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relation to the point towards which it is moving; the line towards anything in its relation to a given line; a point to or from which a person moves, turns, etc. M17. **b** *fig.* The course of development of thought, effort, or action; a distinct tendency or trend; linear or consistent progress. M18. 7 = DIRECTORATE. *arch.* E18.

1 SHAKES. *Oth.* A soldier fit to stand by Caesar And give direction. GEO. ELIOT She felt the need of direction even in small things. D. FRASER The Chiefs of Staff Committee was concerned with the overall direction of war. 3 GOLDSMITH Provide him with proper directions for finding me in London. 5 SHAKES. *Rich. III* Call for some men of sound direction. 6 J. BUCHAN Making farther from London in the direction of some western port. N. MOSLEY She appeared to be seen from two directions at once. **b** B. JOWETT New directions of enquiry. *Times* Gold shares lacked direction with the bullion price virtually unchanged.

Phrases: sense of direction the ability to know without guidance towards which place one is walking etc. *stage direction:* see STAGE *n.*

Comb.: **direction-finder** a device for direction-finding; **direction-finding** the process of finding the direction from which radio waves are coming; **direction-indicator** a device showing the direction in which the driver is about to turn a motor vehicle.

directional *a.* (a) pertaining to the giving or taking of directions; (b) of or pertaining to direction in space, esp. of radio transmission within a narrow angle; (of a well) drilled at an angle to the vertical: E17. **directionality** *n.* directional quality; maintenance of direction: M20. **directionally** *adv.* L19. **directionless** *a.* lacking aim or direction M19. **directionlessness** *n.* M20.

directive /di'rektiv, daɪ-/ *n.* M17. [*med.L. directivum* use as *n.* of neut. of *directivus*: see next.] Something which directs; *spec.* a general instruction for procedure or action given to a subordinate.

H. KISSINGER The ABM directive went the way of many other Presidential instructions to the Defense Department.

¶ Rare bef. E20.

directive /di'rektiv, daɪ-/ *a.* LME. [*med.L. directivus*, *f. L. direct-* pa. ppl stem of *dirigere*: see DIRECT *v.*, -IVE. Cf. (O)Fr. *directif*, -ive.] 1 Having the quality, function, or power of directing; serving to direct. LME. †2 Subject to direction. *rare* (Shakes.). Only in E17.

1 J. S. MILL Utility or Happiness, considered as the directive rule of human conduct. J. C. MAXWELL The directive action of the earth's magnetism on the compass needle. A. STORR Those who are directive by nature.

directively *adv.* in a directive manner; so as to direct or guide: M17. **directiveness** *n.* E18. **directivity** *n.* (a) the quality or state of being directed by a vital force or by God; (b) the property or degree of being directional: E20.

directly /di'rektli, daɪ-/ *adv.* & *conj.* LME. [*f. DIRECT a.* + -LY².] **A** *adv.* 1 In a straight line; without deviation; *Math.* linearly. LME. 2 Straightforwardly; plainly; pointedly. LME. 3 Completely, absolutely; exactly. LME. 4 Without an intermediary; by a direct process. E16. 5 At right angles to a surface, not obliquely. M16. 6 At once, immediately; presently, in a little while. E17.

1 L. HELLMAN I went directly to Paris. DAY LEWIS Her mother... was directly descended from Oliver Goldsmith's uncle. 2 BURKE I asked him his opinion directly, and without management. 3 J. M. COETZEE A clap burst directly over him and it began to pour. 4 B. PYM She did not like to approach me directly. 5 V. WOLFE The rain poured down more directly and powerfully as the wind fell. 6 V. WOLFE She went off directly after tea. I. MURDOCH I'll be back directly.

B *conj.* As soon as, the moment after. L18.

G. GREENE He realized how childish he sounded directly he had spoken.

Directoire /di'rektwaɪ; *foreign* direktwaɪ (pl. of *n. same*) *n.* & *a.* L18. [Fr. *f.* as DIRECTORY *n.*] **A** *n.* *Hist.* The French Directory. L18.

B *adj.* Also **d-**. Of, pertaining to, or resembling an extravagant style of fashion, decorative art, etc., prevalent at the time of the Directory and characterized esp. by an imitation of Greek and Roman modes. L19.

Directoire knickers women's knee-length knickers with elastic or bands at the waist and knee.

director /di'rektə, daɪ-/ *n.* LME. [*AN directour* *f. late L. director*, *f. L. direct-* pa. ppl stem of *dirigere*: see DIRECT *v.*, -OR.] 1 **A** person who or thing which directs, governs, or guides; a manager, a superintendent. LME. 2 **A** member of the board that manages the affairs of a company. M17. 3 *Ecll.* A spiritual adviser. M17. 4 **A** person who directs a theatre or cinema production. E20.

