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part of something); reduce; diminish. □□ **de-trac-tion** 213
/—trákshən/ *n.* **de-trac-tor** *n.*

det-ri-ment /détrimənt/ *n.* **1** harm; damage. **2** something causing this. □□ **det-ri-men-tal** /détriməntl/ *adj.*
det-ri-men-tal-ly *adv.*

de-tri-tus /dítritəs/ *n.* **1** matter produced by erosion.
2 debris. □□ **de-tri-tal** /díttrítl/ *adj.*

deuce /dúos, dyúos/ *n.* **1** the two on dice or playing cards. **2** (in tennis) the score of 40 all, at which two consecutive points are needed to win.

deu-te-ri-um /dúotéeréem, dyúo—/ *n.* *Chem.* a stable isotope of hydrogen with a mass about double that of the usual isotope.

Deutsche mark /dóych, dóychə/ *n.* (also **Deut-sche-mark**) the chief monetary unit of Germany.

de-val-ue /deevályúo/ *v. tr.* (**de-values, devalued, devalu-ing**) **1** reduce the value of. **2** *Econ.* reduce the value of (a currency) in relation to other currencies or to gold (opp. **REVALUE**). □□ **de-val-u-a-tion** *n.*

de-vas-tate /dévəstəyt/ *v. tr.* **1** cause great destruction to. **2** (often in *passive*) overwhelm with shock or grief. □□ **de-vas-ta-tion** /—táyshən/ *n.* **de-vas-ta-tor** *n.*

de-vas-tat-ing /dévəstəytíng/ *adj.* **1** crushingly effective; overwhelming. **2** *colloq.* **a** incisive; savage (*de-vas-tating accuracy*). **b** extremely impressive or attractive (*she wore a devastating black silk dress*). □□ **de-vas-tat-ing-ly** *adv.*

de-vel-op /divéləp/ *v.* (**developed, developing**) **1** *tr. & intr.* **a** make or become bigger or fuller or more elaborate or systematic. **b** bring or come to an active or visible state or to maturity. **2** **a** *tr.* begin to suffer from (*developed a rattle*). **b** *intr.* come into existence (*a fault developed in the engine*). **3** *tr.* **a** construct on (land). **b** convert (land) to a new purpose. **4** *tr.* treat (photographic film, etc.) to make the image visible. □□ **de-vel-op-a-ble** /divéləpəbəl/ *adj.* **de-vel-op-er** *n.*

de-vel-op-ment /divéləpmənt/ *n.* **1** the act or an instance of developing; the process of being developed. **2** **a** a stage of growth or advancement. **b** a thing that has developed (*the latest developments*). **3** a full-grown state. **4** the process of developing a photograph. **5** a developed area of land.

de-vel-op-men-tal /divéləpməntl/ *adj.* **1** incidental to growth (*developmental diseases*). **2** evolutionary. □□ **de-vel-op-men-tal-ly** *adv.*

de-vi-ant /dévíeənt/ *adj. & n.* **a** *adj.* that deviates from the normal. **n.** a deviant person or thing. □□ **de-vice** /—veəs/ *n.* **de-vice-ry** *n.*

de-vice *v. & n.* **a** *v. intr.* /dévíeəyt/ (often foll. by *from*) turn aside or diverge (from a course of action, truth, etc.); digress. **n.** /dévíeənt/ a deviant, esp. a sexual pervert. □□ **de-vice-a-tor** *n.* **de-vice-a-to-ry** /—veetáwree/ *adj.*

de-vi-a-tion /dévíeəyshən/ *n.* **1** a deviating; digressing. **b** an instance of this. **2** *Polit.* a departure from accepted (esp. Communist) party doctrine. **3** *Statistics* the amount by which a single measurement differs from the mean.

de-vice /divís/ *n.* **1** a thing made or adapted for a particular purpose. **b** an explosive contrivance. **2** a plan, scheme, or trick. **3** **a** an emblematic or heraldic design. **b** a drawing or design. □□ **leave a person to his or her own devices** leave a person to do as he or she wishes.

device Middle English: from Old French *devis*, based on Latin *divis* 'divided,' from the verb *dividere*. The original sense was 'desire or intention,' found now only in *leave a person to his or her own devices* (which has become associated with sense 2).

de-vil /dévəl/ *n. & v.* **n.** **1** (usu. **the Devil**) (in Christian and Jewish belief) the supreme spirit of evil; Satan. **2** **a** an evil spirit; a demon. **b** a personified evil

force or attribute. **3** **a** a wicked or cruel person. **b** a mischievously energetic, clever, or self-willed person.

