

**Deficient numbers**, in arithmetic, are those numbers, whose parts, added together, make less than the integer, whose parts they are. *Johnson.*

**DEFICIT**, *n.* Want; deficiency; as a deficit in the taxes or revenue.

**DEFIER**, *n.* [See *Defy*.] A challenger; one who dares to combat or encounter; one who braves; one who acts in contempt of opposition, law or authority; as a defier of the laws.

**DEFIGURATION**, *n.* A disfiguring. [Not in use.] *Hall.*

**DEFIGURE**, *v. t.* To delineate. [Not in use.] *Weaver.*

**DEFILE**, *v. t.* [Sax. *afylan*, *befylan*, *gefyfan*, *afulan*, from *ful*, *fula*, foul. See *Foul*. The Syr. *ʿafal* is almost precisely the English word. Cast. 1553.]

1. To make unclean; to render foul or dirty; in a general sense.

2. To make impure; to render turbid; as, the water or liquor is defiled.

3. To soil or sully; to tarnish; as reputation, &c.

He is among the greatest prelates of the age, however his character may be defiled by bad hands. *Swift.*

They shall defile thy brightness. Ezek. xxxviii.

4. To pollute; to make ceremonially unclean.

That which dieth of itself, he shall not eat, to defile himself thereof. Lev. xxi.

5. To corrupt chastity; to debauch; to violate; to tarnish the purity of character by lewdness.

Scheherazade defiled Dinah. Gen. xxxiv.

6. To taint, in a moral sense; to corrupt; to violate; to render impure with sin.

Defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt. Ezek. xx.

He hath defiled the sanctuary of the Lord. Numb. xix.

**DEFILE**, *v. i.* [Fr. *defiler*; de au] file, a row or line, from *l. flum*, a thread.]

To march off in a line, or file by file; to file off. *Roccos.*

**DEFILE**, *n.* [Fr. *defilé*, from *fil*, *file*, a thread, a line.]

A narrow passage or way, in which troops may march only in a file, or with a narrow front; a long narrow pass, as between hills, &c.

**DEFILED**, *pp.* Made dirty, or foul; polluted; soiled; corrupted; violated; violated.

**DEFILEMENT**, *n.* The act of defiling, or state of being defiled; foulness; dirtiness; uncleanness.

2. Corruption of morals, principles or character; impurity; pollution by sin.

The chaste cannot take into such filth without danger of defilement. *Addison.*

**DEFILER**, *n.* One who defiles; one who corrupts or violates; that which pollutes.

**DEFILING**, *pp.* Polluting; making impure.

3. Marching in a file, or with a narrow front.

**DEFINABLE**, *a.* [See *Define*.] Literally, that may be limited, or have its limits ascertained. Hence, capable of having its extent ascertained with precision; capable of being fixed and determined. The extent of the Russian empire is hardly definable. The limits are hardly definable.

2. That may be defined or described; capa-

ble of having its signification rendered certain, or expressed with certainty or precision; as *definable words*.

3. That may be fixed, determined, or ascertained; as, the time or period is not definable.

**DEFINE**, *v. t.* [L. *definio*; de and *finio*, to end, to limit, from *finis*, end; Fr. *definir*; Sp. *definir*; It. *definire*.]

1. To determine or describe the end or limit; as, to define the extent of a kingdom or country.

2. To determine with precision; to ascertain; as, to define the limits of a kingdom.

3. To mark the limit; to circumscribe; to bound.

4. To determine or ascertain the extent of the meaning of a word; to ascertain the signification of a term; to explain what a word is understood to express; as, to define the words, *virtue*, *courage*, *belief*, or *charity*.

5. To describe; to ascertain or explain the distinctive properties or circumstances of a thing; as, to define a line or an angle.

**DEFINE**, *v. i.* To determine; to decide. [Not used.] *Bacon.*

**DEFINED**, *pp.* Determined; having the extent ascertained; having the signification determined.

2. Having the precise limit marked, or having a determinate limit; as, the shadow of a body is well defined.

**DEFINER**, *n.* He who defines; he who ascertains or marks the limits; he who determines or explains the signification of a word, or describes the distinctive properties of a thing.

