

The
Merriam-
Webster
Dictionary



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PREFACE

This new edition of *The Merriam-Webster Dictionary* is the sixth in a line of Merriam-Webster paperback dictionaries which began in 1947. It is based on and preserves the best aspects of preceding editions, but it also offers much that is new, drawing specifically on *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Eleventh Edition*. Every entry and every section has been reexamined and revised in light of the most current information available. Definitions have been based on examples of actual use found in the Merriam-Webster citation files, which now contain more than 15,000,000 examples of English words in context from a wide range of printed sources, and more than 75 million words available through electronic searching. The editors of this book have created it with the same careful, serious attention that has gone into every Merriam-Webster dictionary.

The 65,000 entries in this dictionary give coverage to the most frequently used words in the language. The heart of the dictionary is the A-Z vocabulary section, where readers will find information about meaning, spelling, pronunciation, etymology, and synonyms. This section is followed by others that users have long found useful: the section Foreign Words and Phrases covers words and phrases from other languages that often occur in English texts but have not become part of the English vocabulary; the section Biographical Names identifies individuals from history and contemporary culture, as well as biblical, legendary, and mythological characters; the section Geographical Names identifies places of importance in the United States and the world, along with current population figures.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary has been created by a company that has been publishing dictionaries for more than 150 years. It has been edited by an experienced staff of lexicographers, who believe it will serve well those who want a concise and handy guide to the English language of today.

cess of secreting something 2 : a product of glandular activity; esp : one (as a hormone) useful in the organism 3 : the act of hiding something — **se-cre-to-ry** \sē-kra-tōr-ē\ *adj*
se-cre-tive \sē-kra-tiv, si-'krē-\ *adj* : tending to keep secrets or to act secretly — **se-cre-tive-ly** *adv* — **se-cre-tive-ness** *n*
sect \sɛkt\ *n* 1 : a dissenting religious body 2 : a religious denomination 3 : a group adhering to a distinctive doctrine or to a leader
sect *abbr* section; sectional
sec-tar-i-an \sɛk-'ter-ē-ən\ *adj* 1 : of or relating to a sect or sectarian 2 : limited in character or scope — **sec-tar-i-an-ism** *n*
sectarian *n* 1 : an adherent of a sect 2 : a narrow or bigoted person
sec-ta-ry \sɛk-tə-rē\ *n, pl -ries* : a member of a sect
sec-tion \sɛk-shən\ *n* 1 : a part cut off or separated 2 : a distinct part 3 : the appearance that a thing has or would have if cut straight through
section *vb* 1 : to separate or become separated into sections 2 : to represent in sections
sec-tion-al \sɛk-shə-nəl\ *adj* 1 : of, relating to, or characteristic of a section 2 : local or regional rather than general in character 3 : divided into sections — **sec-tion-al-ism** *n*
sec-tor \sɛk-tər\ *n* 1 : a part of a circle between two radii 2 : an area assigned to a military leader to defend 3 : a subdivision of society
sec-u-lar \sɛ-'kyə-lər\ *adj* 1 : not sacred or ecclesiastical 2 : not bound by monastic vows (< a ~ priest)
sec-u-lar-ism *Brit var* of SECULARIZE
sec-u-lar-ism \sɛ-'kyə-lə-'rɪ-zəm\ *n* : indifference to or exclusion of religion — **sec-u-lar-ist** \-rɪ-st\ *n* — **secularist** *also*
sec-u-lar-ist-ic \sɛ-'kyə-lə-'rɪs-tɪk\ *adj*
sec-u-lar-ize \sɛ-'kyə-lə-'rɪz\ *vb -ized, -izing* 1 : to make secular 2 : to transfer from ecclesiastical to civil or lay use, possession, or control — **sec-u-lar-i-za-tion** \sɛ-'kyə-lə-'rɪ-zə-shən\ *n* — **sec-u-lar-iz-er** \sɛ-'kyə-lə-'rɪ-zər\ *n*
se-cure \si-'kyūr\ *adj* **se-cure-er, -est** [L *securus* safe, secure, fr. *se* without + *cura* care] 1 : easy in mind : free from fear 2 : free from danger or risk of loss : SAFE 3 : CERTAIN, SURE — **se-cure-ly** *adv*
secure *vb* **se-cured; se-curing** 1 : to make safe : GUARD 2 : to assure payment of by giving a pledge or collateral 3 : to fasten safely (< a door) 4 : GET, ACQUIRE
se-cu-ri-ty \si-'kyūr-ə-tē\ *n, pl -ties* 1 : SAFETY 2 : freedom from worry 3 : something given as pledge of payment (< a ~ deposit) 4 *pl* : bond or stock certificates 5 : PROTECTION
secy *abbr* secretary
se-dan \si-'dæn\ *n* 1 : a covered chair borne on poles by two men 2 : an automobile seating four or more people and usu. having a permanent top

