birrella*.
bir'rus, *n.*; *pl.* *bir'ri*, [*L.*, a kind of cloak originally of a red color, from Gr. *pyrros*, *pyrsos*, red, flame-colored, from *pyr*, fire.]
 1. in Roman antiquity, a cloak or cape with a hood worn over the head as a cowl.
 2. a coarse, thick woolen cloth used by the poorer classes in the Middle Ages, for cloaks and other clothing.
birse, *n.* [Scot.] a bristle or bristles; short hair.
bir-t, *n.* the brill or the turbot. [Prov. Eng.]
birth, *n.* [ME. *birth*, *byrthe*, *byrde*; AS. *gebyrde*, from *beran*, to bear; O.H.G. *geburt*; Goth. *gabaurths*; Gael. *bréith*; Sans. *bhriti*, birth.]
 1. the act or fact of coming into life, or of being born; nativity; as, the *birth* of a son.
 2. lineage; extraction; descent; as, of Grecian *birth*: often used by way of distinction for a descent from noble or honorable parents and ancestors; as, a man of *birth*.
 3. the condition to which a person is born; natural state or position; inherited inclination to act in certain ways; as, an actor by *birth*.
 4. a person or thing that is born or produced.
 5. the act of bringing forth offspring; as, she had two children at a *birth*.
 6. origin; beginning; as, an empire's *birth*.
birth stone, a precious or semiprecious stone which symbolizes the month of one's birth. The usual list is as follows: January, garnet; February, amethyst; March, bloodstone; April, diamond; May, emerald; June, pearl; July, ruby; August, sardonyx; September, sapphire; October, opal; November, topaz; December, turquoise.
Syn.—parentage, extraction, nativity, family, race, origin, source, rise, lineage, nobility.
birth con-trol, the act of regulation of child-bearing, especially by contraceptives.
birth con-trol-ler, an advocate of birth control.
birth'day, *n.* 1. the day on which any person is born or anything begun. 2. the anniversary of a person's birth or a thing's beginning.
birth'day, *a.* of or pertaining to the day of one's birth, or its anniversary; as, *birthday* gifts or festivities.
birth'döm, *n.* inheritance by birth; birth-right. [Obs.]
birth'ing, *n.* same as *berthing*.
birth'less, *a.* of inferior extraction or birth. [Rare.]
birth'mark, *n.* a mark or blemish found on the body at birth.
birth'night (-nit), *n.* the night in which a person is born; also, the anniversary of that night.
birth'place, *n.* the place where a person is born; also, a place of origin or birth, in its more general sense; as, the *birthplace* of freedom.
birth rate, *n.* the number of births per year per thousand of population in a given district, group, etc.: sometimes other units of time or population are used in giving the birth rate.
birth'right (-rit), *n.* 1. any right, privilege, or possession into which a person is born, such as



BIRBUS

clash

1. a plant of the genus *Salvia*, or sage, *Salvia sclarea*.
 2. an ornamental variety of this plant.
- clash**, *v.i.*; clashed (*klasht*), *pt.*, *pp.*; clashing, *ppr.* [an imitative word.]
1. to collide or strike together with a loud, harsh, metallic noise.
 2. to conflict; to disagree; to fail to harmonize; as, the opinions of men *clash*; *clashing* interests.
- Independent jurisdictions could not fail to *clash*. —Dwight.
- clash**, *v.t.* to strike together, bring together, shut, etc. with a loud, harsh, metallic noise.
- clash**, *n.* 1. a loud, harsh noise, as of two metallic objects colliding.
2. opposition; conflict; disagreement; lack of harmony.
- clash'ing-ly**, *adv.* with clashing.
- clasp**, *n.* [ME. *claspe*, *clapse*.]
1. a fastening, as a hook, buckle, or catch, to hold two things or parts together.
 2. a holding; grasping; embrace.
 3. a grip of the hand.
- clasp**, *v.t.*; clasped or archaic *claspt*, *pt.*, *pp.*; clasping, *ppr.* [ME. *claspēn*, from the *n.*]
1. to fasten with a clasp.
 2. to hold tightly with the arms or hands; grasp firmly; embrace.
 3. to grip with the hand.
 4. to entwine about; cling to.
- clasp'er**, *n.* 1. one who or that which clasps.
2. in botany, a tendril.
 3. in zoology, (a) a portion of the male reproductive organ used in a clasping manner, as by certain insects; (b) one of the organs on the ventral fins, used in sexual union, developed in some male fish, as the sharks and rays.
- clasp'ered**, *a.* furnished with tendrils or clasps.
- clasp knife** (*nif*), a knife commonly used in hunting, having a folding blade which, when open, is generally held firmly by a catch.
- clasp lock**, a lock in which the catch fastens itself automatically.
- clasp't**, *v.* archaic past tense and past participle of *clasp*.
- class**, *n.* [Fr. *classe*; L. *classis*, a class or division of the Roman people; Gr. *klēsis*, a calling, summons, from *kalein*, to call.]
1. a number of people or things grouped together because of certain likenesses or common traits; kind; sort; as, an inferior *class* of novels.
 2. a group of people considered as a unit according to economic, occupational, or social status; especially, a social rank or caste; as, the working *class*, the middle *class*.
 3. high social rank or caste.
 4. the division of society into ranks or castes.
 5. a group of students taught together according to standing, subject, etc.
 6. a meeting of such a group.
 7. a group of students graduating together; as, the *class* of 1960.
 8. a division or grouping according to grade or quality.
 9. grade or quality.
 10. conscripted troops, or men liable to conscription, all of whom were born in the same year; as, they called up the *class* of 1931.
 11. in biology, a group of animals or plants having a common basic structure and ranking below a *phylum* and above an *order*.
 12. excellence, especially of style, appearance, etc. [Slang.]
 13. in the Methodist Church, a section of the congregation under the leadership of one of their number.
- class of a curve*; in geometry, the numerical class to which a curve belongs as determined by the number of tangential lines which may be drawn to it from a given point. Thus, two lines may be drawn from a point tangent to a circle; consequently a circle is a curve of the second class.
- class of a surface*; in geometry, the numerical class to which a surface belongs as determined by the number of tangential planes which may be passed through a given line to a given surface.
- Syn.**—order, rank, degree, category, grade, division, genus, kind, group.
- class**, *v.t.*; classed, *pt.*, *pp.*; classing, *ppr.* 1. to put in a class or classes; to rank together; to refer to a class or group; to classify.
2. to place in ranks or divisions, as students that are pursuing the same studies; to form into a class or classes.
- class**, *v.i.* to be grouped or arranged in classes.

