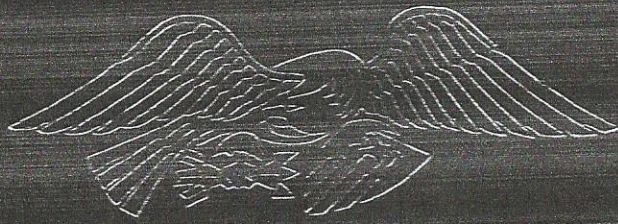


NEW COLLEGE EDITION



THE AMERICAN HERITAGE
DICTIONARY
OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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ISBN: 0-395-20360-0 (new college edition; thumb-indexed)
0-395-20359-7 (new college edition; plain edges)
0-395-24575-3 (high-school edition)
0-395-09066-0 (larger-format edition)

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number 76-86995

Manufactured in the United States of America

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

staf: *dis-*, bunch of flax, akin *dizen*) + **STAFF**.
maternal branch of a family.

located far from the origin or
proximal. [DIST(ANT) + **-AL**.]

dist. 1. The fact or condition
Geometry. a. A nonnegative
le of a path along a straight
a line segment joining two
ircular from a given point to
irating any two specified in-
f deviation or difference that
p. b. The degree of progress
source. 5. A stretch of linear
6. A point removed in space
aloofness. 8. The section of
a in a given heat before the
der to qualify for later heats.
n reserved or aloof. —*tr.v.*
place or keep at a distance.
3. To leave behind, as at a
English *distaunce*, from Old
ntia, from *distans*, **DISTANT**.]
dist. 1. Separate or apart in
space or time. 3. Located at,
ce. 4. Far apart in relation-
ar removed from the present
or of chilly in manner: "his
shake cool" (Frank Budgen).
French, from Latin *distans*,
remote: *dis-*, apart + *stare*,
—*dis'* tant-ly *adv.*
faraway, remote, removed.
apart in space or, less often,
figure) to indicate a specific
definite but sizable interval.
nterval, principally in space.
r interval in either time or
away but suggests isolation
nt in time. *Removed* implies
kind, or character with re-

aversion. Used with *for*.
Archaic. 1. To feel repug-
isplease.
leasant; disagreeable. —*dis-*
n.

An infectious virus disease
cially dogs, characterized by
ge from the eyes and nose.
b. Any of various similar
or disease; an ailment: "He
per which kills many more
ng). 3. Ill humor; testiness.
illy of a social or political
pers. To upset or disturb;
mperen, to upset the proper
be ill, from Old French
distemperare: Latin *dis-*
a due proportion, **TEMPER**.]
rocess of painting in which
a glue-size or casein binder,
scenic and poster painting.
3. A painting done in dis-
eeh). —*tr.v.* **distempored**,
d pigments or colors) with
aper. [Middle English *dis-*
from Medieval Latin *dis-*
+ *temperare*, to mingle,

ading, **tends**. —*intr.* To
as if from internal pressure;
pand by or as by internal
n importance; magnify; ex-
in all directions. [Middle
lere: *dis-*, apart + *tendere*,

apable of being distended.

is-ten-sion. The act of dis-
tended. [Middle English
n *distendere* (past participle

its context. 5. 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 *distil-*
len, to trickle, drip, distill, from Old French *distiller*, from Latin
destillare, *distillare*: *de-*, down + *stillare*, to drip, from *stillare*,
drop.] —*dis-til'* a-ble *adj.*

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

dis-til-la-tion (dis'ta-lā'shən) *n.* 1. Any of various heat-depend-
ent processes used to purify or separate a fraction of a relatively
complex substance; especially, the vaporization of a liquid mix-
ture 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-til-ler (dis-til'ər) *n.* 1. One that distills, as a condenser; a
still. 2. A producer or maker of alcoholic liquors by the process
of distillation.

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

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

dis-tinc-tion (dis-tingk'shən) *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 distinc-*
tion. 5. Recognition of achievement or superiority; honor:
graduate with distinction. —See Synonyms at **difference**.

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

Usage: *Distinctive* and *distinct* are related but seldom inter-
changeable 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-gue (dis'tāng-gā, dī-stāng-gā; French dēs-tān-gā) *adj.*
Distinguished in appearance, manner, or bearing. [French,
"distinguished."] —*dis-tin-gue'* ly *adv.*

dis-tin-guish (dis-ting'gwish) *v., -guished, -guishing, -guishes.*
—*tr.* 1. To recognize as being different or distinct. 2. To per-
ceive 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
identify differences; discriminate. Usually used with *among* or
between. [Middle English *distinguen*, from Old French *disting-*
uer (present stem *distinguis-*), from Latin *distinguere*, to sepa-
rate, distinguish. See **steig-** in Appendix*.] —*dis-tin'* guish-a-ble
adj. —*dis-tin'* guish-a-bly *adv.*

dis-tin-guished (dis-ting'gwisht) *adj.* **Abbr.** **dist.** 1. Character-
ized by excellence or distinction; eminent; renowned. 2. Dig-
nified in conduct or appearance.

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

Distinguished Flying Cross. **Abbr.** **DFC, D.F.C.** 1. A U.S. mili-
tary decoration awarded for heroism or extraordinary achieve-
ment in aerial combat. 2. A similar British decoration awarded
to officers of the Royal Air Force.

Distinguished Service Cross. **Abbr.** **DSC, 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') *tr.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
distorquere (past participle *distortus*): *dis-*, apart, aside +
torquere, to twist (see **terkw-** in Appendix*.)] —*dis-tort'* er *n.*

tively, to turning something, such as the human mind or judg-
ment, 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 dis-
torting. 2. The condition of being distorted. 3. **Optics.** A dis-
torted 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') *tr.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 *dis-*
tracten, from Latin *distrahere* (past participle *distrahtus*), to pull
apart, draw away, perplex: *dis-*, apart, aside + *trahere*, to draw
(see **tragh-** in Appendix*.)] —*dis-trac'tive* *adj.* —*dis-tract'*
-ing-ly *adv.*

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

dis-trac-tion (dis-trākt'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; espe-
cially, an amusement. 3. Extreme mental or emotional disturb-
ance; obsession: "I loved Dora Spelow to distraction!"
(Dickens).

dis-train (dis-trān') *v., -trained, -training, -trains.* **Law.** —*tr.*
1. To seize and hold (property) to compel payment or repara-
tion, as of debts. 2. To seize the property of (a person) in order
to compel payment of debts; to distress. —*intr.* To levy a dis-
tress. [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 **streig-** in Appendix*.)] —*dis-train'-able* *adj.* —*dis-train'-*
ment *n.* —*dis-trai'nor* (-trā'nor), *dis-train'er* *n.*

dis-train-ee (dis'trā-nē') *n.* **Law.** One who has been distrained.
dis-traint (dis-trānt') *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; wor-
ried. 2. Crazed; mad. —See Synonyms at **abstracted**. [Mid-
dle English, alteration of *distract*, distracted, from Latin *dis-*
tractus, past participle of *distrahere*, to perplex, distract.]

dis-tress (dis-trēs') *tr.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 con-
strain by harassment. 4. **Law.** To hold the property of (a per-
son) against the payment of debts; to distress. —*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 *districta* (unat-
tested), narrowness, from Latin *districtus*, past participle of *dis-*
tringere, "to draw tight," detain, hinder. See **distrain**.] —*dis-*
trēs'-ing-ly *adv.*

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

dis-trib-u-tar-y (dis-trib'yə-tēr'ē) *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'yoot) *tr.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 con-
sidered 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* sug-