

diesel /'di:zəl/ ▷ *noun* **1** DIESEL FUEL. **2** a DIESEL ENGINE. **3** a train, etc driven by a diesel engine. ⑩ 19c: named after the German engineer Rudolf Diesel (1858–1913).

diesel engine ▷ *noun* a type of internal-combustion engine in which air in the cylinder is compressed until it reaches a sufficiently high temperature to ignite the fuel.

diesel fuel and **diesel oil** ▷ *noun, engineering* a type of liquid fuel, composed mainly of hydrocarbons derived from petroleum, that is designed for use in a diesel engine.

die-sinking ▷ *noun* the engraving of dies (see DIE² *noun* 1) for embossing, etc.

diesis /'daɪsɪs/ ▷ *noun* (*dieses* /-sɪz/) **1** *printing* DOUBLE DAGGER. **2** *music* the difference between a major and a minor semitone. ⑩ 16c in sense 2: Greek, meaning 'a quarter tone'.

diet¹ /daɪət/ ▷ *noun* **1** the food and drink habitually consumed by a person or animal. **2** a planned or prescribed selection of food and drink, especially one designed for weight loss, maintenance of good health or the control of a medical disorder. **3** *as adj* denoting a food or drink, often with a brand name, that contains less sugar than the standard version □ *diet lemonade*. Compare LOW-CAL. ▷ *verb* (*dieted, dieting*) *intr* to restrict the quantity or type of food that one eats, especially in order to lose weight. • **dieter** *noun*. ⑩ 13c: from French *diète*, from Greek *diaita* way of life.

diet² /daɪət/ ▷ *noun* **1** the legislative assembly of certain countries, eg Japan. **2** *historical* a conference held to discuss political or church affairs. ⑩ 14c, originally meaning 'a day's journey': from Latin *dieta* public assembly, from Greek *diaita* way of life.

dietary /'daɪətəri/ ▷ *adj* belonging to or concerning a DIET¹. ⑩ 17c.

dietary fibre ▷ *noun* indigestible plant material, found in unrefined carbohydrate foods such as wholemeal bread and cereals, and in fruit and vegetables. Also called **roughage**.

dietetic /daɪə'tetɪk/ ▷ *adj* **1** concerning or belonging to DIET¹. **2** for use in a special medical diet. • **dietetically** *adverb*. ⑩ 16c.

dietetics /daɪə'tetɪks/ ▷ *singular noun* the scientific study of DIET¹ and its relation to health.

diethyl /daɪ'eθɪl/ ▷ *adj, chem* having two ethyl groups. ⑩ 19c.

diethyl ether see ETHER 2

dietician or **dietitian** /daɪə'tɪʃən/ ▷ *noun* someone who is trained in dietetics.

diet sheet ▷ *noun* a list of permitted foods, recommended amounts, etc, for a person on a diet.

diff. ▷ *abbreviation* **1** difference. **2** different.

differ /'dɪfə(r)/ ▷ *verb* (*differed, differing*) *intr* **1** said of two or more people or things: to be different or unlike each other in some way. **2** (*often differ with someone*) to disagree. • **agree to differ** see under AGREE. ⑩ 14c: from French *differer*.

■ **differ from something** to be different from it or unlike it.

difference /'dɪfərəns/ ▷ *noun* **1** something that makes one thing or person unlike another. **2** the state of being unlike. **3** a change from an earlier state, etc. **4** the amount by which one quantity or number is greater or less than another. **5** a quarrel or disagreement. • **make a or no, etc difference** to have some or no, etc effect on a situation. • **with a difference** with something special; in a special way. ⑩ 14c: from Latin *differentia*.

difference of opinion ▷ *noun* a disagreement.

different /'dɪfərənt/ ▷ *adj* (usually **different from** or **to something** or **someone**) not the same; unlike. **2**

separate; distinct; various. **3** *colloq* unusual. • **differently** *adverb*. ⑩ 15c.

different from, to, or than

• In current British English, **different** is followed more or less equally by 'from' or 'to' □ *He was, in fact, totally different from Keith* □ *James looked very different from the last time she had seen him* □ *This is very different to the ideal situation* □ *The next day was Christmas Eve, but it was no different to any other day except that the shop was very, very busy.*

• Note that the verb **differ** is never followed by 'to'.

• In American English, but much less in British English, **different** is commonly followed by 'than', especially when a clause follows □ *AmE It was all very different than they had imagined* □ *BrE It was all very different from / to what they had imagined.*

☆ RECOMMENDATION: use **different from** or **different to**; avoid **different than**, which is common in American English.

differentia /dɪfə'renʃiə/ ▷ *noun* (*differentiae* /-tɪ:/) *logic* **1** that property which distinguishes one SPECIES from others. **2** a distinguishing feature. ⑩ 19c.

differential /dɪfə'renʃjəl/ ▷ *adj* **1** constituting, showing, relating to or based on a difference. **2** *math* an infinitesimal change in the value of one or more variables as a result of a similarly small change in another variable or variables. ▷ *noun* **1** a difference in the rate of pay between one category of worker and another in the same industry or company. Also called **wage differential**. **2** a DIFFERENTIAL GEAR. • **differentially** *adverb*. ⑩ 17c: from Latin *differentialis*.

differential calculus ▷ *noun, math* a procedure for calculating the rate of change of one variable quantity produced by changes in another variable, employing DIFFERENTIATION to determine rates of change, gradients of curves, maximum and minimum values, etc.

differential coefficient ▷ *noun, math* the ratio of the rate of change of a function to that of its independent variable.

differential equation ▷ *noun, math* an equation involving total or partial differential coefficients.

differential gear ▷ *noun* an arrangement of gears that allows the wheels on either side of a vehicle to rotate at different speeds, eg the outer wheels rotating more rapidly when the vehicle is being driven round a corner.

differential motion ▷ *noun* a mechanical movement in which the velocity of a driven part is equal to the difference of the velocities of two parts connected to it.

differentiate /dɪfə'renʃiət/ ▷ *verb* (*differentiated, differentiating*) **1** *tr* & *intr* (usually **differentiate between things**, or **one thing from another**) to establish a difference between them; to be able to distinguish one from another. **2** to constitute a difference between things, or a difference in (one thing as against another) □ *The shape of its mouth differentiates a crocodile from an alligator*. **3** to become different. **4** *math* to use the process of differentiation to calculate the changes in one variable quantity produced by changes in a related variable, ie to find the DERIVATIVE of a FUNCTION (*noun* 4). **5** *biol* said of an unspecialized cell or tissue: to become increasingly specialized in structure and function, eg during the development of a muscle fibre or a red blood cell. ⑩ 19c: from Latin *differentiare*.

■ **differentiate between people** to treat one person, etc differently from another.

differentiation ▷ *noun* **1** the process of differentiating. **2** *math* a method used in CALCULUS to calculate the rate of change of one variable quantity produced by changes in a related variable, by finding the DERIVATIVE of

Common sounds in foreign words: (French) *ā* **grand**; *ē* **vin**; *ō* **bon**; *œ* **un**; *ø* **peu**; *œ* **coeur**; *y* **sur**; *ɥ* **huit**; *r* **re**