- class'a-ble**, *a.* adapted to arrangement in classes; capable of being classed.
- class ac'tion suit**, a legal action brought by one or more persons on behalf of themselves and a much larger group, all of whom have the same grounds for action: also *class action*.
- class book**, 1. a book in which a teacher records grades, absences, etc.
2. a book published by members of a class in a school or college, containing pictures of students and teachers, an account of student activities, etc.
- class'-con'scious**, *a.* having or showing class consciousness.
- class con'scious-ness**, an awareness of belonging to or constituting a class in the social order, with definite economic interests; sense of class solidarity.
- class dāy**, a day set aside during the commencement period of American schools and colleges, for the presentation of a play, a class history, a class oration, etc. by the members of the senior class.
- class'ic**, *a.* [L. *classicus*, relating to the classes of the Roman people, especially to the highest class; hence, superior, from *classis*, a class.]
1. of the highest class; most representative of the excellence of its kind; having recognized worth.
 2. in accordance with established principles of excellence in the arts and sciences.
 3. of the art, literature, and culture of the ancient Greeks and Romans, or their writers, artists, etc.
 4. like or characteristic of the literary and artistic standards, principles, and methods of the ancient Greeks and Romans.
 5. balanced, formal, objective, austere, regular, simple, etc.; a term variously interpreted, generally opposed to *romantic*.
 6. famous as traditional or typical. [Colloq.]
- class'ic**, *n.* 1. a writer, artist, etc. generally recognized as excellent.
2. a literary or artistic work generally recognized as of the highest excellence.
 3. a classicist. [Rare.]
 4. a famous traditional or typical event; as, this football game is a *classic*. [Colloq.]
 5. a woman's suit, dress, etc. made in a traditional style. [Slang.]
- the classics*; the literature or language of the ancient Greeks and Romans.
- class'ic-al**, *a.* 1. classic (senses 1, 3, 4, 5).
2. learned in and devoted to Greek and Roman culture, literature, etc.
 3. designating or of music that conforms to certain established standards of form, complexity, musical literacy, etc.; as, symphonies, concertos, sonatas, etc. are called *classical* music; variously distinguished from *popular*, *romantic*, *modern*.
 4. designating or of a course of study that is standard and traditionally authoritative, not new and experimental; as, *classical* political science.
- class'ic-al-ism**, *n.* same as *classicism*.
- class'ic-al-ist**, *n.* same as *classicist*.
- class'ic-al-i-ty**, *n.* 1. the quality of being classical.
2. classical scholarship.
 3. anything that has a classical quality.
- class'ic-al-ly**, *adv.* in a classical manner or style.
- class'ic-ism**, *n.* 1. the aesthetic principles and methods regarded as characteristic of ancient Greece and Rome; objectivity, formality, balance, simplicity, dignity, restraint, etc.; generally contrasted with *romanticism*.
2. adherence to these principles or to principles derived from them.
 3. knowledge of the literature and art of ancient Greece and Rome; classical scholarship.
 4. a Greek or Latin idiom or expression.
- class'ic-ist**, *n.* 1. a person who advocates or follows the principles of classicism.
2. a student of or specialist in ancient Greek and Roman literature.
 3. a person who advocates the teaching of Greek and Latin in the schools.
- class'ic-ize**, *v.t.*; classicized, *pt.*, *pp.*; classicizing, *ppr.* to make classic.
- class'ic-ize**, *v.i.* to use or affect a classic style or form.
- class'ic-i-ble**, *a.* capable of being classified.
- class'ic-i-fi-cā-tion**, *n.* 1. a classifying or being classified; arrangement according to some systematic division into classes or groups.
2. in biology, a system of arranging all living organisms into groups based on some factor common to each, as structure or natural relationship; the categories now used

