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AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



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de-

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pref.

1. Do or make the opposite of; reverse: *decriminalize*.
2. Remove or remove from: *delouse*; *deoxygenate*.
3. Out of: *deplane*; *defenestration*.
4. Reduce; degrade: *declass*.
5. Derived from: *deverbative*.

[Middle English *de-*, from Old French *de-* (from Latin *dē-*, from, off, apart, away, down, out, completely, from *dē*; see **de-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)) or from Old French *des-*, out, off, apart, away, completely (from Latin *dis-*, *dis-*, and Latin *dē-*).]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

[Semitic Roots](#)

The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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