

Never circulate reports that *detract* from the reputation or honor of your neighbor, without obvious necessity to justify the act. *Anon.*

2. To take away; to withdraw, in a *literal sense*. *Wotton. Boyle.*

DETRACT, *n.* [*L. detractio*.] The act of taking something from the reputation or worth of another, with the view to lessen him in estimation; censure; a lessening of worth; the act of depreciating another, from envy or malice. Detraction may consist in representing merit, as less than it really is; or in the imputation of faults, vices or crimes, which impair reputation; and if such imputation is false, it is slander or defamation.

DETRACTIOUS, *a.* Containing detraction; lessening reputation. [*Not in use.*]

DETRACTIVE, *a.* Having the quality or tendency to lessen the worth or estimation.

DETRACTOR, *n.* One who takes away or impairs the reputation of another injuriously; one who attempts to lessen the worth or honor of another.

DETRACTORY, *a.* Derogatory; defamatory by denial of desert; with *from*. *Johnson. Boyle.*

DETRACTRESS, *n.* A female detractor; a censorious woman.

DETECT, *v. t.* [*L. detecto*.] To refuse. [*Not in use.*] *Fotherby.*

DETRIMENT, *n.* [*L. detrimentum*. *Qi. deter*, worse, or *detero*, *detrin*, worn off.] Loss; damage; injury; mischief; harm; diminution. We speak of *detriment* to interest, property, religion, morals, reputation, and to kind or buildings. *It is a word of very general application.*

DETRIMENTAL, *a.* Injurious; hurtful; causing loss or damage.

A spirit of speculation may be *detrimental* to regular commerce. *Anon.*

DETRITION, *n.* [*L. detero*.] A wearing off. *Stevens.*

DETRITUS, *n.* [*L. detritus*, worn; *detero*, to wear.]

In *geology*, a mass of substances worn off or detached from solid bodies by attrition; as diluvial *detritus*. *Buckland.*

DETRUDE, *v. t.* [*L. detruo*, *de* and *trudo*, to thrust.] To thrust down; to push down with force. *Locke. Thomson.*

DETRUDING, *ppr.* Thrust or forced down.

DETRUNCATE, *v. t.* [*L. detrunc*, *de* and *trunc*, to cut shorter; *truncus*, cut short; *Fr. trancher*; *Arm. troucha*, or *trancha*. See *Trench*.] To cut off; to lop; to shorten by cutting.

DETRUNCATION, *n.* The act of cutting off.

DETRUSION, *n.* *s. as* *z.* [*See Detrude*.] The act of thrusting or driving down.

DETURPATE, *v. t.* [*L. deturpo*.] To defile. [*Little used.*] *Taylor.*

DEUCE, *n.* [*Fr. deux*, two.] Two; a card with two spots; a die with two spots; a term used in gaming.

DEUCE, *n.* A demon. [*See Duse*.]

DEUTEROGAMIST, *n.* [*infra*.] One who marries the second time. *Goldsmith.*

DEUTEROGAMY, *n.* [*Gr. δευτερος*, second, and *γamos*, marriage.]

A second marriage after the death of the first husband or wife. *Goldsmith.*

DEUTERONOMY, *n.* [*Gr. δευτερος*, second, and *νομος*, law.]

The second law, or second giving of the law by Moses; the name given to the fifth book of the Pentateuch.

DEUTONY, *n.* [*Gr. δευτερος*, second, and *ονυ*; strictly, *deuteronny*.]

In *chemistry*, a substance oxydized in the second degree.

DEVAPORATION, *n.* [*de* and *L. vaporatio*.] The change of vapor into water, as in the generation of rain. *Darwin.*

DEVAST, *v. t.* [*L. devasto*.] To lay waste; to plunder. [*Not in use.*] *Sandys.*

DEVASTATE, *v. t.* [*L. devasto*; *de* and *vasto*, to waste; *Fr. devastar*; *Sp. devastar*; *It. devastare*. See *Waste*.]

To lay waste; to waste; to ravage; to desolate; to destroy improvements.

DEVASTATED, *pp.* Laid waste; ravaged.

DEVASTATING, *ppr.* Laying waste; desolating.

DEVASTATION, *n.* [*L. devastatio*.] Waste; ravage; desolation; destruction of works of art and natural productions which are necessary or useful to man; havoc; as by armies, fire, flood, &c.

2. In *law*, waste of the goods of the deceased by an executor, or administrator.

DEVELOP, *v. t.* [*Fr. developper*; *It. sviluppare*, to unfold, to display; *viluppo*, a packet or bundle, intricacy.]