clause

- are, from the broadest to the narrowest, *phylum* (in botany, *division*), *class*, *order*, *family*, *genus*, *species*, and *variety*.
- class'ic-i-fi-cā-tō-ry**, *a.* relating to or using classification.
- class'ic-i-fied** (-fid), *a.* placed in or divided into groups or classes.
- classified advertisement**; an advertisement or other public notice listed categorically under its particular subject and printed in a part of a publication reserved for such material.
- classified advertising**; public notices or advertising, listed according to subject in a special section of a publication.
- classified bonds or stocks**; in finance, the bonds or stocks issued by a company and divided into different groups, each of which has some special characteristic such as a higher interest rate.
- classified civil service**; that type of service into which, according to acts of 1853 and 1949 U. S. government clerks are classified.
- class'ic-i-fer**, *n.* 1. a person who classifies.
2. a term used to designate a certain class of objects, as in Chinese grammar.
 3. in ore dressing, a piece of machinery used to separate the ground-up ore into grades to expedite the refining process.
- class'ic-i-ty**, *v.t.*; classified, *pt.*, *pp.*; classifying, *ppr.* [L. *classis*, a class, and *facere*, to make.]
1. to arrange or group in classes according to some system or principle.
 2. to place in a class or category.
 3. to designate (governmental documents, reports, etc.) to be secret or confidential and available only to authorized persons.
- class'ic-sis**, *n.*; *pl.* *class'ic-sēs*, [L. *classis*, a class.]
1. a church court or governing group consisting of the pastors and elders from the churches in the district.
 2. the jurisdiction of such a body.
- class'less**, *a.* having no distinct social or economic classes; as, a *classless* society.
- class'mān**, *n.*; *pl.* *class'men*, 1. a classmate.
2. in English universities, a candidate for graduation in arts who has passed an examination in one of the departments in which honors are conferred, and who is placed according to merit in one of several classes.
- class'māte**, *n.* a fellow member in a class at school or college.
- class'room**, *n.* a room for recitations, etc. of a class in a school or college.
- class strug'gle**, in Marxism, the constant economic and political struggle held to exist between social classes regarded as exploiting and those regarded as exploited; specifically, in capitalist countries, the struggle between the capitalists (*bourgeoisie*) and the industrial workers (*proletariat*).
- class'y**, *a.*; *comp.* classier; *superl.* classiest; first-class, especially in style or manner; elegant; fine. [Slang.]
- class'tic**, *a.* [Gr. *klastos*, broken in pieces, from *klaien*, to break; and -ic.]
1. designating an anatomical model with removable sections to show internal structure.
 2. in geology, consisting of fragments of older rocks.
- clatch** (*klach*), *n.* 1. soft mud. [Scot.]
2. a slattern. [Scot.]
- clath'rāte**, *a.* [L. *clathri*; Gr. *klēthra*, a trellis, grate.] in botany, latticed; divided like lattice-work; reticulated; also written *clathroid*.
- clath'rōse**, *a.* in entomology, barred or latticed, sometimes at right angles.
- clat'ter**, *v.i.*; clattered, *pt.*, *pp.*; clattering, *ppr.* [ME. *claterēn*, to clatter; AS. *clatrung*, a clattering; imitative in origin.]
1. to make rattling sounds; to make repeated sharp sounds, as by striking sonorous bodies; as, to *clatter* on a shield.
 2. to talk fast and idly; to run on.
- clat'ter**, *v.t.* to strike so as to produce a rattling noise from.
- clat'ter**, *n.* 1. a rapid succession of abrupt, sharp sounds, made by the collision of metallic or other sonorous bodies; rattling sounds.
2. tumultuous and confused noise.
 3. noisy chatter.
- clat'ter-er**, *n.* one who clatters; a babbler.
- clat'ter-ing-ly**, *adv.* with a clattering noise.
- clāu-di-cā-tion**, *n.* [from L. *claudicare*, to limp.] a halting or limping.
- claus'al**, *a.* of or constituting a clause.
- clause**, *n.* [ME. *clause*; OFr. *clause*; I. L. *clausula*, a clause; L. *clausula*, a clause, close of a period, from *claudere*, pp. of *claudere*, to close.]
1. a group of words containing a subject and verb, usually forming part of a compound

