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damage; 1. to spoil or harm something thus resulting in a loss or an injury that reduces value or usefulness 2. harm or injury that reduces value or usefulness

damp; 1. to reduce noise level 2. (adj) wet, moist

damper; a device for reducing the motion or oscillations of moving parts

dangerous cargo; see: dangerous goods

dangerous goods; goods listed in the IMDG code, hazardous goods

davit; a cranelike device used singly or in pairs for supporting, raising or lowering boats, anchors and cargo over a hatchway or side of a ship

day on demurrage; day beyond the time allowed or agreed upon (in a C/P) spent waiting for cargo and a charge for the time lost

dead freight; an amount of money paid by the contractor who charters space in a ship but fails to fill it fully, freight paid for space booked but not used

dead reckoning; calculating the ship's position on the basis of distance run on various headings since the last precisely observed position, with as accurate allowance as possible being made for wind, currents, compass errors etc.

dead slow ahead; as slow as possible movement forward without losing steerageway

dead slow astern; as slow as possible movement backwards without losing steerageway

deadweight; the difference between the loaded and light displacement tonnage of the vessel

deadweight capacity; the capacity in long tons of cargo, passengers, fuel, stores of a vessel

deadweight cargo capacity; net capacity of the vessel in long tonnes of cargo

debris; broken or torn pieces of something larger

decade; a period of ten years: e.g. 1860–1869 inclusive

deck; the permanent covering over a compartment or hull of a vessel

deck cargo; cargo and goods carried on deck

deck department; a ship's department including officers and ratings responsible for navigation and cargo handling operations

deck hand; a seaman whose duties are performed on deck

deck officer; an officer whose responsibilities include navigation and cargo handling

declination; 1. the arc of the celestial body measured north or south of the equinoctial 2. (in magnetism) magnetic variation

decline; to gradually become less, worse, or lower

decrease; to diminish, to become less

deep draught vessel; a ship with big depth when carrying a heavy load (in COLREGS, a vessel restricted in her ability to manoeuvre because of her draft)

deep stowage; a place deep in the hold where the cargo is stowed

deep tank; a deep compartment on board ship for the carriage of vegetable oil or lard

defect; fault, shortcoming, deficiency

defective; faulty

deficient; lacking something, inadequate, incomplete

deformation; some change in the shape of a material under load, damage

defrost; thaw, free of ice

defrosting; freeing of ice, thawing

degrade; to cause people to feel that they or other people are worthless and do not have the respect

or good opinion of others
delay; postponing, slowing down
delivery; a shipment of goods from the seller to the buyer, handover of the cargo
demand; to ask for, to claim
demijohn; a bottle having a short narrow neck usually encased in wickerwork
demolition market; the market where old or obsolete vessels are sold to scrap dealers
demurrage; compensation paid to the shipowner for delay of a vessel beyond the stipulated time allowed in the charter party for loading and discharging
density; mass of an object to its volume, thickness
departure; leaving the harbour or airport or station
depression; 1. an area of low atmospheric pressure 2. an area lower than the surrounding surface
depth; a vertical measure from the lowest point in the ship's hull, ordinarily from the bottom of the keel, to the side of any deck that may be chosen as a reference point, stated in specific terms such as depth to upper deck amidships
derelict; an abandoned vessel at sea, still afloat
derrick; a large device (on the deck of a ship) for lifting and moving heavy objects
dispatch; the money paid to the charterer for loading or discharging the vessel in less time than has been allowed in the charter party
destination; a place to which somebody or something is going or being sent
detect; to discover, to find out
deteriorate; to get worse, to worsen (usually referring to perishable goods)
detrimental; harmful
devastate; to destroy a place or thing completely or cause great damage
deviation; 1. an error of a ship's magnetic compass on a given heading as a result of local magnetism
2. going off the proper course or route, departure from the set or planned course of the voyage
DGPS; Differential Global Positioning System
diameter; a straight line going through a centre of a circle from one side to the other
diesel generator; a device which generates electric current, providing power to units as required
dig out; to get someone or something out of somewhere by digging
digest; to change food in the stomach into substances that the body can use
digestive system; the organs in a human body that digest food
digital; the representation of information in binary form (ones and zeros)
Digital Selective Calling; (in ships carrying a GMDSS unit) a semi-automated method of establishing maritime MF, HF, and VHF radio calls to individual stations, groups of stations, or "all stations" in one's reach, also: DSC
dimension; measurements in length, width and sometimes depth
dipper; a cuplike container with a long handle for dipping liquids
disable; to make unable, unfit, ineffective
disabled ship; unseaworthy vessel, a vessel damaged or impaired in such a way as to be unable to proceed (in COLREGS: NUC = a ship not under command)
discard; to throw something away or get rid of it because it is no longer wanted or needed
discharge; 1. to unload, to land 2. to send or pour out a substance, esp. (waste) liquid or gas
discharging berth; unloading place at the quay
discharging rate; amount of cargo unloaded per hour or per day

disease; an illness of people, animals, plants, etc., caused by infection or a failure of health rather than by an accident

disembark; to go ashore from the ship, land

disembarkation; going ashore from the ship

dish; see: satellite dish

dismantle; to put to pieces, to pull down

dispatch; 1. to send off quickly 2. a payment, by way of a bonus, to the charterer for loading or discharging the vessel in less time than stipulated in the charter party

