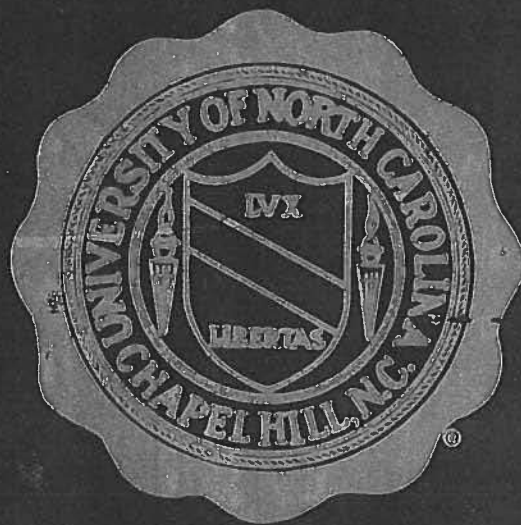


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dwo- + -om.)

used by an educa- has earned a de- or. 3. An official f introduction < ble. See dwo-.) practice of con- iating alliances.

d to represent a nments. 2. One [Fr. *diplomate*, See DIPLOMATIC.] diploma, esp. a of examiners. involving diplo- r and sensitivity to diplomats. *diplomatiq* u- it-, letter of in- •ly adv. ersonnel in res-

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**diquat** (di'kwät') n. A strong yellow crystalline herbicide, C<sub>12</sub>H<sub>12</sub>Br<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>, used to control water weeds. [di-1 + QUAT(ERNARY).]

**di-** abbr. Director.

**Dirac** (di-räk'), Paul Adrien Maurice. 1902-84. British mathematician and physicist who shared a 1933 Nobel Prize.

**dire** (dir) adj. dir'er, dir'est. 1. Warning of or having dreadful consequences; calamitous. 2. Urgent; desperate: *dire poverty*. [Lat. *dirus*, fearsome, terrible; akin to Gk. *deimos*.] - **dire'ly** adv. - **dire'ness** n.

**direct** (di-rékt', di-) v. -rect-ed, -rect-ing, -rects. -tr. 1. To manage or conduct the affairs of; regulate. 2. To have or take charge of; control. 3. To give authoritative instructions to: *directed them to answer*. 4. To cause to move toward a goal; aim. 5. To show or indicate the way for. 6. To cause to move in or follow a straight course. 7. To indicate the intended recipient on (a letter, for example). 8. To address or adapt (remarks, for example) to a specific person, audience, or purpose. 9.a. To give guidance and instruction to (musicians, for example) in the performance of a work. b. To supervise the performance of. -intr. 1. To give commands or directions. 2. To conduct a performance or rehearsal. -adj. 1. Proceeding without interruption in a straight course or line; not deviating or swerving. 2. Straightforward and candid; frank. 3. Having no intervening persons, conditions, or agencies; immediate. 4. Effected by action of the voters rather than through elected representatives or delegates. 5. Being of unbroken descent; lineal: *a direct descendant*. 6. Consisting of the exact words of the writer or speaker. 7. Lacking compromising or mitigating elements; absolute. 8. *Math.* Varying in the same manner as another quantity, esp. increasing if another quantity increases or decreasing if it decreases. 9. *Astron.* Moving west to east in the same direction as the sun's movement against the stars. Used of a planet. -adv. Straight; directly. [ME *directen* < Lat. *dirigere*, *diréct-*, to give direction to : *di-*, *dis-*, apart; see *dis-* + *regere*, to guide; see *reg-*.]

**direct action** n. The strategic use of immediately effective acts, such as strikes or sabotage, to achieve a political or social end.

**direct current** n. An electric current flowing in one direction only.

**direct-ed** (di-rékt'id) adj. *Math.* Having an indicated positive sense.

**direction** (di-rékt'shən, di-) n. 1. The act or function of directing. 2. Management, supervision, or guidance of an action or operation. 3. The art or action of musical or theatrical directing. 4. *Mus.* A word or phrase in a score indicating how a passage is to be played or sung. 5. An instruction or series of instructions for doing or finding something. Often used in the plural. 6. An authoritative indication; an order or a command. 7.a. The distance-independent relationship between two points in space that specifies the angular position of either with respect to the other; the relationship by which the alignment or orientation of any position with respect to any other position is established. b. A position to which motion or another position is referred. c. A line leading to a place or point. d. The line or course along which a person or thing moves. 8. The statement in degrees of the angle measured between due north and a given line or course on a compass. 9. A course or area of development; a tendency toward a particular end or goal. [ME, arrangement < Lat. *directiō*, *directiō*- < *directus*, p.p. of *dirigere*, to direct. See *direct*.] - **di-réct-ion-less** adj.

