



RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S

college dictionary *with CD-ROM*

RANDOM HOUSE
REFERENCE

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Random House Webster's College Dictionary
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- dig-i-ti-grade** (dij/i ti grād'), *adj.* walking on the toes, as most quadruped mammals. [1825-35; < F; see DIGIT-, -GRADE]
- dig-i-tize** (dij/i tiz') also **digitalize**, *v.t.*, *-tized*, *-tizing*. to convert (data) to digital form. [1950-55] —**dig-i-ti-za'tion**, *n.* —**dig-i-tiz'er**, *n.*
- dig-i-tox-in** (dij/i tok/sin), *n.* a glycoside extract of digitalis used in the treatment of congestive heart failure. [1880-85; DIG(TALIS) + TOXIN]
- dig-ni-fied** (dig'nə fid'), *adj.* characterized by dignity of aspect or manner; stately; decorous. [1660-70] —**dig-ni-fied/ly** (-fid/lē, -fīd-id-), *adv.*
- dig-ni-fy** (dig'nə fī'), *v.t.*, *-fied*, *-fy-ing*. 1. to confer honor or dignity upon; honor; ennoble. 2. to give a high-sounding title or name to; confer unmerited distinction upon. [1375-1425; late ME < OF *dignefier* < ML *dignificāre* = L *dign(us)* worthy + *-ficāre* -fy]
- dig-ni-tar-y** (dig'ni ter/ē), *n.*, *pl.* **-tar-ies**. a person who holds a high rank or office, as in a government or church. [1665-75; DIGNIT(y) + -ARY] —**dig-ni-tar-i-al** (-tār/ē əl), *adj.*
- dig-ni-ty** (dig'ni tē), *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. bearing, conduct, or manner indicative of self-respect, formality, or gravity. 2. nobility or elevation of character; worthiness. 3. elevated rank, office, station, etc. 4. relative standing; rank. 5. a sign or token of respect: a question unworthy of the dignity of a reply. 6. *Archaic*. DIGNITARY. [1175-1225; ME *dignite* < AF, OF < L *dignitās* worthiness = *dign(us)* worthy + *-itās* -ity]
- dig-ox-in** (dij ok/sin), *n.* a glycoside of purified digitalis, relatively mild in action and widely used in the treatment of congestive heart failure. [1930; DIG(TALIS) + (T)OXIN]
- di-graph** (dī/graf, -gräf), *n.* a pair of letters representing a single speech sound, as *ea* in *meat* or *th* in *path*. [1780-90] —**di-graph/ic** (-graf/ik), *adj.* —**di-graph-i-cal-ly**, *adv.*
- di-gress** (di gres', dī-), *v.i.* 1. to wander away from the main topic or argument in speaking or writing. 2. *Archaic*. to turn aside. [1520-30; < L *digressus*, ptp. of *digredi* to go off, depart, digress = *dī-* *di-* + *-gredi*, comb. form of *gradī* to go; cf. GRADE] —**Syn.** See DEVIAE.
- di-gres-sion** (di gresh'an, dī-), *n.* 1. the act of digressing. 2. a passage or section that deviates from the central theme in speech or writing. [1325-75; < AF < L] —**di-gres-sion-al**, **di-gres-sion-ar-y**, *adj.*
- di-gres-sive** (di gres'iv, dī-), *adj.* tending to digress. [1605-15; < LL] —**di-gres-sive-ly**, *adv.* —**di-gres-sive-ness**, *n.*
- di-he-dral** (dī hē/dral), *adj.* 1. having or formed by two planes. 2. of or pertaining to a dihedron. —**n.** 3. DIHEDRON. 4. the angle at which the wings of an airplane are vertically inclined. [1790-1800]
- dihe-dral an-gle**, *n.* the angle between two planes in a dihedron.
- di-he-dron** (dī hē/drən), *n.* a figure formed by two intersecting planes. [1820-30]
- di-hy-brid** (dī hī/brid), *n.* 1. the offspring of parents differing in two specific pairs of genes. —*adj.* 2. of or pertaining to such an offspring. [1905-10] —**di-hy-brid-ism**, *n.*
- dik-dik** (dik/dik'), *n.* any tiny antelope of the genera *Madoqua* and *Rhynchotragus*, of E and SW Africa. [1880-85; said to be a name imit. of the animal's cry, but language of orig. not ascertained]
- dike** or **dyke** (dik), *n.*, *v.*, **diked**, **dik-ing**. —**n.** 1. an embankment for controlling or holding back the waters of the sea or a river. 2. DITCH. 3. a bank of earth formed of material being excavated. 4. CAUSEWAY. 5. an obstacle; barrier. 6. a. a long, narrow, cross-cutting mass of igneous rock intruded into a fissure in older rock. b. a similar mass of rock composed of other kinds of material, as sandstone. —*v.t.* 7. to furnish or drain with a dike. 8. to enclose, restrain, or protect by a dike. [bef. 900; *dik(e)*, OE *dīc* < ON *dīki*; akin to DITCH] —**dik'er**, *n.*
