

DESTRUCTIVELY, *adv.* With destruction; ruinously; mischievously; with power to destroy; as *destructively* lewd or intemperate.

DESTRUCTIVENESS, *n.* The quality of destroying or ruining.

DESTRUCTOR, *n.* A destroyer; a consumer. [*Not used.*] *Boyle.*

DESUDATION, *n.* [*Desudo*; *de* and *sudo*, to sweat.]

A sweating; a profuse or morbid sweating, succeeded by an eruption of pustules, called heart-pimples. *Coxe. Encyc.*

DESUETUDE, *n.* [*Desuetudo*, from *desueto*; *de* and *suesco*, to accustom one's self.]

The cessation of use; disuse; discontinuance of practice, custom or fashion. Habit is contracted by practice, and lost by *desuetude*. Words in every language are lost by *desuetude*.

DESULPHURATE, *v. t.* [*de* and *sulphurate* or *sulphur*.] To deprive of sulphur. *Chemistry.*

DESULPHURATED, *pp.* Deprived of sulphur.

DESULPHURATING, *ppr.* Depriving of sulphur.

DESULPHURATION, *n.* The act or operation of depriving of sulphur.

DESULTORILY, *adv.* [*See Desultory.*] In a desultory manner; without method; loosely.

DESULTORINESS, *n.* A desultory manner; unconnectedness; a passing from one thing to another without order or method.

DESULTORY, *a.* [*desultorius*, from *desilio*; *de* and *saltio*, to leap.]

1. Leaping; passing from one thing or subject to another, without order or natural connection; unconnected; inmethodical; as a *desultory* conversation.

2. Coming suddenly; started at the moment; not proceeding from natural order or connection with what precedes; as a *desultory* thought.

DESUME, *v. t.* [*desumo*.] To take from; to borrow. [*Not in use.*] *Hale.*

DETACH, *v. t.* [*Fr. detacher*; *Arm. distagare*; *Sp. Port. destacar*; *It. staccare*; *de* and the root of *Eng. tack*. See *Attach*.]

1. To separate or disunite; to disengage; to part from; as, to *detach* the coats of a bulbous root from each other; to *detach* a man from the interest of the minister, or from a party.

2. To separate men from their companies or regiments; to draw from companies or regiments, as a party of men, and send them on a particular service.

3. To select ships from a fleet and send them on a separate service.

DETACHED, *pp.* Separated; parted from; disunited; drawn and sent on a separate service.

2. *a.* Separated; as *detached* parcells or portions.

DETACHING, *ppr.* Separating; parting from; drawing and sending on a separate employment.

DETACHMENT, *n.* The act of detaching or separating.

2. A body of troops, selected or taken from the main army, and employed on some special service or expedition.

3. A number of ships, taken from a fleet, and sent on a separate service.

DETAILED, *v. t.* [*Fr. detailler*, to cut in pieces; *de* and *tailler*, to cut, *Sp. tallar*, *It. tagliare*.]

1. To relate, report or narrate in particulars; to recite the particulars of; to particularize; to relate minutely and distinctly; as, he *detailed* all the facts in due order.

2. To select, as an officer or soldier from a division, brigade, regiment or battalion.

DETAILED, *n.* [*Fr.*] A narration or report of particulars; a minute and particular account. He related the story in *detailed*. He gave a *detailed* of all the transactions.

2. A selecting of officers or soldiers from the rosters.

DETAILED, *pp.* Related in particulars; minutely recited; selected.

DETAILER, *n.* One who details.

DETAILING, *ppr.* Relating minutely; telling the particulars.

2. Selecting from the rosters.

DETAIN, *v. t.* [*detineo*; *de* and *teneo*, to hold; *Fr. detenir*; *Sp. detener*. See *Tenant*.]

1. To keep back or from; to withhold; to keep what belongs to another. *Detain* not the wages of the hireling. *Taylor.*

2. To keep or restrain from proceeding, either going or coming; to stay or stop. We were *detained* by the rain.

Let us *detain* thee, till we have made ready a kid. *Judges xiii.*

3. To hold in custody. *Blackstone.*

DETAINDER, *n.* A writ. [*See Detinue.*]

DETAINED, *pp.* Withheld; kept back; prevented from going or coming; held; restrained.

