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About the type

This dictionary is typeset in CollinsFedra, a special version of the Fedra family of types designed by Peter Bil'ak. CollinsFedra has been customized especially for Collins dictionaries; it includes both sans serif (for headwords) and serif (entries) versions, in several different weights. Its large x-height, its open 'eye', and its basis in the tradition of humanist letterforms make CollinsFedra both familiar and easy to read at small sizes. It has been designed to use the minimum space without sacrificing legibility, as well as including a number of characters and signs that are specific to dictionary typography. Its companion phonetic type is the first of its kind to be drawn according to the same principles as the regular typeface, rather than assembled from rotated and reflected characters from other types. Peter Bil'ak (born 1973, Slovakia) is a graphic and type designer living in the Netherlands. He is the author of two books, *Illegibility* and *Transparency*. As well as the Fedra family, he has designed several other typefaces including *Eureka*. His typotheque.com website has become a focal point for research and debate around contemporary type design.

defilade (ˌdefɪˈleɪd) *military* ▷ **n** 1 protection provided by obstacles against enemy crossfire from the rear, or observation 2 the disposition of defensive fortifications to produce this protection ▷ **vb** (tr) 3 to provide protection for by defilade

● **ETymology** C19: see DE-, ENFILADE
defile (dɪˈfaɪl) **vb** (tr) 1 to make foul or dirty; pollute 2 to tarnish or sully the brightness of; taint; corrupt 3 to damage or sully (someone's good name, reputation, etc) 4 to make unfit for ceremonial use; desecrate 5 to violate the chastity of ▷ **defilement** **n** ▷ **defiler** **n**

● **ETymology** C14: from earlier *devoilen* (influenced by *filen* to FILE), from Old French *devoiler* to trample underfoot, abuse, from DE- + *fouler* to tread upon; see FULL

defile (dɪˈfaɪl, dɪˈfaɪl) **n** 1 a narrow pass or gorge, esp one between two mountains 2 a single file of soldiers, etc ▷ **vb** 3 chiefly *military* to march or cause to march in single file

● **ETymology** C17: from French *défiler*, from *défiler* to file off, from *filer* to march in a column, from Old French: to spin, from *fil* thread, from Latin *filum*

define (dɪˈfaɪn) **vb** (tr) 1 to state precisely the meaning of (words, terms, etc) 2 to describe the nature, properties, or essential qualities of 3 to determine the boundary or extent of 4 (often *passive*) to delineate the form or outline of: *the shape of the tree was clearly defined by the light behind it* 5 to fix with precision; specify ▷ **definable** **adj** ▷ **definability** **n** ▷ **definably** **adv** ▷ **definer** **n**

● **ETymology** C14: from Old French *definire* to determine, from Latin *definire* to set bounds to, from *finire* to FINISH
defined-benefit **adj** denoting an occupational pension scheme that guarantees a specified payout, usually based on an employee's final salary and years of service. Abbreviation: DB. Also called: **final-salary**

definiendum (dɪˈfɪnɪˈendəm) **n**, **pl** -da (-də) something to be defined, esp the term or phrase to be accounted for in a dictionary entry. Compare **definiens**

● **ETymology** Latin
definiens (dɪˈfɪnɪˈɛns) **n**, **pl** *definiētia* (dɪˈfɪnɪˈɛnsjə) the word or words used to define or give an account of the meaning of another word, as in a dictionary entry. Compare **definiendum**

● **ETymology** Latin: defining
definite (ˈdefɪnɪt) **adj** 1 clearly defined; exact; explicit 2 having precise limits or boundaries 3 known for certain; sure: *it is definite that they have won* 4 *botany* a denoting a type of growth in which the main stem ends in a flower, as in a cymose inflorescence; determinate **b** (esp of flower parts) limited or fixed in number in a given species ▷ **definiteness** **n** ▷ **definitude** (dɪˈfɪnɪˈtjuːd) **n**

● **ETymology** C15: from Latin *definitus* limited, distinct; see DEFINE

definite article **n** *grammar* a determiner that expresses specificity of reference, such as the in English. Compare **indefinite article**

definite description **n** 1 a description that is modified by the definite article or a possessive, such as *the woman in white* or *Rosemary's baby* 2 a similar plural expression, such as *the kings of Scotland*

definite integral **n** *maths* **a** the evaluation of the indefinite integral between two limits, representing the area between the given function and the x-axis between these two values of x **b** the expression for that function, $\int_a^b f(x)dx$, where $f(x)$ is the given function and $x = a$ and $x = b$ are the limits of integration. Where $F(x) = \int f(x)dx$, the indefinite integral, $\int_a^b f(x)dx = F(b) - F(a)$

definitely (ˈdefɪnɪtli) **adv** 1 in a definite manner 2 (*sentence modifier*) certainly: *he said he was coming*, *definitely* ▷ *sentence substitute* 3 unquestionably: *used to confirm an assumption by a questioner*

definition (ˌdefɪˈnɪʃən) **n** 1 a formal and concise statement of the meaning of a word, phrase, etc 2 the act of defining a word, phrase, etc 3 specification of the essential properties of something, or of the criteria which uniquely