- dike** (dik), *n.* DYKE. —**dike/y**, *adj.*
- dik-tat** (dik tāt'), *n.* 1. a harsh settlement or decree imposed unilaterally, esp. on a defeated nation. 2. any decree or authoritative statement: The Board of Education issued a *diktat* that all employees must report an hour earlier. [1930-35; < G]
- dil**, *dilute*.
- Di-lan-tin** (dī lan'tin, -tin, dī-), *Trademark*. a brand of phenytoin.
- di-lap-i-date** (di lap/i dāt'), *v.*, **-dat-ed**, **-dat-ing**. —*v.t.* 1. to cause or allow to fall into a state of disrepair, as by misuse or neglect. 2. *Archaic*. to squander. —*v.i.* 3. to decay. [1560-70; < ML *dilapidātus*, ptp. of *dilapidāre* to squander (cf. *dilapidatiō* disrepair), L: to pelt with stones = *dī-* *di-* + *lapidāre* to stone, der. of *lapis* stone] —**di-lap-i-da'tion**, *n.*
- di-lap-i-dat-ed** (di lap/i dā'tid), *adj.* fallen into partial ruin or decay, as from age, misuse, wear, or neglect. [1800-10]
- di-lat-ant** (dī lāt'nt, dī-), *adj.* 1. dilating; expanding. 2. exhibiting an increase in volume when changed in shape because of wider spacing between particles. 3. (of rock) exhibiting an increase in volume because of recrystallization. [1835-45; < L] —**di-lat-an-cy**, *n.*
- di-la-ta-tion** (dī lā'tā'shən, dī-lā-), *n.* 1. a dilated formation or part. 2. an abnormal enlargement of an organ, aperture, or canal of the body. 3. a. an enlargement made in a body aperture or canal for surgical or medical treatment. b. a restoration to normal patency of an abnormally small body opening or passageway. [1350-1400; ME (< OF) < L] —**di-lā-ta-tion-al**, *adj.*
- di-late** (dī lāt', dī-, dī-lāt'), *v.*, **-lat-ed**, **-lat-ing**. —*v.t.* 1. to make wider or larger; expand: to dilate the pupils of the eyes. 2. *Archaic*. to describe or develop at length. —*v.i.* 3. to spread out; expand. 4. to speak or write at length; expatiate (often fol. by *on* or *upon*). [1350-1400; ME < MF *dilatar*, L *dilatāre* to spread out] —**di-lat-a-ble**, *adj.* —**di-lat-a-bil-i-ty**, *n.* —**di-la-tive**, *adj.*
- di-la-tion** (dī lā'shən, dī-), *n.* 1. the act of dilating or the state of be-
- ing dilated. 2. DILATATION. 3. the increase in volume per unit volume of a homogeneous substance. [1590-1600]
- dil-a-tome-ter** (dil'ə tom'i tar), *n.* a device for measuring expansion from changes in temperature in substances. [1880-85] —**dil-a-to-met'ric** (-tə me'trik), *adj.* —**dil-a-tom-e-try**, *n.*
- di-la-tor** or **di-lat-er** (dī lā'tər, dī-, dī-lā-), *n.* 1. any muscle that dilates a part of the body. 2. a surgical instrument for performing a dilatation. [1595-1605]
- dil-a-to-ry** (dil'ə tōr'ē, -tōr'ē), *adj.* 1. tending to delay or procrastinate. 2. intended to cause delay or gain time: a dilatory strategy. [1250-1300; < L *dilatōrius* < *dilā-*, suppletive *s.* of *differre* to postpone (see DIFFER)] —**dil-a-to-ri-ly**, *adv.* —**dil-a-to-ri-ness**, *n.*
- dil-do** (dil/dō), *n.*, *pl.* **-dos**. an artificial erect penis used as a sexual aid. [1585-95; of obscure orig.]
- di-lem-ma** (di lem'ə), *n.*, *pl.* **-mas**. 1. a situation requiring a choice between equally undesirable alternatives. 2. any perplexing situation or problem. 3. a form of syllogism in which the major premise is formed of two or more conditional propositions and the minor premise is a disjunctive proposition, as "If A, then B; if C then D. Either A or C. Therefore, either B or D." [1515-25; < LL < Gk *dílemma* = *dī-* *di-* + *lēm-ma* an assumption, premise, der. of *lambánein* to take] —**di-lem-mat-ic** (dil'ə mat'ik), *adj.* —**di-lem-mat-i-cal-ly**, *adv.* —**Syn.** See PREDICAMENT.
- dil-et-tante** (dil'i tāt', dil'i tāt', -tān'tā, -tān'tē), *n.*, *pl.* **-tantes**, **-tan-ti** (-tān'tē), *adj.* —**n.** 1. a person who takes up an art, activity, or subject merely for amusement, esp. in a desultory or superficial way; dabbler. 2. a lover of an art or science. —*adj.* 3. of or characteristic of dilettantes. [1725-35; < It] —**dil-et-tan'tish**, **dil-et-tan'te-ish**, *adj.*
