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# Merriam Webster's Collegiate<sup>®</sup> Dictionary

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TENTH EDITION

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# Merriam- Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary

TENTH EDITION

Merriam-Webster, Incorporated  
Springfield, Massachusetts, U.S.A.



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Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Main entry under title:

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — 10th ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-87779-708-0 (unindexed). — ISBN 0-87779-709-9 (indexed).

— ISBN 0-87779-710-2 (deluxe). — ISBN 0-87779-707-2 (laminated cover).

1. English language—Dictionaries.

PE1628.M36 1994

423—dc20

93-32603

CIP

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Made in the United States of America

9RMcN95

## DIACRITICS

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| ˊ (é) acute accent         | ˘ (ü) breve      |
| ˋ (è) grave accent         | ˙ (č) haček      |
| ˆ (ô) or ˜ or ˘ circumflex | ˚ (oo) diaeresis |
| ˜ (ñ) tilde                | ˘ (ç) cedilla    |
| — (ô) macron               |                  |

**di-a-dem** \di-ə-dem, -dəm\ *n* [ME *diademe*, fr. OF, fr. L *diadema*, fr. Gk *diadēma*, fr. *diadein* to bind around, fr. *dia-* + *dein* to bind; akin to Skt *dāman* rope] (13c) **1 a**: CROWN **1**; *specif*: a royal headband **b**: CROWN 6a(1) **2**: something that adorns like a crown

**di-ad-ro-mous** \di-ə-drə-məs\ *adj* (ca. 1949) *of a fish*: migratory between salt and fresh waters

**di-aer-e-sis** \di-er-ə-səs, Brit also -ir-ə\ *n*, *pl* -e-ses \-sēz\ [LL *diaeresis*, fr. Gk *diairesis*, lit., division, fr. *diairein* to divide, fr. *dia-* + *hairein* to take] (ca. 1611) **1 a**: mark " placed over a vowel to indicate that the vowel is pronounced in a separate syllable (as in *naïve* or *Brontë*) **2**: the break in a verse caused by the coincidence of the end of a foot with the end of a word — **di-aer-et-ic** \di-ə-er-ē-tik\ *adj*

**dia-gen-e-sis** \di-ə-jē-nə-səs\ *n* [NL] (ca. 1886) **1**: recombination or rearrangement of constituents (as of a chemical or mineral) resulting in a new product **2**: the conversion (as by compaction or chemical reaction) of sediment into rock — **dia-ge-net-ic** \di-ə-jə-ne-tik\ *adj* — **dia-ge-net-i-cal-ly** \-ne-tik(ə)-lē\ *adv*

**dia-geo-tro-pic** \di-ə-jē-ə-trō-pik, -trā-pik\ *adj* (1880): tending to grow at right angles to the line of gravity (~ branches and roots)

**di-ag-nose** \di-ig-nōs, -nōz, -di-ig-, -əg-\ *vb* -nosed; -nos-ing [back-formation fr. *diagnosis*] *vi* (ca. 1859) **1 a**: to recognize (as a disease) by signs and symptoms **b**: to diagnose a disease or condition in (diagnosed the patient) **2**: to analyze the cause or nature of (~ the problem) ~ *vi*: to make a diagnosis — **di-ag-nos-able** or **di-ag-nose-able** \di-ig-nō-sə-bəl, -əg-, -zə-\ *adj*

**di-ag-no-sis** \di-ig-nō-səs, -əg-\ *n*, *pl* -no-ses \-sēz\ [NL, fr. Gk *diagnōsis*, fr. *diagnōskein* to distinguish, fr. *dia-* + *gignōskein* to know — more at KNOW] (ca. 1681) **1 a**: the art or act of identifying a disease from its signs and symptoms **b**: the decision reached by diagnosis **2**: a concise technical description of a taxon **3 a**: investigation or analysis of the cause or nature of a condition, situation, or problem (~ of engine trouble) **b**: a statement or conclusion from such an analysis

**di-ag-nos-tic** \-nās-tik\ also **di-ag-nos-ti-cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* (1625) **1 a**: of, relating to, or used in diagnosis **b**: using the methods of or yielding a diagnosis **2**: serving to distinguish or identify — **di-ag-nos-ti-cal-ly** \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

**diagnostic** *n* (1625) **1**: the art or practice of diagnosis — often used in *pl*. **2**: a distinguishing mark — **di-ag-nos-ti-cian** \-(,nās-'ti-shən\ *n*

**di-ag-o-nal** \di-ə-gə-nəl, -'ag-nəl\ *adj* [L *diagonalis*, fr. Gk *diagonōis* from angle to angle, fr. *diā-* + *gonia* angle; akin to Gk *gony* knee — more at KNEE] (1563) **1 a**: joining two vertices of a rectangular figure that are nonadjacent or two vertices of a polyhedral figure that are not in the same face **b**: passing through two nonadjacent edges of a polyhedron (a ~ plane) **2 a**: inclined obliquely from a reference line (as the vertical) (wood with a ~ grain) **b**: having diagonal markings or parts (a ~ weave)

**diagonal** *n* (1571) **1 a**: a diagonal straight line or plane **2 a** (1): a diagonal direction (2): a diagonal row, arrangement, or pattern **b**: something oriented in diagonal position **3**: a mark / used typically to denote "or" (as in *and/or*), "and or" (as in *straggler/deserter*), or "per" (as in *feet/second*) — called also *solidus*, *virgule* — **on the diagonal**: in an oblique direction: *DIAGONALLY*

**di-ag-o-nal-ize** \-nə-'līz\ *vt* -ized; -iz-ing (1942): to put (a matrix) in a form with all the nonzero elements along the diagonal from upper left to lower right — **di-ag-o-nal-iz-able** \-lī-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **di-ag-o-nal-iza-tion** \-ə-gə-nəl-'zā-shən, -'ag-nə-lə-'zā-\ *n*

