

## **D**

1. dabbler – take a casual or superficial interest or past, move the feet, hands, etc. about in liquid, wet partly or intermittently; moisten, stain, splash
2. daft – insane; weak-minded
3. daily – a daily paper; everyday
4. dais – a raised platform (usu. for speakers)
5. dally – to waste time by idleness or trifling; to dawdle, delay
6. dandy – a man who pays great attention to his dress
7. dank – unpleasantly moist; wet
8. dappled – marked with spots or rounded patches
9. dastard – cowardly
10. daub – stain; false pretence; to smear
11. daunt – to frighten; to discourage; boldly
12. dauntless – not to be daunted; resolute; bold
13. dawdle – to waste time; to act slowly
14. deadlock – a case where matters have come to a standstill
15. deadpan – an expressionless face
16. dean – the head of a university faculty or department or of a medical school
17. dearth – scarcity; want; lack; shortage

18. debacle – a complete break-up or collapse
19. debase – to adulterate; to lower; to make poor (of quality) or of less value
20. debauch – to pervert; to corrupt
21. debenture – written acknowledgement of a debt
22. debilitate – to make weak; to impair the strength of
23. debonair – elegant; charming; courteous
24. debris – wreckage; ruins
25. debut – a beginning or first attempt; a first appearance before the public, or in society
26. debutant – a male performer making his first public appearance
27. debutante – a young woman making her first appearance in society
28. decadence – a decline from a superior state
29. decant – to pour off, leaving sediment
30. decapitate – to behead
31. decelerate – to retard; slow down
32. deciduous – liable to be shed at a certain period
33. decimate – to take or destroy the tenth part of; to reduce very heavily
34. decipher – decode; interpret; unravel
35. declivity – a place that slopes downwards
36. décolleté – a low-cut dress or neckline

37. decomposition – state of decomposing; decay
38. decorus – decent; proper
39. decorum – propriety of conduct; decency
40. decoy – to allure; to lure into a trap
41. decrepit – worn out by the infirmities of old age; in the last stage of decay
42. decrepitude – the state of being decrepit or worn out with age
43. decry – to condemn; to criticize as worthless; to blame
44. deducible – that, which can be deduced or inferred
45. defacto – actual, if not rightful or legally recognized; in fact, actually
46. defalcate – to embezzle money held on trust
47. defamation – calumny; slander; libel
48. default – failure to fulfil a financial obligation; neglect to do what duty or law requires
49. defeatist – readiness or inclination to accept, welcome or help to bring on, defeat
50. defection – (an act of) desertion or revolt
51. defendant – a person sued or accused in a court of law
52. deference – courtesy; regard; respect

53. defile – to befoul; to spoil; to pollute or corrupt; to violate
54. definitive – most authoritative; exhaustive
55. deflect – to turn aside; to deviate from a correct line or proper course
56. defray – to pay, settle
57. deft – dexterous
58. defunct – no longer working; dead
59. degraded – reduced in rank
60. deify – to worship like a God
61. deign – to condescend, stoop
62. dejure – by right; rightful
63. delectable – delightful; very pleasing
64. delegate – an elected representative sent to a conference, a member of a committee
65. delete – to erase
66. deleterious – harmful or destructive; poisonous
67. deliberate – to consider, think about carefully
68. delineate – to represent by a sketch or picture; to describe
69. delinquent – miscreant; hoodlum; derelict; negligent; slack
70. deliquescent – liquefying in the air

71. delirium – the state of being delirious, esp. through fever
72. delirious – wandering in the mind; lightheaded; insane
73. deliverance – release; liberation
74. delude – to deceive or cause to accept what is false as true; to mislead
75. deluge – a great overflow of water; overwhelm with
76. delusion – the act of deluding; a hallucination
77. delusive – tending to delude
78. delve – investigate; explore; examine
79. demagogue – leader of the people
80. demean – to humiliate; to lower in status or dignity
81. demeanour – behaviour; conduct
82. demented – out of one's mind; crazy; insane
83. demesne – a manor-house with lands adjacent to it not let out to tenants
84. demise – death
85. democrat – an advocate of democracy, a member of the Democratic Party
86. demographic – the study of population esp. with reference to size, density and distribution
87. demolition – the act of pulling down; destruction

