

8. A body or board of directors.

**DIRECTIVE**, *a.* Having the power of direction; as a *directive* rule. *Hooker.*

2. Informing; instructing; shewing the way.

**DIRECTLY**, *adv.* In a straight line or course; rectilinearly; not in a winding course. Aim *directly* to the object. Gravity tends *directly* to the center of the earth. As a *direct* line is the shortest course, hence

2. Immediately; soon; without delay; as, he will be with us *directly*.

3. Openly; expressly, without circumlocution or ambiguity, or without a train of inferences.

No man hath been so impious, as *directly* to condemn prayer. *Hooker.*

**DIRECTNESS**, *n.* Straightness; a straight course; nearness of way. *Bentley.*

**DIRECTOR**, *n.* One who directs; one who superintends, governs or manages; one who prescribes to others, by virtue of authority; an instructor; a counselor.

2. That which directs; a rule; an ordinance.

3. One appointed to transact the affairs of a company; as the *director* of a bank, or of the India Company.

4. That which directs or controls by influence.

Safety from external danger is the most powerful *director* of national conduct.

*Federalist, Hamilton.*

5. In surgery, a grooved force, intended to direct the edge of the knife or scissors in opening sinuses or fistule; a guide for an incision-knife. *Encyc. Coxe.*

**DIRECTORIAL**, *a.* Pertaining to directors or direction; containing direction or command.

**DIRECTORY**, *a.* Containing directions; enjoining; instructing.

**DIRECTORY**, *n.* A guide; a rule to direct; particularly, a book containing directions for public worship, or religious services. The Bible is our best *directory*, in faith and practice.

2. A book containing an alphabetical list of the inhabitants of a city, with their places of abode.

3. The supreme council of France, in the late revolution.

4. A board of directors.

**DIRECTRESS**, *n.* A female who directs or manages.

**DIRECTRIX**, *n.* A female who governs or directs.

**DIREFUL**, *a.* [See *Diré*.] Dire; dreadful; terrible; calamitous; as *direful* fiend; a *direful* misfortune.

*Spenser. Dryden. Pope.*

**DIREFULLY**, *adv.* Dreadfully; terribly; wofully.

**DIREPTION**, *n.* [L. *direptio*.] A separation. *Bp. Hall.*

**DIRENESS**, *n.* Terribleness; horror; dismalness. *Shak.*

**DIREPTION**, *n.* [L. *direptio*.] The act of plundering.

**DIRGE**, *n. dirj.* [Usually supposed to be a contraction of L. *dirige*, a word used in the funeral service. In Sw. *dyrka*, Dan. *dyrker*, signifies to worship, honor, reverence.]

A song or tune intended to express grief, sorrow and mourning; as a funeral *dirge*.

**DIRECT**, *v. t.* [See *Direct*.] In geometry, *try*, the line of motion along which the descriptive line or surface is carried in the generation of any plane or solid figure. *Encyc.*

**DIRK**, *n. dirk.* [Scot. *durk*.] A kind of dagger or poniard.

**DIRK**, *a. dirk.* Dark. *Obs. Spenser.*

**DIRK**, *v. t. dirk.* To darken. *Obs. Spenser.*

2. To poniard; to stab.

**DIRT**, *n. dirt.* [Sax. *gedritan*; D. *dryten*; Ice. *drit*, *caicare*.]

1. Any foul or filthy substance; excrement; earth; mud; mire; dust; whatever adhering to any thing, renders it foul or unclean.

The fat closed, and the *dirt* came out. *Judges*

iii.

Those waters cast up mire and *dirt*. *Is. lviii.*

2. Meanness; sordidness. [*Not in use.*]

**DIRT**, *v. t. dirt.* To make foul or filthy; to soil; to bedaub; to pollute; to defile.

*Swift.*

**DIRTILY**, *adv. durtily.* [from *dirty*.] In a dirty manner; foully; nastily; filthily.

2. Meanly; sordidly; by low means.

**DIRTINESS**, *n. dirtiness.* Filthiness; foulness; nastiness.

2. Meanness; baseness; sordidness.

**DIRTY**, *a. durt'y.* Foul; nasty; filthy; not clean; as *dirty* hands.

2. Not clean; not pure; turbid; as *dirty* water.

3. Cloudy; dark; dusky; as a *dirty* white.

1. Mean; base; low; despicable; groveling; as a *dirty* fellow; a *dirty* employment.

**DIRTY**, *v. t. durt'y.* To foul; to make filthy; to soil; as, to *dirty* the clothes or hands.

2. To tarnish; to sully; to scandalize; applied to reputation.

**DIRUPTION**, *n.* [L. *diruptio*; *dirumpo*, to burst.] A bursting or rending asunder. [See *Disruption*.]

**DIS**, *a.* prefix or inseparable preposition, from the Latin, whence Fr. *des*, Sp. *dis*, and *de* may in some instances be the same word contracted. *Dis* denotes separation, a parting from; hence it has the force of a privative and negative, as in *disarm*, *disoblige*, *disagree*. In some cases, it still signifies separation, as in *distribute*, *disconnect*.

