

written; as, a general *dictates* orders to his troops.

3. To suggest; to admonish; to direct by impulse on the mind. We say, the spirit of God *dictated* the messages of the prophets to Israel. Conscience often *dictates* to men the rules by which they are to govern their conduct.

DIC'TATE, *n.* An order delivered; a command.

2. A rule, maxim or precept, delivered with authority.

I credit what the Grecian *dictates* say.

3. Suggestion; rule or direction suggested to the mind; as the *dictates* of reason or conscience.

DIC'TATED, *pp.* Delivered with authority; ordered; directed; suggested.

DIC'TATING, *ppr.* Uttering or delivering with authority; instructing what to say or write; ordering; suggesting to the mind.

DICTA'TION, *n.* The act of dictating; the act or practice of prescribing.

It affords security against the *dictation* of laws.

DICTA'TOR, *n.* [L.] One who dictates; one who prescribes rules and maxims for the direction of others.

2. One invested with absolute authority. In ancient Rome, a magistrate, created in times of exigence and distress, and invested with unlimited power. He remained in office six months.

DICTA'TORIAL, *a.* Pertaining to a dictator; absolute; unlimited; uncontrollable.

2. Imperious; dogmatical; overbearing; as, the officer assumed a *dictatorial* tone.

DICTA'TORSHIP, *n.* The office of a dictator; the term of a dictator's office.

2. Authority; imperiousness; dogmatism.

DICTATORY, *a.* Overbearing; dogmatical.

DICTATURE, *n.* The office of a dictator; dictatorship.

2. Absolute authority; the power that dictates.

DICT'ION, *n.* [L. *dictio*, from *dico*, to speak. Class Dg.]

Expression of ideas by words; style; manner of expression.

DICTIONARY, *n.* [Fr. *dictionnaire*; It. *diccionario*; Sp. *diccionario*; from L. *dictio*, a word, or a speaking.]

A book containing the words of a language arranged in alphabetical order, with explanations of their meanings; a lexicon.

DID, *pret. of do*, contracted from *doed*. **I** did, thou didst, he did; we did, you or ye did, they did.

Have ye not read what David *did* when he was hungry? Matt. xii.

The proper signification is, made, executed, performed; but it is used also to express the state of health.

And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther *did*. Esth. ii.

Did is used as the sign of the past tense of verbs, particularly in interrogative and negative sentences; as, *did* he command you to go? He *did* not command me. It is also used to express emphasis; as, *I did* love him beyond measure.

DIDAC'TIC, *a.* [Gr. *διδασκτικός*, from *διδάσκω*, to teach.]

Adapted to teach; preceptive; containing doctrines, precepts, principles or rules; intended to instruct; as a *didactic* poem or essay.

DIDAC'TICALLY, *adv.* In a didactic manner; in a form to teach.

DIDAPPER, *n.* [from *dip*.] A bird that dives into the water, a species of *Colymbus*.

DIDAS'CALIC, *a.* [Gr. *διδασκαλικός*, from *διδάσκω*, to teach.]

Didactic; preceptive; giving precepts. [Litt. *litte* used.]

DID'DER, *v. i.* [Teut. *diddern*; qu. *titter*, *totter*.] To shiver with cold. [Not used.]

DID'DLE, *v. i.* To totter, as a child in walking.

DIDECAHEDRAL, *a.* [*di* and *decahedron*.] In crystallography, having the form of a decahedral prism with pentahedral summits.

DIDODECAHEDRAL, *a.* [*di* and *dodecahedron*.] In crystallography, having the form of a dodecahedral prism with hexahedral summits.

DIDRACHMA, *n.* [Gr.] A piece of money, the fourth of an ounce of silver.

DIDUC'TION, *n.* [L. *diductio*; *di* and *duco*, to draw.]

Separation by withdrawing one part from the other.

DIDYNAMY, *n.* [Gr. *δύς*, *δύς*, and *δυναμις*, power.]

In botany, a plant of four stamens, disposed in two pairs, one being shorter than the other.

DIDYNAMIAN, *a.* Containing four stamens, disposed in pairs, one shorter than the other.

