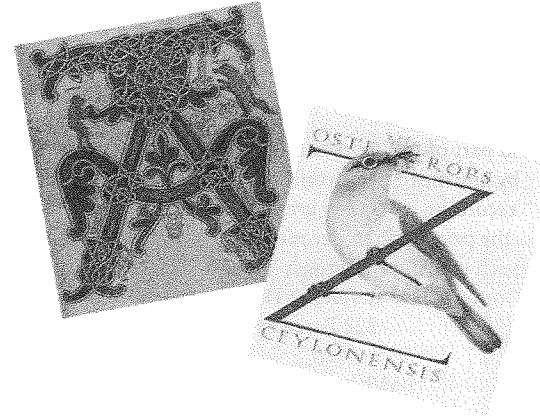


Heritage Dictionary

of the English Language

FOURTH EDITION



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY
Boston New York

001

TriPlay's Exhibit 2006

DOCKET
ALARM

Find authenticated court documents without watermarks at docketalarm.com.

Words are included in this Dictionary on the basis of their usage. Words that are known to have current trademark registrations are shown with an initial capital and are also identified as trademarks. No investigation has been made of common-law trademark rights in any word, because such investigation is impracticable. The inclusion of any word in this Dictionary is not, however, an expression of the Publisher's opinion as to whether or not it is subject to proprietary rights. Indeed, no definition in this Dictionary is to be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark.

American Heritage® and the eagle logo are registered trademarks of Forbes Inc. Their use is pursuant to a license agreement with Forbes Inc.

Copyright © 2000 Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Company unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to Reference Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Company, 222 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Visit our Web site: www.hmco.com/trade.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The American Heritage dictionary of the English language.—4th ed.
p. cm.
ISBN 0-395-82517-2 (hardcover) — ISBN 0-618-08230-1
(hardcover with CD ROM)
1. English language—Dictionaries
PE1628 .A623 2000
423—dc21

00-025369

Manufactured in the United States of America

Table of C

Entries with Notes

Introduction

JOSEPH P. PICKETT

Editorial and Production Staff

Special Contributors and Consultants

The Usage Panel

Regional Patterns of American Speech

LEE PEDERSON

Variation and Change in Our Living Language

JOHN R. RICKFORD

Usage in *The American Heritage Dictionary*

GEOFFREY NUNBERG

Guide to the Dictionary

Pronunciation Key

Dictionary of the English Language

Indo-European Roots

Indo-European and the Indo-European Languages

CALVERT WATKINS

Guide to Appendix I

Indo-European Sound Correspondences

APPENDIX I Indo-European Roots

Semitic Roots

Proto-Semitic Language and the Semitic Family Tree

JOHN HUEHNERGARD

Guide to Appendix II and Chart of the Semitic Family Tree

Semitic Family Tree

APPENDIX II Semitic Roots

above and white below, that grows up to about 55 feet (17 meters) in length, and that is found in all the oceans, with the greatest number living in Antarctic waters. [Partial translation of Norwegian *seihval*. See *SEL*.]

seize (sēz) *v.* **seized**, **seizing**, **seizes** —*tr.* **1.** To grasp suddenly and forcibly; take or grab: *seize a sword*. **2a.** To grasp with the mind; apprehend: *seize an idea and develop it to the fullest extent*. **b.** To possess oneself of (something): *seize an opportunity*. **3a.** To have a sudden overwhelming effect on: *a heinous crime that seized the minds and emotions of the populace*. **b.** To overwhelm physically: *a person who was seized with a terminal disease*. **4.** To take into custody; capture. **5.** To take quick and forcible possession of; confiscate: *seize a cache of illegal drugs*. **6.** Also **seise** (sēz) **a.** To put (one) into possession of something. **b.** To vest ownership of a feudal property in. **7. Nautical** To bind (a rope) to another, or to a spar, with turns of small line. —*intr.* **1.** To lay sudden or forcible hold of. **2a.** To cohere or fuse with another part as a result of high pressure or temperature and restrict or prevent further motion or flow. **b.** To come to a halt: *The talks seized up and were rescheduled*. **3.** To exhibit symptoms of seizure activity, usually with convulsions. [Middle English *seisen*, from Old French *seisir*, to take possession, of Germanic origin.] —**seiz/a•ble** *adj.* —**seiz'er** *n.*

seiz'in (sē'zɪn) *n.* Variant of **seisin**.

seizing (sē'zɪŋ) *n.* **Nautical** **1.** A binding of larger lines made with multiple turns of smaller line. **2.** The smaller line so used.

seizor also **seisor** (sē'zɔr, -zōr') *n.* One that takes seisin.

seizure (sē'zʊr) *n.* **1.** The act or an instance of seizing or the condition of being seized. **2.** A sudden attack, spasm, or convulsion, as in epilepsy or another disorder. **3.** A sudden onset or sensation of feeling or emotion.

