

# WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD™

## COLLEGE DICTIONARY

FOURTH EDITION

The Official Dictionary of the ASSOCIATED PRESS

Updated Every Year

Includes CD-ROM Dictionary and Thesaurus

WE DEFINE YOUR WORLD®

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**de-spoil** (dē spōil', di-) vt. [ME *despoilen* < OFr *despoiller* < L *despoliare* < *de-*, intens. + *spoliare*, to strip, rob: see SPOIL] to deprive of something of value by or as by force; rob; plunder — **SYN.** RAVAGE — **de-spoil'er** n. — **de-spoil'-ment** n.

**de-spo-li-a-tion** (di spōlē ā'shən) n. [LL *despoliatio*: see prec.] a despoiling or being despoiled; pillage

**de-spond** (di spānd') vi. [L *despondere*, to lose courage, yield < *de-*, from + *spondere*, to promise: see SPONSOR] to lose courage or hope; become disheartened; be depressed — **n.** despondency: now chiefly in slough of despond (see SLOUGH<sup>2</sup>, n. 2)

**de-spond-ency** (di spānd'ən sē) n. [see fol.] loss of courage or hope; dejection: also **de-spond'-ence** (-dāns)

**de-spond-ent** (di spānd'ənt) adj. [L *despondens*, prp. of *despondere*: see SPOND] filled with despondency; dejected — **SYN.** HOPELESS — **de-spond'-ently** adv.

**des-pot** (des'pōt) n. [OFr *despote* < Gr *despotēs*, a master, lord < IE \**dem-s-potis*; lit., house master < \**dem-*, house (> TIMBER, L *domus*) + \**pōtis*, master, husband (> L *potis*, POTENT, Goth *-faths*, husband)] 1 [Archaic] a title meaning "master," applied to certain classes of rulers, as Byzantine emperors or bishops of the Greek church 2 an absolute ruler; king with unlimited powers; autocrat 3 anyone in charge who acts like a tyrant

**des-potic** (des pāt'ik) adj. [Fr *despotique* < Gr *despotikos*] of or like a despot; autocratic; tyrannical: also **des-pot'i-cal** — **des-pot'i-cally** adv.

**des-pot-ism** (des'pōt iz'm) n. [Fr *despotisme*] 1 rule or domination by a despot; autocracy 2 the methods or acts of a despot; tyranny 3 a political system, state, etc. dominated by a despot

**des-spu-mate** (di spyōō'māt', des'pyōō māt') vt. — **mat'ed**, — **mat'-ing** [L *despumatus*, pp. of *despumare*, to skim off < *de-*, off, from + *spuma*, to foam < *spuma*, FOAM] 1 to take the scum off; skim 2 to throw off as froth — **vi.** to become rid of scum — **des-spu-ma'-tion** n.

**des-qua-mate** (des'kwā māt', di skwā-) vt. — **mat'ed**, — **mat'-ing** [L *desquamatus*, pp. of *desquamare*, to scale off < *de-*, off + *squama*, a scale, SQUAMA] to fall off in scales; peel off: said esp. of the top layer of skin or mucous membrane — **des-qua-ma'-tion** n.

**Des-sau** (des'ou) city in EC Germany, in the state of Saxony-Anhalt: pop. 95,000

**des-sert** (di zurt') n. [ME < OFr < *desservir*, to clear the table < *des-* (L *de*), from + *servir* (L *servire*, SERVE)] \*1 a usually sweet course, as of pie, cake, or ice cream, served at the end of a meal 2 [Brit.] uncooked fruit served after, or in place of, the sweet course

**dessert-spoon** (-spōon') n. a spoon between a teaspoon and table-spoon in size, used in eating dessert

**des-sia-tine** (des'yā tēn') n. [Russ *dyesyatina*, lit., tithe < *dyesyat*, ten < IE \**dekmt-* < base \**dek-* > TEN] a Russian unit of land measure equal to about 2.7 acres

