The American Heritage® Dictionary *of the English Language*

FOURTH EDITION

Dr. Falk Pharma v. Ellodi Pharmaceuticals
IPR2025-00052
Dr. Falk Pharma Ex. 1125

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The American Heritage dictionary of the English language.–4th ed.
p. cm.
ISBN 0-395-82517-2 (hardcover) — ISBN 0-618-08230-1 (hardcover with CD ROM)
1. English language–Dictionaries
PE1628 .A623 2000
423–dc21

00-025369

Manufactured in the United States of America

dish•wa•ter (dĭsh′wô′tər, -wŏt′ər) *n.* Water in which dishes are to be or have been washed.

dish•y (dĭsh′ē) *adj.* **-i•er, -i•est 1.** *Slang* Gossipy; sensational: *published a dishy tell-all.* **2.** *Chiefly British Slang* Good-looking; attractive.

dis•il•lu•sion (dĭs′ĭ-lōō′zhən) *tr.v.* **-sioned, -sion•ing, -sions** To free or deprive of illusion. ❖ *n.* **1.** The act of disenchanting. **2.** The condition or fact of being disenchanted. **—dis′il•lu′sion•ment** *n.* **—dis′il•lu′sive** (-sĭv, -zĭv) *adj.*

dis•in•car•nate (dĭs′ĭn-kär′nĭt) *adj.* Divested of bodily nature or form; disembodied: *disincarnate spirits.* ❖ *tr.v.* (-nāt′) **-nat•ed, -nat•ing, -nates** To divest of bodily nature or form.

dis•in•cen•tive (dĭs′ĭn-sĕn′tĭv) *n.* Something that prevents or discourages action; a deterrent.

dis•in•cli•na•tion (dĭs-ĭn′klə-nā′shən) *n.* A lack of inclination; a mild aversion or reluctance.

dis•in•cline (dĭs′ĭn-klīn′) *v.* **-clined, -clin•ing, -clines** *—tr.* To make reluctant or averse. *—intr.* To be unwilling.

dis•in•clined (dĭs′ĭn-klīnd′) *adj.* Unwilling or reluctant: *They were usually disinclined to socialize.*

dis•in•cor•po•rate (dĭs′ĭn-kôr′pə-rāt′) *tr. & intr.v.* **-rat•ed, -rat•ing, -rates** To remove or become removed from the status of a corporation. **—dis′in•cor′po•ra′tion** *n.*

dis•in•fect (dĭs′ĭn-fĕkt′) *tr.v.* **-fect•ed, -fect•ing, -fects** To cleanse so as to destroy or prevent the growth of disease-carrying microorganisms: *disinfect a wound.* **—dis′in•fec′tion** *n.*

dis•in•fec•tant (dĭs′ĭn-fĕk′tənt) *n.* An agent, such as heat, radiation, or a chemical, that destroys, neutralizes, or inhibits the growth of disease-carrying microorganisms. ❖ *adj.* Serving to disinfect.

dis•in•fest (dĭs′ĭn-fĕst′) *tr.v.* **-fest•ed, -fest•ing, -fests** To rid of vermin. **—dis•in′fes•ta′tion** (-fĕ-stā′shən) *n.*

dis•in•fes•tant (dĭs′ĭn-fĕs′tənt) *n.* An agent that eradicates an infestation, as of vermin.

dis•in•fla•tion (dĭs′ĭn-flā′shən) *n.* Downward movement of inflated prices to a more normal level. **—dis′in•fla′tion•ar′y** (-shə-nĕr′ē) *adj.*

dis•in•form (dĭs′ĭn-fôrm′) *tr.v.* **-formed, -form•ing, -forms** To give disinformation to. [Back-formation from DISINFORMATION.] **—dis′in•form′er, dis′in•form′ant** *n.*

dis•in•for•ma•tion (dĭs-ĭn′fər-mā′shən) *n.* **1.** Deliberately misleading information announced publicly or leaked by a government or especially by an intelligence agency in order to influence public opinion or the government in another nation: *"He would be the unconscious channel for a piece of disinformation aimed at another country's intelligence service"* (Ken Follett). **2.** Dissemination of such misleading information. [Possibly translation of Russian *dezinformatsiya.*]

dis•in•gen•u•ous (dĭs′ĭn-jĕn′yōō-əs) *adj.* **1.** Not straightforward or candid; insincere or calculating: *"an ambitious, disingenuous, philistine, and hypocritical operator, who . . . exemplified . . . the most disagreeable traits of his time"* (David Cannadine). **2.** Pretending to be unaware or unsophisticated; faux-naïf. **3.** *Usage Problem* Unaware or uninformed; naive. **—dis′in•gen′u•ous•ly** *adv.* **—dis′in•gen′u•ous•ness** *n.*

