“De” prefix

(When de- has been used in English to form a new English word from another English word, it is pronounced with a long e sound.)

desensitize deactivate

decertification dehumanize

deconstruction despiritualize

delocalized decontaminate

decompose detoxify

deconstructive decompression

destabilize decriminalize

decaffeinated dehydrogenated

deodorize desegregation

deconsecrate dehumidify

decompose dehydrate

decertify deforest

decouple degrease

dethrone demoralize

defrost (exception) deescalate

(When de- has not been used to form a new English word from another English word, it is pronounced with a short i sound.)

detach deductible

detectable defective

defense detest

desire detail (unless noun)

determine deterioriate

depreciation degenerative

deceptive depression

department detergent

depend / dependant deciduous

depressed deceased

deposit deprive

1. He has become desensitized to the harsh detergent.
2. All the rooms of that department need to be deodorized.
3. Deceased people are decomposing in their graves.
4. The depressed patient feels dehumanized.
5. He detests the humidity so he bought a dehumidifier.
6. He desires a deciduous tree in his yard.
7. If you deposit food scraps into the compost bin, they will decompose.
8. The team became depressed and demoralized after losing every game.
9. The citizens detested their government, which destabilized their economy.
10. After detecting heavy metals in the patient’s blood, the doctor recommended a detox.

