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dis·dain  (dĭs-dān)

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tr.v. **dis·dained**, **dis·dain·ing**, **dis·dains**

1. To regard or treat with haughty contempt: *critics who disdained the writer as a hack*. See Synonyms at [despise](#).
2. To consider or reject (doing something) as beneath oneself: *disdained receiving an award from the organization; disdained to attend the ceremony*.

n.

A feeling or show of contempt and aloofness; scorn.

[Middle English *disdeinen*, from Old French *desdeignier*, from Vulgar Latin **disdignāre*, from Latin *dēdignārī* : *dē-*, *de-* + *dignārī*, to deem worthy (from *dignus*, worthy; see **dek-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

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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](#)

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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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