88. demoniac – person possessed by a demon or evil spirit
89. demotic – to the people
90. demur – to object; to hesitate about; to disagree
91. demure – modest; bashful; shy
92. demurrage – compensation for detention of railway wagons (or any other wagon)
93. denigrate – malign; defame
94. denizen – an inhabitant (human, animal or plant)
95. denotation – that which a word denotes, in contradistinction to that which it connotes
96. denouement – the outcome or result
97. denounce – to inform against or accuse publicly; to condemn
98. depict – to describe
99. depilate – to remove the hair from
100. deplete – to reduce; to exhaust
101. deplore – to feel or express deep grief for
102. deploy – to spread out and place strategically (any forces)
103. deportment – behavior; conduct; manners
104. depose – to remove from a high office or post; to set down
105. deposition – declaration; testimony

106. depravity – a corrupt state of moral character; wickedness
107. deprecate – to regret deeply; to express disapproval of; to protest against
108. deprecatory – pertaining to deprecation
109. depreciate – to lower the worth of; to fall in value
110. depredation – the act of plundering; hardship
111. deranged – insane; disordered
112. derelict – neglectful of duty; person abandoned by society
113. deride – to laugh at; to mock
114. derision – ridicule; mockery
115. dermatitis – inflammation of the skin
116. dermatologist – person specialized in the diseases of skin
117. derogatory – contemptuous; insulting or adversely critical
118. descant – a discourse or disquisition under several heads
119. descry – to discover by looking
120. desecrate – defile; profane; contaminate
121. desiccate – to preserve by drying; to dry
122. desideratum – something desired or much wanted

123. desolate – to abandon; to lay waste; to deprive of inhabitants
124. desperado – a desperate person, reckless of danger; a wild ruffian
125. despicable – contemptible; disgraceful
126. despise – abhor; hate; to look down upon with contempt
127. despoil – loot; rob; plunder
128. despondency – lack of hope; dejection
129. despondent – dejected; anyone with despondency
130. despot – an absolute ruler, a tyrant or oppressor
131. despotism – absolute power; tyranny
132. dessert – a final course of a meal; pudding, sweets, fruits, etc. served at the end of a meal
133. destitute – needy; pathetic; poor; forsaken
134. desuetude – disuse; discontinuance
135. desultory – without rational or logical connection; loose; hasty
136. detached – aloof; unbiased; impartial
137. detainee – a person detained in custody esp. for political reasons
138. detergent – a cleansing agent; that which cleanses
139. determinate – determined or limited; fixed
140. deterrent – frightening; hindrance



141. detonation – an explosion
142. detraction – defamation; slander; distraction
143. detrimental – injurious; harmful
144. deviate – to diverge; to go or change from the way
145. devilry – wicked activity; reckless mischief
146. devious – deceitful; out of the way; insincere
147. devoid – destitute; wanting; free
148. devolve – to pass on; to roll down
149. devotee – person wholly or superstitiously devoted;  
someone strongly and consistently interested in  
something
150. devout – true; faithful; religious
151. dexterous – right-handed; skilful; adroit
152. diabolic – extremely cruel; wicked; satanic
153. diadem – a crown; a jeweled headband, or the like
154. dialectic – the art of discussing (esp. in a debate)
155. diaphanous – transparent; clear; pellucid
156. diatribe – an abusive or bitter harangue;  
vituperation
157. dictum – an authoritative saying; order
158. didactic – educational; instructive; preachy
159. differential – discriminating; pertaining to  
difference
160. diffidence – shyness; insecurity

161. diffuse – to spread widely
162. diffusion – distribution; scattering abroad
163. digressive – departing from the main subject
164. dilapidated – in ruin; in a state of disrepair
165. dilate – to spread out in all directions; to enlarge; to expand
166. dilatoriness – given in or causing delay
167. dilatory – tending to delay; slow
168. dilemma – quandary; predicament; confusion
169. dilettante – a dabbler in art, science or literature; an amateur
170. diligence – industry; steady application
171. diligent – industrious; hard-working; studious
172. dilute – to attenuate; to make thinner or more liquid; to make less powerful
173. diminution – decrease; reduction
174. dimwit – a stupid person
175. dinghy – a small open boat propelled by oars, sails or an outboard motor
176. dint – effort; strength; power
177. diplomat – an official representing a country abroad, a tactful person
178. dipsomaniac – person suffering from dipsomania
179. dire – critical; desperate; urgent

