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# RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S COLLEGE DICTIONARY

RANDOM HOUSE  
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*Random House Webster's College Dictionary*  
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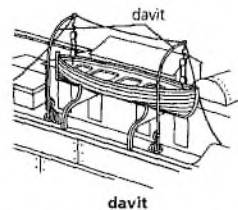
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**das-tard** (das'tærd), *n.* a mean, sneaking coward. [1400-50; late ME, akin to ME *dasard* term of contempt, perh. der. of *dasen* DAZE]  
**das-tard-ly** (das'tærd lē), *adj.* cowardly; meanly base; sneaking; *a dastardly act* [1560-70] —**das'tard-li-ness**, *n.*  
**DAT**, digital audiotape.  
**dat.**, dative.  
**da-ta** (dā'ta, dat'ə, dā'tə), *n.* 1. a pl. of DATUM. 2. (used with a pl. v.) individual facts, statistics, or items of information. 3. (used with a sing. v.) a body or collection of facts or particulars; information. —Usage. DATA is a plural of DATUM, orig. a Latin noun meaning "a thing given." Today, DATA is used in English both as a plural noun meaning "facts or pieces of information" (*These data are described fully on page 8*) and as a singular mass noun meaning "information": *The data has been entered in the computer.* It is almost always treated as a plural in scientific and academic writing, as a singular or plural elsewhere depending on the context. The singular DATUM meaning "a piece of information" occurs most frequently in academic or scientific writing.  
**da'ta bank/** or **da'ta-bank/**, *n.* DATABASE. [1965-70]  
**da'ta-base/** or **da'ta base/**, *n.* a collection of organized, related data, esp. one in electronic form that can be accessed and manipulated by specialized computer software. [1965-70]  
**da'ta high-way**, *n.* INFORMATION SUPERHIGHWAY.  
**da'ta proc-essing**, *n.* the automated processing of information, esp. by computers. [1950-55] —**da'ta proc-essor**, *n.*  
**dat-cha** (dā'chə), *n.*, pl. -chas. DACHA.  
**date'** (dāi), *n.*, *v.*, **dated**, **dating**. —*n.* 1. a particular month, day, and year at which some event happened or will happen: *July 4, 1776 is an important date in American history.* 2. the day of the month: *Is today's date the 8th?* 3. an inscription on a writing, coin, etc., that shows the time, or time and place, of writing, casting, etc. 4. period in general: *at a late date.* 5. duration: *Childhood has so short a date.* 6. an appointment for a particular time, esp. a social engagement arranged beforehand. 7. a person with whom one has such an appointment. 8. an engagement to perform. 9. dates, the birth and death dates, usu. in years, of a person: *Dante's dates are 1265 to 1321.* —*v.* 10. to have or bear a date: *The letter dates from 1873.* 11. to belong to a particular period: *The architecture dates as far back as 1830.* 12. to reckon from some point in time: *The custom dates from the Victorian era.* 13. to go out socially on dates. —*v.t.* 14. to furnish with a date. 15. to ascertain the period or point in time of: *to date the archaeological ruins.* 16. to show to be old-fashioned. 17. to go out on dates with: *He's dating his best friend's sister.* —**Idiom.** 18. to date, until now. 19. up to date, in accord with the latest styles, information, or technology. [1275-1325; ME < MF < LL *data*, der. of *dare* to give], from the phrase *data (Romae)* written, given (at Rome)] —**dat'-a-ble**, **date'a-ble**, *adj.* —**dat'er**, *n.*  
**date<sup>2</sup>** (dāi), *n.* the oblong, fleshy fruit of the date palm. [1250-1300; ME < AF; OF *dade*, *date* < ML *datil*(*l*)*us*, L *dactylus*; see DACTYL]  
**date-book** (dāt'bōk'), *n.* a notebook for listing appointments, making entries of events, etc., usu. for the period of a year. [1960-65]  
**dat-ed** (dā'tid), *adj.* 1. having or showing a date. 2. out-of-date; old-fashioned; outmoded. [1580-90] —**dat'ed-ness**, *n.*  
**date-less** (dāt'lis), *adj.* 1. lacking a date; undated. 2. endless; limitless. 3. so old as to be undatable. 4. of permanent interest regardless of age. 5. having no social engagement. [1585-95]  
**date/line/**, *n.* INTERNATIONAL DATE LINE. [1875-80]  
**date-line** (dāt'lin'), *n.*, *v.*, **-lined**, **-lin-ing**. —*n.* 1. a line at the beginning of a news dispatch, giving the place of origin and usu. the date. —*v.t.* 2. to furnish (a news story) with a dateline. [1885-90]  
**date/ palm'**, *n.* any tall date-bearing palm of the genus *Phoenix*, esp. *P. dactylifera*, topped by pinnate leaves. [1830-40]  
**date/ rape'**, *n.* sexual intercourse forced by a man upon the woman with whom he has a date. [1980-85]  
**dat'ing bar'**, *n.* SINGLES BAR. [1965-70]  
**da-tive** (dā'tiv), *adj.* 1. of or designating a grammatical case that typically indicates the indirect object of a verb or the object of certain prepositions. —*n.* 2. the dative case. 3. a word or other form in the dative case. [1400-50; *datif* < L *dativus* (casus) dative (case) < *dat*(us) given (see DATE<sup>1</sup>)] —**da-ti-val** (-tī'val), *adj.* —**da-tive-ly**, *adv.*  
