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ouzel 2: one that dips: as **a**: a worker who dips articles **b**: something (as a long-handled cup) used for dipping **c** *slang*: PICKPOCKET
3 cap a: the seven principal stars in the constellation of Ursa Major arranged in a form resembling a dipper — called also *Big Dipper* **b**: the seven principal stars in Ursa Minor similarly arranged with the North Star forming the outer end of the handle — called also *Little Dipper* — **dip-per-ful** \-fŭl n

dip-py \dip-ē\ **adj** **dip-pi-er**; **est** [origin unknown] (1903): FOOLISH
dip-so \dip-(s)ō\ **n** [by shortening] (1880): one affected with dipsomania

dip-so-ma-nia \dip-sə-'mā-nē-ə-, -nyə\ **n** [NL, fr. Gk *dipsa* thirst + LL *mania*] (ca. 1843): an uncontrollable craving for alcoholic liquors — **dip-so-ma-ni-ac** \-nē-'ak\ **n** — **dip-so-ma-ni-a-cal** \dip-sō-mā-'ni-ə-kəl\ **adj**

dip-stick \dip-'stik\ **n** (1927): a graduated rod for indicating depth (as of oil in a crankcase)

dip-ter-an \dip-tə-'rən\ **adj** [deriv. of Gk *dipteros*] (ca. 1842): of, relating to, or being a two-winged fly — **dip-teran** **n**

dip-ter-o-car-p \dip-tə-rō-'kɑ:p\ **n** [NL, deriv. of *dipterus* dipterous + *carpus*-carpous] (ca. 1876): any of a family (Dipterocarpaceae) of tall trees of tropical Asia, Indonesia, and the Philippines that have a 2-winged fruit and are the source of valuable timber, aromatic oils, and resins; **esp**: a member of the type genus (*Dipterocarpus*)

dip-ter-ous \dip-tə-rəs\ **adj** [NL *dipterus*, fr. Gk *dipteros*, fr. *di-* + *pteron* wing — more at FEATHER] (1773) **1**: having two wings or winglike appendages **2**: of or relating to the two-winged flies

dip-tych \dip-(t)ik\ **n** [LL *diptycha*, pl. fr. Gk, fr. neut. pl. of *diptychos* folded in two, fr. *di-* + *ptychē* fold] (1622) **1**: a 2-leaved hinged tablet folding together to protect writing on its waxed surfaces **2**: a picture or series of pictures (as an altarpiece) painted or carved on two hinged tablets **3**: a work made up of two matching parts

di-quat \di-'kwɔ:t\ **n** [*di-* + *quaternary*] (1960): a powerful nonpersistent herbicide C₁₂H₁₂Br₂N₂ that has been used to control water weeds (as the water hyacinth)

dir-dum \di-'dʌrd-əm-, 'dɑ:d-ə\ **n** [ME (northern dial.) *durdan*, fr. ScGael, grumbling, hum, dim. of *durd* hum] Scot (1709): BLAME

dire \di-'er\ **adj** **dir-er**; **dir-est** [L *dirus*, akin to Gk *deinos* terrible, Skt *deviti* he hates] (1567) **1 a**: exciting horror (~ suffering) **b**: DISMAL, OPPRESSIVE (~ days) **2**: warning of disaster (a ~ forecast) **3 a**: desperately urgent (~ need) **b**: EXTREME (~ poverty) — **dir-ly** **adv** — **dir-ness** **n**

di-rect \di-'rekt-, di-\ **vb** [ME *directen*, fr. L *directus* straight — more at DRESS] **vt** (14c) **1 a** **obs**: to write (a letter) to a person **b**: to mark with the name and address of the intended recipient **c**: to impart orally **d**: to adapt in expression so as to have particular applicability (a lawyer who ~s his appeals to intelligence and character) **2 a**: to regulate the activities or course of **b**: to carry out the organizing, energizing, and supervising of **c**: to dominate and determine the course of **d**: to train and lead performances of **3**: to cause to turn, move, or point undeviatingly or to follow a straight course (X rays are ~ed through the body) **4**: to point, extend, or project in a specified line or course **5**: to request or enjoin with authority **6**: to show or point out the way for ~ **vi** **1**: to point out, prescribe, or determine a course or procedure **2**: to act as director **syn** see COMMAND, CONDUCT

