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The New Oxford **Dictionary of English**

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acclimate

agreement, etc.) by overwhelming vocal app. al and without ballot. 2 Canadian (of election) by virtue of being the sole candidate.

- ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from Latin acclamatio(n-). from acclamare 'shout at', later 'shout in approval (see ACCLAIM)
- acclimate / akliment, p'klisimet/ > verb [no obj.] chiefly N. Amer. acclimatize: we had to give the soldiers time to occlimate
- #Biology respond physiologically or behaviourally to a change in a single environmental factor: trees may acclimate to high CO, levels by reducing the number of
- stomata. Compare with ACCLIMATIZE. = [with obj.] Botany & Horiculure harden off (a plant).
- DERIVATIVES acclimation noun.
- ORIGIN late 18th cent .: from French acclimater. from a- (from Latin ad 'to, at') + climat 'climate'.
- acclimatize (also -ise) >verb [no obj.] become accustomed to a new climate or to new conditions: it's unknown whether people will acclimatize to increasingly warm weather | they like to acclimatize themselves properly before doing anything.
- Biology respond physiologically or behaviourally to changes in a complex of environmental factors. Compare with ACCLIMATE. # (with ob.) Boiany & Horiculture harden off (a plant).
- DERIVATIVES acclimatization noun - ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from French acclimater 'acclimatize' + -IZE.
- acclivity /s'kliviti/ > noun (pl. -ies) an upward slope.
- DERIVATIVES acclivitous adjective. ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin acclivitas, from
- acclivis, from ad- 'towards' + clivus 'a slope'. accolade / akaleid. aka leid/ > noun 1 an award or
- privilege granted as a special honour or as an acknowledgement of merit: the ultimate official accolade of a visit by the Queen. wan expression of praise or admiration.
- 2 a touch on a person's shoulders with a sword at
- a totch on a person's incordence.
 o RIGIN early 17th cent.: from French. from Provençal acolada, literally 'embrace around the neck (when bestowing knighthood)', from Latin ad-'at to' + collum 'neck'.
- accommodate > verb [with obj.] 1 (of physical space, especially a building) provide lodging or sufficient space for: the cottages accommodate up to six
- people. 2 fit in with the wishes or needs of: any language must accommodate new concepts.
- a [no obj.] (accommodate to) adapt to: making users
 accommodate to the realities of today's marketplace.
- DERIVATIVES accommodative adjective. - ORIGIN mid 16th cent .: from Latin accommodat-'made fitting', from the verb accommodare, from ad-
- 'to' + commodus 'fitting'. accommodating > adjective fitting in with someone's wishes or demands in a helpful way.
- DERIVATIVES accommodatingly adverb.
- accommodation > noun 1 (mass noun) a room. group of rooms, or building in which someone may stay: they were living in temporary live or accommodation
- ={accommodations} chielly N. Amer. lodgings, sometimes also including board: the company offers a number of guest house accommodations in Oberammergau. = the available space for occupants in a building, vehicle, or vessel: there was lifeboat accommodation for 1.178 people. If the providing of a room or lodgings: the building is used exclusively for the accommodation of guests.
- 2 a convenient arrangement: a settlement or compromise: the prime minister was seeking an accommodation with Labour.
- [mass noun] the process of adapting or adjusting to someone or something: accommodation to a separate political entity was not possible. # [mass noun] the automatic adjustment of the focus of the eye by flattening or thickening of the lens. from Latin
- ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin accommodatio(n-), from accommodare fit one thing to - ORIGIN another' (see ACCOMMODATE).
- accommodation address > noun Bril an address for correspondence used by a person who wishes to conceal or does not have a permanent address.
- accommodationist > noun US a person who seeks compromise with an opposing point of view. typically a political one.
- accommodation ladder > noun a ladder or

flight of steps up the side of a ship allowing ____ess from a small boat or a quayside.

