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HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language

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dis-a-bil-i-ty (dis'ā-bīl-i-tē) *n.*, *pl.* -ties **1a.** The condition of being disabled; incapacity. **b.** The period of such a condition: *never received a penny during her disability.* **2.** A disadvantage or deficiency, especially a physical or mental impairment that interferes with or prevents normal achievement in a particular area. **3.** A program that provides financial support to people with such impairment: *has been on disability for a month.* **4.** Lack of legal capacity to perform some act, such as to enter into a contract, because of infancy or lack of soundness of mind.

dis-a-ble (dis'ā-bəl) *tr.v.* -bled, -bling, -bles **1.** To deprive of capability or effectiveness, especially to impair the physical abilities of. **2.** *Law* To render legally incapable of performing an act. —**dis-a-ble-ment** *n.* —**dis-a-bling** *adj.* —**dis-a-bling-ly** *adv.*

dis-a-bled (dis'ā-bəld) *adj.* **1.** Inoperative: *a disabled vehicle.* **2.** Impaired, as in physical functioning: *a disabled veteran; disabled children.* ♦ *n.* (used with a *pl. verb*) Physically or mentally impaired people considered as a group: *the physically disabled.*

➤ **USAGE NOTE** *Disabled* is the clear preference in contemporary American English for referring to people having either physical or mental impairments, with the impairments themselves preferably termed *disabilities*. *Handicapped*—a term derived from the world of sports gambling—is still in wide use but is often taken to be offensive, while more recent coinages such as *differently abled* or *handicapable* tend to be perceived as condescending euphemisms and have gained little currency. • The often-repeated recommendation to put the person before the disability would favor *persons with disabilities* over *disabled persons* and *person with paraplegia* over *paraplegic*. Such expressions are said to focus on the individual rather than on the particular functional limitation, and they are therefore considered by many to be more respectful. See *Usage Note* at *handicapped*.

disabled list *n.* A list of players on a sports team who are unable or ineligible to play because of an injury.

dis-a-buse (dis'ā-byōōz') *tr.v.* -bused, -bus-ing, -bus-es To free from a falsehood or misconception: *"It's up to you whether you want to disabuse your students of their fantasy that As are guaranteed"* (Rachel Kadish). [French *désabuser*: *dés-*, *dis-* + *abuser*, to delude (< Old French, to misuse; see *ABUSE*).]

dis-sac-char-i-dase (dī-sāk'ar-i-dās', -dāz') *n.* An enzyme, such as invertase or lactase, that catalyzes the hydrolysis of disaccharides to monosaccharides.

dis-sac-char-ide (dī-sāk'ar-i-dīd') *n.* Any of a class of sugars, including lactose and sucrose, that are composed of two monosaccharides.

dis-ac-cord (dis'ā-kōrd') *n.* Lack of harmony; disagreement. ♦ *intr.v.* -cord-ed, -cord-ing, -cords To disagree. [Middle English *disaccorden*, to disagree < Old French *desacorder*: *des-*, *dis-* + *acorder*, to agree; see *ACCORD*.]

dis-ac-cus-tom (dis'ā-kūs'təm) *tr.v.* -tomed, -tom-ing, -toms To render (a person) unaccustomed to something to which the person has been previously accustomed; cause to break a habit. [Middle English *disacustome* < Old French *desacostumer*: *des-*, *dis-* + *acostumer*, to accustom; see *ACCUSTOM*.]

dis-ad-van-tage (dis'ād-vān'tij) *n.* **1.** An unfavorable condition or position: *students who are at a disadvantage because they don't own computers.* **2.** Something that places one in an unfavorable condition or position: *A disadvantage to living there is that you'd have no access to public transportation.* **3.** Damage or loss, especially to reputation or finances; detriment: *High gasoline prices have worked to the company's disadvantage.* ♦ *tr.v.* -tag-ed, -tag-ing, -tag-es To put at a disadvantage; hinder or harm. [Middle English *disavauntage* < Old French *desavantage*: *des-*, *dis-* + *avantage*, advantage; see *ADVANTAGE*.]