Sek•on•di•Ta•ko•ra•di (sēk'ən-dē'tā-kō-rā'dē) *n.* A city of southwest Ghana on the Gulf of Guinea west-southwest of Accra. The two parts of the city developed around Dutch and English forts built in the 17th century. Population: 93,882.

se•la•chi•an (sī-lā'kē-ən) *adj.* Of or belonging to the order Selachii of elasmobranch fishes that includes the sharks and in some classifications also the rays and skates. ♦ *n.* A member of this order. [Probably from New Latin *Selachii*, order name, from Greek *selakhios*, cartilaginous, from *selakhos*, cartilaginous fish.]

se•la•dang (sī-lā'dāŋ) *n.* See **gaur**. [Malay.]

se•lagi•nel•la (sē-lāj'ə-nē'lə) *n.* Any of numerous fernlike, usually prostrate plants of the genus *Selaginella*, having small scalelike leaves and bearing spores. [New Latin *Selaginella*, genus name, from Latin *selāgō*, *selāgin-*, a plant resembling the savin.]

se•lah (sē'lə, sē'lə) *interj.* Used to conclude a verse in the Psalms. [Hebrew *selā*.]

sel•dom (sēl'dəm) *adv.* Not often; infrequently or rarely. See Usage Note at **rarely**. ♦ *adj.* **Archaic** Infrequent; rare. [Middle English, from Old English *selđum*, alteration of *seldan*.] —**sel/dom•ness** *n.*

se•lect (sī-lēkt') *v.* **-lected**, **-lecting**, **-lects** —*tr.* To take as a choice from among several; pick out. —*intr.* To make a choice or selection. ♦ *adj.* **1.** Singled out in preference; chosen: *a select few*. **2.** Of special quality or value; choice: *select peaches*. **3.** Of or relating to a lean grade of beef. **4.** Careful or refined in making selections; discriminating. ♦ *n.* **1.** One that is chosen in preference to others or because of special value. **2.** (used with a pl. verb) Chosen or preferred items or people considered as a group. Often used with *the*. [Latin *seligere*, *select-*: *se-*, apart; see **s(w)e-** in Appendix I + *legere*, to choose; see **leg-** in Appendix I.] —**se•lec/t•a•ble** *adj.* —**se•lect/ness** *n.*

se•lect•ee (sī-lēk'tē') *n.* One who is selected, especially for military service.

se•lec•tion (sī-lēk/shən) *n.* **1a.** The act or an instance of selecting or the fact of having been selected. **b.** One that is selected. **2.** A carefully chosen or representative collection of people or things. See synonyms at **choice**. **3.** A literary or musical text chosen for reading or performance. **4. Biology** A natural or artificial process that favors or induces survival and perpetuation of one kind of organism over others that die or fail to produce offspring.

se•lec•tion•ist (sī-lēk/shə-nist) *adj.* also **se•lec•tion•al** (-shə-nəl) Of or relating to the view that evolution or genetic variation occurs chiefly as a result of natural selection. ♦ *n.* One who holds or favors a selectionist view. —**se•lec/tion•ism** *n.*

se•lec•tive (sī-lēk'tiv) *adj.* **1.** Of or characterized by selection; discriminating. **2.** Empowered or tending to select. **3. Electronics** Able to resist frequencies other than those that are desired.

