

Positive words that start with D

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

Adjectives

Dainty adj.

Delicately attractive, light, or carefully made.

The baker arranged dainty fruit tarts on a silver tray.

Dandy adj.

Very good, pleasing, or useful.

This folding cart is a dandy solution for moving the boxes.

Dapper adj.

Neat, stylish, and well dressed.

The dapper host wore a bright tie for the celebration.

Dappled adj.

Attractively marked with small patches of color or light.

Dappled sunlight warmed the moss beside the woodland path.

Daring adj.

Willing to attempt something difficult, new, or uncertain.

The architect proposed a daring reuse of the abandoned station.

Darling adj.

Dearly loved or especially charming.

Their darling granddaughter drew a picture for every guest.

Dashing adj.

Attractive, confident, and full of lively style.

The dashing actor greeted the stage crew by name.

Dauntless adj.

Showing determination without being discouraged by danger or difficulty.

The dauntless rescue team kept searching through the night.

Dazzling adj.

Extremely bright, beautiful, or impressive.

Her dazzling performance earned a standing ovation.

Dear adj.

Loved, valued, or regarded with deep affection.

A dear friend kept her company through the long recovery.

Debonair adj.

Confident, stylish, and charming in manner.

The debonair host welcomed everyone with easy warmth.

Decent adj.

Kind, honorable, fair, or good enough in quality.

A decent employer gives clear notice when plans change.

Decisive adj.

Able to make clear and timely decisions.

The decisive captain turned back before the storm reached them.

Decorated adj.

Honored with awards or made more attractive with ornament.

The decorated pilot thanked the crew who supported the rescue.

Decorative adj.

Made to add beauty or visual interest.

A decorative border brightened the community notice board.

Decorous adj.

Polite, dignified, and appropriate to the occasion.

The audience remained decorous during the solemn tribute.

Dedicated adj.

Committed to a purpose, task, or responsibility.

The dedicated volunteers checked on every household before the storm.

Deep adj.

Strong, sincere, or showing careful thought.

The mentor's deep respect for beginners shaped every lesson.

Defensible adj.

Supported by sound reasons, evidence, or fair principles.

Her defensible estimate included both uncertainty and maintenance costs.

Definite adj.

Clear, certain, and free from meaningful ambiguity.

The inspection found definite evidence that the repair was holding.

Definitive adj.

Authoritative, complete, and able to settle a question.

The final laboratory test gave a definitive answer.

Deft adj.

Skillful, quick, and precise in movement or thought.

With a deft adjustment, the mechanic stopped the vibration.

Delectable adj.

Especially delicious or delightful.

The café served a delectable pear tart with warm spices.

Deliberate adj.

Careful, intentional, and based on thoughtful consideration.

The deliberate schedule reserved time for questions before the vote.

Deliberative adj.

Involving careful discussion before a decision is made.

A deliberative meeting allowed quieter members to test each proposal.

Delicate adj.

Finely made, graceful, or requiring gentle care.

The artist restored the delicate pattern with a tiny brush.

Delicious adj.

Highly pleasing to the taste or smell.

The garden tomatoes made a delicious summer soup.

Delighted adj.

Feeling or showing great pleasure.

The children were delighted when the ducklings reached the pond.

Delightful adj.

Giving great pleasure, charm, or enjoyment.

We spent a delightful afternoon exploring the old bookshop.

Delish adj.

Informally, especially delicious, appealing, or enjoyable.

The roasted peaches were delish with a spoonful of yogurt.

Deluxe adj.

Especially high in quality, comfort, or included features.

The deluxe cabin included a ramp and an adapted bathroom.

Democratic adj.

Allowing people a fair and meaningful voice in decisions.

The cooperative used a democratic vote to choose its new chair.

Demonstrative adj.

Openly showing affection, enthusiasm, or other warm feelings.

Their demonstrative aunt greeted every child with delighted applause.

Demure adj.

Quietly reserved, modest, and graceful in manner.

The demure violinist smiled softly when the audience stood.

Dependable adj.

Consistently reliable and worthy of trust.

A dependable teammate follows through and communicates early.

Deserved adj.

Fairly earned through effort, character, or achievement.

The exhausted crew enjoyed a deserved evening of rest.