- dil-et-tant-ism** (dil'i tāt' tiz'əm, -tan-) also **dil-et-tan-te-ism** (dil'i tāt' tē iz'əm, -tan-), *n.* the practices of a dilettante. [1800-10]
- dil-i-gence** (dil'i jəns), *n.* 1. constant and earnest effort to accomplish what is undertaken. 2. the degree of care and caution expected of a person. [1300-50; ME *deligence* (< AF) < L]
- dil-i-gence** (dil'i jəns; Fr. *dē lē zhāns*), *n.* (-jən siz; Fr. -zhāns). a stagecoach. [1735-45; short for *F carrosse de diligence* speed coach]
- dil-i-gent** (dil'i jənt), *adj.* 1. constant and earnest in effort and application; attentive and persistent in doing something: a diligent student. 2. done or pursued with persevering attention; painstaking: a diligent search. [1300-50; ME (< AF) < L *diligent-*, *s.* of *diligens*, prp. of *diligere* to choose, like] —**dil-i-gent-ly**, *adv.*
- dill** (dil), *n.* 1. any plant of the genus *Anethum*, of the parsley family, esp. *A. graveolens*, having aromatic seeds and finely divided leaves used as a flavoring. 2. the seeds or leaves. 3. DILL PICKLE. [bef. 900; ME *dī(l)le*, OE *dīle*; akin to OS *dilli*, OHG *tilli*, ON *dylla*] —**dilled**, *adj.*
- dill/ pick-le**, *n.* a cucumber pickle flavored with dill. [1900-05]
- dil-ly** (dil'ē), *n.*, *pl.* **-lies**. *Informal*. something or someone regarded as remarkable or unusual. [1930-35; *Amer.*; earlier as *adj.*: wonderful]
- dil-ly-dal-ly** (dil'ē dal'ē, -dal'), *v.i.*, **-lied**, **-ly-ing**. to waste time, esp. by indecision. [1735-45; gradational redupl. of DALLY]
- dil-u-ent** (dil'yū ənt), *adj.* 1. diluting. —**n.** 2. a diluting substance. [1715-25; < L *diluent-*, *s.* of *diluens*, prp. of *diluere* to dilute]
- di-lute** (di lōōt', dī-; *adj.* also di'lōōt'), *v.*, **-lut-ed**, **-lut-ing**, *adj.* —*v.t.* 1. to make (a liquid) thinner or weaker by the addition of water or the like. 2. to make fainter, as a color. 3. to reduce the strength, force, or efficiency of by admixture. —*v.i.* 4. to become diluted. —*adj.* 5. reduced in strength, as a chemical by admixture; weak. [1545-55; < L *dilutus*, ptp. of *diluere* to wash away, dissolve] —**di-lut'er**, **di-lu'tor**, *n.* —**di-lu-tive**, *adj.*
- di-lu-tion** (di lōō'shən, dī-), *n.* 1. the act of diluting or the state of being diluted. 2. something diluted. [1640-50]
- di-lu-vi-al** (di lōō'vē əl) also **di-lu-vi-an**, *adj.* pertaining to or caused by a flood or deluge. [1650-60; < LL *diluvialis* = *diluvium* flood]
- dim** (dim), *adj.*, **dim-mer**, **dim-mest**, *v.*, **dimmed**, **dim-ming**. —*adj.* 1. not bright: a dim room; a dim light. 2. not seen or perceived clearly; distinctly, or in detail; faint: a dim outline. 3. not clear to the mind; vague: a dim idea. 4. not brilliant; dull in luster: a dim color. 5. not seeing clearly: eyes dim with tears. 6. not likely to happen, succeed, or be favorable: a dim chance of winning. 7. slow to understand; stupid. —*v.t.* 8. to make dim or dimmer. 9. to switch (the headlights of a vehicle) from the high to the low beam. —*v.i.* 10. to become or grow dim or dimmer. —*Idiom*. 11. take a dim view of, to regard with disapproval or skepticism. [bef. 1000; ME, OE *dim(me)*] —**dim'ly**, *adv.* —**dim'ma-ble**, *adj.* —**dim'ness**, *n.*
- dim-**, 1. dimension. 2. diminish. 3. diminuendo. 4. diminutive.
- dime** (dīm), *n.* 1. a coin of the U.S. and Canada worth 10 cents. 2. *Slang*. a. ten dollars. b. a 10-year prison sentence. c. DIME BAG. —*Idiom*. 3. a dime a dozen, abundant and thus of little value. [1350-1400; < AF, OF *dī(s)me* < L *decima* tenth part, tithe]
- dime/ bag'**, *n.* *Slang*. a packet of an illegal drug selling for ten dollars.
- di-men-hy-dri-nate** (dī'men hī/drā nāt'), *n.* a synthetic antihistamine in powder form, used for treating allergic disorders and preventing motion sickness. [1945-50; DIME(THYL) + (AM)N(ē) + hydr(am)ine + -ATE]
- dime/ nov-el**, *n.* a cheap melodramatic or sensational novel, usu. in paperback, esp. of the period c1850 to c1920. [1860-65, *Amer.*]
- di-men-sion** (di men'shən, dī-), *n.* 1. a. a property of space; extension in a given direction: A straight line has one dimension, a parallelogram has two dimensions, and a parallelepiped has three dimensions.