**Da-tong** (dā'tōng') also **Tatung**, *n.* a city in N Shanxi province, in NE China. 1,110,000.  
**da-tum** (dā'təm, dat'əm, dā'təm), *n.*, pl. **da-ta** (dā'ta, dat'ə, dā'ta). 1. a single piece of information, as a fact, statistic, or code; an item of data. 2. any proposition assumed or given, from which conclusions may be drawn. [1640-50; < L: a thing given, neut. ptp. of *dare* to give] —Usage. See DATA.  
**da-tu-ra** (dā'tūr'ə, -tūr'ə), *n.* -ras. any plant of the genus *Datura*, of the nightshade family, usu. having tubular flowers and prickly pods; a source of hallucinogenic alkaloids. Compare JIMSONWEED. [1655-65; < NL < Hindi *dhatūra* jimsonweed < Skt *dhattūra*] —**da-tu-ric**, *adj.*  
**dau.**, daughter.  
**daub** (dōb), *v.t.* 1. to cover or coat with soft, adhesive matter, as plaster, paint, or mud. 2. to smear, soil, or defile. 3. to apply unskillfully, as paint or colors. —*v.i.* 4. to daub something. 5. to paint unskillfully. —*n.* 6. material for daubing walls. 7. something daubed on. 8. an act of daubing. 9. a crude painting. [1275-1325; ME < AF, OF *dauber* to whiten, paint] —**daub'er**, *n.* —**daub-ing-ly**, *adv.*  
**daube** (dōb), *n.* a stew of meat, esp. beef, slowly braised in red wine with vegetables and seasonings. [1715-25; < F < It *dobba*]

**Dau-det** (dō dā', dō-), *n.* 1. Alphonse, 1840-97, French writer. 2. his son, Léon, 1867-1942, French writer.  
**Dau-ga-va** (dou'gā vā'), *n.* Latvian name of DVINA.  
**Dau-gav-pils** (dou'gāf pēls'), *n.* a city in SE Latvia, on the Dvina, 128,200. Russian, Dvinsk.  
**daugh-ter** (dō'tər), *n.* 1. a girl or woman in relation to her parents. 2. any female descendant. 3. a person related as if by the ties binding daughter to parent: *a daughter of the church.* 4. anything personified as female and considered with respect to its origin. 5. an isotope formed by radioactive decay of another isotope. —*adj.* 6. pertaining to a cell or other structure arising from division or replication: *daughter cell; daughter DNA.* [bef. 950; ME *doughter*, OE *dohtor*, c. OS *dohtar*, OHG *tochter*, ON *döttir*, Go *dauhtar*, Gk *thygátēr*, Skt *duhitā*]  
**daugh'ter-in-law'**, *n.*, pl. **daugh-ters-in-law**, the wife of one's son. [1350-1400]  
**daugh-ter-ly** (dō'tər lē), *adj.* pertaining to, befitting, or like a daughter. [1525-35] —**daugh'ter-li-ness**, *n.*  