se-date \si-'dāt\ *adj* : quiet and dignified in behavior * **Synonyms** STABLE, SOBER, SERIOUS, SOLEMN — **se-date-ly** *adv*
sedate *vb* **se-dat-ed; se-dat-ing : to dose with sedatives — **se-da-tion** \si-'dā-shən\ *n*
sed-a-tive \sɛ-'dā-tiv\ *adj* : serving or tending to relieve tension
sed-en-tary \sɛ-'dɛn-ter-ē\ *adj* : characterized by or requiring much sitting
sedge \sɛdʒ\ *n* : any of a family of plants esp. of marshy areas that differ from the related grasses esp. in having solid stems — **sedgy** \sɛ-'jē\ *adj*
sed-i-ment \sɛ-'dā-mənt\ *n* 1 : the material that settles to the bottom of a liquid 2 : material (as stones and sand) deposited by water, wind, or a glacier — **sed-i-ment-a-ry** \sɛ-'dā-mən-tə-rē\ *adj* — **sed-i-ment-a-tion** \-mənt-'tā-shən, -'mən-\ *n*
se-di-tion \si-'dɪ-shən\ *n* : the causing of discontent, insurrection, or resistance against a government — **se-di-tious** \-shəs\ *adj*
se-duce \si-'dūs, -'dyūs\ *vb* **se-duced; se-duc-ing** 1 : to persuade to disobedience or disloyalty 2 : to lead astray 3 : to entice to sexual intercourse * **Synonyms** TEMPT, ENTICE, INVEIGLE, LURE — **se-duc-er** *n* — **se-duc-tion** \-'dɔk-shən\ *n* — **se-duc-tive** \-tɪv\ *adj*
sed-u-lous \sɛ-'jə-ləs\ *adj* [L *sedulus*, fr. *sedulo* sincerely, diligently, fr. *se* without + *dolus* guile] : DILIGENT, PAINSTAKING
see \sɛ\ *vb* **saw** \sɔ\; **seen** \sɛn\; **see-ing** 1 : to perceive by the eye; *also* : to have the power of sight 2 : EXPERIENCE 3 : UNDERSTAND 4 : to make sure (< that order is kept) 5 : to meet with 6 : to keep company with esp. in dating 7 : ACCOMPANY, ESCORT (< the guests to the door) * **Synonyms** BEHOLD, DESCRIBED, ESPY, VIEW, OBSERVE, NOTE, DISCERN — **see red** : to become very angry — **see the light** : to realize an obscured truth
see *n* : the authority or jurisdiction of a bishop
seed \sɛd\ *n, pl* **seed or seeds** 1 : the grains of plants used for sowing 2 : a ripened ovule of a flowering plant that may develop into a new plant; *also* : a plant structure (as a spore or small dry fruit) capable of producing a new plant 3 : DESCENDANTS 4 : SOURCE, ORIGIN 5 : a competitor seeded in a tournament — **seed-less** *adj* — **go to seed or run to seed** 1 : to develop seed 2 : DECAY, DETERIORATE
seed *vb* 1 : SOW, PLANT (< land with grass) 2 : to bear or shed seeds 3 : to remove seeds from 4 : to rank or schedule (contestants) in a tournament — **seed-er** *n*
seed-bed \-,bed\ *n* : soil or a bed of soil prepared for planting seed
seed-ling \sɛd-lɪŋ\ *n* 1 : a young plant grown from seed 2 : a young tree before it becomes a sapling
seed-time \sɛd-'tɪm\ *n* : the season for sowing**