Usage Note The meaning of *disingenuous* has been shifting about lately, as if people are unsure of its proper meaning. Generally, it means "insincere" and often seems to be a synonym of *cynical* or *calculating.* Not surprisingly, the word is used often in political contexts, as in *It is both insensitive and disingenuous for the White House to describe its aid package and the proposal to eliminate the federal payment as "tough love."* This use of the word is accepted by 94 percent of the Usage Panel. Most Panelists also accept the extended meaning relating to less reproachable behavior. Fully 88 percent accept *disingenuous* with the meaning "playfully insincere, faux-naïf," as in the example *"I don't have a clue about late Beethoven!" he said. The remark seemed disingenuous, coming from one of the world's foremost concert pianists.* Sometimes *disingenuous* is used as a synonym for *naive,* as if the *dis–* prefix functioned as an intensive (as it does in certain words like *disannul*) rather than as a negative element. This usage does not find much admiration among Panelists, however. Seventy-five percent do not accept it in the phrase *a disingenuous tourist who falls prey to stereotypical con artists.*

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dis•in•her•it (dĭs′ĭn-hĕr′ĭt) *tr.v.* **-it•ed, -it•ing, -its 1.** To exclude from inheritance or the right to inherit. **2.** To deprive of a natural or established right or privilege. **—dis′in•her′i•tance** *n.*

dis•in•hib•it (dĭs′ĭn-hĭb′ĭt) *tr.v.* **-it•ed, -it•ing, -its** To free from inhibitions.

dis•in•hi•bi•tion (dĭs′ĭn-hə-bĭsh′ən, -ĭn-ə-, dĭs-ĭn′-) *n.* **1.** Loss of inhibition, as through the influence of external stimuli such as drugs or alcohol, or as a result of brain damage. **2.** Unrestrained behavior resulting from a lessening or loss of inhibitions or a disregard of cultural constraints.

dis•in•te•grate (dĭs-ĭn′tĭ-grāt′) *v.* **-grat•ed, -grat•ing, -grates** *—intr.* **1.** To become reduced to components, fragments, or particles. **2.** To lose cohesion or unity: *pressures that cause families to disintegrate* **3.** *Physics & Chemistry* To decompose, decay, or undergo a nuclear transformation. *—tr.* To cause to disintegrate. See synonyms at **decay.** **—dis•in′te•gra′tive** *adj.* **—dis•in′te•gra′tor** *n.*

dis•in•te•gra•tion (dĭs-ĭn′tĭ-grā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of disintegrating. **2.** The state of being disintegrated. **3.** *Physics & Chemistry* The natural or induced transformation of an atomic nucleus from a more massive to a less massive configuration by the emission of particles or radiation.

dis•in•ter (dĭs′ĭn-tûr′) *tr.v.* **-terred, -ter•ring, -ters 1.** To dig up or remove from a grave or tomb; exhume. **2.** To bring to public notice; disclose. **—dis′in•ter′ment** *n.*

dis•in•ter•est (dĭs-ĭn′tər-ĭst, -ĭn′trĭst) *n.* **1.** Freedom from selfish bias or self-interest; impartiality. **2.** Lack of interest; indifference. ❖ *tr.v.* To divest of interest.

dis•in•ter•est•ed (dĭs-ĭn′trĭ-stĭd, -ĭn′tə-rĕs′tĭd) *adj.* **1.** Free of bias and self-interest; impartial: *"disinterested scientific opinion on fluorides in the water supply"* (Ellen R. Shell). **2a.** Not interested; indifferent: *"supremely disinterested in all efforts to find a peaceful solution"* (C.L. Sulzberger). **b.** Having lost interest. **—dis•in′ter•est•ed•ly** *adv.* **—dis•in′ter•est•ed•ness** *n.*

