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ascertain the existence, presence, or fact of. 2. To discern (something hidden or subtle): *detected a note of sarcasm in the remark*. 3. To learn something hidden and often improper about: *detected the manager in a lie*. 4. *Electronics* To demodulate. [Middle English *detecten* < Latin *dētegere*, *dēteci-*, to uncover: *dē-*, *de-* + *tegere*, to cover; see (s)teg- in App. I.] —*de-tect/a-ble*, *de-tect/i-ble* *adj.* —*de-tect'er* *n.*

de-tec-tion (dī-tēk/shən) *n.* 1. The act or process of detecting; discovery: *detection of a crime*; *detection of radiation from a distant galaxy*. 2. See *demodulation*.

detection dog *n.* See *sniffer dog*.

de-tect-ive (dī-tēk/tiv) *n.* A person, usually a member of a police force, who investigates crimes and obtains evidence or information. ♦ *adj.* 1. Of or relating to detectives or their work: *detective novels*. 2. Sifted for or used in detection.

de-tect-or (dī-tēk/tor) *n.* One that detects, especially a mechanical, electrical, or chemical device that automatically identifies and records or registers a stimulus, such as an environmental change in pressure or temperature, an electric signal, or radiation from a radioactive material.

detector dog *n.* See *sniffer dog*.

de-tent (dī-tēnt') *n.* A catch or lever that locks the movement of one part of a mechanism. [French *détente*, a loosening < Old French *destente* < feminine past participle of *destendre*, to release: *des-*, *de-* + *tendre*, to stretch (< Latin *tendere*; see *ten-* in App. I).]

dé-tente (dā-tānt', -tānt') *n.* 1. A relaxing or easing, as of tension between rivals. 2. A policy toward a rival nation or bloc characterized by increased diplomatic, commercial, and cultural contact and a desire to reduce tensions, as through negotiation or talks. [French; see *DETENT*.] —*dé-tent/ist* *n.*

de-ten-tion (dī-tēn/shən) *n.* 1. The act of detaining. 2. The state or a period of being detained, especially: a. A period of temporary custody while awaiting trial. b. A holding of a person in custody or confinement by authorities for political or military reasons. c. A form of punishment by which a student is made to stay after regular school hours. [Middle English *detencioun*, act of withholding < Anglo-Norman < Latin *dētentiō*, *dētentiō* < *dētentus*, past participle of *dētinerē*, to detain; see *DETAIN*.]

detection home *n.* A residential facility for the placement of juveniles adjudged to be in need of supervision, awaiting trial, or found guilty of a minor offense.

de-ter (dī-tūr') *tr.v.* -tered, -ter-ring, -ters 1. To prevent or discourage from acting, as by means of fear or doubt: *threats that did not deter her from speaking out*; *skin chemicals that deter predators*. 2. To prevent or discourage (an action or behavior): *installed surveillance cameras to deter vandalism*. 3. To make less likely or prevent from happening: *protocols to deter infection*. [Latin *dēterrere*: *dē-*, *de-* + *terrere*, to frighten.] —*de-ter/ment* *n.* —*de-ter/ra-ble* *adj.* —*de-ter/er* *n.*

de-terge (dī-tūj') *tr.v.* -terged, -ter-ging, -ter-ges To wash or wipe off (a wound, for example); cleanse. [French *déterger* < Latin *dētergere*: *dē-*, *de-* + *tergere*, to wipe.]

de-ter-gence (dītūr'jəns) *n.* Detergency.

de-ter-gen-cy (dī-tūr'jən-sē) *n.* The power or quality of cleansing.

de-ter-gent (dī-tūr'jənt) *n.* A cleansing substance that acts similarly to soap but is made from chemical compounds rather than fats and lye. ♦ *adj.* Having cleansing power.

de-te-ri-o-rate (dī-tūr'ē-ō-rāt') *v.* -rat-ed, -rat-ing, -rates —*tr.* To diminish or impair in quality, character, or value: *Time and neglect had deteriorated the property*. —*intr.* 1. To grow worse; degenerate: *The weather deteriorated overnight*. 2. To weaken or disintegrate; decay: *The nation's highways are deteriorating at a rapid pace*. [Late Latin *deteriorāre*, *deteriorārē* < Latin *deterior*, worse; see *de-* in App. I.] —*de-te-ri-o-ra-tion* *n.* —*de-te-ri-o-ra-tive* *adj.*

de-ter-mi-na-cy (dī-tūr'mā-nā-sē) *n.* 1. The quality or condition of being determinate. 2. The condition of being determined or characterized.

