

6. Eminence; superiority; elevation of rank in society, or elevation of character; honorable estimation. Men who hold a high rank by birth or office, and men who are eminent for their talents, services or worth, are called men of *distinction*, as being raised above others by positive institutions or by reputation. So we say, a man of *note*.
7. That which confers eminence or superiority; office, rank or public favor.
8. Discernment; judgment. *Johnson*.

**DISTINCTIVE**, *a.* That marks distinction or difference; as *distinctive* names or titles.

2. Having the power to distinguish and discern. [*Less proper.*] *Brown*.

**DISTINCTIVELY**, *adv.* With distinction; plainly.

**DISTINCTLY**, *adv.* Separately; with distinction; not confusedly; without the blending of one part or thing with another; as a proposition *distinctly* understood; a figure *distinctly* defined. Hence,

2. Clearly; plainly; as, to view an object *distinctly*.

**DISTINCTNESS**, *n.* The quality or state of being distinct; a separation or difference that prevents confusion of parts or things; as the *distinctness* of two ideas, or of distant objects.

2. Nice discrimination; whence, clearness; precision; as, he stated his arguments with great *distinctness*.

**DISTINGUISH**, *v. t.* [*L. distinguo; dis and stingo or stingo, n.* not radical. This seems to be Gr. *σίζω, σίζω*, for the second future is *σίζω*, and the derivatives prove the primary elements to be *stg*, as in *σίζω, σίζω, σίζω*. Hence also *L. stigo*, whence inflects, *to instigate*. The primary sense is, to prick, to pierce with a sharp point, to thrust in or on; and we retain the precise word in the verb, *to stick*, which see. The practice of making marks by puncturing, or sticking, gave rise to the applications of this word, as such marks were used to note and ascertain different things, to *distinguish* them. See *Ertinguish*, and Class Dg. No. 31.]

1. To ascertain and indicate difference by some external mark. The farmer *distinguishes* his sheep by marking their ears. The manufacturer *distinguishes* pieces of cloth by some mark or impression.

2. To separate one thing from another by some mark or quality; to know or ascertain difference.

*First*, by sight; as, to *distinguish* one's own children from others by their features.

*Secondly*, by feeling. A blind man *distinguishes* an egg from an orange, but rarely *distinguishes* colors.

*Thirdly*, by smell; as, it is easy to *distinguish* the smell of a peach from that of an apple.

*Fourthly*, by taste; as, to *distinguish* a plum from a pear.

*Fifthly*, by hearing; as, to *distinguish* the sound of a drum from that of a violin.

*Sixthly*, by the understanding; as, to *distinguish* vice from virtue, truth from falsehood.

3. To separate or divide by any mark or quality which constitutes difference. We *distinguish* sounds into high and low, soft and harsh, lively and grave. We *distinguish*

*guish* causes into direct and indirect, immediate and mediate.

4. To discern critically; to judge.

Nor more can you *distinguish* of a man, Than of his outward show. *Shak.*

5. To separate from others by some mark of honor or preference. Homer and Virgil are *distinguished* as poets; Demosthenes and Cicero, as orators.

6. To make evident or known. *Johnson*.

**DISTINGUISH**, *v. i.* To make a distinction; to find or show the difference. It is the province of a judge to *distinguish* between cases apparently similar, but differing in principle.

**DISTINGUISHABLE**, *a.* Capable of being distinguished; that may be separated, known or made known, by notes of diversity, or by any difference. A tree at a distance is *distinguishable* from a shrub. A simple idea is not *distinguishable* into different ideas.

2. Worthy of note or special regard. *Swift*.

**DISTINGUISHED**, *pp.* Separated or known by a mark of difference, or by different qualities.

2. *a.* Separated from others by superior or extraordinary qualities; whence, eminent; extraordinary; transcendent; noted; famous; celebrated. Thus, we admire *distinguished* men, *distinguished* talents or virtues, and *distinguished* services.

**DISTINGUISHER**, *n.* He or that which distinguishes, or that separates one thing from another by marks of diversity. *Brown*.

