

The New Oxford Dictionary of English

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agreement, etc.) by overwhelming vocal app. 1 and without ballot. 2 Canadian (of election) by virtue of being the sole candidate.

- ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from Latin *acclamation(n)*, from *acclamare* 'shout at', later 'shout in approval' (see **ACCLAIM**).

acclimate /ə'kli:mɪt/ ► verb [no obj.] chiefly N. Amer. acclimatize: we had to give the soldiers time to acclimate.

■ Biology respond physiologically or behaviourally to a change in a single environmental factor: trees may acclimate to high CO₂ levels by reducing the number of stomata. Compare with **ACCLIMATE**. ■ [with obj.] Botany & Horticulture 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 obj.] Botany & Horticulture harden off (a plant).

- DERIVATIVES **acclimatization** noun.

- ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from French *acclimater* 'acclimatize' + *-IZE*.

acclivity /ə'klɪvɪti/ ► noun (pl. *-ies*) an upward slope.

- DERIVATIVES **acclivitous** adjective.

- ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *acclivitas*, from *acclivus*, from *ad-* 'towards' + *clivus* 'a slope'.

accolade /ə'kɒləɪd, ə'kɑ:ləɪd/ ► 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.

■ an expression of praise or admiration.

2 a touch on a person's shoulders with a sword at the bestowing of a knighthood.

- ORIGIN 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.

■ [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 live or stay: they were living in temporary accommodation.

■ (accommodations) chiefly 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. ■ 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.

- ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *accommodatio(n)*, from *accommodare* 'fit one thing to another' (see **ACCOMMODATE**).

accommodation address ► noun Brit. 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 access from a small boat or a quayside.

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 French *accompagnement*, from *accompagner* 'accompany'.

accompanist ► noun a person who provides a musical accompaniment to another musician or to a singer.

accompany ► verb (-ies, -ied) [with obj.] 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 /ə'kɒmplɪs, ə'kɒm- / ► 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 *placare* 'to fold'.

accomplish ► verb [with obj.] achieve or complete successfully: the planes accomplished their mission.

- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *accompliss-*, lengthened stem of *accomplir*, based on Latin *ad-* 'to' + *complere* '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 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.

■ [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.

- ORIGIN Middle English: from Old French *accordance*, from *acorder* 'bring to an agreement' (see **ACCORD**).

accordant ► adjective archaic agreeing or compatible: I found the music accordant with the words of the service.

acorder Middle English: from Old French *acorder*, 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.

■ in a manner corresponding or conforming to: cook 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 ► adverb 1 in a way that is appropriate to the particular circumstances: we have to discover what his plans are and act accordingly.

2 (sentence adverb) consequently; therefore: there was no breach of the rules; accordingly, there will be no disciplinary inquiry.

accordion /ə'kɔ:dɪən/ ► 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**.

■ [as modifier] folding like the bellows of an accordion: an accordion 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 /ə'ku:ʃmənt/ ► noun [mass noun] archaic 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 /ə'ku:ʃə:/ ► 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 Brit. 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. ■ a contract to do work periodically for a client: another agency were awarded the account. ■ Stock Exchange, Brit. 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 obj. 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** because of. **on no account** under 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

unwanted AC distortion or oscillations in circuit with a common power supply.

decoy ▶ noun /diːkɔɪ, diːkɔɪ/ 1 a bird or mammal, or an imitation of one, used by hunters to attract other birds or mammals: [as modifier] a decoy duck. 2 a person or thing used to lure an animal or person into a trap. 3 a fake or non-working article, especially a weapon, used to mislead or misdirect. 4 a pond from which narrow netted channels lead, into which wild duck may be enticed for capture. ▶ verb /diːkɔɪ, diːkɔɪ/ [with obj.] 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 *caveo* 'cage'. Sense 1 is from the practice of using tamed ducks to lead wild ones along channels into captivity.

decrease ▶ verb /diːkriːs/ [no obj.] become smaller or fewer in size, amount, intensity, or degree: the population of the area has decreased radically. [with obj.] make smaller or fewer in size, amount, intensity, or degree: the aisles were decreased in height.

▶ noun /diːkriːs/ an instance or example of becoming smaller or fewer: a decrease in births. [mass 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 submodifier] voters have proved decreasingly willing to support the party.

- ORIGIN late Middle English: from Old French *decreis* (noun), *decreistre* (verb), based on Latin *decretere*, from *de-* 'down' + *cretere* '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. 2 a judgement or decision of certain law courts, especially in matrimonial cases.

▶ verb (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 (pl. decrees absolute) English law a final order by a court of law which officially ends a marriage, enabling either party to remarry.

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 *nisi* 'unless'.

decrement /ˈdekrɪm(ə)nt/ ▶ noun a reduction or diminution: relaxation produces a decrement in sympathetic nervous activity. [mass noun] by which something is reduced or diminished: the dose was reduced by 10 mg weekly decrements. 2 Physics the ratio of the amplitudes in successive cycles of a damped oscillation.

