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342 development • devotionally

de-vel-op-ment \di-'ve-lap-mənt, dē-'v- (1756) 1: the act, process, or result of developing (<~ of new ideas> <an interesting ~> 2: the state of being developed (a project in ~) 3: a developed tract of land; esp: one with houses built on it

de-vel-op-men-tal \dē-'ve-lap-'men-təl adj (1849) 1 a: of, relating to, or being development (<~ processes> <~ biology>); broadly: EXPERIMENTAL 2 (<~ aircraft> b: serving economic development (<~ highways> 2: designed to assist growth or bring about improvement (as of a skill) (<~ toys> — **de-vel-op-men-tal-ly** \-təl-ē adv

developmentally disabled adj (1975): having a physical or mental disability that becomes apparent in childhood and prevents, impedes, or limits normal development

de-verb-al \dē-'var-bəl adj (1943): DEVERBATIVE
de-verb-a-tive \dē-'var-bə-tiv adj (1930) 1: derived from a verb (the ~ noun *developer* is derived from *develop*) 2: used in derivation from a verb (the ~ suffix *-er* in *developer*) — **deverbativ** n

de-vest \di-'vest/ vt [MF *desvestir*, fr. ML *disvestire*, fr. L *dis-* + *vestire* to clothe — more at *VEST*] (1563): DIVEST

de-vi-ance \dē-'vè-ən(t)s/ n (1944): deviant quality, state, or behavior

de-vi-an-cy \-ən-sē/ n, pl -cies (1947): DEVIANCE

de-vi-ant \-ənt/ adj (15c): deviating esp. from an accepted norm (<~ behavior> — **deviant** n

de-vi-ate \dē-'vè-āt/ vb -at-ed; -at-ing [LL *deviatus*, pp. of *deviare*, fr. L *de-* + *via* way — more at *WAY*] vi (ca. 1633) 1: to stray esp. from a standard, principle, or topic 2: to depart from an established course or norm (<~ flight forced by weather to ~ south> ~ vt: to cause to turn out of a previous course *syn* see *SWERVE* — **de-vi-a-tor** \-ā-tər/ n — **de-vi-a-to-ry** \-ə-tōr-ē/ adj

de-vi-ate \-vè-āt, -vè-āt/ n (1912) 1: one that deviates from a norm; esp: a person who differs markedly from a group norm 2: a statistical variable that gives the deviation of another variable from a fixed value (as the mean)

de-vi-ate \-vè-āt, -vè-āt/ adj (1929): departing significantly from the behavioral norms of a particular society (<~ behavior>)

de-vi-a-tion \dē-'vè-ā-shən/ n (15c): an act or instance of deviating; as a: deflection of the needle of a compass caused by local magnetic influences (as in a ship) b: the difference between a value in a frequency distribution and a fixed number (as the mean) c: departure from an established ideology or party line d: noticeable or marked departure from accepted norms of behavior — **de-vi-a-tion-ism** \-shə-'niz-əm/ n — **de-vi-a-tion-ist** \-shə-'nist/ n or adj

de-vice \di-'vis/ n [ME *devis*, *devis*, fr. AF, division, plan, fr. *deviser* to divide, regulate, tell — more at *DEVISE*] (14c) 1: something devised or contrived; as a (1): PLAN, PROCEDURE, TECHNIQUE (2): a scheme to deceive: STRATAGEM, TRICK b: something fanciful, elaborate, or intricate in design c: something (as a figure of speech) in a literary work designed to achieve a particular artistic effect d *archaic*: MASQUE, SPECTACLE e: a conventional stage practice or means (as a stage whisper) used to achieve a particular dramatic effect f: a piece of equipment or a mechanism designed to serve a special purpose or perform a special function (<an electronic ~> 2: DESIRE, INCLINATION (<left to my own ~> 3: an emblematic design used esp. as a heraldic bearing

devil \dē-'vī/ dial 'di-'vī n [ME *devel*, fr. OE *dēofol*, fr. LL *diabolus*, fr. Gk *diabolos*, lit., slanderer, fr. *diaballein* to throw across, slander, fr. *dia-* + *ballein* to throw; prob. akin to Skt *gurata* he lifts up] (bef. 12c) 1 *often cap*: the personal supreme spirit of evil often represented in Jewish and Christian belief as the tempter of humankind, the leader of all apostate angels, and the ruler of hell — *usu.* used with *the*; often used as an interjection, an intensive, or a generalized term of abuse (<what the ~ is this?> <the ~ you say!> 2: an evil spirit: DEMON 3 a: an extremely wicked person: FIEND b *archaic*: a great evil 4: a person of notable energy, recklessness, and dashing spirit; also: one who is mischievous (<these kids are little ~s today> 5: FELLOW *usu.* used in the phrases *poor devil*, *lucky devil* 6 a: something very trying or provoking (<having a ~ of a time with this problem> b: severe criticism or rebuke: HELL — used with *the* (<I'll probably catch the ~ for this> c: the difficult, deceptive, or problematic part of something (<the ~ is in the details> 7: DUST DEVIL 8 *Christian Science*: the opposite of Truth: a belief in sin, sickness, and death: EVIL, ERROR — **between the devil and the deep blue sea**: faced with two equally objectionable alternatives — **devil to pay**: severe consequences — used with *the* (<there'll be the devil to pay if we're late> 2 *devil* vt -lled or -lilled; -lil-ing or -lil-ing Vde-va-'līn, 'dev-līn/ (1800) 1: to season highly (<~ed eggs> 2: TEASE, ANNOY

