

Pronunciation: /ˈdaɪəmənd/ /ˈdaɪmənd/

Forms: α. ME *diamawnte*, *dyamawnte*, ME–15 *dyamaunt*, ME–15 *dyamant*, ME–16 *diamant*; β. ME *dia-*, *dya-*, *-maund(e)*, *-mawnde*, *-mounde*, *-mownde*, ME–15 *-mand(e)*, ME *dyamonde*, *dyamount*, *dyamonthe*, *deamond(e)*, ME–15 *dyamont(e)*, *diamonde*, ME–16 *dyamond*, 15 *diamont*, *diamunde*, 15– *diamond*; γ. 16 *dimond*, 17 *di'mond*.

Etymology: Middle English *diamant*, *-aunt*, < Old French *diamant* (= Provençal *diaman* ...

I.

1.

a. A very hard and brilliant precious stone, consisting of pure carbon crystallized in regular octahedrons and allied forms (in the native state usually with convex surfaces), and either colourless or variously tinted. It is the most brilliant and valuable of precious stones, and the hardest substance known. Diamonds are commonly cut in three forms, called

TABLE n., *ROSE n.*¹ and *adj.*¹, and *BRILLIANT n.*¹: see these words. *plate diamond*, *point diamond*, *scratch diamond*: see quotes. 1854, 1880, 1880.

c1325—1883

†**b.** As a substance of extreme hardness; = *ADAMANT n. and adj.* *Obs.*

c1400—1667)

c. *Heraldry*. In blazoning by precious stones, the name for the tincture *sable* or black.

1572—1766-87

d. *pl.* Shares in a diamond-mine.

1905—1964

2. *transf.* Applied (usually with distinguishing epithet) to other crystalline minerals, resembling the diamond in brilliancy; as *Bristol diamond*, *Cornish diamond* (see *BRISTOL n.*, *CORNISH adj.*² and *n.*), *Matura diamond*, *Quebec diamond* (see quotes.).

1591—1890

3. *fig.*

a. Something very precious; a thing or person of great worth, or (in mod. use) a person of very brilliant attainments. (Cf. 7.)

c1440—1888

thing that shines like a diamond; a glittering particle or point.

1815—1862

4. A tool consisting of a small diamond set in a handle, used for cutting glass; called distinctively *glazier's diamond* or *cutting diamond*.

1697—1875

5.

a. A diamond-shaped figure, i.e. a plane figure of the form of a section of an octahedral diamond; a rhomb (or a square) placed with its diagonals vertical and horizontal; a lozenge. (In early use, a solid body of octahedral or rhombohedral form.)

1496—1895

b. *spec.* A figure of this form printed upon a playing-card; a card of the suit marked with such figures.

1594—?1870

c. A kind of stitch in fancy needlework.

1882—1882

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d. The square figure formed by the four bases in the game of baseball; also, by extension, applied to the whole field. (*U.S.*)
1875—1894

e. In a bicycle, the diamond-shaped frame of steel tubing. More fully *diamond frame*. (Now disused.)
1891—1917

f. *Gliding*. (See quot. 1960¹.) Also *attrib.*
1960—1971

6. *Printing*. The second smallest standard size of roman or italic type, a size smaller than ‘pearl’, but larger than ‘brilliant’. Also *attrib.* [< Dutch *diamant*: so named by its introducer Voskens.]
1778—1889

II.

7. Phrases.

a. *black diamond*: see [BLACK DIAMOND n.](#)

b. *rough diamond*: see [rough diamond n.](#) at [ROUGH adj.](#) Special uses 5a.

c. *diamond cut diamond*: an equal match in sharpness (of wit, cunning, etc.).
1629—1891

COMPOUNDS

attrib. and *Comb.*

C1. *attrib.*

a. Made or consisting of diamond, as *diamond lens*, *diamond stone* (= sense 1).
1553—1841

†**b.** **Hard or indestructible as diamond, adamantine.** (Cf. 1b) *Obs.*
1579—1656

†**c.** ? Brilliant, shining. *Obs.*
1579—1583

C2. *attrib.* Set or furnished with a diamond or diamonds, as *diamond button*, *diamond clasp*, *diamond ring*, *diamond signet*.

1642—1891

C3.

a. Of the shape of a diamond (see 5); lozenge-shaped, rhombic; forming a design consisting of figures of this shape, as *diamond couching*, *diamond fret*, *diamond netting*, *diamond pattern*, *diamond work*; *having a head or end of this shape*, as *diamond dibber*, *diamond nail*.

