

THE AMERICAN HERITAGE
DICTIONARY
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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Standard Book Numbers: 395-09064-4 (de luxe edition);
395-09065-2 (plain edges); 395-09066-0 (thumb-indexed);
395-09070-9 (school edition)

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 76-86995

Manufactured in the United States of America

Computer-composed by Inforonics, Inc.
in Maynard, Massachusetts

its context. **8.** To exude or give off in drops or small quantities. —*intr.* **1.** To undergo or be produced by distillation. **2.** To fall or exude in drops or small quantities. [Middle English *distillen*, to trickle, drip, distill, from Old French *distiller*, from Latin *distillare*, *distillare*: *dis-*, down + *stillare*, to drip, from *siffla*, drop.] —*dis-till'ə-bil* *adj.*

dis-tillate (dis-till'at, dis-till'it) *n.* **1.** The liquid condensed from vapor in distillation. **2.** Anything regarded as an essence or purified form. Also called "distillation."

dis-tilla-tion (dis-till'ā-shən) *n.* **1.** Any of various heat-dependent processes used to purify or separate a fraction of a relatively complex substance; especially, the vaporization of a liquid mixture with subsequent collection of components by differential cooling to condensation. **2.** A distillate.

distillation column. A tall cylindrical metal shell internally fitted with perforated horizontal plates used to promote separation of miscible liquids ascending in the shell as vapor.

dis-till'er (dis-till'er) *n.* **1.** One that distills, as a condenser; a still. **2.** A producer or maker of alcoholic liquors by the process of distillation.

dis-till'er-y (dis-till'ə-rē) *n., pl. -ies.* An establishment or plant for distilling, especially alcoholic liquors.

dis-tinct (dis-tink't) *adj.* **1.** Not identical; individual; discrete. **2.** Not similar; different; unlike. **3.** Easily perceived by the senses or intellect; clear. **4.** Well-defined; explicit; unquestionable. —*See* Synonyms at *evident*. —*See* Usage note at *dis-tinctive*. [Middle English, separated, different, from Old French, from Latin *distinctus*, past participle of *distingere*, *dis-tin-guis*] —*dis-tinct'ly* *adv.* —*dis-tinct'ness* *n.*

dis-tinc-tion (dis-tink'tshən) *n.* **1.** The action of distinguishing; discrimination; differentiation. **2.** The condition or fact of being dissimilar or distinct; a difference. **3.** A distinguishing factor, attribute, or characteristic. **4.** Excellence or eminence, as of performance, character, or reputation; a *man of distinction*. **5.** Recognition of achievement or superiority; honor; *graduate with distinction*. —*See* Synonyms at *difference*.

dis-tinc-tive (dis-tink'tiv) *adj.* **1.** Serving to identify; distinguishing; *distinctive tribal tattoos*. **2.** Characteristic; *distinctive habits*. **3.** Linguistic. Phonemically relevant. —*See* Synonyms at *characteristic*. —*dis-tinc'tive-ly* *adv.* —*dis-tinc'tive-ness* *n.*

Usage: *Distinctive* and *distinct* are related but seldom interchangeable without difference of meaning. A *distinctive* odor sets something apart; a *distinct* odor is an unmistakable one. A *distinctive* manner of speaking sharply characterizes a person; a *distinct* manner emphasizes clarity. Two *distinctive* groups are, again, individualistic (with respect to all others); two *distinct* groups are separate ones (primarily with respect to each other). **dis-tin-guish** (dis-ting'gā, dis-ting'gā; French *dés-tin-gā*) *adj.* Distinguished in appearance, manner, or bearing. [French, "distinguished."] —*dis-tin-guish'ly* *adv.*

dis-tin-guish (dis-ting'gwish) *v., -guished, -guishing, -guishes.* —*tr.* **1.** To recognize as being different or distinct. **2.** To perceive distinctly; discern; make out. **3.** To detect or recognize; pick out. **4.** To make noticeable or different; set apart. **5.** To cause to be eminent or recognized. Usually used in the reflexive: *He distinguished himself as a statesman*. —*intr.* To perceive or indicate differences; discriminate. Usually used with *among* or *between*. [Middle English *distingen*, from Old French *distin-guer* (present stem *distinguis-*), from Latin *distingere*, to separate, distinguish. *See* *steig-* in Appendix*.] —*dis-tin'guish-a-bil* *adj.* —*dis-tin'guish-a-bly* *adv.*

dis-tin-guished (dis-ting'gwish) *adj.* *Abbr.* *dist.* **1.** Characterized by excellence or distinction; eminent; renowned. **2.** Distinguished in conduct or appearance.

