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decure *v* (1753): to run down, fr. *decurre* to run — more at **CAR** (ca. 1753): running or extending downward along the stem (~ leaves)

de-curved \('dē-'kərvd\ *adj* [part trans. of *L. decurvatus*, fr. *L. de-* + *curvatus* curved] (1835): curved downward; bent down

de-cus-sate \('dek-ə-'sāt, di-'kəs-ət\ *vb* -sate-ed; -sate-ing [*L. decussatus*, pp. of *decussare*, fr. *decussis* the number ten, numeral X, intersection, fr. *decem* + *ass*, as unit — more at **ACE**] (1658): INTERSECT, CROSS

de-cus-sate \('dek-ə-'sāt, di-'kəs-ət\ *adj* (ca. 1823): arranged in pairs each at right angles to the next pair above or below (~ leaves)

de-cus-sation \('dek-ə-'sā-shən, -dē-'kə- (ca. 1856) 1: the action of crossing (as of nerve fibers) esp. in the form of an X 2: a crossed tract of nerve fibers passing between centers on opposite sides of the nervous system

ded-i-cate \('ded-i-kət\ *adj* [ME, fr. *L. dedicatus*, pp. of *dedicare* to dedicate, fr. *de-* + *dicare* to proclaim, dedicate — more at **DICTION**] (14c): DEDICATED

ded-i-cate \('ded-i-kāt\ *vb* -cat-ed; -cat-ing (15c) 1: to devote to the worship of a divine being; *specif*: to set apart (a church) to sacred uses with solemn rites 2: to set apart to a definite use (money dedicated to their vacation fund) b: to become committed to as a goal or way of life (ready to ~ his life to public service) 3: to inscribe or address by way of compliment (~ a book to a friend) 4: to open to public use *syn* see **DEVOTE** — **ded-i-ca-tor** \-'kāt-ər\ *n*

ded-i-cat-ed *adj* (1600) 1: devoted to a cause, ideal, or purpose: ZEALOUS (a ~ scholar) 2: given over to a particular purpose (a ~ process control computer) — **ded-i-cat-ed-ly** *adv*

ded-i-ca-tee \('ded-i-kā-'tē\ *n* (1760): one to whom a thing is dedicated

ded-i-ca-tion \('ded-i-kā-'shən\ (14c) 1: an act or rite of dedicating to a divine being or to a sacred use 2: a devoting or setting aside for a particular purpose 3: a name and often a message prefixed to a literary, musical, or artistic production in tribute to a person or cause 4: self-sacrificing devotion — **ded-i-ca-to-ry** \('ded-i-kā-'tōr-ē, -tōr-\ *adj*

de-dif-fer-en-ti-a-tion \('dē-'dif-ə-'ren-čē-'ā-shən\ *n* (1915): reversion of specialized structures (as cells) to a more generalized or primitive condition often as a preliminary to major change — **de-dif-fer-en-ti-ate** \-'ren-čē-'āt\ *vi*

de-duce \('di-'d(y)ūs\ *vb* de-duced; de-duc-ing [*L. deducere*, lit., to lead away, fr. *de-* + *ducere* to lead — more at **TOW**] (15c) 1: to determine by deduction; *specif*: to infer from a general principle 2: to trace the course of *syn* see **INFER** — **de-duc-ible** \-'d(y)ū-'ə-bəl\ *adj*

de-duct \('di-'dakt\ *vb* [*L. deductus*, pp. of *deducere*] (15c) 1: to take away (an amount) from a total: SUBTRACT 2: DEDUCE, INFER

de-duct-ible \('di-'dak-tə-'bəl\ *adj* (1856): capable of being deducted — **de-duct-ibil-ity** \-'dak-tə-'bəl-ət\ *n*

deductible *n* (1929): a clause in an insurance policy that relieves the insurer of responsibility for an initial specified loss of the kind insured against

de-duc-tion \('di-'dak-shən\ (13c) 1: an act of taking away (~ of legitimate business expenses) b: something that is or may be subtracted (~s from his taxable income) 2: a: the deriving of a conclusion by reasoning; *specif*: inference in which the conclusion about particulars follows necessarily from general or universal premises — compare **INDUCTION** b: a conclusion reached by logical deduction

de-duc-tive \('di-'dak-tiv\ *adj* (1665) 1: of, relating to, or provable by deduction 2: employing deduction in reasoning — **de-duc-tive-ly** *adv*

dee \('dē\ *n* (13c): the letter *d*

deed \('dēd\ *n* [ME *dede*, fr. OE *dæd*; akin to OE *dōn* to do] (bef. 12c) 1: something that is done (evil ~s) 2: a usu. illustrious act or action: FEAT, EXPLOIT 3: the act of performing: ACTION (righteous in word and in ~) 4: a signed and usu. sealed instrument containing some legal transfer, bargain, or contract — **deed-less** \-'ləs\ *adj*

deed *vt* (1806): to convey or transfer by deed

deed poll \-'pɒl\ *n*, *pl* **deeds poll** \('dēd + pɒl\, *adj*. (having the edges cut even rather than indented), fr. *'poll*] *Brit* (1588): a deed (as to change one's name) made and executed by only one party