Russia flowing about 1,207 km (750 mi) east and north to Lake Baikal. **se•le•nic** (sə-lē'nik, -lən'ik) *adj.* Of, relating to, or containing selenium.

selenic acid *n.* A highly corrosive hygroscopic white solid acid with composition H₂SeO₄.

se•le•nif•er•ous (sēl'ə-nif'ər-əs) *adj.* Containing selenium: *seleniferous soil*.

se•le•nite (sēl'ə-nīt', sī-lē't-) *n.* Gypsum in the form of colorless clear crystals. [Latin *selēnites*, from Greek *selēnites* (*lithos*), moon (stone), selenite (so called because it was believed to wax and wane with the moon), from *selēnē*, moon. See **SELENIUM**.]

se•le•ni•um (sī-lē'nē-əm) *n.* **Symbol** Se A nonmetallic element, red in powder form, black in vitreous form, and metallic gray in crystalline form, resembling sulfur and obtained primarily as a byproduct of electrolytic copper refining. It is widely used in rectifiers, as a semiconductor, and in xerography. Its photovoltaic and photoconductive actions make it useful in photocells, photographic exposure meters, and solar cells. Atomic number 34; atomic weight 78.96; melting point (of gray selenium) 217°C; boiling point (gray) 684.9°C; specific gravity (gray) 4.79; (vitreous) 4.28; valence 2, 4, or 6. See table at **element**. [Greek *selēnē*, moon (from *selas*, light, brightness) + -IUM.]

selenium cell *n.* A photoconductive cell consisting of an insulated selenium strip between two suitable electrodes.

seleno- or **selen-** *pref.* **1.** Moon: *selenography*. **2.** Selenium: *selenosis*. [Greek *selēno-*, from *selēnē*, moon. See **SELENIUM**.]

se•le•nog•ra•phy (sēl'ə-nōg'rə-fē) *n.* The study of the physical features of the moon. —**se•le•nog•ra•pher**, **se•le•nog•ra•phist** *n.* —**se•le•no•graph/ic** (-nə-grāf'ik), **se•le•no•graph/ic•al** (-i-kəl) *adj.* —**se•le•no•graph/ic•al•ly** *adv.*

se•le•nol•o•gy (sēl'ə-nōl'ə-jē) *n.* The astronomical study of the moon. —**se•le•nol•o•gic** (-nə-lōj'i-kəl) *adj.* —**se•le•nol•o•gist** *n.*

se•le•no•sis (sēl'ə-nō'sis) *n.* Poisoning, especially of livestock, caused by ingesting selenium found in some plants, in the soil, or in some microorganisms.

Sel•es (sēl'əs), **Monica** Born 1973. Yugoslavian-born American tennis player who between 1990 and 1993 won eight Grand Slam championships. She returned to tennis in 1995 after being stabbed on court in 1993 by a spectator.

Se•leu•ci•a (sī-lōō'shē-ə, -shə) An ancient city of Mesopotamia on the Tigris River south-southeast of modern Baghdad. Founded c. 300 B.C., it was an important commercial center and the chief city of the empire founded by Seleucus I.

Se•leu•cid (sī-lōō'sid) *adj.* Of or relating to a Hellenistic dynasty founded by Seleucus I after the death of Alexander the Great. It ruled much of Asia Minor from 312 to 64 B.C. ♦ *n.* A member or subject of this dynasty.

Se•leu•cus I (sī-lōō'kas) 358?-281 B.C. Macedonian general under Alexander the Great. He founded and ruled (312–281) the Seleucid dynasty after Alexander's death.

self (sēlf) *n., pl. selves (sēlvz) **1.** The total, essential, or particular being of a person; the individual: "An actor's instrument is the self" (Joan Juliet Buck). **2.** The essential qualities distinguishing one person from another; individuality: "He would walk a little first along the southern walls, shed his European self, fully enter this world" (Howard Kaplan). **3.** One's consciousness of one's own being or identity; the ego: "For some of us, the self's natural doubts are given in mesmerizing amplification by way of critics' negative assessments of our writing" (Joyce Carol Oates). **4.** One's own interests, welfare, or advantage: *thinking of self alone*. **5. Immunology** That which the immune system identifies as belonging to the body: *tissues no longer recognized as self*. ♦ *pron.* Myself, yourself, himself, or herself: *a living wage for self and family*. ♦ *adj.* **1.** Of the same character throughout. **2.** Of the same material as the article with which it is used: *a dress with a self belt*. **3. Obsolete** Same or identical. [Middle English, selfsame, from Old English. See **s(w)e-** in Appendix I.]*

self- *pref.* **1.** Oneself; itself: *self-control*. **2.** Automatic; automatically: *self-loading*. [Middle English, from Old English, from *self*, self. See **SELF**.]