4 *colloq.* a person; a fellow (*lucky devil*). **5** fighting spirit; mischievousness (*the devil is in him tonight*). **6** *colloq.* something awkward (*this door is a devil to open*). **7** (**the devil or the Devil**) *colloq.* used as an exclamation of surprise or annoyance (*who the devil are you?*). **8** a literary hack exploited by an employer. **v.** (**deviled, deviling; devilled, devilling**) **1** *tr.* cook (food) with hot seasoning. **2** *tr.* harass; worry. □ **between the devil and the deep blue sea** in a dilemma. **a devil of** *colloq.* considerable, difficult, or remarkable. **devil take the hind** seasoning. **2** *tr.* harass; worry. □ **between the devil and the deep blue sea** in a dilemma. **a devil of** *colloq.* considerable, difficult, or remarkable. **devil take the hind** a motto of selfish competition. **the devil to pay** trouble to be expected. **like the devil** with great energy. **speak of the devil** said when a person appears just after being mentioned.

devil Old English *dēofol* (related to Dutch *duivel* and German *Teufel*), via late Latin from Greek *diabolos* 'accuser, slanderer' (used in Greek to translate Hebrew *šāṭān* 'Satan'), from *diaballein* 'to slander,' from *dia* 'across' + *ballein* 'to throw.'

de-vil-ish /dévəlísh/ *adj. & adv.* **a** *adj.* **1** of or like a devil; wicked. **2** mischievous. **a** *adv. colloq.* very; extremely. □□ **de-vil-ish-ly** *adv.* **de-vil-ish-ness** *n.*

de-vil-may-care *adj.* cheerful and reckless.

de-vil-ment /dévəlmənt/ *n.* mischief; wild spirits.

de-vil-ry /dévílree/ *n.* (also **de-vil-try** /—tree/ (*pl. -ries*)) **1** a reckless mischief. **b** an instance of this. **2** **a** black magic. **b** the Devil and his works.

de-vil's ad-vo-cate *n.* a person who tests a proposition by arguing against it.

de-vice-ous /dévíeəəs/ *adj.* **1** (of a person, etc.) not straightforward. **2** circuitous. **3** erring. □□ **de-vice-ous-ly** *adv.* **de-vice-ous-ness** *n.*

de-vice /divíz/ *v. & n.* **a** *v. tr.* **1** plan or invent by careful thought. **2** *Law* leave (real estate) by will (cf. **BEQUEATH**). **n.** **1** the act or an instance of devising. **2** *Law* a devising clause in a will. □□ **de-vice-a-ble** *adj.* **de-vice-see** /—zéé/ *n.* (in sense 2 of *v.*). **de-vice-er** *n.* **de-vice-or** *n.* (in sense 2 of *v.*).

de-vice-tal-ize /dévít'íz/ *v. tr.* take away strength and vigor from. □□ **de-vice-tal-iza-tion** *n.*

de-void /divóyd/ *predic. adj.* (foll. by *of*) quite lacking or free from.

de-vo-lu-tion /dévəlóúshən/ *n.* **1** the delegation of power, esp. by central government to local or regional administration. **2** **a** descent or passing on through a series of stages. **b** descent by natural or due succession from one to another of property or qualities. **3** the lapse of an unexercised right to an ultimate owner. □□ **de-vo-lu-tion-a-ry** *adj.* **de-vo-lu-tion-ist** *n.*

de-volve /divólvl/ *v.* **1** (foll. by *on, upon, etc.*) **a** *tr.* pass (work or duties) to (a deputy, etc.). **b** *intr.* (of work or duties) pass to (a deputy, etc.). **2** *intr.* (foll. by *on, to, upon*) *Law* (of property, etc.) fall by succession to. □□ **de-volve-ment** *n.*

De-vo-ni-an /divóníeən/ *adj. & n.* **a** *adj.* *Geol.* of or relating to the fourth period of the Paleozoic era. **n.** this period or system.

de-vote /divót/ *v. tr. & refl.* (foll. by *to*) apply or give over to (a particular activity or purpose or person).

de-vot-ed /divótíd/ *adj.* very loving or loyal. □□ **de-vot-ed-ly** *adv.* **de-vot-ed-ness** *n.*

de-votee /dévotéé, —táy/ *n.* **1** (usu. foll. by *of*) a zealous enthusiast or supporter. **2** a zealously pious person.

de-vo-tion /divóshən/ *n.* **1** (usu. foll. by *to*) enthusiastic attachment or loyalty (to a person or cause); great

See page xii for the *Key to Pronunciation*.