destructive

- dē-struc'tive**, *a.* 1. tending or likely to cause destruction.
2. destroying; causing or producing destruction.
3. tearing down; as, *destructive criticism*.
4. in logic, tending to disprove; refuting; as, a *destructive dilemma*.
Syn.—ruinous, fatal, mischievous, pernicious, detrimental, deadly.
dē-struc'tive, *n.* one who or that which destroys; a destructionist.
dē-struc'tive dis-till-lā'tion, the decomposition of a material, as coal, wood, etc., by heat in the absence of air, followed by the recovery of volatile products of the decomposition by condensation or other means.
dē-struc'tive-ly, *adv.* in a destructive manner.
dē-struc'tive-ness, *n.* 1. the quality of being destructive.
2. in phrenology, a propensity whose function is to produce the impulse to destroy.
dē-struc'tiv'i-ty, *n.* power or tendency to destroy; destructiveness.
dē-struc'tōr, *n.* 1. a destroyer; a consumer. [Obs.]
2. an oven or incinerator for burning refuse. [Brit.]
dē-struē, *v.t.* to destroy. [Obs.]
des-ū-dā'tion, *n.* [LL. *desudatio*, a very profuse sweating, from L. *desudare*, to sweat violently.] in medicine, a sweating; a profuse or morbid sweating, often succeeded by an eruption of pustules called heat pimples.
des-uēte (-swēt'), *a.* out of use; fallen into desuetude. [Rare.]
des-uē-tūde (des'wē-), *n.* [L. *desuetudo*, disuse, from *desuetus*, pp. of *desuere*, to disuse.] the cessation of use; disuse; as, laws fallen into *desuetude*.
dē-sul'fūr, *v.t.*; desulfured, *pt.*, *pp.*; desulfuring, *ppr.* to desulfurize.
dē-sul'fū-rāte, *v.t.*; desulfurated, *pt.*, *pp.*; desulfurating, *ppr.* to desulfurize.
dē-sul'fū-rā'tion, *n.* same as *desulfurization*.
dē-sul'fūr-i-zā'tion, *n.* the act or process of depriving of sulfur.
dē-sul'fūr-ize, *v.t.*; desulfurized, *pt.*, *pp.*; desulfurizing, *ppr.* to deprive of sulfur, as an ore, mineral, etc.
des-ul'tō-ri-ly, *adv.* in a desultory manner; without method; loosely.
des-ul'tō-ri-ness, *n.* the character of being desultory; disconnectedness; discursiveness; as, the *desultoryness* of a speaker's remarks.
des-ul'tō-ri-ous, *a.* desultory.
des-ul'tō-ry, *a.* [L. *desultorius*, pertaining to a vaulter or rider in a circus, from *desultor*, a leaper, vaulter, one who vaulted from one horse to another in the games of the circus, from *desultus*, pp. of *desilire*, to leap down; *de*, down, from, and *salire*, to leap.]
1. passing from one thing or subject to another without order or natural connection; disconnected; not methodical; as, a *desultory* conversation.
2. random; as, a *desultory* thought.
Syn.—cursory, rambling, discursive, loose, immethodical, irregular.
dē-sūme', *v.t.* to take from; to borrow. [Obs.]
dē-syn-on'y-mi-zā'tion, *n.* the act of desynonymizing, or depriving of synonymous character.
dē-syn-on'y-mize, *v.t.*; desynonymized, *pt.*, *pp.*; desynonymizing, *ppr.* to deprive of synonymous character; to give a turn of meaning to (words), so as to prevent from being absolutely synonymous.
dē-tach', *v.t.*; detached (-tacht'), *pt.*, *pp.*; detaching, *ppr.* [Fr. *détacher*; OFr. *destacher*, to detach, loosen, unfasten.]
1. to separate or disunite; to disengage; to part from; as, to *detach* the coats of a bulbous root from each other; to *detach* a man from a party.
2. to separate for a special purpose or service: used chiefly in a military sense; as, to *detach* a ship from a fleet or a regiment from an army.
Syn.—separate, withdraw, disengage, disconnect, detail, disunite.
dē-tach', *v.i.* to become detached or separated; to separate or disunite itself or oneself.
dē-tach-ā-bil'i-ty, *n.* the condition of being detachable.
dē-tach-ā-ble, *a.* capable of being detached.
dē-tach-ed' (-tacht'), *a.* 1. separated; disunited; disjointed; as, *detached* portions, *detached* territories.
2. drawn and sent on a separate service; used chiefly in a military sense; as, a *detached* body of infantry.

3. not involved by emotion, interests, etc.; aloof; impartial.
detached work; in fortification, a work situated so far from the body of a fort that it is not protected by it, although forming part of the defense.

dē-tach'ment, *n.* [Fr. *détachement*, from *détacher*, to detach.]
1. the act of detaching or separating.
2. the sending of troops or ships on special service.