self-a•ban•doned (sēlf'ə-bān'dənd) *adj.* Lacking self-restraint, especially having completely yielded to one's impulses. —**self-a•ban•don•ment** *n.*

self-a•base•ment (sēlf'ə-bās'mənt) *n.* Degradation or humiliation of oneself, especially because of feelings of guilt or inferiority.

self-a•nal•y•sis (sēlf'ə-nāl'i-sis) *n., pl. -ses* (-sēz') An independent methodical attempt to study and comprehend one's own personality, emotions, and behavior. —**self-an'a•lyt'i•cal** (-ān'ə-līt'i-kəl) *adj.*

self-an•ni•hi•la•tion (sēlf'ə-nī'ə-lā'shən) *n.* **1.** Self-destructive. **2.** Loss of self-awareness, as in a mystical state.

self-ap•point•ed (sēlf'ə-poin'tid) *adj.* Designated or chosen oneself rather than by due authority: *a self-appointed mediator*.

self-as•sert•ing (sēlf'ə-sūr'tɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** Asserting oneself or one's own rights or views. **2a.** Self-confident. **b.** Overbearing; arrogant.

self-as•ser•tion (sēlf'ə-sūr'shən) *n.* Determined advancement of one's own personality, wishes, or views. —**self-as•ser•tive** —**self-as•ser•tive•ly** *adv.* —**self-as•ser•tive•ness** *n.*

self-as•sured (sēlf'ə-shōord') *adj.* Having or showing confidence and poise. —**self-as•sur•ance** (-shōor'əns) *n.*

self-a•ware (sēlf'ə-wār') *adj.* Aware of oneself, including one's traits, feelings, and behaviors. —**self-a•ware•ness** *n.*

self-bast•ing (sēlf'bā'stɪŋ) *adj.* Prepared so as to remain moist while being cooked: *a self-basting turkey*.

self-cen•tered (sēlf'sen'tərd) *adj.* Engrossed in oneself and one's own affairs; selfish. —**self-cen•tered•ly** *adv.* —**self-cen•tered•ness** *n.*

self-clean•ing (sēlf'klē'nɪŋ) *adj.* Made or designed to clean itself often automatically: *a self-cleaning oven*.

self-col•ored (sēlf'kūl'ərd) *adj.* **1.** Being in the natural or original color. **2.** Of only one color.

self-com•mand (sēlf'kə-mānd') *n.* Full presence of mind; self-confidence.

self-com•pat•i•ble (sēlf'kəm-pāt'ə-bəl) *adj.* Botany Capable of self-fertilization. —**self-com•pat•i•bil'i•ty** *n.*

self-com•pla•cent (sēlf'kəm-plā'sənt) *adj.* Self-satisfied, or smugly so. —**self-com•pla•cent•cy** *n.* —**self-com•pla•cent•ly** *adv.*

self-con•cept (sēlf'kōn'sēpt) *n.* The mental image or perception that one has of oneself.

self-con•cep•tion (sēlf'kən-sēp'shən) *n.* Self-concept.

self-con•cern (sēlf'kən-sūrn') *n.* Selfish or excessive concern for oneself. —**self-con•cerned** *adj.*

self-con•fessed (sēlf'kən-fēst') *adj.* According to one's own admission: *a self-confessed plagiarist*.

self-con•fi•dence (sēlf'kōn'fɪ-dəns) *n.* Confidence in oneself and one's own abilities: "Without self-confidence we are as babes in the cradle" (Virginia Woolf). See synonyms at **confidence**. —**self-con•fi•dence** *adj.* —**self-con•fi•dence•ly** *adv.*

self-con•grat•u•la•tion (sēlf'kən-grāch'ə-lā'shən, -grāj'ə-, -kōn'grāj'ə-) *n.* Congratulation, especially self-satisfied congratulation, of one for one's achievements or good fortune. —**self-con•grat•u•la•t•ory** (-lə-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) *adj.*

self-con•sci•ous (sēlf'kōn'shəs) *adj.* **1.** Aware of oneself as an individual or of one's own being, actions, or thoughts. **2.** Socially ill at ease: *The self-conscious teenager sat alone during lunch*. **3.** Excessively self-conscious of one's appearance or manner: *The self-conscious actor kept fixing his hair*. **4.** Showing the effects of self-consciousness; stilted: *self-conscious prose*. —**self-con•sci•ously** *adv.* —**self-con•sci•ous•ness** *n.*