▶ verb [with obj.] chiefly 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 *decretere* 'to decrease'.

decrepit /diːkriːpɪt/ ▶ 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 /diːkriːpɪteɪt/ ▶ verb [no obj.] technical (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*).

decrecendo /ˌdiːkriːˈtʃendəʊ/ ▶ noun (pl. -os), adverb, adjective, & verb (-os, -oed) another term for *DIMINUENDO*: [as noun] the *decrecendo* of distant

thunder | [as adj.] a *decrecendo* heart murmur | [as verb] he *decrendos* down to a whisper.

- ORIGIN early 19th cent.: Italian, literally 'decreasing'.

decrecent /diːkriːs(ə)nt/ ▶ adjective [attrib.] (of the moon) waning. - ORIGIN early 17th cent.: from Latin *decrecent-* 'growing less', from the verb *decretere* (see *DECREASE*).

decretal /diːkriːt(ə)l/ ▶ noun a papal decree concerning a point of canon law. ▶ adjective of the nature of a law. - ORIGIN Middle English: from late Latin *decretale*, neuter of *decretalis* (adjective), from Latin *decret-* 'decided', from the verb *decernere*.

Decretum /diːkriːt(ə)m/ ▶ noun a collection of decisions and judgements in canon law. - ORIGIN Latin, literally 'something decreed'.

decriminalize (also -ise) ▶ verb [with obj.] cease to treat (something) as illegal: a battle to decriminalize drugs. - DERIVATIVES decriminalization noun.

decry /diːkriː/ ▶ verb (-ies, -ied) [with obj.] publicly denounce: they decry human rights abuses. - DERIVATIVES decryer noun.

- ORIGIN early 17th cent. (in the sense 'decrease the value of coins by royal proclamation'): from *DE-* 'down' + *CRY*, on the pattern of French *décrier* 'cry down'.

decrypt /diːˈkriːpt/ ▶ verb [with obj.] make (a coded or unclear message) intelligible: the computer can be used to encrypt and decrypt sensitive transmissions. ▶ noun a text that has been decoded. - DERIVATIVES decryption noun.

- ORIGIN 1930s: from *DE-* (expressing reversal) + *crypt* as in *encrypt*.

decubitus /diːkjuːbɪt(ə)s/ ▶ noun [mass noun] chiefly Medicine the posture adopted by a person who is lying down: [as modifier] lumbar puncture with the patient 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 /diːkʌm(b)ənt/ ▶ adjective Botany (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 /diːkʌmbɪtʃə/ ▶ noun Astrology a chart made for the time of onset of an illness, to aid in making a prognosis and determining appropriate treatment. [mass noun] 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 /diːkʌr(ə)nt/ ▶ adjective Botany (of a fungus gill, leaf, etc.) extending down the stem below the point of attachment. [of 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 /diːkʌseɪt, ˈdekeseɪt/ [no obj.] (of two or more things) cross or intersect each other to form an X: the fibres decussate in the collar. ▶ adjective /diːkʌsət/ 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 *decussare* 'divide crosswise', from *decussis* (describing the figure X, i.e. the Roman numeral for the number 10), from *decem* 'ten'.

decyl /ˈdiːsɪl, -sɪl/ ▶ noun [as modifier] Chemistry of or denoting an alkyl radical $-C_{10}H_{21}$, derived from decane. - ORIGIN mid 19th cent.: from Greek *deka-* 'ten' + *-YL*.

dedans /dɑːˈdɒ/ ▶ noun (in real tennis) an open gallery for spectators at the service side of a court. - ORIGIN early 18th cent.: French, literally 'inside'.

deductive /dɪˈdʌktɪv/ German *de:ɔkɪnt*, Richard (1-1916), German mathematician, one the founders of abstract algebra and modern mathematics.

dedendum /diːˈdendəm/ ▶ noun Engineering the radial 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. [devote (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 St Paul. - DERIVATIVES dedicatee noun, dedicator noun, dedicatory adjective.

- ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense 'devote to sacred use by solemn rites'): from Latin *dedicatio* 'devoted, consecrated', from the verb *dedicare*.

dedicated ▶ adjective (of a person) devoted to a task or purpose: a team of dedicated doctors. [of a thing] exclusively assigned or allocated to or intended for a particular service or purpose: a dedicated high-speed rail 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. [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 /deɪˈdɪktəʊ, diː/ ▶ 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 /ˌdiːdɪfəˈrenʃɪeɪt/ ▶ 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 because of water pollution. [archaic 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 chiefly N. Amer. the part of an insurance claim to be paid by the insured; an excess. - DERIVATIVES deductibility noun.

deduction ▶ noun [mass noun] 1 the action of deducting or subtracting something: the dividend will be paid without deduction of tax. [count noun] an amount that is or may be deducted from something, especially from taxable income or 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*. [count noun] 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