

Merriam- Webster's Collegiate[®] Dictionary

ELEVENTH
EDITION



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



A GENUINE MERRIAM-WEBSTER

The name *Webster* alone is no guarantee of excellence. It is used by a number of publishers and may serve mainly to mislead an unwary buyer.

Merriam-Webster™ is the name you should look for when you consider the purchase of dictionaries or other fine reference books. It carries the reputation of a company that has been publishing since 1831 and is your assurance of quality and authority.

Copyright © 2014 by Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Merriam-Webster's collegiate dictionary. — Eleventh ed.

p. cm.

Includes index.

ISBN 978-0-87779-807-1 (Laminated unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN 978-0-87779-808-8 (Jacketed hardcover unindexed : alk. paper)
ISBN 978-0-87779-809-5 (Jacketed hardcover with digital download : alk. paper)
ISBN 978-0-87779-810-1 (Leatherlook with digital download : alk. paper)
ISBN 978-0-87779-811-8 (Luxury Leather)
ISBN 978-0-87779-813-2 (Canadian)
ISBN 978-0-87779-814-9 (International)

1. English language—Dictionaries. I. Title: Collegiate dictionary. II. Merriam-Webster, Inc.

PE1628.M36 2003
423—dc21

2003003674
CIP

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate® Dictionary, Eleventh Edition, principal copyright 2003

COLLEGIATE is a registered trademark of Merriam-Webster, Incorporated

All rights reserved. No part of this book covered by the copyrights hereon may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means—graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, taping, or information storage and retrieval systems—without written permission of the publisher.

Made in the United States of America

19th Printing Quad Graphics Versailles KY December 2014

342 development • devotionally

de-vel-op-ment \di-'ve-lap-mənt, dē-'v\ *n* (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-tl\ *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** \-t'l-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-'vər-bəl\ *adj* (1943): DEVERBATIVE
de-verb-a-tive \dē-'vər-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*) — **de-verb-a-tive-ly** *adv*

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 (a 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\ *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\ *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** \-sh(ə)-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 \de-'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 *gurāt* 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 (those 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)

devil w/ -led or -lled; -il-ing or -il-ling \de-'və-līŋ, 'dev-līŋ\ (1800) 1: to season highly (<~ed eggs) 2: TEASE, ANNOY

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

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

devil-may-care \de-'vī-(j)mā-'ker\ *adj* (1837): EASYGOING, CAREFREE (a ~ attitude)

devil-ment \de-'vī-mənt, -ment\ *n* (1771): MISCHIEF

devil-ry \de-'vī-rē\ or **devil-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 N. American shrub (*Oplopanax horridus*) 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 \de-'vī-wūd\ *n* (1818): a small tree (*Osmanthus americanus*) of the olive family that is native to the southern U.S.

de-vi-ous \dē-'vè-əs, -vəs\ *adj* [L *devius*, fr. *de* from + *via* way — more at *DE-*, *WAY*] (1599) 1 a: WANDERING, ROUNDABOUT (a ~ 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 (a ~ politician); also: DECEPTIVE (a ~ 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 \de-'və-'zē, di-'vī-'zē\ *n* (1543): one to whom a devise of property is made

de-vi-sor \de-'və-'zör, di-'vī-'zör, -vī-'zör\ *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 *devitrifier*, 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-'vō-kə-'līz\ *vt* (1877): DEVoice

de-voice \dē-'vōis\ *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-* + *vōider* 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 \də-'vwar, 'de-'v\ *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 \de-'və-'lu-shən also 'de-'və-\ [ML *devolutio*, *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** \-sh(ə)-nist\ *n*

de-volve \di-'völ-, -völ-, dē-\ *vb* **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 (<~volving 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 abysmal subversive campaigns ~ from his belief in basic American rights — Frank Deford) 3: to degenerate through a gradual change or evolution (where order ~s into chaos — *Johns Hopkins Mag.*)

dev-on \de-'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 [*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 \de-'vən-'shir-, -shər-\ *n* (1791): CLOTTED CREAM

de-vote \di-'vöt, dē-\ *vt* **de-voted**; **de-vot-ing** [L *devotus*, pp. of *devovere*, fr. *de-* + *vovere* 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** \-vöt-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 (<~ battlegrounds hallowed by the blood of patriots).

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

de-vo-tee \de-'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-\ *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 \-shə-nəl, -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