

Webster's II

New College Dictionary



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(dĕk'strə-rō'tə-tōr'ē, -tōr'ē) also **dex-tro-ly.** 1. Turning or rotating the plane of polariz-

ation that rotates the plane of polarized light. 2. A solution that rotates the plane of polarized light.

di- *adv.* [NLat. *dextrorsus* < Lat., turned to right + *versus*, *p.* part. of *vertere*, to turn.] 1. A direction that turns from left to right < *a dextrorsely* > *adv.*

di- *adj.* *var.* of **DEXTEROUS.** **dayi,** maternal uncle.] 1. The title of the boye French conquest in 1830. 2. A title held by the of Tunis or Tripoli.

di- *n.* [Skt. *darmah*, law.] 1. The ultimate law and Buddhism. 2. Individual right conduct in *n. pl.* **Dheghia** or **-has.** 1. A branch of the growing languages spoken by the Osage, haboring peoples. 2. A member of Dheghia-

Kanarese *tōla*, wolf.] A doglike carnivorous of Asia, with yellowish fur.

oo-ti (dōō'ti) *n. pl.* **-tis.** [Hindi *dhōti*.] 1. A men in India. 2. The cloth used in dhotis.

di- *n.* [Ar. *dhū'l-bijja*, the one of the pilgrimage.] year in the Muslim calendar. — See table at

di- *n.* [Ar. *dhū'l-ga'dah*, the one of the sitf the year in the Muslim calendar. — See table at

twice i double < *dichromatic* > 2. Containing groups < *dichloride* >

< *dia*, through.] 1. Through < *diachronic* > 2.

1. [Fr. < Gk. *diabasis*, a crossing over < *dia-*

dia-, across + *bainein*, to go.] A dark-gray to ous rock consisting mainly of feldspar and py-

rites, < *diabete* < *Med. Lat.* *diabetes* *ig* through < *diabainein*, to cross over. — see

al metabolic disorders marked by persistent charge of urine.

di- (in-sip'i-dōs) *n.* [NLat., insipid diabetes.] A

disorder of the pituitary gland and marked by in-

adequate urine.

(mā-lī'tas, mēl'i'ti) *n.* [NLat., honey-sweet di-

sease of pancreatic etiology, marked by insulin

deficiency, excessive thirst, hunger, and urination,

weakness, and eventual coma and death.

di- *adj.* Of, relating to, or having diabetes.

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diacritical mark *n.* A mark, as a circumflex, added to a letter to indicate a special phonetic value or to distinguish words otherwise graphically identical.

di-ac-tin-ic (di'āk-tīn'ik) *adj.* Capable of transmitting chemically active or actinic radiation. — **di-ac-tin-ism** (-āk'tō-nīz'am) *n.*

Di-a-de-la-Ra-za (dē'ā dā lā rā'zā, thē lā) *n.* October 12, observed as a holiday esp. in Spain and Latin America to commemorate Columbus's discovery of the New World in 1492.

di-a-del-phous (di'ā-dēl'fās) *adj.* Bot. Having the filaments united so as to form two groups. — Used of stamens.

di-a-dem (di'ā-dēm', -dām) *n.* [ME *diademe* < OFr. < Lat. *diadema* < Gk. *diadēma* < *diadēin*, to bind on either side: *dia-*, across + *dein*, to bind.] 1. A headband or crown worn as a sign of royalty. 2. Royal power or dignity. — **vt.** **-demed, -dem-ing, -dems.** To adorn with or as if with a diadem.