1 **director-general** the chief administrator of a project etc. *Director of Public Prosecutions:* see PROSECUTION *n.* 5.

1 **I** **A** person who or thing which causes something to take a particular direction; *Surg.* an instrument for guiding the course of the knife etc. when an incision is made. M17.

directoriate *n.* (a) = DIRECTORSHIP; (b) management by directors; (c) a board of directors: M19. **directorial** *a.* (a) of, pertaining to, or of the nature of a director or direction; (b) of or pertaining to a body of directors; (also **D-**) belonging to the French Directory: L18. **directorially** *adv.* M19. **directorship** *n.* the position or office of a director E18.

directory /di'rekt(ə)ri, daɪ-/ *n.* LME. [*Late L. directorium* use as *n.* of neut. sing. of *directorius*: see next, -ORY¹.] 1 Something that serves to direct; a guide; a book of rules or directions, esp. one for the conduct of public or private worship, an ordinal. LME. **b** A book containing an alphabetical or classified list of the people in some category, e.g. telephone subscribers or clergy, with information about them. M18. **c** A computer file listing information about a set of other files or of programs etc. M20. †2 **A** surgical director. L17-M18. 3 **A** body of directors; *spec.* in *Hist.* (also **D-**) the executive of five people in power in revolutionary France, 1795-9. L18.

1 **b** telephone directory etc.

Comb.: **directory enquiries** a service which telephone callers may ring to find the number of a subscriber.

directory /di'rekt(ə)ri, daɪ-/ *a.* LME. [*Late L. directorius*, *f. director* DIRECTOR: see -ORY².] Serving or tending to direct; guiding; *spec.* designating (any part of) a statute which is advisory rather than mandatory in effect.

directress /di'rektras, daɪ-/ *n.* E17. [*f.* DIRECTOR + -ESS¹.] **A** female director. Formerly also, a governess.

directrice /di'rektris/ *n.* M17. [Fr., *f.* as next.] = DIRECTRESS.

directrix /di'rektriks, daɪ-/ *n.* Pl. -trices /-trɪsɪz/. E16. [*med.L.*, fem. of late L. DIRECTOR: see -TRIX.] 1 = DIRECTRESS. E16. 2 *Geom.* A fixed line with reference to which a curve or surface is defined; *spec.* the straight line the distance of which from any point on a conic bears a constant ratio to the distance of the same point from the focus. E18.

dirigible /'dɪrɪdʒ(ə)l, -fʊl/ *a.* literary. L16. [Irreg. *f.* DIRE *a.* + -FUL.] Presaging dire consequences; dreadful, terrible.

dirigibly *adv.* L18. **dirigibility** *n.* M17.

dirempt /dɪ'rempt/ *v.t.* Long rare. Pa. t. & pp. †dirempt, †dirempted. M16. [*L. dirempt-* pa. ppl stem of *dirimere*, *f. dir-* DIS- I + *emere* take.] Separate, divide; break off.

diremption *n.* (now rare) forcible separation, esp. of man and wife; removal: L16.

† **direption** *n.* L15. [*L. direptio(n-)*, *f. dirept-* pa. ppl stem of *diripere* tear asunder, lay waste, *f. di-* DI- I + *rapere* tear away: see -ION.] 1 The action of snatching away or dragging apart violently. L15-L17. 2 The sacking or pillaging of a town etc. E16-E19.

dirge /dɔːdʒ/ *n.* & *v.* Also (n., earlier) †dirige. ME. [*L. dirige* imper. of *dirigere* DIRECT *v.*, first wd of the antiphon *Dirige, Domine, Deus meus, in conspectu tuo viam meam* (Ps. 5:8) formerly in the Office of the Dead.] **A** *n.* 1 *RC Ch.* The Office of the Dead, esp. the morning office. *arch.* ME. 2 A song of mourning sung at a funeral etc. or in commemoration of the dead; a slow mournful song; a lament. E16. 3 **A** funeral feast, a wake. Sc. M17. **B** *v.* 1 *v.t.* Sing a dirge over, commit with a dirge. *rare.* M19. 2 *v.t.* & *i.* Sing (as) a dirge. L19.

dirgeful *a.* full of lamentation, mournful L18.

dirham /'dɪrəɪm/ *n.* Also **-hem**. L18. [Arab. *f.* Gk *drachmē* (see DRACHMA).] **A** monetary unit of Morocco (now the basic unit), Libya, the United Arab Emirates (the basic unit), Qatar, and formerly some other Middle Eastern countries, equal to 100 centimes in Morocco, one-thousandth of a dinar in Libya, 100 fils in the United Arab Emirates, and one-hundredth of a riyal in Qatar. Formerly also, an Arabian unit of weight.

