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to delay : *dis-*, apart; see *DIS-* + *latus*, carried; see *tele-* in Appendix.] —*dil'a-to'ri-ly* adv. —*dil'a-to'ri-ness* n.
dil·do also *dil·doe* (dīl'dō) n., pl. -*dos* also -*does*. An object used as a substitute for an erect penis. [Origin unknown.]
dil·em·ma (dī-lēm'ə) n. 1. A situation that requires a choice between options that are or seem equally unfavorable or mutually exclusive. 2. *Usage Problem*. A problem that seems to defy a satisfactory solution. 3. *Logic*. An argument that presents an antagonist with a choice of two or more alternatives, each of which contradicts the original contention and is conclusive. [Late Latin, from Greek *dilēmma*, ambiguous proposition : *di-*, two; see *DI-* + *lēmna*, proposition; see *LEMMA*.] —*dil'em·mat'ic* (dīl'ə-māt'ik) adj.

USAGE NOTE: In its primary sense *dilemma* denotes a situation in which a choice must be made between alternative courses of action or argument. Although citational evidence attests to widespread use of the term meaning simply "problem" or "predicament" and involving no issue of choice, 74 percent of the Usage Panel rejected the sentence *Juvenile drug abuse is the great dilemma of the 1980's*. • It is sometimes claimed that because the *di-* in *dilemma* comes from a Greek prefix meaning "two," the word should be used only when exactly two choices are involved. But 64 percent of the Usage Panel accepts its use for choices among three or more options in the example *Ph.D. students who haven't completed their dissertations by the time their fellowships expire face a difficult dilemma: whether to take out loans to support themselves, to try to work part-time at both a job and their research, or to give up on the degree entirely*.

dil·et·tante (dīl'i-tānt', dīl'i-tānt', -tānt'tē, -tānt', -tānt'tē) n., pl. -*tantes* also -*tan-ti* (-tānt'tē, -tānt'-). 1. A dabbler in an art or a field of knowledge. See *Synonyms at amateur*. 2. A lover of the fine arts; a connoisseur. —*diletante* adj. Superficial; amateurish. [Italian, lover of the arts, from present participle of *dilettare*, to delight, from Latin *dēlectāre*. See *DELIGHT*.] —*dil'et-tan'tish* adj. —*dil'et-tan'tism* n.

*dil·i·gence*¹ (dīl'ə-jəns) n. 1. Earnest and persistent application to an undertaking; steady effort; assiduity. 2. Attentive care; heedfulness.

*dil·i·gence*² (dīl'ə-jəns, dē'lē-zhāns') n. A large stagecoach. [French, from (*carrosse de*) *diligence*, speed (coach), from Old French, *diligence*, dispatch, from Latin *diligentia*, from *diligēns*, diligent-, diligent. See *DILIGENT*.]

dil·i·gent (dīl'ə-jənt) adj. Marked by persevering, painstaking effort. See *Synonyms at busy*. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *diligēns*, diligent-, present participle of *diligere*, to esteem, love : *di-*, dis-, apart; see *DIS-* + *legere*, to choose; see *LEG-* in Appendix.] —*dil'i-gent-ly* adv.

dill (dīl) n. 1. An aromatic herb (*Anethum graveolens*) native to Eurasia, having finely dissected leaves and small yellow flowers clustered in umbels. 2. The leaves or seeds of this plant, used as a seasoning. [Middle English *dile*, from Old English.]

Dil·lin·ger (dīl'in-jər), *John*. 1902–1934. American gangster who was declared Public Enemy Number One by the F.B.I. in 1933 for his role in a string of bank robberies and at least three murders. He died in a gun battle with F.B.I. agents in front of the Biograph Theater in Chicago.

dill pickle n. A pickled cucumber flavored with dill.

dil·ly (dīl'ē) n., pl. -*lies*. *Slang*. One that is remarkable or extraordinary, as in size or quality: *had a dilly of a fight*. [Obsolete *dilly*, delightful, alteration of *DELIGHTFUL*.]

dil·ly-dal·ly (dīl'ē-dāl'ē) intr.v. -*lied*, -*lying*, -*lies*. To waste time, especially in indecision; dawdle or vacillate. [Reduplication of *DALLY*.] —*dil'ly-dal'li-er* n.

