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dis-port /dis'pɔrt/ ► **v.** [no obj.] archaic or humorous enjoy oneself unrestrainedly; frolic: *a painting of lords and ladies disporting themselves by a lake.*

► **n.** diversion from work or serious matters; recreation or amusement: *the King and all his Court were met for solace and disport.* ■ archaic a pastime, game, or sport.

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Old French *desporter*, from *des-* 'away' + *porter* 'carry' (from Latin *portare*).

dis-pos-a-ble /dis'pɔzəbəl/ ► **adj.** 1 (of an article) intended to be used once, or until no longer useful, and then thrown away: *disposable diapers* | *a disposable razor.* ■ (of a person or idea) able to be dispensed with; easily dismissed: *the poor performer is motivated by the fear that he or she is highly disposable.*

2 (chiefly of financial assets) readily available for the owner's use as required: *he made a mental inventory of his disposable assets.*

► **n.** an article designed to be thrown away after use: *don't buy disposables, such as razors, cups, and plates.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-pos-a-bil-i-ty** /-pɔzə'biliti/ **n.**

dis-pos-a-ble in-come ► **n.** income remaining after deduction of taxes and other mandatory charges, available to be spent or saved as one wishes. Compare with **DISCRETIONARY INCOME.**

dis-pos-al /dis'pɔzəl/ ► **n.** 1 the action or process of throwing away or getting rid of something: *the disposal of radioactive waste.* ■ (also **disposer**) informal an electrically operated device fitted to the waste pipe of a kitchen sink for grinding up food waste: *garbage disposals that never worked.*

2 the sale of shares, property, or other assets: *the disposal of his shares in the company.*

3 the arrangement or positioning of something: *she brushed her hair carefully, as if her success lay in the sleek disposal of each gleaming black thread.*

— **PHRASES** **at one's disposal** available for one to use whenever or however one wishes: *a helicopter was put at their disposal.*

dis-pose /dis'pɔz/ ► **v.** 1 [no obj.] (**dispose of**) get rid of by throwing away or giving or selling to someone else: *whose responsibility is it to dispose of scrap materials?* | *people now have substantial assets to dispose of after their death.* ■ informal kill; destroy: *her lover came up with hundreds of schemes for disposing of her husband.* ■ overcome (a rival or threat): *team members were buoyant after they disposed of the champions.* ■ informal consume (food or drink) quickly or enthusiastically: *she watched him dispose of a large slice of cheese.*

2 [with obj.] arrange in a particular position: *the chief disposed his attendants in a circle.* ■ bring (someone) into a particular frame of mind: *prolactin is released, disposing you toward sleep* | *cruelty that brutalizes young minds and disposes them to violence.*

■ [no obj.] literary determine the course of events: *the city proposed, but the unions disposed.* [from the proverb 'Man proposes, (but) God disposes,' translating Latin *Homo proponit, sed Deus disponit* (Thomas à Kempis's *De Imitatione Christi* i. xix).]

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-pos-er** **n.** a waste disposer | a disposer of grants and subsidies.

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Old French *disposer*, from Latin *disponere* 'arrange', influenced by *dispositus* 'arranged' and Old French *poser* 'to place.'

dis-posed /dis'pɔzd/ ► **adj.** [predic., usu. with infinitive] inclined or willing: *James didn't seem disposed to take the hint.* ■ [with submodifier] having a specified attitude to or toward: *it is expected that he will be favorably disposed toward the proposals.*

dis-po-si-tion /dis'pɔzɪʃən/ ► **n.** 1 a person's inherent qualities of mind and character: *a sweet-natured girl of a placid disposition.* ■ [often with infinitive] an inclination or tendency: *the cattle showed a decided disposition to run* | *the judge's disposition toward clemency.*

2 the way in which something is placed or arranged, esp. in relation to other things: *the plan need not be accurate so long as it shows the disposition of the rooms.* ■ the action of arranging or ordering people or things in a particular way: *the prerogative gives the state widespread powers regarding the disposition and control of the armed forces.* ■ (**dispositions**) military preparations, in particular the stationing of troops ready for attack or defense: *the new strategic dispositions of our forces.*

3 law the action of distributing or transferring property or money to someone, in particular by bequest: *this is a tax that affects the disposition of assets on death.*

4 the power to deal with something as one pleases: *if Napoleon had had railroads at his disposition, he would have been invincible.* ■ archaic the determination of events, esp. by divine power.