Usage Note In traditional usage, *disinterested* can only mean "having no stake in an outcome," as in *Since the judge stands to profit from the sale of the company, she cannot be considered a disinterested party in the dispute.* But despite critical disapproval, *disinterested* has come to be widely used by many educated writers to mean "uninterested" or "having lost interest," as in *Since she discovered skiing, she is disinterested in her schoolwork.* Oddly enough, "not interested" is the oldest sense of the word, going back to the 17th century. This sense became outmoded in the 18th century but underwent a revival in the first quarter of the early 20th. Despite its resuscitation, this usage is widely considered an error. In a 1988 survey, 89 percent of the Usage Panel rejected the sentence *His unwillingness to give five minutes of his time proves that he is disinterested in finding a solution to the problem.* This is not a significantly different proportion from the 93 percent who disapproved of the same usage in 1980.

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dis•in•ter•me•di•a•tion (dĭs-ĭn′tər-mē′dē-ā′shən) *n.* Withdrawal of funds from intermediary financial institutions, such as banks and savings and loan associations, in order to invest in instruments yielding a higher return.

dis•in•tox•i•cate (dĭs′ĭn-tŏk′sĭ-kāt′) *tr.v.* **-cat•ed, -cat•ing, -cates** To free from the effects of intoxication or from dependence on intoxicating agents. **—dis′in•tox′i•ca′tion** *n.*

dis•in•vent (dĭs′ĭn-vĕnt′) *tr.v.* **-vent•ed, -vent•ing, -vents** To rescind the invention or existence of: *"The atomic bomb . . . cannot be disinvented"* (Patrick J. Buchanan). **—dis′in•ven′tion** *n.*

Usage Note One cannot ordinarily attach the prefix *dis–* in its sense of "undo" to a verb that refers to an irreversible act or process. *Disinvent* is an exception. This word was apparently coined by military or political figures, as its usage is almost entirely restricted to the realm of arms-reduction talks. *Disinvent,* though it smacks somewhat of bureaucratese, is nonetheless quite apt for referring to the inherent (and woeful) impossibility of undoing the invention of weapons of mass destruction.

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dis•in•vest•ment (dĭs′ĭn-vĕst′mənt) *n.* Withdrawal of capital investment from a company or country.

dis•in•vite (dĭs′ĭn-vīt′) *tr.v.* **-vit•ed, -vit•ing, -vites** To rescind an invitation to: *disinvited our friends for dinner because of an emergency.* **—dis•in•vi•ta′tion** (-vĭ-tā′shən) *n.*

dis•join (dĭs-join′) *v.* **-joined, -join•ing, -joins** *—tr.* To undo the joining of; separate. *—intr.* To become separated. [Middle English *disjoinen,* from Old French *desjoindre,* from Latin *disiungere* : *dis-,* dis- + *iungere,* to join; see JOIN.]

dis•joint (dĭs-joint′) *v.* **-joint•ed, -joint•ing, -joints** *—tr.* **1.** To put out of joint; dislocate. **2.** To take apart at the joints. **3.** To destroy the coherence or connections of. **4.** To separate; disjoin. *—intr.* **1.** To come apart at the joints. **2.** To become dislocated. ❖ *adj. Mathematics* Having no elements in common. Used of sets. [Middle English *disjointen,* to destroy, ultimately from Old French *desjoint,* past participle of *desjoindre,* to disjoin. See DISJOIN.]

dis•joint•ed (dĭs-join′tĭd) *adj.* **1.** Separated at the joints: *a disjointed leg of lamb.* **2.** Out of joint; dislocated. **3.** Lacking order or coherence: *disjointed sentences; a disjointed article.* **—dis•joint′ed•ly** *adv.* **—dis•joint′ed•ness** *n.*

dis•junct (dĭs-jŭngkt′) *adj.* **1.** Characterized by separation. **2.** *Music* Relating to progression by intervals larger than major seconds. **3.** *Zoology* Having deep constrictions separating the head, thorax, and abdomen, as in insects. [Middle English *disjuncte,* from Latin *disiūnctus,* past participle of *disiungere,* to disjoin. See DISJOIN.]

dis•junc•tion (dĭs-jŭngk′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of disjoining or the condition of being disjointed. **2.** *Logic* A proposition that presents two or more alternative terms, with the assertion that only one is true. **3.** *Genetics* The separation of homologous chromosomes during meiosis.