2 direct adj [ME, fr. L *directus*] (14c) **1** of a celestial body: moving in the general planetary direction from west to east; not retrograde **2 a**: stemming immediately from a source (~ result) **b**: being or passing in a straight line of descent from parent to offspring: LINEAL (~ ancestor) **c**: having no compromising or impairing element (~ insult) **3 a**: proceeding from one point to another in time or space without deviation or interruption: STRAIGHT **b**: proceeding by the shortest way (the ~ route) **4**: NATURAL, STRAIGHTFORWARD (~ manner) **5 a**: marked by absence of an intervening agency, instrumentality, or influence **b**: effected by the action of the people or the electorate and not by representatives **c**: consisting of or reproducing the exact words of a speaker or writer **6**: characterized by close logical, causal, or consequential relationship (~ evidence) **7**: capable of dyeing without the aid of a mordant: SUBSTANTIVE

3 direct adv (14c): in a direct way: as **a**: from point to point without deviation: by the shortest way (suggesting I write to her — John Willett) **b**: from the source without interruption or diversion (the writer must take his material ~ from life — Douglas Stewart) **c**: without an intervening agency or step (those who did go ~ to the people... rallied a considerable majority of the voters — H. S. Ashmore)

direct action **n** (1843): action that seeks to achieve an end directly and by the most immediately effective means (as boycott or strike)

direct current **n** (ca. 1889): an electric current flowing in one direction only and substantially constant in value — abbr. DC

di-rect-ed **adj** (1891) **1**: subject to supervision or regulation (a ~ reading program for students) **2**: having a positive or negative sense (~ line segment) — **di-rect-ed-ness** **n**

di-rect-ion \di-'rek-shən-, di-\ **n** (15c) **1**: guidance or supervision of action or conduct; MANAGEMENT **2** *archaic*: SUPERScription **3 a**: an explicit instruction: ORDER **b**: assistance in pointing out the proper route — usu. used in pl. (received ~s to get to the beach) **4**: the line or course on which something is moving or is aimed to move or along which something is pointing or facing **5** *archaic*: DIRECTORATE **1** **6 a**: a channel or direct course of thought or action **b**: TENDENCY, TREND **c**: a guiding, governing, or motivating purpose **7 a**: the art and technique of directing an orchestra, band, or a show (as for stage or screen) **b**: a word, phrase, or sign indicating the appropriate tempo, mood, or intensity of a passage or movement in music — **di-rect-ion-less** \-ləs\ **adj**

di-rect-ion-al \-shənəl-, -shən-'l\ **adj** (1881) **1**: of, relating to, or indicating direction in space: **a**: suitable for detecting the direction from which radio signals come or for sending out radio signals in one direction only **b**: operating most effectively in a particular direction **2**: relating to direction or guidance esp. of thought or effort — **di-rect-ion-al-ly** \-rēk-shə-'nəl-ət-ē\ **n**

direction angle **n** (ca. 1909): an angle made by a given line with an axis of reference; **specif**: one of these angles made by a straight line with the three axes of a rectangular Cartesian coordinate system — usu. used in pl.

direction cosine **n** (ca. 1891): one of the cosines of the three angles between a directed line in space and the positive direction of the axes of a rectangular Cartesian coordinate system — usu. used in pl.

direction finder **n** (1913): a radio receiving device for determining the direction of incoming radio waves that typically consists of a coil antenna rotating freely on a vertical axis

di-rect-ive \di-'rek-tiv-, di-\ **adj** (15c) **1**: serving or intended to guide, govern, or influence **2**: serving to point direction; **specif**: DIRECTIONAL **1b** **3**: of or relating to psychotherapy or counseling in which the counselor introduces information, content, or attitudes not previously expressed by the client

directive **n** (1899): something that serves to direct, guide, and usu. impel toward an action or goal; **esp**: an authoritative instrument issued by a high-level body or official

di-rect-iv-i-ty \di-'rek-'tiv-ət-ē-, (-)di-\ **n** (1903): the property of being directional

direct lighting **n** (1928): lighting in which the greater part of the light goes directly from the source to the area lit

di-rect-ly \di-'rek-(t)lē-, di-, *in sense* 2 di-'rek-lē- or 'drek-lē\ **adv** (15c) **1**: in a direct manner (~ relevant) (the road runs ~ east and west) **2 a**: without delay: IMMEDIATELY **b**: in a little while: SHORTLY

