

**de facto.** A. And *de jure*. The use of either phrase implies the question whether something exists merely in fact (*de facto*) or by right or according to law (*de jure*).

*De facto* /di-fak-toh/ sometimes signals that there is some formal defect that makes the thing described voidable, as in the phrases *de facto contract* and *de facto marriage*. At other times it denotes pure illegitimacy, as in *de facto government* (i.e., one that has displaced the rightful legal government).

*De jure* /di-joor-ay/ may be opposed not only to *de facto*, but also to *de gratia* (= by grace or favor), in opposition to which *de jure* means "as a matter of right."

Both phrases were traditionally POSTPOSITIVE