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- ³**discontent** *v* (1549): to make discontented — **dis-con-tent-ment** \-mənt\ *n*
- ⁴**discontent** *n* (1596): one who is discontented: **MALCONTENT**
dis-con-tent-ed \dis-kən-'ten-təd\ *adj* (1525): DISSATISFIED, MAL-CONTENT — **dis-con-tent-ed-ly** *adv* — **dis-con-tent-ed-ness** *n*
dis-con-tinu-ance \dis-kən-'tin-yə-wən(t)s, -yū-ən(t)s\ *n* (14c): 1: the act or an instance of discontinuing 2: the interruption or termination of a legal action by the plaintiff's not continuing it
dis-con-tin-ue \dis-kən-'tin-(yū)\ *vb* [ME, fr. AF *discontinuer*, fr. ML *discontinuar*, fr. L *dis-* + *continuar* to continue] *vi* (14c): 1: to break the continuity of: cease to operate, administer, use, produce, or take 2: to abandon or terminate by a legal discontinuance ~ *vi*: to come to an end *syn* see STOP — **dis-con-tin-u-a-tion** \-kən-'tin-yə-'wā-shən, -yū-'ā-\ *n*
dis-con-ti-nu-ity \dis-'kän-tə-'nū-ə-tē, -'nyū-\ *n* (1570): 1: lack of continuity or cohesion 2: GAP 3 a: the property of being not mathematically continuous (a point of ~) b: an instance of being not mathematically continuous; *esp*: a value of an independent variable at which a function is not continuous
dis-con-tin-u-ous \dis-kən-'tin-yə-wəs, -yū-əs\ *adj* (1718): 1 a (1): not continuous (a ~ series of events) (2): not continued: DISCRETE (~ features of terrain) b: lacking sequence or coherence 2: having one or more mathematical discontinuities — used of a variable or a function — **dis-con-tin-u-ous-ly** *adv*
dis-co-phil \dis-'kə-'fī(-ə)\ *n* (1940): one who studies and collects phonograph records or CDs
- ¹**dis-cord** \dis-'kōrd\ *n* [ME *descorde*, *discord*, fr. AF *descorde*, fr. L *discordia*, fr. *discord*, *discors*] (13c): 1 a: lack of agreement or harmony (as between persons, things, or ideas) b: active quarreling or conflict resulting from discord among persons or factions: STRIFE 2 a (1): a combination of musical sounds that strikes the ear harshly (2): DISSONANCE b: a harsh or unpleasant sound
syn DISCORD, STRIFE, CONFLICT, CONTENTION, DISSENSION, VARIANCE mean a state or condition marked by a lack of agreement or harmony. DISCORD implies an intrinsic or essential lack of harmony producing quarreling, factiousness, or antagonism (a political party long racked by discord). STRIFE emphasizes a struggle for superiority rather than the incongruity or incompatibility of the persons or things involved (during his brief reign the empire was never free of civil strife). CONFLICT usu. stresses the action of forces in opposition but in static applications implies an irreconcilability as of duties or desires (the conflict of freedom and responsibility). CONTENTION applies to strife or competition that shows itself in quarreling, disputing, or controversy (several points of contention about the new zoning law). DISSENSION implies strife or discord and stresses a division into factions (religious dissension threatened to split the colony). VARIANCE implies a clash between persons or things owing to a difference in nature, opinion, or interest (cultural variances that work against a national identity).
- ²**dis-cord** \dis-'kōrd, dis-'vi\ [ME, fr. AF *descorder*, fr. L *discordare*, fr. *discord*, *discors* discordant, fr. *dis-* + *cord*, *cor* heart — more at HEART] (14c): DISAGREE, CLASH
dis-cord-dance \dis-'kōrd-'dāns(t)s\ *n* (14c): 1: the state or an instance of being discordant 2: DISSONANCE
dis-cord-dan-cy \dis-'kōrd-'dāns(t)s\ *n*, *pl* -cies (1607): DISCORDANCE
dis-cord-dant \dis-'kōrd-'dānt\ *adj* (14c): 1 a: being at variance: DISAGREEING (~ opinions) b: QUARRELSOME (~ family) 2: relating to a discord (~ tone) — **dis-cord-dant-ly** *adv*
dis-co-theque or **discothèque** \dis-'kə-'tek, -'dis-'kə-'\ *n* [F *discothèque*, fr. *disque* disk, record + *-o-* + *-thèque* (as in *bibliothèque* library)] (1954): DISCO 1
- ¹**dis-count** \dis-'kaunt\ *n* (1622): 1: a reduction made from the gross amount or value of something: as a (1): a reduction made from a regular or list price (2): a proportionate deduction from a debt account usu. made for cash or prompt payment b: a deduction made for interest in advancing money upon or purchasing a bill or note not due 2: the act or practice of discounting 3: a deduction taken or allowance made
- ²**dis-count** \dis-'kaunt, dis-'\ *vb* [modif. of F *décompter*, fr. OF *descomter*, fr. ML *discomputare*, fr. L *dis-* + *computare* to count — more at COUNT] *vi* (1629): 1 a: to make a deduction from usu. for cash or prompt payment (~ as ~ed price) b: to sell or offer for sale at a discount (~ing last year's model) 2: to lend money on after deducting the discount 3 a: to leave out of account: DISREGARD b: to minimize the importance of (shouldn't ~ his contributions) c (1): to make allowance for bias or exaggeration in (2): to view with doubt (~ a rumor) d: to take into account (as a future event) in present calculations ~ *vi*: to give or make discounts — **dis-count-er** \-'kaunt-, -'kaun-\ *n*
- ³**dis-count** \dis-'kaunt\ *adj* (1863): 1 a: selling goods or services at a discount (~ stores) (~ broker) (~ airlines) b: offered or sold at a discount (~ tickets) 2: reflecting a discount (~ prices)
dis-count-able \dis-'kaunt-'ə-bəl, -'dis-'\ *adj* (1800): 1: set apart for discounting (within the ~ period) 2: subject to being discounted (~ note)
- ¹**dis-count-er-nance** \dis-'kaunt-'nən(t)s, -'kaunt-'nən(t)s\ *vi* (1580): 1: ABASH, DISCONCERT 2: to look with disfavor on: discourage by evidence of disapproval (discountenanced all bellicose statements)
- ²**discountenance** *n* (1580): DISAPPROBATION, DISFAVOR
discount rate *n* (ca. 1927): 1: the interest on an annual basis deducted in advance on a loan 2: the charge levied by a central bank for advances and rediscounts
- dis-cour-age** \dis-'kər-'ij, -'kə-'rij\ *vt* -aged; -ag-ing [ME *discoragen*, fr. MF *descorager*, fr. OF *descoragier*, fr. *dis-* + *corage* courage] (15c): 1: to deprive of courage or confidence: DISHEARTEN (was discouraged by repeated failure) 2 a: to hinder by disfavoring (trying to ~ absenteeism) b: to dissuade or attempt to dissuade from doing something (tried to ~ her from going) — **dis-cour-age-able** \-'ja-bəl\ *adj* — **dis-cour-age-er** *n* — **dis-cour-age-ing-ly** \-'jī-'lē\ *adv*
dis-cour-age-ment \-mənt\ *n* (1561): 1: the act of discouraging: the state of being discouraged 2: something that discourages
- ¹**dis-course** \dis-'kōrs, dis-'\ *n* [ME *discours*, fr. ML & LL *discursus*; ML, argument, fr. LL, conversation, fr. L, act of running about] (14c): 1

