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Random House Webster's College Dictionary
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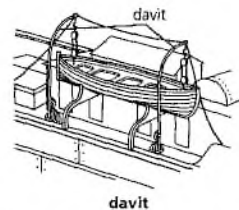
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das-tard (das'tærd), *n.* a mean, sneaking coward. [1400-50; late ME, akin to ME *dasard* term of contempt, perh. der. of *dasen* DAZE]
das-tard-ly (das'tærd lē), *adj.* cowardly; meanly base; sneaking; *a dastardly act* [1560-70] —**das'tard-li-ness**, *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.*
date² (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 DATE¹)] —**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 *dauter* < 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.
Dā'vis 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;