Distinguished Conduct Medal. *Abbr.* *D.C.M.* A British military decoration for distinguished conduct in the field.

Distinguished Flying Cross. *Abbr.* *D.F.C.* **1.** A U.S. military decoration awarded for heroism or extraordinary achievement in aerial combat. **2.** A similar British decoration awarded to officers of the Royal Air Force.

Distinguished Service Cross. *Abbr.* *D.S.C.* **1.** A U.S. Army decoration awarded for exceptional heroism in combat. **2.** A British decoration awarded to officers of the Royal Navy for gallantry in action.

Distinguished Service Medal. *Abbr.* *DSM, D.S.M.* **1.** A U.S. military decoration awarded for distinguished performance in a duty of great responsibility. **2.** A British decoration awarded to noncommissioned officers and men in the Royal Navy and Royal Marines for distinguished conduct in war.

Distinguished Service Order. *Abbr.* *D.S.O.* A British military decoration for gallantry in action.

dis-tort (dis-tōrt') *v., -torted, -torting, -torts.* **1.** To twist out of a proper or natural relation of parts; misshape; contort. **2.** To cast false light on; alter misleadingly; misrepresent. **3.** To cause to work in a twisted or disorderly manner; to pervert. [Latin *distorque* (past participle *distortus*): *dis-*, apart, aside + *torque*, to twist (see *twirk-* in Appendix*).] —*dis-tort'er* *n.*

Synonyms: *distort, twist, deform, contort, warp, gnarl.* These verbs mean to change the form or character of something, usually to its disadvantage. *Distort* applies to physical change in shape, as by bending, wrenching, or exaggerating certain features; to verbal or pictorial misrepresentation; and to alteration or perversion of meaning of something spoken or written. *Twist* has similar application but intensifies the idea of masked and deliberate change. *Deform* refers only to physical change that disfigures and usually deprives the object of attractiveness or capacity for normal functioning. *Contort* implies violent physical change that produces unnatural or grotesque effects. *Warp* can refer to physical turning or twisting out of shape or, figura-

tively, to turning something, such as the human mind or judgment, from a true course. *Gnarl* usually refers to making twisted or knotty in a physical sense.

dis-tor-tion (dis-tōr'shən) *n.* **1.** The act or an instance of distorting. **2.** The condition of being distorted. **3. Optics.** A distorted image resulting from imperfections in an optical system, such as a lens. **4. Electronics.** a. An undesired change in the waveform of a signal. b. Any consequence of such a change; especially, diminished clarity in reception or reproduction. **5. Psychoanalysis.** The modification of unconscious impulses into forms acceptable by conscious or dreaming perception. —*dis-tor'tion-al* *adj.*

distr. distributor.

dis-tract (dis-trākt') *v., -tracted, -tracting, -tracts.* **1.** To cause to turn away from the original focus of attention or interest; to sidetrack; divert: "Do not allow any temporary excitement to distract you from the real business." (C.S. Lewis). **2.** To pull in conflicting directions; unsettle; bewilder. [Middle English *distracten*, from Latin *distrahere* (past participle *distrahitus*), to pull apart, draw away, perplex: *dis-*, apart, aside + *trahere*, to draw (see *tragh-* in Appendix*).] —*dis-tract'ive* *adj.* —*dis-tract'ing-ly* *adv.*

dis-tract-ed (dis-trākt'ed) *adj.* **1.** Having the attention diverted. **2.** Suffering conflicting emotions; distraught. *See* Synonyms at *forlornful*. —*dis-tract'ed-ly* *adv.*

dis-trac-tion (dis-trāk'shən) *n.* **1.** The act of distracting or the condition of being distracted; a diversion from an original focus. **2.** Anything that compels attention or distracts; especially, an amusement. **3.** Extreme mental or emotional disturbance; obsession: "I loved Dora Spewlow to distraction!" (Dickens).

