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Z**dead end** *NOUN* **dead ends**

**1** a road or passage with one end closed. **2** a situation where there is no chance of making progress.

**dead heat** *NOUN* **dead heats**

a race in which two or more winners finish exactly together.

**deadline** *NOUN* **deadlines**

a time limit.  
[originally this meant a line round an American military prison; if prisoners went beyond it they could be shot]

**deadlock** *NOUN* **deadlocks**

a situation in which no progress can be made.  
[from *dead* + *lock*<sup>1</sup>]

**deadly** *ADJECTIVE* **deadlier, deadliest**

likely to kill.

**deaf** *ADJECTIVE*

**1** unable to hear. **2** unwilling to hear.

▷ **deafness** *noun*  
[from Old English]

**deafen** *VERB* **deafens, deafening, deafened**

make somebody become deaf, especially by a very loud noise.

**deafening** *ADJECTIVE*

extremely loud.

**deal**<sup>1</sup> *VERB* **deals, dealing, dealt**

**1** hand something out; give. **2** give out cards for a card game. **3** do business; buy and sell  
• *He deals in scrap metal.*

▷ **dealer** *noun*  
- **deal with 1** be concerned with • *This book deals with whales and dolphins.* **2** do what is needed  
• *I'll deal with the washing-up.*

**deal** *NOUN* **deals**

**1** an agreement or bargain. **2** someone's turn to deal at cards.

- **a good deal** or **a great deal** a large amount.  
[from Old English *daelan* = divide, share out]

**deal**<sup>2</sup> *NOUN*

sawn fir or pine wood.  
[from old Dutch *dele* = plank]

**dean** *NOUN* **deans**

**1** an important member of the clergy in a cathedral etc. **2** the head of a university, college, or department.

▷ **deanery** *noun*  
[from Latin]

**dear** *ADJECTIVE*

**1** loved very much. **2** a polite greeting in letters  
• *Dear Sir.* **3** expensive.

▷ **dearly** *adverb*  
[from Old English]

**dearth** (*say* derth) *NOUN* **dearths**

a scarcity.  
[from *dear* (because scarcity made food etc. expensive)]

**death** *NOUN* **deaths**

dying; the end of life.  
[from Old English]

**deathly** *ADJECTIVE & ADVERB*

like death.

**death trap** *NOUN* **death traps**

a very dangerous place.

**debar** *VERB* **debars, debarring, debarred**

forbid or ban • *He was debarred from the contest.*  
[from *de-* + French *barrer* = to bar]

**debase** *VERB* **debases, debasing, debased**

reduce the quality or value of something.

▷ **debasement** *noun*

[from *de-* + *base*<sup>2</sup>]

**debatable** *ADJECTIVE*

questionable; that can be argued against.

**debate** *NOUN* **debates**

a formal discussion.

**debate** *VERB* **debates, debating, debated**

hold a debate.

▷ **debater** *noun*  
[from old French]

**debilitating** *ADJECTIVE*

causing weakness.

**debility** (*say* dib- il- it- ee) *NOUN*

weakness of the body.  
[from Latin]

**debit** *NOUN* **debits**

an entry in an account showing how much money is owed. (COMPARE **credit**)

**debit** *VERB* **debits, debiting, debited**

enter something as a debit in an account; remove money from an account.  
[from Latin *debitum* = what is owed]

**debonair** (*say* deb- on- air) *ADJECTIVE*

carefree and confident.  
[from French *de bon air* = of good disposition]

**debris** (*say* deb- ree) *NOUN*

scattered fragments or wreckage.  
[from French *débris* = broken down]

**debt** (*say* det) *NOUN* **debts**

something that you owe someone.

- **in debt** owing money etc.  
[same origin as *debit*]

**debtor** (*say* det- or) *NOUN* **debtors**

a person who owes money to someone.