

OATEN, *a. o'tn.* Made of oatmeal; as *oaten* cakes.

2. Consisting of an oat straw or stem; as an *oaten* pipe. *Milton.*

OATIL, *n.* [*Sax. ath; Goth. aiths; D. eed; G. eil; Sw. ed; Dan. æd.*]

A solemn affirmation or declaration, made with an appeal to God for the truth of what is affirmed. The appeal to God in an oath, implies that the person imprecates his vengeance and renounces his favor if the declaration is false, or if the declaration is a promise, the person invokes the vengeance of God if he should fail to fulfill it. A false oath is called perjury.

OATHABLE, *a.* Capable of having an oath administered to. [*Not used.*] *Shak.*

OATHBREAKING, *n.* The violation of an oath; perjury. *Shak.*

OATMALT, *n.* Malt made of oats. *Mortimer.*

OATMEAL, *n.* Meal of oats produced by grinding or pounding. *Gay.*

2. A plant. [*Not used.*]

OAT-THISTLE, *n.* A plant. [*Not used.*] *Ainsworth.*

OB, a Latin preposition, signifies primarily, in front, before, and hence against, towards; as in *obicio*, to object, that is, to throw against. It has also the force of *in* or *on*; as in *obtrude*. In composition, the letter *b* is often changed into the first letter of the word to which it is prefixed; as in *occasion*, *offer*, *oppose*.

OBAMBULATE, *v. i.* [*L. obambulo.*] To walk about. [*Not used.*] *Cockeram.*

OBAMBULATION, *n.* A walking about. [*Not used.*] *Diet.*

OBBLIGATION, *a.* [*It. bound.*] A term in music, signifying on purpose for the instrument named. *Cyc.*

OBCORDATE, *a.* [*L. from ob and cor, the heart.*]

In *botany*, shaped like a heart, with the apex downward; as an *obcordate* petal or legume. *Martyn.*

OB'DORMITION, *n.* [*L. obdormio, to sleep.*] Sleep; sound sleep. [*Little used.*] *Hall.*

OB'DUCE, *v. t.* [*L. obduco; ob and duco, to lead.*] To draw over, as a covering. [*Little used.*] *Hale.*

OB'DUCT, *v. t.* [*L. obduco.*] To draw over; to cover. [*Not in use.*] *Brown.*

OB'DUCTION, *n.* [*L. obductio.*] The act of drawing over, as a covering; the act of laying over. [*Little used.*] *Cockeram.*

OB'DURACY, *n.* [*See Obdurate.*] Invincible hardness of heart; impenitence that cannot be subdued; inflexible persistence in sin; obstinacy in wickedness.

God may by almighty grace hinder the absolute completion of sin in final *obduracy*. *South.*

OB'DURATE, *a.* [*L. obduro, to harden; ob and duro.*]

1. Hardened in heart; inflexibly hard; persisting obstinately in sin or impenitence.

2. Hardened against good or favor; stubborn; unyielding; inflexible.

The custom of evil makes the heart *obdurate* against whatsoever instructions to the contrary. *Hooker.*

3. Harsh; rugged; as an *obdurate* conso-nant. [*Little used.*] *Swift.*

OB'DURATE, *v. t.* To harden. [*Not used.*] *More.*

OB'DURATELY, *adv.* Stubbornly; inflexibly; with obstinate impenitence.

OB'DURATENESS, *n.* Stubbornness; inflexible persistence in sin.

OB'DURATION, *n.* The hardening of the heart; hardness of heart; stubbornness. *Hooker. Hammond.*

OB'DURE, *v. t.* [*L. obduro.*] To harden; to render obstinate in sin. [*Little used.*] *Herbert.*

2. To render inflexible. [*Little used.*] *Hall.*

OB'DURED, *pp. or a.* Hardened; inflexible; impenitent. *Milton.*

OB'DUREDNES, *n.* Hardness of heart; stubbornness. [*Little used.*] *Hall.*

OBEDIENCE, *n.* [*Fr. from L. obedientia. See Obey.*]

Compliance with a command, prohibition or known law and rule of duty prescribed; the performance of what is required or enjoined by authority, or the abstaining from what is prohibited, in compliance with the command or prohibition. To constitute obedience, the act or forbearance to act must be in submission to authority; the command must be known to the person, and his compliance must be in consequence of it, or it is not obedience. *Obedience* is not synonymous with *obsequiousness*; the latter often implying meanness or servility, and obedience being merely a proper submission to authority. That which duty requires implies dignity of conduct rather than servility. Obedience may be *voluntary* or *involuntary*. *Voluntary obedience* alone can be acceptable to God.