archaic: the capacity of orderly thought or procedure: RATIONALITY 2: verbal interchange of ideas; *esp*: CONVERSATION 3 a: formal and orderly and usu. extended expression of thought on a subject b: connected speech or writing c: a linguistic unit (as a conversation or a story) larger than a sentence 4 *obs*: social familiarity 5: a mode of organizing knowledge, ideas, or experience that is rooted in language and its concrete contexts (as history or institutions) (critical ~)

²**dis-course** \dis-'kōrs, dis-'\ *vb* **dis-cours-ed**; **dis-cours-ing** *vi* (1559): 1: to express oneself *esp*. in oral discourse 2: TALK, CONVERSE ~ *vt*, *archaic*: to give forth: UTTER — **dis-cours-er** *n*
discourse analysis *n* (1952): the study of linguistic relations and structures in discourse
dis-cour-te-ous \dis-'kər-tē-əs\ *adj* (1578): lacking courtesy: RUDE — **dis-cour-te-ous-ly** *adv* — **dis-cour-te-ous-ness** *n*
dis-cour-te-sy \dis-'kər-tē-sē\ *n* (1555): 1: RUDENESS 2: a rude act
dis-cov-er \dis-'kə-vər\ *vb* **dis-cov-er-ed**; **dis-cov-er-ing** \-'kə-v(ə)-rīŋ\ [ME, fr. AF *descovrir*, *descovrir*, fr. LL *discoperire*, fr. L *dis-* + *cooperire* to cover — more at COVER] *vi* (14c): 1 a: to make known or visible: EXPOSE b *archaic*: DISPLAY 2 a: to obtain sight or knowledge of for the first time: FIND (~ the solution) b: FIND OUT (~ed he was out of gas) ~ *vi*: to make a discovery — **dis-cov-er-able** \-'kə-v(ə)-rə-bəl\ *adj* — **dis-cov-er-er** \-'ər-ər\ *n*
syn DISCOVER, ASCERTAIN, DETERMINE, UNEARTH, LEARN mean to find out what one did not previously know. DISCOVER may apply to something requiring exploration or investigation or to a chance encounter (discovered the source of the river). ASCERTAIN implies effort to find the facts or the truth proceeding from awareness of ignorance or uncertainty (attempts to ascertain the population of the region). DETERMINE emphasizes the intent to establish the facts definitely or precisely (unable to determine the origin of the word). UNEARTH implies bringing to light something forgotten or hidden (unearth old records). LEARN may imply acquiring knowledge with little effort or conscious intention (as by simply being told) or it may imply study and practice (I learned her name only today) (learning Greek).