DIE, *v. i.* [Sw. *dé*; Dan. *dær*. This appears to be a contracted word, and the radical letter lost is not obvious. The word *dye*, to tinge, is contracted from *Dye*, and the Arabic root signifies not only to tinge, but to perish; which circumstance would lead one to infer that they are radically one word, and that the primary sense is to plunge, fall or sink. The Saxon *deadian* is evidently a derivative of the participle *dead*. See *Dye*.]

1. To be deprived of respiration, of the circulation of blood, and other bodily functions, and rendered incapable of resuscitation, as animals, either by natural decay, by disease, or by violence; to cease to live; to expire; to debase; to perish; and with respect to man, to depart from this world.

All the first born in the land of Egypt shall *die*. Ex. xi.

The fish that is in the river shall *die*. Ex. vii.

This word is followed by *of* or *by*. Men *die* of disease; of a fever; of sickness; of a fall; of grief. They *die* by the sword; by famine; by pestilence; by violence; by sickness; by disease. In some cases, custom has established the use of the one, to the exclusion of the other; but in many cases, either *by* or *of* may be used at the pleasure of the writer or speaker. The use of *for*, he *died* for this, is not elegant nor common.

2. To be punished with death; to lose life for a crime, or for the sake of another.

I will relieve my master, if I *die* for it. Christ *died* for the ungodly. Rom. v.

Christ *died* for us. 1 Cor. xv.

3. To come to an end; to cease; to be lost; to perish or come to nothing; as, let the secret *die* in your own breast.

4. To sink; to faint.

His heart *died* within him, and he became as a stone. 1 Sam. xvi.

5. To languish with pleasure or tenderness; followed by *away*.

To sounds of heavenly harps she *dies away*. Pope.

6. To languish with affection.

The young men acknowledged that they *died* for Rebecca. Tatter.

7. To recede as sound, and become less distinct; to become less and less; or to vanish from the sight, or disappear gradually.

Sound or color *dies away*.

8. To lose vegetable life; to wither; to perish; as plants or seeds. Plants *die* for want of water. Some plants *die* annually.

9. To become rapid or spiritless, as liquors; mostly used in the participle; as the cider or beer is *dead*.

10. In theology, to perish everlastingly; to suffer divine wrath and punishment in the future world.

11. To become indifferent to, or to cease to be under the power of; as, to *die* to sin.

12. To endure great danger and distress.

I *die* daily. 1 Cor. xv.

To *die away*, to decrease gradually; to cease to blow; as, the wind *dies away*.

DIE, *n.* plu. *dies*. [Fr. *di*, *di*; It. *duo*; Sp. Port. *id*.; Arm. *dîc*; Ir. *disle*.]

1. A small cube, marked on its faces with numbers from one to six, used in gaming, by being thrown from a box.

He ventured his all on the cast of a *die*.

2. Any cubic body; a flat tablet.

3. Hazard; chance.

Such is the *die* of war.

DIE, *n.* plu. *dies*. A stamp used in coining money, in foundries, &c.

DIECIAN, *n.* [Gr. *δύς*, two, and *οίκος*, house.]

In botany, one of a class of plants, whose male and female flowers are on different plants of the same species.

DIER. (See *Dyer*.)

DIESIS, *n.* [Gr. *δύσις*, a division.] In music, the division of a tone, less than a semitone; or an interval consisting of a less or imperfect semitone.

DIE'T, *n.* [L. *dieta*; Gr. *βίαια*, manner of living, mode of life prescribed by a physician, food, a room, parlor or bed room; Sp. *dieta*; Fr. *dîte*; It. *dieta*. In the middle ages, this word was used to denote the provision or food for one day, and for a journey of one day. *Spelman*. Hence it seems to be from *dies*, day, or its root; and hence the word may have come to signify a meal or supper, and the room occupied for eating.]

1. Food or victuals; as, milk is a wholesome *diet*; flesh is nourishing *diet*.

2. Food regulated by a physician, or by medical rules; food prescribed for the prevention or cure of disease, and limited in kind or quantity. I restrained myself to a regular *diet* of flesh once a day.

3. Allowance of provision.

For his diet there was a continual *diet* given him by the king. Jer. lii.