Deserving adj.

Worthy of help, praise, attention, or reward.

Every careful volunteer is deserving of sincere thanks.

Desirable adj.

Worth having because it is useful, pleasant, or beneficial.

Safe sidewalks are a desirable feature in any neighborhood.

Destined adj.

Likely or intended to reach a particular future outcome.

The thoughtful young scientist seemed destined for meaningful work.

Detailed adj.

Containing careful and useful attention to small parts.

Her detailed handover helped the next crew work safely.

Determined adj.

Firmly committed to reaching a goal or solving a problem.

The determined researcher repeated the test until the cause was clear.

Devoted adj.

Giving steady care, loyalty, or effort to someone or something.

He was a devoted mentor who made time for careful questions.

Devout adj.

Sincerely committed to a faith, belief, or worthy practice.

A devout peace advocate, she worked patiently across divisions.

Dewy adj.

Fresh, soft, and lightly covered with moisture.

Dewy leaves sparkled along the path after sunrise.

Dexterous adj.

Skillful and precise with the hands or mind.

The dexterous surgeon completed the delicate repair.

Diaphanous adj.

Delicately light and almost transparent in appearance.

Diaphanous curtains softened the afternoon light across the studio.

Diehard adj.

Firmly loyal or committed despite difficulty or disappointment.

The diehard supporters kept the community theater open through winter.

Digestible adj.

Easy to understand, absorb, or comfortably consume.

The guide turns complex tax rules into digestible steps.

Dignified adj.

Calm, worthy, and deserving of respect.

She gave a dignified response even when the discussion became tense.

Diligent adj.

Careful and persistent in one's work or duties.

Her diligent notes allowed the next shift to continue safely.

Diplomatic adj.

Skilled at handling disagreement with tact and fairness.

His diplomatic question helped both sides explain what they needed.

Direct adj.

Clear, honest, and straightforward in communication.

Her direct answer saved the team from pursuing the wrong option.

Disarming adj.

Charming or sincere enough to reduce tension or suspicion.

His disarming honesty changed the tone of the meeting.

Discerning adj.

Able to notice fine differences and make sound judgments.

A discerning reader checks the source before sharing the claim.

Discreet adj.

Careful, tactful, and respectful of privacy.

The discreet counselor found a private room for the conversation.

Dispassionate adj.

Calm and fair because personal feelings do not control judgment.

A dispassionate review considered evidence from both sides.

Distinct adj.

Clearly recognizable and attractively different.

Each singer brought a distinct voice to the ensemble.

Distinctive adj.

Having an appealing quality that is easy to recognize.

The artist's distinctive use of color brightens the station.

Distinguished adj.

Respected and admired for notable achievement.

The distinguished engineer still mentors new graduates.

Diverse adj.

Including people, ideas, or things with varied qualities.

A diverse panel brought several useful perspectives to the decision.

Diversified adj.

Made broader and stronger by including varied parts.

The diversified farm remained productive during the dry year.

Diverting adj.

Entertaining and pleasantly able to hold attention.

The diverting puzzle kept the passengers occupied.

Divine adj.

Extremely pleasing, excellent, or connected with the sacred.

The bakery filled the street with the divine smell of cinnamon.

Doable adj.

Possible to complete with the time and resources available.

With four volunteers, the repair is doable before sunset.

Dogged adj.

Persistently determined despite difficulty, delay, or discouragement.

Her dogged research restored the names missing from the memorial.

Done adj.

Successfully finished, settled, or ready for use.

The repaired playground was done before the summer program began.

Doting adj.

Showing great fondness and loving attention.

The doting uncle saved every drawing his niece sent.

Doughty adj.

Brave, determined, and persistent in difficulty.

The doughty hikers continued after repairing the torn pack.

Dovish adj.

Favoring peaceful negotiation instead of force or conflict.

The dovish minister reopened talks before the ceasefire expired.

Down-to-earth adj.

Practical, sincere, and easy to relate to.

The down-to-earth professor welcomed basic questions.

Downy adj.

Pleasantly soft and light like fine feathers.

Downy seed heads drifted across the sunlit meadow.

Dramatic adj.

Striking, exciting, or impressive in effect.

The repaired lighting created a dramatic improvement in the hall.

Dreamlike adj.