**DEFINING**, *pp.* Determining the limits; ascertaining the extent; explaining the meaning; describing the properties.

**DEFINITE**, *a.* [L. *definitus*.] Having certain limits; bounded with precision; determinate; as a definite extent of land; definite dimensions; definite measure.

2. Having certain limits in signification; determinate; certain; precise; as a definite word, term or expression.

3. Fixed; determinate; exact; precise; as a definite time or period.

4. Defining; limiting; determining the extent; as a definite word.

**DEFINITE**, *n.* Thing defined. *Ayliffe.*

**DEFINITENESS**, *n.* Certainty of extent; certainty of signification; definiteness.

**DEFINITION**, *n.* [L. *definitio*. See *Define*.]

1. A brief description of a thing by its properties; as a definition of wit or of a circle.

2. In logic, the explication of the essence of a thing by its kind and difference.

3. In lexicography, an explanation of the signification of a word or term, or of what a word is understood to express.

**DEFINITIVE**, *a.* [L. *definitivus*.] Limiting the extent; determinate; positive; express; as a definitive term.

2. Limiting; ending; determining; final; opposed to conditional, provisional, or interlatory; as a definitive sentence or decree.

**DEFINITIVE**, *n.* In grammar, an adjective used to define or limit the extent of the signification of an appellative or common noun. Such are the Greek  $\alpha, \gamma, \epsilon$ , &c.; the Latin *hic, ille, ipse*; *this, this and that*,

in English; *le, la, les*, in French; *il, la, lo*, in Italian. Thus *tree* is an appellative or common noun; the *tree, this tree, that tree*, designate a particular tree, determinate or known. *Homo* signifies man; *hic homo, ille homo*, a particular man, &c. But in some languages, the definitives have lost their original use, in a great degree; as in the Greek and French. Thus "La force de la vertu," must be rendered in English, the force of virtue, not the force of the virtue. The first *la* is a definitive; the last has no definitive effect.

**DEFINITIVELY**, *adv.* Determinately; positively; expressly.

2. Finally; conclusively; unconditionally; as, the points between the parties are definitively settled.

**DEFINITIVENESS**, *n.* Determinateness; decisiveness; conclusiveness.

**DEFIX**, *v. t.* [L. *defigo*.] To fix; to fasten. [Not used.] *Herbert.*

**DEFLAGRABILITY**, *n.* [See *Deflagrate*.] Combustibility; the quality of taking fire and burning away, as a metallic wire; a chemical term. *Boyle.*

**DEFLAGRABLE**, *a.* Combustible; having the quality of taking fire and burning, as alcohol, oils, &c. *Boyle.*

**DEFLAGRATE**, *v. t.* [L. *deflagro*; de and *flago*, to burn.]

To set fire to; to burn; to consume; as, to deflagrate oil or spirit.

**DEFLAGRATION**, *n.* A kindling or setting fire to a substance; burning; combustion.

The strength of spirit is proved by deflagration. *Encyc.*

A rapid combustion of a mixture, attended with much evolution of flame and vapor, as of niter and charcoal. *Cyc.*

This term is also applied to the rapid combustion of metals by galvanism.

**DEFLAGRATOR**, *n.* A galvanic instrument for producing combustion, particularly the combustion of metallic substances. *Hare.*

**DEFLECT**, *v. i.* [L. *deflecto*; de and *flecto*, to turn or bend.]

To turn from or aside; to deviate from a true course or right line; to swerve.

The needle deflects from the meridian. *Brown.*

**DEFLECT**, *v. t.* To turn aside; to turn or bend from a right line or regular course.

**DEFLECTED**, *pp.* Turned aside, or from a direct line or course. In botany, bending downward archwise.

**DEFLECTING**, *pp.* Turning aside; turning from a right line or regular course.

**DEFLECTION**, *n.* Deviation; the act of turning aside; a turning from a true line or the regular course.

2. The departure of a ship from its true course.

3. A deviation of the rays of light towards the surface of an opaque body; inflection. *Hoake.*

**DEFLEXURE**, *n.* A bending down; a turning aside; deviation.

**DEFLORATE**, *a.* [L. *defloratus*, from *defloro*, to deflower; de and *floreo*, flos. See *Flower*.]

In botany, having cast its farin, pollen, or fecundating dust. *Martyn.*

**DEFLORATION**, *n.* [Fr. See *Deflower*.]

1. The act of deflowering; the act of depri-