2 direct-ly \di-'rek-(t)lē-, di-'drek-lē\ **conj**, chiefly Brit (1795): immediately after: AS SOON AS (~ I received it I rang up the shipping company — F. W. Crofts)

direct mail **n** (1923): printed matter (as circulars) prepared for soliciting business or contributions and mailed directly to individuals

di-rect-ness \di-'rek(t)-nəs-, di-\ **n** (1598) **1**: the character of being accurate in course: or aim **2**: strict pertinence: STRAIGHTFORWARDNESS

direct object **n** (ca. 1904): a grammatical object representing the primary goal or the result of the action of a verb (*me* in "he hit me" and *house* in "we built a house" are *direct objects*)

di-rect-or \di-'rek-tər-, di-\ **n** (15c): one that directs: as **a**: the head of an organized group or administrative unit (as a bureau or school) **b**: one of a group of persons entrusted with the overall direction of a corporate enterprise **c**: one that supervises the production of a show (as for stage or screen) usu. with responsibility for action, lighting, music, and rehearsals **d**: CONDUCTOR **e** — **di-rect-or-ship** \-ʃip\ **n**

di-rect-or-ate \di-'rek-t(ə)-rət-, di-\ **n** (1837) **1**: the office of director **2 a**: a board of directors (as of a corporation) **b**: membership on a board of directors **3**: an executive staff (as of a program, bureau, or department)

di-rect-or-ial \di-'rek-'tōr-ē-əl-, (-)di-, -'tōr-\ **adj** (1770) **1**: serving to direct **2**: of or relating to a director or to theatrical or motion picture direction **3**: of, relating to, or administered by a directory

director's chair **n** [fr. its use by motion picture directors on the set] (1953): a lightweight folding armchair with a back and seat usu. of cotton duck

di-rect-o-ry \di-'rek-t(ə)-rē-, di-\ **adj** (15c): serving to direct; **specif**: providing advisory but not compulsory guidance

2 directory **n**, pl. **-ries** [ML *directorium*, fr. neut. of LL *directorius* directorial, fr. L *directus*, pp.] (15c) **1 a**: a book or collection of directions, rules, or ordinances **b**: an alphabetical or classified list (as of names and addresses) **2**: a body of directors

direct primary **n** (1900): a primary in which nominations of candidates for office are made by direct vote

direct product **n** (ca. 1925): CARTESIAN PRODUCT: **esp**: a group that is the Cartesian product of two other groups

di-rect-ress \di-'rek-trəs-, di-\ **n** (1580): a woman who is a director

di-rect-rix \di-'rek-'trēs\ **n** [F, fr. ML *directrix*, *directrix*] (1631): DIRECTRESS

di-rect-rix \-triks\ **n**, pl. **-trix-es** \-trik-səz\ also **-trix-es** \-trə-'sēz\ [ML, fem. of LL *director*, fr. L *directus*, pp.] (1622) **1** *archaic*: DIRECTRESS **2**: a fixed curve with which a generatrix maintains a given relationship in generating a geometric figure; **specif**: a straight line the distance to which from any point of a conic section is in fixed ratio to the distance from the same point to a focus

direct sum **n** (ca. 1928): CARTESIAN PRODUCT — compare DIRECT PRODUCT

direct tax **n** (1776): a tax exacted directly from the person on whom the ultimate burden of the tax is expected to fall

dire-ful \di-'er-fəl\ **adj** (1583) **1**: DREADFUL **2**: OMINOUS — **dire-ful-ly** \-fəl-ē\ **adv**

dire wolf **n** (1925): a large lupine mammal (*Canis dirus* or *Aenocyon dirus*) found in Pleistocene deposits of No. America

dirge \dɜ:rdʒ\ **n** [ME *dirge*, the Office of the Dead, fr. the first word of a LL antiphon, fr. L, imper. of *dirigere* to direct — more at DRESS] (13c) **1**: a song or hymn of grief or lamentation; **esp**: one intended to accompany funeral or memorial rites **2**: a slow, solemn, and mournful piece of music **3**: something (as a poem) that has the qualities of a dirge

dir-ham \di-'rəm\ **n** [Ar, fr. L *drachma* drachma] (1839) **1** — see MONEY table **2** — see *dinar*, *ryal* at MONEY table

di-ri-gi-ble \di-'ri-jə-bəl-, da-'rij-ə-\ **adj** [L *dirigere*] (1581): capable of being steered