Wonderfully beautiful or unreal in appearance.

Mist made the quiet forest look dreamlike at sunrise.

Dreamy adj.

Pleasantly beautiful, peaceful, or lost in happy thought.

The café has a dreamy view across the moonlit harbor.

Dressy adj.

Stylish and suitable for a special or formal occasion.

Her dressy jacket made the simple outfit celebration-ready.

Drinkable adj.

Safe or pleasant enough to be consumed as a drink.

The filter made the well water clean and drinkable.

Drivable adj.

Safe and suitable for travel by car.

Crews cleared enough snow to keep the hospital road drivable.

Driven adj.

Strongly motivated to achieve a worthwhile result.

The driven researcher kept searching for a safer material.

Droll adj.

Amusing in an unusual, subtle, or dry manner.

His droll commentary kept the delayed passengers smiling.

Dulcet adj.

Sweet, gentle, and soothing to hear.

Dulcet harp notes floated through the quiet gallery.

Durable adj.

Able to remain useful or strong over a long period.

The team chose a durable repair that would survive winter weather.

Dutiful adj.

Careful and reliable in meeting responsibilities.

The dutiful ranger checked every fire pit before leaving.

Dynamic adj.

Energetic, active, and able to produce change.

The dynamic facilitator kept the discussion focused and inclusive.

Dynamite adj.

Informally, exceptionally exciting, effective, or excellent.

The student band gave a dynamite final performance.

Nouns**Dawn** n.

The beginning of daylight or of a hopeful new period.

The agreement marked the dawn of a more peaceful partnership.

Daybreak n.

The time when daylight first appears.

The walkers reached the hilltop just before daybreak.

Daydream n.

A pleasant imagined scene, wish, or future possibility.

Her daydream became a sketch for the neighborhood garden.

Dealmaker n.

A person skilled at bringing parties to workable agreement.

The patient dealmaker found terms both family businesses could accept.

Decency n.

Kind, fair, and morally respectful behavior.

Basic decency led the landlord to offer more time.

Decisiveness n.

The ability to make clear and timely choices.

Her decisiveness prevented the small leak from becoming a flood.

Decorum n.

Polite and dignified behavior suited to an occasion.

The chair restored decorum by giving each speaker equal time.

Dedication n.

Steady commitment of time and effort to a purpose.

Years of dedication helped the violinist master the difficult piece.

Defender n.

A person who protects or supports someone or something.

She became a determined defender of the village woodland.

Defense n.

Protection of a person, principle, or place from harm.

Their defense of the wetland preserved clean water downstream.

Deference n.

Respectful regard for another person's judgment, wishes, or experience.
Out of deference, the committee let residents speak first.

Deftness n.

Skill, speed, and precision in action or thought.
The nurse's deftness made the bandage change quick and gentle.

Delight n.

A feeling or source of keen pleasure.
The children's delight made the long rehearsal worthwhile.

Deliverance n.

Rescue or release from danger, hardship, or restriction.
The rescue boat brought deliverance to the stranded crew.

Dependability n.

The quality of being reliable and worthy of trust.
The nurse's dependability reassured patients and colleagues.

Determination n.

Firmness of purpose despite difficulty or delay.
Their determination kept the search going through the night.

Devotee n.

An enthusiastic and committed admirer, supporter, or participant.
A longtime jazz devotee organized the free listening sessions.

Devotion n.

Deep love, loyalty, or commitment shown through action.
His devotion to the rescue dogs shaped his daily routine.

Dexterity n.

Skill and ease in using the hands or mind.
The watchmaker's dexterity allowed her to fit the tiny spring.

Dialogue n.

An open exchange of views intended to build understanding.
Patient dialogue gave both neighborhoods a workable traffic plan.

Dignity n.

The state of being worthy of honor and respectful treatment.
The new shelter gives every resident privacy and dignity.

Diligence n.

Careful and persistent effort in work or duty.
Her diligence kept the historical record accurate.

Diplomacy n.

Skill in handling relationships and disagreements peacefully.
Patient diplomacy led both groups toward a workable agreement.

Diplomat n.

A person skilled at resolving disagreement with tact.
A natural diplomat, Priya found common ground without hiding differences.

Discernment n.