**di-ag-o-nal-ly** \di-ə-gə-nəl-ē, -'ag-nə-lē\ *adv* (1541): in a diagonal manner

**diagonal matrix** *n* (ca. 1928): a diagonalized matrix

**di-a-gram** \di-ə-'gram\ *n* [Gk *diagramma*, fr. *diagramhein* to mark out by lines, fr. *dia-* + *graphein* to write — more at CARVE] (1619) **1**: a graphic design that explains rather than represents; *esp*: a drawing that shows arrangement and relations (as of parts) **2**: a line drawing made for mathematical or scientific purposes — **di-a-gram-ma-ble** \-grə-mə-bəl\ *adj* — **di-a-gram-mat-ic** \di-ə-grə-'ma-tik\ also **di-a-gram-mat-i-cal** \-ma-ti-kəl\ *adj* — **di-a-gram-mat-i-cal-ly** \-tik(ə)-lē\ *adv*

**diagram** *vt* -grammed or -gramed \-gramd\; -gram-ming or -gram-ing \-grə-miŋ\ (1840): to represent by or put into the form of a diagram

**dia-ki-ne-sis** \di-ə-ka-'nē-səs, -(,ki-\ *n*, *pl* -ne-ses \-sēz\ [NL] (ca. 1902): the final stage of the meiotic prophase marked by contraction of the bivalents

**di-al** \di-(ə)-\ *n* [ME *dial*, fr. ML *dialis* clock wheel revolving daily, fr. L *dies* day — more at DEITY] (15c) **1**: the face of a sundial **2 obs**: TIMEPIECE **3**: the graduated face of a timepiece **4 a**: a face upon which some measurement is registered usu. by means of graduations and a pointer (the thermometer ~ reads 70°F) **b**: a device that may be operated to make electrical connections or to regulate the operation of a machine (a radio ~) (a telephone ~)

**dial** *vb* **di-aled** or **di-alled**; **di-al-ing** or **di-al-ling** *vt* (1821) **1**: to measure with a dial **2 a**: to manipulate a device (as a dial) so as to operate, regulate, or select (~ your favorite program) (~ed the wrong number) **b**: CALL 1m(1) (~ed the office) ~ *vi* **1**: to manipulate a dial **2**: to make a telephone call or connection — **di-al-er** *n*

**di-a-lect** \di-ə-'lekt\ *n*, often attrib [MF *dialecte*, fr. L *dialectus*, fr. Gk *dialektos* conversation, dialect, fr. *dialegesthai* to converse — more at DIALOGUE] (1577) **1 a**: a regional variety of language distinguished

by features of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation from other regional varieties and constituting together with them a single language (the Doric ~ of ancient Greek) **b**: one of two or more cognate languages (French and Italian are Romance ~s) **c**: a variety of a language used by the members of a group (such ~s as politics and advertising — Philip Howard) **d**: a variety of language whose identity is fixed by a factor other than geography (as social class) (spoke a rough peasant ~) **e**: REGISTER 4c **f**: a version of a computer programming language **2**: manner or means of expressing oneself: PHRASEOLOGY — **di-a-lect-tal** \di-ə-'lek-təl\ *adj* — **di-a-lect-tal-ly** \-təl-ē\ *adv*

**di-a-lect-at-las** \di-ə-'lek-təl\ *n* (1932): LINGUISTIC ATLAS

**dialect atlas** *n* (1932): LINGUISTIC GEOGRAPHY

**dialect geography** *n* (1929): LINGUISTIC GEOGRAPHY

**di-a-lect-ic** \di-ə-'lek-tik\ *n* [ME *dialectik*, fr. MF *dialectique*, fr. L *dialectica*, fr. Gk *dialektikē*, fr. fem. of *dialektikos* of conversation, fr. *dialektos*] (14c) **1**: LOGIC 1a(1) **2 a**: discussion and reasoning by dialect as a method of intellectual investigation; *specif*: the Socratic techniques of exposing false beliefs and eliciting truth **b**: the Platonic investigation of the eternal ideas **3**: the logic of fallacy **4 a**: the Hegelian process of change in which a concept or its realization passes over into and is preserved and fulfilled by its opposite; also: the critical investigation of this process **b** (1) *usu pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr*: development through the stages of thesis, antithesis, and synthesis in accordance with the laws of dialectical materialism (2): the investigation of this process (3): the theoretical application of this process *esp*. in the social sciences **5** *usu pl* but *sing* or *pl* in *constr*: any systematic reasoning, exposition, or argument that juxtaposes opposed or contradictory ideas and *usu*. seeks to resolve their conflict **b**: an intellectual exchange of ideas **6**: the dialectical tension or opposition between two interacting forces or elements

**di-a-lect-i-cal** \di-ə-'lek-ti-kəl\ also **di-a-lect-ic** \-tik\ *adj* (1548) **1 a**: of, relating to, or in accordance with dialectic (~ method) **b**: practicing, devoted to, or employing dialectic (a ~ philosopher) **2**: of, relating to, or characteristic of a dialect — **di-a-lect-i-cal-ly** \-tik(ə)-lē\ *adv*

**dialectical materialism** *n* (1927): the Marxist theory that maintains the material basis of a reality constantly changing in a dialectical process and the priority of matter over mind — compare HISTORICAL MATERIALISM

**di-a-lect-i-cian** \di-ə-'lek-ti-shən\ *n* (ca. 1693) **1**: one who is skilled in or practices dialectic **2**: a student of dialectics

