

1. A spring, or source of water; properly, a spring or issuing of water from the earth. This word accords in sense with *well*, in our mother tongue; but we now distinguish them, applying *fountain* to a natural spring of water, and *well* to an artificial pit of water, issuing from the interior of the earth.

2. A small basin of springing water.

3. A jet; a spouting of water; an artificial spring.

4. The head or source of a river.

5. Original; first principle; or cause; the source of any thing.

Almighty God, the fountain of all goodness.

Taylor.
FOUNTAIN-HEAD, *n.* Primary source; original; first principle.

Dryden.
FOUNTAINLESS, *a.* Having no fountain; wanting a spring.

A barren desert fountainless and dry.

Milton.
FOUNTAIN-TREE, *n.* In the Canary isles, a tree which distills water from its leaves, in sufficient abundance for the inhabitants near it.

Encyc.
FOUNTAINFUL, *a.* Full of springs; as fountainful Ida.

Chapman.
FOUR, *a.* [Sax. *feower*; G. *vier*; D. *vier*; Sw. *fyra*; Dan. *fire*. I suspect this word to be contracted from Goth. *fidwor*, W. *pedwar*, Arm. *pevor*, *peder* or *petor*, *pear*, from which L. *petovium*, *petorium*, a carriage with four wheels, *petor-rola*, &c.

Twice two; denoting the sum of two and two.

FOURBE, *n.* [Fr.] A tricking fellow; a cheat. [Not English.]

Denham.
FOURFOLD, *a.* Four double; quadruple; four times told; as a *fourfold* division.

He shall restore the lamb *fourfold*. 2 Sam. xii.

FOURFOLD, *n.* Four times as much.

FOURFOOTED, *a.* Quadruped; having four feet; as the horse and the ox.

FOURRIER, *n.* [Fr.] A harbingier. [Not English.]

Buck.
FOURSCORE, *a.* [See *Score*.] Four times twenty; eighty. It is used elliptically for fourscore years; as a man of *fourscore*.

Temple.
FOURSQUARE, *a.* Having four sides and four angles equal; quadrangular.

Raleigh.
FOURTEEN, *a.* [four and ten; Sax. *feowertyn*.] Four and ten; twice seven.

FOURTEENTH, *a.* The ordinal of fourteen; the fourth after the tenth.

FOURTH, *a.* The ordinal of four; the next after the third.

FOURTH, *n.* In music, an interval composed of two tones and a semitone. Three full tones compose a triton, or fourth redundant.

FOURTHLY, *adv.* In the fourth place.

FOURWHEELED, *a.* Having or running on four wheels.

FOVIL, *LA*, *n.* [L. *foveo*.] A fine substance, imperceptible to the naked eye, emitted from the pollen of flowers.

Martyn.
FOWL, *n.* [Sax. *fugol*, *fugel*; G. and D. *vogel*; Dan. *fugl*; Sw. *fogel*; from the root of the L. *fugio*, *fugo*, Gr. *φύγω*, and signifying the flying animal.]

A flying or winged animal; the generic name of certain animals that move through the air by the aid of wings. Fowls have two feet, are covered with feathers, and have wings for flight. *Bird* is a young fowl or chicken, and may well be applied to the smaller species of fowls. But it has usurped the place of *fowl*, and is used improperly as the generic term.

Food is used as a collective noun. We dined on fish and fowl.

Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air. Gen. i.

But this use in America is not frequent. We generally use the plural, *fowls*.

The word is colloquially used for poultry, or rather, in a more limited sense, for barn-door fowls.

FOWL, *v. i.* To catch or kill wild fowls for game or food; as by means of bird-line, decoys, nets and snares, or by pursuing them with hawks, or by shooting.

FOWLER, *n.* A sportsman who pursues wild fowls, or takes or kills them for food.

FOWLING, *ppr.* Pursuing or taking wild fowls.

FOWLING, *n.* The art or practice of catching or shooting fowls; also, falconry.

FOWLINGPIECE, *n.* A light gun for shooting fowls.

FOX, *n.* [Sax. *fox*; G. *fuchs*; D. *vos*.] An animal of the genus *Canis*, with a straight tail, yellowish or straw-colored hair, and erect ears. This animal burrows in the earth, is remarkable for his cunning, and preys on lambs, geese, hens or other small animals.