devil-fish \dē-'vī-'fīsh/ n (1709) 1: MANTA RAY 2: OCTOPUS; broadly: any large cephalopod

devil-ish \dē-'vī-'ish, 'dev-līsh/ adj (15c) 1: resembling or befitting a devil; as a: EVIL, SINISTER b: MISCHIEVOUS, ROGUISH (<~ grin> 2: EXTREME (<in a ~ hurry> — **devilish** adv

devil-ish-ly adv — **devil-ish-ness** n

dev-il-may-care \dē-'vī-'(g)mā-'ker/ adj (1837): EASYGOING, CAREFREE (<~ attitude>)

dev-il-ment \dē-'vī-'mənt, -ment/ n (1771): MISCHIEF

dev-il-ry \dē-'vī-'rē/ or **dev-il-try** \-vī-'trē/ n, pl -ries or -tries (14c) 1 a: action performed with the help of the devil: WITCHCRAFT b: WICKEDNESS c: MISCHIEF 2: an act of devilry

devil's advocate n [trans. of NL *advocatus diaboli*] (1760) 1: a Roman Catholic official whose duty is to examine critically the evidence on which a demand for beatification or canonization rests 2: a person who champions the less accepted cause for the sake of argument

devil's claw n (ca. 1900): any of several herbs (genus *Proboscidea* syn. *Martynia* of the family *Martyniaceae*) of the southwestern U.S. and Mexico that have edible pods yielding a black sewing material used in basket making

devil's club n (ca. 1889): a spiny western No. American shrub (*Oplopanax horridum*) of the ginseng family having large lobed leaves and stems covered with dense sharp prickles

devil's darning needle n (1809) 1: DRAGONFLY 2: DAMSELFLY

devil's food cake n (1905): a rich chocolate cake

devil's paintbrush n (1900): ORANGE HAWKWEED; broadly: any of various hawkweeds that are naturalized weeds in the eastern U.S.

devil theory n (1937): a theory of history: political and social crises arise from the deliberate actions of evil or misguided leaders rather than as a natural result of conditions

dev-il-wood \dē-'vī-'wūd/ n (1818): a small tree (*Osmanthus americana*) of the olive family that is native to the southern U.S.

de-vi-ous \dē-'vè-əs, -vyəs/ adj [L *devius*, fr. *de* from + *via* way — more at *DE-*, *WAY*] (1599) 1 a: WANDERING, ROUNDABOUT (<~ path> b: moving without a fixed course: ERRANT (<~ breezes> 2: OUT-OF-THE-WAY, REMOTE 3 a: deviating from a right, accepted, or common course (<~ conduct> b: not straightforward: CUNNING (<~ politician>); also: DECEPTIVE (<~ trick> — **de-vi-ous-ly** adv — **de-vi-ous-ness** n

de-vise \di-'vīz/ vt **de-vised**; **de-vis-ing** [ME, fr. AF *deviser*, *diviser*, to divide, distinguish, invent, fr. VL **divisare*, freq. of L *dividere* to divide] (13c) 1 a: to form in the mind by new combinations or applications of ideas or principles: INVENT (<~ a new strategy> b *archaic*: CONCEIVE, IMAGINE c: to plan to obtain or bring about: PLOT (<~ one's death> 2: to give (real estate) by will — compare *BEQUEATH* — **de-vis-able** \-vī-zə-bəl/ adj — **de-vis-er** n

devise n (15c) 1: the act of giving or disposing of real property by will 2: a will or clause of a will disposing of real property 3: property devised by will

de-vi-see \dē-'və-'zē, di-'vī-'zē/ n (1543): one to whom a devise of property is made

de-vi-sor \dē-'və-'zōr; di-'vī-'zər, -vī-'zōr/ n (1543): one who devises property in a will

de-vi-tal-ize \dē-'vī-tə-'līz/ vt (1849): to deprive of life, vigor, or effectiveness — **de-vi-tal-i-za-tion** \-vī-tə-lə-'zā-shən/ n

de-vit-ri-fy \dē-'vī-trə-'fī/ vt [F *dévitrifier*, fr. *dé-* + *vitrifier* to vitrify] (1832): to deprive of glassy luster and transparency; esp: to change (as a glass) from a vitreous to a crystalline condition — **de-vit-ri-fi-ca-tion** \dē-'vī-trə-'fī-kā-shən/ n