self-con•tained (sēlf'kən-tānd') *adj.* **1.** Constituting a complete and independent unit in and of itself: *A self-contained dictionary defines every word that is contained within it*. **2a.** Not dependent on others; sufficient: *a self-contained settlement in the Arctic*. **b.** Keeping to oneself. —**self-con•tain•ment** *n.*

self-con•tent (sēlf'kən-tənt') *adj.* Satisfied with oneself; content. ♦ *n.* Self-contentment. —**self-con•tent•ed•ly** *adv.*

self-con•tent•ment (sēlf'kən-tənt'mənt) *n.* Self-satisfaction; complacency.

self-con•tra•dic•tion (sēlf'kōn'trā-dik'shən) *n.* **1.** The act, state, or fact of contradicting oneself. **2.** An idea or statement containing contradictory elements. —**self-con•tra•dic•to•ry** (-dik'tā-rē) *adj.*

self-con•trol (sēlf'kən-trōl') *n.* Control of one's emotions, desires, or actions by one's own will: "You think yourself a miracle of sensibility but self-control is what you need" (Mary Boykin Chesnut). —**self-con•trolled** *adj.*

self-cor•rect•ing (sēlf'kə-rēkt'ɪŋ) *adj.* **1.** Correcting its or one's own mistakes. **2.** Of or being a typewriter mechanism that allows

waiting trial. **D.** A period of confinement to a detention form of punishment by which a student is made to stay after school hours. **3.** A forced or punitive delay. [Middle English *dē-* dict of withholding, from Anglo-Norman, from Latin *dētentiō*, from *dētentus*, past participle of *dētīnēre*, to detain. See *DE-*

on home *n.* A place where juvenile offenders are held in especially for a temporary period while awaiting court action on

dī-tūr') *v.* **-tered, -tering, -ters** —*tr.* To prevent or dissuade acting, as by means of fear or doubt: "Does negotiated *deter* war?" (Edward Teller). See synonyms at **dissuade**. **2.** To prevent or discourage the occurrence of an action, as by means of doubt: "It's this edge that gives nuclear weapons their power to Thomas Powers). [Latin *deterēre* : *dē-*, *de-* + *terrēre*, to frighten.]

ment *n.* —**de-ter/a-ble** *adj.* —**de-ter/er** *n.*
e (*dī-tūrj'*) *tr.v.* **-terged, -terging, -terges** To wash or scour (a wound, for example); cleanse. [French *déterger*, from Latin *dē-*, *de-* + *tergere*, to wipe.]

gence (*dītūr'jəns*) *n.* Detergency.

gen·cy (*dī-tūr'jan-sē*) *n.* The power or quality of cleansing.
gent (*dī-tūr'jənt*) *n.* A cleansing substance that acts similarly to it is made from chemical compounds rather than fats and lye. Having cleansing power.

o·rate (*dī-tūr'ē-ə-rāt'*) *v.* **-rat·ed, -rat·ing, -rates** To diminish or impair in quality, character, or value: *Time and neglect deteriorated the property.* —*intr.* **1.** To grow worse; degenerate: *Her deteriorated overnight. His health had deteriorated while he was on.* **2.** To weaken or disintegrate; decay: *The nation's highways are deteriorating at a rapid pace.* [Late Latin *deteriorāre*, *deteriorār-*, from *ior*, worse. See **de-** in Appendix I.] —**de-ter/i-o·ra-tion** *n.* —**de-ter/i-o·ra-tive** *adj.*

min·a·ble (*dī-tūr'mə-nə-bəl*) *adj.* **1.** Capable of being determined, or fixed: *determinable velocities.* **2.** Law Capable of being decided or decided: *matters determinable by common law.* —**de-ter/min·a·ble·ness** *n.* —**de-ter/min·a·bly** *adv.*

mi·na·cy (*dī-tūr'mə-nə-sē*) *n.* **1.** The quality or condition of being determinate. **2.** The condition of being determined or charac-

mi·nant (*dī-tūr'mə-nənt*) *adj.* Determinative. ♦ **1.** An acting or determining element or factor: "Education is the second most important determinant of recreational participation" (John P. Robinson). **2.** Mathematics The value computed from a square matrix of numbers of combining products of the matrix entries and that characterize solvability of simultaneous linear equations. Its absolute value is interpreted as an area or volume. **3.** Immunology A localized area on the surface of an antigen capable of eliciting an immune response. **4.** Immunology A localized area of combining with a specific antibody to counter that response, also called *epitope*.

