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regular basis. ■ (usu. **be discontinued**) stop making (a particular product): *their running shoe is being discontinued* | [as *adj.*] (**discontinued**) *discontinued fabrics*. ■ cease taking (medication or a medical treatment): *many women discontinue antidepressants during pregnancy*. ■ cease taking (a newspaper or periodical) or paying (a subscription). —**dis-con-tin-u-ance** /-yōōəns/ *n.* —**dis-con-tin-u-a-tion** /-,tɪnyōō'āshən/ *n.*

dis-con-tin-u-ity /dɪskāntnɪ'yōōitē/ ▶ *n.* (*pl.* **-ties**) a distinct break in physical continuity or sequence in time. ■ a sharp difference of characteristics between parts of something: *discontinuities in policy*. ■ *Math.* a point at which a function is discontinuous or undefined.

dis-con-tin-u-ous /,dɪskən'tɪnyōōəs/ ▶ *adj.* having intervals or gaps: *a person with a discontinuous employment record*. ■ *Math.* (of a function) having at least one discontinuity, and whose differential coefficient may become infinite. —**dis-con-tin-u-ous-ly** *adv.*

dis-cord /'dɪskɔrd/ ▶ *n.* **1** disagreement between people. ■ lack of agreement or harmony between things. **2** *Mus.* lack of harmony between notes sounding together: *the music faded in discord*. ■ a chord that (in conventional harmonic terms) is regarded as unpleasing or requiring resolution by another. ■ a single note dissonant with another.

▶ *v.* [*intr.*] *archaic* (of people) disagree. ■ (of things) be different or in disharmony: *his views discord with ours*.

dis-cord-ant /dɪs'kɔrdənt/ ▶ *adj.* **1** disagreeing or incongruous: *the principle of meritocracy is discordant with claims of inherited worth*. ■ characterized by quarreling and conflict: *a study of children in discordant homes*. **2** (of sounds) harsh and jarring because of a lack of harmony. —**dis-cord-ance** *n.* —**dis-cord-ant-ly** /-dɪnsē/ *adv.*

dis-co-theque /'dɪskə'tek/ ▶ *n.* another term for **DISCO** (sense 1).

dis-count ▶ *n.* /'dɪskəʊnt/ a deduction from the usual cost of something, typically given for prompt or advance payment or to a special category of buyers: *many stores will offer a discount on bulk purchases*. ■ *Finance* a percentage deducted from the face value of a bill of exchange or promissory note when it changes hands before the due date.

▶ *v.* /'dɪskəʊnt; dɪs'kaʊnt/ [*tr.*] **1** deduct an amount from (the usual price of something). ■ reduce (a product or service) in price: *merchandise that was discounted up to 50 percent*. ■ buy or sell (a bill of exchange) before its due date at less than its maturity value. **2** regard (a possibility, fact, or person) as being unworthy of consideration because it lacks credibility.

▶ *adj.* /'dɪskəʊnt/ (of a store or business) offering goods for sale at discounted prices: *a discount chain*. ■ at a price lower than the usual one: *a discount flight*. —**dis-count-a-ble** /dɪs'kaʊntəbəl/ *adj.* —**dis-counter** *n.*

dis-coun-ten-ance /dɪs'kaʊntən-əns/ ▶ *v.* [*tr.*] (usu. **be discountenanced**) **1** refuse to approve of (something): *drug use is discountenanced*. **2** disturb the composure of: *Amanda was discountenanced by the accusation*.

dis-cour-age /dɪs'kɔrɪdʒ; -'kə-rɪdʒ/ ▶ *v.* [*tr.*] cause (someone) to lose confidence or enthusiasm: *I don't want to discourage you* | [as *adj.*] (**discouraging**) *the discouraging effect of poor prospects*. ■ prevent or seek to prevent (something) by showing disapproval or creating difficulties: *the plan is designed to discourage the use of private cars*. ■ persuade (someone) against an action: *we want to discourage children from smoking*. —**dis-cour-age-ment** *n.* —**dis-cour-age-r** *n.* —**dis-cour-ag-ing-ly** *adv.*

dis-course ▶ *n.* /'dɪs,kɔrs/ written or spoken communication or debate. ■ a formal discussion of a topic in speech or writing: *a discourse on critical theory*. ■ *Linguistics* a connected series of utterances; a text or conversation.

