

Word Book D-3

device

[a piece of equipment made for a special purpose]

The microwave cooker is a device I use every day.

dictator

[a ruler with complete power]

The people of Yugoslavia forced the dictator from power.

die

[(1) to become dead; (2) to stop living; (3) to end]

If you touch that wire you will die. (1)

The river died slowly as pollution increased. (2)

All hope died when the prison gate closed. (3)

diet

[usual daily food and drink]

The doctor ordered a special diet to help him lose weight.

different

[not the same]

His clothes are different from mine.

difficult

[(1) not easy; (2) hard to do, make or carry out]

Keith was a difficult child. (1)

Building a boat is a difficult job. (2)

dig

[to make a hole in the ground]

Dig here and you will find water.

dinner

[(1) the main amount of food eaten at a usual time; (2) a special event that includes food]

The family had its dinner at noon. (1)

The official dinner took place at the White House. (2)

diplomat

[a person who represents his or her government in dealing with another government]

Most foreign diplomats live in the Washington area.

direct

[(1) to lead; (2) to aim or show the way ; (3) straight to something; (4) not through some other person or thing]

The mayor directs all city agencies. (1)

He directed me to the theater. (2)

The most direct way to Annapolis is Highway 50. (3)

The path is direct. (4)

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direction

[(1) the way (east, west, north, south); (2) where someone or something came from or went to]

North is the opposite direction from south. (1)

The cold wind is coming from that direction. (2)

dirt

[earth or soil]

Little children enjoy playing in the dirt.

disappear

[(1) to become unseen; (2) to no longer exist]

His dog disappears when it is time for a bath. (1)

Dinosaurs disappeared a long time ago. (2)

disarm

[(1) to take away weapons; (2) to no longer keep weapons; (3) to make a bomb harmless by removing its exploding device]

The policeman disarmed the gunman. (1)

Some smaller countries have disarmed. (2)

Explosives experts often can disarm bombs. (3)

discover

[to find or learn something]

Scientists have discovered cures for many kinds of cancer.

discuss

[(1) to talk about; (2) to exchange ideas]

We can discuss anything you wish. (1)

The two presidents discussed trade and other economic issues. (2)

disease

[a sickness in living things, often caused by viruses, germs or bacteria]

Modern medicines have made some diseases disappear.

dismiss

[(1) to send away; (2) to refuse to consider]

The scientist was dismissed for copying secret information about nuclear weapons. (1)

The senators dismissed any idea of campaign finance reform. (2)

dispute

[(1) to oppose strongly by argument; (2) an angry debate]

The two nations disputed where the border between them should be. (1)

The United Nations helped settle the border dispute. (2)

dissident

[a person who strongly disagrees with his or her government]

The three dissidents were sentenced to long prison terms.