1. To uncover; to unfold; to lay open; to disclose or make known something concealed or withheld from notice.

The General began to *develop* the plan of his operations.

These serve to *develop* its tenets. *Milner.*

2. To unravel; to unfold what is intricate; as, to *develop* a plot.

DEVELOPED, *pp.* Unfolded; laid open; unraveled.

DEVELOPING, *ppr.* Unfolding; disclosing; unraveling.

DEVELOPMENT, *n.* An unfolding; the discovering of something secret or withheld from the knowledge of others; disclosure; full exhibition.

2. The unraveling of a plot.

DEVEST, *v. t.* [*Fr. vestir*; *de* and *vestir*, to clothe; *L. vestio*, *id.*, *vestis*, a vest, a garment. Generally written *divest*.]

1. To strip; to deprive of clothing or arms; to take off. *Denham.*

2. To deprive; to take away; as, to *devest* a man or nation of rights. [*See Divest*.]

3. To free from; to disengage.

4. In *law*, to alienate, as title or right.

DEVEST, *v. i.* In *law*, to be lost or alienated, as a title or an estate.

[This word is generally written *divest*, except in the latter and legal sense.]

DEVESTED, *pp.* Stripped of clothes; deprived; freed from; alienated or lost, as title.

DEVESTING, *ppr.* Stripping of clothes; depriving; freeing from; alienating.

DEVEX, *a.* [*L. devexus*.] Bending down. [*Not in use.*]

DEVEXITY, *n.* [*L. devexitas*, from *de* and *veho*, to carry.]

A bending downward; a sloping; inclination downward. *Davies.*

DEVIATE, *v. i.* [*It. deviare*; *Sp. desviarse*; *L. devius*; *de*, from, and *via*, way.]

1. To turn aside or wander from the common or right way, course or line, either in a literal or figurative sense; as, to *deviate* from the common track or path, or from a true course.

There nature *deviates*, and here wanders will. *Pope.*

2. To stray from the path of duty; to wander, in a moral sense; to err; to sin.

DEVIA, *n.* A wandering or turning aside from the right way, course or line.

2. Variation from a common or established rule, or from analogy.

3. A wandering from the path of duty; want of conformity to the rules prescribed by God; error; sin; obliquity of conduct.

4. In *commerce*, the voluntary departure of a ship, without necessity, from the regular and usual course of the specific voyage insured. This discharges the underwriters from their responsibility. *Park.*

DEVISE, *n.* [*Fr. devis*, *devise*; *It. divisa*; from *L. divinus*, *divido*.]

1. That which is formed by design, or invented; scheme; artificial contrivance; stratagem; project; sometimes in a good sense; more generally in a bad sense, as artifices are usually employed for bad purposes.

In a good sense: His device is against Babylon, to destroy it. *Jer. ii.*

In a bad sense: He disappointed the *devices* of the crafty. *Job v.*

They imagined a mischievous *device*. *Ps. xxi.*

2. An emblem intended to represent a family, person, action or quality, with a suitable motto; used in painting, sculpture and heraldry. It consists in a metaphorical similitude between the things representing and represented, as the figure of a plow representing agriculture.

Knights-errant used to distinguish themselves by *devices* on their shields. *Addison.*

3. Invention; genius; faculty of devising; as a man of noble *device*. *Shak.*

4. A spectacle or show. *Obs.* *Beaumont.*

DEVICIFUL, *a.* Full of devices; inventive. *Spenser.*

DEVICIFULLY, *adv.* In a manner curiously contrived. *Donne.*

DEVIL, *n.* *devil*. [*Sax. diabol*; *D. diavol*; *Russ. diavol*; *Tartar, diav*; *L. diabolus*; *Gr. διαβολος*, said to be from *διαβαλλω*, to calumniate; *Fr. diable*; *Sp. diablo*; *Port. diabo*; *It. diavolo*. The *Armenian* is *diav*; *W. diavel*, which Owen supposes to be compounded of *di*, a negative, and *avel*, light—one without light, [prince of darkness.] The Irish is *diabhal*, which, according to O'Brien, is composed of *dia*, deity, and *bhal*, air, [god of the air.] In these Celtic words are justly explained, they are not connected with *diabolus*, or the latter is erroneously deduced.]

1. In the *christian theology*, an evil spirit or being; a fallen angel, expelled from heaven for rebellion against God; the chief of the apostate angels; the implacable enemy and tempter of the human race. In the New Testament, the word is frequently and erroneously used for *demon*.

2. A very wicked person, and in ludicrous