b. the generalization of this property to spaces with curvilinear extension, as the surface of a sphere. c. a magnitude that serves to define the location of an element within a given set, as of a point on a line or an event in space-time. 2. *Usu., dimensions.* a. measurement in length, width, and thickness. b. scope: *the dimensions of a problem.* 3. magnitude; size: *Matter has dimension.* 4. an aspect or factor; side. 5. *dimensions*, bodily measurements. —*v.t.* 6. to shape or fashion to the desired dimensions. 7. to indicate the dimensions on (a diagram or drawing). [1375–1425; < L *dimēnsiō* a measuring, der. of *dimētīrī* to measure out = *dī-* DI-2 + *mētīrī* TO MEASURE] —*di·men'sion·al*, *adj.* —*di·men'sion·al·ity*, *n.* —*di·men'sion·al·ly*, *adv.* —*di·men'sion·less*, *adj.*

di·mer (dī'mər), *n.* 1. a molecule composed of two identical, simpler molecules. 2. a polymer derived from two identical monomers. [1905–10] —*di·mer·ic* (-mer'ik), *adj.*

dim·er·ous (dim'ər əs), *adj.* 1. consisting of or divided into two parts. 2. (of flowers) having two members in each whorl. [1820–30; < NL *dimerus* < Gk *dimerēs* bipartite. See DI-1, -MEROUS] —*dim·er·ism*, *n.*

dime/ store/, *n.* FIVE-AND-TEN. [1925–30, Amer.]