2 dirigible **n** [*dirigible* (balloon)] (1885): AIRSHIP

dirk \dɜ:rk\ **n** [Sc *durk*] (1557): a long straight-bladed dagger

dirk w (1599): to stab with a dirk

dir-l \di-'erl\ **vi** [prob. alter. of *thirl*] Scot (1715): TREMBLE, QUIVER

dirndl \dɜ:rn-d'l\ **n** [short for G *dirndlkleid*, fr. G dial. *dirndl* girl + G *kleid* dress, fr. MHG *kleit*; akin to OE *clath* cloth] (1937) **1**: a dress style with tight bodice, short sleeves, low neck, and gathered skirt **2**: a full skirt with a tight waistband

dir-t \dɜ:rt\ **n** [ME *dirit*, fr. ON: *diarrhea*] (14c) **1 a**: EXCREMENT, mud, dust, or grime **c** *arch*: tempestuous person **2 a**: loose: alluvial earth in placer mining **a**: an abject or filthy state: licentiousness of language or **dir-t** **e**: embarrassing or **dir-t** **bike** **e** (1972): a usu. light dirt on unpaved surfaces

dir-t **farmer** **n** (1920): a farmer who **land**: **esp**: one who farms with **dir-t** **poor** \dɜ:rt-'pu(ə)r\ **adj** (19 life

2 dirty \dɜ:rt-ē\ **adj** **dir-ti-er**; **est** (clothes) **b**: likely to be foul or disagreeable, and unrecognized that no one else wanted to be doing organisms (~ wounds) **2**: INDECENT, VULGAR (~ language)

deeds; also: UNSPORTSMANLIKE table means: ILL-GOTTEN (~ war is a ~ business) **b**: high **4**: FOGGY, STORMY **5**: a of cold **dirty-pink** walls **6**: character quality — used esp. of jazz (gave him a ~ look) **7**: has **dir-t** **ly** \dɜ:rt-'lē\ **adv** — **dir-t** **syn** DIRTY, FILTHY, FOUL, NASTY or impure. DIRTY emphasizes

reaction to it (children FILTHY carries a strong disgust gradually accumulated dirt greasy floor, utterly filthy) **FO** accumulation of what is rotten

whiffs from the river — Herma ally foul or is repugnant to onness, or sweetness (it's a nasty taste, nasty is often weakened synonym of unpleasant) **SO** gave her a nasty shock (living that of slovenly neglect (living All these terms are applicable

obscenity, DIRTY then stresses nature's at his dirty work again FOUL describe disgusting objects (a foul story) and NASTY antinnes (a cheap and nasty Wilkes) Distinctively, SQUALID and dirtiness (her life was so

2 dirty **adv** (ca. 1934): in a DIRT HANDEDLY (light ~) **b**: INDE **3** **dirty** **vb** **dir-tied**; **dir-ti-ing** **vi** (with dishonor): SULLY **b**: to **vi**: to become soiled

dirty linen **n** (1946): private distress and embarrassment — **dirty old man** **n** (1932): a **dirty pool** **n** (1940): underhand **dirty word** **n** (1842): a word; opprobrious, or derogatory iment has become a **dirty work** instant culture — J. R. Silber

Dis \dis\ [ML]: the Roman **dis- prefix** [ME *dis-*, *des-*, fr. OI akin to OE *te* apart, L *dis-* to site of (disestablish) **b**: depre (ject) (disable) (<disprince) **2**: opposite or absence of (disable) **4**: completely (disam function)

dis-abil-i-ty \dis-ə-'bil-ət-ē\ **n** disabled **b**: inability to pun mental impairment **2**: lack; a disqualification, restriction

dis-able \dis-'ə-bəl-, di-\ **vb** **dis-able** (legal right, qualification; **esp**: to depr strength; CRIPPLE **syn** see **dis-abled** **adj** (1633): incapacit **dis-abuse** \dis-ə-'byūz\ **vi** [F (1611): to free from error or **dis-sac-char-i-dase** \di-'sək-ə-'maltase or lactase) that hydro **dis-sac-char-ide** \di-'sək-ə-'sucrose) that yields on hydroly **dis-sac-cord** \dis-ə-'kō(ə)r-d\ **w** **desacort** disagreement, fr. **des** AGREE — **disaccord** **n**

dis-ac-cus-tom \dis-ə-'kəs-təm-tum, fr. **des-** + **acostumer** to **dis-ad-van-tage** \dis-əd-'vanti-tage, fr. OF, fr. **des-** + **avant** **esp**: to reputation, credit, or able, inferior, or prejudicial (~ (it put us under a serious ~) **dis-advantage** **v** (1534): to **dis-ad-van-taged** \-ij-d\ **adj** (11 conditions (as standard housing civil rights) believed to be **dis-ad-van-taged-ness** \-i-ŋ\ **n** **dis-ad-van-tage-ous** \-i-ŋ-əs\ **adj**, tuting a disadvantage **2**: **dis-geously** **adv** — **dis-ad-van-tage**