2. A sly, cunning fellow.

3. In *seaman's language*, a seizing made by twisting several rope-yarns together.

4. Formerly, a cant expression for a sword.

Shak.
FOX, *v. t.* To intoxicate; to stupefy. [Not used.]

Boyle.
FOX-CASE, *n.* The skin of a fox. [Not used.]

L'Estrange.
FOX CHASE, *n.* The pursuit of a fox with hounds.

Pope.
FOX'ERY, *n.* Behavior like that of a fox. [Not in use.]

Chaucer.
FOX EVIL, *n.* A kind of disease in which the hair falls off.

Diet.
FOX GLOVE, *n.* The name of a plant, the Digitalis.

FOX HOUND, *n.* A hound for chasing foxes.

Shenstone.
FOX HUNT, *n.* The chase or hunting of a fox.

FOX HUNTER, *n.* One who hunts or pursues foxes with hounds.

FOX ISH, *a.* Resembling a fox in qualities; cunning.

FOX LIKE, *a.* Resembling a fox in qualities; cunning.

Shak.
FOX SHIP, *n.* The character or qualities of a fox; cunning.

FOX TAIL, *n.* A species of grass, the Alopecurus.

FOX TRAP, *n.* A trap, or a gin or snare to catch foxes.

FOX Y, *a.* Pertaining to foxes; wily. [Not used.]

Spenser.
FOY, *n.* [Fr. *foi*.] Faith. [Not used.]

FRA'CAS, *n.* [Fr.] An uproar; a noisy quarrel; a disturbance.

FRACT, *v. t.* To break. [Not used.]
FRACTION, *n.* [L. *fractio*; Fr. *fraction*; from L. *frango*, *fractus*, to break. See *Break*.]

1. The act of breaking or state of being broken, especially by violence.

Burnet.
2. In *arithmetic and algebra*, a broken part of an integral or integer; any division of a whole number or unit, as $\frac{2}{3}$, two thirds, $\frac{1}{4}$, one fourth, which are called *vulgar fractions*.

In these, the figure above the line is called the *numerator*, and the figure below the line the *denominator*. In *decimal fractions*, the denominator is a unit, or 1, with as many cyphers annexed, as the numerator has places.

They are commonly expressed by writing the numerator only, with a point before it by which it is separated from the whole number: thus

$\cdot 5$, which denotes five tenths, $\frac{1}{10}$, or half the whole number; $\cdot 25$, that is, $\frac{25}{100}$, or a fourth part of the whole number.

FRACTIONAL, *a.* Belonging to a broken number; comprising a part or the parts of a unit; as *fractional numbers*.

FRACTIOUS, *a.* Apt to break out into a passion; apt to quarrel; cross; snappish; as a *fractious man*.

FRACTIOUSLY, *adv.* Passionately; snappishly.

FRACTIOUSNESS, *n.* A cross or snappish temper.

FRACTURE, *n.* [L. *fractura*. See *Break*.] A breach in any body, especially a breach caused by violence; a rupture of a solid body.

2. In *surgery*, the rupture or disruption of a bone. A fracture is *simple* or *compound*; *simple*, when the bone only is divided; *compound*, when the bone is broken, with a laceration of the integuments.

3. In *mineralogy*, the manner in which a mineral breaks, and by which its texture is displayed; as a *compact fracture*; a *fibrous fracture*; *foliated*, *striated* or *conchoidal fracture*, &c.

Kirwan.
FRACTURE, *v. t.* To break; to burst asunder; to crack; to separate continuous parts; as, to *fracture* a bone; to *fracture* the skull.

Wiseman.
FRACTURED, *pp.* Broken; cracked.

FRACTURING, *ppr.* Breaking; bursting asunder; cracking.

FRAGILE, *a.* [L. *fragilis*, from *frango*, to break.]

1. Brittle; easily broken.

The stalk of ivy is tough, and not fragile.

Bacon.
2. Weak; liable to fail; easily destroyed; as *fragile arms*.

Milton.
FRAGILITY, *n.* Brittleness; easiness to be broken.

Bacon.
3. Weakness; liability to fail.

Knolles.
3. Frailty; liability to fault.

Wotton.
FRAGMENT, *n.* [L. *fragmentum*, from *frango*, to break.]

1. A part broken off; a piece separated from any thing by breaking.

Gather up the *fragments* that remain, that nothing be lost. John vi.

2. A part separated from the rest; an imperfect part; as *fragments* of ancient writings.

3. A small detached portion; as *fragments* of time.

Franklin.