mi·na·te (*dī-tūr'mə-nīt*) *adj.* **1.** Precisely limited or determined: *a determinate number; a determinate distance.* **2.** Concluding; final. **3.** Firm in purpose; resolute. **4.** Botany **a.** Terminating flower and blooming in a sequence beginning with the flower or central flower; cymose: *a determinate inflorescence.* **b.** Not continuing indefinitely at the tip of an axis: *determinate growth.* [Middle English *determinātus*, past participle of *determināre*, to determine. See **DE-** in Appendix I.] —**de-ter/min·a·te·ly** *adv.* —**de-ter/min·a·t·er** *n.*

mi·na·t·er (*dī-tūr'mə-nā'tər*) *n.* A determiner.

mi·na·tion (*dī-tūr'mə-nā'shan*) *n.* **1a.** The act of making a decision. See synonyms at **decide**. **b.** The decision made. **2a.** Firmness of purpose; resolute: *approached the task with determination and energy.* **b.** A fixed intention or resolution: *returned to determination to finish.* **3a.** The settling of a question or the authoritative decision or pronouncement, especially by a judge: *The choice of a foster home was left to the determination of the court.* **b.** The decision or pronouncement made. **4a.** The ascertaining of the quantity, quality, position, or character of something: *a determination of the ship's longitude; a determination of the universe.* **b.** The result of such ascertaining. **5.** A fixed movement or tendency toward an object or end. **6. Logic a.** The defining of a concept in terms of its constituent elements. **b.** The qualification of a concept or term to render it more definite or specific.

mi·na·tive (*dī-tūr'mə-nā'tiv, -nə-*) *adj.* Tending, able, or likely to determine. See synonyms at **decisive**. ♦ *n.* A determining

er·min·er (*dī-tūr'mə-nər*) *n.* **1.** One that determines. **2.** Grammar A word belonging to a group of noun modifiers, which includes articles, demonstratives, possessive adjectives, and words such as *any, both, or whose*, and, in English, occupying the first position in a noun phrase or following another determiner.

er·min·ism (*dī-tūr'mə-nīz'm*) *n.* The philosophical doctrine that every state of affairs, including every human event, act, and decision is the inevitable consequence of antecedent states of affairs. —**de-ter/min·ist** *n.* —**de-ter/min·is'tic** *adj.* —**de-ter/min·is'ti·cal·ly** *adv.*

er·rence (*dī-tūr'əns, -tūr'-*) *n.* **1.** The act or a means of deterring. **2.** Measures taken by a state or an alliance of states to prevent hostile action by another state.

er·rent (*dī-tūr'ənt, -tūr'-*) *adj.* Tending to deter: *deterrent weapons.* ♦ **1.** Something that deters: *a deterrent to theft.* **2.** A retaliatory means of discouraging enemy attack: *a nuclear deterrent.*

er·sive (*dī-tūr'siv, -zīv*) *adj.* Detergent. [French *détersif*, from Latin *detersus*, past participle of *detergere*, to deterge. See **DETERGE.**] —**de-ter/sive** *n.*

er·test (*dī-tēst'*) *tr.v.* **-test·ed, -test·ing, -tests** To dislike intensely; abhor. [French *détester*, from Latin *dēstestāri*, to curse : *dē-*, *de-* + *testāri*, to invoke (from *testis*, witness; see **trei-** in Appendix I.).] —**de-ter/test·er** *n.*

er·test·a·ble (*dī-tēs'tə-bəl*) *adj.* Inspiring or deserving abhorrence or scorn. See synonyms at **hateful**. —**de-ter/test·a·bil·i·ty**, **de-ter/test·a·ble·ness** *n.* —**de-ter/test·a·bly** *adv.*

er·sta·tion (*dē'tē-stā'shən*) *n.* **1.** Strong dislike or hatred; abhorrence. **2.** One that is detested.

