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Edited by
Angus Stevenson
Maurice Waite

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concordant ► adj. **1** in agreement; consistent. ■ Music in harmony. **2** Medicine (of twins) inheriting the same genetic characteristic.

– DERIVATIVES **concordantly** adv.

concordat /kən'kɔ:dət/ ► n. an agreement or treaty, especially one between the Vatican and a secular government.

– ORIGIN C17: from Fr., or from L. *concordatum* 'something agreed upon'.

concours /kɔ'kuə/ (also **concours d'élégance** /dele'gɑ:ns/) ► n. (pl. same) an exhibition of vintage or classic motor vehicles, with prizes awarded to those in the best condition.

– ORIGIN Fr., 'contest (of elegance)'.

concourse ► n. **1** a large open central area inside or in front of a public building. **2** formal a crowd or assembly. ■ the action of coming together.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *concours*, from L. *concursum*, from *concur-*, *currere* (see **CONCUR**).

concrecence /kən'kres(ə)ns/ ► n. Biology the coalescence or growing together of separate parts.

– DERIVATIVES **concrecent** adj.

– ORIGIN C17: from **CON-** + *-crecence*, on the pattern of words such as *excrecence*.

concrete ► adj. /kɔ'kri:t/ existing in a material or physical form. ■ specific; definite. ■ (of a noun) denoting a material object as opposed to an abstract quality, state, or action. ► n. a building material made from a mixture of gravel, sand, cement, and water, forming a stone-like mass on hardening. ► v. **1** /kɔ'kri:t/ cover or fix solidly with concrete. **2** /kən'kri:t/ archaic solidify. ■ make real.

– DERIVATIVES **concretely** adv. **concreteness** n.

– ORIGIN ME: from Fr. *concret* or L. *concretus*, past part. of *concrecere* 'grow together'.

concrete jungle ► n. an urban area with a high density of large, unattractive, modern buildings.

concrete music ► n. another term for **MUSIQUE CONCRÈTE**.

concrete poetry ► n. poetry in which part of the meaning is conveyed visually, using patterns of words or letters.

concretion ► n. a hard solid mass formed by accumulation of matter.

– DERIVATIVES **concretionary** adj.

– ORIGIN C16: from L. *concretio* (n-), from *concrecere* 'grow together'.

concretize or **concretise** /kɔ'kri:təɪz/ ► v. make concrete instead of abstract.

– DERIVATIVES **concretization** n.

concubinage /kɔn'kju:bɪnɪdʒ/ ► n. chiefly historical the practice of keeping or the state of being a concubine.

concubine /kɔn'kju:bɪn/ ► n. **1** chiefly historical (in polygamous societies) a woman who lives with a man but has lower status than his wife or wives. **2** archaic a mistress.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr., from L. *concubina*, from *con-* 'with' + *cubare* 'to lie'.

concupiscence /kən'kju:psɪs(ə)ns/ ► n. formal lust.

– DERIVATIVES **concupiscent** adj.

– ORIGIN ME: via OFr. from late L. *concupiscentia*, from L. *concupiscere* 'begin to desire'.

concur ► v. (**concur**, **concurring**, **concurred**) **1** (often **concur with**) agree. **2** happen at the same time.

– ORIGIN ME: from L. *concurrere* 'run together, assemble in crowds'.

concurrent ► adj. **1** existing or happening at the same time. **2** agreeing or consistent. **3** Mathematics (of three or more lines) meeting at or tending towards one point.

– DERIVATIVES **concurrency** n. **concurrently** adv.

concussion ► n. **1** temporary unconsciousness or confusion caused by a blow on the head. **2** a violent shock as from a heavy blow.

– DERIVATIVES **concuss** v. **concussive** adj.

– ORIGIN ME: from L. *concussio* (n-), from *concutere* 'dash together, shake'.

condemn ► v. **1** express complete disapproval of. **2** (usu. **condemn someone to**) sentence to a punishment, especially death. ■ force (someone) to endure something unpleasant. ■ prove the guilt of. **3** officially declare to be unfit for use.