di-aer-e-sis (di-ēr'i-sīs) *n. var.* of **DIERESIS.**

di-a-gen-e-sis (di'ā-jēn'ī-sīs) *n.* The process of physical and chemical change in deposited sediment during its conversion to rock. — **di-a-gen-ic** (-jā-nēt'ik) *adj.*

di-a-ge-ot-ro-pism (di'ā-jē-ōt'rō-pīz'am) *n. Bot.* The tendency of growing parts, as roots, to become oriented at right angles to the direction of gravitational force. — **di-a-ge-otrop'ic** (-ōtrōp'ik, -trōp'ik) *adj.*

di-ag-nose (di'ag-nōs', -nōz') *v. -nosed, -nos-ing, -nos-es.* [Back-formation < *diagnosis*.] — **vt.** To distinguish or identify (e.g., a disease) by diagnosis. — **vi.** To make a diagnosis.

di-ag-no-sis (di'ag-nō'sīs) *n. pl. -ses* (-sēz') [NLat. < Gk. *diagnōsis*, discernment < *diagnōskein*, to distinguish: *dia-*, apart + *gnōskein*, to know.] 1. *Med.* a. The act or process of identifying or determining the nature of a disease by examination. b. The opinion derived from such an examination. 2. a. A critical analysis. b. The conclusion reached by such analysis. 3. A precise, detailed description of an organism's characteristics for taxonomic classification.

di-ag-nos-tic (di'ag-nōs'tik) *adj.* [Gk. *diagnostikos* < *diagnōstos*, to be distinguished < *diagnōskein*, to distinguish. — see **DIAGNOSIS.**] 1. Of, relating to, or used in a diagnosis. 2. Serving to identify a disease: **CHARACTERISTIC.** — **n.** 1. **often diagnostics.** The art or practice of medical diagnosis. 2. A symptom serving as supporting evidence in a diagnosis. — **di-ag-nos-ti-cal** *adj.*

di-ag-nos-tic-ian (di'ag-nōs'tī-sh'ān) *n.* One who diagnoses, esp. a physician specializing in medical diagnostics.

di-ag-o-nal (di-āg'ō-nāl) *adj.* [Lat. *diagonalis* < Gk. *diagonios*, from angle to angle: *dia-*, across + *gonia*, angle.] 1. *Math.* a. Joining two nonadjacent vertices of a polygon. b. Joining two vertices of a polyhedron not in the same face. 2. Oblique or slanted. 3. Having oblique lines or markings. — **n.** 1. *Math.* A diagonal line or plane. 2. Something arranged obliquely, as a row, course, or part. 3. A fabric woven with diagonal lines. — **di-ag'o-nal-ly** *adv.*

di-ag-o-nal-ize (di-āg'ō-nā-līz') *vt. -ized, -iz-ing, -iz-es.* To order a matrix so that all the nonzero elements occur on the diagonal from upper left to lower right. — **di-ag'o-nal-iz'a-ble** *adj.* — **di-ag'o-nal-iz'a-tion** *n.*

diagonal matrix *n.* A matrix that has been diagonalized.

di-a-gram (di'ā-grām') *n.* [Lat. *diagramma* < Gk. < *diagraphēin*, to mark out: *dia-*, apart + *graphein*, to write.] 1. A plan, sketch, drawing, or outline designed to explain or demonstrate how something works or to clarify the relationship between the parts of a whole. 2. *Math.* A graphic representation of an algebraic or geometric relationship. 3. A graph or chart. — **vt.** **-grammed, -gram-ming, -grams or -gramed, -gram-ing, -grams.** To represent or indicate by or as if by a diagram. — **di-a-gram-ma-ble** *adj.* — **di-a-gram-mat'ic** (-grāmāt'ik), **di-a-gram-mat'ic-al** *adj.* — **di-a-gram-mat'ic-al-ly** *adv.*

di-a-ki-ne-sis (di'ā-kō-nē'sīs, -ki-) *n. pl. -ses* (-sēz'). *Genetics.* The final stage of the prophase in meiosis, during which the shortening, thickening, and dispersion of the chromosomes and the disappearance of the nucleolus occur. — **di-a-ki-net'ic** (-nēt'ik) *adj.*