**de-sta-bi-lize** (dē stā'bā liz') vt. — **lized**, — **liz'-ing** to upset the stability or equilibrium of; unbalance

**de Staël**, Madame see STÄEL

**de-stain** (dē stān') vt. to remove stain from (a specimen or part of a specimen) to facilitate microscopic study

**de-Stalinization** (dē stāl'i nā zā'shən) n. the progressive elimination, as by the former Soviet government, of political methods or influences derived from Stalin

**de-ster-i-lize** (dē ster'ā liz') vt. — **lized**, — **liz'-ing** to bring back from a sterile state; specif., to release (gold) from a neutralized position into an active position in the monetary system where it can support credit and monetary issues

**De Stijl** (dē stīl', -stāl') [Du, lit., the style, name of a journal founded in 1917 in Holland by Mondrian and Theodore van Doesburg] an abstract art movement marked by the use of rectangular forms and by emphasis on primary colors or grays and blacks

**des-ti-na-tion** (des'tā nā'shən) n. [ME *destinacioun* < L *destinatio*, settlement, appointment < *destinare*: see fol.] 1 [Rare] a destining or being destined 2 the end for which something or someone is destined 3 the place toward which someone or something is going or sent

**des-tine** (des'tin) vt. — **tin-ed**, — **tin-ing** [ME *destinen* < OFr *destiner* < L *destinare*, to fasten down, secure < *de-*, intens. + \**stanare* < base of *stare*, STAND] 1 to predetermine, as by fate; usually in the passive 2 to set apart for a certain purpose; intend — **destined** for 1 headed for; bound for 2 intended for [destined for leadership]

**des-tiny** (des'tī nē) n., pl. — **nies** [ME *destine* < OFr *destinee*, fem. pp. of *destiner*: see prec.] 1 the seemingly inevitable or necessary succession of events 2 what will necessarily happen to any person or thing; (one's) fate 3 that which determines events: said of either a supernatural agency or necessity — **SYN.** FATE

**des-ti-tute** (des'tā tūt', -tyōōt') adj. [ME < L *destitutus*, pp. of *destituere*, to forsake, abandon < *de-*, down, away + *statuere*, to set, place: see STATUTE] 1 not having; being without; lacking (with of) [destitute of trees] 2 lacking the necessities of life; living in complete poverty 3 [Obs.] abandoned; forsaken — **SYN.** POOR

**des-ti-tu-tion** (des'tā tūt'shən, -tyōō'-) n. [ME *destituicioun* < L *destitutio*] the state of being destitute; esp., abject poverty — **SYN.** POVERTY

**des-trier** (des'trē ar, des trir') n. [ME *destrer* < OFr *destrier* < ML *dextrarius* < VL \**dextrare*, to lead (by the right hand) < *dextra*, right hand: see DEXTER] [Archaic] a war horse; charger

**de-stry** (di strōt') vt. [ME *destrōien* < OFr *destruire* < L *destruere* < *de-*, down + *struere*, to build: see STRUCTURE] 1 to tear down; demolish 2 to break up or spoil completely; ruin 3 to bring to total defeat; crush 4 to put an end to; do away with 5 to kill 6 to

neutralize the effect of 7 to make useless — **vi.** to bring about destruction

**SYN.** — **destroy** implies a tearing down or bringing to an end by wrecking, ruining, killing, eradicating, etc. and is the term of broadest application here [to destroy a city, one's influence, etc.]; **demolish** implies such destructive force as to completely smash to pieces [the bombs demolished the factories]; **raze** means to level to the ground, either destructively or by systematic wrecking with a salvaging of useful parts; to **annihilate** is to destroy so completely as to blot out of existence [rights that cannot be annihilated]

**de-stroyer** (di strōi'ər) n. 1 a person or thing that destroys 2 [orig. torpedo-boat destroyer] a small, fast, highly maneuverable warship armed with 3-inch or 5-inch guns, depth charges, torpedoes, etc.