dis•junc•tive (dĭs-jŭngk′tĭv) *adj.* **1.** Serving to separate or divide. **2.** *Grammar* Serving to establish a relationship of contrast or opposition. The conjunction *but* in the phrase *poor but comfortable* is disjunctive. **3.** *Logic* **a.** Of a proposition that presents two or more alternative terms. **b.** Of a syllogism that contains a disjunction as one premise. ❖ *n. Grammar* A disjunctive conjunction. **—dis•junc′tive•ly** *adv.*

dis•junc•ture (dĭs-jŭngk′chər) *n.* Disjunction; disunion; separation.

disk also **disc** (dĭsk) *n.* **1.** A thin, flat, circular object or plate. **2.** Something resembling such an object: *The moon's disk was reflected in the pond.* **3a.** The disk used in a disc brake. **b.** A disk used on a disk harrow. **4.** A round, flattened, platelike structure in an animal, such as an intervertebral disk. **5.** *Botany* The enlarged area bearing numerous tiny flowers, as in the flower head of composite plants, such as the daisy. Also called *discus.* **6.** *Computer Science* **a.** A magnetic disk, such as a floppy disk or hard disk. **b.** The data stored on such a disk: *read the disk that came with the manual.* **7.** An optical disk, especially a compact disk. See Usage Note

ă pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
âr care	o͝o took
ä father	o͞o boot
ĕ pet	ŭ cut
ē be	ûr urge
ĭ pit	th thin
ī pie	*th* this
îr pier	hw which
ŏ pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item
ô paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: ′ (primary); ′ (secondary), as in dictionary (dĭk′shə-nĕr′ē)

secting. 2. Something that has been dissected, such as a tissue specimen under study. 3. A detailed examination or analysis.

dis•seise (dĭs-sēz′) *v.* Variant of **disseize.**

dis•sei•sin (dĭs-sē′zĭn) *n.* Variant of **disseizin.**

dis•seize also **dis•seise** (dĭs-sēz′) *tr.v.* **-seized, -seiz•ing, -seiz•es** also **-seised, -seis•ing, -seis•es** *Law* To dispossess unlawfully of real property; oust. [Middle English *disseisen,* from Anglo-Norman *disseisir,* variant of Old French *dessaisir* : *des-,* dis- + *saisir,* to seize; see SEIZE.]

dis•sei•zin also **dis•sei•sin** (dĭs-sē′zĭn) *n. Law* Wrongful dispossession of one in the possession of real property. [Middle English *disseisine,* from Anglo-Norman, variant of Old French *dessaisine* : *des-,* dis- + *seisine,* seisin; see SEISIN.]

dis•sem•ble (dĭ-sĕm′bəl) *v.* **-bled, -bling, -bles** —*tr.* **1.** To disguise or conceal behind a false appearance. See synonyms at **disguise. 2.** To make a false show of; feign. —*intr.* To disguise or conceal one's real nature, motives, or feelings behind a false appearance. [Middle English *dissemblen,* from Old French *dessembler,* to be different : *des-,* dis- + *sembler,* to appear, seem; see SEMBLABLE.] —**dis•sem′blance** *n.* —**dis•sem′bler** *n.* —**dis•sem′bling•ly** *adv.*

dis•sem•i•nate (dĭ-sĕm′ə-nāt′) *v.* **-nat•ed, -nat•ing, -nates** —*tr.* **1.** To scatter widely, as in sowing seed. **2.** To spread abroad; promulgate: *disseminate information.* —*intr.* To become diffused; spread. [Latin *dissēmināre, dissēminātus* : *dis-,* dis- + *sēmināre,* to sow (from *sēmen, sēmin-,* seed; see **sē-** in Appendix I).] —**dis•sem′i•na′tion** *n.* —**dis•sem′i•na′tor** *n.*

dis•sem•i•nat•ed (dĭ-sĕm′ə-nā′tĭd) *adj.* Spread over a large area of a body, tissue, or organ.

dis•sem•i•nule (dĭ-sĕm′ə-nyōōl′) *n.* A reproductive plant part, such as a seed, fruit, or spore, that is modified for dispersal. Also called *diaspore.* [DISSEMIN(ATE) + -ULE.]

dis•sen•sion (dĭ-sĕn′shən) *n.* Difference of opinion; disagreement. See synonyms at **discord.** [Middle English *dissencioun,* from Old French *dissension,* from Latin *dissēnsiō, dissēnsiōn-,* from *dissēnsus,* past participle of *dissentīre,* to dissent. See DISSENT.]