2. One who discerns accurately the difference of things; a nice or judicious observer. *Dryden*.

**DISTINGUISHING**, *ppr.* Separating from others by a note of diversity; ascertaining difference by a mark.

2. Ascertaining, knowing or perceiving a difference.

3. *a.* Constituting difference, or distinction from every thing else; peculiar; as the *distinguishing* doctrines of christianity.

**DISTINGUISHINGLY**, *adv.* With distinction; with some mark of preference. *Pope*.

**DISTINGUISHMENT**, *n.* Distinction; observation of difference. *Graunt*.

**DISTITILE**, *v. t.* To deprive of right. *B. Jonson*.

**DISTORT**, *v. t.* [*L. distortus, distorto; dis and torquere, to twist, Fr. tordre, Sp. torcer.*]

1. To twist out of natural or regular shape; as, to *distort* the neck, the limbs or the body; to *distort* the features.

2. To force or put out of the true posture or direction.

Wrath and malice, envy and revenge *distort* the understanding. *Tillotson*.

3. To wrest from the true meaning; to pervert; as, to *distort* passages of scripture, or their meaning.

**DISTORTED**, *a.* Distorted. *Spenser*.

**DISTORTED**, *pp.* Twisted out of natural or regular shape; wrested; perverted.

**DISTORTING**, *ppr.* Twisting out of shape; wresting; perverting.

**DISTORTION**, *n.* [*L. distortio.*] The act of distorting or wresting; a twisting out of regular shape; a twisting or writhing

motion; as the *distortions* of the face or body.

2. The state of being twisted out of shape; deviation from natural shape or position; crookedness; grimace.

3. A perversion of the true meaning of words.

**DISTRACT**, *v. t.* [*L. distractus, distraho; dis and traho, to draw. See Draw and Drag.* The old participle *distraught* is obsolete.]

1. Literally, to draw apart; to pull in different directions, and separate. Hence, to divide; to separate; and hence, to throw into confusion. Sometimes in a literal sense. Contradictory or mistaken orders may *distract* an army.

2. To turn or draw from any object; to divert from any point, towards another point or toward various other objects; as, to *distract* the eye or the attention.

If he cannot avoid the eye of the observer, he hopes to *distract* it by a multiplicity of the object. *South*.

3. To draw towards different objects; to fill with different considerations; to perplex; to confound; to harass; as, to *distract* the mind with cares; you *distract* me with your clamor.

While I suffer thy terrors, I am *distracted*. *Ps. lxxxviii.*

4. To disorder the reason; to derange the regular operations of intellect; to render raving or furious; most frequently used in the participle *distracted*.

**DISTRACT**, *a. Mad.* [*Not in use.*]

**DISTRACTED**, *pp.* Drawn apart; drawn in different directions; diverted from its object; perplexed; harassed; confounded.

2. *a.* Deranged; disordered in intellect; raving; furious; mad; frantic. *Locke*.

**DISTRACTEDLY**, *adv.* Madly; furiously; wildly. *Shak.*

**DISTRACEDNESS**, *n.* A state of being mad; madness. *Bp. Hall*.

**DISTRACTER**, *n.* One who distracts. *More*.

**DISTRACTING**, *ppr.* Drawing apart; separating; diverting from an object; perplexing; harassing; disordering the intellect.

**DISTRACTION**, *n.* [*L. distractio.*] The act of distracting; a drawing apart; separation.

2. Confusion from a multiplicity of objects crowding on the mind and calling the attention different ways; perturbation of mind; perplexity; as, the family was in a state of *distractio*. [*See I Cor. vii.*]

3. Confusion of affairs; tumult; disorder; as political *distractions*.

Never was known a night of such *distractio*. *Dryden*.

4. Madness; a state of disordered reason; franticness; furiousness. [*We usually apply this word to a state of derangement which produces raving and violence in the patient.*]

5. Folly in the extreme, or amounting to insanity.

On the supposition of the truth of the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, irreligion is nothing better than *distractio*. *Buckminster*.

**DISTRACTIVE**, *a.* Causing perplexity; as *distractive* cares. *Dryden*.

**DISTRAIN**, *v. t.* [*L. distringo; dis and*