seedy \sɛ-'dē\ *adj* **seed-ier, -est** 1 : containing or full of seeds 2 : SHABBY
seek \sɛk\ *vb* **sought** \sɔt\; **seek-ing** 1 : to search for 2 : to try to reach or obtain 3 : ATTEMPT — **seek-er** *n*
seem \sɛm\ *vb* 1 : to appear to the observation or understanding 2 : to give the impression of being : APPEAR
seem-ing \sɛm-ɪŋ\ *adj* : outwardly apparent — **seem-ing-ly** *adv*
seem-ly \sɛm-lē\ *adj* **seem-li-er, -est** 1 : conventionally proper 2 : FRR
seep \sɛp\ *vb* : to flow or pass slowly through fine pores or cracks — **seep-age** \sɛ-'pɪ-\ *n*
seer \sɪr\ *n* : a person who foresees or predicts events : PROPHET
seer-stuck-er \sɪr-'sə-kər\ *n* [Hindi *śīrākār*, fr. Pers *shir-o-shakar*, lit., milk and sugar] : a light fabric of linen, cotton, or rayon usu. striped and slightly puckered
see-saw \sɛ-'sɔ\ *n* 1 : a contest in which each side assumes then relinquishes the lead 2 : a children's sport of riding up and down on the ends of a plank supported in the middle; *also* : the plank so used — **seesaw** *vb*
seethe \sɛθ\ *vb* **seethed; seeth-ing** [archaic *seethe* boil] : to become violently agitated (< with jealousy)
seg-ment \sɛg-mənt\ *n* 1 : a part cut off from a geometrical figure (as a circle) by one or more points, lines, or planes 2 : a division of a thing : SECTION — **seg-men-tal** \sɛg-'mən-təl\ *adj* — **seg-men-ta-tion** \sɛg-'mən-'tā-shən\ *n* — **seg-ment-ed** \sɛg-'mən-təd\ *adj*
seg-re-gate \sɛ-'grɪ-gət\ *vb -gat-ed; -gat-ing* [L *segregare*, fr. *se* apart + *greg*, greg herd, flock] : to cut off from others; esp : to separate esp. by races or ethnic groups — **seg-re-ga-tion** \sɛ-'grɪ-'gā-shən\ *n*
seg-re-ga-tion-ist \sɛ-'grɪ-'gā-shə-nɪst\ *n* : one who believes in or practices the segregation of races
self-gneur \sæn-'yər\ *n, often cap* [MF, fr. ML *senior*, fr. L, adj., elder] : a feudal lord
seine \sæn\ *n* : a large weighted fishing net
seine *vb* **seined; sein-ing** : to fish or catch with a seine — **sein-er** *n*
seis-mic \sɪz-mɪk, 'sɪs-\ *adj* : of, relating to, resembling, or caused by an earthquake — **seis-mi-cal-ly** \-mɪ-k(ə)-lē\ *adv* — **seis-mic-i-ty** \sɪz-'mɪ-sə-tē, 'sɪs-\ *n*
seis-mo-gram \sɪz-mə-'gram, 'sɪs-\ *n* : the record of an earth tremor made by a seismograph
seis-mo-graph \-,grɪf\ *n* : an apparatus