di·m·e·ter (dīm'i tər), *n.* a verse or line of two measures or feet. [1580–90; < LL < Gk *dimētros* of two measures, a dimeter = *dī-* DI-1 + *-metros*, *adj.* der. of *mētērōn* METER']

di·meth·yl (dī meth'əl), *n.* ETHANE. [1865–70]

di·meth·yl·ni·tro·s·a·mine (dī meth'əl nī trō'sə mēn', -nī'trōs·am'in), *n.* a carcinogenic liquid, C₆H₅N₂O, found in tobacco smoke and certain foods. *Abbr.*: DMN, DMNA [1960–65]

dimeth·yl sulf·ox·ide (sul fok'sid), *n.* See DMSO. [1960–65]

di·met·ro·don (dī me'trə dōn'), *n.* an extinct carnivorous mammal-like reptile of the North American Permian genus *Dimetrodon*, with high spines along the back. [< NL (1878) = Gk *dimētrōs* (os) having two measures (see DIMETER) + *odon* tooth]

dimin., 1. diminish. 2. diminuendo. 3. diminutive.

di·min·ish (dī min'ish), *v.t.* 1. to make or cause to seem smaller, less, or less important; lessen; reduce. 2. to reduce (a musical interval) by a half step less than a perfect or minor interval. 3. to detract from the authority, honor, stature, or reputation of; disparage. 4. to give a tapering form: *a diminished column.* —*v.i.* 5. to lessen; decrease. [1400–50; b. *diminuen* (< AF *diminuer* < ML *dēminuere* for L *dēminuere* to make smaller) and *minishen*, var. (assimilated to -ish) of *menusen* < MF *menu(i)sier* < VL **minūtīare*; see MINCE] —*di·min·ish·a·ble*, *adj.* —*di·min·ish·ment*, *n.* —*Syn.* See DECREASE.

dimin·ish·ing returns/, *n.* any rate of profit, production, benefits, etc., that beyond a certain point fails to increase proportionately with added investment, effort, or skill. [1805–15]

di·min·u·en·do (dī min'yō en'dō), *adj., adv., n., pl. -does.* *Music.* —*adj., adv.* 1. decrescendo. —*n.* 2. a decrescendo. *Symbol:* > [1765–75; < lt, prp. of *dēminuere*; see DIMINISH]

dim·i·nu·tion (dim'ə nōō'shən, -nyōō'-), *n.* the act, fact, or process of diminishing; lessening; reduction. [1275–1325; ME < AF < L *dēminūtō*, for *dēminūtō* (by influence of *dēminuere*; see DIMINISH) < *dēminū*, var. s. of *dēminuere* (dē- DE- + *minuere* to lessen)]

di·min·u·tive (dī min'yə tiv), *adj.* 1. much smaller than the average or usual; tiny. 2. pertaining to or productive of a form denoting smallness, familiarity, affection, or triviality, as the suffix *-let* in *droplet* from *drop*. —*n.* 3. a diminutive element or formation. [1350–1400; ME < ML *dēminūtīvus* = L *dēminūtus* (us) lessened (for *dēminūtus*; see DIMINUTION) + *-ivus* -IVE] —*di·min·u·tive·ly*, *adv.* —*di·min·u·tive·ness*, *n.*

di·mi·ty (dīm'i tē), *n., pl. -ties.* a thin cotton fabric woven with a stripe or check of heavier yarn. [1400–50; < ML *dimettum* < Gk *dīmīton*, n. use of neut. of *dīmītos* double-threaded]

dim·mer (dīm'ər), *n.* 1. a person or thing that dims. 2. a rheostat or similar device by which the intensity of an electric light may be varied. 3. a low-beam headlight. [1815–25]

di·morph (dī'mōrf), *n.* either of the two forms assumed by a mineral or other chemical substance exhibiting dimorphism. [< Gk *dīmōrphos* having two shapes; see DI-1, -MORPH]

di·mor·phism (dī mōr'fiz əm), *n.* 1. the occurrence of two forms distinct in structure, coloration, etc., among animals of the same species. 2. the occurrence of two different forms of flowers, leaves, etc., on the same plant or on different plants of the same species. 3. the property of some substances of crystallizing in two chemically identical but crystallographically distinct forms. [1825–35]

di·mor·phous (dī mōr'fəs) also **di·mor·phic**, *adj.* exhibiting dimorphism. [1825–35; < Gk *dīmōrphos*. See DIMORPH, -OUS]