er·thatch (*dē-thāch'*) *v.* **-thatched, -thatch·ing, -thatch·es** —*tr.* To remove (dead grass) from a lawn, usually to aerate the soil. —*intr.* To remove dead grass from a lawn. —**de-thatch/er** *n.*

er·throne (*dē-thrōn'*) *tr.v.* **-throned, -thron·ing, -thrones** **1.** To remove from the throne; depose. **2.** To remove from a prominent or powerful position. —**de-throne/ment** *n.*

er·tinue (*dēt'n-ōō', -yōō'*) *n.* Law **1a.** An action to recover possession or the value of property wrongfully detained. **b.** The writ authorizing such action. **2.** The act of unlawfully detaining personal property. [Middle English *detenue*, from Old French, detention, from feminine past participle of *detenir*, to detain. See **DETAIN.**]

er·o·na·ble (*dēt'n-ə-bəl*) *adj.* That can be detonated: *detonable warheads; detonable bombs.*

er·o·nate (*dēt'n-āt'*) *intr.* & *tr.v.* **-nat·ed, -nat·ing, -nates** To explode or cause to explode. [Latin *dētonāre*, *dētonār-*, to thunder down : *dē-*, *de-* + *tonāre*, to thunder; see **(s)tenə-** in Appendix I.] —**de-ter/o·nat·a·ble** *adj.*

er·o·na·tion (*dēt'n-ā'shən*) *n.* **1.** The act of exploding. **2.** An explosion.

er·o·na·tor (*dēt'n-ā'tər*) *n.* **1.** A device, such as a fuse or percussion cap, used to set off an explosive charge. **2.** An explosive.

er·tour (*dē'tōor', dī-tōor'*) *n.* **1.** A roundabout way or course, especially a road used temporarily instead of a main route. **2.** A deviation from a direct course of action. ♦ *intr.* & *tr.v.* **-toured, -tour·ing, -tours** To go or cause to go by a roundabout way. [French *détour*, from Old French *destor*, from *destorner*, to turn away : *des-*, *de-* + *torner*, to turn; see **TURN.**]

er·tox (*dē-tōks'*) *Informal tr.v.* **-tox·ed, -tox·ing, -tox·es** To subject to detoxification. ♦ *n.* (*dē'tōks'*) A section of a hospital or clinic in which patients are detoxified. [Short for **DETOXIFY.**]

er·tox·i·cate (*dē-tōk'sī-kāt'*) *tr.v.* **-cat·ed, -cat·ing, -cates** To detoxify.

er·tox·i·fi·ca·tion (*dē-tōk'sī-fi-kā'shən*) *n.* **1.** The process of detoxifying. **2.** The state or condition of being detoxified. **3.** Physiology The metabolic process by which the toxic qualities of a poison or toxin are reduced by the body. **4.** A medically supervised treatment program for alcohol or drug addiction designed to purge the body of intoxicating or addictive substances. Such a program is used as a first step in overcoming physiological or psychological addiction.

er·tox·i·fy (*dē-tōk'sī-fi'*) *tr.v.* **-fied, -fy·ing, -fies** **1.** To counteract or destroy the toxic properties of. **2.** To remove the effects of poison from. **3.** To treat (an individual) for alcohol or drug dependence, usually under a medically supervised program designed to rid the body of intoxicating or addictive substances. [DE- + TOXIC + -FY.]

er·tract (*dī-trākt'*) *v.* **-tract·ed, -tract·ing, -tracts** —*tr.* **1.** To draw or take away; divert: *They could detract little from so solid an argument.* **2.** Archaic To speak ill of; belittle. —*intr.* To reduce the value,

er·tise *n.* A detriment to good health. [Middle English, from Old French, from Latin *detrimentum*, from *dētritus*, past participle of *dēterere*, to lessen, wear down : *dē-*, *de-* + *terere*, to rub; see **terə-** in Appendix I.]

er·ri·men·tal (*dēt'rə-mēn'tl*) *adj.* Causing damage or harm; injurious. —**de-ter/ri·men'tal·ly** *adv.*

er·tri·tion (*dī-trīsh'ən*) *n.* The act of wearing away by friction: *beach pebbles worn smooth by detrition.* [Medieval Latin *dētritiō*, *dētritiōn-*, from Latin *dētritus*, past participle of *dēterere*, to lessen, rub away. See **DETRIMENT.**]

er·tri·tus (*dī-trī'təs*) *n., pl. detritus* **1.** Loose fragments or grains that have been worn away from rock. **2a.** Disintegrated or eroded matter: *the detritus of past civilizations.* **b.** Accumulated material; debris: "Poems, engravings, press releases—he eagerly scrutinizes the detritus of fame" (Carlin Romano). [French *détritus*, from Latin *dētritus*, from past participle of *dēterere*, to lessen, wear away. See **DETRIMENT.**] —**de-ter/tri'tal** (*-trī'tl*) *adj.*

er·troit (*dī-troit'*) A city of southeast Michigan opposite Windsor, Ontario, on the Detroit River. Founded by French settlers in 1701, Detroit became known as "the automobile capital of the world" in the early 20th century. Population: 1,027,974.