– DERIVATIVES **condemnable** adj. **condemnation** n. **condemnatory** adj.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *condemner*, from L. *condemnare*, from *con-* (expressing intensive force) + *damnare* (see **DAMN**).

condemned cell ► n. Brit. a cell for a prisoner who is condemned to death.

condensate /kɔnd(ə)nseɪt/ ► n. technical a substance produced by condensation.

condensation ► n. **1** water from humid air collecting as droplets on a cold surface. **2** the conversion of a vapour or gas to a liquid. **3** Chemistry a reaction in which two molecules combine to form a larger molecule, producing a small molecule such as H₂O as a by-product. **4** a concise version of something.

condense ► v. **1** change from a gas or vapour to a liquid. **2** (usu. as adj. **condensed**) thicken (a liquid) by heating it to reduce the water content. **3** make denser or more concentrated. ■ express (a piece of writing or speech) in fewer words; make concise.

– DERIVATIVES **condensable** adj.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *condensare* or L. *condensare*, from *condensus* 'very thick'.

condensed milk ► n. milk that has been thickened by evaporation and sweetened.

condenser ► n. **1** an apparatus for condensing vapour. **2** a lens or system of lenses for collecting and directing light. **3** another term for **CAPACITOR**.

condescend ► v. show that one feels superior. ■ do something despite regarding it as below one's dignity: *he condescended to see me at my hotel*.

– DERIVATIVES **condescending** adj. **condescendingly** adv. **condescension** n.

– ORIGIN ME (in the sense 'give way, defer'): from OFr. *condescendre*, from eccles. L. *condescendere*, from *con-* 'together' + *descendere* 'descend'.

condign /kən'daɪn/ ► adj. formal (of punishment) fitting and deserved.

– DERIVATIVES **condignly** adv.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *condigne*, from L. *condignus*, from *con-* 'altogether' + *dignus* 'worthy'.

condiment ► n. a substance such as salt, mustard, or pickle that is used to flavour food.

– ORIGIN ME: from L. *condimentum*, from *condire* 'to pickle'.

condition ► n. **1** the state of something or someone, with regard to appearance, fitness, or working order. ■ an illness or medical problem. ■ archaic social position.

2 (**conditions**) circumstances affecting the functioning or existence of something. **3** a state of affairs that must exist before something else is possible. ► v. **1** have a significant influence on. ■ train or accustom to behave in a certain way. ■ (as adj. **conditioned**) relating to or denoting automatic responses established by training to an ordinarily neutral stimulus. **2** bring into the desired state for use. ■ (often as adj. **conditioned**) make fit and healthy. **3** apply conditioner to (the hair). **4** set prior requirements on (something) before it can occur.

– PHRASES **in (or out of) condition** in a fit (or unfit) physical state. **on condition that** with the stipulation that.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *condicion* (n.), *condicionner* (v.), from L. *condicio* (n-) 'agreement', from *condicere* 'agree upon', from *con-* 'with' + *dicere* 'say'.

conditional ► adj. **1** subject to one or more conditions being met. **2** Grammar expressing a condition.

► n. **1** Grammar & Philosophy a conditional clause or conjunction. **2** Grammar the conditional mood of a verb, for example *should* in *if I should die*.