**di-a-lect-i-cist** \-tā-lə-'jist\ *n* (1883): a specialist in dialectology

**di-a-lect-i-cy** \-jē-\ *n* [ISV] (ca. 1864) **1**: the systematic study of dialect **2**: the body of data available for study of a dialect — **di-a-lect-to-log-i-cal** \-lek-tə-'lā-jī-kəl\ *adj* — **di-a-lect-to-log-i-cal-ly** \-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

**di-al-lel** \di-ə-'lel\ *adj* [Gk *diallelos* reciprocating, fr. *dia* through + *allelōn* one another — more at ALLELO-] (1920): relating to or being the crossing of each of several individuals with two or more others in order to determine the relative genetic contribution of each parent to specific characters in the offspring

**di-a-log-ic** \di-ə-'lā-jik\ or **di-a-log-i-cal** \-ji-kəl\ *adj* (1833): of, relating to, or characterized by dialogue (~ writing) — **di-a-log-i-cal-ly** \-ji-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*

**di-a-log-ist** \di-ə-'lā-jist; -'lā-jə-\ *n* (ca. 1660) **1**: a writer of dialogues **2**: one who participates in a dialogue — **di-a-log-ist-ic** \-(,di-ə-'lā-'jis-tik; -'lā-jə-'gis-\ *adj*

**di-a-log-ue** also **di-a-log** \di-ə-'lɒg, -'lāg\ *n* [ME *dialogue*, fr. OF *dialogue*, fr. L *dialogus*, fr. Gk *dialogos*, fr. *dialogesthai* to converse, fr. *dialoge* + *legein* to speak — more at LEGEND] (13c) **1**: a written composition in which two or more characters are represented as conversing **2 a**: a conversation between two or more persons; also: a similar exchange between a person and something else (as a computer) **b**: an exchange of ideas and opinions **c**: a discussion between representatives of parties to a conflict that is aimed at resolution **3**: the conversational element of literary or dramatic composition **4**: a musical composition for two or more parts suggestive of a conversation

**dialogue** *vb* -logued; -logu-ing *vr* (1597): to express in dialogue ~ *vi*: to take part in a dialogue

**dial tone** *n* (1923): a tone emitted by a telephone as a signal that the system is ready for dialing

**dial-up** \di-(ə)-'p\ *adj* (1972): relating to or being a standard telephone line used for computer communications; also: accessible via a standard telephone line (a ~ information service)

**di-al-y-sate** \di-ə-'lā-zāt, -sāt\ also **di-al-y-zate** \-zāt\ *n* (ca. 1867): the material that passes through the membrane in dialysis; also: the liquid into which this material passes

**di-al-y-sis** \di-ə-'lā-səs\ *n*, *pl* -y-ses \-sēz\ [NL, fr. Gk, separation, fr. *diályein* to dissolve, fr. *dia-* + *lyein* to loosen — more at LOSE] (1861) **1**: the separation of substances in solution by means of their unequal diffusion through semipermeable membranes; *esp*: such a separation of colloids from soluble substances **2**: HEMODIALYSIS — **di-al-yt-ic** \di-ə-'li-tik\ *adj*

**di-a-lyze** \di-ə-'līz\ *vb* -lyzed; -lyz-ing *vr* (1861): to subject to dialysis ~ *vi*: to undergo dialysis — **di-a-lyz-able** \-lī-zə-bəl\ *adj* — **di-a-lyz-er** \-lī-zər\ *n*

**dia-mag-net-ic** \di-ə-'mag-'ne-tik\ *adj* (1846): having a magnetic permeability less than that of a vacuum: slightly repelled by a magnet — **dia-mag-ne-tism** \-'mag-nə-'ti-zəm\ *n*

**di-a-man-té** \de-ə-'mān-tā\ *n* [F, *adj.*, like a diamond, fr. *diament* diamond, fr. MF] (1904): a sparkling decoration (as of sequins) or material decorated with this (a gown trimmed with ~)

**di-am-e-ter** \di-ə-'mā-tər\ *n* [ME *diameter*, fr. MF, fr. L *diametros*, fr. Gk, fr. *dia-* + *metron* measure — more at MEASURE] (14c) **1**: a chord passing through the center of a figure or body **2**: the length of a straight line through the center of an object **3**: a unit of magnification for an optical instrument equal to the number of times the linear

\ə\ about \ʌ\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar  
 \a\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \i\ hit \ī\ ice \j\ job  
 \ŋ\ sing \ō\ go \ō\ law \oi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot  
 \y\ yet \zh\ vision \ā, k, n, æ, œ, ue, ū, see Guide to Pronunciation

**syn** DICTATORIAL, MAGISTERIAL, DOGMATIC, DOCTRINAIRE, ORACULAR mean imposing one's will or opinions on others. DICTATORIAL stresses autocratic, high-handed methods and a domineering manner (exercised *dictatorial* control over the office). MAGISTERIAL stresses assumption or use of prerogatives appropriate to a magistrate or schoolmaster in forcing acceptance of one's opinions (the *magisterial* tone of his pronouncements). DOGMATIC implies being unduly and offensively positive in laying down principles and expressing opinions (dogmatic about what is art and what is not). DOCTRINAIRE implies a disposition to follow abstract theories in framing laws or policies affecting people (a *doctrinaire* approach to improving the economy). ORACULAR implies the manner of one who delivers opinions in cryptic phrases or with pompous dogmatism (a designer who is the *oracular* voice of fashion).