di-al (di'āl) *n.* [ME *diall* < *Med. Lat.* *diale* < *dialis*, daily < *Lat.* *dies*, day.] 1. A graduated, usu. circular face on which a measurement, as speed, is indicated by a moving pointer or needle. 2. a. A clock face. b. A sundial. 3. a. The face or panel on a radio or television receiver on which the frequencies or channels are indicated. b. A device, as a movable control knob, on a radio or television receiver used to change the frequency or channel. 4. A rotatable disk on a telephone with numbers and letters, used to signal the number to which a call is made. — **v.** **-aled, -al-ing, -als** or **-alled, -al-ing, -als.** — **vt.** 1. To measure with or as if with a dial. 2. To point to, indicate, or register by a dial. 3. To select or control by a dial. 4. To call (a party) on a telephone. — **vi.** To use a dial, as on a telephone. — **di'al-er** *n.*

di-a-lect (di'ā-lĕkt') *n.* [OFr. *dialecte* < *Lat.* *dialectus* < Gk. *dialektos*, speech < *diagesthai*, to discuss: *dia-*, between + *lesthai*, to speak < *legein*, to tell.] 1. a. A regional variety of a language distinguished by pronunciation, grammar, or vocabulary, esp. a variety of speech differing from the standard literary language or speech pattern

of the culture in which it exists < West Saxon was a *dialect* of Old English >. b. A variety of language that with other varieties constitutes a single language of which no single variety is standard < Ancient Greek had many *dialects* >. 2. The language peculiar to an occupational group or a particular social class < the *dialect* of law >. 3. The manner or style of expressing oneself in language or the arts. 4. A language considered as part of a larger family of languages or a linguistic branch < the Indic and Italic *dialects* of Indo-European >. — **di'a-lect'al** *adj.* — **di'a-lect'tal-ly** *adv.*

di-a-lect-atlas *n.* A linguistic atlas.

di-a-lect-geograph-y *n.* Linguistic geography.

di-a-lect-ic (di'ā-lĕk'tik) *n.* [ME *dialectik* < OFr. *dialectique* < *Lat.* *dialectica* < Gk. *diialektikē* (*tekhne*), (art of) debate < *dialektos*, speech. — see **DIALECT.**] 1. The art or practice of arriving at the truth by disclosing the contradictions in an opponent's argument and overcoming them. 2. a. The Hegelian process of change whereby a thesis is transformed into an antithesis, and preserved and fulfilled by it, the combination of the two being resolved in a synthesis. b. Hegel's critical method for the investigation of this process. 3. a. **often dialectics** (*sing. in number*). The Marxian process of change through the conflict of opposing forces, whereby a given contradiction is marked by a primary and a secondary aspect, the secondary succumbing to the primary, which is then transformed into an aspect of a new contradiction. b. The Marxian critique of this process. 4. *dialectics* (*sing. in number*). A method of argument or exposition that systematically weighs contradictory facts or ideas with a view to the resolution of their real or apparent contradictions. 5. The contradiction between two conflicting forces viewed as the determining factor in their continuing interaction. — **di'a-lect'ic-al**, **di'a-lect'ic** *adj.* — **di'a-lect'ic-ly** *adv.*

di-a-lect-ic-ian (di'ā-lĕk'tī-sh'ān) *n.* 1. A specialist in the study of dialects. 2. One who is skilled in or practices dialectic.

di-a-lect-ol-o-gy (di'ā-lĕk-tōl'ō-jē) *n.* Study of dialects. — **di'a-lect-to-log'i-cal** (-tō-lōj'i-kāl) *adj.* — **di'a-lect-to-log'i-cal-ly** *adv.* — **di'a-lect-to-log'ist** *n.*

di-a-log (di'ā-lōg', -lōg') *n.* *var.* of **DIALOGUE.**

di-a-log-ic (di'ā-lōj'ik) also **di-a-log-i-cal** (-i-kāl) *adj.* Of, relating to, or written in dialogue. — **di'a-log'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