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- accommodation platform > noun an offshore platform serving as accommodation for workers in offshore oil or gas production.
- accompaniment > noun 1 a musical part which supports or partners a solo instrument, voice, or group: she sang to a guitar accompaniment | [mass noun] sonatas for piano with violin accompaniment
- a piece of music played as a complement or background to an activity: lush string accompaniments to romantic scenes in films.
- 2 something that supplements or complements something else, especially food; these biscuits are a lovely accompaniment to tea.
- PHRASES to the accompaniment of with accompanying or background music or sound from: we filed out to the accompaniment of the organ. with another event happening at the same time as.
- ORIGIN early 18th cent.: from Fre accompagnement, from accompagner 'accompany' French
- accompanist > noun a person who provides a musical accompaniment to another musician or to a singer.
- accompany ▶ verb (-ies. -ied) [with ob].] 1 go somewhere with (someone) as a companion or escort: the two sisters were to accompany us to London. 2 (usu, be accompanied) be present or occur at the same time as (something else): the illness is often accompanied by nausea.
- provide (something) as a complement or addition to something else: home-cooked ham accompanied by brown bread
- 3 play a musical accompaniment for.
- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French accompagner, from a- (from Latin ad 'to, at') + compagne, from Old French compaignon 'companion'. The spelling change was due to association with COMPANY.
- accomplice /s'kamplis, s'kom-/ > noun a person who helps another commit a crime.
- ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: alteration (probably by association with ACCOMPANY) of Middle English complice 'an associate', via Old French from late Latin complex, complic-'allied', from com-'together' + the root of plicare 'to fold'.
- accomplish ► verb [with obj.] achieve or complete successfully: the planes accomplished their mission.
- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French acompliss-, lengthened stem of acomplir, based on Latin ad- 'to' + complete 'to complete'.
- accomplished > adjective highly trained or skilled in a particular activity: an accomplished pianist.
- well educated and having good social skills.
- accomplishment > noun something that has been achieved successfully: the reduction of inflation was a remarkable accomplishment.
- (mass noun) the successful achievement of a task: the [mass noun] the successful achievement of a task. In accomplishment of planned objectives. ■ an activity that a person can do well, typically as a result of study or practice: typing was another of her accomplishments. ■ [mass noun] skill or ability in an activity: a poet of considerable accomplishment.
- accord ▶ verb 1 [with obj.] give or grant someone (power, status, or recognition): the powers accorded to the head of state | [with two objs] the national assembly accorded the General more power.
- 2 (no obj.) (accord with) (of a concept or fact) be harmonious or consistent with.
- > noun an official agreement or treaty
- m(mass noun) agreement or harmony: the government and the rebels are in accord on one point.
- PHRASES in accord with according to, of one's own accord voluntarily or without outside intervention: he would not seek treatment of his own accord, with one accord in a united way.
- ORIGIN Old English, from Old French acorder 'reconcile. be of one mind', from Latin ad- 'to' + cor, cord 'heart'; influenced by CONCORD.
- accordance > noun (in phrase in accordance with) in a manner conforming with: the ballot was held in accordance with trade union rules.
- OBIGIN Middle English: from Old French acordance. from acorder 'bring to an agreement' (see ACCORD).
- accordant + adjective archaic agreeing compatible: I found the music accordant with the words of the service.

AIGIN Middle English: from Old French acordant. from acorder 'bring to an agreement' (see ACCORD). according > adverb 1 (according to) as stated by or in: the outlook for investors is not bright, according to financial experts.

- ain a manner corresponding or conforming to: rook the rice according to the instructions. . in proportion or relation to: salary will be fixed according to experience. 2 (according as) depending on whether.
- accordingly badverb 1 in a way that is appropriate to the particular circumstances: we have to discover what his plans are and act accordingly. 2 [senience adverb] consequently; therefore: there was no breach of the rules; accordingly, there will be no disciplinary inquiry.
- accordion /a ka:dian > noun a musical instrument played by stretching and squeezing with the hands to work a central bellows that blows air over metal reeds, the melody and chords being sounded by buttons or keys. Compare with CONCERTINA
- alas modifier) folding like the bellows of an accordion: an occordion pleat.
- DERIVATIVES accordionist noun. - ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from German Akkordion,
- from Italian accordare 'to tune'. accost ▶ verb [with obj.] approach and address (someone) boldly or aggressively: reporters accosted him in the street | a man tried to accost the girl on the way to school
- ORIGIN late 16th cent. (originally in the sense 'lie or go alongside'): from French accoster, from Italian accostare, from Latin ad- 'to' + costa 'rib, side'.
- accouchement /p'ku:[mô/ > noun (mass noun) archair
- the action of giving birth to a baby. ORIGIN late 18th cent.: French, from accoucher 'act as midwife', from a- (from Latin ad 'to, at') + coucher 'put to bed' (see COUCH').
- accoucheur / aku: 'ja:/ ► noun a male midwife.
- ORIGIN mid 18th cent.: French. from accoucher (see ACCOUCHEMENT).
- account > noun 1 a report or description of an event or experience: a detailed account of what has been achieved
- an interpretation or rendering of a piece of music: a lively account of Offenbach's score.
 2 a record or statement of financial expenditure
- and receipts relating to a particular period or purpose: the barman was doing his accounts | he submitted a quarterly account.
- (Accounts) the department of a company that deals with such records. • chiefly Bill a bill taking the form of such a record: there's no money to pay the tradesmen's accounts this month.
- 3 an arrangement by which a body holds funds on behalf of a client or supplies goods or services to them on credit: a bank account | charge it to my account | I began buying things on account.
- a client having such an arrangement with a supplier. selling bibles to established accounts in the North. = 2 contract to do work periodically for a client: another agency were awarded the account. Slock Exchange, Bril a fixed period on a stock exchange, at the end of which payment must be made for stock that has been bought.