dim·out/ or dim·out/, *n.* a reduction or concealment of night lighting, esp. in wartime to be less visible to an enemy. [1940–1945]

dim·ple (dīm'pəl), *n., v., -pled, -pling.* —*n.* 1. a small natural hollow, permanent or transient, on the surface of the human body, esp. one formed in the cheek in smiling. —*v.t.* 2. to mark with or as if with dimples; produce dimples in: *A smile dimpled her face.* —*v.i.* 3. to form or show dimples. [1350–1400; ME *dimpel*, OE **dympele*; c. OHG *tumphilō* deep place] —*dim·ply*, *adj.*

dim sum (dīm' sum'), *n.* assorted small items of savory food, including small dumplings, served as a light Chinese meal. [1945–50; < Chin dial. (Guangdong) *dīm sām* = Chin *diānxīn* (diān dot, speck + *xīn* heart)]

di·wit (dīm'wit'), *n.* *Slang.* a stupid person. [1920–25, Amer.] —*di·wit·ted*, *adj.* —*di·wit·ted·ly*, *adv.* —*di·wit·ted·ness*, *n.*

din (dīn), *n., v., dinned, din·ning.* —*n.* 1. a loud, confused noise; a continued tumultuous sound. —*v.t.* 2. to assail with a din. 3. to utter

with clamor or persistent repetition. —*v.i.* 4. to make a din. [bef. 900; ME *din(e)*, OE *dyne, dynn*] —*Syn.* See NOISE.

di·nar (dī nār'), *n.* 1. the basic monetary unit of Algeria; of Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, and Kuwait; of Libya; of Sudan; of Tunisia; and of Yugoslavia. 2. a monetary unit of Iran, equal to 1/100 of a rial. 3. a former gold coin of the Near East. [1625–35; < Ar, Pers *dīnār* < LGK *dēnāriōn* < L *dēnārius* DENARIUS]

dine (dīn), *v., dined, din·ing, n.* —*v.i.* 1. to eat the principal meal of the day; have dinner. 2. to eat any meal. —*v.t.* 3. to entertain at or provide with dinner. 4. *dine out*, to eat a meal, esp. dinner, away from home. —*n.* 5. *Scot.* DINNER. [1250–1300; ME < AF, OF *di(s)ner* < VL **disjēnāre* to break one's fast = L *dis-* DIS-1 + LL *jēnāre* to fast; see JEJUNE]

din·er (dī'nər), *n.* 1. a person who dines. 2. DINING CAR. 3. a restaurant shaped like a dining car. 4. an inexpensive restaurant. [1800–10]

di·ne·ro (dī nār'ō), *n.* *Slang.* MONEY. [1825–35; < Sp: money, treasure, dinero < L *dēnārius* DENARIUS]

din·er·out/, *n., pl. din·ers·out.* a person who dines out. [1800–10]

di·nette (dī net'), *n.* 1. a small space or alcove, often in or near the kitchen, serving as an informal dining area. 2. Also called *dinette/ set/*, a table and set of chairs for such a space. [1925–30; Amer.]

ding' (ding), *v.t.* 1. to cause to make a ringing sound. 2. to speak about insistently. —*v.i.* 3. to make a ringing sound. 4. to talk insistently. —*n.* 5. a ringing sound. [1575–85; see DING-DONG]

ding' (ding), *v.t.* 1. to cause surface damage to: *to ding a fender.* 2. to strike with force; hit. 3. to rebuke; reprimand. —*n.* 4. a dent or scratch; nick. [1250–1300; ME *dingen, dengen*]

ding·a·ling (ding'ə ling'), *n.* *Informal.* a stupid, foolish, or eccentric person. [1930–35; rhyming compound imit. of a bell]

ding an sich (ding' ən zikh'), *n., pl. ding·e an sich (ding'ə ən zikh'). *German.* thing-in-itself.*

ding·bat (ding'bat'), *n.* 1. *Informal.* a DING-A-LING. 2. an ornamental piece of type for borders, separators, decorations, etc. [1830–40]