Discoverers' Day *n* (1974): COLUMBUS DAY
dis-cov-ery \dis-'kə-v(ə)-rē\ *n*, *pl* -er-ies (1529): 1 a: the act or process of discovering b (1) *archaic*: DISCLOSURE (2) *obs*: DISPLAY c *obs*: EXPLORATION 2: something discovered 3: the usu. pretrial disclosure of pertinent facts or documents by one or both parties to a legal action or proceeding
Discovery Day *n* (ca. 1913): COLUMBUS DAY

¹**dis-cred-it** \dis-'kre-dət\ *vi* (1559): 1: to refuse to accept as true or accurate: DISBELIEVE (~ a rumor) 2: to cause disbelief in the accuracy or authority of (~ a ~ed theory) 3: to deprive of good repute: DISGRACE (personal attacks meant to ~ his opponent)

²**dis-credit** *n* (1565): 1: loss of credit or reputation (I knew stories to the ~ of England — W. B. Yeats) 2: lack or loss of belief or confidence: DOUBT (contradictions cast ~ on his testimony)
dis-cred-it-able \-'ta-bəl\ *adj* (1640): injurious to reputation: DISGRACEFUL (~ conduct) — **dis-cred-it-ably** \-'blē\ *adv*
dis-creet \dis-'krēt\ *adj* [ME, fr. AF *discret*, fr. ML *discretus*, fr. L, pp. of *discernere* to separate, distinguish between — more at DISCERN] (14c): 1: having or showing discernment or good judgment in conduct and *esp*. in speech: PRUDENT; *esp*: capable of preserving prudent silence 2: UNPRETENTIOUS, MODEST (the warmth and ~ elegance of a civilized home — Joseph Wechsberg) 3: UNOBTRUSIVE, UNNOTICEABLE (followed at a ~ distance) — **dis-creet-ly** *adv* — **dis-creet-ness** *n*

dis-crep-an-cy \dis-'kre-pən-sē\ *n*, *pl* -cies (ca. 1623): 1: the quality or state of being discrepant 2: an instance of being discrepant
dis-crep-ant \-'pənt\ *adj* [ME *discrepaunt*, fr. L *discrepant*, *discrepans*, pp. of *discrepare* to sound discordantly, fr. *dis-* + *crepare* to rattle, creak — more at RAVEN] (15c): being at variance: DISAGREEING (~ widely ~ conclusions) — **dis-crep-ant-ly** *adv*
dis-crete \dis-'krēt, -'dis-\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *discretus*] (14c): 1: constituting a separate entity: individually distinct (several ~ sections) 2 a: consisting of distinct or unconnected elements: NONCONTINUOUS b: taking on or having a finite or countably infinite number of values (~ probabilities) (~ a ~ random variable) *syn* see DISTINCT — **dis-crete-ly** *adv* — **dis-crete-ness** *n*

dis-cre-tion \dis-'kre-shən\ *n* (14c): 1: the quality of being discreet: CIRCUMSPECTION; *esp*: cautious reserve in speech 2: ability to make responsible decisions 3 a: individual choice or judgment (left the decision to his ~) b: power of free decision or latitude of choice within certain legal bounds (reached the age of ~) 4: the result of separating or distinguishing
dis-cre-tion-ary \-'kre-shə-'ner-ē\ *adj* (1698): 1: left to discretion: exercised at one's own discretion 2: available for discretionary use (~ purchasing power)

discretionary account *n* (ca. 1920): a security or commodity market account in which an agent (as a broker) is given power of attorney so as to be able to make independent decisions and buy and sell for the principal's account

dis-crim-i-na-bil-i-ty \-'kri-mə-nə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n*, *pl* -ties (ca. 1901): 1: the quality of being discriminable 2: the ability to discriminate
dis-crim-i-na-ble \dis-'kri-mə-nə-bəl\ *adj* (1736): capable of being discriminated — **dis-crim-i-na-bly** \-'blē\ *adv*
dis-crim-i-nant \-'kri-mə-nənt\ *n* (ca. 1948): a mathematical expression providing a criterion for the behavior of another more complicated expression, relation, or set of relations
discriminant function *n* (ca. 1936): a function of a set of variables that is evaluated for samples of events or objects and used as an aid in discriminating between or classifying them
dis-crim-i-nate \dis-'kri-mə-nāt\ *vb* -nat-ed; -nat-ing [L *discriminare*, pp. of *discriminare*, fr. *discrimin*, *discrimen* distinction, fr. *discernere* to distinguish between — more at DISCERN] *vi* (1628): 1 a: to mark or perceive the distinguishing or peculiar features of b: DISTIN-

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