† **dirige** *n.* see DIRGE.

† **dirigent** *a.* & *n.* E17-M19. [*L. dirigent-* pres. ppl stem of *dirigere* DIRECT *v.*: see -ENT.] (Something) that directs or guides.

dirigible /'dɪrɪdʒɪb(ə)l/ *a.* & *n.* L16. [*f. L. dirigere* DIRECT *v.* + -IBLE.] **A** *adj.* Able to be directed, *spec.* in respect of motion. L16. **B** *n.* **A** dirigible balloon or airship. L19.

dirigibility *n.* the quality of being dirigible, controllability L19.

dirigisme /dɪrɪʒɪz(ə)m/ *n.* Also **dirigism** /'dɪrɪdʒɪz(ə)m/. M20. [Fr., *f. diriger* *f. L. dirigere* DIRECT *v.*: see -ISM.] The policy of State direction and control in economic and social matters.

dirigiste /dɪrɪʒɪst/ *a.* of or pertaining to dirigisme M20.

diriment /dɪrɪm(ə)nt/ *a.* M19. [*L. diriment-* pres. ppl stem of *dirimere*: see DIREMPT *v.*, -ENT.] That renders absolutely void; nullifying.

diriment impediment: making a marriage null and void from the first.

dirk /dɔːk/ *n.* & *v.* Also (earlier) †durk. M16. [Origin unkn.] **A** *n.* A kind of short dagger, esp. that of a Scottish Highlander. M16. **B** *v.t.* Stab with a dirk. L16.

dirle /dɔːl/ *v.* & *n.* Sc. & north. E16. [Alt. of THIRL *v.* 1] **A** *v.* 1 *v.t.* Pierce, thrill; cause to tingle, esp. by a sharp blow. E16. 2 *v.i.* Vibrate, esp. in response to a blow, a sound, etc.; tingle. E18. 3 *v.i.* Produce a vibrating sound; ring. E19. **B** *n.* **A** thrill, a vibration; a tremulous sound. L18.

dirndl /'dɜːnd(ə)l/ *n.* M20. [G dial., dim. of *Dime* girl.] **A** dress in the style of Alpine peasant costume with a bodice and full skirt. M20. 2 More fully *dirndl skirt*. A full skirt with a tight waistband. M20.

dirt /dɜːt/ *n.* & *v.* ME. [ON *drit* excrement, corresp. to MDu. *drite* (Du. *dreet*), rel. to the vbs OE *gēdrītan* = ON *drita*, MDu. *driten* (Du. *drijten*).] **A** *n.* 1 Excrement, faeces. ME. 2 Unclean matter that soils, filth; esp. mud, mire. ME. 3 *fig.* Something worthless or (US, Austral., & NZ slang) mean; scurrilous information, scandal; a despicable person. ME. 4 Dirtiness, foulness, uncleanness, (*lit.* & *fig.*); meanness, sordidness. E17. 5 Earth, soil. L17. 6 Mining etc. Useless material, esp. that from which an ore or other useful substance is separated. L18. 7 Bad weather. *dial.* M19. 8 Firedamp. M19.

3 SHAKES. *Haml.* Spacious in the possession of dirt. L. G. GIBBON The dirt of gentry sat and ate up your rents but you were as good as they were. L. ALTHORP What's the point of having grown children if they won't tell you the dirt?

Phrases: **do dirt** to slang harm or injure maliciously. **eat dirt** (a) accept insults or humiliation; (b) US make a humiliating confession. *kiss the dirt:* see KISS *v.* *pay-dirt:* see PAY-. **treat like dirt:** as worthless or contemptible.

Comb.: **dirt bike** a motorcycle designed for unmade roads and scrambling across difficult terrain; **dirt cheap** *a.* & *adv.* very cheap; **dirt-eating** a disease characterized by a morbid craving to eat earth; **dirt farmer** US: who farms his own land himself; **dirt money:** paid to workmen handling dirty materials or working in dirty conditions; **dirt-pie** a mud-pie; **dirt road** N. Amer. an unmade road, with only the natural surface; **dirt-track** a course made of rolled cinders, brick-dust, etc., for motorcycle racing etc., or of earth for flat-racing; **dirt-wagon** US a dustcart.

B *v.t.* Make dirty, soil. *arch.* L16.

dirtless *a.* E17.

dirty /'dɜːti/ *a.*, *n.*, & *adv.* LME. [*f.* DIRT *n.* + -Y¹.] **A** *adj.* 1 Soiled with dirt, unclean. LME. **b** That makes a person or thing dirty or unclean. L18. **c** Of a nuclear weapon: producing a lot of fallout. *colloq.* M20. 2a Morally unclean or