displacement; the actual weight of the ship measured in tonnes of 2240lbs or in metric tonnes, the amount of water the ship displaces at her load draught

disposal; a process of getting rid of something (e.g. disposal of nuclear waste at sea)

dispose of; to get rid of something

disrupt; to prevent something, esp. a system, process or event, from continuing as usual or as expected

dissolve; to be absorbed (a solid substance) by a liquid, especially when mixed into the liquid and so becomes included in it

distil; to make a liquid stronger or purer

distortion; the process of twisting, changing the shape

distress; the state of extreme, grave and imminent danger to the ship and crew requiring immediate assistance

distress alert; a call based on the use of satellites, terrestrial services or digital selective calling used to alert Rescue Coordination Centres and ships in the vicinity of the ship in distress providing the identification of the ship in distress and its position and having the purpose to begin distress traffic

distress call; a call sent by radiotelephony by the vessel in distress including distress signal MAYDAY spoken three times, the words this is and the name or other identification of the vessel in distress spoken three times

distress frequency; VHF channel 16, a radio frequency band of 2182 kHz or other radio frequency band allocated for distress calls and distress traffic

distress message; a message from the vessel in distress following standard format and giving the following information: distress signal, identification of the vessel in distress, its position, the nature of the distress, the type of assistance required and any other information which might facilitate rescue, such as the number of persons injured

distress signal; an internationally recognized signal sent out by a ship or plane in danger for the purpose of summoning help such as a radio code MAYDAY or SOS, a flare or a flag

diverge; (of courses) to move in different directions away from a common point

dock; 1. to enter the port 2. a port basin 3. a pier or wharf 4. a dry or floating dock in the shipyard
dockyard; a shipyard, naval dock

dolphin; 1. a bollard 2. a sea mammal that looks like a long fish with a pointed mouth 3. a fender

domestic laws; laws relating to a person's own country

donkeyman; a member of crew who is in charge of a donkey (steam) boiler or engine, and assists in the engine room

double bottom; space between the inner and outer bottom plating of hull, the double bottom of a ship is divided into a number of tanks for storing fresh and ballast water and fuel oil

double hull ship; a ship having two hulls, usually a tanker or chemical tanker

downstream; in the direction a river or stream is flowing

downwind; in the same direction in which the wind blows

draft; 1. the depth of water at which a ship floats, also: draught 2. a piece of text, a formal suggestion or a drawing in its original state, often containing the main ideas and intentions but not the developed form

draft fore; draught on the forward part of the ship, on the bow

drag; to pull along the ground

drag on the hull; the force of the water that creates resistance to the ship

dragging of an anchor; pulling an anchor over the sea bottom involuntarily because it is no longer preventing the movement of a ship

dragnet; a heavy net pulled along the sea bottom when searching for something

drain; become dry as the liquid flows off

draught; see: draft

dredge; to deepen the channel

dredge anchor; to pull the anchor under control or to control the movement of a ship

dredge up; to remove unwanted things from the bottom of a river, lake, etc. using a sucking or other device

dredger; a vessel used for deepening a channel or area, hopper

dredging; (of anchor) manoeuvring a vessel by moving the anchor over the sea bottom

dressing; a covering for a wound, sore etc.

drift; 1. to be carried along by current and wind 2. ocean current generated and maintained by constant wind 3. the distance a current flows in a given time (=speed)

drift anchor; sea anchor

drifting; being driven along by the wind, tide or current

drill; 1. to make holes using a drill 2. a tool for boring holes in materials

drip tray; a shallow metal pan placed under a connection or a valve in a pipeline for collecting the dripping water or oil

drizzle; slight gentle and steady rain

drop anchor; let go the anchor

drop line; a pipeline which leads vertically from a deck line to a tank line

drop valve; a valve which controls the flow of the cargo in the drop line

drown; to die under water of suffocation

drowning; dying under water (used about people)

drum; 1. a cylindrical or rounded container for hot water, steam or gas 2. winch drum

dry; free from moisture

dry-bulk carrier; a ship designed for the carriage of dry solids (ores, coal, etc.) in bulk, without packaging

dry (bulk) cargo; cargo stowed in bulk consisting of ores, grain, coal, coke etc.

dry cargo hold; a hold for carrying dry cargo on a tanker

dry cargo ship; a vessel for the carriage of dry cargo such as grain or coal

dry dock; a structure on shore able to receive a ship and to be drained so as to leave the ship free of water with all parts of the hull accessible for repairs, painting

DSC; see: Digital Selective Calling

duct; see: ducting

ducting; a tube, a leading, a canal through which some liquid or gas moves

due to; because of

dual purpose officer; an officer having qualifications for work both on deck and in the engine room
(MarOff in the Netherlands)

dump; 1. to throw waste into the sea 2. a place where people are allowed to leave their rubbish

dumping; an act of getting rid of something unwanted, esp. by leaving it in a place where it is not allowed to be

dunnage; loose separation material laid beneath or wedged among objects carried by the ship to prevent damage from chafing or moisture

dust; powdery sand

dwt; deadweight tonnage