➤ **SYNONYMS** *disadvantage, detriment, drawback, handicap* These nouns denote a condition, circumstance, or characteristic unfavorable to success: *Poor health is a disadvantage to athletes. The lack of a parking lot has been a detriment to the museum. Every job has its drawbacks. Illiteracy is a serious handicap in life.*

dis-ad-van-taged (dis'ād-vān'tijd) *adj.* **1.** Deprived of some of the basic necessities or advantages of life, such as adequate housing, medical care, or educational facilities. **2.** Being at a disadvantage, especially with respect to competitive or opposing elements or forces: *"We can't have ... disadvantaged conventional forces on one hand and strategic nuclear forces on the other"* (Bernard Rogers). ♦ *n.* (used with a *pl. verb*) Deprived people considered as a group. Often used with *the*. —**dis-ad-van-taged-ness** *n.*

dis-ad-van-ta-geous (dis'ād-vān-tā'jəs, dis'ād-vān-) *adj.* Detrimental; unfavorable. —**dis-ad-van-ta-geous-ly** *adv.*

dis-affect (dis'ā-fēkt') *tr.v.* -fected, -fect-ing, -fects To cause to lose affection or loyalty: *The king's actions disaffected the colonists.* —**dis-affect-ion** *n.*

dis-affect-ed (dis'ā-fēkt'id) *adj.* Resentful and rebellious, especially against authority. —**dis-affect-ed-ly** *adv.*

dis-aff-il-i-ate (dis'ā-fil'ē-āt') *v.* -at-ed, -at-ing, -ates —*tr.* To remove from association. —*intr.* To end an affiliation. —**dis-aff-il'i-a-tion** *n.*

dis-aff-irm (dis'ā-fūrm') *tr.v.* -firmed, -firm-ing, -firms *Law* To reject (a determination or obligation that is subject to approval). —**dis-aff-ir-mance** (dis'ā-fūrm'āns), **dis-aff-ir-ma-tion** (dis'ā-fūrm-ā-shən) *n.*

dis-ag-gre-gate (dis'āg-rī-gāt') *v.* -gat-ed, -gat-ing, -gates —*tr.* To divide into constituent parts. —*intr.* To break up or break apart. —**dis-ag-gre-ga-tion** *n.* —**dis-ag-gre-ga-tive** *adj.*

dis-a-gree (dis'ā-grē') *intr.v.* -gred, -gree-ing, -grees **1a.** To have a differing opinion: *She disagrees with him on everything. They say it will rain, but I disagree.* **b.** To dispute or quarrel: *When those two disagreed, there is a lot of yelling.* **2.** To fail to correspond: *Our figures disagree.* **3.** To cause adverse effects: *Caffeine disagrees with me.* [Middle English *disagreen* < Old French *desagreer*: *des-*, *dis-* + *agreer*, to agree; see *AGREE*.]

dis-a-gree-a-ble (dis'ā-grē'ā-bəl) *adj.* **1.** Not to one's liking; unpleasant or offensive. **2.** Having a quarrelsome, bad-tempered manner. —**dis-a-gree-a-ble-ness** *n.* —**dis-a-gree-a-bly** *adv.*

dis-a-gree-ment (dis'ā-grē'mənt) *n.* **1.** A failure or refusal to agree. **2.** A disparity; an inconsistency. **3a.** A conflict or difference of opinion. **b.** A quarrel.

dis-al-low (dis'ā-lou') *tr.v.* -lowed, -low-ing, -lows **1.** To refuse to allow: *"[The government] disallowed his aging and dying parents any reunion with their only child"* (John Simon). **2.** To reject as invalid, untrue, or improper. [Middle English *disallowen* < Old French *desalouer*, to repel; *des-*, *dis-* + *alouer*, to approve; see *ALLOW*.] —**dis-al-low-a-ble** *adj.* —**dis-al-low-ance** *n.*

dis-am-big-u-ate (dis'ām-bīg'yōō-āt') *tr.v.* -at-ed, -at-ing, -ates To establish a single grammatical or semantic interpretation for. —**dis-am-big-u-a-tion** *n.*

dis-an-nul (dis'ā-nūl') *tr.v.* -nulled, -null-ing, -nuls To annul or cancel. —**dis-an-nul-ment** *n.*

dis-ap-pear (dis'ā-pīr') *v.* -peared, -pear-ing, -pears —*intr.* **1.** To pass out of sight; vanish: *The moon disappeared behind the clouds.* **2.** To cease to be seen; be missing or unfound: *Her purse disappeared from her locker. The plane disappeared somewhere over the Pacific Ocean.* **3.** To cease to exist: *Dinosaurs disappeared at the end of the Cretaceous Period.* —*tr.* To cause (someone) to disappear, especially by kidnapping or murder. —**dis-ap-pear-ance** *n.*

➤ **SYNONYMS** *disappear, evanesce, evaporate, fade, vanish* These verbs mean to pass out of sight or existence: *a skyscraper disappearing in the fog; time seeming to evanesce; courage evaporating; memories fading away; hope slowly vanishing.*

dis-ap-point (dis'ā-pōint') *v.* -point-ed, -point-ing, -points —*tr.* **1.** To fail to satisfy the hope, desire, or expectation of. **2.** To frustrate or thwart: *"I will not disappoint the confidence you have put in me"* (Wayne A. Budd). —*intr.* To cause disappointment. [Middle English *disappointen* < Old French *desappointier*, to remove from office: *des-*, *dis-* + *apointer*, *apointier*, to appoint; see *APPOINT*.]

