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dis·ci·pline (dĭs ə-plĭn)

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n.

1. Training expected to produce a specific character or pattern of behavior, especially training that produces moral or mental improvement: *was raised in the strictest discipline.*

2.

a. Control obtained by enforcing compliance or order: *military discipline.*

b. Controlled behavior resulting from disciplinary training; self-control: *Dieting takes a lot of discipline.*

c. A state of order based on submission to rules and authority: *a teacher who demanded discipline in the classroom.*

3. Punishment intended to correct or train: *subjected to harsh discipline.*

4. A set of rules or methods, as those regulating the practice of a church or monastic order.

5. A branch of knowledge or teaching: *the discipline of mathematics.*

tr.v. **dis·ci·plined**, **dis·ci·plin·ing**, **dis·ci·plines**

1. To train by instruction and practice, as in following rules or developing self-control: *The sergeant disciplined the recruits to become soldiers.* See Synonyms at [teach](#).

2. To punish in order to gain control or enforce obedience. See Synonyms at [punish](#).

3. To impose order on: *needed to discipline their study habits.*

[Middle English, from Old French *descepline*, from Latin *disciplīna*, from *discipulus*, pupil; see [DISCIPLE](#).]

dis ci·pli·nal (-plə-nəl) *adj.*

dis ci·plin'er *n.*

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