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**DD** ■ n. 1 the day (6 June 1944) in the Second World War on which Allied forces invaded northern France. 2 the day on which something important is to happen. - ORIGIN from *D* for *day* + *DAY*.

**DDE** ■ n. Computing a standard allowing data to be shared between different programs. - ORIGIN 1980s: abbrev. of *Dynamic Data Exchange*.

**DDI** ■ abbrev. 1 dideoxyinosine. 2 divisional detective inspector.

**DDoS** ■ abbrev. distributed denial of service, denoting the intentional paralysing of a computer network by flooding it with data sent simultaneously from many individual computers.

**DDR** ■ abbrev. historical German Democratic Republic. - ORIGIN abbrev. of Ger. *Deutsche Demokratische Republik*.

**DDT** ■ abbrev. dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane, a synthetic organic compound used as an insecticide but now banned in many countries.

**DE** ■ abbrev. 1 Delaware (in official postal use). 2 (formerly in the UK) Department of Employment.

**de-** ■ prefix 1 (forming verbs and their derivatives) down; away: *descend* | *deduct*. > completely: *denude*. 2 (added to verbs and their derivatives) denoting removal or reversal: *de-ice*. 3 denoting formation from: *deverbal*. - ORIGIN from L. *de* 'off, from'; sense 2 via OFr. *des-* from L. *dis-*.

**DEA** ■ abbrev. US Drug Enforcement Administration.

**deaccession** /di:ək'seɪʃ(ə)n/ ■ v. officially remove (an item) from a library, museum, or art gallery in order to sell it. ■ n. the disposal of items in this way.

**deacon** /di:k(ə)n/ ■ n. 1 (in Catholic, Anglican, and Orthodox Churches) an ordained minister of an order ranking below that of priest. > (in some Protestant Churches) a lay officer assisting a minister. 2 (in the early Church) an appointed minister of charity. ■ v. appoint or ordain as a deacon. - DERIVATIVES **deaconship** n. - ORIGIN OE *diacon*, via eccles. L. from Gk *diakonos* 'servant' (in eccles. Gk 'Christian minister').

**deaconess** /di:kə'nes, 'di:k(ə)nɪs/ ■ n. (in the early Church and some modern Churches) a woman with duties similar to those of a deacon.

**deactivate** ■ v. make (something) inactive by disconnecting or destroying it. - DERIVATIVES **deactivation** n. **deactivator** n.

**dead** ■ adj. 1 no longer alive. > devoid of living things. 2 (of a part of the body) numb. > lacking emotion, sympathy, or sensitivity. 3 no longer relevant or important. 4 lacking activity or excitement. > (of sound or a colour) dull. 5 (of equipment) not functioning. > (of a glass or bottle) empty or no longer in use. > (of the ball in a game) out of play. 6 complete; absolute: *dead silence*. ■ adv. completely. > exactly. > straight; directly. > Brit. informal very. - PHRASES **be dead meat** informal be in serious trouble. **dead and buried over**; finished. **dead in the water** (of a ship) unable to move. > unable to function effectively. **the dead of night** the quietest, darkest part of the night. **the dead of winter** the coldest part of winter. **dead on one's feet** informal very tired. **dead to the world** informal fast asleep. **from the dead** from a state of death. **wouldn't be seen (or caught) dead in (or with, at, etc.)** informal have a strong dislike of. - DERIVATIVES **deadness** n. - ORIGIN OE *dēad*, of Gmc origin: rel. to Ger. *tot*, also to *DIE*.

**dead-ball line** ■ n. 1 Rugby a line behind the goal line, beyond which the ball is out of play. 2 Soccer the byline.

**deadbeat** ■ adj. 1 (**dead beat**) informal completely exhausted. 2 (of a mechanism) without recoil. ■ n. informal 1 an idle or feckless person. 2 N. Amer. a person who tries to evade paying debts.

**deadbolt** ■ n. a bolt engaged by turning a knob or key, rather than by spring action.

**dead cat bounce** ■ n. Stock Exchange. informal a temporary recovery in price.

**dead duck** ■ n. informal an unsuccessful or useless person or thing. - ORIGIN from the old saying 'never waste powder on a dead duck'.

**deaden** ■ v. 1 make (a noise or sensation) less intense. > make insensitive. 2 deprive of force or vitality. - DERIVATIVES **deadener** n. **deadening** adj.

**dead end** ■ n. an end of a road or passage from which no exit is possible. > a situation offering no prospects of progress.

**deadeye** ■ n. 1 Sailing a circular wooden block with a groove round the circumference to take a lanyard, used singly or in pairs to tighten a shroud. 2 informal, chiefly N. Amer. an expert marksman.

**deadfall** ■ n. N. Amer. 1 a trap consisting of a heavy weight positioned to fall on an animal. 2 a mass of fallen trees and brush.

**dead hand** ■ n. an undesirable persisting influence.

**deadhead** ■ n. 1 Brit. a faded flower head. 2 informal a boring person. 3 N. Amer. a person with a free ticket. 4 a partially submerged log. ■ v. 1 remove dead flower heads from (a plant). 2 N. Amer. informal (of a commercial driver) complete a trip in an empty vehicle.

**dead heat** ■ n. a result in a race in which two or more competitors finish at exactly the same time. ■ v. (**dead-heat**) finish a race exactly level.

**dead leg** ■ n. an injury caused by a numbing blow to a person's upper leg. ■ v. (**dead-leg**) informal give (someone) a dead leg.

**dead letter** ■ n. 1 a law or treaty which has not been repealed but is defunct in practice. 2 chiefly N. Amer. an unclaimed or undelivered letter.

**dead letter box** ■ n. a place where messages can be left and collected without the sender and recipient meeting.

**dead lift** ■ n. Weightlifting a lift made from a standing position, without the use of a bench.

**deadlight** ■ n. 1 a protective cover fitted over a porthole or window on a ship. 2 US a skylight designed not to be opened.

**deadline** ■ n. 1 the latest time or date by which something should be completed. 2 historical a line drawn around a prison beyond which prisoners were liable to be shot.

**dead load** ■ n. the weight of a structure or vehicle, excluding that of passengers or goods.

**deadlock** ■ n. 1 a situation in which no progress can be made. 2 Brit. a lock operated by a key, as distinct from a spring lock. ■ v. 1 bring to a deadlock. 2 Brit. secure with a deadlock.

**dead loss** ■ n. an unproductive or useless person or thing.

**deadly** ■ adj. (**deadlier, deadliest**) 1 causing or able to cause death. > filled with hate. 2 extremely accurate or effective. 3 informal extremely boring. 4 complete: *she was in deadly earnest*. ■ adv. 1 in a way that resembles or suggests death. 2 extremely. - DERIVATIVES **deadliness** n.

**deadly nightshade** ■ n. a poisonous bushy plant with drooping purple flowers and black cherry-like fruit. [*Atropa belladonna*.]

**deadly sin** ■ n. (in Christian tradition) a sin regarded as leading to damnation. See the seven deadly sins at **SEVEN**.

**dead man** ■ n. informal a bottle after the contents have been drunk.

**dead man's fingers** ■ pl. n. 1 a colonial soft coral with spongy lobes resembling the fingers of a corpse. [*Alcyonium digitatum*.] 2 informal the divisions of a lobster's or crab's gills.

**dead man's handle** (also **dead man's pedal**) ■ n. (in a train) a safety lever which shuts off power when not held in place by the driver.

**dead march** ■ n. a slow, solemn piece of music suitable for a funeral procession.

**dead-nettle** ■ n. a plant of the mint family, with leaves that resemble those of a nettle without stinging hairs.

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