1598—1882

b. **Having a surface hewn or cut into facets, formed by low square-based pyramids placed close together.**

1717—1870

C4. *General combs.*

a. *Attributive.*

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(a) **diamond-bort** *n.* (see **BORT** *n.*) **diamond-broker** *n.* **diamond-carat** *n.* **diamond-factory** *n.* **diamond-merchant** *n.* **diamond-trade** *n.*

(b) **diamond-bed** *n.* **diamond-conglomerate** *n.* **diamond-deposit** *n.* **diamond-gravel** *n.* **diamond-mine** *n.*

b. **diamond-bearing** *adj.* **diamond-digging** *n.* **diamond-polisher** *n.* **diamond-producing** *adj.* **diamond-seeker** *n.* **diamond-setter** *n.* **diamond-splitter** *n.*

c. **diamond-paved** *adj.* **diamond-pointed** *adj.* **diamond-tipped** *adj.*

d. **diamond-bright** *adj.* **diamond-distinct** *adj.* **diamond-like** *adj.*

e. Parasynthetic, as **diamond-headed** *adj.*, **diamond-paned** *adj.*, **diamond-shaped** *adj.*, **diamond-tiled** *adj.* adjs.
a1618—1883

C5. Special combs.: See also **DIAMOND-BACK** *adj. and n.*, etc.

diamond-bird *n.* an Australian shrike of the genus *Pardalotus*, esp. *P. punctatus*, so called from the spots on its plumage.
1840—1865

diamond-borer *n.* = *diamond-drill* (b).
1875—1875

diamond boring machine *n.* = *diamond-borer n.*
1867—1875

diamond boron *n.* an impure form of boron obtained in octahedral crystals nearly as hard and brilliant as the diamond.
1863—1863

diamond-breaker *n.* = *diamond-mortar n.*

diamond-broaching *n.* broached hewn-work done with a diamond-hammer.
1880—1880

diamond cement *n.* cement used in setting diamonds.
1884—1884

diamond-crossing *n.* a crossing on a railway where two lines of rails intersect obliquely without communicating (see **DIAMOND-POINT n. 2**).
1881—1891

diamond-drill *n.* (a) a drill armed with one or more diamonds used for boring hard substances; (b) a drill for boring rocks, having a head set with rough diamonds, a diamond-borer.
1827—1881

diamond dust *n.* = *diamond-powder n.*
c1702—1857

diamond-ficoides *n.* the ice-plant, *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*.
1767—1811

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diamond-field *n.* [compare *coal-field*] a tract of country yielding diamonds from its surface strata.
1876—1876

diamond file *n.* (see quotes).
1881—1881

diamond fish *n.* (see quotes).
1854—1854

diamond-hammer *n.* a mason's hammer having one face furnished with pyramidal pick points for fine-dressing a surface on stone.
1859-60—1883

diamond hitch *n.* a method of fastening ropes in packing heavy loads.
1904—1918

diamond-knot *n.* (*Naut.*) a kind of ornamental knot worked with the strands of a rope.
1769—1867

diamond-mill *n.* (see quot.).
1881—1881

diamond-mortar *n.* a steel mortar used for crushing diamonds for the purposes of the lapidary.

diamond-plaice *n.* a local name (in Sussex) for the common plaice (*Pleuronectes platessa*), from its lozenge-shaped spots.
1853—1853

diamond-plough *n.* (a) a diamond-pointed instrument for engraving upon glass; (b) a small plough having a mould-board and share of a diamond or rhomboidal shape (Knight).
1827—1827

diamond-powder *n.* the powder produced by grinding or crushing diamonds.
1753—1802

diamond python *n.* see quot. 1896.
1896—1896

diamond rattlesnake *n.* a rattlesnake (*Crotalus adamanteus*) having diamond-shaped markings.
1883—1883

diamond-spot *n.* collector's name for a moth (*Botys tetragonalis*).
1819—1819

Diamond State *n.* U.S. the state of Delaware (see quot. 1934).
1866—1934

diamond stitch *n.* an embroidery stitch producing a diamond pattern (see quot. 1964).
c1926—1964

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diamond-tool *n.* a metal-turning tool whose cutting edge is formed by facets.

diamond wedding *n.* [after *silver wedding*, *golden wedding*] a fanciful name for the celebration of the 60th (or according to some, the 75th) anniversary of the wedding-day.

1872—1892

diamond-weevil *n.* = [DIAMOND-BEETLE](#) *n.*

diamond-wheel *n.* a metal wheel used with diamond-powder and oil in grinding diamonds or other hard gems.

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diamond willow *n.* *N. Amer.* any of various willows, esp. *Salix bebbiana*, which have diamond-shaped depressions on the trunk as a result of fungal attack; the wood of any of these trees.

1884—1971