**Dau-mier** (dō myā'), *n.* Honoré, 1808-79, French painter, cartoonist, and lithographer.  
**daunt** (dōnt, dānt), *v.t.* 1. intimidate. 2. to dishearten: *Don't be daunted by the work.* [1250-1300; OF *danter* < L *domitāre* to tame] —**daunt-ing-ly**, *adv.* —**daunt'ing-ness**, *n.*  
**daunt-less** (dōnt'lis, dānt'-), *adj.* not to be daunted or intimidated; fearless. [1585-95] —**daunt'less-ly**, *adv.* —**daunt'less-ness**, *n.*  
**dau-phin** (dō'fīn, dō fan'), *n.* the eldest son of a king of France, used as a title from 1349 to 1830. [1475-85; < F; MF *dalphin*]  
**dau-phine** (dō'fēn, dō-), *n.* the wife of a dauphin. [1860-65; < F; MF *dalfine*, fem. of *dalphin* ДАУФИН]  
**Dau-phi-né** (dō fē nā'), *n.* a historical region and former province of SE France.  
**D.A.V.** or **DAV**, Disabled American Veterans.  
**Da-va-o** (dā vou', dā'vou), *n.* a seaport on SE Mindanao, in the S Philippines. 1,007,000.  
**Dava-o Gulf'**, *n.* a gulf of the Pacific Ocean on the SE coast of Mindanao, Philippines.  
**da-ven** or **do-ven** (dā'vən), *v.i.* to recite the Jewish prayers. [*<* Yiddish *dammen*, *dovnen*]  
**D'Av-e-nant** or **Dav-e-nant** (dav'ə nant), *n.* Sir William, 1606-68, English poet, playwright, and producer; poet laureate 1638-68.  
**dav-en-port** (dav'an pōrt', -pōrt'), *n.* 1. a large sofa, often one convertible into a bed. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* a small writing desk. [1850-55; (def. 2) allegedly after a Captain Davenport, who first commissioned it]  
**Dav-en-port** (dav'an pōrt', -pōrt'), *n.* a city in E Iowa, on the Mississippi River. 97,140.  
**Da-vid** (dā'vid for 1, 2; Fr. dā vəd' for 3), *n.* 1. died c970 B.C., the second king of Israel, reigned c1010-c970, successor to Saul. 2. Saint, A.D. c510-601?, Welsh bishop; patron saint of Wales. 3. Jacques Louis, 1748-1825, French painter.  
**Da-vid I** (dā'vid), *n.* 1084-1153, king of Scotland 1124-53.  
**Da-vid-ic** (dā vid'ik), *adj.* of or pertaining to the Biblical David or his descendants. [1820-30]  
**Da-vid-son** (dā'vid sən), *n.* Jo (jō), 1883-1952, U.S. sculptor.  
**Da-vies** (dā'vāz), *n.* Arthur Bowen, 1862-1928, U.S. painter.  
**da Vin-ci** (dā vin'chē, dā), *n.* Leonardo, LEONARDO DA VINCI.  
**da-vis** (dā'vis), *n.* 1. Bet-te (bet'ē), (Ruth Elizabeth Davis), 1908-89, U.S. film actress. 2. Jefferson, 1808-89, president of the Confederate States of America 1861-65. 3. Miles (Dewey, Jr.), 1926-91, U.S. jazz trumpeter. 4. Sammy, Jr., 1925-90, U.S. singer and entertainer. 5. Stuart, 1894-1964, U.S. painter and illustrator.  
**Dav'is Strait'**, *n.* a strait between Canada and Greenland, connecting Baffin Bay and the Atlantic. 200-500 mi. (320-800 km) wide.  
**davit** (dav'it, dā'vit), *n.* any of various cranelike devices used on a ship for supporting, raising, and lowering boats, anchors, etc. [1325-75; ME *davit* < AF, appar. dim. of *Davi* David]



davit

**Da-vy** (dā'vē), *n.* Sir Humphry, 1778-1829, English chemist.  
**Da'vy Jones'** (jōnz), *n.* the personification of the sea. [1745-55]  
**Da'vy Jones'/s lock'er** (jōn'ziz, jōnz), *n.* the bottom of the ocean, esp. when regarded as the grave of all who perish at sea. [1770-80]  
**daw** (dō), *n.* JACKDAW. [1400-50; late ME *dawe*; cf. OHG *taha*]  
**daw-dle** (dōd'l), *v.*, **-died**, **-dling**. —*v.i.* 1. to waste time; idle; trifle; loiter. 2. to saunter. —*v.t.* 3. to waste (time) by or as if by trifling (usu. fol. by *away*): *We dawdled away the whole morning.* [1650-60; var. of *daddle* to toddle] —**daw'dler**, *n.* —Syn. see LOITER.  
**Daves** (dōz), *n.* Charles Gates, 1865-1951, vice president of the U.S. 1925-29; Nobel peace prize 1925.  
**dawn** (dōn), *n.* 1. the first appearance of daylight in the morning;