

Positive verbs that start with D

51 verbs with meanings and examples. Updated 10 October 2026. Free to print and share in a classroom.

Dance v.

To move rhythmically, often to express joy or follow music.

Families began to dance when the band played the first tune.

Dare v.

To face uncertainty with enough courage to act.

Young reporters dare to question assumptions that others overlook.

Dazzle v.

To impress or delight someone greatly.

The young acrobats dazzle the audience with skill and timing.

Debrief v.

To review an experience so people can learn from it.

The rescue crew will debrief after every training exercise.

Debug v.

To find and remove errors from a system or plan.

The volunteers debug the booking form before registration opens.

Decarbonize v.

To reduce carbon emissions from an activity or system.

The city plans to decarbonize its buses with clean electricity.

Decipher v.

To work out the meaning of something difficult or encoded.

Mina helped decipher the faded note without guessing at missing words.

Declutter v.

To remove unneeded things and create useful order.

We will declutter the storeroom before donating the spare equipment.

Decode v.

To convert a message or pattern into understandable information.

The analyst could decode the signal despite heavy interference.

Decompress v.

To release pressure or relax after sustained effort.

A quiet walk helps the night nurse decompress after work.

Decontaminate v.

To remove harmful substances from a person, object, or place.

Specialists will decontaminate the workshop before anyone returns.

Decorate v.

To make something more attractive by adding pleasing details.

Children will decorate the hall with paper flowers.

Dedicate v.

To commit time, effort, or something valuable to a purpose.
The town will dedicate the new garden to local nurses.

Deduce v.

To reach a sound conclusion from known facts or evidence.
From the fresh tracks, Nia could deduce which gate was open.

Defend v.

To protect someone or something from harm or unfair attack.
The lawyer volunteered to defend tenants facing illegal eviction.

Defibrillate v.

To treat a dangerous heart rhythm with an electrical shock.
Paramedics may defibrillate a patient when the monitor indicates it.

Defuse v.

To make a dangerous or tense situation safer and calmer.
Her honest apology helped defuse the argument before it spread.

Delineate v.

To describe boundaries or details with clarity and precision.
The map will delineate every accessible route through the park.

Deliver v.

To bring a promised result or provide what is needed.
The new pump can deliver clean water to every floor.

Demystify v.

To make a difficult subject easier to understand.
The mechanic used a clear diagram to demystify the engine.

Denuclearize v.

To remove nuclear weapons or military nuclear capability.
The treaty would denuclearize the region through verified steps.

Deodorize v.

To remove or neutralize an unpleasant smell.
Fresh charcoal can deodorize the cupboard without added fragrance.

Depolarize v.

To reduce division and encourage shared understanding.
Listening sessions helped depolarize the debate around the new shelter.

Deradicalize v.

To help someone abandon violent or extremist beliefs.
The program aims to deradicalize recruits through counseling and education.

Desegregate v.

To end enforced separation and allow equal participation.
The district worked to desegregate its advanced science classes.

Desire v.

To strongly want something valued or beneficial.
Residents desire a park that children can reach safely.

Destigmatize v.

To reduce shame and unfair judgment around a condition or identity.

Open conversations can destigmatize asking for mental health support.

Destress v.

To reduce tension and return to a calmer state.

Ten quiet minutes helped the caregivers destress between appointments.

Detangle v.

To remove knots or straighten something that has become tangled.

A wide comb can detangle the curls without pulling.

Detoxify v.

To remove or neutralize poisonous substances.

The treatment helps the liver detoxify harmful compounds safely.

Develop v.

To grow, improve, or bring something into a stronger form.

Weekly workshops help new managers develop listening skills.

Devise v.

To invent or plan a useful method or solution.

The students devised a simple way to collect rainwater.

Diagnose v.

To correctly identify an illness or the cause of a problem.

The technician used pressure readings to diagnose the hidden leak.

Dig v.

Informally, to like, appreciate, or understand something.

I dig how the new mural includes every neighborhood landmark.

Dignify v.

To give respect, worth, or seriousness to someone or something.

Listening fully can dignify another person's experience.

Disambiguate v.

To remove uncertainty by making a meaning precise.

Adding dates helped the editor disambiguate the two similar accounts.

Disarm v.

To reduce hostility or suspicion through a reassuring manner.

A sincere apology helped disarm the angry customer.

Disburden v.

To relieve someone of a worry, duty, or heavy load.

Sharing the route planning will disburden the volunteer coordinator.

Discern v.

To notice, understand, or judge something clearly.

Careful readers can discern the difference between evidence and opinion.

Discover v.

To find or learn something previously unknown.

The students used the microscope to discover a detailed pattern in the leaf.

Disentangle v.

To free something from confusion, complication, or entanglement.
The mediator helped disentangle the facts from years of resentment.

Disinfect v.

To clean by destroying harmful microorganisms.
Staff disinfect the shared tools after every workshop.

Dispel v.

To make fear, doubt, or misunderstanding disappear.
The demonstration helped dispel concerns about the bridge's stability.

Distill v.

To extract and express the most important ideas clearly.
Mara can distill a long debate into three fair questions.

Distinguish v.

To recognize or identify a difference accurately.
Experienced guides distinguish fresh tracks from marks left yesterday.

Diversify v.

To add variety so a group or system becomes broader or stronger.
The farm will diversify its crops to reduce risk.

Donate v.

To give money, goods, time, or services to help others.
Several farms donate fresh produce to the pantry.

Dote v.

To show great fondness and loving attention.
The grandparents dote on the twins without spoiling them.

Dovetail v.

To fit together neatly, effectively, or harmoniously.
The library workshops dovetail with lessons taught at the school.

Downshift v.

To adopt a slower and less pressured way of living or working.
They chose to downshift and reserve Fridays for family care.

Dream v.

To imagine a desired possibility or future.
The young engineers dream of making clean water easier to reach.