dis•sent (dĭ-sĕnt′) *intr.v.* **-sent•ed, -sent•ing, -sents 1.** To differ in opinion or feeling; disagree. **2.** To withhold assent or approval. ❖ *n.* **1.** Difference of opinion or feeling; disagreement. **2.** The refusal to conform to the authority or doctrine of an established church; nonconformity. **3.** *Law* A justice's refusal to concur with the opinion of a majority, as on a higher court. Also called *dissenting opinion.* [Middle English *dissenten,* from Latin *dissentīre* : *dis-,* dis- + *sentīre,* to feel; see **sent-** in Appendix I.] —**dis•sent′ing•ly** *adv.*

dis•sent•er (dĭ-sĕn′tər) *n.* **1.** One who dissents: *political dissenters.* **2.** often **Dissenter** One who refuses to accept the doctrines or usages of an established or a national church, especially a Protestant who dissents from the Church of England.

dis•sen•tient (dĭ-sĕn′shənt) *adj.* Dissenting, especially from the sentiment or policies of a majority. ❖ *n.* A dissenter. —**dis•sen′tience** *n.*

dis•sent•ing opinion (dĭ-sĕn′tĭng) *n.* See **dissent** (sense 3).

dis•sep•i•ment (dĭ-sĕp′ə-mənt) *n. Botany* A partition dividing an organ, such as an ovary or a fruit, into chambers. [Latin *dissaepīmentum,* partition, from *dissaepīre,* to divide : *dis-,* dis- + *saepīre,* hedge off (from *saepēs,* hedge).] —**dis•sep′i•men′tal** (-mĕn′tl) *adj.*

dis•ser•tate (dĭs′ər-tāt′) also **dis•sert** (dĭ-sûrt′) *intr.v.* **-tat•ed, -tat•ing, -tates** also **-sert•ed, -sert•ing, -serts** To discourse formally. [Latin *dissertāre, dissertāt-,* frequentative of *disserere,* to discuss : *dis-,* dis- + *serere,* to connect; see **ser-**[2] in Appendix I.] —**dis′ser•ta′tor** *n.*

dis•ser•ta•tion (dĭs′ər-tā′shən) *n.* A lengthy, formal treatise, especially one written by a candidate for the doctoral degree at a university; a thesis.

dis•serve (dĭs-sûrv′) *tr.v.* **-served, -serv•ing, -serves** To treat badly; harm.

dis•ser•vice (dĭs-sûr′vĭs) *n.* A harmful action; an injury.

dis•sev•er (dĭ-sĕv′ər) *v.* **-ered, -er•ing, -ers** —*tr.* **1.** To separate; sever. **2.** To divide into parts; break up. —*intr.* To become separated or disunited. [Middle English *disseveren,* from Old French *dessevrer,* from Late Latin *dissēparāre* : Latin *dis-,* dis- + Latin *sēparāre,* to separate; see SEPARATE.] —**dis•sev′er•ance, dis•sev′er•ment** *n.*

dis•si•dence (dĭs′ĭ-dəns) *n.* Disagreement, as of opinion or belief; dissent.

dis•si•dent (dĭs′ĭ-dənt) *adj.* Disagreeing, as in opinion or belief. ❖ *n.* One who disagrees; a dissenter. [Latin *dissidēns, dissident-,* present participle of *dissidēre,* to disagree : *dis-,* apart; see DIS- + *sedēre,* to sit; see **sed-** in Appendix I.]

dis•sil•i•ent (dĭ-sĭl′ē-ənt) *adj. Botany* Bursting apart, as some seed pods when ripe. [Latin *dissiliēns, dissilient-,* present participle of *dissilīre,* to fly apart : *dis-,* apart; see DIS- + *salīre,* to leap; see **sel-** in Appendix I.]

dis•sim•i•lar (dĭ-sĭm′ə-lər) *adj.* Unlike; different. —**dis•sim′i•lar•ly** *adv.*

dis•sim•i•lar•i•ty (dĭ-sĭm′ə-lăr′ĭ-tē) *n., pl.* **-ties 1.** The quality of being distinct or unlike; difference. **2.** A point of distinction or difference. See synonyms at **difference.**

dis•sim•i•late (dĭ-sĭm′ə-lāt′) *v.* **-lat•ed, -lat•ing, -lates** —*tr.* **1.** To make unlike or dissimilar. **2.** *Linguistics* To cause to undergo dissimilation. —*intr.* **1.** To become unlike or dissimilar. **2.** *Linguistics* To undergo dissimilation. [DIS- + (AS)SIMILATE.]