5 the state or condition of being clearly defined or definite 6 a measure of the clarity of an optical, photographic, or television image as characterized by its sharpness and contrast ▷ **definitional** **adj**

definitive (dɪˈfɪnɪtɪv) **adj** 1 serving to decide or settle finally; conclusive 2 most reliable, complete, or authoritative: *the definitive reading of a text* 3 serving to define or outline 4 *zoology* fully developed; complete: *the definitive form of a parasite* 5 **a** (of postage stamps) permanently on sale **b** (as *noun*) a definitive postage stamp ▷ **n** 6 *grammar* a word indicating specificity of reference, such as the definite article or a demonstrative adjective or pronoun ▷ **definitively** **adv** ▷ **definitiveness** **n**

deflagrate (ˈdeflæɡreɪt, ˈdiː-) **vb** to burn or cause to burn with great heat and light ▷ **deflagration** **n**

● **ETymology** C18: from Latin *dēflagrāre*, from DE- + *flagrāre* to burn

deflate (dɪˈfleɪt) **vb** 1 to collapse or cause to collapse through the release of gas 2 (tr) to take away the self-esteem or conceit from 3 *economics* to cause deflation of (an economy, the money supply, etc) ▷ **deflator** **n**

● **ETymology** C19: from DE- + (IN)FLATE

deflation (dɪˈfleɪʃən) **n** 1 the act of deflating or state of being deflated 2 *economics* a reduction in the level of total spending and economic activity resulting in lower levels of output, employment, investment, trade, profits, and prices. Compare **disinflation** 3 *geology* the removal of loose rock material, sand, and dust by the wind ▷ **deflationary** **adj** ▷ **deflationist** **n**, **adj**

deflationary gap **n** *economics* a situation in which total spending in an economy is insufficient to buy all the output that can be produced with full employment

deflect (dɪˈflekt) **vb** to turn or cause to turn aside from a course; swerve ▷ **deflector** **n**

● **ETymology** C17: from Latin *dēflectere*, from *flectere* to bend

deflection or deflexion (dɪˈflekʃən) **n** 1 the act of deflecting or the state of being deflected 2 the amount of deviation 3 the change in direction of a light beam as it crosses a boundary between two media with different refractive indexes 4 a deviation of the indicator of a measuring instrument from its zero position 5 the movement of a structure or structural member when subjected to a load ▷ **deflective** **adj**

deflexed (dɪˈflekst, ˈdɪːflekst) **adj** (of leaves, petals, etc) bent sharply outwards and downwards

deflocculate (dɪˈflɒkjʊˌleɪt) **vb** (tr) 1 to disperse, forming a colloid or suspension 2 to prevent flocculation of (a colloid or suspension) ▷ **deflocculation** **n** ▷ **deflocculant** **n**

defloration (ˌdɪːflɒˈreɪʃən) **n** the act of deflowering

● **ETymology** C15: from Late Latin *dēflorātio*; see DE-, FLOWER

deflower (dɪˈflaʊə) **vb** (tr) 1 to deprive of virginity, esp by rupturing the hymen through sexual intercourse 2 to despoil of beauty, innocence, etc; mar; violate 3 to rob or despoil of flowers ▷ **deflowerer** **n**

defo (ˈdefəʊ) *interj* *Brit informal* definitely: an expression of agreement or consent

Defoe (dɪˈfəʊ) **n** Daniel. 1660–1731, English novelist, journalist, spy-master, and pamphleteer, noted particularly for his novel *Robinson Crusoe* (1719). His other novels include *Moll Flanders* (1722) and *A Journal of the Plague Year* (1722)

defoliant (dɪˈfəʊliənt) **n** a chemical sprayed or dusted onto trees to cause their leaves to fall, esp to remove cover from an enemy in warfare

defoliate **vb** (dɪˈfəʊliːt) 1 to deprive (a plant) of its leaves, as by the use of a herbicide, or (of a plant) to shed its leaves ▷ **adj** (dɪˈfəʊliːt) 2 (of a plant) having shed its leaves ▷ **defoliation** **n** ▷ **defoliator** **n**

● **ETymology** C18: from Medieval Latin *dēfoliāre*, from Latin DE- + *folium* leaf

deforce (dɪˈfɔːs) **vb** (tr) *property law* 1 to withhold (property, esp land) wrongfully or by force from the rightful owner 2 to eject or keep forcibly from possession of property ▷ **deforcement** **n**