3. (a) a body of troops, selected or taken from the main army, and employed on some special service or expedition; (b) a number of ships taken from a fleet and sent on a separate service.
4. an order detaching an officer from duty at a certain military station.
5. the state of being on special service.
6. the state of being disinterested or impartial.

dē-tail', *v.t.*; detailed, *pt.*, *pp.*; detailing, *ppr.* particulars, to cut up, divide, narrate in particulars; *de*, apart, and *tailler*, to cut; L. *dis-*, apart, and *tales*, a cutting.]
1. to relate, report, or narrate in particulars; to recite the particulars of; to particularize; as, he *detailed* all the facts in due order.
2. to choose for or send on a special task; as, to *detail* a man for sentry duty.

dē-tail', *v.i.* to give details about something; to particularize.
dē-tail' (or *dē'tāl*), *n.* 1. the act of dealing with things item by item.
2. an individual part; an item; a particular; as, the account is accurate in all its *details*.
3. a minute account; a narrative or report of particulars; as, he gave a *detail* of the entire transaction.

4. small secondary or accessory part or parts of a picture, statue, building, etc.
5. in military usage, (a) one or more soldiers, sailors, etc. chosen for or sent on a special task; (b) the special task.
detail drawing; a drawing showing plainly all parts or details of some portion of a house, machine, etc.

detail man; a salesman for a pharmaceutical firm who visits doctors, dentists, etc. in a certain district to describe and promote the sales of new drugs.
in detail; circumstantially; item by item; individually; part by part.

dē-tail'ēr, *n.* one who details.
dē-tain', *v.t.*; detained, *pt.*, *pp.*; detaining, *ppr.* [L. *detinere*, to hold down or off, to keep back, to detain; *de*, off, from, and *tenere*, to hold.]
1. to keep back or from; to withhold.
Detain not the wages of the hiring.

2. to keep or restrain from proceeding; to delay; as, we were *detained* by the rain.
3. in law, to hold in custody; to confine.
dē-tain', *n.* detention. [Obs.]
dē-tain'ēr, *n.* a detainer. [Obs.]
dē-tain'ēr, *n.* 1. one who or that which detains.

2. in law, (a) a holding or keeping possession of what belongs to another; unlawful detention of what is another's, though the original taking may be lawful; (b) detention of a person without his consent; (c) a writ for continuing to hold a person already in custody.
dē-tain'ment, *n.* same as *detention*.
dē-TECT', *v.t.*; detected, *pt.*, *pp.*; detecting, *ppr.* [L. *detectus*, pp. of *delegere*, to uncover; *de*, priv., and *legere*, to cover.]
1. to discover; to find out.
2. to discover the presence or existence of (anything hidden, not clear, etc.).
3. in radio, to rectify.
4. to uncover; to reveal. [Obs.]
Syn.—discover, expose, discern, find out, ascertain, determine.

dē-TECT'ā-ble, *dē-TECT'i-ble*, *a.* that can be detected.
These errors are *detectable* at a glance.

dē-TECT'ā-phōne, *n.* a type of telephonic contrivance, having a microphone transmitter attached, by which conversations can be overheard by a listener.
dē-TECT'ēr, *n.* same as *detector*.
dē-TECT'ion, *n.* [LL. *detectio*, a revealing, from L. *detectus*, pp. of *delegere*, to uncover, reveal.]
1. the act of detecting or the state of being detected; the finding out of what was concealed, hidden, or formerly unknown; discovery; as, the *detection* of an error, the *detection* of a thief, the *detection* of fraud or forgery.