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: via Old French from Latin *dispositio*(n-), from *disponere* 'arrange' (see **DISPOSE**).

dis-pos-i-tive /dis'pɔzitiv/ ► **adj.** relating to or bringing about the settlement of an issue or the disposition of property: *such litigation will rarely be dispositive of any question.* ■ law dealing with the disposition of property by deed or will: *the testator had to make his signature after making the dispositive provisions.* ■ dealing with the settling of international conflicts by an agreed disposition of disputed territories: *a peace settlement in the nature of a dispositive treaty.*

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English (in the sense 'contributory, conducive'): from Old French, or from medieval Latin *dispositivus*, from Latin *disposit-* 'arranged, disposed,' from the verb *disponere* (see **DISPOSE**).

dis-pos-ess /dis'pɔzəs/ ► **v.** [with obj.] deprive (someone) of something that they own, typically land or property: *they were dispossessed of lands and properties at the time of the reformation* | (as plural noun **the dispossessed**) *a champion of the poor and the dispossessed.* ■ oust (a person) from a dwelling or position: *he used to ride out and dispossess his tenants as the spirit moved him.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-pos-ess-ion** /-zeshən/ **n.**

— **ORIGIN** late 15th cent.: from Old French

dispossessor, from *des-* (expressing reversal) +

possessor 'possess.'

dis-praise /dis'praɪz/ ► **n.** rare censure; criticism: *this engraving has on occasion elicited dispraise for Raphael.*

► **v.** [with obj.] archaic express censure or criticism of (someone): *men cannot praise Dryden without dispraising Coleridge.*

— **ORIGIN** Middle English: from Old French *depreiser*, based on late Latin *depreciare* (see **DEPRECIATE**).

dis-proof /dis'pruʊf/ ► **n.** a set of facts that prove that something is untrue: *the theory also provides a disproof of the principle of closure.* ■ the action of proving that something is untrue: *considerations that are subject to scientific verification or disproof.*

dis-pro-portion /dis'prɔpərʃən/ ► **n.** an instance of being out of proportion with something else: *there is a disproportion between the scale of expenditure and any benefit that could possibly result.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-pro-portion-al** /-ʃənəl/ **adj.**

dis-pro-portion-al-i-ty /-pɔrʃənə'naliti/ **n.**

dis-pro-portion-al-ly /-ʃənəl-ē/ **adv.**

— **ORIGIN** mid 16th cent.: from *dis-* (expressing absence) + *PROPORTION*, on the pattern of French *disproportionné*.

dis-pro-portion-ate /dis'prɔpərʃənət/

► **adj.** too large or too small in comparison with

something else: *people on lower incomes spend a disproportionate amount of their income on fuel* |

their sentences were disproportionate to the offenses

they had committed.

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-pro-portion-ate-ly** **adv.**

dis-pro-portion-ate-ness **n.**

— **ORIGIN** mid 16th cent.: from *dis-* (expressing

absence) + *PROPORTIONATE*, on the pattern of French

disproportionné.

dis-pro-portion-ate /dis'prɔpərʃənət/ ► **v.**

[no obj.] Chemistry undergo disproportionation: *water*

disproportionates to oxygen and hydrogen.

dis-pro-portion-a-tion /dis'prɔpərʃənə'tiʃən/

► **n.** Chemistry a reaction in which a substance is

simultaneously oxidized and reduced, giving two

different products.

dis-prove /dis'pruʊv/ ► **v.** [with obj.] prove that

(something) is false: *he has given the Department of*

Transportation two months to disprove the allegation.

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-prov-a-ble** **adj.**

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Old French

desprover.

dis-put-a-ble /dis'pyʊtəbəl/ ► **adj.** not established

as fact, and so open to question or debate: *whether it*

can be described as art criticism may be disputable.

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-put-a-bly** /-blē/ **adv.**

— **ORIGIN** late 15th cent.: from Latin *disputabilis*,

from the verb *disputare* 'to estimate,' later 'to

dispute' (see **DISPUTE**).

dis-pu-ta-tion /dis'pyʊtə'tiʃən/ ► **n.** debate

or argument: *promoting consensus rather than*

disputation | *a lengthy disputation about the rights*

and wrongs of a particular request. ■ formal

academic debate: *the founding father of logical*

disputation | *scholastic disputations.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-put-a-tive** /-pyʊtətiv/ **adj.**

— **ORIGIN** late Middle English: from Latin

disputatio(n-), from the verb *disputare*

(see **DISPUTE**).

dis-pu-ta-tious /dis'pyʊtə'tiʃəs/ ► **adj.** fond of

or causing heated arguments: *a congenial hangout*

for disputatious academics | *disputatious council*

meetings.