dis•sim•i•la•tion (dĭ-sĭm′ə-lā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act or process of making or becoming dissimilar. **2.** *Linguistics* The process by which one of two similar or identical sounds in a word becomes less like the other, such as the *l* in English *marble* (from French *marbre*).

dis•si•mil•i•tude (dĭs′ə-mĭl′ĭ-tōōd′, -tyōōd′) *n.* Lack of resemblance; dissimilarity. [Middle English, from Latin *dissimilitūdō,* from *dissimilis,* different : *dis-,* dis- + *similis,* like; see SIMILAR.]

dis•sim•u•late (dĭ-sĭm′yə-lāt′) *v.* **-lat•ed, -lat•ing, -lates** —*tr.* To disguise (one's intentions, for example) under a feigned appearance. See synonyms at **disguise.** —*intr.* To conceal one's true feelings or intentions. [Middle English *dissimulaten,* from Latin *dissimulāre, dissimulāt-* : *dis-,* dis- + *simulāre,* to simulate; see SIMULATE.] —**dis•sim′u•la′tion** *n.* —**dis•sim′u•la′tive** *adj.* —**dis•sim′u•la′tor** *n.*

dis•si•pate (dĭs′ə-pāt′) *v.* **-pat•ed, -pat•ing, -pates** —*tr.* **1.** To drive away; disperse. **2.** To attenuate to or almost to the point of disappearing: *The wind finally dissipated the smoke.* See synonyms at **scatter. 3a.** To spend or expend intemperately or wastefully; squander. **b.** To use up, especially recklessly; exhaust: *dissipated their energy.* See synonyms at **waste. 4.** To cause to lose (energy, such as heat) irreversibly. —*intr.* **1.** To vanish by dispersion: *The dark clouds finally dissipated.* **2.** To indulge in the intemperate pursuit of pleasure. [Middle English *dissipaten,* from Latin *dissipāre, dissipāt-.*] —**dis′si•pat′er, dis′si•pa′tor** *n.* —**dis′si•pa′tive** *adj.*

dis•si•pat•ed (dĭs′ə-pā′tĭd) *adj.* **1.** Intemperate in the pursuit of pleasure; dissolute. **2.** Wasted or squandered. **3.** Irreversibly lost. Used of energy. —**dis′si•pat′ed•ly** *adv.* —**dis′si•pat′ed•ness** *n.*

dis•si•pa•tion (dĭs′ə-pā′shən) *n.* **1.** The act of dissipating or the condition of having been dissipated. **2.** Wasteful expenditure or consumption. **3.** Dissolute indulgence in sensual pleasure; intemperance. **4.** An amusement; a diversion.

dis•so•cia•ble (dĭ-sō′shə-bəl, -shē-ə-bəl) *adj.* That can be dissociated; separable: *To many, drugs and crime are not dissociable.* —**dis•so′cia•bil′i•ty, dis•so′cia•ble•ness** *n.* —**dis•so′cia•bly** *adv.*

dis•so•ci•ate (dĭ-sō′shē-āt′, -sē-) *v.* **-at•ed, -at•ing, -ates** —*tr.* **1.** To remove from association; separate: *"Marx never dissociated man from his social environment"* (Sidney Hook). **2.** *Chemistry* To cause to undergo dissociation. —*intr.* **1.** To cease associating; part. **2.** *Biology* To mutate or change morphologically, often reversibly. **3.** *Chemistry* To undergo dissociation. [Latin *dissociāre, dissociāt-* : *dis-,* dis- + *sociāre,* to unite (from *socius,* companion; see **sek**[w]**-**[1] in Appendix I).] —**dis•so′ci•a′tive** *adj.*

dis•so•ci•a•tion (dĭ-sō′sē-ā′shən, -shē-) *n.* **1.** The act of dissociating or the condition of having been dissociated. **2.** *Chemistry* **a.** The process by which the action of a solvent or a change in physical condition, as in pressure or temperature, causes a molecule to split into simpler groups of atoms, single atoms, or ions. **b.** The separation of an electrolyte into ions of opposite charge. **3.** *Psychiatry* A psychological defense mechanism in which specific, anxiety-provoking thoughts, emotions, or physical sensations are separated from the rest of the psyche.

