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dwarf planet *noun* ASTRON an astronomical object that orbits a star and does not shine with its own light, but that does not meet all of the conditions necessary to be classified as a planet

dwarf star *noun* ASTRON a star with relatively low mass, size and luminosity. Also called **dwarf** (NOTE: The Sun is a dwarf star.)

dyadic Boolean operation *noun* MATHS a logical operation producing a result from two words, e.g. AND

dye *noun* a substance used to change the colour of something ○ *Minute surface cracks which are difficult to detect by visual means may be highlighted by using penetrant dyes.*

dye-polymer recording *noun* COMPUT a recording method which creates minute changes in a thin layer of dye imbedded in a plastic optical disk (NOTE: Dye-polymer recording has the advantage that the data stored can be erased.)

dye-sublimation printer *noun* COMPUT a high-quality colour printer that produces images by squirting tiny drops of coloured ink onto paper ○ *The new dye-sublimation printer can produce colour images at a resolution of 300dpi.*

dyke *ENG noun* 1. a long wall of earth built to keep water out 2. a ditch for drainage ■ *verb* to build walls of earth to help prevent water from flooding land

dynamic *adjective* 1. referring to something in motion or occurring as part of a process 2. COMPUT referring to data which can change with time

dynamic allocation *noun* COMPUT a system where resources are allocated during a program run, rather than being determined in advance

dynamic data exchange *noun* COMPUT a method by which two active programs can exchange data. Abbr DDE

dynamic data structure *noun* COMPUT the structure of a data management system which can be changed or adapted

dynamic electricity *noun* ELEC electricity which is flowing in a current

dynamic equilibrium *noun* a situation which is fluctuating around an apparent average state, where that average state is also changing through time

dynamic link library *noun* COMPUT in some operating systems, a library of utility

programs that can be called from a main program ○ *The word-processor calls a spell-check program that is stored as a dynamic link library.* Abbr DLL

dynamic memory *noun* COMPUT same as **dynamic RAM**

dynamic pressure *noun* AEROSP the pressure created by the forward movement of an aircraft ○ *If the dynamic pressure increases due to an increase in forward speed, the force required to move the control column will increase.*

dynamic RAM *noun* COMPUT random access memory that requires its contents to be updated regularly. Also called **dynamic memory**

dynamic routing *noun* COMPUT a process of selecting the shortest or most reliable path for data through exchanges at the time of the connection

dynamics *noun* PHYS the study of motion and the way in which forces produce it

dynamic seal *noun* ENG a seal which is part of a moving component, e.g. in a hydraulic system ○ *Dynamic seals require lubrication to remain effective.*

dynamic storage allocation *noun* COMPUT the allocation of memory to a program when it needs it rather than reserving a block in advance

dynamite *noun* CHEM a powerful explosive consisting of an inert porous material such as wood pulp or sawdust and nitroglycerine

dynamo *noun* PHYS a device that converts mechanical energy into electrical energy, usually producing direct current

dynamometer *noun* ENVIRON a machine that measures the output of an engine

dyne *noun* MEASURE the cgs unit of force, equivalent to 10^{-5} newtons

dysenteric *adjective* MED referring to dysentery

dysentery *noun* MED an infection and inflammation of the colon causing bleeding and diarrhoea

COMMENT: Dysentery occurs mainly in tropical countries. The symptoms include diarrhoea, discharge of blood and pain in the intestines. There are two main types of dysentery: bacillary dysentery, caused by the bacterium *Shigella* in contaminated food; and amoebic dysentery or amoebiasis, caused by a parasitic amoeba *Entamoeba histolytica* spread through contaminated drinking water.