determinableness

2. in radio, the process of receiving a radio wave and separating the signal wave from the carrier wave in order to reproduce it as sound; rectification.
dē-TECT'ive, *a.* 1. fitted for detecting; employed in detecting; of or for detection.
2. pertaining to detectives and their work; as, a *detective story*, a *detective bureau*.
dē-TECT'ive, *n.* a person, often a policeman, whose work is investigating and trying to solve crimes, watching suspected persons, getting information, etc.
dē-TECT'ōr, *n.* [LL. *detector*, a revealer, one who detects, from L. *detectus*, pp. of *delegere*, to uncover, reveal.]
1. one who or that which detects or brings to light; one who finds out what another attempts to conceal; a revealer; a discoverer.
2. an apparatus or device for indicating the presence of something, as electric waves.
3. in radio, a device, usually a vacuum tube, for separating a signal wave from its carrier wave in order to reproduce it as sound; a rectifier.
dē-TECT'ōr lock, a lock fitted with a contrivance for indicating any attempt to tamper with it.
dē-Ten'e-brāte, *v.t.* to remove darkness from. [Obs.]
dē-Tent', *n.* [Fr. *détente*, from *détendre*, to relax, unbend; *dē*, from, and *tendre*, to stretch, from L. *tendere*, to stretch out.] in mechanics, a part that stops or releases a movement, as a lever, pin, or stud forming a check in a clock watch, tumblerlock, or other machine. The *detent* in a clock falls into the striking wheel, and stops it when the right number of strokes has been given. The *detent* of a ratchet wheel prevents reverse motion.
dē-Tente', *dē-Tente'* (dā-tānt'), *n.* [Fr., see *detent*.] a lessening of tension or hostility, especially between nations, as through treaties, trade agreements, etc.
dē-Ten'tion, *n.* [L. *detentus*, pp. of *delinere*, to hold back, detain.]
1. a detaining or being detained.
2. a withholding; retention.
3. a keeping in custody; confinement.
4. an enforced delay.
detention home; a place where juvenile offenders or delinquents are held in custody, especially temporarily, pending disposition of their cases by the juvenile court.
dē-Ten'tive, *a.* able to detain.
dē-Tēr', *v.t.*; deterred, *pt.*, *pp.*; deterring, *ppr.* [L. *deterrere*, to frighten from, to deter; *de*, from, and *terrere*, to frighten.] to discourage or keep (a person) from doing something through fear, anxiety, doubt, etc.
A million of frustrated hopes will not *deter* us from new experiments. —Mason.
Syn.—discourage, hinder, prevent, restrain.
dē-Tērge', *v.t.*; deterged, *pt.*, *pp.*; deterging, *ppr.* [L. *detergere*, to wipe off, wipe away; *de*, off, from, and *tergere*, to wipe, cleanse.] to cleanse, as a wound.
dē-Tēr'gence, *n.* same as *detergency*.
dē-Tēr'gen-cy, *n.* a detergent quality or power.
dē-Tēr'gent, *a.* cleansing; purging.
dē-Tēr'gent, *n.* [L. *detergens* (-entis), pp. of *detergere*, to wipe off.] a cleansing substance.
dē-Tēr'i-ō-rāte, *v.t.*; deteriorated, *pt.*, *pp.*; deteriorating, *ppr.* [LL. *deterioratus*, pp. of *deteriorare*, to make worse, from L. *deterior*, worse, inferior.] to make worse; to lower the value of; to reduce in quality; to depreciate.
Syn.—degrade, depreciate, degenerate, impair, corrupt, debase.
dē-Tēr'i-ō-rāte, *v.i.* to grow worse; to be impaired in quality; to degenerate.
dē-Tēr'i-ō-rā'tion, *n.* 1. a deteriorating.
2. a deteriorated condition.
dē-Tēr'i-ō-rā-tive, *a.* deteriorating or tending to deteriorate.
dē-Tēr-i-or'i-ty, *n.* worse state or quality. [Rare.]
dē-Tēr'ment, *n.* 1. the act of deterring or the state of being deterred.
2. that which deters.
dē-Tēr'mi-nā-bil'i-ty, *n.* the quality of being determinable.
dē-Tēr'mi-nā-ble, *a.* [LL. *determinabilis*, determinable, from L. *determinare*, to determine.]
1. that can be determined, decided, or ascertained with positiveness; as, a *determinable* function.
2. in law, liable to termination; as, a *determinable* lease.
dē-Tēr'mi-nā-ble-ness, *n.* the quality of being determinable; determinability. [Rare.]

of the ultimate principles apprehended by reason, etc.

Syn.—image, impression, conception.

ī-dē'āed, ī-dē'ā'd, a. having or imbued with an idea; as, a one-*idead* person.

ī-dē'āl, a. [Fr. *idéal*; LL. *idealis*, existing in idea, ideal, from L. *idea*, an idea.]

1. existing as an idea, model, or archetype; consisting of ideas (sense 5).

2. thought of as perfect or as a perfect model; exactly as one would desire; of a perfect kind.

3. of, or having the nature of, an idea or conception; identifying or illustrating an idea or conception; conceptual.

4. existing only in the mind as an image, fancy, or concept; visionary; imaginary: distinguished from *real, material*.

5. in philosophy, of idealism; idealistic.

Syn.—fanciful, unreal, imaginary, perfect, visionary.

ī-dē'āl, n. 1. a conception embodying perfection.

2. an object which corresponds with such a conception; a perfect model.

3. something that exists only in the mind. *beau idéal*; an imaginary object without fault; a flawless pattern, model, example, or standard.

ī-dē'ā-less, a. lacking an idea or ideas.

ī-dē'āl-ism, n. [from Fr. *idéisme* or G. *idealismus*.]

1. behavior or thought based on a conception of things as they should be or as one would wish them to be; idealization.

2. a striving to achieve one's ideals.

3. in art and literature, imaginative treatment that seeks to show the artist's or author's conception of perfection; representation of imagined types or ideals: opposed to *realism*.

4. in philosophy, any of various theories which hold that the objects of perception are actually ideas of the perceiving mind and that it is impossible to know whether reality exists apart from the mind: opposed to *materialism*.

ī-dē'āl-ist, n. 1. a person whose behavior or thought is based on ideals: often used contemptuously to mean an impractical visionary or dreamer.

2. an adherent or practitioner of idealism in art, literature, or philosophy.

ī-dē'āl-ist, a. idealistic.

ī-dē'āl-ist'ic, a. 1. of or characteristic of an idealist.

2. of, characterized by, or based on idealism.

ī-dē'āl-ist'ic-āl, a. idealistic.

ī-dē'al'i-ty, n.; pl. ī-dē'al'i-ties, 1. the quality or state of being ideal.

2. [usually in pl.] something that is only ideal and has no reality.