– DERIVATIVES **conditionality** n. **conditionally** adv.

conditional discharge ► n. an order made by a criminal court whereby an offender will not be sentenced for an offence unless a further offence is committed within a stated period.

conditioner ► n. a thing used to improve the condition of something, especially a liquid applied to the hair after shampooing.

condo /kɔndəʊ/ ► n. (pl. **condos**) N. Amer. informal short for **CONDOMINIUM** (sense 1).

desert rat ▶ n. informal a soldier of the 7th British armoured division (with the jerboa as a badge) in the North African desert campaign of 1941–2.

desert rose ▶ n. 1 a flower-like aggregate of mineral crystals, occurring in arid areas. 2 a succulent plant with pink tubular flowers and toxic milky sap, native to East Africa and Arabia. [*Adenium obesum*.] 3 a dense Australian shrub with pinkish-lilac flowers. [*Gossypium sturtianum*.]

deserts /di'zə:ts/ ▶ pl. n. (often in phr. **get** (or **receive**) **one's just deserts**) what a person deserves with regard to reward or (more usually) punishment.

– ORIGIN ME: via OFr. from *deservir* (see **DESERVE**).

USAGE If a person gets their just deserts they get what they deserve. *Deserts* here is related to *deserve*, and is spelled with one -s- in the middle; a *dessert* is a sweet course eaten at the end of a meal.

deserve ▶ v. do something or show qualities worthy of (a reward or punishment as appropriate).

– DERIVATIVES **deserved** adj. **deservedly** adv.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *deservir*, from L. *deservire* 'serve well or zealously'.

deserving ▶ adj. worthy of favourable treatment or assistance.

– DERIVATIVES **deservingly** adv. **deservingness** n.

desex ▶ v. 1 deprive of sexual qualities. 2 castrate or spay.

desexualize or **desexualise** ▶ v. deprive of sexual character.

– DERIVATIVES **desexualization** n.

desh /deʃ/ ▶ n. Indian a person's or a people's native land.

– ORIGIN from Hindi *deś*.

déshabillé /deza'bi:jei/ (also **dishabille**) ▶ n. the state of being only partly or scantily clothed.

– ORIGIN Fr., 'undressed'.

desi /deisi/ (also **doshi**) Indian ▶ adj. 1 local; indigenous. 2 derogatory rustic; unsophisticated. 3 unadulterated or pure. ▶ n. a person of Indian, Pakistani, or Bangladeshi birth or descent who lives abroad.

– ORIGIN via Hindi from Sanskrit *deśa* 'country, land'.

desiccant ▶ n. a substance that absorbs moisture from the air, used as a drying agent.

desiccate /desikert/ ▶ v. remove the moisture from.

– DERIVATIVES **desiccator** n. **desiccation** n.

– ORIGIN C16 (earlier (ME) as *desiccation*): from L. *desiccā-*, *desiccāre* 'make thoroughly dry'.

desiderate /di'zɪdərɪt, -'sɪd-/ ▶ v. archaic feel a keen desire for (something lacking).

– ORIGIN C17: from L. *desiderat-*, *desiderare* 'to desire', perh. from *de-* 'down' + *sidus*, *sider-* 'star'.

desideratum /di'zɪdərɪtəm, -'rɪtəm, -'sɪd-/

▶ n. (pl. *desiderata* /-tə/) something that is needed or wanted.

– ORIGIN C17: from L., 'something desired', neut. past part. of *desiderare* (see **DESIDERATE**).

design ▶ n. 1 a plan or drawing produced to show the look and function of something before it is built or made. 2 the art or action of planning the look and function of something. 3 the arrangement of the features of an artefact. 4 a decorative pattern.

5 the purpose or planning that exists behind an action or object. ▶ v. decide upon the look and functioning of (something), especially by making a detailed drawing of it. 6 do or plan (something) with a specific purpose in mind.

– PHRASES **by design** as a result of a plan; intentionally. **have designs on** aim to obtain, especially in an underhand way. 7 informal have an undisclosed sexual interest in.

– ORIGIN ME (as a verb in the sense 'to designate'): from L. *designare*, reinforced by Fr. *désigner*.

designate ▶ v. /deɪzɪneɪt/ give a specified name, position, or status to: *he was designated as prime minister*. ▶ adj. /deɪzɪnət/ [postpos.] appointed to an office or position but not yet installed: *the Director designate*.

– DERIVATIVES **designator** n.

