

## **rectify** |\_rekt\_\_f\_|

verb ( **-fies, -fied** ) [ trans. ]

**1** put (something) right; correct : *mistakes made now cannot be rectified later* | *efforts to rectify the situation.*

• [usu. as adj. ] ( **rectified** ) purify or refine (a substance), esp. by repeated distillation : *add 10 cc of rectified alcohol.*

**2** convert (alternating current) to direct current : [as adj. ] ( **rectified** ) *rectified AC power systems.*

**3** find a straight line equal in length to (a curve).

DERIVATIVES

**rectifiable** adjective

**rectification** |\_rekt\_fi\_k\_ sh \_n| noun

ORIGIN late Middle English : from Old French *rectifier*, from medieval Latin *rectificare*, from Latin *rectus* ‘right.’

## **redolent** |\_redl-\_ntl|

adjective

**1** [ predic. ] ( **redolent of/with** ) strongly reminiscent or suggestive of (something) : *names redolent of history and tradition.*

• poetic/literary strongly smelling of something : *the church was old, dark, and redolent of incense.*

**2** archaic or poetic/literary fragrant or sweet-smelling : *a rich, inky, redolent wine.*

DERIVATIVES

**redolence** noun

**redolently** adverb

ORIGIN late Middle English (in the sense [fragrant] ): from Old French, or from Latin *redolent-* ‘giving out a strong smell,’ from *re(d)-* ‘back, again’ + *olere* ‘to smell.’

## **redundant** |ri\_d\_nd\_ntl|

adjective

no longer needed or useful; superfluous : *an appropriate use for a redundant church* | *many of the old skills had become redundant.*

- (of words or data) able to be omitted without loss of meaning or function.
- Engineering (of a component) not strictly necessary to functioning but included in case of failure in another component.
- chiefly Brit. (of a person) no longer employed because there is no more work available : *eight permanent staff were made redundant.*

DERIVATIVES

**redundantly** adverb

ORIGIN late 16th cent.(in the sense [abundant] ): from Latin *redundant-* ‘*surging up,*’ from the verb *redundare* (see **redound** ).

**refute** |ri\_fyo\_t|

verb [ trans. ]

prove (a statement or theory) to be wrong or false; disprove : *these claims have not been convincingly refuted.*

- prove that (someone) is wrong.
- deny or contradict (a statement or accusation) : *a spokesman totally refuted the allegation of bias.*

DERIVATIVES

**refutable** adjective

**refusal** |-\_fyo\_t| noun ( rare)

**refutation** |\_refyo\_\_t\_ sh \_n| noun

**refuter** noun

ORIGIN mid 16th cent.: from Latin *refutare* ‘*repel, rebut.*’

**regressive** |ri\_gresiv|

adjective

1 becoming less advanced; returning to a former or less developed state : *the regressive, infantile wish for the perfect parent of early childhood.*

• of, relating to, or marked by psychological regression.

**2** (of a tax) taking a proportionally greater amount from those on lower incomes.

**3** Philosophy proceeding from effect to cause or from particular to universal.

DERIVATIVES

**regressively** adverb

**regressiveness** noun