

Definite. Fixed, determined, defined, bounded.

Definite sentence. Sentence calling for imprisonment for specified number of years as contrasted with indeterminate sentence which leaves duration to prison authorities (e.g. parole boards) and good behavior of prisoner. Also called "determinate sentence".

Definitio /dɛfə'nɪʃ(i)yəʊ/. Lat. Definition, or more strictly, limiting or bounding; as in the maxim of the civil law: *Omnis definitio periculosa est, parum est enim ut non subverti possit*, i.e., the attempt to bring the law within the boundaries of precise definitions is hazardous, as there are but few cases in which such a limitation cannot be subverted.

Definition. A description of a thing by its properties; an explanation of the meaning of a word or term. The process of stating the exact meaning of a word by means of other words. Such a description of the thing defined, including all essential elements and excluding all nonessential, as to distinguish it from all other things and classes. See also Define.

Definitive. That which finally and completely ends and settles a controversy. For example, a definitive sentence or judgment as opposed to an interlocutory judgment. See Definite sentence.

Definitive sentence. See Definite sentence.

Deflation. Decline in price of goods and services. Compare Disinflation.

Deflect. To turn aside, to deviate from a straight or horizontal line or from a proper position, to swerve.

Defloration /di'flɔːrɪʃən/. Seduction or debauching. The act by which a woman is deprived of her virginity.

Deforce. In old English law, to withhold wrongfully; to withhold the possession of lands from one who is lawfully entitled to them. 3 Bl.Comm. 172.

Deforcement. Deforcement is where a man wrongfully holds lands to which another person is entitled. It therefore includes disseisin, abatement, discontinuance, and intrusion. But it is applied especially to cases, not falling under those heads, where the person entitled to the freehold has never had possession. 3 Bl.Comm. 172. Also, to detain dower from widow.

Deforciant /di'fɔːrʃənt/. One who wrongfully keeps the owner of lands and tenements out of the possession of them. 2 Bl.Comm. 350.

Deforciare /dɛfɔːr(h)ɪ'ɛrɪy/. L. Lat. To withhold lands or tenements from the rightful owner. This is a word of art which cannot be supplied by any other word.

Deforciatio /dɛfɔːr(h)ɪ'ɛrɪʃ(i)yəʊ/. L. Lat. In old English law, a distress, distraint, or seizure of goods for satisfaction of a lawful debt.

De forisfactura maritaggi /di'y fɔːrɪsfæ'kʃʊrə mə'rɪtɛ'y-jiyay/. Writ of forfeiture of marriage.

Deformity. A deformed or misshapen condition; an unnatural growth, or a distorted or misshapen part or member; disfigurement, as a bodily deformity.

Defossion /dɛfɔːʃən/. The punishment of being buried alive.

De frangentibus prisonam /di'y fræn'jɛntəbəs prɪzənəm/. Concerning those that break prison. The title of the English statute 1 Edw. II, ordaining that none from thenceforth who broke prison should have judgment of life or limb for breaking prison only, unless the cause for which he was taken and imprisoned required such a judgment if he was lawfully convicted thereof.

Defraud. To make a misrepresentation of an existing material fact, knowing it to be false or making it recklessly without regard to whether it is true or false, intending one to rely and under circumstances in which such person does rely to his damage. To practice fraud; to cheat or trick. To deprive a person of property or any interest, estate, or right by fraud, deceit, or artifice. See also Collusion; Deceit; Fraud; Material fact; Misrepresentation.

Intent to defraud means an intention to deceive another person, and to induce such other person, in reliance upon such deception, to assume, create, transfer, alter or terminate a right, obligation or power with reference to property.

Defraudation. Privation by fraud.

Defunct. Having ceased to exist; no longer operative. Deceased; a deceased person. A business which has ceased to function.

Defunctus /dɛfʊŋ(k)təs/. Lat. Dead. "Defunctus sine prole," dead without (leaving) issue.

De furto /di'y fɜːrtəʊ/. Of theft. One of the kinds of criminal appeal formerly in use in England.

Degaster /dɛygəstéy/. L. Fr. To waste.

De gestu et fama /di'y jɛstyuw ət féymə/. Of behavior and reputation. An old writ which lay in cases where a person's conduct and reputation were impeached.

Degradation. A deprivation of dignity; dismissal from rank or office; act or process of degrading. Moral or intellectual decadence; degeneration; deterioration.

An ecclesiastical censure, whereby a clergyman is divested of his holy orders. There are two sorts by the canon law,—one *summary*, by word only; the other *solemn*, by stripping the party degraded of those ornaments and rights which are the ensigns of his degree. Degradation is otherwise called "deposition," but the canonists have distinguished between these two terms, deeming the former as the greater punishment of the two. There was likewise a degradation of a lord or knight at common law, and also by act of parliament.

Dégradations /dɛgrədə'yshənz/. A term for waste in the French law.

Degrade. See Degradation.

Degrading. Reviling; holding one up to public obloquy; lowering a person in the estimation of the public; exposing to disgrace, dishonor, or contempt.

De gratia /di'y gréyʃh(i)yə/. Of grace or favor, by favor. *De speciali gratia*, of special grace or favor.