● **ETymology** C13: from Anglo-French, from *deforcer*

deforest (dɪˈfɒrɪst) **vb** (tr) to clear of trees. Also:

disforest ▷ **deforestation** **n** ▷ **deforester** **n**

deform (dɪˈfɔːm) **vb** 1 to make or become misshapen or distorted 2 (tr) to mar the beauty of; disfigure 3 (tr) to subject or be subjected to a stress that causes a change of dimensions ▷ **deformable** **adj** ▷ **deformability** **n** ▷ **deformer** **n**

● **ETymology** C15: from Latin *dēformāre*, from DE- + *forma* shape, beauty

deformation (ˌdɪːfɔːˈmeɪʃən) **n** 1 the act of deforming; distortion 2 the result of deforming; a change in form, esp for the worse 3 a change in the dimensions of an object resulting from a stress

deformed (dɪˈfɔːmd) **adj** 1 disfigured or misshapen 2 morally perverted; warped ▷ **deformedly** (dɪˈfɔːmdli) **adv** ▷ **deformeness** **n**

deformity (dɪˈfɔːmɪti) **n**, **pl** -ties 1 a deformed condition; disfigurement 2 *pathol* an acquired or congenital distortion of an organ or part 3 a deformed person or thing 4 a defect, esp of the mind or morals; depravity

Defra (ˈdefrə) **n** *acronym* (in Britain) Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

defrag (dɪˈfræg) **vb** -frags, -fragging, -fragged to consolidate fragmented files and folders on (the hard drive of a computer or other electronic device) in order to make it run more efficiently

● **ETymology** short for *defragment*

defraud (dɪˈfrɔːd) **vb** (tr) to take away or withhold money, rights, property, etc, from (a person) by fraud; cheat; swindle ▷ **defraudation** (ˌdɪːfrɔːˈdeɪʃən) or **defraudment** **n** ▷ **defrauder** **n**

defray (dɪˈfreɪ) **vb** (tr) to furnish or provide money for (costs, expenses, etc); pay ▷ **defrayable** **adj** ▷ **defrayal** or **defrayment** **n** ▷ **defrayer** **n**

● **ETymology** C16: from Old French *dēffroier* to pay expenses, from de- DIS- + *frāi* expenditure, originally: cost incurred through breaking something, from Latin *frangere* to break

defrock (dɪˈfrɒk) **vb** (tr) to deprive (a person in holy orders) of ecclesiastical status; unrock

defrost (dɪˈfrɒst) **vb** 1 to make or become free of frost or ice 2 to thaw, esp through removal from a refrigerator

defroster (dɪˈfrɒstə) **n** a device by which the de-icing process of a refrigerator is accelerated, usually by circulating the refrigerant without the expansion process

deft (deft) **adj** quick and neat in movement; nimble; dexterous ▷ **deftly** **adv** ▷ **deftness** **n**

● **ETymology** C13 (in the sense: gentle): see DAFT
defunct (dɪˈfʌŋkt) **adj** 1 no longer living; dead or extinct 2 no longer operative or valid ▷ **defunctive** **adj** ▷ **defunctness** **n**

● **ETymology** C16: from Latin *dēfungi* to discharge (one's obligations), die; see DE-, FUNCTION

defuse or sometimes US **defuze** (dɪˈfjuːz) **vb** (tr) 1 to remove the triggering device of (a bomb, etc) 2 to remove the cause of tension from (a crisis, etc)

● **USAGE** Avoid confusion with **diffuse**

defy (dɪˈfaɪ) **vb** -fies, -fying, -fied (tr) 1 to resist (a powerful person, authority, etc) openly and boldly 2 to elude, esp in a baffling way: *his actions defy explanation* 3 formal to challenge or provoke (someone to do something judged to be impossible); dare: *I defy you to climb that cliff* 4 *archaic* to invite to do battle or combat ▷ **defier** **n**

● **ETymology** C14: from Old French *desfier*, from des- DE- + *fier* to trust, from Latin *fidere*

deg (deg) **vb** *degs, degging, degged* (tr) *Northern English dialect* to water (a plant, etc)

deg, *abbreviation* degree

dégagé French (degaʒe) **adj** 1 unconstrained in manner; casual; relaxed 2 uninvolved; detached

degas (dɪˈɡæs) **vb** -gases or -gasses, -gassing, -gassed 1 (tr) to remove gas from (a container, vacuum tube, liquid, adsorbent, etc) 2 (intr) to lose adsorbed or absorbed gas by desorption ▷ **degasser** **n**

de Gaulle (French də ɡol) **n** Charles (André Joseph Marie) (Jarl). 1890–1970, French general and statesman. During World War II, he refused to accept Pétain's armistice with Germany and founded the Free French movement in England