– ORIGIN C17: from L. *designare* (see **DESIGN**).

designated driver ▶ n. N. Amer. a person who abstains from alcohol at a social gathering so as to be fit to drive others home.

designated hitter ▶ n. Baseball a non-fielding player named to bat instead of the pitcher.

designation ▶ n. the action of giving someone or something a specified name, position, or status.

– an official title or description.

designedly ▶ adv. deliberately in order to produce a specific effect.

designer ▶ n. a person who designs things. 2 [as modifier] made by a famous and prestigious fashion designer: *designer clothing*.

designer baby ▶ n. a baby whose genetic make-up has been selected in order to eradicate a particular defect, or to ensure that a particular gene is present.

designer drug ▶ n. a synthetic analogue of an illegal drug, devised to circumvent drug laws.

designing ▶ adj. acting in a calculating, deceitful way.

desirable ▶ adj. wished for as being attractive, useful, or necessary. 2 (Of a person) arousing sexual desire.

▶ n. a desirable person or thing.

– DERIVATIVES **desirability** n. **desirableness** n.

desirably adv.

desire ▶ n. a strong feeling of wanting to have something or wishing for something to happen. 2 strong sexual feeling or appetite. 3 something desired. ▶ v. strongly wish for or want. 4 want sexually. 5 archaic express a wish to (someone).

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *desir* (n.), *desirer* (v.), from L. *desiderare* (see **DESIDERATE**).

desirous /di'zʌərəs/ ▶ adj. (often **desirous of**) wanting or desiring (a particular thing).

desist /di'sɪst, di'zɪst/ ▶ v. (often **desist from**) stop doing something.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *desister*, from L. *desistere*, from *de-* 'down from' + *sistere* 'to stop'.

desk ▶ n. 1 a piece of furniture with a flat or sloped surface at which one can read, write, or do other work. 2 a counter in a hotel, bank, airport, etc. 3 a specified section of a news organization: *the sports desk*. 4 Music a position in an orchestra at which two players share a music stand.

– ORIGIN ME: from med. L. *desca*, prob. based on Provençal *desca* 'basket' or Ital. *desco* 'table, butcher's block', both based on L. *discus* (see **DISCUS**).

deskill ▶ v. reduce the level of skill required to carry out (a job).

desk job ▶ n. a clerical or administrative job.

desk jockey ▶ n. N. Amer. informal, chiefly derogatory a person who works at a desk; an office worker.

desktop ▶ n. 1 the working surface of a desk.

2 (also **desktop computer**) a computer suitable for use at an ordinary desk. 3 the working area of a computer screen regarded as representing a notional desktop.

desktop publishing ▶ n. the production of high-quality printed matter by means of a printer linked to a desktop computer.

desman /dezɪmən/ ▶ n. a small semiaquatic mammal related to the mole. [*Desmana moschata* (Russia) and *Galemys pyrenaicus* (the Pyrenees).]

– ORIGIN C18: via Fr. and Ger. from Swed. *desman-råtta* 'muskrat', from *desman* 'musk'.

desmid /dezɪmɪd/ ▶ n. Biology a single-celled freshwater alga which appears to be composed of two rigid cells with a shared nucleus. [Family *Desmidiaceae*.]

– ORIGIN C19: from mod. L. *Desmidium* (genus name), from Gk *desmos* 'band, chain' (because the algae are often found united in chains or masses).

desolate ▶ adj. /des(ə)lət/ 1 giving an impression of bleak and dismal emptiness. 2 utterly wretched and unhappy. ▶ v. /desəleɪt/ make desolate.

– DERIVATIVES **desolately** adv. **desolateness** n.

desolation n. **desolator** n.

– ORIGIN ME: from L. *desolat-*, *desolare* 'abandon', from *de-* 'thoroughly' + *solus* 'alone'.

desorb /di'sɔ:b/ ▶ v. Chemistry cause the release of (an adsorbed substance) from a surface.