dil·u·ent (dīl'yōō-ənt) adj. Serving to dilute. —*diluent* n. *Chemistry*. An inert substance used to dilute. [Latin *diluēns*, diluent-, present participle of *diluere*, to dilute. See *DILUTE*.]

dil·ute (dī-lōōt', dī-) tr.v. -*lut-ed*, -*lut-ing*, -*lutes*. 1. To make thinner or less concentrated by adding a liquid such as water. 2. To lessen the force, strength, purity, or brilliance of, especially by admixture. —*dilute* adj. *Abbr. dil.* Weakened; especially by admixture. [Latin *diluere*, *dilūt-* : *di-*, dis-, apart, away; see *DIS-* + *luere*, to wash (from *lavere*; see *LEU(ə)-* in Appendix).] —*diluter*, *di-lut'er* n. —*di-lu'tive* adj.

dil·u·tion (dī-lōō'shən, dī-) n. 1. a. The process of making weaker or less concentrated. b. A dilute or weakened condition. 2. A diluted substance. 3. A decrease in the equity position of a share of stock because of the issuance of additional shares.

dil·u·vi·al (dī-lōō'vē-əl) also *dil·u·vi·an* (-ən) adj. Of, relating to, or produced by a flood. [Late Latin *diluvialis*, from Latin *diluvium*, flood, from *diluere*, to wash away. See *DILUTE*.]

dim (dīm) adj. *dim·mer*, *dim·mest*. 1. a. Lacking in brightness: a dim room. b. Emitting only a small amount of light; faint: a dim lightbulb. 2. Lacking luster; dull and subdued. 3. a. Faintly outlined; indistinct: a dim figure in the distance. b. Obscure to the mind or the senses: a dim recollection of the accident. 4. Lacking...

dim. *abbr.* 1. Dimension. 2. Diminished. 3. Music. Diminuendo. 4. Diminutive.

Di·Mag·gio (dā-mā'zhē-ō, -māj'ē-ō), *Joseph Paul*. Known as "Jolting Joe" and "the Yankee Clipper." Born 1914. American baseball player. A center fielder for the New York Yankees (1936–1951), he is considered the best all-around player ever at that position. In 1941 he hit safely in 56 consecutive games.

dime (dīm) n. 1. A coin of the United States or Canada worth ten cents. 2. *Slang*. A dime bag. —*idioms*. a *dime a dozen*. Overly abundant; commonplace. *on a dime*. Within a narrowly defined area: a sports car that stops on a dime. [Middle English, tenth part, from Old French *disme*, from Latin *decima* (pars), tenth (part), from *decem*, ten. See *DEKŃ* in Appendix.]

dime bag n. *Slang*. A specified amount of an unlawful drug, packaged and sold for a fixed price.

di·men·hy·dri·nate (dī'mēn-hī'drə-nāt') n. An antihistamine, C₂₄H₂₈ClN₃O₃, used to treat motion sickness and allergic disorders. [*DIME*(THYL) + (*AMI*)N(E) + *hydrinate* (HYDR(AM)IN(E) + -ATE²).]

dime novel n. A melodramatic novel of romance or adventure, usually in paperback. [After the *Dime Book Series*, published by Erastus Flavel Beadle.] —*dime novelist* n.

di·men·sion (dī-mēn'shən, dī-) n. *Abbr. dim.* 1. A measure of spatial extent, especially width, height, or length. 2. Often *dimensions*. Extent or magnitude; scope: a problem of alarming dimensions. 3. Aspect; element: "He's a good newsman, and he has that extra dimension" (William S. Paley). 4. *Mathematics*.

a. One of the least number of independent coordinates required to specify uniquely a point in space or in space and time. b. The range of such a coordinate. 5. *Physics*. A physical property, such as mass, length, time, or a combination thereof, regarded as a fundamental measure or as one of a set of fundamental measures of a physical quantity: *Velocity has the dimensions of length divided by time*. —*dimension tr.v.* -*sioned*, -*sion-ing*, -*sions*. 1. To cut or shape to specified dimensions. 2. To mark with specified dimensions. [Middle English *dimensioun*, from Latin *dimēnsiō*, *dimēnsiōn-*, extent, from *dimēnsus*, past participle of *dimētiri*, to measure out : *dis-*, dis- + *mētiri*, to measure; see *ME-* in Appendix.] —*di·men'sion-al* adj. —*di·men'sion-al-i-ty* (-shə-nāl'i-tē) n. —*di·men'sion-al-ly* adv. —*di·men'sion-less* adj.