deedy \('dēd-ē\ *adj* **deed-i-er**; -est *dialect chiefly Eng* (1615): INDUSTRIOUS

deejay \('dē-'jā\ *n* [disc jockey] (ca. 1949): DISC JOCKEY

deem \('dēm\ *vb* [ME *demen*, fr. OE *dēman*; akin to OHG *tuomen* to judge, OE *dōm* doom] *vt* (bef. 12c): to come to think or judge: HOLD (~ed it wise to go slow) ~ *vi*: to have an opinion: BELIEVE

de-em-pa-size \('dē-'em(p)-fā-'siz\ *vt* (1938): to play down — **de-em-pa-sis** \-'fā-'sɪs\ *n*

deep \('dēp\ *adj* [ME, fr. OE *dēop*; akin to OHG *tiof* deep, OE *dyppan* to dip — more at **DIP**] (bef. 12c) 1: extending far from some surface or area: as a: extending far downward (a ~ well) b (1): extending well inward from an outer surface (a ~ gash) (a deep-chested animal) (2): not located superficially within the body (~ pressure receptors in muscles) c: extending well back from a surface accepted as front (a ~ closet) d: extending far laterally from the center (~ borders of lace) e: occurring or located near the outer limits of the playing area (hit to ~ right field) 2: having a specified extension in an implied direction usu. downward or backward (shelf 20 inches ~) (cars parked three-deep) 3: difficult to penetrate or comprehend: RECONDITE (~ mathematical problems) b: MYSTERIOUS, OBSCURE (a ~ dark secret) c: grave in nature or effect (in ~est disgrace) d: of penetrating intellect: WISE (a ~ thinker) e: INVOLVED, ENGROSSED (~ in debt) f: characterized by profundity of feeling or quality (a ~ sleep); *also*: DEEP-SEATED (~ religious beliefs) 4: a of color: high in saturation and low in lightness b: having a low musical pitch or pitch range (a ~ voice) 5: a: situated well within the boundaries (a house ~ in the woods) b: remote in time or space c: being below the level of the conscious (~ neuroses) d: covered, enclosed, or filled to a specified degree — usu. used in combination (she was ankle-deep in mud) 6: LARGE (~ discounts) *syn* see **BROAD** — **deep-ly** *adv* — **deep-ness** *n* — in deep water: in difficulty or distress

deep *adv* (bef. 12c) 1: to a great depth: DEEPLY (still waters run ~)

points on a sounding line other than the marks

deep-dish pie *n* (1918): a pie usu. with a fruit filling and no bottom crust that is baked in a deep dish

deep-en \('dēp-'ən, -dēp-'m\ *vb* deep-ened; deep-en-ing \('dēp-'ən-ɪŋ\ *vi* (1598): to make deep or deeper ~ *vi*: to become deeper or more profound

deep fat *n* (1921): hot fat or oil deep enough in a cooking utensil to cover the food to be fried

deep-freeze \('dēp-'frēz\ *vi* -froze \-'frōz\; -fro-zen \-'frōz-'n\ (1943) 1: QUICK-FREEZE 2: to store in a frozen state

deep freeze \('dēp-'frēz\ *n* (1948): COLD STORAGE 2 (bill presently in deep freeze awaiting a new congress — *Newsweek*)

deep-fry \('dēp-'frī\ *vi* (1922): to cook in deep fat

deep fryer *n* (1950): a utensil suitable for deep-fat frying

deep-go-ing \('dēp-'gō-ɪŋ, -'gō(-ɪŋ)\ *adj* (1859): FUNDAMENTAL (a ~ theory)

deep pocket *n* (1976) 1: a person or an organization having substantial financial resources 2 *pl*: substantial financial resources

deep-rooted \('dē-'prūt-'əd, -'prūt-\ *adj* (15c): deeply implanted or established (a ~ loyalty)

deep-sea \('dēp-'se\ *adj* (1626): of, relating to, or occurring in the deeper parts of the sea (~ fishing)

deep-seated \('dēp-'set-'əd\ *adj* (1741) 1: situated far below the surface (a ~ inflammation) 2: firmly established (a ~ tradition)

deep-six \('dēp-'sɪks\ *vi* (1952) 1 *slang*: to throw away: DISCARD 2 *slang*: to throw overboard

deep six *n* [naval slang for "burial at sea"; perh. fr. the tradition of burying bodies six feet under ground] *slang* (1944): a place of disposal or abandonment — used esp. in the phrase *give it the deep six*

deep space *n* (ca. 1952): space well beyond the limits of the earth's atmosphere including space outside the solar system — called also *deep sky*

deep structure *n* (1964): a formal representation of the underlying semantic content of a sentence; *also*: the structure which such a representation specifies

deer \('di-(ə)r\ *n*, *pl* **deer** *also* **deers** [ME, deer, animal, fr. OE *dēor* beast; akin to OHG *tior* wild animal, Skt *dhr̥vaṣati* he perishes] (bef. 12c) 1 *archaic*: ANIMAL: esp: a small mammal 2: a ruminant mammal (family Cervidae, the deer family) having two large and two small hooves on each foot and antlers borne by the males of nearly all and by the females of a few forms

