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See discrete in the Oxford Advanced American DictionarySee discrete in the Oxford Learner's Dictionary of Academic English WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English 2025discrete/dskrit/USA pronunciation adj. apart or detached from others; separate; distinct:The college was reorganized into six discrete departments. WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English 2025discrete (di skrt) USA pronunciationadj. apart or detached from others; separate; distinct:six discrete parts. consisting of or characterized by distinct or individual parts; discontinuous. Mathematics Mathematics(of a topology or topological space) having the property that every subset is an open set. defined only for an isolated set of points:a discrete variable. Mathematicsusing only arithmetic and algebra; not involving calculus:discrete methods. Latin disctrus separated; see discreet Middle English 13501400 discretely, adv. discreteness, n. 1. different, individual, unconnected. Collins Concise English Dictionary HarperCollins Publishers::discrete /dskrit/ adj separate or distinct in form or concept consisting of distinct or separate parts (of a distribution) relating to a discrete variableCompare continuousEtymology: 14th Century: from Latin disctrus separated, set apart; see discreetdiscretely adv discreteness n USAGE: See note at discreet Discrete means "separate," while discreet means "unobtrusive." Both words have the same etymology coming from the Latin discretus which means "to keep separate" or "to discern." An easy trick to tell them apart is to remember is that the "e's" are separated by the "t" in "discrete." Can you catch the error in this excerpt? The man puts his cigarette in his ashtray, takes out his cellular phone, and settles in for a chat, ignoring his tablemate completely. The woman and I exchange discrete glances. Les hommes! True, yakking on your cellphone while your tablemate sits idly is poor form, but the error sharp-eyed readers will catch is the use of discrete to mean "unobtrusive" or "unnoticeable." Discrete means "separate"; the writer and editor probably meant to use its homonym, discreet. Discrete vs Discreet Origins Confusion of these two words is fairly common. Both discrete and discreet come from the very same Latin word, discretus, which was the past participle of the verb that meant "to separate" and "to discern." Both discrete and discreet came into English in the 14th century, with discrete getting a bit of a head-start on discreet. Here's where things get dicey. Discrete is used a handful of times in the 14th century, then drops out of common use until the 16th century. Discreet, meanwhile, takes off, drawing on the "discerning" sense of its Latin root. But in the 14th and 15th centuries, spelling wasn't fixed, which meant that the word we know of as discreet was spelled as both discreet and discrete. When the modern discrete came back into style in the 16th century, the spellings of the words diverged: discrete and discreet became fixed as separate words, and their meanings remain separate, despite the confusion between them. Which should you use? Remember that in discrete, the t separates the e's, so discrete means "separate." For "unobtrusive", use discreet. Not to be confused with Discreet.Look up discrete in Wiktionary, the free dictionary.Discrete may refer to:Discrete particle or quantum in physics, for example in quantum theoryDiscrete device, an electronic component with just one circuit element, either passive or active, other than an integrated circuitDiscrete group, a group with the discrete topologyDiscrete category, category whose only arrows are identity arrowsDiscrete mathematics, the study of structures without continuityDiscrete optimization, a branch of optimization in applied mathematics and computer scienceDiscrete probability distribution, a random variable that can be countedDiscrete space, a simple example of a topological spaceDiscrete spline interpolation, the discrete analog of ordinary spline interpolationDiscrete time, non-continuous time, which results in discrete-time samplesDiscrete variable, non-continuous variableDiscrete pitch, a pitch with a steady frequency, rather than an indiscrete gliding, glissando or portamento, pitchTopics referred to by the same termThis disambiguation page lists articles associated with the title Discrete. If an internal link led you here, you may wish to change the link to point directly to the intended article. Retrieved from " synonyms for discreteapart or detached from others; separate; distinct.Synonyms: unconnected, individual, differentconsisting of or characterized by distinct or individual parts; discontinuous.Mathematics.(of a topology or topological space) having the property that every subset is an open set.defined only for an isolated set of points.using only arithmetic and algebra; not involving calculus.separate or distinct in form or conceptconsisting of distinct or separate partsstatistics(of a variable) having consecutive values that are not infinitesimally close, so that its analysis requires summation rather than integration(of a distribution) relating to a discrete variable Compare continuousCollins English Dictionary Complete & Unabridged 2012 Digital Edition William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012discretely adverbdiscreteness nounOrigin of discrete1C14: from Latin disctrus separated, set apart; see discreetExamples have not been reviewed.In truth, how you feel about these movies as discrete entities or a whole depends on what appeals to you about the Alien universe.Americas democracy crisis is not just one discrete thing.The result which feels surprisingly grown-in even though the museum wont open until next year is a sinuous, eclectic landscape that unfolds in discrete vignettes, all promoting exploration and distinct experience.Our California delegation in Washington should find a receptive audience in Congress for this discrete reform, because getting fire-gutted communities back on their feet isnt just an act of mercy.Future-oriented thinking only happens among discrete groups within the party, who then must contend with other groups trying to do the same thing.disconnecteddistinctvariousWhats the difference between discrete and discreet?Discrete means separate or distinct, as in discrete concepts or discrete parts. Discreet most commonly means tactful, prudent, or careful to avoid revealing things that may cause embarrassment, such as when communicating sensitive information, as in a discreet message or You can tell her, but be discreet about it.Less commonly, discreet can also mean unobtrusivea modest necklace may be described as discreet. In all cases, the word discreet is used in situations in which an effort is made to avoid calling attention to someone or something. When youre being discreet, youre showing discretion.Discrete, on the other hand, is typically used in technical, non-personal contexts. It has more specific meanings in the context of math and statistics.Heres a fun way to remember the difference: in discreet, the two es are right next to each otherthe one e looks like its discreetly whispering something in the others ear. In discrete, the two es are kept separate by the t in the middle.Heres an example of discrete and discreet used correctly in a sentence.Example: He mistakenly thought the two parts were discrete, but I told him that they are in fact connectedin a discreet way, of course.Want to learn more? Read the full breakdown of the difference between discrete and discreet.discrepantdiscrete variableBrowse#aabbccddeeffghhijklmmnooppqrrssttuuvvwxxyzzAbout CareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day! 