**destroyer escort** a warship smaller and slower than a destroyer, used mainly to escort merchant ships

**destroying angel** either of two species (*Amanita verna* or *A. virosa*) of large, deadly, white amanita mushrooms found during warm weather in moist forests

**de-struct** (di strukt', dē'strukt') n. [back-form. < DESTRUCTION] the deliberate destruction of a malfunctioning missile, rocket, etc. after its launch — **vi.** to be automatically destroyed — **vt.** to destroy (a rocket, etc.) deliberately by remote control

**de-struct-ible** (di strukt'ə bəl) adj. [LL *destructibilis*] that can be destroyed; subject to destruction — **de-struct'-ibil'-ity** n.

**de-struc-tion** (di struk'tshən) n. [ME *destruccioun* < OFr *destruction* < L *destructio* < *destruere*, pp. of *destruere*: see DESTROY] 1 the act or process of destroying; demolition or slaughter 2 the fact or state of being destroyed 3 the cause or means of destroying — **SYN.** RUIN

**de-struc-tion-ist** (-ist) n. a person who believes in or favors destruction, as of an existing social order

**de-struc-tive** (di struk'tiv) adj. [OFr *destructif* < LL *destructivus*] 1 tending or likely to cause destruction 2 causing or producing destruction; destroying 3 merely negative; not helpful [destructive criticism] — **de-struc'-tively** adv. — **de-struc'-tive-ness** n. or **de-struc-tiv-ity** (dē'strukt'iv'ə tē, di-)

**destructive distillation** the decomposition of a material, as coal, wood, etc., by heat in the absence of air, followed by the recovery of volatile products of the decomposition by condensation or other means: a type of calcination: see PYROLYSIS

**de-struc-tor** (di struk'tər) n. [LL < *destruere*: see DESTRUCTION] 1 [Brit.] an incinerator for rubbish \*2 an explosive device for bringing about a destruct

**desue-tude** (des'wi tōōd', -tyōōd') n. [ME < L *desuetudo* < *desuetus*, pp. of *desuere*, to disuse < *de-*, from + *suescere*, to be accustomed: see CUSTOM] the condition of not being used or practiced any more; disuse [laws fallen into desuetude]

**de-sul-fur-ize** (dē sul'fər iz') vt. — **ized**, — **iz'-ing** to remove sulfur from: also **de-sul'-fur** — **de-sul'-furi-za'-tion** n. — **de-sul'-furi-zer** n.

**des-ul-tory** (des'al tōrē; also dez') adj. [L *desultorius* < *desultor*, vaulter < *desultus*, pp. of *desilire*, to leap down < *de-*, down, from + *salire*, to leap: see SALIENT] 1 passing from one thing to another in an aimless way; disconnected; not methodical [a desultory conversation] 2 lacking direct relevance; random; incidental [a desultory observation] — **SYN.** RANDOM — **des-ul-to-rily** adv. — **des-ul-to-rin-ess** n.

**det** abbrev. 1 detachment 2 detail

**de-tach** (dē tach', di-) vt. [Fr *détacher* < OFr *detachier*, *destachier* < *de-*, DE + *estachier*, to ATTACH] 1 to unfasten or separate and remove; disconnect; disengage 2 to send (troops, ships, etc.) on a special mission — **de-tach'-abil'-ity** n. — **de-tach'-able** adj.

**de-tached** (dē tach't, di-) adj. 1 not connected; separate 2 not involved by emotion, interests, etc.; aloof; impartial — **SYN.** INDIFFERENT — **de-tach'-ed-ly** adv. — **de-tach'-ed-ness** n.

**de-tach-ment** (dē tach'mənt, di-) n. [Fr *détachement*] 1 a detach-ing; separation 2 a) the sending of troops or ships on special service b) a unit of troops separated from a larger unit for special duty c) a small permanent unit organized for special service 3 the state of being disinterested, impartial, or aloof