de-ter-mi-nant (dī-tūr'mā-nənt) *adj.* Determinative. ♦ *n.* 1. An influencing or determining element or factor: *"Education is the second most important determinant of recreational participation"* (John P. Robinson). 2. *Mathematics* The value computed from a square matrix of numbers by a rule of combining products of the matrix entries and that characterizes the solvability of simultaneous linear equations. Its absolute value can be interpreted as an area or volume. 3. *Immunology* An epitope.

de-ter-mi-nate (dī-tūr'mā-nīt) *adj.* 1. Precisely limited or defined; definite: *a determinate number*; *a determinate distance*. 2. Conclusively settled; final. 3. Firm in purpose; resolute. 4. *Botany* a. Terminating in a flower and blooming in a sequence beginning with the uppermost or central flower: *a determinate inflorescence*. b. Not continuing indefinitely at the tip of an axis: *determinate growth*. [Middle English < Latin *determinātus*, past participle of *determināre*, to determine; see *DETERMINE*.] —*de-ter/mi-nate-ly* *adv.* —*de-ter/mi-nate-ness* *n.*

de-ter-mi-nat'er (dī-tūr'mā-nā'tor) *n.* A determiner.

de-ter-mi-na-tion (dī-tūr'mā-nā'shən) *n.* 1a. Firmness of purpose; resolve; *approached the task with determination*. b. A fixed intention or resolution: *returned to school with a determination to finish*. 2a. The ascertaining or fixing of the quantity, quality, position, or character of something: *a determination of the ship's longitude*; *a determination of the universe's mass*. b. The result of such ascertaining. 3a. The act of making or arriving at a decision: *After long determination, she decided to move to Utah*. b. The decision reached: *It is my determination to sell the house*. See *Synonyms at decision*. 4a. The settling of a question or case by an authoritative decision or pronouncement, especially by a judicial body: *The choice of a foster home was left to the determination of the court*. b. The decision or pronouncement made. 5. The bringing about of a result or outcome: *the determination of hair color by the genes*. 6. *Archaic* A fixed

movement or tendency toward an object or end. 7. *Logic* a. The defining of a concept through its constituent elements. b. The qualification of a concept or proposition to render it more definite or specific.

de-ter-mi-na-tive (dī-tūr'mā-nā'tiv, -nā-) *adj.* Able or serving to determine: *a determinative factor*; *Influences that are determinative of future behavior*. See *Synonyms at decisive*. ♦ *n.* A determining factor. —*dē-ter'mi-na-tive-ly* *adv.*

de-ter-mine (dī-tūr'mīn) *v.* -mined, -min-ing, -mines —*tr.* 1a. To establish or ascertain definitely, as after consideration, investigation, or calculation: *determined the easiest way to reach the summit*. See *Synonyms at discover*. b. To give direction to by making decisions; devise or control: *The school board determines educational policy*. c. To decide or settle (a dispute, for example) conclusively and authoritatively. See *Synonyms at decide*. 2. To cause (someone) to come to a decision or resolution: *"It was the discovery . . . of this very project of hers, which determined him to come forward at once, own it all to his uncle"* (Jane Austen). 3. To be the cause of; bring about a result regarding: *the genes that determine eye color*. 4. *Mathematics* To fix or define the position, form, or configuration of. 5. *Logic* To explain or limit by adding differences. 6. *Archaic* To put an end to legally; terminate under the law: *—intr.* 1. To reach a decision; resolve: *determined to become a better pilot*; *determined on a course of treatment*. 2. *Archaic* To come to an end through legal means. [Middle English *determinen* < Old French *determiner* < Latin *dētermināre*, to limit: *dē-*, *de-* + *terminus*, boundary.] —*de-ter/min-a-ble* *adj.* —*de-ter/min-a-ble-ness* *n.* —*de-ter/min-a-bly* *adv.*

de-ter-mined (dī-tūr'mīnd) *adj.* 1. Marked by or showing determination; resolute: *was engaged in a protracted struggle with a determined enemy*. 2. Decided or resolved: *She is determined to be a doctor*. —*de-ter/mined-ly* *adv.* —*de-ter/mined-ness* *n.*

de-ter-min-er (dī-tūr'mā-nor) *n.* 1. One that determines. 2. *Grammar* A word belonging to a group of noun modifiers, which includes articles, demonstratives, possessive adjectives, and words such as *any*, *both*, or *whose*, and, in English, occupying the first position in a noun phrase or following another determiner.