to measure and record seismic — **seis-mo-graph-ic** \sɪz-'sɪs-\ *adj* — **seis-mog-ra-phy** \sɪz-'fɪ, 'sɪs-\ *n*
seis-mol-o-gy \sɪz-'mə-lə-jē, 'sɪs-\ *n* : a science that deals with earthquakes
seis-mo-log-i-cal \sɪz-mə-'lɔ-dʒi-\ *adj* — **seis-mol-o-gist** \sɪz-'mə-'sɪs-mə-'lɔ-dʒɪst\ *n* : a seismologist
seis-mo-gram \sɪz-'mə-'gram, 'sɪs-\ *n* : a seismograph measuring the movement of the ground
seize \sɛz\ *vb* **seized; seiz-ing** 1 : to lay hold of or take possession 2 : ARREST 3 : UNDERSTAND, grasp or overwhelm physically * **Synonyms** TAKE, GRASP, SNATCH, GRAB
seiz-ure \sɛz-'ʒər\ *n* 1 : the act : the state of being seized 2 : attack (as of disease)
select *vb* : to choose from a group : pick out
selec-tion \sɛ-'lek-shən\ *n* 1 : process of selecting 2 : some-ed : CHOICE 3 : a natural process that tends to favor and reproduction of individual traits but not those with
selec-tive \sɛ-'lek-tɪv\ *adj* : o to selection : selecting or tend (< shoppers)
selective service *n* : a system men up for military service : 1
se-lect-man \si-'lekt-'man, -m\ of a board of officials elected most New England states to town affairs
se-le-ni-um \sɛ-'lɛ-nē-əm\ *n* : a silive chemical element
self \sɛlf\ *n, pl* **selves** \sɛlfz\ : a personal property distinct from all sons in identity 2 : a particular person's character 3 : perso- : SELFISHNESS
self-comb form 1 : oneself : i oneself or itself 3 : by oneself *also* : automatic 4 : to, for, oneself
self-con-tered \sɛlf-'sen-tərd\ : concerned only with one's own
self-con-tered-ness *n*
self-com-posed \sɛlf-'kɔm-'pəz\ *n* : having control over one's em
self-con-scious \sɛlf-'kän-'ʃəs\ *adj* : uncomfortably conscious of an object of observation by

self-abasement **self-advancement** **self-assertion** **self-conc**
self-absorbed **self-aggrandize-ment** **self-assertive** **self-conc**
self-absorption **self-aggrandizement** **self-assurance** **self-cond**
self-acceptance **self-aggrandizing** **self-assured** **self-confi**
self-accusation **self-analysis** **self-awareness** **self-confi**
self-acting **self-anointed** **self-betrayal** **self-confi**
self-addressed **self-appointed** **self-cleaning** **self-cong**
self-adjusting **self-appraisal** **self-closing** **self-cong**
self-administer **self-asserting** **self-complacent** **self-cong**