▶ *v.* /dɪs'kɔrs/ [*intr.*] speak or write authoritatively about a topic: *she could discourse at great length on the history of Europe*. ■ engage in conversation.

dis-cour-te-ous /dɪs'kɔrtēəs/ ▶ *adj.* showing rudeness and a lack of consideration for other people. —**dis-cour-te-ous-ly** *adv.* —**dis-cour-te-ous-ness** *n.*

dis-cour-te-sy /dɪs'kɔrtēsē/ ▶ *n.* (*pl.* **-sies**) rude and inconsiderate behavior. ■ an impolite act or remark.

dis-cov-er /dɪs'kəvər/ ▶ *v.* [*tr.*] **1** find (something or someone) unexpectedly or in the course of a search. ■ become aware of (a fact or situation): *it was a relief to discover that he wasn't in*. ■ be the first to find or observe (a place, substance, or scientific phenomenon): *Fleming discovered penicillin*. ■ perceive the attractions of (an activity or subject) for the first time: *a teenager who has recently discovered fashion*. ■ be the first to recognize the potential of (an actor, singer, or musician): *I discovered the band back in the 70s*. **2** *archaic* divulge (a secret): *some secrets Time will discover*. ■ disclose the identity of (someone): *she at last discovered herself to me*. ■ display (a quality or feeling): *she discovered her courage today*. —**dis-cov-er-a-ble** *adj.* —**dis-cov-er-er** *n.*

dis-cov-er-y /dɪs'kəvərē/ ▶ *n.* (*pl.* **-ver-ies**) **1** the action or process of discovering or being discovered. ■ a person or thing discovered: *the drug*

is not a new discovery. **2** *Law* the compulsory disclosure, by a party to an action, of relevant documents referred to by the other party.

dis-cred-it /dɪs'krɛdɪt/ ▶ *v.* (**-cred-ited**, **-cred-iting**) [*tr.*] harm the good reputation of (someone or something): *an effort to discredit him* | [as *adj.*] (**discredited**) *a discredited former governor*. ■ cause (an idea or piece of evidence) to seem false or unreliable: *attempts to discredit evolution*.

▶ *n.* loss or lack of reputation or respect: *they committed crimes that brought discredit upon the administration*. ■ a person or thing that is a source of disgrace: *the ships were a discredit to the country*.

dis-cred-it-a-ble /dɪs'krɛdɪtəbəl/ ▶ *adj.* tending to bring harm to a reputation: *allegations of discreditable conduct*. —**dis-cred-it-a-bly** /-blē/ *adv.*

dis-creet /dɪs'krɛt/ ▶ *adj.* (**-creet-er**, **-creet-est**) careful and circumspect in one's speech or actions, esp. in order to avoid causing offense or to gain an advantage: *we made some discreet inquiries*. ■ intentionally unobtrusive: *a discreet cough*. —**dis-creet-ly** *adv.* —**dis-creet-ness** *n.*

dis-crep-an-cy /dɪs'krɛpənsē/ ▶ *n.* (*pl.* **-cies**) a lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts. —**dis-crep-ant** /-pənt/ *adj.*

dis-crete /dɪs'krɛt/ ▶ *adj.* individually separate and distinct: *speech sounds are produced as a continuous sound signal rather than discrete units*. —**dis-crete-ly** *adv.* —**dis-crete-ness** *n.*

dis-cre-tion /dɪs'krɛshən/ ▶ *n.* **1** the quality of behaving or speaking in such a way as to avoid causing offense or revealing private information: *she knew she could rely on his discretion*. **2** the freedom to decide what should be done in a particular situation: *authorities must use their discretion* | *a system used at the discretion of the department*. —**dis-cre-tion-ary** /-ə,nərē/ *adj.*