dis-train (dis-trān') *v., -trained, -training, -trains.* *Law.* —*tr.* **1.** To seize and hold (property) to compel payment or reparation, as of debts. **2.** To seize the property of (a person) in order to compel payment of debts; to distress. —*intr.* To levy a distress. [Middle English *distreinen*, to seize, compel, detain, from Old French *distreindre* (present stem *distreign-*), from Medieval Latin *distringere*, to seize, compel, from Latin, to draw apart, detain, hinder: *dis-*, apart + *stringere*, to draw tight (see *strig-* in Appendix*).] —*dis-train'a-bil* *adj.* —*dis-train'ment* *n.* —*dis-train'or* (-trā'nōr), *dis-train'er* *n.*

dis-train-ee (dis-trā-nē') *n.* *Law.* One who has been distrained.

dis-train't (dis-trān't) *n.* *Law.* The act or process of distraining; a distress. [From *DISTRAIN* (after *RESTRAIN, RESTRAINT*).]

dis-traught (dis-trōt') *adj.* **1.** Anxious or agitated; harried; worried. **2.** Crazed; mad. —*See* Synonyms at *abstacted*. [Middle English, alteration of *distraict*, distracted, from Latin *distrahitus*, past participle of *distrahere*, to perplex, *DISTRACT*.]

dis-tress (dis-trēs') *v., -tressed, -tressing, -tresses.* **1.** To cause anxiety or suffering to; to worry or upset. **2.** To bring into difficult circumstances, especially financial. **3. Archaic.** To constrain by harassment. **4. Law.** To hold the property of (a person) against the payment of debts; to distrain. —*n.* **1.** Anxiety or suffering; sorrow; unhappiness. **2.** Severe strain resulting from exhaustion, accident, or the like. **3.** The condition of being in need of immediate assistance: *a damsel in distress; a ship in distress*. **4. Law.** a. The act of distraining or seizing, as goods. b. The goods thus seized. [Middle English *distressen*, *distressen*, from Old French *distresser*, from *distresse*, "narrow passage," strait, constraint, from Vulgar Latin *districtia* (unattested), narrowness, from Latin *districtus*, past participle of *distringere*, "to draw tight," detain, hinder. *See* *distrain*.] —*dis-tress'ing-ly* *adv.*

dis-tress-ful (dis-trēs'fəl) *adj.* **1.** Causing distress. **2.** Experiencing distress. —*dis-tress'ful-ly* *adv.* —*dis-tress'ful-ness* *n.*

dis-trib-u-tar-y (dis-trib'yū-tērē) *n., pl. -ies.* A branch of a river that flows away from the main stream and does not return to it; especially, such a branch on the delta of a large river. Compare *tributary*.

dis-trib-ute (dis-trib'yūt) *v., -uted, -uting, -utes.* **1.** To divide and dispense in portions; parcel out. **2.** To deliver or pass out: *distributing handbills on the street*. **3.** To spread or diffuse over an area. Often used in the passive: *a widely distributed species*. **4.** To separate into categories; classify. **5. Logic.** To use (a term) so as to include all individuals or entities of a given class. **6. Printing.** To separate (type) and replace in the proper boxes. [Middle English *distributen*, from Latin *distribuere*: *dis-*, apart + *tribuere*, to allot, grant (see *tribute*).]

Synonyms: *distribute, divide, dispense, dole, deal, ration.* These verbs mean to give something as a portion or share. *Distribute* is the least specific. *Divide* implies giving out portions determined by plan and purpose, often equal parts or portions based on what is due or deserved. *Dispense* stresses even more the sense of careful determination of portions according to what is considered due or proper. *Dole* (usually followed by *out*) implies careful and scant measurement of portions; often it applies to distribution of charity or something given reluctantly. *Deal* suggests orderly and equitable distribution, piece by piece. *Ration* refers to equitable division of scarce items, often necessities, by a system that limits individual portions.

dis-trib-ution (dis-trib'yūshən) *n.* **1.** The act of distributing or the condition of being distributed; apportionment. **2.** Something distributed; an allotment. **3.** The act of dispersing or the condition of being dispersed; a diffusion. **4.** The geographical occurrence or range of an organism. **5.** Division into categories; classification. **6. Law.** The division of an estate or property among rightful heirs. **7. Commerce.** The process of marketing and merchandising goods. **8.** Any spatial or temporal array of objects or events: *the distribution of theaters on Broad-*

t tight/th thin, path/ā this, bathes/ū cut/ōr urge/v valve/w with/y yes/z zebra, size/zh vision/ə about, item, edible, gallop, circus/ & P. am/æ P. tea, Ger. ʃelʊn/ū P. lu, Ger. ʊber/KH Ger. ʊch, Scot. loch/N P. bon. *Follows main vocabulary. †Of obscure origin.