**dict-ta-tor-ship** \dīk-'tā-tər-'shīp, 'dīk-'tā- (1542) 1: the office of dictator 2: autocratic rule, control, or leadership 3 a: a form of government in which absolute power is concentrated in a dictator or a small clique b: a government organization or group in which absolute power is so concentrated c: a despotic state

**dic-tion** \dīk-shən\ n [L. *dictio*, *dictio* speaking, style, fr. *dicere* to say; akin to OE *teon* to accuse, L. *dicare* to proclaim, dedicate, Gk *deiknynai* to show, *dikē* judgment, right] (1581) 1 obs: verbal description 2: choice of words esp. with regard to correctness, clearness, or effectiveness 3 a: vocal expression: ENUNCIATION b: pronunciation and enunciation of words in singing — **dic-tion-al** \-shənəl, -shə-nəl\ *adj* — **dic-tion-al-ly** \-ē\ *adv*

**dic-tio-nary** \dīk-shə-'ner-ē\ n, pl **-nar-ies** [ML *dictionarium*, fr. LL *dictio*, *dictio* word, fr. L, speaking] (1526) 1: a reference book containing words usu. alphabetically arranged along with information about their forms, pronunciations, functions, etymologies, meanings, and syntactical and idiomatic uses 2: a reference book listing alphabetically terms or names important to a particular subject or activity along with discussion of their meanings and applications 3: a reference book giving for words of one language equivalents in another 4: a list (as of items of data or words) stored in a computer for reference (as for information retrieval or word processing)

**dic-tum** \dīk-təm\ n, pl **dic-ta** \-tə\ also **dictums** [L, fr. neut. of *dicere*, ptp. of *dicere*] (1599) 1: a noteworthy statement: as a: a formal pronouncement of a principle, proposition, or opinion b: an observation intended or regarded as authoritative 2: a judicial opinion on a point other than the precise issue involved in determining a case

**dicty-** or **dictyo-** comb form [NL, fr. Gk *dikty-*, *diktyo-*, fr. *diktyon*, fr. *dikein* to throw]: net (*dictyostele*) (*dictyosome*)

**dic-tyo-some** \dīk-tē-'sōm\ n (ca. 1930): any of the membranous or vesicular structures making up the Golgi apparatus

**dic-tyo-stele** \dīk-tē-'stēl, 'dīk-tē-'stē-lē\ n (ca. 1902): a stele in which the vascular cylinder is broken up into a longitudinal series or network of vascular strands around a central pith (as in many ferns)

**di-cu-ma-rol** also **di-cou-ma-rol** \dī-'k(y)ū-mā-rōl, -rōl\ n [di- + *coumarn* + -ol] (1943): a crystalline compound C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>12</sub>O<sub>2</sub> orig. obtained from spoiled sweet clover hay and used to delay clotting of blood esp. in preventing and treating thromboembolic disease

**di-cyn-o-dont** \dī-'si-nō-'dānt, -'si-n\ n [ultim. fr. Gk *di-* + *kyn-*, *kyōn* dog + *odont-*, *odont* tooth — more at HOUND, TOOTH] (1854): any of a suborder (Diconodontia) of small herbivorous therapsid reptiles with reduced dentition — **dicynodont** *adj*

**did** past of DO

**di-dact** \dī-'dakt\ n [back-formation fr. *didactic*] (1954): a didactic person

**di-dac-tic** \dī-'dak-tik, dā-ē\ *adj* [Gk *didaktikos*, fr. *didaskēin* to teach] (1658) 1 a: designed or intended to teach b: intended to convey instruction and information as well as pleasure and entertainment 2: making moral observations — **di-dac-ti-cal** \-ti-kəl\ *adj* — **di-dac-ti-cal-ly** \-ti-kəl-ē\ *adv* — **di-dac-ti-cism** \-tā-si-zəm\ n

**di-dac-tics** \-tik-s\ n pl but sing or pl in constr (1644): systematic instruction: PEDAGOGY

**did-dle** \dī-'dī\ vb **did-dled**; **did-dling** \dī-'dī-līŋ\ [origin unknown] vt (1786) 1 chiefly dial: to move with short rapid motions 2: to waste (as time) in trifling 3: HOAX, SWINDLE 4: to copulate with — often considered vulgar ~ vi 1: DAWDLE, FOOL 2: FIDDLE, TOY — usu. used with *with* (*diddled with the machine until it broke*) — **did-dler** \dī-'dī-lər, -dī-'lər\ n

**did-dly** \dī-'dī-ē, 'dī-'dī-lē\ n (1964) slang: DIDDLY-SQUAT

**did-dly-squat** \-skwāt\ n [prob. alter. of *doodly-squat*] (1974) slang: the least amount: anything at all (didn't know ~ about sports — Sam Tupperoff)

**did-ger-i-doo** also **did-jer-i-doo** \dī-jə-rē-'dū, dī-jə-rē-'\ n [Yolngu (Australian aboriginal language group of Arnhem Land) *didjiridu*] (1919): a large bamboo or wooden trumpet of the Australian Aborigines

**didn't** \dī-'dnt, -d'n\ dial also \dī-'dnt(t) or \dī-'dnt\ (1705): did not

**di-do** \dī-'(j)dō\ n, pl **didoes** or **didos** [origin unknown] (1807) 1: a mischievous or capricious act: PRANK, ANTIC — often used in the phrase *cut didoes* 2: something that is frivolous or showy

**Di-do** \dī-'(j)dō\ n [L, fr. Gk *Didō*]: a legendary queen of Carthage in Virgil's *Aeneid* who kills herself when Aeneas leaves her

**didst** \dī-'dst\ archaic past 2d sing of DO

**di-dym-i-um** \dī-'di-mē-əm\ n [NL, fr. Gk *didymos* twin, fr. *dyo* two — more at TWO] (1842): a mixture of rare-earth elements made up chiefly of neodymium and praseodymium and used esp. for coloring glass for optical filters