4 (mass noun) importance: money was of no account to her.

- verb 1 (with ob) and complement) consider or regard in a specified way: her visit could not be accounted a success | he accounted himself the unluckiest man alive. 2 [no obj.] archaic give or receive an account for money received: after 1292 he accounted to the Westminster exchequer.
- PHRASES by (or from) all accounts according to what one has heard or read: by all accounts he is a pretty nice guy, call (or bring) someone to account require someone to explain a mistake or poor performance, give a good (or bad) account of oneself make a favourable (or unfavourable) impression through one's performance, keep an account of keep a record of, leave something out of account fail or decline to consider a factor. money of account denominations of money used in reckoning but not current as coins. on someone's account for a specified person's benefit: don't bother on my account. on account of account under no because of. on no circumstances: on no account let anyone know we're interested. on one's own account with one's own money or assets, rather than for an employer or client: he began trading on his own account. settle (or square) accounts with pay money owed to

a cal | a: arm | & bed | c: hair | > ago | >: her | : sit | i cosy | i: see | o hol | o: saw | x run | u put | u: too | x1 my | au how | ei day | >u no | i> near | oi boy | u> poor | x1> fire | au> sour

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unwanted AC distortion or oscilla n ci with a common power supply

- decoy > noun / di:kor, di'kor/ 1 a bird or mammal, or an imitation of one, used by hunters to attract other birds or mammals: [as modifier] a decoy duck.
- a person or thing used to lure an animal or person into a trap. s a fake or non-working article. especially a weapon, used to mislead or misdirect. 2 a pond from which narrow netted channels lead. into which wild duck may be enticed for capture.
- ► verb /di'koi. 'di:koi/ [with ob], and adverbial of direction] lure or entice (a person or animal) away from their intended course, typically into a trap: they would try to decoy the enemy towards the hidden group.
- ORIGIN mid 16th cent. (earlier as coy): from Dutch de kooi 'the decoy', from Middle Dutch de kouw 'the cage', from Latin cavea 'cage'. Sense 1 is from the practice of using tamed ducks to lead wild ones along channels into captivity.
- decrease ► verb /di kriis/ (no ob).) become smaller or fewer in size, amount, intensity, or degree: the population of the area has decreased radically.
- [with ob].] make smaller or fewer in size, amount, intensity, or degree: the aisles were decreased in height. di:kri:s/ an instance or example of becoming
- smaller or fewer: a decrease in births. mimass noun) the action or process of becoming smaller or fewer, the rate of decrease became greater.
- PHRASES on the decrease becoming less common or widespread; decreasing.
- DERIVATIVES decreasingly adverb [as submodilier] voters have proved decreasingly willing to support the party.
- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French decreis (noun), decreistre (verb), based on Latin decrescere, from de- down' + crescere 'grow'.
- decree ► noun an official order issued by a ruler or authority that has the force of law.
- #[mass noun] the issuing of such an order: the king ruled by decree, a judgement or decision of certain law courts, especially in matrimonial cases.
- > varb (decrees, decreed, decreeing) [with obj.] order (something) by decree: the government decreed a ban on any contact with the guerrillas | [with clause] the president decreed that the military was to be streamlined.
- ORIGIN Middle English (denoting an edict issued by an ecclesiastical council to settle a point of doctrine or discipline): from Old French decre. decret, from Latin decretum 'something decided', from decernere 'decide'.
- decree absolute > noun (n), decrees absolute) English Law a final order by a court of law which officially ends a marriage, enabling either party to гетагту
- decree nisi ► noun (pl. decrees nisi) English Law an order by a court of law that states the date on which a marriage will end, unless a good reason to prevent a divorce is produced.
- ORIGIN late 19th cent.: Latin misi 'unless'.
- decrement /'dɛkrim(>)nt/ ► noun a reduction or diminution: relaxation produces a decrement sympathetic nervous activity.
- an amount by which something is reduced or diminished: the dose was reduced by 10 mg weekly decrements. # Physics the ratio of the amplitudes in successive cycles of a damped oscillation.
- (with obj.) chielly Computing cause a discrete reduction in (a numerical quantity): the instruction decrements the accumulator by one.
- ORIGIN early 17th cent. (as a noun): from Latin decrementum 'diminution', from the stem of decrescere 'to decrease'.
- decrepit /di'krepit/ > adjective (of a person) elderly and infirm: a rather decrepit old man. worn out or ruined because of age or neglect: a row of
- decrepit houses.
- DERIVATIVES decrepitude noun.
- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin decrepitus. from de- 'down' + crepitus, past participle of crepare 'rattle, creak'.
- decrepitate /dr/krepitert/ > verb [no obj.] lechnical (of a crystal or an inclusion of something within a crystal | disintegrate audibly when heated.
- DERIVATIVES decrepitation noun.
- ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: from DE- 'away' + Latin crepitat- 'crackled', from the verb crepitare, frequentative of crepare 'rattle' (see DECREPIT).
- decrescendo /,di:krs/Jandau/ > noun (pl. -os), adverb, adjective & verb (-os. -oed) another term for DIMINUENDO: [as noun] the decrescendo of distant