180. dirge – funeral song or hymn; a slow and mournful piece of music
181. disabuse – to undeceive or set right
182. disapprobation – disapproval
183. disarmament – the reduction or withdrawal of military forces and weapons
184. disarray – lack of array; disorder; untidiness
185. disavowal – the act of denying; the act of disclaiming knowledge of, or connection with
186. disband – to disperse; to break up (a group, unit, etc.)
187. disburse – to pay out
188. discernible – pertaining to discern
189. discerning – discriminating; showing acute judgement
190. disciplinarian – a person who enforces firm discipline
191. disclaim – to refuse to acknowledge or be responsible for
192. disclose – reveal; open
193. discomfit – to defeat or rout
194. disconcert – to throw into confusion; to frustrate
195. disconsolate – beyond consolation; very sad or disappointed

196. discordant – contradictory; inconsistent; without concord or agreement
197. discount – a deduction made for interest in advancing money on a bill; to disregard or reject
198. discreet – careful; cautious
199. discrepancy – disagreement; variance of facts or sentiments
200. discrete – discontinuous; separate
201. discretion – quality of being discreet; prudence; liberty to act at pleasure
202. discriminate – to distinguish
203. discrimination – judgement; good taste
204. discursive – circuitous; proceeding from one subject to another with no formal plan
205. disdain – dislike; reject
206. disgruntle – discontented; disappoint
207. disheartened – depressed; demoralized; deprive of courage or spirits
208. disheveled – hanging loose; merely untidy
209. disinclination – lack of inclination; unwillingness
210. disingenuous – not frank or open; crafty; devious
211. disinter – to remove from a grave or from the earth; to bring out of obscurity

212. disinterested – not influenced by private feelings or considerations; impartial
213. disjointed – lacking connection or continuity; incoherent
214. dismantle – to pull down; to undo the structure
215. dismember – to divide up, break up
216. disparage – to dishonor by comparison with what is inferior; to dishearten; belittle; abuse
217. disparaging – speak slightingly of depreciate; bring discredit
218. disparate – unlike; dissimilar
219. disparity – inequality; contrast; variation; difference
220. dispassionate – not affected by personal feelings; fair; impartial
221. disperse – to diffuse; to cause to vanish; to dissipate
222. dispersion – scattering; state of being scattered
223. dispirited – dejected; discouraged
224. disport – to attract; to amuse
225. disputatious – inclined to dispute; controvert
226. disquiet – a feeling of anxiety; to make anxious
227. disquisition – a carefully or minutely argued examination of a topic

228. dissection – the act of cutting in pieces a plant or animal in order to ascertain the structure of its parts; anatomy
229. dissemble – to pretend; to disguise or mask; to feign
230. dissemination – scattering; spreading
231. dissertation – a formal discourse; a treatise
232. disservice – a harmful action
233. dissidence – disagreement
234. dissimulate – dissemble
235. dissipate – to squander; to waste; to dispel
236. dissolution – the dispersal of an assembly; the annulment or ending of a partnership
237. dissonant – lacking harmony; discordant
238. dissuade – discourage; to persuade not to do something; to give advice against
239. distaff – the female side or branch of a family; the stick that holds the bunch of flax or wool in spinning
240. diurnal – belonging to the day time; relating to day time
241. divination – seeking to know the future or hidden things by supernatural means
242. divulge – to reveal; to disclose
243. docile – gentle; manageable; obedient; agreeable

244. doctorate – the highest degree awarded by a university
245. doff – to take off, remove
246. dogmatic – firmly putting forward one's opinions as true
247. dolt – a stupid person
248. doomster – a person who predicts disaster esp. in politics or economics
249. dorsal – the back side; belonging to the back
250. dotage – the childishness of old age; excessive fondness; a doting
251. dotard – a person who is feeble minded, esp. from senility
252. dote – to show excessive love
253. double entendre – a word or phrase open to two interpretations
254. douche – a jet of water directed upon or into the body from a pipe, etc.
255. doughty – strong; brave; able
256. dour – sullen; grim
257. doxology – a hymn ascribing glory to God
258. doyen – the most senior or most prominent of a particular category or body of people

259. dregs – deposits; residue; the most worthless part of anything
260. drivel – silly nonsense, twaddle (v. talk childishly or idiotically)
261. droll – a jester; laughable; amusing
262. dromedary – a thoroughbred camel; a one-humped Arabian camel
263. drudgery – hard or humble labour; uninteresting toil
264. disseminate – to sow or scatter abroad; to spread; to diffuse
265. dubious – doubtful; causing or having doubt
266. dupe – deceive; mislead; cheat; fool
267. duplicity – insincerity; doubleness, esp. in conduct or intention
268. duress – compulsion; force; coercion
269. dyspepsia – indigestion
270. dystopia – an imaginary place or society in which everything is bad