**de-tail** (di tāl', dē'tāl') n. [Fr *détail* < the v.] 1 the act of dealing with things item by item [the detail of business] 2 a minute account [to go into detail] 3 any of the small parts that go to make up something; item; particular [the details of a plan] 4 a) any small secondary or accessory part or parts of a picture, statue, building, etc. b) a small segment as of a painting, reproduced separately for detailed study 5 a) one or more soldiers, sailors, etc. chosen for a particular task b) the task itself — **vt.** [Fr *détailler*, to cut up, tell in particulars < *dē-* (L *de*), from + *tailleur*, to cut: see TAILOR] 1 to give the particulars of; tell, item by item 2 to choose for a particular task [detail a man for sentry duty] \*3 to clean (an automotive vehicle) inside and outside, with meticulous attention to details, usually for a fee — **SYN.** ITEM — **in detail** item by item; with particulars

**detail drawing** a separate drawing of a small part or section, as of a machine, showing the details

**de-tailed** (dē'tāld', di tāld') adj. marked by careful attention to detail [a detailed plan]

**detail man** a salesman for a pharmaceutical firm who visits doctors, dentists, etc. in a certain district to promote new drugs

**de-tain** (dē tān', di-) vt. [ME *detēinen* < OFr *detenir* < L *detinere*, to hold down or off, keep back, detain < *de-*, off, from + *tinere*, to hold: see TENANT] 1 to keep in custody; confine 2 to keep from going on; hold back 3 [Obs.] to withhold — **de-tain'-ment** n.

**de-tain-ee** (dē'tān ē') n. a person detained for legal reasons

**de-tainer** (dē tān'ər, di-) i [Anglo-Fr *detener*, inf. use] a) the unlawful withholding of property b) the detention of a writ for continuing to hold

**de-tas-sel** (dē tas'əl) vt. — **s** remove tassels from (corn) production of hybrid corn

**de-tect** (dē tēkt', di-) vt. [L *detegere*, to uncover < *de-*, from + *tegere*, to cover] to discover, as in a misdeed (something hidden or not argued) 3 Radio a) REC to uncover; reveal — **de-tect**

**de-tect-a-ble** (dē tēkt'ə bəl) adj. a finding out or being found out 2 DEMODULATION

**de-tect-ive** (dē tēkt'iv, di-tiv) a device for listening secret

**de-tect-ion** (dē tēkt'shən, di-tion) a finding out or being found out 2 DEMODULATION

**de-tec-tive** (dē tēkt'iv, di-tiv) a person on a police force, who solve crimes 2 [short for] vately to investigate crime

**detective story** a myste discovery of who committ which a detective, often a murder, by means of cal also detective novel

**de-tect-or** (dē tēkt'ər, di-tər) a person or thing that detect the presence of some

**de-tent** (dē'tent; also di-tent) to unbend < *dē-* (L *dis-*), from part that stops or releases the striking of a clock

**dē-tente** or **de-tente** (dā lessening of tension or hos treaties, trade agreements

**de-ten-tion** (dē ten'shən, di-tention) a detention, a being detained; specif., a) enforced delay 2 a) required to stay after sch

**detention home** a place are held in custody, esp. cases by the juvenile court

**de-ter** (dē tur', di-) vt. — **ter-terre**, to frighten: see TE group, or nation) from doi

**de-ter-gent** (dē tur'jēnt, di-tur-jēnt) a cleaning agent, that is capable of en

**de-ter-i-o-rate** (dē tir'ē ar, di-ter-i-o-rat) a deterioration, a becoming inferior < \**de-*, below < or become worse; lower in

**de-ter-i-o-rat-ion** (dē tir'ē ar-i-ōn) a deterioration, a becoming inferior < \**de-*, below < or become worse; lower in

**de-ter-i-o-rat-ive** (-rāt'iv) a deterioration, a becoming inferior < \**de-*, below < or become worse; lower in

**de-ter-mi-nable** (dē tur'jēn-ā-bəl) 1 that can be determined — **de-ter-mi-na-**

**de-ter-mi-nate** (dē tur'jēn-āt) a being determined 2 the caused or in having predi

**de-ter-mi-nant** (dē tur'jēn-āt) a determining 2 Math. the sum of the p accordance with certain le

**de-ter-mi-nat-ion** (dē tur'jēn-ā-tion) a determining; a becoming distinct; fixed 2 settled flower at the end of the p

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