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loss of hope and surrender to despair 2 : a state of hopelessness leading to rashness
de-spi-ca-ble \di-'spi-kə-bəl, 'des-pi-\ *adj* : desiring to be despised — **de-spi-ca-bly** \-blē\ *adv*
de-spise \di-'spiz\ *vb* **de-spised**; **de-spis-ing** 1 : to look down on with contempt or aversion : DISDAIN, DETEST 2 : to regard as negligible, worthless, or distasteful
de-spite \di-'spit\ *prep* : in spite of
de-spoil \di-'spoi(-ə)\ *vb* : to strip of belongings, possessions, or value — **de-spoil-er** *n* — **de-spoil-ment** *n*
de-spo-li-a-tion \di-'spō-lē-'ā-shən\ *n* : the act of plundering : the state of being despoiled
de-spond \di-'spænd\ *vb* : to become discouraged or disheartened
despond *n* : DESPONDENCY
de-spon-den-cy \-'spän-dən-sē\ *n* : DEJECTION, HOPELESSNESS — **de-spon-dent** \-dant\ *adj* — **de-spon-dent-ly** *adv*
des-pot \des-'pət, -pät\ *n* [MF *despote*, fr. Gk *despotēs* master, lord, autocrat] 1 : a ruler with absolute power and authority 2 : a person exercising power tyrannically — **des-pot-ic** \des-'pā-tik\ *adj* — **des-po-tism** \des-'pə-'ti-zəm\ *n*
des-sert \di-'zɔrt\ *n* : a course of sweet food, fruit, or cheese served at the close of a meal
de-stig-ma-tize \dē-'stig-mə-'tīz\ *vb* : to remove associations of shame or disgrace from
des-ti-na-tion \des-'tə-'nā-shən\ *n* 1 : a purpose for which something is destined 2 : an act of appointing, setting aside for a purpose, or predetermining 3 : a place to which one is journeying or to which something is sent
des-tine \des-'tən\ *vb* **des-tined**; **des-tin-ing** 1 : to settle in advance 2 : to designate, assign, or dedicate in advance 3 : to direct or set apart for a specific purpose or place
des-ti-ny \des-'tə-nē\ *n, pl -nies* 1 : something to which a person or thing is destined : FATE, FORTUNE 2 : a predetermined course of events
des-ti-tute \des-'tə-tüt, -tyüt\ *adj* 1 : lacking something needed or desirable 2 : suffering extreme poverty — **des-ti-tu-tion** \des-'tə-'tū-shən, -'tyū-\ *n*
de-destroy \di-'strɔi\ *vb* 1 : to put an end to : RUIN 2 : KILL
de-destroy-er \di-'strɔi-ər\ *n* 1 : one that destroys 2 : a small speedy warship
de-struct-ible \di-'strək-tə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being destroyed — **de-struct-ibil-ity** \-strək-tə-'bi-lə-tē\ *n*
de-struction \di-'strək-shən\ *n* 1 : RUIN 2 : the action or process of destroying something 3 : a destroying agency
de-struct-ive \di-'strək-tiv\ *adj* 1 : causing destruction : RUINOUS 2 : designed or tending to hurt or destroy — **de-struct-ive-ly** *adv* — **de-struct-ive-ness** *n*

de-sue-tude \de-'swi-'tūd, -'tyūd\ *n* : DIS-USE
des-ul-to-ry \de-'səl-tō-ē\ *adj* : passing aimlessly from one thing or subject to another : DISCONNECTED
det *abbr* 1 detached; detachment 2 detail
de-tach \di-'təch\ *vb* 1 : to separate esp. from a larger mass 2 : DISENGAGE, WITHDRAW — **de-tach-able** *adj*
de-tached \di-'təcht\ *adj* 1 : NOT JOINED or connected : SEPARATE 2 : ALOOF, IMPARTIAL (a ~ attitude)
de-tach-ment \di-'təch-mənt\ *n* 1 : SEPARATION 2 : the dispatching of a body of troops or part of a fleet from the main body for special service; also : the portion so dispatched 3 : a small permanent military unit of special composition 4 : indifference to worldly concerns : ALOOFNESS 5 : IMPARTIALITY
de-tail \di-'tāl, 'dē-'tāl\ *n* [F *détail*, fr. OF *détail* slice, piece, fr. *detaillier* to cut in pieces, fr. *taillier* to cut] 1 : a dealing with something item by item (go into ~); also : ITEM, PARTICULAR (the ~s of a story) 2 : selection (as of soldiers) for special duty; also : the persons thus selected
detail *vb* 1 : to report in particulars : SPECIFY 2 : to assign to a special duty
de-tailed \di-'tāld, 'dē-'tāld\ *adj* : marked by abundant detail
de-tail-ing \dē-'tāl-ŋ\ *n* : the meticulous cleaning and refurbishing of an automobile
de-tain \di-'tān\ *vb* 1 : to hold in or as if in custody 2 : STOP, DELAY
de-tect \di-'tekt\ *vb* : to discover the nature, existence, presence, or fact of — **de-tect-able** *adj* — **de-tect-ion** \-'tek-shən\ *n* — **de-tec-tor** \-'tek-tər\ *n*
de-tec-tive \di-'tek-tiv\ *adj* 1 : fitted or used for detection 2 : of or relating to detectives
detective *n* : a person employed or engaged in detecting lawbreakers or getting information that is not readily accessible
de-tente or **de-tente** \dā-'tānt\ *n* [F] : a relaxation of strained relations or tensions (as between nations)
de-ten-tion \di-'ten-shən\ *n* 1 : the act or fact of detaining : CONFINEMENT; esp : a period of temporary custody prior to disposition by a court 2 : a forced delay
de-ter \di-'tər\ *vb* **de-tered**; **de-ter-ring** [L *deterrere*, fr. *terrere* to frighten] 1 : to turn aside, discourage, or prevent from acting (as by fear) 2 : INHIBIT
de-ter-gent \di-'tər-jənt\ *n* : a cleansing agent; esp : a chemical product similar to soap in its cleaning ability
de-teri-o-rate \di-'tir-ē-ə-'rāt\ *vb* **-rat-ed**; **-rat-ing** : to make or become worse in quality or condition — **de-teri-o-ra-tion** \-'tir-ē-ə-'rā-shən\ *n*
de-ter-min-able \-'tər-mə-nə-bəl\ *adj* : capable of being determined; esp : ASCERTAINABLE
de-ter-min-ant \-'mə-nənt\ *n* 1 : something that determines or conditions 2 : GENE