**DISABILITY**, *n.* [from *disable*.] Want of competent natural or bodily power; strength or ability; weakness; impotence; as *disability* arising from infirmity or broken limbs.

2. Want of competent intellectual power or strength of mind; incapacity; as the *disability* of a deranged person to reason or to make contracts.

3. Want of competent means or instruments. [In this sense, *inability* is generally used.]

4. Want of legal qualifications; incapacity; as a *disability* to inherit an estate, when the ancestor has been attainted. [*In this sense, it has a plural.*] *Blackstone.*

*Disability* differs from *inability*, in denoting deprivation of ability; whereas *inability* denotes destitution of ability, either by deprivation or otherwise.

**DISABLE**, *v. t.* [*dis* and *able*.] To render unable; to deprive of competent natural strength or power. A man is *disabled* to

walk by a broken or paralytic leg, by sickness, &c.

2. To deprive of mental power, as by destroying or weakening the understanding.

3. To deprive of adequate means, instruments or resources. A nation may be *disabled* to carry on war by want of money. The loss of a ship may *disable* a man to prosecute commerce, or to pay his debts.

4. To destroy the strength; or to weaken and impair so as to render incapable of action, service or resistance. A fleet is *disabled* by a storm, or by a battle. A ship is *disabled* by the loss of her masts or spars.

5. To destroy or impair and weaken the means which render any thing active, efficacious or useful; to destroy or diminish any competent means.

6. To deprive of legal qualifications, or competent power; to incapacitate; to render incapable.

An attainer of the ancestor corrupts the blood and *disables* his children to inherit.

*Eng. Law.*

**DISABLED**, *pp.* Deprived of competent power, corporeal or intellectual; rendered incapable; deprived of means.

**DISABLEMENT**, *n.* Weakness; disability; legal impediment. *Bacon.*

**DISABLING**, *ppr.* Rendering unable or incapable; depriving of adequate power or capacity, or of legal qualifications.

**DISABUSE**, *v. t. disabu'ze.* [Fr. *desabuser*. See *Abuse*.]

To free from mistake; to undeceive; to disengage from fallacy or deception; to set right. It is our duty to *disabuse* ourselves of false notions and prejudices.

If men are now sufficiently enlightened to *disabuse* themselves of artifice, hypocrisy and superstition, they will consider this event as an era in their history. *J. Adams.*

**DISABUSED**, *ppr. disabu'zed.* Undeceived.

**DISABUSING**, *ppr. disabu'zing.* Undeceiving.

**DISACCOMMODATE**, *v. t.* [*dis* and *accommodate*.] To put to inconvenience.

**DISACCOMMODATION**, *n.* [*dis* and *accommodation*.]

A state of being unaccommodated; as a state of being unprepared. *Hale.*

**DISACCORD**, *v. t.* [*dis* and *accord*.] To refuse assent. [*Not used.*] *Spenser.*

**DISACUSTOM**, *v. t.* [*dis* and *accustom*.] To neglect familiar or customary practice; to destroy the force of habit by disuse.

**DISACUSTOMED**, *pp.* Disused; having neglected practice or familiar use. *Tooke.*

**DISACKNOWLEDGE**, *v. t.* [*dis* and *acknowledge*.] To deny; to disown.

**DISACKNOWLEDGED**, *pp.* Denied; disowned.

**DISACKNOWLEDGING**, *ppr.* Denying; disowning.

**DISACQUAINT**, *v. t.* [See *Acquaint*.] To dissolve acquaintance. [*Little used.*]

**DISACQUAINTANCE**, *n.* Neglect or disuse of familiarity, or familiar knowledge of.

**DISADORN**, *v. t.* To deprive of ornaments. *Congreve.*

**DISADVANCE**, *v. t. or i.* To check; to halt. [*Not in use.*] *Spenser.*