**direction-al** (di-rékt'shə-nəl, di-) adj. 1. Of or indicating direction. 2. *Electron.* Capable of receiving or sending signals in one direction only. 3. Relating to guidance in effort, behavior, or thought. 4. Serving to point the future direction, as of fashion. -n. A directional signal. - **di-réct-ion-al'i-ty** (-shə-nəl'i-tē) n.

**directional antenna** n. An antenna that receives or sends signals most effectively in a particular direction.

**directional signal** n. One of two lights on the front and rear of an automotive vehicle that indicate the direction of a turn.

**direction finder** n. A device for determining the source of a transmitted signal, consisting mainly of a radio receiver and a coiled rotating antenna.

**direct-ive** (di-rékt'iv, di-) n. An order or instruction, esp. one from a central authority. -adj. Serving to direct.

**direct-ly** (di-rékt'lē, di-) adv. 1. In a direct line or manner; straight. 2. Without anyone or anything intervening. 3. Exactly or totally. 4. At once; instantly. 5. Candidly; frankly. 6. *Chiefly Southern U.S.* In a little while; shortly. -conj. *Chiefly British.* As soon as.

**direct mail** n. Advertisements or other printed matter mailed directly to prospective customers or contributors. - **di-réct-mall'** (di-rékt'mäl', di-) adj. - **direct mailer** n.

**direct object** n. *Gram.* The word or phrase in a sentence referring to the one receiving the action of a transitive verb. For example, in *mail the letter*, *letter* is the direct object.

**direct-or** (di-rékt'ər, di-) n. 1. One that supervises, controls, or manages. 2. A member of a group of persons chosen to govern the affairs of an institution or a corporation. 3. A

person who supervises the creative aspects of a dramatic production or film and instructs the actors and crew. 4. *Mus.* The conductor of an orchestra or a chorus. - **di-réct'or-shíp'** n.

**directorate** (di-rékt'ar-it, di-) n. 1. The office or position of a director. 2. A board of directors, as of a corporation. 3. The entire staff of a bureau or department.

**direct-ori-al** (di-rékt'ōrē-əl, -tōr', di-) adj. 1. Of or relating to a director or directorate. 2. Serving to direct; directive. - **di-réct'or-i-al-ly** adv.

**direct-or's chair** (di-rékt'orz, di-) n. A folding armchair with a usu. canvas back and seat.

**direct-ory** (di-rékt'ō-rē, di-) n., pl. -ries. 1. A book containing an alphabetical or classified listing of names, addresses, and other data. 2. *Comp. Sci.* a. A listing of the files contained in a storage device, such as a magnetic disk. b. A description of the various characteristics of a file, such as the layout of the fields in it. 3. A book of rules or directions. 4. A group or body of directors. -adj. Serving to direct.

**direct primary** n. A primary in which a party's candidates for public office are nominated by direct vote of the people.

**direct-rix** (di-rékt'riks, di-) n., pl. **di-réct-rix-es** or **di-réct-ri-cés** (di-rékt'ri-sēz) 1. *Math.* The fixed curve traversed by a generatrix in generating a conic section or a cylinder. 2. The median line in the trajectory of fire of an artillery piece.

**direct tax** n. A tax levied directly on the taxpayer.

**dire-ful** (dir'fəl) adj. 1. Inspiring dread; terrible. 2. Foreshadowing evil or disaster; ominous. - **dire'ful-ly** adv. - **dire'fulness** n.

**dire wolf** n. A large wolflike mammal (*Canis dirus*) that inhabited North America during the Pleistocene Epoch.

**dirge** (dĭrj) n. 1. *Mus.* a. A funeral hymn or lament. b. A slow, mournful musical composition. 2. A mournful or elegiac poem or other literary work. [ME, an antiphon at Matins in the Office for the Dead < Med.Lat. *dirige Domine*, direct, Lord, imper. of *dirigere*, to direct. See *direct*.]