de-ter-mi-nate \di-'tər-mə-nət\ *adj* 1 : having fixed limits : DEFINITE (a ~ period of time) 2 : definitely settled (in ~ order) — **de-ter-mi-nate-ness** *n*
de-ter-mi-na-tion \di-'tər-mə-'nā-shən\ *n* 1 : the act of coming to a decision; also : the decision or conclusion reached 2 : a fixing of the extent, position, or character of something 3 : accurate measurement (as of length or volume) 4 : firm or fixed purpose — **de-ter-mi-na-tive** \-'tər-mə-nə-tiv, -'tər-mə-nə-\ *adj*
de-ter-mine \di-'tər-mən\ *vb* **-min-ed**; **-min-ing** 1 : to fix conclusively or authoritatively 2 : to come to a decision : SETTLE, RESOLVE 3 : to fix the form or character of beforehand : ORDAIN; also : REGULATE 4 : to find out the limits, nature, dimensions, or scope of (< ~ a position at sea) 5 : to bring about as a result
de-ter-mined \-'tər-mənd\ *adj* 1 : firmly resolved 2 : characterized by or showing determination — **de-ter-mined-ly** \-mənd-lē, -mə-nəd-lē\ *adv* — **de-ter-mined-ness** *n*
de-ter-min-ism \di-'tər-mə-'ni-zəm\ *n* : a doctrine that acts of the will, natural events, or social changes are determined by preceding events or natural causes — **de-ter-min-ist** \-'nist\ *n* or *adj*
de-ter-rence \di-'tər-əns\ *n* : the inhibition of criminal behavior by fear esp. of punishment
de-ter-rent \-ənt\ *adj* 1 : serving to deter 2 : relating to deterrence — **de-ter-rent** *n*
de-test \di-'test\ *vb* [L *detestari*, lit., to curse while calling a deity to witness, fr. *de-* from + *testari* to call to witness, fr. *testis* witness] : LOATHE, HATE — **de-test-able** *adj* — **de-tes-ta-tion** \dē-'tes-'tā-shən\ *n*
de-throne \di-'θrɔn\ *vb* : to remove from a throne : DEPOSE — **de-throne-ment** *n*
det-o-nate \dē-'tən-'āt\ *vb* **-nat-ed**; **-nat-ing** : to explode or cause to explode with violence — **det-o-na-tion** \dē-'tən-'ā-shən\ *n*
det-o-na-tor \dē-'tən-'ā-tər\ *n* : a device for detonating an explosive
de-tour \dē-'tūr\ *n* : an indirect way replacing part of a route
de-tour *vb* : to go by detour
de-tox \dē-'tāks, di-'tāks\ *n* : detoxification from an intoxicating or addictive substance — **de-tox** *vb*
de-tox-i-fy \dē-'tāk-sə-'fi\ *vb* **-fied**; **-fy-ing** 1 : to remove a poison or toxin or the effect of such from 2 : to free (as a drug user) from an intoxicating or addictive substance or from dependence on it — **de-tox-i-fi-ca-tion** \dē-'tāk-sə-'fī-kā-shən\ *n*
de-tract \di-'trakt\ *vb* 1 : to take away or diminish the value or effect of something 2 : DIVERT — **de-tract-ion** \-'trāk-shən\ *n* — **de-tract-or** \-'trāk-tər\ *n*
de-train \dē-'trān\ *vb* : to leave or cause to leave a railroad train
det-ri-ment \dē-'trə-mənt\ *n* : INJURY, DAMAGE; also : a cause of injury or dam-