dissociative disorder *n.* See **multiple personality.**

dis•sol•u•ble (dĭ-sŏl′yə-bəl) *adj.* That can be dissolved: *dissoluble airborne pollutants brought back to the earth as rain.* [Latin *dissolūbilis,* from *dissolūtus,* past participle of *dissolvere,* to dissolve. See DISSOLVE.] —**dis′sol•u•bil′i•ty, dis•sol′u•ble•ness** *n.*

dis•so•lute (dĭs′ə-lōōt′) *adj.* Lacking moral restraint; indulging in sensual pleasures or vices. [Middle English, from Latin *dissolūtus,* past participle of *dissolvere,* to dissolve. See DISSOLVE.] —**dis′so•lute′ly** *adv.* —**dis′so•lute′ness** *n.*

dis•so•lu•tion (dĭs′ə-lōō′shən) *n.* **1.** Decomposition into fragments or parts; disintegration. **2.** Indulgence in sensual pleasures; debauchery. **3.** Termination or extinction by disintegration or dispersion: *The dissolution of the empire was remarkably swift.* **4.** Extinction of life; death. **5.** Annulment or termination of a formal or legal bond, tie, or contract. **6.** Formal dismissal of an assembly or legislature. **7.** Reduction to a liquid form; liquefaction. —**dis′so•lu′tive** *adj.*

dis•solve (dĭ-zŏlv′) *v.* **-solved, -solv•ing, -solves** —*tr.* **1.** To cause to pass into solution: *dissolve salt in water.* **2.** To reduce (solid matter) to liquid form; melt. **3.** To cause to disappear or vanish; dispel. **4.** To break into component parts; disintegrate. **5.** To bring to an end by or as if by breaking up; terminate. **6.** To dismiss (a legislative body, for example): *dissolved parliament and called for new elections.* **7.** To cause to break down emotionally or psychologically; upset. **8.** To cause to lose definition; blur; confuse: *"Morality has finally been dissolved in pity"* (Leslie Fiedler). **9.** *Law* To annul; abrogate. —*intr.* **1.** To pass into solution. **2.** To become liquid; melt. **3.** To break up or disperse. **4.** To become disintegrated; disappear. **5.** To be overcome emotionally or psychologically: *I dissolved into helpless laughter.* **6.** To lose clarity or definition; fade away. **7.** To shift shots in a motion-picture film or videotape by having one shot fade out while the next appears behind it and grows clearer as the first one dims. ❖ *n.* A transition in a motion-picture film or videotape made by fading out one shot while the next one grows clearer. Also called *lap dissolve.* [Middle English *dissolven,* from Latin *dissolvere* : *dis-,* dis- + *solvere,* to release; see **leu-** in Appendix I.] —**dis•solv′a•ble** *adj.* —**dis•solv′er** *n.*

dis•sol•vent (dĭ-zŏl′vənt) *adj.* Capable of dissolving a substance; solvent. ❖ *n.* A solvent.

dis•so•nance (dĭs′ə-nəns) *n.* **1.** A harsh, disagreeable combination of sounds; discord. **2.** Lack of agreement, consistency, or harmony; conflict: *"In Vietnam, reality fell away and dissonance between claim and fact filled the void"* (Michael Janeway). **3.** *Music* A combination of tones contextually considered to suggest unrelieved tension and require resolution.

dis•so•nan•cy (dĭs′ə-nən-sē) *n., pl.* **-cies** Dissonance.

dis•so•nant (dĭs′ə-nənt) *adj.* **1.** Harsh and inharmonious in sound; discordant. **2.** Being at variance; disagreeing. **3.** *Music* Constituting or producing a dissonance. [Middle English *dissonaunt,* from Old French

dissilient
milkweed seed pod

ă pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
âr care	oŏ took
ä father	oō boot
ĕ pet	ŭ cut
ē be	ûr urge
ĭ pit	th thin
ī pie	*th* this
îr pier	hw which
ŏ pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item
ô paw	♦ regionalism

Stress marks: ′ (primary); ′ (secondary), as in dictionary (dĭk′shə-nĕr′ē)