di·mer (dī'mər) n. 1. A molecule consisting of two identical simpler molecules. 2. A chemical compound consisting of such molecules. [*DI-* + (*POLY*)MER.] —*di·mer'ic* (dī-mēr'ik) adj.

di·mer·cap·rol (dī'mər-kāp'rōl, -rōl, -rōl) n. A colorless, oily, viscous liquid, C₂H₄OS₂, used as an antidote for poisoning caused by lewisite, organic arsenic compounds, and heavy metals including mercury and gold. Also called *British anti-lewisite*. [*DI-* + *MERCAP*(TAN) + (*P*)R(OPANE) + -OL(E).]

di·mer·ous (dīm'ər-əs) adj. 1. Consisting of two parts or segments, as the tarsus in certain insects. 2. *Botany*. Having flower parts, such as petals, sepals, and stamens, in sets of two. —*di·mer'ism* n.

dime store n. See *five-and-ten*.

di·m·e·ter (dīm'i-tər) n. A line of verse consisting of two metrical feet. [Late Latin, from Greek *dimētros*, having two meters : *di-*, two; see *DI-* + *metron*, meter; see *METER*.]

di·meth·o·ate (dī-mēth'ō-āt') n. A crystalline compound, C₂H₁₂NO₂PS₂, used as an insecticide. [Probably *DIMETH*(YL) + (*THI*)O- + -ATE².]

di·meth·yl (dī-mēth'əl) n. An organic compound, especially ethane, containing two methyl groups.

di·meth·yl·ni·tro·s·a·mine (dī-mēth'əl-nī-trō'sə-mēn', -nī'trō-sām'in) n. A carcinogenic nitrosamine, C₂H₆N₂O, that occurs in tobacco smoke and certain foods.

di·meth·yl·sulf·ox·ide (dī-mēth'əl-sūl-fōk'sīd') n. DMSO.

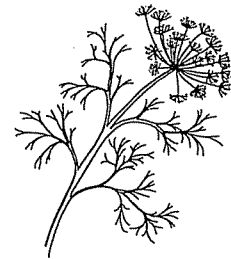
dimin. *abbr.* 1. Music. Diminuendo. 2. Diminutive.

di·min·ish (dī-mīn'ish) v. -*ished*, -*ish-ing*, -*ish-es*. —*tr.* 1. a. To make smaller or less or to cause to appear so. b. To detract from the authority, reputation, or prestige of. 2. To cause to taper. 3. *Music*. To reduce (a perfect or minor interval) by a semitone. —*intr.* 1. To become smaller or less. See *Synonyms at decrease*. 2. To taper. [Middle English *diminishen*, blend of *diminuen*, to lessen (from Old French *diminuer*, from Latin *dīmīnuere*, variant of *dēminuere* : *dē-*, de- + *minuere*, to lessen) and *minishen*, to reduce (from Old French *minuier*, from Vulgar Latin **minūtāre*, from Latin *minūtia*, smallness, from *minūtus*, small, from past participle of *minuere*, to lessen; see *ME-* in Appendix).] —*di·min'ish-a-ble* adj. —*di·min'ish-ment* n.

di·min·ished capacity (dī-mīn'ish't) n. *Law*. Lack of ability to achieve the state of mind necessary for the commission of a particular crime.

di·min·ish·ing returns (dī-mīn'ish-ing) pl.n. A yield rate that after a certain point fails to increase proportionately to additional outlays of capital or investments of time and labor.

di·min·u·en·do (dī-mīn'yōō-ēn'dō) n., adv., & adj. *Abbr. dim., dimin.* *Music*. Decrescendo. [Italian, present participle of *diminuire*, to diminish. See *DIMINISH*.]



dill
Anethum graveolens



Joe DiMaggio

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō took
ā father	ōō boot
ē pet	ū cut
ē be	ūr urge
ī pit	th thin
ī pie	th this
ī pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about, item