er·trop (*də trō'*) *adj.* Too much or too many; excessive or superfluous: *In retrospect the elaborate preparations seemed de trop.* [French : *de*, of, in + *trop*, excess.]

er·tu·mes·cence (*dē'tūō-mēs'əns, -tyōō-*) *n.* Reduction or lessening of a swelling, especially the restoration of a swollen organ or part to normal size. [From Latin *dētumescere*, to subside : *dē-*, *de-* + *tumescere*, to swell, inchoative of *tumēre*; see **teuə-** in Appendix I.] —**de-tu·mes'cent** *adj.*

er·ca·li·on (*dōō-kā'lē-ən, dyōō-*) *n.* Greek Mythology A son of Prometheus who with his wife, Pyrrha, built an ark and floated in it to survive the deluge sent by Zeus. The couple became the ancestors of the renewed human race.

er·ce (*dōōs, dyōōs*) *n.* **1a.** A playing card having two spots or the side of a die bearing two pips. **b.** A cast of dice totaling two. **2.** A tied score in tennis in which each player or side has 40 points, or 5 or more games, and one player or side must win 2 successive points to win the game, or 2 successive games to win the set. ♦ *tr.v.* **deuced, deucing, deuces** To make the score of (a tennis game or set) deuce. [Middle English *deus*, from Old French, two, from Latin *duōs*, masculine accusative of *duo*. See **dwo-** in Appendix I.]

er·ce (*dōōs, dyōōs*) *Informal n.* **1.** The devil: "Love is a bodily infirmity . . . which breaks out the deuce knows how or why" (Thackeray). **2.** An outstanding example, especially of something difficult or bad: *had a deuce of a time getting out of town; a deuce of a family row.* **3.** A severe reprimand or expression of anger: *got the deuce for being late.* **4.** Informal Used as an intensive: *What the deuce were they thinking of?* [Probably from Low German *duus*, a throw of two in dice games, bad luck, ultimately from Latin *duo*, two. See **DUCE.**]

er·ced (*dōō'sid, dyōō'-*) *adj.* Informal Darned; confounded. [From **DUCE.**]

er·ces wild (*dōō'siz, dyōō'-*) *n.* A variation of certain card games, such as poker, in which each deuce may represent any card the holder chooses.

er·ur·ne (*dūr'nə*) A city of northern Belgium, a manufacturing suburb of Antwerp. Population: 80,766.

er·us (*dā'əs*) *n.* God. [Middle English, from Latin. See **dyeu-** in Appendix I.]

er·ex ma·chi·na (*ēks māk'ə-nə, -nā', māk'ə-nə*) *n.* **1.** In Greek and Roman drama, a god lowered by stage machinery to resolve a plot or extricate the protagonist from a difficult situation. **2.** An unexpected, artificial, or improbable character, device, or event introduced suddenly in a work of fiction or drama to resolve a situation or untangle a plot. **3.** A person or event that provides a sudden and unexpected solution to a difficulty. [New Latin *deus ex machinā* : Latin *deus*, god + Latin *ex*, from + Latin *māchinā*, ablative of *māchina*, machine (translation of Greek *theos apo mēkhanēs*.)]

er·us Ra·mos (*dē'ōōsh rā'mōōsh*), João de 1830–1896. Portuguese poet regarded as the foremost of his time. He is best remembered for his love poems.

er·ut. *abbr.* Bible Deuteronomy

er·ut- *pref.* Variant of **deuto-**.

er·uter- *pref.* Variant of **deutero-**.

er·uter·ag·o·nist (*dōō'tə-rāg'ə-nīst, dyōō-*) *n.* The character

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	zh which
ō pot	hw vision
ō toe	ə about,
ō paw	♦ region

Stress marks: ' (primary), ' (secondary), as in dictionary (dīk'shə)