age — **det-ri-men-tal** \dē-'trī-men-təl\ *adj* — **det-ri-men-tal-ly** *adv*
de-tri-tus \di-'tri-təs\ *n, pl -tus* : fragments resulting from disintegration (as of rocks) : DEBRIS
deuce \dūis, 'dyūs\ *n* 1 : a tv or dice 2 : a tie in a tennis match both sides at 40 3 : DEUCE chiefly as a mild oath
Deut *abbr* Deuteronomy
deu-ter-i-um \dū-'tir-ē-əm, dy-'tīr-ē-əm\ *n* : isotope of hydrogen that has mass of ordinary hydrogen
Deu-ter-on-o-my \dū-'tir-ē-'dī-ŋ-ŋ\ *n* — see BIBLE table
deut-sche mark \dōi-'tʃə-'m\ former basic monetary unit of Germany
dev *abbr* deviation
de-val-ue \dē-'val-yū\ *vb* : to depreciate (international exchange value currency) — **de-val-u-a-tion** \-'wā-shən\ *n*
dev-as-tate \dē-'və-'stāt\ *vb* **-te-ing** 1 : to bring to ruin 2 : to reduce to chaos or helplessness — **dev-as-tat-ly** *adv* — **dev-as-ta-tion** \-'tā-shən\ *n*
de-vel-op \di-'ve-ləp\ *vb* 1 : to gradually or in detail 2 : to pose photographic material) 3 : to develop (a project) 4 : to bring out the possibilities of 5 : to make more available or usable (< ~ la acquire gradually (< ~ a taste) 6 : to go through a natural growth, differentiation, or evolution) : to come into being gradually
op-er *n* — **de-vel-op-ment** \-'pə-'mən-təl\ *n* — **de-vel-op-ment-ly** \-'pə-'mən-təl-ly\ *adv*
de-vi-ant \dē-'vè-ənt\ *adj* : deviating from some accepted norm (< ~) — **de-vi-ance** \-əns\ *n* — **de-vi-ant-ly** \-ənt-lē\ *adv*
de-vi-ate \dē-'vè-'āt\ *vb* **-at-ed**; **-at-ing** [L *deviare*, fr. L *de-* from + *via* turn aside from a course, stance, principle, or topic — **de-vi-ate** \-'vī-āt\ *n* — **de-vi-a-tion** \dē-'vè-'ā-ti-ŋ\ *n*
de-vice \di-'vis\ *n* 1 : SCHEMATIC 2 : a piece of equipment or instrument for a special purpose 3 : INCLINATION (left to my own) 4 : an emblematic design
dev-il \dē-'vəl\ *n* [ME *devel*, fr. fr. LL *diabolus*, fr. Gk *diabolos* derider, fr. *diaballein* to throw across, fr. *dia-* across + *ballēin* to throw) : the personal supernal evil 2 : DEMON 3 : a wicked : an energetic, reckless, or dauntless person 5 : FELLOW (poor ~) < ~ >
devil *vb* **-iled** or **-illed**; **-il-ing** 1 : to season highly (< ~ed) 2 : TEASE, ANNOY
dev-il-ish \dē-'və-līsh\ *adj* 1 : devilish : EVIL; also : MISCHIEVOUS 2 : TREME (in a ~ hurry) — **de-vil-ly** *adv* — **dev-il-ish-ness** *n*
dev-il-ment \dē-'vəl-mənt, -mēt\ *n*