

an evil spirit or being; a fallen angel, expelled from heaven for rebellion against God; the chief of the traitorous angels; the merciless enemy and tempter of the human race. In the New Testament, the word is frequently and erroneously used for **demon**.

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
Matthew 4:1

2. A very wicked person, and in ludicrous language, a great evil. In profane language, it is an expletive (curse word) expressing wonder, vexation, etc.

3. An idol, or false god, as in Leviticus 17:7.

Then he appointed for himself priests for the high places, for the devils, and the calf idols which he had made.
2 Chronicles 11:15

devo·tion, noun [Latin, *devotio*–*nem*, “dedication by a vow, solemn promise.”]

1. Strong love or affection; loyalty.
2. The state of being dedicated, consecrated, or solemnly set apart for a particular purpose.

The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance, by solemn acts of **devotion** to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the

A theory created by Enlightenment German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. He taught that the conflict of a thesis and anti-thesis result in a synthesis. The



devotion

other, from this time forward forever. John Adams

3. A solemn attention to the Supreme Being in worship; a yielding of the heart and affections to God, with reverence, faith and piety, in religious duties, particularly in prayer and meditation; devoutness.

But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his trickery, your minds will be led astray from sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3

4. External worship; acts of religion; performance of religious duties.

For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, Him declare I unto you. Acts 17:23 (KJV)

5. Prayer to the Supreme Being.

A Christian will be regular in his morning and evening **devotions**.

dia·lec·tic, noun [Latin, *dialectica*, “art of philosophical discussion or discourse.”]

A theory created by Enlightenment German philosopher Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel. He taught that the conflict of a thesis and anti-thesis result in a synthesis. The

synthesis becomes the new thesis and the process repeats, and this is how truth is determined. In practice, the process of the **dialectic** is what moves someone from a belief in absolute truth to relativism.

dic·ta·tor, noun [from Latin verb, *dictare*, “say often”; “prescribe.”]

1. A ruler who has complete power over the government of a country. One who dictates; one who prescribes rules for the direction of others.

Satan, the leader or **dictator** of devils, is the opposite, not of God, but of Michael.

C. S. Lewis
2. One invested with absolute authority. In ancient Rome, a magistrate, created in times of exigence and distress, and invested with unlimited power. He remained in office six months. Yet, Julius Caesar made himself “**dictator** for life” against Roman laws.



dictator

diktat, noun [German; Latin, *dictatum*, “dictate.”]

1. An authoritative or dogmatic statement or decree. In 2020–21, government officials

ordered **diktats** regarding the wearing of masks, “social distancing” and the closing of “non-essential” businesses, schools and churches.

2. A dictated peace; a harsh penalty or settlement imposed upon a defeated party by the victor.



diligent

dil-i-gent, adjective [Latin, *diligentum*, “attentive, careful.”]

1. Working hard; steady; industrious.

Let us never become lazy in defending our God-given freedoms but remain **diligent** to guard them.

The hand of the diligent will rule, but the lazy man will be put to forced labor. Proverbs 12:24

2. Steady in application to business; constant in effort or exertion to accomplish what is undertaken; assiduous; attentive; industrious; not idle or negligent; applied to persons.

You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. Deuteronomy 6:7

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15
3. Steadily applied; prosecuted

with care and constant effort; careful; assiduous; as, make **diligent** search.

I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, and my spirit makes diligent search. Psalm 77:6 (KJV)

dim-in-ish, verb [Latin, *diminuere*, “to break into small pieces.”]

1. To make or become smaller or less; to reduce in size, amount or importance; to decrease. If we are not vigilant, our freedoms will gradually **diminish** without us realizing, until it is too late.

2. To lessen; to make less or smaller, by any means; opposed to increase and augment; as, to **diminish** the size of a thing by contraction, or by cutting off a part; to **diminish** a number by subtraction; to **diminish** the revenue by limiting commerce, or reducing the customs; to **diminish** strength or safety; to **diminish** the heat of a room. It is particularly applied to bulk and quantity, as shorten is applied to length.

The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. Joel 3:15
3. To lessen; to impair; to degrade.

Moses was one hundred and twenty years old when he died. His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor diminished.
Exodus 34:7

To the kindly influence of Christianity we owe that degree of civil freedom, and political and social happiness which mankind now enjoys. In proportion as the genuine effects of Christianity are **diminished** in any nation

. . . in the same proportion will the people of that nation recede from the blessings of genuine freedom. Dr. Jedidiah Morse

4. In music, to take from a note by a sharp, flat or natural.

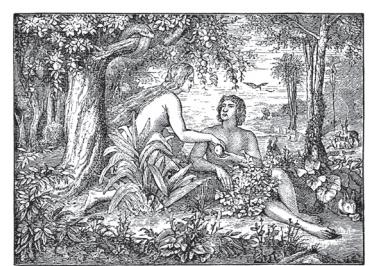
dis-cern, verb [Latin, *discernere*, “to separate, divide or distinguish.”]

1. To discover; to see; to distinguish by the eye.

Hypocrites! You can discern the face of the sky and of the earth, but how is it you do not discern this time? Luke 12:56
2. To discover by the intellect; to distinguish; hence, to have knowledge of; to judge.

He who keeps His command will experience nothing harmful; and a wise man’s heart discerns both time and judgment. Ecclesiastes 8:5
3. To see or understand the difference; to make distinction; as, to **discern** between good and evil, truth and falsehood.

Then you shall again discern between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him. Malachi 3:18



discern

disci·p·le, noun [from Latin verb, *discere*, “to learn.”]

1. A learner; a scholar; one who receives instruction from