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dictionary

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English
Language



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des·cant  (děs kănt')

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n.

1. also **dis·cant** (dīs -) *Music*

a. An ornamental melody or counterpoint sung or played above a theme.

b. The highest part sung in part music.

2. A discussion or discourse on a theme.

intr.v. (děs kănt', dě-skănt) **des·cant·ed**, **des·cant·ing**, **des·cants**

1. To comment at length; discourse: "He used to descant critically on the dishes which had been at table" (James Boswell).

2. also **dis·cant** (dīs kănt', dī-skănt) *Music*

a. To sing or play a descant.

b. To sing melodiously.

[Middle English, from Anglo-Norman *descaunt*, from Medieval Latin *discantus*, a refrain : Latin *dis-*, *dis-* + Latin *cantus*, song (from past participle of *canere*, to sing; see **kan-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#)).]

des cant'er *n.*

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