**die** \dī\ vi **died**; **dy-ing** \dī-'ŋ\ [ME *dien*, fr. or akin to ON *deya* to die; akin to OHG *touwen* to die] (12c) 1: to pass from physical life: EXPIRE 2 a: to pass out of existence: CEASE (their anger *died* at these words) b: to disappear or subside gradually — often used with *away*, *down*, or *out* (the storm *died* down) 3 a: SINK, LANGUISH (*dy-ing* from fatigue) b: to long keenly or desperately (*dy-ing* to go) c: to be overwhelmed by emotion (~ of embarrassment) 4 a: to cease functioning: STOP (the motor *died*) b: to end in failure (the bill *died* in committee) 5: to become indifferent (~ to worldly things) — **die hard** 1: to be long in dying (such rumors *die hard*) 2: to continue resistance against hopeless odds (hard-shell conservatism *dies hard*) — **die on the vine**: to fail esp. at an early stage through lack of support or enthusiasm (let the proposal *die on the vine*)

**die** \dī\ n, pl **dice** \dī-s\ or **dies** \dī-z\ [ME *dee*, fr. MF *dē*] (14c) 1 pl

*dice*: a small cube marked on each face with from one to six spots and used usu. in pairs in various games and in gambling by being shaken and thrown to come to rest at random on a flat surface — often used figuratively in expressions concerning chance or the irrevocability of a course of action (the ~ was cast) 2 pl **dies**: DADO 1a 3 pl **dies**: any of various tools or devices for imparting a desired shape, form, or finish to a material or for impressing an object or material: as a (1): the larger of a pair of cutting or shaping tools that when moved toward each other produce a desired form in or impress a desired device on an object by pressure or by a blow (2): a device composed of a pair of such tools b: a hollow internally threaded screw-cutting tool used for forming screw threads c: a mold into which molten metal or other material is forced d: a perforated block through which metal or plastic is drawn or extruded for shaping

**die-back** \dī-'bak\ n (ca. 1886): a condition in woody plants in which peripheral parts are killed esp. by parasites

**die-cious** var of DIOECIOUS

**die-fen-bach-ia** \dē-fən-'ba-kē-ə, -dī-, -bā-\ n [NL, fr. Ernst Dieffenbach †1855 Ger. naturalist] (ca. 1900): any of a genus (*Dieffenbachia*) of the family Araceae of erect poisonous tropical American plants that have oblong usu. variegated leaves and are often used as houseplants

**die-hard** \dī-'hārd\ *adj* (1922): strongly or fanatically determined or devoted (~ fans); esp: strongly resisting change (a ~ conservative) — **die-hard** n — **die-hard-ism** \-iz-əm\ n

**di-el** \dī-'ēl, -el\ *adj* [irreg. fr. L *dies* day + E -al] (ca. 1935): involving a 24-hour period that usu. includes a day and the adjoining night (~ fluctuations in temperature)

**diel-drin** \dē-'drīn\ n [*Diels-Alder* reaction (an addition reaction forming a 6-membered ring), after Otto Diels & Kurt Alder] (ca. 1949): a white crystalline persistent chlorinated hydrocarbon insecticide C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>8</sub>Cl<sub>6</sub>O that accumulates in and becomes toxic to vertebrates

**die-lec-tric** \dī-'lek-trīk\ n [*di-* + *electric*] (1837): a nonconductor of direct electric current — **dielectric** *adj*

**dielectric constant** n (1875): PERMITTIVITY

**dielectric heating** n (1944): the rapid and uniform heating throughout a nonconducting material by means of a high-frequency electromagnetic field

**di-en-ceph-a-lon** \dī-ən-'se-fə-'lān, -dī-(ē)-, -lən\ n [NL, fr. *dia-* + *encephalon*] (ca. 1883): the posterior subdivision of the forebrain — called also *betweenbrain* — **di-en-ce-phal-ic** \-sə-'fə-līk\ *adj*

**di-ene** \dī-'ēn\ n [*di-* + *-ene*] (1917): a compound containing two double bonds between carbon atoms

**die-off** \dī-'ōf\ n (1936): a sudden sharp decline of a population (as of rabbits) that is not caused directly by human activity (as hunting)

**die off** \dī-'ōf\ vi (1697): to die sequentially either singly or in numbers so that the total number is greatly diminished

**die out** vi (1853): to become extinct

**di-er-e-sis** var of DIAERESIS

**die-sel** \dē-'zəl, -səl\ n [Rudolf Diesel] (1894) 1: DIESEL ENGINE 2: a vehicle driven by a diesel engine

**diesel-electric** *adj* (1914): of, relating to, or employing the combination of a diesel engine driving an electric generator (a ~ locomotive)

**diesel engine** n (1894): an internal combustion engine in which air is compressed to a temperature sufficiently high to ignite fuel injected into the cylinder where the combustion and expansion actuate a piston

**die-sel-ing** \dē-'zəl-ŋ, -səl-ŋ\ n (ca. 1955): the continued operation of an internal combustion engine after the ignition is turned off

**die-sel-ize** \dē-'zəl-iz, -səl-iz\ vi **-ized**; **-iz-ing** (1925): to equip with a diesel engine or with electric locomotives having generators powered by diesel engines — **die-sel-iza-tion** \dē-'zəl-iz-ə-'shən, -səl-iz-ə-\ n

**Dies Irae** \dē-'(j)əs-'ē-rā\ n [ML, day of wrath; fr. the first words of the hymn] (1860): a medieval Latin hymn on the Day of Judgment sung in requiem masses

**di-es-is** \dī-'ə-səs\ n, pl **di-es-es** \-sēz\ [prob. fr. It, sharp (in music), symbol for a sharp, fr. ML, quarter tone, fr. L, fr. Gk, fr. *diēnai* to send through, fr. *dia-* + *hienai* to send — more at JET] (ca. 1706): DOUBLE DAGGER