DETAINER, *n.* One who withholds what belongs to another; one who detains, stops or prevents from going.

2. In *law*, a holding or keeping possession of what belongs to another; detention of what is another's, though the original taking may be lawful. *Blackstone.*

DETAINING, *ppr.* Withholding what belongs to another; holding back; restraining from going or coming; holding in custody.

DETAINMENT, *n.* The act of detaining; detention. *Blackstone.*

DETECT, *v. t.* [*It. delecto*, *detectus*; *de* and *tego*, to cover, *W. toi*, *Eng. to deck*, which see.]

Literally, to uncover; hence, to discover; to find out; to bring to light; as, to *detect* the ramifications and insinuations of the fine vessels. But this word is especially applied to the discovery of secret crimes and artifices. We *detect* a thief, or the crime of stealing. We *detect* the artifices of the man, or the man himself. We *detect* what is concealed, especially what is concealed by design.

DETECTED, *pp.* Discovered; found out; laid open; brought to light.

DETECTOR, *n.* A discoverer; one who finds out what another attempts to conceal.

DETECTING, *ppr.* Discovering; finding out.

DETECTION, *n.* The act of detecting; discovery of a person or thing attempted to be concealed; as the *detection* of a thief or burglar; the *detection* of fraud or

forgery; the *detection* of artifice, device or a plot.

2. Discovery of any thing before hidden, or unknown.

The sea and rivers are instrumental to the *detection* of amber and other fossils, by washing away the earth that concealed them.

DETENEBRATE, *v. t.* [*It. de* and *tenebra*.] To remove darkness. [*Not in use.*] *Brown.*

DETENT, *n.* [*It. detentus*; *Fr. detente*.] A stop in a clock, which by being lifted up or let down, locks and unlocks the clock in striking. *Encyc.*

DETENTION, *n.* [*See Detain.*] The act of detaining; a withholding from another his right; a keeping what belongs to another, and ought to be restored. *Blackstone.*

2. Confinement; restraint; as *detention* in custody.

3. Delay from necessity; a detaining; as the *detention* of the mail by bad roads.

DETER, *v. t.* [*It. deterreo*; *de* and *terreo*, to frighten.]

1. To discourage and stop by fear; to stop or prevent from acting or proceeding, by danger, difficulty or other consideration which disheartens, or counteracts the motive for an act. We are often *deterred* from our duty by trivial difficulties. The state of the road or a cloudy sky may *deter* a man from undertaking a journey.

A million of frustrated hopes will not *deter* us from new experiments. *J. M. Mason.*

2. To prevent by prohibition or danger. *Mitford.*

DETERGE, *v. t.* [*detery*; *de* and *tergo*, to wipe or scour.]

To cleanse; to purge away foul or offending matter, from the body, or from an ulcer. *Wiseman.*

DETERGED, *pp.* Cleansed; purged.

DETERGENT, *a.* Cleansing; purging.

DETERGENT, *n.* A medicine that has the power of cleansing the vessels or skin from offending matter.

DETERGING, *ppr.* Cleansing; carrying off obstructions or foul matter.

DETERIORATE, *v. i.* [*Fr. deteriorer*; *It. deteriorare*; *Sp. deteriorar*, from *deterior*, worse, *It. deterior*.]

To grow worse; to be impaired in quality; to degenerate; opposed to *meliorate*.

DETERIORATE, *v. t.* To make worse; to reduce in quality; as, to *deteriorate* a race of men or their condition. *Hagley. Paley.*

DETERIORATED, *pp.* Made worse; impaired in quality.

DETERIORATING, *ppr.* Becoming worse or inferior in quality.

DETERIORATION, *n.* A growing or making worse; the state of growing worse.

DETERIORITY, *n.* Worse state or quality; as *deteriority* of diet. *Ray.*

DETERMINT, *n.* [*See Deter.*] The act of deterring; the cause of deterring; that which deters. *Boyle.*

DETERMINE, *a.* [*See Determine.*]

1. That may be decided with certainty. *Boyle.*

2. That may end or be determined.

DETERMINATE, *a.* [*It. determinatus*.]

1. Limited; fixed; definite; as a *determinate* quantity of matter.