The ability to notice differences and make sound judgments.
Her discernment kept a polished rumor out of the report.

Discipline n.

Steady self-control used to build skill or meet a goal.
Daily practice and discipline strengthened the young choir.

Discoverer n.

A person who finds or learns something previously unknown.
The curious child felt like a discoverer beside the tide pool.

Discovery n.

The act or result of finding something new or valuable.
The cave painting was an important archaeological discovery.

Discretion n.

Good judgment that respects privacy, timing, and possible consequences.
The counselor used discretion when arranging a private entrance.

Distinction n.

Excellence that earns special respect or recognition.
She completed the demanding course with distinction.

Diversity n.

The presence and inclusion of varied people, ideas, or things.
The garden's diversity supports insects throughout the season.

Dividend n.

A welcome benefit or return produced by earlier effort.
Years of patient training paid a safety dividend during the storm.

Divinity n.

Sacred nature or a quality of supreme beauty.
The choir found divinity in the chapel's simple acoustics.

Doddle n.

An informally easy or pleasantly simple task.
With the labeled cables, setup became a doddle.

Doer n.

A person who turns useful ideas into action.
Sam is a practical doer who always brings the right tools.

Donation n.

Something freely given to support a person or cause.
A book donation doubled the school library's collection.

Donor n.

A person who gives something valuable to help others.
Every blood donor received a note of thanks.

Doyen n.

A respected and experienced senior member of a field.
The doyenne of local journalism still mentors new reporters.

Dreamboat n.

An informally very attractive or charming person.

Everyone considered the warmhearted new guitarist a dreamboat.

Dreamer n.

A person who imagines hopeful possibilities or ambitious goals.

The young dreamer sketched a park where the car park once stood.

Dreamland n.

A pleasantly ideal place or state of imagination.

The lanterns transformed the small courtyard into dreamland.

Drive n.

Strong energy and determination to achieve something.

Her drive turned a small food collection into a weekly service.

Durability n.

The ability to remain strong and useful over time.

The bridge's durability comes from careful maintenance.

Dynamo n.

An energetic and highly effective person.

Our fundraising dynamo recruited forty volunteers in one weekend.

Verbs**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.

Adverbs**Daringly** adv.

In a bold and adventurous manner.
The choreographer daringly combined folk steps with modern music.

Dazzlingly adv.

In an extremely impressive, bright, or skillful way.
The young soprano performed dazzlingly in the final scene.

Dearly adv.

With deep affection or at a high personal value.
The family dearly treasures the letters from their grandfather.

Decisively adv.

In a clear, confident, and timely manner.
The medic acted decisively when the patient's condition changed.

Definitely adv.

With certainty and without meaningful doubt.
The restored clock definitely keeps better time than before.

Deftly adv.

In a skillful, quick, and precise way.
He deftly guided the conversation away from personal blame.

Deliberately adv.

With careful thought, clear purpose, and conscious intention.
The editor deliberately preserved the witness's uncertainty in the summary.

Delicately adv.

With gentle care, fine skill, or graceful lightness.
The restorer delicately cleaned the painted surface.

Dependably adv.

In a consistent and reliable manner.
The old generator starts dependably even in cold weather.

Determinedly adv.

With firm purpose and refusal to give up.
The small team worked determinedly to reopen the clinic.

Devotedly adv.

With steady loyalty, care, and commitment.
She devotedly tended the community garden for many years.

Dexterously adv.

With skill, precision, and ease of movement.

The jeweler dexterously fitted the tiny clasp.

Diligently adv.

With steady, careful, and persistent effort.

The students diligently checked each source before publishing.

Directly adv.

In a clear, honest, and straightforward manner.

She directly addressed the concern and proposed a fix.

Discreetly adv.

In a careful, tactful, and private manner.

The server discreetly replaced the chipped glass.

Distinctly adv.

In a clear, recognizable, or notable way.

The second version was distinctly easier to navigate.

Divinely adv.

In an extremely pleasing or excellent manner.

The pears smelled divinely sweet as they baked.

Doggedly adv.

With persistent determination despite difficulty or delay.

The advocates doggedly pursued safer crossings for the school route.

Dutifully adv.

With steady attention to one's responsibilities.

She dutifully recorded each reading in the safety log.