– DERIVATIVES **desorbent** adj. & n. **desorber** n. **desorption** n.

detached ▶ adj. **1** separate or disconnected. ■ (of a house) not joined to another on either side. **2** aloof and objective. **3** denoting a retina that has become separated from the underlying choroid tissue at the back of the eye, causing loss of vision in the affected area.

– DERIVATIVES **detachedly** adv.

detachment ▶ n. **1** the state of being objective or aloof. **2** Military a group of troops, ships, etc. sent away on a separate mission. **3** the action or process of detaching.

detail ▶ n. **1** a small individual feature, fact, or item.

■ a small part of a picture reproduced separately for close study. **2** a small detachment of troops or police officers given a special duty. ■ a special duty assigned to such a detachment. ▶ v. **1** describe item by item; give the full particulars of. **2** assign to undertake a particular task.

– PHRASES **go into detail** give a full account of something. **in detail** as regards every feature or aspect; fully.

– ORIGIN C17: from Fr. *détail* (n.), *détailler* (v.), from *dé-* (expressing separation) + *tailler* 'to cut'.

detailed ▶ adj. including many details. ■ showing attention to detail.

detailing ▶ n. small decorative features on a building, garment, or work of art.

detain ▶ v. **1** keep (someone) from proceeding by holding them back or making claims on their attention. **2** keep (someone) in official custody.

– DERIVATIVES **detainment** n.

– ORIGIN ME (in the sense 'be afflicted with sickness or infirmity'): from OFr. *detenir*, from a var. of L. *detinere*, from *de-* 'away, aside' + *tenere* 'to hold'.

detainee /dɪ'teɪniː, diː-/ ▶ n. a person held in custody, especially for political reasons.

detainer ▶ n. Law **1** the action of withholding property. **2** an order authorizing the continued detention of a person in custody.

detangle ▶ v. remove tangles from.

detect ▶ v. **1** discover or identify the presence or existence of. **2** discover or investigate (a crime or its perpetrators). **3** discern (something intangible or barely perceptible).

– DERIVATIVES **detectable** adj. **detectably** adv. **detection** n.

– ORIGIN ME: from L. *detect-*, *detegere* 'uncover' from *de-* (expressing reversal) + *tegere* 'to cover'.

detective ▶ n. a person, especially a police officer, whose occupation is to investigate crimes. ■ [as modifier] concerning crime and its investigation: *detective work*.

detector ▶ n. a device designed to detect the presence of a particular object or substance and to emit a signal in response.

detectorist ▶ n. a person who uses a metal detector for a hobby.

detent /dɪ'tent/ ▶ n. a catch in a machine which prevents motion until released. ■ (in a clock) a catch that regulates striking.

– ORIGIN C17: from Fr. *détente*, from OFr. *destente*, from *destendre* 'slacken'.

détente /deɪ'tɑːnt/ ▶ n. the easing of hostility or strained relations between countries.

– ORIGIN early 20th cent.: Fr., 'loosening, relaxation'.

detention ▶ n. **1** the action or state of detaining or being detained. **2** the punishment of being kept in school after hours.

– ORIGIN ME: from late L. *detentio*(-n-), from L. *detinere* (see **DETAIN**).

detention centre ▶ n. an institution where people, in particular refugees and people awaiting trial, are detained for short periods.

deter /dɪ'təː/ ▶ v. (**deters**, **deterring**, **deterred**) discourage (someone) from doing something by instilling fear of the consequences. ■ prevent the occurrence of.

– ORIGIN C16: from L. *deterrere*, from *de-* 'away from' + *terrere* 'frighten'.

detergent ▶ n. a soluble cleansing agent which combines with impurities and dirt to make them more soluble. ▶ adj. relating to detergents or their action.

– DERIVATIVES **detergence** n. **detergency** n.

– ORIGIN C17 (as adj.): from L. *detergent-*, *detegere*, 'wipe away'.

deteriorate /dɪ'tɪəriəreɪt/ ▶ v. become progressively worse.