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-pu-ta-tious-ly** **adv.**

dis-pu-ta-tious-ness **n.**

dis-pute /dis'pyʊt/ ► **n.** a disagreement, argument, or debate: *a territorial dispute between the two countries* | *the question in dispute is altogether insignificant.* ■ a disagreement between management and employees that leads to an action of protest by the employees: *if this dispute cannot be resolved quickly, a formal strike is inevitable.*

► **v.** [with obj.] 1 argue about (something); discuss heatedly: *I disputed the charge on the bill* | [no obj.] *he taught and disputed with local poets.* ■ question whether (a statement or alleged fact) is true or valid: *the accusations are not disputed* | [with clause] *the estate disputes that it is responsible for the embezzlement.*

2 compete for; strive to win: *the two drivers crashed while disputing the lead.* ■ archaic resist (a landing or advance): *I formed my line and prepared to dispute the advance of the foe.*

— **PHRASES** **beyond dispute** certain or certainly; without doubt: *the main part of his argument was beyond dispute.* **open to dispute** not definitely decided: *such estimates are always open to dispute.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-pu-tant** /-pyʊtənt/ **n.**

dis-put-er **n.**

— **ORIGIN** Middle English: via Old French from Latin *disputare* 'to estimate' (in late Latin 'to dispute'), from *dis-* 'apart' + *putare* 'reckon.'

dis-qual-i-fi-ca-tion /dis'kwələ'fikaʃən/ ► **n.** the action of disqualifying or the state of being disqualified. ■ a fact or condition that disqualifies someone from a position or activity: *such an offense is no longer a disqualification for office.*

dis-qual-i-fy /dis'kwələ'fi/ ► **v.** (**disqualifies**, **disqualifying**, **disqualified**) [with obj.] pronounce (someone) ineligible for an office or activity because of an offense or infringement: *he was disqualified from driving for six months.* ■ eliminate (someone) from a competition because of an infringement of the rules: *he was disqualified after failing a drug test.* ■ (of a feature or characteristic) make (someone) unsuitable for an office or activity: *a heart murmur disqualified him for military service.*

dis-quiet /dis'kwɪt/ ► **n.** a feeling of anxiety or worry: *public disquiet about animal testing.*

► **v.** [with obj.] (usu. as **adj. disquieted**) make (someone) worried or anxious: *she felt disquieted at the lack of interest the girl had shown.*

dis-qui-et-ing /dis'kwɪ-ɪŋ/ ► **adj.** inducing feelings of anxiety or worry: *he found Jean's gaze disquieting.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-qui-et-ing-ly** **adv.**

dis-qui-e-tude /dis'kwɪ-ɪt(y)əd/ ► **n.** a state of uneasiness or anxiety.

dis-qui-si-tion /dis'kwɪ'ziʃən/ ► **n.** a long or elaborate essay or discussion on a particular subject: *nothing can kill a radio show quicker than a disquisition on intertextual analysis.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-qui-si-tion-al** /-ʃənəl/ **adj.** (archaic).

— **ORIGIN** late 15th cent.: via French from Latin *disquisitio*(n-) 'investigation,' based on *quaerere* 'seek.' The original sense was 'topic for investigation,' whence 'discourse in which a subject is investigated' (mid 17th cent.).

Dis-rae-li /diz'rælɪ/, Benjamin, 1st Earl of Beaconsfield (1804–81), British statesman; prime minister 1868 and 1874–80. He was largely responsible for the introduction of the second Reform Act (1867). He also ensured that Britain bought a controlling interest in the Suez Canal (1875) and made Queen Victoria empress of India.

dis-rate /dis'rāt/ ► **v.** [with obj.] (usu. **be disrated**) reduce (a sailor) to a lower rank.

dis-re-gard /disri'gɑrd/ ► **v.** [with obj.] pay no attention to; ignore: *the body of evidence is too substantial to disregard.*

► **n.** the action or state of disregarding or ignoring something: *blatant disregard for the law.*

dis-rel-ish /dis'relɪʃ/ archaic ► **n.** a feeling of dislike or distaste: *disrelish for any pursuit is ample reason for abandoning it.*

► **v.** [with obj.] regard (something) with dislike or distaste: *I am not surprised that some members should disrelish your report.*

dis-re-mem-ber /disri'membər/ ► **v.** [with obj.] dialect fail to remember: *they had a word for it, but I disremember it now.*

dis-re-pair /disri'peəri/ ► **n.** poor condition of a building or structure due to neglect: *the station gradually fell into disrepair.*

dis-rep-u-ta-ble /dis'repyətəbəl/ ► **adj.** not considered to be respectable in character or appearance: *think twice before buying cheap fireworks from disreputable sources* | *he was heavy, grubby, and vaguely disreputable.*

— **DERIVATIVES** **dis-rep-u-ta-ble-ness** **n.**

dis-rep-u-ta-bly /-blē/ **adv.**