

WORD FUN 1

DESERTS

The word desert can be confusing because it may be spelt and/or pronounced, like some other words which use the same letters.

SPELLING		MEANING	WORD ORIGIN
Desert	DEZZ-urt	An area that receives very low participation and supports few life forms.	From Latin words meaning abandoned or forsaken. First recorded in the C13th.
Dessert	Di-ZURT	A sweet course at the end of a meal.	From a French word meaning clear the table. First used in the 1600s.
Desert	Di-ZURT	A reward or punishment that is deserved.	From a French word meaning deserve. First used in the C13th.
Desert	Di-ZURT	To leave with no intention of returning.	From a Latin word meaning abandon.

OVER TO YOU ...

* Which of the spellings and sounds above, fit the following sentences:

- _____ are often very hot.
- He got his just _____.
- Please don't _____ me!
- At the restaurant I ate a chocolate _____.

* How many words can you make using only the letters in DESERT. (Letters can be used more than once.)

* Below is an acrostic poem about a hot desert. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of any words you do not know. Then use the blank at right to complete your own acrostic poem about a cold desert.

Day, and an azure sky hangs like a dazzling curtain,
Empy of all but a distant bird. Its lazy circles belie
Sharp eyes, tuned for a whisper of movement below.
Earth-bound critters find salvation in dark burrows
 while,
Relentless, a thirsty sun probes each nook and
 crevice.
Their time will come ... in the cool of the night.

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