ding·dong (ding'dōng', -dōng'), *n.* 1. the sound of a bell. 2. any similar sound of repeated strokes. 3. *Informal.* DING-A-LING. —*adj.* 4. characterized by or resembling the sound of a bell. 5. *Informal.* marked by rapid alternation of retaliatory action: *a ding-dong struggle.* [1550–60; gradational compound based on *ding*]

dinge (dīnj), *n.* the condition of being dingy; dinginess. [1840–50; back formation from DINGY]

din·ghy (ding'gē), *n., pl. -ghies.* any small boat designed as a tender or lifeboat, either rowed, sailed, or driven by a motor. [1785–95; < Bengali *dingī*, Hindi *dingī*, dim. of *dingā* boat]

din·gle (ding'gəl), *n.* a wooded valley; dell. [1200–50; ME: a deep dell, hollow; akin to OE *dung* dungeon, OHG *tunc* cellar]

din·go (ding'gō), *n., pl. -goes.* an Australian wild dog, *Canis dingo*, having a tawny coat. [1789; < Dharuk *din-gu* tame dingo]

ding·us (ding'əs), *n., pl. -us·es.* *Informal.* a gadget, device, or object whose name is unknown or forgotten. [1870–75; < D *dinges* or its source, G *Dinges*, prob. orig. gen., with partitive value, of *Ding THING*]

din·gy (din'jē), *adj., -gi·er, -gi·est.* 1. of a dark, dull, or dirty color or aspect; lacking brightness or freshness. 2. shabby; dismal. [1730–40; orig. uncert.] —*din·gi·ly*, *adv.* —*din·gi·ness*, *n.*

din·ing car/, *n.* a railroad car equipped for serving meals.

din·ing room/, *n.* a room in which meals are eaten. [1595–1605]

di·ni·tro·ben·zene (dī nī'trə ben'zēn, -ben zēn'), *n.* any of three benzene derivatives with the formula C₆H₅NO₂. [1870–75]

dink' (dingk), *n.* a softly hit ball in tennis or volleyball that falls just over the net. [1935–40; imit., prob. influenced by DINKY]

dink' (dingk), *n.* —*Usage.* This term is a slur and should be avoided. It is used with disparaging intent and is perceived as highly insulting. —*n.* *Slang.* Extremely Disparaging and Offensive. (a contemptuous term used to refer to a Vietnamese, esp. a Vietcong or North Vietnamese soldier during the Vietnam War.) [1965–70, Amer.]

dink' (dingk), *n.* *Informal.* either partner of a married couple having two incomes and no children. [1985–90; *d(ouble) i(ncome), n(o) k(id)s*]

dink·ey or dink·y (ding'kē), *n., pl. -eys.* a small locomotive, esp. with a switch engine. [1840–50; n. use of DINKY; see -EY']

din·kum (ding'kəm), *adj.* *Australian.* genuine; authentic. [1890–95; of obscure orig.]

dink·y (ding'kē), *adj., dink·i·er, dink·i·est, n., pl. dink·ies.* —*adj.* 1. *Informal.* small and unimpressive: *a dinky old hotel.* —*n.* 2. DINKY. [1780–90; cf. Scots *dink* neatly dressed, trim]

din·ner (dī'nər), *n.* 1. the main meal of the day, eaten in the evening or at midday. 2. a formal meal in honor of some person or occasion. 3. TABLE D'HÔTE. [1250–1300; ME *diner* < OF *disner* (n. use of v.); see DINE] —*din·ner·less*, *adj.*

din·ner jack·et, *n.* TUXEDO (def. 1). [1890–95]

din·ner the·ater, *n.* a restaurant in which a stage production is performed *usu.* after dinner. [1965–70]

din·ner·time (dī'nər tīm'), *n.* the period set aside for eating dinner.

din·ner·ware (dī'nər wār'), *n.* tableware. [1890–95]

dino·, a combining form meaning "terrifying, frightful": *dinothere*. [< Gk *dēino*, comb. form of *dēinos*]

din·o·flag·el·late (din'ə flaj'ə lāt'), *n.* any protozoan of the phylum Pyrrophyta (or class Dinoflagellata), *usu.* having one flagellum extending from the center of the body and another wrapped around it: often luminous in marine plankton. [< NL *Dinoflagellata* (1887) < Gk *dino(s)* whirling, rotation + NL *flagellata* (neut. pl.); see FLAGELLATE]