3. the ability to conceive ideals.

ī-dē'āl-i-zā'tion, n. 1. an idealizing or being idealized.

2. the result of idealizing.

ī-dē'āl-ize, v.i.; idealized, *pt., pp.*; idealizing, *ppr.* 1. to form an ideal or ideals.

2. to represent things in the manner of an idealist.

ī-dē'āl-ize, v.t. to make ideal; to think of or represent as ideal; to regard or show as perfect or more nearly perfect than is true.

ī-dē'āl-i-zēr, n. one who idealizes; one who applies ideals to real objects.

ī-dē'āl-ly, adv. 1. in accordance with an ideal or ideals; in an ideal manner; perfectly.

2. in theory.

ī-dē-ā-log'ic, a. same as *ideological*.

ī-dē-ā-log'ue, n. same as *ideologue*.

ī-dē-āte, v.t.; ideated, *pt., pp.*; ideating, *ppr.* to form an idea of; to imagine or conceive.

ī-dē-āte, v.i. to form an idea or ideas.

ī-dē-āte, n. in philosophy, the external object correlative with an idea.

ī-dē-ā'tion, n. the formation of ideas.

ī-dē-ā'tion-āl, a. relating to the formation of ideas; ideative.

ī-dē-ā'tive, a. same as *ideational*.

ī-dēe fixe' (ē-dā fēks'), [Fr.] a fixed idea; obsession.

ī-dem, pron. and a. [L.] the same; the same as that previously mentioned: abbreviated *id*.

ī-den'tic, a. identical; especially, having exactly the same wording, contents, purpose,

etc.: said of diplomatic messages or action by two or more governments.

ī-den'tic-āl, a. [LL. *identicus*, the same, from L. *identidem*, repeatedly, from *idem*, the same.]

1. the very same; as, the *identical* person.

2. exactly alike or equal; as, an *identical* proposition.

identical equation; in algebra, an equation which may be satisfied by giving any values whatever to the literal quantities.

identical proposition; in logic, a proposition whose subject and predicate are identical in content and extent (e.g., that which is mortal is not immortal).

identical twins; a pair of twins who were developed from a single fertilized ovum: they are always of the same sex and show great similarity in physical appearance.

ī-den'tic-āl-ly, adv. in an identical manner; with actual sameness.

ī-den'tic-āl-ness, n. sameness.

ī-den-ti-fi-ā-ble, a. capable of being identified.

ī-den'ti-fi-cā'tion, n. 1. an identifying or being identified.

2. anything by which a person or thing can be identified; as, he used his driver's license as *identification*.

3. in psychoanalysis, an emotional tie unconsciously causing a person to think, feel, and act as he imagines the person with whom he has the tie does.

ī-den'ti-fi-ēr, n. a person or thing that identifies.

ī-den'ti-fy, v.t.; identified, *pt., pp.*; identifying, *ppr.* [LL. *identicus*, the same, and L. *-ficare*, from *facere*, to make.]

1. to make identical; to consider or treat as the same; as, *identify* your interests with ours.

2. to show to be a certain person or thing; to fix the identity of; to show to be the same as something or someone assumed, described, or claimed.

3. to join or associate closely; as, he has become *identified* with the labor movement.

4. in psychoanalysis, to make identification of (oneself) with someone else: often used absolutely.

5. in biology, to determine the species of.

ī-den'ti-fy, v.i. 1. to become the same; to combine in interest, purpose, use, etc.

2. to put oneself in another's place, so as to understand and share the other's thoughts, feelings, problems, etc.; sympathize (*with*).

ī-den'tism, n. the philosophical doctrine of Schelling, making subject and object identical: also called *doctrine of identity*.

ī-den'ti-ty, n.; pl. ī-den'ti-ties, [LL. *identitas*, sameness, from *identicus*, the same, from L. *identidem*, repeatedly, from *idem*, the same.]

1. the condition or fact of being the same in all qualities under consideration; sameness; oneness.

2. (a) the condition or fact of being some specific person or thing; individuality; (b) the condition of being the same as something or someone assumed, described, or claimed.

3. in mathematics, an equation which is true for all permissible sets of values of the variables which appear in it: e.g., $x^2 - y^2 = (x + y)(x - y)$.

ī-den'ti-ty crī'sis, [coined by Erik Erikson (1902-), American psychoanalyst.] the condition of being uncertain of one's feelings about oneself, especially with regard to character, goals, and origins, occurring especially in adolescence as a result of growing up under disruptive, fast-changing conditions.

īd'ē-ō- (or *ī'dē-ō*), [from Fr. or Gr.; Fr. *ideo-*, from Gr. *idea*.] a combining form meaning *idea*, as in *ideogram, ideology*.

īd'ē-ō-gram (or *ī'dē-*), *n.* [*ideo-* and *-gram*.]

1. a graphic symbol representing an object or idea without expressing, as in a phonetic system, the sounds that form its name.

2. a symbol representing an idea rather than a word (e.g., 5, +, =, φ, †, +).