de-vo-cal-ize \dē-'və-kə-'līz/ vt (1877): DEVoice

de-voice \dē-'və-'s/ vt (1932): to pronounce (as a sometimes or formerly voiced sound) without vibration of the vocal cords

de-void \di-'vōid/ adj [ME, pp. of *devoiden* to dispel, fr. AF **desvoider*, fr. *des-* + *voider* to empty — more at *VOID*] (15c): being without a usual, typical, or expected attribute or accompaniment — used with of (<an argument ~ of sense> (a landscape ~ of life)

de-voir \dā-'vwar, 'de-'vī/ n [alter. of ME *dever*, *devoir*, fr. AF, fr. *dever*, *devoer* to owe, be obliged, fr. L *debere* — more at *DEBT*] (14c) 1: DUTY, RESPONSIBILITY 2: a usu. formal act of civility or respect

de-vo-lu-tion \dē-'və-'lu-shən also dē-'və-'n/ [ML *devolutio*, fr. L *deolvere*] (1545) 1: transference (as of rights, powers, property, or responsibility) to another; esp: the surrender of powers to local authorities by a central government 2: retrograde evolution: DEGENERATION — **de-vo-lu-tion-ary** \-shə-'ner-ē/ adj — **de-vo-lu-tion-ist** \-shə-'nist/ n

de-volve \di-'vāl, -'vōlv, dē-'v- vt **de-volved**; **de-volv-ing** [ME, fr. L *deolvere*, fr. *de-* + *volvere* to roll — more at *VOLUBLE*] vt (15c): to pass on (as responsibility, rights, or powers) from one person or entity to another (<devolving to western Europe full responsibility for its own defense — Christopher Lane> ~ vi 1 a: to pass by transmission or succession (<the estate devolved on a distant cousin> b: to fall or be passed usu. as a responsibility or obligation (<the responsibility for breadwinning has devolved increasingly upon women — Barbara Ehrenreich> 2: to come by or as if by flowing down (<his allegedly subversive campaigns ~ from his belief in basic American right> — Frank DeFord) 3: to degenerate through a gradual change or evolution (<where order ~s into chaos — Johns Hopkins Mag.>

dev-on \dē-'vən/ n, *often cap* [Devon, England] (1834): any of an English breed of vigorous red cattle used for meat and milk

Devon abbr Devonshire

De-vo-ni-an \di-'vō-nē-ən/ adj [Devon, England] (1612) 1: of or relating to Devonshire, England 2: of, relating to, or being the period of the Paleozoic era between the Silurian and the Mississippian or the corresponding system of rocks — see GEOLOGIC TIME table — **Devonian** n

Devon rex n [Devon, England] (1972): any of a breed of large-eared cats having a very short wavy or curly coat with sparse guard hairs

Dev-on-shire cream \dē-'vən-'shīr-, -shər-/ n (1791): CLOTTED CREAM

de-vote \di-'vōt, dē-'v- vt **de-vot-ed**; **de-vot-ing** [L *devotus*, pp. of *devovēre*, fr. *de-* + *vovēre* to vow] (1586) 1: to commit by a solemn act (<devoted herself to serving God> 2: to give over or direct (as time, money, or effort) to a cause, enterprise, or activity — **de-vote-ment** \-vōt-mənt/ n

syn DEVOTE, DEDICATE, CONSECRATE, HALLOW mean to set apart for a special and often higher end. DEVOTE is likely to imply compelling motives and often attachment to an objective (<devoted his evenings to study>). DEDICATE implies solemn and exclusive devotion to a sacred or serious use or purpose (<dedicated her life to medical research>). CONSECRATE stresses investment with a solemn or sacred quality (<consecrate a church to the worship of God>). HALLOW, often differing little from *dedicate* or *consecrate*, may distinctively imply an attribution of intrinsic sanctity (<battlefields hallowed by the blood of patriots>).

devoted adj (1586): characterized by loyalty and devotion (<~ fan> (<he is ~ to her> — **de-vot-ed-ly** adv — **de-vot-ed-ness** n

dev-o-tee \dē-'vō-'tē, dē-, dā-, dō-, -'tā/ n (1645): an ardent follower, supporter, or enthusiast (as of a religion, art form, or sport)

de-vo-tion \di-'vō-shən, dē-'v- n (13c) 1 a: religious fervor: PIETY b: an act of prayer or private worship — *usu.* used in pl. c: a religious exercise or practice other than the regular corporate worship of a congregation 2 a: the act of devoting (<~ of time and energy> b: the fact or state of being ardently dedicated and loyal (<her ~ to the cause> (<filial ~> 3 *obs*: the object of one's devotion *syn* see FIDELITY

de-vo-tion-al \-shənəl, -shə-'nəl/ adj (1648): of, relating to, or characterized by devotion (<~ literature> — **de-vo-tion-al-ly** \-ē/ adv

devotional n (1659): a short worship service



devil's claw: 1 flower and leaf, 2 dried seed pod