Government must compel the *obedience* of individuals; otherwise who will seek its protection or fear its vengeance? *Ames.*

OBE'DIENT, *a.* [*L. obediens.*] Submissive to authority; yielding compliance with commands, orders or injunctions; performing what is required, or abstaining from what is forbid.

The chief his orders gives; the *obedient* band,

With due observance, wait the chief's command. *Pope.*

OBE'DIENTIAL, *a.* [*Fr. obedienciel.*] According to the rule of obedience; in compliance with commands; as *obediential* submission. *Hammond.*

OBE'DIENTLY, *adv.* With obedience; with due submission to commands; with submission or compliance with orders. *Tillotson.*

OBE'ISANCE, *n.* [*Fr. obeissance, from obeir, to obey, L. obedio.*]

A bow or courtesy; an act of reverence made by an inclination of the body or the knee. *Gen. xxxvii.*

OBE'LISCAL, *a.* In the form of an obelisk. *Stukeley.*

OBE'LISK, *n.* [*L. obeliscus; Gr. obeliskos, dim. of obelos, a spit.*]

1. A truncated, quadrangular and slender pyramid intended as an ornament, and often charged with inscriptions or hieroglyphics. Some ancient obelisks appear to have been erected in honor of distinguished persons or their achievements. Ptolemy Philadelphus raised one of 88

cubits high in honor of Arsinoë. Augustus erected one in the Campus Martius at Rome, which served to mark the hours on a horizontal dial drawn on the pavement. *Encyc.*

2. In *writing* and *printing*, a reference or mark referring the reader to a note in the margin, thus, †. It is used also for a mark of censure, or for designating obsolete words, or for other purposes at the pleasure of the writer.

OBEQUITATE, *v. i.* [*L. obequito; ob and equito, to ride; equus, a horse.*] To ride about. [*Not used.*] *Cockeram.*

OBEQUITATION, *n.* The act of riding about. [*Not used.*] *Cockeram.*

OBERRATION, *n.* [*L. oberro; ob and erro, to wander.*] The act of wandering about. [*Little used.*] *Johnson.*

OBESE, *a.* [*L. obesus.*] Fat; fleshy. [*Little used.*] *Gayton.*

OBESENESS, *n.* [*L. obesitas.*] Fatness; **OBE'SITY**, *n.* fleshiness; *incumbrance of flesh.* *Grew.*

OBEY, *v. t.* [*Fr. obeir, contracted from L. obedio, It. ubbidire; supposed to be contracted from ob and audio, to bear. See Gr. ἑξακούω.*]

1. To comply with the commands, orders or instructions of a superior, or with the requirements of law, moral, political or municipal; to do that which is commanded or required, or to forbear doing that which is prohibited.

Children, *obey* your parents in the Lord. *Eph. vi.*

Servants, *obey* in all things your masters. *Col. iii.*

He who has learned to *obey*, will know how to command.

2. To submit to the government of; to be ruled by.

All Israel *obeyed* Solomon. *1 Chron. xxix. Dan. vii.*

3. To submit to the direction or control of. Seamen say, the ship will not *obey* the helm. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should *obey* it in the lusts thereof. *Rom. vi. James iii.*

4. To yield to the impulse, power or operation of; as, to *obey* stimulus. *Darwin.*

Relentless time, destroying power, Whom stone and brass *obey*.

OBEYED, *pp.* Complied with; performed; as a command; yielded to.

OBEYER, *n.* One who yields obedience.

OBEYING, *ppr.* Complying with commands; submitting to.

OBFIRM, *v. t.* *obfirm'*, } To make *obfirmate*, } *obfirm'ate.* } firm; to harden in resolution. [*Not used.*] *Halt. Sheldon.*

OBFUSCATE, *v. t.* [*L. ob and fusco, to obscure.*] To darken; to obscure. *Waterhouse.*

OBFUSCATED, *pp.* Darkened in color. *Shenstone.*

OBFUSCATION, *n.* The act of darkening or rendering obscure; a clouding. *Darwin.*

OBT, *n.* [*L. obit, obivit; ob and eo, to go.*] Properly, death; decease; hence, funeral solemnities or anniversary service for the soul of the deceased on the day of his death. *Encyc. Mountgu.*

OBTUAL, *a.* [*L. obco, to die; obitus, death.*]