dis-ap-point-ed (dis'ā-pōint'id) *adj.* Thwarted in hope, desire, or expectation. —**dis-ap-point-ed-ly** *adv.*

dis-ap-point-ing (dis'ā-pōin'tīng) *adj.* Not up to expectations or hopes: *a disappointing test score; finished the marathon in a disappointing 12th place.* —**dis-ap-point-ing-ly** *adv.*

dis-ap-point-ment (dis'ā-pōint'mənt) *n.* **1a.** The act of disappointing. **b.** The condition or feeling of being disappointed. **2.** One that disappoints.

dis-ap-pro-ba-tion (dis'ā-prō-bā'shən) *n.* Moral disapproval; condemnation.

dis-ap-prov-al (dis'ā-prōv'vəl) *n.* The act of disapproving; condemnation or censure.

dis-ap-prove (dis'ā-prōv') *v.* -proved, -prov-ing, -proves —*tr.* **1.** To have an unfavorable opinion of; condemn. **2.** To refuse to approve; reject. —*intr.* To have an unfavorable opinion: *disapproves of drinking.* —**dis-ap-prov'er** *n.* —**dis-ap-prov-ing-ly** *adv.*

dis-arm (dis'ārm') *v.* -armed, -arm-ing, -arms —*tr.* **1a.** To divest of a weapon or weapons. **b.** To deprive of the means of attack or defense; render harmless: *"Have the courage to appear poor, and you disarm poverty of its sharpest sting"* (Washington Irving). **2a.** To overcome or allay the suspicion, hostility, or antagonism of. **b.** To win the confidence of. —*intr.* **1.** To lay down arms. **2.** To reduce or abolish armed forces. [Middle English *disarmen* < Old French *desarmer*: *des-*, *dis-* + *armer*, to arm (< Latin *armare* < *arma*, weapons; see *AR* in App. I).] —**dis-arm'er** *n.*

dis-ar-ma-ment (dis'ār-mā-mənt) *n.* **1.** The act of laying down arms, especially the reduction or abolition of a nation's military forces and armaments. **2.** The condition of being disarmed.

dis-arm-ing (dis'ār-mīng) *adj.* Tending to allay suspicion or hostility; winning favor or confidence: *a disarming smile.* —**dis-arm-ing-ly** *adv.*

dis-ar-range (dis'ā-rānj') *tr.v.* -ranged, -rang-ing, -rang-es To upset the proper arrangement or order of. —**dis-ar-range-ment** *n.*

dis-ar-ray (dis'ā-rā') *n.* **1.** A state of disorder; confusion. **2.** Disorderly dress. ♦ *tr.v.* -rayed, -ray-ing, -rays **1.** To throw into confusion; upset. **2.** To undress.

dis-ar-tic-u-late (dis'ār-tīk'yā-lāt') *v.* -lat-ed, -lat-ing, -lates —*tr.* To separate at the joints; disjoint. —*intr.* To become disjointed. —**dis-ar-tic'u-la-tion** *n.* —**dis-ar-tic'u-la-tor** *n.*

dis-as-sem-ble (dis'ā-sēm'bəl) *v.* -bled, -bling, -bles —*tr.* To take apart: *disassemble a toaster.* —*intr.* **1.** To come apart: *The unit disassembles easily.* **2.** To break up in random fashion: *The spectators began to disassemble.* —**dis-as-sem-bly** *n.*

dis-as-so-ci-ate (dis'ā-sō'sē-āt', -shē-) *tr.v.* -at-ed, -at-ing, -ates To remove from association; dissociate. —**dis-as-so-ci-a-tion** *n.*

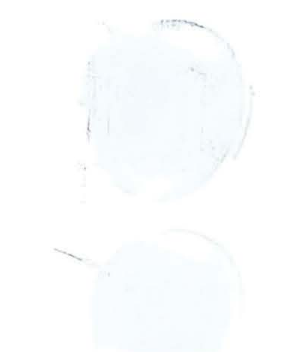
dis-as-ter (dī-zās'tər, -sās'-) *n.* **1a.** An occurrence causing widespread destruction and distress; a catastrophe. **b.** A grave misfortune. **2. Informal** A total failure: *The dinner party was a disaster.* **3. Obsolete** An evil influence of a star or planet. [French *désastre* < Italian *disastro*: *dis-*, pejorative pref. (< Latin *dis-*; see *DIS-*) + *astro*, star (< Latin *astrum* < Greek *astron*; see *STER-* in App. I).]



dirndl



dirt bike



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Stress marks: ' (primary); ' (secondary), as in dictionary (dīk'shō-nēr'ē)