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC From Old French discret, from Latin disctrus, past participle of discern (divide), from dis- + cern (sift). Doublet of discreet. discrete (comparative more discrete, superlative most discrete)Separate; distinct; individual; non-continuous.a government with three discrete divisions. 1856, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Ode, Inscribed to W. H. Channing, in Poems, 5th edition, Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co., published 1856, page 120:There are two laws discrete, / Not reconciled, / Law for man, and law for thing; / The last builds town and fleet, / But it runs wild, / And doth the man unking.1875, George Henry Lewes, The Problem Stated, in Problems of Life and Mind, volume II, London: Trbrner & Co., page 33:But analysis, penetrating beneath the fact of Sense in search of its ideal factors, declares that this mass of marble is something very different from what it appears: its seeming continuity is broken up into discrete molecules, separated from each other as the stars in the Milky Way are separated; and its seeming homogeneity is resolved into heterogeneous substances, which are themselves in all probability composite.2017, Adam Rutherford, A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived, The Experiment, ISBN, pages 254255:It's not that there aren't measurable, quantifiable differences between all these categories we impose upon things, it's just that for the most part they fit not into discrete units, but into a continuum.That can be perceived individually, not as connected to, or part of, something else. (mathematics) Consisting of or permitting only distinct values drawn from a finite, countable set.a discrete sum(electrical engineering) Having separate electronic components, such as individual diodes, transistors and resistors, as opposed to integrated circuitry.(audio engineering) Having separate and independent channels of audio, as opposed to multiplexed stereo or quadraphonic, or other multi-channel sound.(topology) Having each singleton subset open: said of a topological space or a topology.Disjunctive; containing a disjunctive or discriptive clause."I resign my life, but not my honour" is a discrete proposition. Although cognate and identical in the Middle English period, the term has become distinct from discreet. discrete (comparative discreeter, superlative discreetest)Obsolete form of discreet. IPA(key): /diskre.te/, /diskr.te/[1]Rhymes: -ete, -teHyphenation: discrte, discrte discretefeminine plural of discreto ~ discreto in Luciano Canepari, Dizionario di Pronuncia Italiana (DiPi) discrtevocative masculine singular of disctrus discreteindefinite feminine/neuter plural nominative/accusative of discret Also found in: Thesaurus, Medical, Acronyms, Encyclopedia, Wikipedia. constituting a separate thing; distinct; different; individual; unconnectedNot to be confused with:discreet judicious in ones conduct or speech; careful; circumspect; prudent; modestAbused, Confused, & Misused Words by Mary Embree Copyright 2007, 2013 by Mary Embree (d-skrt)adj.1. Constituting a separate thing: Computers treat time as a series of discrete moments rather than a continuous flow. See Synonyms at distinct.2. Consisting of unconnected distinct parts: society viewed as a discrete whole of individual agents.3. Mathematics Defined for a finite or countable set of values; not continuous.[Middle English, from Old French, from Latin disctrus, past participle of discernere, to separate; see discern.]American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. [dskrit] adj.1. separate or distinct in form or concept2. consisting of distinct or separate parts3. (Statistics) statistics a, (of a variable) having consecutive values that are not infinitesimally close, so that its analysis requires summation rather than integrationb. (of a distribution) relating to a discrete variable. Compare continuous4(C14: from Latin disctrus separated, set apart; see discreet)Usage: Avoid confusion with discreetCollins English Dictionary Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (dskrit) adj. 2. consisting of or characterized by distinct parts; discontinuous. 3. Math. defined only for an isolated set of points: a discrete variable. [13501400; < Latin disctrus separated; see discreet] Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved. Adj.1.discrete - constituting a separate entity or part; "a government with three discrete divisions"; "on two distinct occasions"separate - independent; not united or joint; "a problem consisting of two separate issues"; "they went their separate ways"; "formed a separate church"Based on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.Collins Thesaurus of the English Language Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002adjectiveThe American Heritage Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. [dskrit] ADJ [stages, phases, events] especico, separadoCollins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005 [dskrit] adj (= separate, distinct) [category, stage, phenomenon, event] distinct(e), spar(e)Collins English/French Electronic Resource. HarperCollins Publishers 2005Collins German Dictionary Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007 [dskrit] adj (separate, distinct) separato/a, distinto/a; (Statistics) discreto/aCollins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition HarperCollins Publishers 1995 Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: Instances of discrete quantities are number and speech; of continuous, lines, surfaces, solids, and, besides these, time and place.Moreover, it is a discrete quantity for its parts have no common boundary.They cover complex and hypercomplex numbers; octonion numbers; quaternions and color images; color images as two-dimensional grayscale images; one-dimensional and two-dimensional quaternion and octonion discrete Fourier transforms; color image enhancement and quaternion discrete Fourier transforms; gradients, face recognition, visualization, and quaternions; and color image restoration and quaternion discrete Fourier transforms.It compares to \$1.48 for the prior quarter, which included \$0.39 per share of net discrete benefits from Form 8-K items announced on December 4, 2017 and the impacts of tax reform-related items, and \$0.91 for the first quarter of 2017.

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