īd'ē-ō-graph (or *ī'dē-*), *n.* [*ideo-*, and Gr. *graphein*, to write.] a pictorial representation of an idea or object; an ideogram.

īd'ē-ō-graph'ic, īd'ē-ō-graph'ic-āl, a. of, or having the nature of, an ideogram or ideography.

īd'ē-ō-graph'ic-āl-ly, adv. in an ideographic manner.

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īd'ē-ō-graph'ic-āl-ly, adv. in an ideographic manner.

graphic representation without the use of names.

2. the study of ideograms.

īd'ē-ō-log'ic (or *īd'ē-*), *a.* ideological.

īd'ē-ō-log'ic-āl, a. pertaining to ideology.

īd'ē-ō-log'ist, n. 1. a student of or expert in ideology.

2. a person occupied mainly with ideas; ideologist or visionary.

3. an exponent of a specified ideology; theorist.

īd'ē-ō-log'ue (-log), *n.* [Fr. *idéologue*, from Gr. *idea*, an idea, and *logos*, a description.] an ideologist.

īd'ē-ol'ō-gy, n. [Fr. *idéologie*; Gr. *idea*, an idea, and *-logia*, from *legein*, to speak.]

1. the study of ideas, their nature and source.

2. the theory that all ideas are derived exclusively through sensation.

3. thinking, speculating, or theorizing, especially when the theory or system of theories is idealistic, abstract, idle, impractical, or farfetched.

4. the doctrines, opinions, or way of thinking of an individual, class, etc.

īd'ē-ō-mō'tion, n. [*ideo-*, and L. *motus*, motion.] in physiology, unconscious motion made in response to an idea.

īd'ē-ō-mō'tōr, a. [*ideo-*, and L. *motor*, mover.] pertaining to ideomotion.

īd'ē-ō-phōne', n. [*ideo-*, and *phone*.] in linguistics, the expression of an idea, as in many African languages, by means of a sound, often reduplicated, that creates an image of an action, object, etc.

īdēs, n. pl. [L. *idus*, pl., the ides.] in the ancient Roman calendar, the fifteenth day of March, May, July, and October, and the thirteenth day of the other months.

īd est, [L.] that is (to say).

īd'i-ō-, [Gr. *idio-*, from *idios*, one's own.] a combining form meaning *one's own, personal, distinct*, as in *idiocrasy, idiograph*.

īd'i-ō-bi-ol'ō-gy, n. [*idio-*, and Gr. *bios*, life, and *-logia*, from *legein*, to speak.] the science of the functions of a particular organism.

īd'i-ō-blast, n. [*idio-*, and Gr. *blastos*, a bud, offshoot.]

1. in biology, any of the hypothetical units of which a cell is ultimately composed.

2. in botany, an isolated cell differing greatly from the surrounding cells, as a resin cell in pine.

īd'i-ō-crā'sis, n. same as *idiocrasy*.

īd-i-ō-crā'sy, n.; pl. īd-i-ō-crā'sies, [Gr. *idiokrasia*, a peculiar temperament; *idios*, one's own, and *krasis*, a mixture, temperament.] an idiosyncrasy.

īd'i-ō-crāt'ic, īd'i-ō-crāt'ic-āl, a. idiosyncratic.

īd'i-ō-cy, n.; pl. īd'i-ō-cies, [from *idiot*, and *-cy* (as *prophecy*, from *prophet*); but compare Gr. *idiōteia*, uncouthness, lack of training.]

1. the state of being an idiot.

2. behavior like that of an idiot; great foolishness or stupidity.

3. an idiotic act or remark.

īd'i-ō-cy-cloph'ā-nous, a. [*idio-*, and *kyklos*, a circle, and *-phanēs*, from *phainesthai*, to appear.] same as *idiophanous*.

īd'i-ō-ē-lec'tric, a. [*idio-*, and Gr. *ēlektron*, amber.] that can be electrified by friction: opposed to *anelectric*.

īd'i-ō-graph, n. [*idio-*, and Gr. *graphein*, to write.] a characteristic signature or writing.

īd'i-ō-graph'ic, īd'i-ō-graph'ic-āl, a. belonging to, resembling, or containing an ideograph or ideographs.

īd'i-ōm, n. [LL. *idioma*; Gr. *idiōma*, a peculiarity, a peculiar phraseology, an idiom, from *idiousthai*, to make one's own, from *idios*, one's own, private, peculiar.]

1. the language or dialect of a people, region, class, etc.

2. the usual way in which the words of a language are joined together to express thought.

3. an accepted phrase, construction, or expression contrary to the usual patterns of the language or having a meaning different from the literal.

4. the style of expression characteristic of an individual; as, the *idiom* of Carlyle.

5. a characteristic style, as in art or music.

īd'i-ō-mat'ic, īd'i-ō-mat'ic-āl, a. [Gr. *matikos*, peculiar, characteristic, from *matos*, a peculiarity, an idiom.]

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