dis-crim-i-nate /dɪs'krɪmə,nāt/ ▶ *v.* [*intr.*] **1** recognize a distinction; differentiate: *babies can discriminate between different facial expressions of emotion*. ■ [*tr.*] perceive or constitute the difference in or between; *features that discriminate this species from other gastropods*. **2** make an unjust or prejudicial distinction in the treatment of different categories of people or things, esp. on the grounds of race, sex, or age: *existing employment policies discriminate against women*. —**dis-crim-i-nate-ly** /-nātē/ *adv.* —**dis-crim-i-na-tive** /-,nātɪv/ *adj.* —**dis-crim-i-na-to-ry** /-ənə,tɔrē/ *adj.*

dis-crim-i-nat-ing /dɪs'krɪmə,nātɪŋ/ ▶ *adj.* (of a person) having or showing refined taste or good judgment. —**dis-crim-i-nat-ing-ly** *adv.*

dis-crim-i-na-tion /dɪs,krɪmə'nāshən/ ▶ *n.* **1** the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things, esp. on the grounds of race, age, or sex: *discrimination against homosexuals*. **2** recognition and understanding of the difference between one thing and another: *discrimination between right and wrong*. ■ the ability to discern what is of high quality; good judgment or taste. **3** *Electr.* the selection of a signal having a required characteristic, such as frequency or amplitude, by means of a discriminator that rejects all unwanted signals.

dis-cur-sive /dɪs'kɔrsɪv/ ▶ *adj.* **1** digressing from subject to subject: *dull, discursive prose*. ■ (of a style of speech or writing) fluent and expansive rather than formulaic or abbreviated: *the short story is concentrated, the novel discursive*. **2** of or relating to discourse or modes of discourse. —**dis-cur-sive-ly** *adv.* —**dis-cur-sive-ness** *n.*

dis-cus /'dɪskəs/ ▶ *n.* (*pl.* **-cuses**) a heavy thick-centered disk thrown by an athlete, in ancient Greek games or in modern field events. ■ the athletic event or sport of throwing the discus.

dis-cuss /dɪs'kʊs/ ▶ *v.* [*tr.*] talk about (something) with another person or group of people. ■ talk or write about (a topic) in detail, taking into account different ideas and opinions: *in Chapter Six I discuss problems that arise in applying Darwin's ideas*. ▶ *late* Middle English (in the sense 'dispel, disperse,' also 'examine by argument'); from Latin *discuss-* 'dashed to pieces,' later 'investigated,' from the verb *discutere*, from *dis-* 'apart' + *quaterē* 'shake.' —**dis-cuss-a-ble** *adj.* —**dis-cuss-er** *n.*

dis-cus-sion /dɪs'kʊshən/ ▶ *n.* the action or process of talking about something, typically in order to reach a decision or to exchange ideas: *the proposals are just ideas for discussion* | *the content of the law is under discussion*. ■ a conversation or debate about a certain topic. ■ a detailed treatment of a particular topic in speech or writing.

dis-cus-sion board ▶ *n.* *Comput.* another term for **MESSAGE BOARD**.

dis-dain /dɪs'dān/ ▶ *n.* the feeling that someone or something is unworthy of one's consideration or respect; contempt.

▶ *v.* [*tr.*] consider to be unworthy of one's consideration. ■ refuse or reject (something) out of feelings of pride or superiority: *she remained standing, pointedly disdaining his invitation*.

dis-dain-ful /dɪs'dānfəl/ ▶ *adj.* showing contempt or lack of respect: *her parting, disdainful look*. —**dis-dain-ful-ly** *adv.* —**dis-dain-ful-ness** *n.*

dis-ease /dɪ'zēz/ ▶ *n.* a disorder of structure or function in a human, animal, or plant, esp. one that produces specific signs or symptoms or that affects a specific location and is not simply a direct result of