de-ter-min-ism (dī-tūr'mā-nīz'm) *n.* The philosophical doctrine that every state of affairs, including every human event, act, and decision, is the inevitable consequence of antecedent states of affairs. —*de-ter/min-ist* *n.* —*de-ter/min-is'tic* *adj.* —*de-ter/min-is'ti-cal-ly* *adv.*

de-ter-rence (dī-tūr'əns, -tūr'-) *n.* 1. The act or a means of deterring. 2. Measures taken by a state or an alliance of states to prevent hostile action by another state.

de-ter-rent (dī-tūr'ənt, -tūr'-) *adj.* Tending to deter: *deterrent weapons*. ♦ *n.* 1. Something that deters: *a deterrent to theft*. 2. A retaliatory means of discouraging enemy attack: *a nuclear deterrent*.

de-test (dī-tēst') *tr.v.* -test-ed, -test-ing, -tests To dislike intensely; abhor. [French *détester* < Latin *dētestārī*, to curse: *dē-*, *de-* + *testārī*, to invoke (< *testis*, witness; see *trei-* in App. I).] —*de-test'er* *n.*

de-test-a-ble (dī-tēstə-bəl) *adj.* Inspiring or deserving abhorrence or scorn. See *Synonyms at hateful*. —*de-test'a-bil/i-ty*, *de-test'a-ble-ness* *n.* —*de-test'a-bly* *adv.*

de-tes-ta-tion (dē'tēstā'shən) *n.* 1. Strong dislike or hatred; abhorrence. 2. One that is detested.

de-thatch (dē-thäch') *v.* -thatched, -thatch-ing, -thatch-es —*tr.* To remove (dead grass) from a lawn, usually to aerate the soil. —*intr.* To remove dead grass from a lawn. —*de-thatch'er* *n.*

de-throne (dē-thrōn') *tr.v.* -throned, -thron-ing, -thrones 1. To remove from the throne; depose. 2. To remove from a prominent or powerful position. —*de-throne/ment* *n.*

det-i-nue (dēt'n-ōō', -yōō') *n.* Law 1a. An action to recover possession or the value of property wrongfully detained. b. The writ authorizing such action. 2. The act of unlawfully detaining personal property. [Middle English *detenue* < Old French, detention < feminine past participle of *dētenir*, to detain; see *DETAIN*.]

det-o-na-ble (dēt'n-ə-bal) *adj.* Capable of being detonated: *detonable warheads*; *detonable bombs*.

det-o-nate (dēt'n-āt') *intr.* & *tr.v.* -nat-ed, -nat-ing, -nates To explode or cause to explode. [Latin *dētonāre*, *dētonārē*, to thunder down: *dē-*, *de-* + *tonāre*, to thunder; see (s)ten- in App. I.] —*det'o-nat'a-ble* *adj.*

det-o-na-tion (dēt'n-ā'shən) *n.* 1. The act of exploding. 2. An explosion.

det-o-na-tor (dēt'n-ā'tor) *n.* 1. A device, such as a fuse or percussion cap, used to set off an explosive charge. 2. An explosive.

de-tour (dēt'tōor', dī-tōor') *n.* 1. A roundabout way or course, especially a road used temporarily instead of a main route. 2. A deviation from a direct course of action. ♦ *intr.* & *tr.v.* -toured, -tour-ing, -tours To go or cause to go by a roundabout way. [French *détour* < Old French *destor* < *destorner*, to turn away: *des-*, *de-* + *torner*, to turn; see *TURN*.]

de-tox (dē-tōks') *Informal tr.v.* -tox-ed, -tox-ing, -tox-es To subject to detoxification. ♦ *n.* (dē'tōks') 1. A section of a hospital or clinic in which patients are detoxified. 2. A course of treatment involving detoxification. [Short for *DETOXIFY*.]

de-tox-i-cate (dē-tōk'sī-kāt') *tr.v.* -cat-ed, -cat-ing, -cates To detoxify.

de-tox-i-fi-ca-tion (dē-tōk'sā-fi-kā'shən) *n.* 1. The process of detoxifying. 2. The state or condition of being detoxified. 3. *Physiology* The metabolic process by which the toxic qualities of a poison or toxin are reduced by the body. 4. A medically supervised treatment program for alcohol or drug dependence designed to purge the body of intoxicating or addictive substances.

de-tox-i-fy (dē-tōk'sā-fi') *tr.v.* -fied, -fy-ing, -fies 1. To counteract or destroy the toxic properties of. 2. To remove the effects of poison from.