di-a-log-ist (di-āl'ō-jīst, di'ā-lōj'īst, -lōg'īst) *n.* 1. A writer of dialogue. 2. One who speaks in a dialogue. — **di'a-lo-gis'tic** (di'ā-lōj'is'tik), **di'a-lo-gis'ti-cal** *adj.*

di-a-log-ue also **di-a-log** (di'ā-lōg', -lōg') [ME < OFr. < *Lat.* *dialogus* < Gk. *dialogos* < *diagesthai*, to discuss. — see **DIALECT.**] — *n.* 1. A conversation between two or more people. 2. A conversational passage in a narrative or play. 3. A literary work written in the form of a conversation < the *dialogues* of Plato >. 4. A musical composition or passage for two or more parts that is suggestive of conversational interplay. 5. An exchange of opinions or ideas. — **v.** **-logued, -loguing, -logues** also **-loged, -log-ing, -logs.** — **vt.** To express as or in a dialogue. — **vi.** To converse in a dialogue. — **di'a-log'uer** *n.*

dial tone *n.* A low, steady tone in a telephone receiver indicating that the line is open and a number may be dialed.

di-a-ly-sis (di-āl'i-sīs) *n. pl. -ses* (-sēz') [NLat. < Gk. *dialysis*, separating < *dialuein*, to tear apart: *dia-*, apart + *luain*, to loosen.] 1. Separation of smaller molecules from larger molecules or of colloidal particles from colloidal particles in a solution by selective diffusion through a semipermeable membrane. 2. The process of removing blood from an artery, such as for a person with kidney disease, purifying it by dialysis, and returning it to a vein. — **di'a-lyt'ic** (-ālīt'ik) *adj.* — **di'a-lyt'i-cal** *adj.*

di-a-lyze (di'ā-līz') *vt. & vi. -lyzed, -lyz-ing, -lyz-es.* [Back-formation < *dialysis*.] To subject to or undergo dialysis. — **di'a-lyz'a-ble** *adj.* — **di'a-lyz'er** *n.* — **di'a-lyz'ing *adj.***

di-a-mag-net (di'ā-māg'nēt) *n.* [DIAMAGNETIC.] A diamagnetic substance.

di-a-mag-net-ic (di'ā-māg-nēt'ik) *adj.* Of or relating to a substance in which an induced magnetic field is in the opposite direction to and much weaker than the magnetizing field. — **di'a-mag-net-ic-ism** (-mī-tīz'am) *n.*

di-am-eter (di-ām'i-tar) *n.* [ME *diameter* < OFr. < *Lat.* *diametros* < Gk. *diametros* (*grammē*), diagonal (line): *dia-*, through + *metron*, measure.] 1. *Math.* a. A straight line segment passing through the center of a figure, esp. of a circle or sphere, and terminating at the periphery. b. The length of such a segment. 2. Width or thickness. — **di-am'e-tral** (-trāl) *adj.*

di-a-met-ri-cal (di'ā-mēt'ri-kāl) also **di-a-met-ric** (-trik) *adj.* 1. Of, relating to, or along a diameter. 2. Exactly opposite: **CONTRARY** < thinking *diametrical* to mine >. — **di'a-met'ri-cal-ly** *adv.*

di-am-ine (di-ām'ēn', -īn, di'ā-mēn', -mīn) *n.* Any of various chemical compounds having two amino groups, esp. hydrazine.

of the culture in which it exists < West Saxon was a *dialect* of Old English >. b. A variety of language that with other varieties constitutes a single language of which no single variety is standard < Ancient Greek had many *dialects* >. 2. The language peculiar to an occupational group or a particular social class < the *dialect* of law >. 3. The manner or style of expressing oneself in language or the arts. 4. A language considered as part of a larger family of languages or a linguistic branch < the Indic and Italic *dialects* of Indo-European >. — **di'a-lect'al** *adj.* — **di'a-lect'tal-ly** *adv.*

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di-a-mc < *LLat.* < *colorless gemston* equal sic gles: the playing c or pl. in ball. a. — **mond-**

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