**di-es-ter** \dī-'es-tər\ n (1935): a compound containing two ester groups

**die-stock** \dī-'stāk\ n (ca. 1859): a stock to hold dies used for cutting threads

**di-es-trus** \dī-'es-trəs\ n [NL, fr. *dia-* + *estrus*] (1942): a period of sexual quiescence that intervenes between two periods of estrus — **di-es-trous** \-trəs\ *adj*

**di-et** \dī-'et\ n [ME *diēte*, fr. OF, fr. L *diaeta*, fr. Gk *diaita*, lit., manner of living, fr. *diaitasthai* to lead one's life] (13c) 1 a: food and drink regularly provided or consumed b: habitual nourishment c: the kind and amount of food prescribed for a person or animal for a special reason 2: something provided esp. habitually (a ~ of Broadway shows and nightclubs — Frederick Wyatt)

**diet** vi (14c) 1: to cause to take food: FEED 2: to cause to eat and drink sparingly or according to prescribed rules ~ vi: to eat sparingly or according to prescribed rules — **di-et-er** n

**diet** *adj* (1969): reduced in calories (a ~ soft drink)

**diet** n [ME *diēte* day's journey, day set for a meeting, fr. ML *dieta*, lit., daily regimen, diet (taken as a derivative of L *dies* day), fr. L *diaeta*] (1565) 1: a formal deliberative assembly of princes or estates 2: any of various national or provincial legislatures

**di-e-tary** \dī-'et-ē\ n, pl **di-e-tar-ies** (1838): the kinds and amounts of food available to or eaten by an individual, group, or population

**dietary** *adj* (1614): of or relating to a diet or to the rules of a diet — **di-e-tar-i-ly** \dī-'et-ē-rē-lē\ *adv*

**dietary law** n (ca. 1930): any of the laws observed by Orthodox Jews that permit or prohibit certain foods

**di-e-tet-ic** \dī-'et-ē-tīk\ *adj* (1579) 1: of or relating to diet 2: adapted for use in special diets — **di-e-tet-i-cal-ly** \-tī-kəl-ē\ *adv*

**di-e-tet-ics** \-tē-tīks\ n pl but sing or pl in constr (1799): the science or art of applying the principles of nutrition to the diet

**di-ether** \dī-'ē-thər\ n (1950): a compound containing two atoms of oxygen with ether linkages

**di-eth-yl-car-bam-a-zine** \dī-'ē-thəl-kār-'ba-mā-zēn, -zən\ n [*di-* + *ethyl* + *carboxy-* + *amide* + *azine*] (1948): an antelmintic adminis-

**trans-at-lan-tic** \tranz-(t)-at-'lan-tik, -'lan-z\ *adj* (1779) 1 a: crossing or extending across the Atlantic Ocean (a ~ cable) b: relating to or involving crossing the Atlantic Ocean (~ air fares) 2 a: situated or originating from beyond the Atlantic Ocean b: of, relating to, or involving countries on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean and esp. the U.S. and Great Britain (~ cooperation)

**trans-ax-le** \tranz-(t)-ak-səl, -'lan-z\ *n* [transmission + axle] (1958): a unit that consists of a combination of transmission and front axle used in front-wheel-drive automobiles

**trans-ceiv-er** \tranz-(t)-se-vər\ *n* [transmitter + receiver] (1934): a radio transmitter-receiver that uses many of the same components for both transmission and reception

**trans-scend** \tranz-(t)-send\ *vb* [ME, fr. L *transcendere* to climb across, transcend, fr. *trans-* + *scandere* to climb — more at SCAN] *vt* (14c) 1 a: to rise above or go beyond the limits of b: to triumph over the negative or restrictive aspects of: OVERCOME c: to be prior to, beyond, and above (the universe or material existence) 2: to outstrip or outdo in some attribute, quality, or power ~ *vi*: to rise above or extend notably beyond ordinary limits *syn* see EXCEED

**trans-scen-dence** \-'sen-dən(t)s\ *n* (1601): the quality or state of being transcendent

**trans-scen-den-cy** \-dən(t)-sē\ *n* (1615): TRANSCENDENCE

**trans-scen-dent** \-dənt\ *adj* [L *transcendent-*, *transcendens*, prp. of *transcendere*] (1598) 1 a: exceeding usual limits: SURPASSING b: extending or lying beyond the limits of ordinary experience c in *Kantian philosophy*: being beyond the limits of all possible experience and knowledge 2: being beyond comprehension 3: transcending the universe or material existence — **trans-scen-dent-ly** *adv*

**trans-scen-den-tal** \tranz-(t)-sen-'den-tl, -'sən-\ *adj* (1624) 1 a: TRANSCENDENT 1b b: SUPERNATURAL c: ABSTRUSE, ABSTRACT d: of or relating to transcendentalism 2 a: incapable of being the root of an algebraic equation with rational coefficients ( $\pi$  is a ~ number) b: being, involving, or representing a function (as  $\sin x$ ,  $\log x$ ,  $e^x$ ) that cannot be expressed by a finite number of algebraic operations (~ curves) 3 in *Kantian philosophy* a: of or relating to experience as determined by the mind's makeup b: transcending experience but not human knowledge 4: TRANSCENDENT 1a — **trans-scen-den-tal-ly** \-'t-l-\ *adv*

**trans-scen-den-tal-ism** \-t-l,-i-zəm\ *n* (1803) 1: a philosophy that emphasizes the a priori conditions of knowledge and experience or the unknowable character of ultimate reality or that emphasizes the transcendent as the fundamental reality 2: a philosophy that asserts the primacy of the spiritual and transcendental over the material and empirical 3: the quality or state of being transcendental; esp: visionary idealism — **trans-scen-den-tal-ist** \-t-l-ist\ *adj* or *n*

