

Nota Bene: D

D

dasein: being there
dalliance: a lighthearted undertaking; carefree spending of time
dank: damp and chilly
de novo: anew
debacle: utter collapse or rout
debauchery: licentiousness; overindulgent sexual expression
debilitating: weakening; sapping the strength of
debonair: suave; sophisticated and charming
deduction: inferring with necessity a particular conclusion from general premises
decadence: characterized by declining moral standards
Decalogue: The Ten Commandments of God
decan: a group of three divisions (houses) in the twelve signs of the zodiac
decelerate: to slow down
decimation: almost complete destruction
decision theory: the theory of how to make decisions under conditions of uncertain information
decorum: social propriety; dignified conduct
decrepit: enfeebled, as by old age
decry: to criticize or condemn
deductive validity: an inference is deductively valid when the premises cannot be true without the conclusion also being true
deduction: to logically derive a conclusion or conclusions from some starting point or assumption
deescalate: to diminish in size, intensity, or extent
defamation: act of harming someone by libel or slander
defer: to graciously submit to another's will; to delegate
degenerate: having regressed or descended to a lower state; a person without any standards of morality
deja vu: already seen; the experience of seeming to have seen or experienced a present event at some time in the past
deify: to elevate to the level of divinity or godhood
deign: to consider (an action) appropriate or suitable to one's station or reputation; to assent or condescend to something
delectable: highly pleasing; enjoyable (especially of a food)
deleterious: harmful or injurious
deliberate: to think about an issue before reaching a decision
delineate: to outline; to describe the primary features thereof
delusion: an accepted (but undetected) falsehood
demagogue: a leader who plays dishonestly on the prejudices and emotions of his followers
demarcate: to establish the limits of
dementia: a mental illness characterized by loss of reason
democracy: rule of the people; modern democracies are often exercises in pragmatism
demographic: relating to the statistical study of population
demure: modest; reserved and shy in appearance
denote: to indicate or make clear
dénouement: the final resolution of the intricacies of a plot
denunciation: the act or example of denouncing; accusing another person of a specific misdeed
denying the antecedent: a formal logical fallacy, so named so because the categorical premise in the

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argument, $\sim p$, denies the antecedent rather than the consequent of the conditional premise. Symbolized as: given $p \Rightarrow q$, then $\sim p \Rightarrow \sim q$

deplorable: extremely reproachful; worthy of censure

depravity: corruption, moral reprehensibility

deprecate: to belittle or make known one's disapproval of

dereliction: willful neglect; shirking of responsibility

derisive: expressing ridicule or scorn

derivative: imitating or borrowed from a particular source; in mathematics, the measure of velocity (or any type of change) at an instant

desecrate: to abuse the sacred character of a thing

desiccate: to dry out, to wither; to drain of vitality

desideratum: a thing to be desired

despondency: dejection, depression

despotic: oppressive and tyrannical

desultory: lacking in consistency, constancy, or visible order

determinism: the view that there is no contingency, for every event is necessary (according to some laws); thus the view that every event is the theoretically predictable consequence of antecedent causes

deus ex machina: an improbable solution, artificially introduced to resolve a difficulty or untangle a dramatic plot

deviate: to depart from a standard

dexterous: skillful

diabolical: devilish, evil

diagnostic: to evaluate the condition of a person or thing

dialectic: to arrive at a truthful conclusion by means of a logical argument

diatribe: abusive or bitter speech or writing

dichotomy: division into two halves, pairs, or sets

didactic: teaching; instruction with the purpose of establishing moral clarity

dies: day (**daily**)

diffident: hesitant, reserved, shy

digress: to wander from the main path or the main topic

dilapidated: to fall into disrepair

dilatory: likely to cause delay

dilettante: a dabbler, something who takes up an art, an activity, or a subject merely for amusement or in a desultory or superficial way

diminution: reduction or decrease due to outside influence

ding-en-sich: essence of a thing

diplomacy: the conduct of relations among nations

dirge: song or hymn of grief

disabuse: to correct a fallacy, to clarify

disburse: to pay out or distribute

discern: to detect, notice, or observe

discombobulate: to confuse or throw into an awkward predicament

discomfort: to cause to come into disorder

disconcerting: ruffled, upset

discordant: characterized by conflict

discourse: formal and orderly exchange of ideas, a discussion

discredit: to cause disbelief in the accuracy of some statement or the reliability of a person

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discreet: showing good judgment in speech and behavior
discrete: separate, unconnected
discursive: proceeding by reasoning or argument rather than intuition
disdain: to treat with contempt
disgruntle: to cause to become cross or discontented
disingenuous: lacking in frankness, candor, or sincerity
disjunction: a truth-functional connective meaning "or" and symbolized by a wedge
disjuncts: the two logical sentences involved in a disjunction
disparage: to speak or write debasingly of
disparity: difference in quality or kind
dissemble: to pretend, to simulate
disseminate: to scatter across a broad spectrum; to spread far and wide
dissipate: to spread out or scatter
dissolution: the act of dissolving into fragments or parts
dissonance: lack of musical harmony; lack of agreement between ideas
dissuade: to convince to take alternate action
disport: to play or frolic
distillation: an essence or extract
diu: by day (**diurnal**)
diverge: to move in different directions; in mathematics, when an infinite series does not sum to a finite number
divide et impera: divide and rule
division: in logic, an informal fallacy in which a mistaken inference is drawn from the attributes of a whole to the attributes of the parts of the whole; the reverse of the fallacy of composition
docile: easily taught
dogmatic: holding firmly to a particular set of beliefs with little or no basis
dolt: a stupid or foolish person
domesticate: to make accustomed to home life
domicile: a residence
dominus illuminatio mea: may the Lord guide me
dormant: temporarily inactive; as if asleep
dossier: a collection of documents offering detailed information
droll: wryly amusing
dross: something that is trivial or inferior; an impurity
dualism: the general perspective that reality or man's experience is properly interpreted by two different kinds of explanation, the one religious and the other non-religious; thus the endorsement of a sacred/secular distinction (this should be distinguished from the specific metaphysical doctrine given the same name that means the view that there are two ultimate and irreducible principles for explaining reality: mind and matter [body])
dubious: doubtful, uncertain
dum licet utere: while time is given, use it
dupe: someone who is easily cheated
dyslexia: unusual trouble with spelling or reading caused by a brain condition
dysphoria: an unwell feeling (opposite of **euphoria**)