thunder | las 201] a decrescenda heart murmur | | he decrescendos down to a whisper.

- -ORIGIN early 19th cent.: Italian. literally 'decreasing'
- decrescent /di'krcs(p)nt/ > adjective [attrib.] (of the
- moon) waning. ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin decrescentgrowing less', from the verb decrescere (see DECREASE).
- decretal /di'kri:t(a)l/ ► noun a papal decree concerning a point of canon law.
- ► adjective of the nature of a decree.
- ORIGIN Middle English: from late Latin decretale. neuter of decretalis (adjective), from Latin decret-'decided', from the verb decemere.
- Decretum /di'krittam/ > noun a collection of decisions and judgements in canon law
- ORIGIN Latin, literally 'something decreed'.
- decriminalize (also -ise) > verb (with ob).] cease to treat (something) as illegal: a battle to decriminalize drugs
- DERIVATIVES decriminalization noun.
- decry /di'krai/ > verb (-ies, -ied) [with obj.] publicly denounce: they decried human rights abuses. - DERIVATIVES decrier noun.
- ORIGIN early 17th cent. (in the sense 'decrease the value of coins by royal proclamation'); from DEdown' + CRY, on the pattern of French derrier 'Cry down'
- decrypt /di:'kript/ > verb [with obj.] make (a coded or unclear message) intelligible: the computer can be used to encrypt and decrypt sensitive transmissions.
- ▶ nous a text that has been decoded. - DERIVATIVES decryption noun.
- ~ ORIGIN 1930s: from DE. (expressing reversal) + crypt as in encrypt.
- decubitus (di'kin-bitas/ > noun imass noun) chiefly Medicine the posture adopted by a person who is lying down: [as modifier] lumbar puncture with the natient in the lateral decubitus position.
- ORIGIN late 19th cent .: modern Latin, from Latin decumbere 'lie down', on the pattern of words such as accubitus 'reclining at table'.
- decubitus ulcer > noun technical term for BEDSORE.
- decumbent /di'kAmb(a)nt/ > adjective Bolany (of a plant or part of a plant) lying along the ground or along a surface, with the extremity curving upwards.
- ORIGIN late 18th cent.; from Latin decumbent- 'lying down', from the verb decumbere, based on de-'down + a verb related to cubare 'to lie'.
- decumbiture /di'kambit[a/ > noun Astrology a chart made for the time of onset of an illness, to aid in making a prognosis and determining appropriate treatment
- simass nounl archaic the action of taking to one's bed with an illness
- ORIGIN mid 17th cent.: formed irregularly from Latin decumbere 'lie down' + -URE
- decurrent /di'kAr(a)nt/ > adjective Bolany (of a fungus gill. leaf. etc.) extending down the stem below the point of attachment.
- for a shrub or the crown of a tree having several roughly equal branches. - ORIGIN mid 18th cent.: from Latin decurrent-
- 'running down', from the verb decurrere.
- decurved > adjective Biology (especially of a bird's bill) curved downwards.
- decussate technical > verb /di'kAseit, 'dckoseit/ [no obj.] (of two or more things) cross or intersect each other to form an X: the fibres decussate in the collar.
- ▶ adjective /di'kAsət/ shaped like an X. =Botany (of leaves) arranged in opposite pairs, each pair being at right angles to the pair below
- DERIVATIVES decussation noun.
- ORIGIN mid 17th cent. (as a verb): from Latin decussatus, past participle of decussate 'divide crosswise', from decussis (describing the figure X. i.e. the Roman numeral for the number 10), from decem 'ten'
- decyl /'dis∧il, -sil/ ► noun [as modifier] Chemistry of or denoting an alkyl radical -C10H21, derived from decane.

ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Greek deka. 'ten' + +YL 'dedans /də'dö/ ► noun (in real tennis) an open gallery for spectators at the service side of a court. - ORIGIN early 18th cent.: French, literally 'inside'.

kind /'deidakind, German 'deidakint/, Richard ,1-1916). German mathematician, one the founders of abstract algebra and modern mathematics.

- dedendum (didendem/ ► noun Engineering the radia) distance from the pitch circle of a cogwheel or wormwheel to the bottom of the tooth space or groove, Compare with ADDENDUM.
- ORIGIN early 20th cent.: from Latin. 'thing that can be surrendered', neuter gerundive of dedere
- dedicate > verb [with obj.] devote (time, effort, or oneself) to a particular task or purpose: Joan has dedicated her life to animals.
- adevote (something) to a particular subject or purpose: volume four is dedicated to wasps. = (usu. be dedicated) cite or nominate (a book or other artistic work) as being issued or performed in someone's honour: the novel is dedicated to the memory of my mother. . (usu. be dedicated) ceremonially assign (a church or other building) to a deity or saint: the parish church is dedicated to Si Paul.
- DERIVATIVES dedicates noun, dedicator noun, dedicatory adjective.
- ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'devote to sacred use by solemn rites'): from Latin dedical-'devoted, consecrated', from the verb dedicare,
- dedicated > adjective (of a person) devoted to a task or purpose; a learn of dedicated doctors.
- s(of a thing) exclusively assigned or allocated to or intended for a particular service or purpose: a dedicated high-speed rall link from the Channel Tunnel.
- DERIVATIVES dedicatedly adverb.
- dedication ► noun [mass noun] 1 the quality of being dedicated or committed to a task or purpose: his dedication to his duties.
- 2 the action of dedicating a church or other building to a deity or saint: the dedication of a new city church.
- (count noun) an inscription dedicating a building in this way. m [count noun] the words with which a book or other artistic work is dedicated.
- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin dedicatio(n-). from dedicare 'devote, consecrate' (see DEDICATE).
- de dicto /dei 'diktou, di:/ ► adjective Philosophy relating to the form of an assertion or expression itself, rather than any property of a thing it refers to. Compare with DE RE.
- ORIGIN Latin, 'from what is said'.
- dedifferentiate /.di:difairenfient/ > verb (no obj.) Biology (of a cell or tissue) undergo a reversal of differentiation and lose specialized characteristics. DERIVATIVES dedifferentiation noun.
- deduce ▶ verb [with obj.] arrive at (a fact or a conclusion) by reasoning: draw as a logical conclusion: little can be safely deduced from these figures | [with clause] they deduced that the fish died ecause of water pollution.
- marchaic trace the course or derivation of: he cannot deduce his descent wholly by heirs male.
- DERIVATIVES deducible adjective.
- ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'lead or convey'): from Latin deducere, from de- 'down' + ducere 'lead'.
- deduct > verb (with obj.) subtract or take away (an amount or part) from a total: tax has been deducted from the payments.
- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin deduct 'taken or led away', from the verb deducere. Deduct and deduce were not distinguished in sense until the mid 17th cent.
- deductible > adjective able to be deducted. especially from taxable income or tax to be paid.
- ▶ noun chielly N. Amer. the part of an insurance claim 10 be paid by the insured; an excess.
- DERIVATIVES deductibility noun.
- deduction > apun imass nound 1 the action of deducting or subtracting something: the dividend will be paid without deduction of tax.
- s[count noun] an amount that is or may be deducted from something, especially from taxable income of tax to be paid: tax deductions.
- 2 the inference of particular instances by reference to a general law or principle: the detective must uncover the murderer by deduction from facts. Often contrasted with INDUCTION.
- Icount nounl a conclusion that has been deduced. ORIGIN late Middle English: from Latin deductio(n-).
- from the verb deducere (see DEDUCE). deductive > adjective characterized by the

b but | d dog | f few | g get | h he | j yes | k cat | leg | m man | n no | p pen | r red | s sit | t top | v voice | w we | z zoo | f she | 5 decision | 0 thin | 5 this | 5 ring | x loch | t f chip | d 5 ja