– DERIVATIVES **deterioration** n. **deteriorative** adj.

– ORIGIN C16: from late L. *deteriorat-*, *deteriorare*, from L. *deterior* 'worse'.

determinable ▶ adj. **1** able to be determined. **2** Law capable of being brought to an end under given conditions.

determinant /dɪ'tɜːmɪnənt/ ▶ n. **1** a factor which determines the nature or outcome of something.

2 Biology a gene determining the character and development of particular cells in an organism.

3 Mathematics a quantity obtained by the addition of products of the elements of a square matrix according to a given rule. ▶ adj. serving to determine or decide something.

determinate /dɪ'tɜːmɪnət/ ▶ adj. **1** having exact and discernible limits or form. **2** Botany (of a flowering shoot) having the main axis ending in a flower, as in a cyme.

– DERIVATIVES **determinacy** n. **determinately** adv. **determinateness** n.

determination ▶ n. **1** the quality of being determined; firmness of purpose. **2** the process of determining something. ■ Law the settlement of a dispute by the authoritative decision of a judge or arbitrator. ■ Law a judicial decision or sentence.

3 Law the cessation of an estate or interest. **4** archaic a tendency to move in a fixed direction.

determinative /dɪ'tɜːmɪnətɪv/ ▶ adj. chiefly Law serving to define, qualify, or direct. ▶ n. Grammar another term for **DETERMINER**.

determine /dɪ'tɜːmɪn/ ▶ v. **1** cause to occur in a particular way; be the decisive factor in. **2** firmly decide: *she determined to tackle Stephen the next day*. **3** ascertain or establish by research or calculation. **4** Mathematics specify the value, position, or form of (a mathematical or geometrical object) uniquely. **5** Law, archaic bring or come to an end.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *determiner*, from L. *determinare* 'limit, fix', from *de-* 'completely' + *terminare* 'terminate'.

determined ▶ adj. having firmness of purpose; resolute.

– DERIVATIVES **determinedly** adv. **determinedness** n.

determiner ▶ n. **1** a person or thing that determines something. **2** Grammar a modifying word that determines the kind of reference a noun or noun group has, for example *a, the, every*.

determinism ▶ n. Philosophy the doctrine that all events and actions are ultimately determined by causes regarded as external to the will.

– DERIVATIVES **determinist** n. & adj. **deterministic** adj. **deterministically** adv.

deterrent /dɪ'ter(ə)nt/ ▶ n. a thing that deters or is intended to deter someone from doing something.

▶ adj. able or intended to deter.

– DERIVATIVES **deterrence** n.

detest ▶ v. dislike intensely.

– DERIVATIVES **detester** n.

– ORIGIN C15: from L. *detestari*, from *de-* 'down' + *testari* 'witness, call upon to witness' (from *testis* 'a witness').

detestable ▶ adj. deserving intense dislike.

– DERIVATIVES **detestably** adv.

detestation /dɪ'teɪstəʃ(ə)n/ ▶ n. intense dislike.

■ archaic a detested person or thing.

dethrone ▶ v. remove (a monarch) from power.

■ remove from a position of authority or dominance.

– DERIVATIVES **dethronement** n.

detinue /dɪ'tnjuː/ ▶ n. Law the crime of wrongful detention of goods or personal possessions.

– ORIGIN ME: from OFr. *detenuer*, past part. (used as n.) of *detenir* 'detain'.

detonate /dɪ'təneɪt/ ▶ v. explode or cause to explode.

– DERIVATIVES **detonation** n. **detonative** adj.

– ORIGIN C18 (earlier (C17) as *detonation*): from L.

detonat-, *detonare*, from *de-* 'down' + *tonare* 'to thunder'.

detonator ▶ n. a device or small sensitive charge used to detonate an explosive. ■ Brit. another term for **FOG SIGNAL**.