**transcendental meditation** *n* (1966): a technique of meditation in which a mantra is chanted in order to foster calm, creativity, and spiritual well-being

**trans-con-ti-nen-tal** \tranz-(t)-kən-'t-n-'en-tl, -'tranz-\ *adj* (1853): extending or going across a continent (a ~ railroad)

**trans-cribe** \tranz-(t)-skrib\ *vt* **trans-scribed**; **trans-scrib-ing** [L *transcribere*, fr. *trans-* + *scribere* to write — more at SCRIBE] (1552) 1 a: to make a written copy of b: to make a copy of (dictated or recorded matter) in longhand or on a machine (as a typewriter) c: to paraphrase or summarize in writing d: WRITE DOWN, RECORD 2 a: to represent (speech sounds) by means of phonetic symbols b: TRANSLATE 2a c: to transfer (data) from one recording form to another d: to record (as on magnetic tape) for later broadcast 3: to make a musical transcription of 4: to cause (as DNA) to undergo genetic transcription — **trans-scriber** *n*

**trans-script** \tranz-(t)-skript\ *n* [ME, fr. ML *transcriptum*, fr. L, neut. of *transcriptus*, pp. of *transcribere*] (14c) 1 a: a written, printed, or typed copy; esp: a usu. typewritten copy of dictated or recorded material b: an official or legal and often published copy (a court reporter's ~); esp: an official copy of a student's educational record 2: a representation (as of experience) in an art form 3: a sequence of RNA produced by transcription from a DNA template

**trans-script-tase** \tranz-(t)-skrip-'tās, -'tāz\ *n* [transcription + -ase] (1963): RNA POLYMERASE; also: REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE

**trans-scrip-tion** \tranz-(t)-skrip-'shən\ *n* (1598) 1: an act, process, or instance of transcribing 2: COPY, TRANSCRIPT; as a: an arrangement of a musical composition for some instrument or voice other than the original b: a recording (as on magnetic tape) made esp. for use in radiobroadcasting 3: the process of constructing a messenger RNA molecule using a DNA molecule as a template with resulting transfer of genetic information to the messenger RNA — compare TRANSLATION 2, REVERSE TRANSCRIPTION — **trans-scrip-tion-al** \-shənəl, -shə-nl\ *adj* — **trans-scrip-tion-al-ly** *adv*

**trans-scrip-tion-ist** \-shə-nist\ *n* (1963): one that transcribes; esp: a typist who transcribes dictated medical reports

**trans-cul-tur-al** \tranz-(t)-kəl-'chə-rəl, -'kəlch-rəl\ *adj* (1951): involving, encompassing, or extending across two or more cultures (~ problems)

**trans-cu-ta-ne-ous** \tranz-(t)-kyū-'tā-nē-əs\ *adj* (ca. 1941): passing, entering, or made by penetration through the skin (~ infection) (~ inoculation)

**trans-der-mal** \tranz-(t)-dər-məl, -'tranz-\ *adj* (1944): relating to, being, or supplying a medication in a form for absorption through the skin into the bloodstream (~ drug delivery) (~ nitroglycerin) (~ nicotine patch)

**trans-dis-ci-plin-ary** \-'di-sə-plə-'ner-ē\ *adj* (1948): INTERDISCIPLINARY

**trans-duce** \tranz-(t)-dūs, -'dyūs\ *vt* **trans-duced**; **trans-duc-ing** [L *transducere* to lead across, transfer, fr. *trans-* + *ducere* to lead — more at TOW] (1947) 1: to convert (as energy or a message) into another form (essentially sense organs ~ physical energy into a nervous signal) 2: to bring about the transfer of (as a gene) from one microorganism to another by means of a viral agent

**trans-duc-er** \-'dū-sər, -'dyū-\ *n* (1924): a device that is actuated by power from one system and supplies power usu. in another form to a second system (a loudspeaker is a ~ that transforms electrical signals into sound energy)

**trans-duc-tion** \-'dök-shən\ *n* [L *transducere*] (1947): the action or process of transducing; esp: the transfer of genetic determinants from

one microorganism to another by a viral agent (as a bacteriophage) — **trans-duc-tion-al** \-tən-tl\ *n* — **trans-duc-tion-al** \-shənəl, -shə-nl\ *adj*

**trans-sec-t** \tranz-(t)-sekt\ *vt* [trans- + intersect] (1634): to cut transversely — **trans-section** \-'sek-shən\ *n*

**trans-sect** \tranz-(t)-sekt\ *n* (1905): a sample area (as of vegetation) usu. in the form of a long continuous strip

**trans-sept** \tranz-(t)-sept\ *n* [NL *transseptum*, fr. L *trans-* + *septum*, saeptum enclosure, wall] (ca. 1542): the part of a cruciform church that crosses at right angles to the greatest length between the nave and the apse or choir; also: either of the projecting ends of a transept — **trans-sep-tal** \tranz-(t)-sep-'təl\ *adj*

**trans-fec-tion** \tranz-(t)-fek-'shən, -'tranz-\ *n* [trans- + infection] (1964): infection of a cell with isolated viral nucleic acid followed by production of the complete virus in the cell; also: the incorporation of exogenous DNA into a cell — **trans-fect** \-'fekt\ *vt*

**trans-fer** \tranz-(t)-fər, -'tranz-(t)-\ *vb* **trans-ferred**; **trans-fer-ring** [ME *transferren*, fr. L *transferre*, fr. *trans-* + *ferre* to carry — more at BEAR] *vt* (14c) 1 a: to convey from one person, place, or situation to another: TRANSPORT b: to cause to pass from one to another: TRANS-MIT c: TRANSFORM, CHANGE 2: to make over the possession or control of: CONVEY 3: to print or otherwise copy from one surface to another by contact ~ *vi* 1: to move to a different place, region, or situation; esp: to withdraw from one educational institution to enroll at another 2: to change from one vehicle or transportation line to another — **trans-fer-abil-ity** \-,tranz-(t)-fər-ə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n* — **trans-fer-able** also **trans-fer-able** \tranz-(t)-fər-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **trans-fer-al** \-əl\ *n* — **trans-fer-er** \-ər\ *n*