deer-ber-ry \-'ber-ē\ *n* (1814) 1: either of two shrubs (*Vaccinium stamineum* or *V. caesium*) of dry woods and scrub of the eastern U.S. 2: the edible fruit of a deerberry

deer-fly \('di-(ə)r-'flī\ *n* (1853): any of numerous small horseflies (as of the genus *Chrysops*) that include important vectors of tularemia

deer-hound \-'haund\ *n* (1818): SCOTTISH DEERHOUND

deer mouse *n* [fr. its agility] (1833): WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE

deer-skin \('di-(ə)r-'skɪn\ *n* (14c): leather made from the skin of a deer; *also*: a garment of this leather

deer-stalker \-'stō-kər\ *n* (1870): a close-fitting hat with a visor at the front and the back and with earflaps that may be worn up or down — called also *deerstalker cap*, *deerstalker hat*

deer-yard \('di-(ə)r-'jərd\ *n* (1849): a place where deer herd in winter

de-es-ca-late \('dē-'es-kā-'lāt, -'kya-\ *vi* (1964): to decrease in extent, volume, or scope ~ *vt*: LIMIT 2b — **de-es-ca-la-tion** \('dē-'es-kā-'lā-shən, -'kya-\ *n* — **de-es-ca-la-to-ry** \('dē-'es-kā-'lōr-ē, -'lōr-, -'kya-\ *adj*

deet \('dēt\ *n* [prob. fr. *d. e. t.*, fr. *di-* + *ethyl* + *toluamide* (C₇H₇NO)] (1962): a colorless oily liquid insect repellent C₁₂H₁₇NO

de-face \('di-'fās\ *vi* [ME *defacen*, fr. MF *desfacier*, fr. OF, fr. *des-de-* + *face* front, face] (14c) 1: to mar the external appearance of: injure by effacing significant details (~ an inscription) 2: IMPAIR 3 *obs*: DESTROY — **de-face-ment** \-'fā-smənt\ *n* — **de-facer** *n*

de-fac-to \('di-'fak-(t)ō, -dā\ *adv* [NL] (1601): in reality: ACTUALLY

de facto *adj* (1696) 1: ACTUAL (a *de facto* state of war) 2: exercising power as if legally constituted (a *de facto* government) — compare **DE JURE**

de-fal-cate \('di-'fal-'kāt, di-'fōl-, 'def-əl-\ *vb* -cat-ed; -cat-ing [*ML defalcatus*, pp. of *defalcare*, fr. *L. de-* + *falc-*, *falc* sickle] *vt*, *archaic* (1540): DEDUCT, CURTAIL ~ *vi*: to engage in embezzlement — **de-fal-ca-tor** \-'kāt-ər\ *n*

de-fal-ca-tion \('dē-'fal-'kā-shən, -dē-'fōl-, di-, 'def-əl-\ *n* (15c) 1 *archaic*: DEDUCTION 2: the act or an instance of embezzling 3: a failure to meet a promise or an expectation

def-a-ma-tion \('dēf-ə-'mā-shən\ *n* (14c): the act of defaming another

def-am-a-to-ry \('dēf-ə-'tōr-ē, -tōr-\ *adj*

de-fame \('di-'fām\ *vt* **de-famed**; **de-fam-ing** [*ME diffamen*, *defamen*, fr. MF & L; ME *diffamen* fr. MF *diffamer*, fr. L *diffamare*, fr. *dis-* + *fama* fame; ME *defamen* fr. MF *defamer*, fr. ML *defamare*, fr. L *de-* + *fama*] (14c) 1 *archaic*: DISGRACE 2: to harm the reputation of by libel or slander 3 *archaic*: ACCUSE *syn* see **MALIGN** — **de-fame-er** *n*

de-fang \('dē-'fāŋ\ *vt* (1953): to make harmless or less powerful

de-fat \('dē-'fat\ *vi* (1919): to remove fat from

de-fault \('di-'fōlt\ *n* [ME *defaute*, *defaute*, fr. OF *defaute*, fr. (assumed) VL *defallita*, fr. fem. of *defallius*, pp. of *defallere* to be lacking, fail, fr. L *de-* + *fallere* to deceive — more at **FAIL**] (13c) 1: failure to do something required by duty or law: NEGLECT 2 *archaic*: FAULT 3: a failure to pay financial debts 4: a failure to appear at the required time in a legal proceeding b: failure to compete in or to finish an appointed contest — in default of: in the absence of

default *vi* (15c): to fail to fulfill a contract, agreement, or duty: as a: to fail to meet a financial obligation b: to fail to appear in court c: to fail to compete in or to finish an appointed contest; *also*: to forfeit a contest by such failure ~ *vt* 1: to fail to perform, pay, or make good 2: a: FORFEIT b: to exclude (a player or a team) from a contest by default — **de-fault-er** *n*