**dir-ham** (da-rām') n. See table at currency. [Ar. < Gk. *drachmē*, drachma.]

**direct-ible** (dir'tə-jə-bəl, da-rĭj'ə-bəl) n. See airship. [Lat. *dirigere*, to direct; see *direct* + *-ible*.]

**dirk** (dĭrk) n. A dagger. -tr.v. **dirked**, **dirk-ing**, **dirks**. To stab with a dirk. [Sc. *dirk*.]

**dirn-dl** (dĭrn'dl) n. 1. A full-skirted dress with a tight bodice, low neck, and short full sleeves. 2. A full skirt with a gathered waistband. [Ger., short for *Dirndlkleid* : Ger. dial. *Dirndl*, dim. of *Dirne*, girl (< OHGer. *diorna*) + *Kleid*, dress.]

**dirt** (dĭrt) n. 1. Earth or soil. 2.a. A filthy or soiling substance, such as mud. b. Excrement. 3. A squalid or filthy condition. 4. One that is mean or vile. 5.a. Obscene language or subject matter. b. Malicious or scandalous gossip. c. Information that embarrasses or accuses. 6. Unethical behavior, corruption. 7. Material, such as gravel, from which metal is extracted in mining. [ME, var. of *drut*, excrement, filth, mud < ON.]

**dirt bike** n. A motorbike or bicycle designed for use on rough surfaces, such as dirt roads or trails.

**dirt-cheap** (dĭrt'chép') adv. & adj. Very cheap.

**dirt dauber** n. *Chiefly Southern U.S.* See *potter wasp*.

**dirt farmer** n. *Informal.* A farmer who does all the work on his or her property. - **dirt farming** n.

**dirt-poor** (dĭrt'pōr') adj. Lacking most of life's necessities.

**dirt-y** (dĭr'tē) adj. -i-er, -i-est. 1.a. Soiled, as with dirt; unclean. b. Spreading dirt; polluting. c. Apt to soil with dirt or filth. 2. Squalid or filthy; run-down. 3.a. Obscene or indecent. b. Malicious or scandalous: *a dirty lie*. 4.a. Unethical or sordid: *dirty politics*. b. Not sportsmanlike: *a dirty fighter*. c. Acquired by illicit or improper means: *dirty money*. d. *Slang.* Possessing or using illegal drugs. 5.a. Unpleasant or distasteful; thankless. b. Very unfortunate or regrettable: *a dirty shame*. 6. Expressing disapproval or hostility: *a dirty look*. 7. Not bright and clear in color; somewhat drab. Often used in combination: *dirty-blonde hair*. 8. Producing a great amount of long-lived radioactive fallout. Used of nuclear weapons. 9. Stormy; rough: *dirty weather*. -v. -led, -y-ing, -ies. -tr. 1. To make soiled. 2. To stain or tarnish with dishonor. -intr. To become soiled. - **dirt'i-ly** adv. - **dirt'i-ness** n.

**dirt-y linen** n. *Informal.* Personal affairs that could cause embarrassment or distress if made public.

**dirt-y old man** n. *Informal.* A middle-aged or elderly man with lewd or lecherous inclinations.

**dirt-y pool** n. *Slang.* Unjust or dishonest conduct. [< POOL<sup>2</sup>.]

**dirty rice** n. *Southern Louisiana.* White rice cooked with chicken livers and gizzards and seasoned with herbs and spices.

**dirt-y tricks** pl.n. *Informal.* 1. Covert intelligence operations that disrupt the economy or the political situation in another country. 2. Unethical behavior in politics, esp. acts that destroy the credibility of an opponent. 3. Commercial espionage. - **dirt-y trickster** n.

**dirty word** n. A word, an expression, or a concept that is inappropriate or offensive from a particular point of view.

**Dis** (dis) n. *Rom. Myth.* 1. The god of the underworld; Pluto. 2. The underworld.

**dis. abbr.** 1. Discharge. 2. Discount. 3. Distance. 4. Distant.



dirdl



dirt bike

ā pat	oi boy
ā pay	ou out
ār care	ōō tōōk
ā father	ōō bōōt
ē pet	ūc ūt
ē be	ūr urge
i pit	th thin
i pie	th this
ir pier	hw which
ō pot	zh vision
ō toe	ə about,
ō paw	item

Stress marks:  
' (primary);  
' (secondary), as in  
dictionary (di'k'shə-nēr'ē)