**trans-fer** \tranz-(t)-fər\ *n* (1674) 1 a: conveyance of right, title, or interest in real or personal property from one person to another b: removal or acquisition of property by mere delivery with intent to transfer title 2 a: an act, process, or instance of transferring: TRANSFERENCE 2 b: the carryover or generalization of learned responses from one type of situation to another 3: one that transfers or is transferred; esp: a graphic image transferred by contact from one surface to another 4: a place where a transfer is made (as of trains to ferries or as where one form of power is changed to another) 5: a ticket entitling a passenger on a public conveyance to continue the trip on another route

**trans-fer-ase** \tranz-(t)-fər-'ās, -'āz\ *n* (1948): an enzyme that promotes transfer of a group from one molecule to another

**trans-fer-ee** \tranz-(t)-fər-'ē\ *n* (ca. 1736) 1: a person to whom a conveyance is made 2: one who is transferred

**trans-fer-ence** \tranz-(t)-fər-'ən(t)s, -'tranz-(t)-\ *n* (1681) 1: an act, process, or instance of transferring: CONVEYANCE, TRANSFER 2: the redirection of feelings and desires and esp. of those unconsciously retained from childhood toward a new object (as a psychoanalyst conducting therapy) — **trans-fer-en-tial** \tranz-(t)-fər-'en(t)-shəl\ *adj*

**transfer factor** *n* (1956): a substance that is produced and secreted by a lymphocyte functioning in cell-mediated immunity and that upon incorporation into a lymphocyte which has not been sensitized confers on it the same immunological specificity as the sensitized cell

**trans-fer-or** \tranz-(t)-fər-'ər\ *n* (1875): one that conveys a title, right, or property

**transfer payment** *n* (ca. 1945) 1: a public expenditure made for a purpose (as unemployment compensation) other than procuring goods or services — usu. used in pl. 2 pl: money (as welfare payments) that is received by individuals and that is neither compensation for goods or services currently supplied nor income from investments

**trans-fer-rin** \tranz-(t)-fər-'ən\ *n* [trans- + L *ferrum* iron] (1947): a beta globulin in blood plasma capable of combining with ferric ions and transporting iron in the body

**transfer RNA** \tranz-(t)-fər-\ *n* (1961): a relatively small RNA that transfers a particular amino acid to a growing polypeptide chain at the ribosomal site of protein synthesis during translation — compare MESSENGER RNA

**trans-fig-u-ra-tion** \-,tranz-(t)-fi-gyā-'rā-shən, -gā-\ *n* (14c) 1 a: a change in form or appearance: METAMORPHOSIS b: an exalting, glorifying, or spiritual change 2 *cap*: August 6 observed as a Christian feast in commemoration of the transfiguration of Christ on a mountaintop in the presence of three disciples

**trans-figure** \tranz-(t)-fi-gyər, -'fi-gər\ *vt* **-ured**; **-ur-ing** [ME, fr. L *figurare*, fr. *trans-* + *figurare* to shape, fashion, fr. *figura* figure] (14c): to give a new and typically exalted or spiritual appearance to: transform outwardly and usu. for the better *syn* see TRANSFORM

**trans-fi-nite** \-,tranz-(t)-fi-'nit\ *adj* [G *transfinit*, fr. *trans-* (fr. L) + *finit* finite, fr. L *finitus*] (1902) 1: going beyond or surpassing any finite number, group, or magnitude 2: being or relating to cardinal and ordinal numbers of sets with an infinite number of elements

**trans-fix** \tranz-(t)-fiks\ *vt* [L *transfixus*, pp. of *transfigere*, fr. *trans-* + *figere* to fasten, pierce — more at FIX] (1590) 1: to pierce through with or as if with a pointed weapon: IMPALE 2: to hold motionless by or as if by piercing — **trans-fix-ion** \-'fik-shən\ *n*

**trans-form** \tranz-(t)-fōrm\ *vb* [ME, fr. L *transformare*, fr. *trans-* + *formare* to form, fr. *forma* form] *vt* (14c) 1 a: to change in composition or structure b: to change the outward form or appearance of c: to change in character or condition: CONVERT 2: to subject to mathematical transformation 3: to cause (a cell) to undergo genetic transformation ~ *vi*: to become transformed: CHANGE — **trans-form-able** \-'fōr-mə-bəl\ *adj* — **trans-for-ma-tive** \-'fōr-mə-tiv\ *adj* *syn* TRANSFORM, METAMORPHOSE, TRANSMUTE, CONVERT, TRANSFIGURE, TRANSFIGURE mean to change a thing into a different thing. TRANSFORM implies a major change in form, nature, or function (transformed a small company into a corporate giant). METAMORPHOSE suggests an abrupt or startling change induced by or as if by magic or a supernatural power (awkward girls metamorphosed into graceful ballerinas). TRANSMUTE implies transforming into a higher element or thing (at-

\ə\ about \ə\ kitten, F table \ər\ further \ə\ ash \ā\ ace \ā\ mop, mar \au\ out \ch\ chin \e\ bet \ē\ easy \g\ go \i\ hit \i\ ice \j\ job \ŋ\ sing \ō\ go \ō\ law \oi\ boy \th\ thin \th\ the \ū\ loot \ū\ foot \y\ yet \zh\ vision \ā, k, ŋ, æ, ē, ue, ū, see Guide to Pronunciation