

of time when an affair is arrived to its height, and must soon terminate or suffer a material change.

This hour's the very crisis of your fate.

Dryden.

CRISP, *a.* [*L. crispus*; *It. crespo*; *G. kraus*. See the Verb.]

1. Curled; formed into curls or ringlets.

2. Indented; winding; as *crisp channels*. *Shak.*

3. Brittle; friable; easily broken or crumbled. *Bacon.*

CRISP, *v. t.* [*L. crispus*; *It. crepare*; *Sp. crisar*; *Fr. criser*; *Dan. kruser*; *Sw. krasa*; *W. cris*, a crust; *crish*, a crisp coating; *crishin*, crisp, friable; from *crish*, cracked into points, mince; allied to *crush*, to roast or parch. From the Gothic dialects, we observe that *p* is not radical. Class Rl. No. 20. 73. Ar.]

1. To curl; to twist; to contract or form into ringlets, as the hair; to wreath or interweave, as the branches of trees.

B. Jonson. Milton.

2. To indent. *Johnson.* To twist or eddy. *Mason.*

But the sense is, to curl; to wrinkle in little undulations, as a fretted surface.

From that sapphire fount the *crisped* brooks,
Rolling on orient pearl and sands of gold,
Run nectar, visiting each plant. *Milton.*

CRISPATION, *n.* The act of curling, or state of being curled. *Bacon.*

CRISPATURE, *n.* A curling; the state of being curled. *Lee. Botany.*

CRISPED, *pp.* Curled; twisted; frizzled.

CRISPING, *pp.* Curling; frizzling.

CRISPING-PIN, *n.* A curling-iron. *Isaiah.*

CRISPNESS, *n.* A state of being curled; also, brittleness.

CRISPY, *a.* Curled; formed into ringlets; as *crispy locks*. *Shak.*

2. Brittle; dried so as to break short; as a *crispy cake*.

CRISTATE, *a.* [*L. cristatus*, from *crista*, a crest.]

CRISTATED, *a.* [*It. cristatus*, from *crista*, a crest.]

In *botany*, crested; tufted; having an appendage like a crest or tuft, as some authors and flowers. *Martyn.*

CRITERION, *n.* plu. *criteria*. [*Gr. κριτήριον*, from the root of *κρίνω*, to judge. See *Crim*.]

A standard of judging; any established law, rule, principle or fact, by which facts, propositions and opinions are compared, in order to discover their truth or falsehood, or by which a correct judgment may be formed.

CRITHOMANCY, *n.* [*Gr. κριθή*, barley, and *μαντεία*, divination.]

A kind of divination by means of the dough of cakes, and the meal strewn over the victims, in ancient sacrifices. *Encyc.*

CRITIC, *n.* [*Gr. κριτής*, from *κρίνω*, a judge or discerner, from the root of *κρίνω*, to judge, to separate, to distinguish. See *Crim*.]

1. A person skilled in judging of the merit of literary works; one who is able to discern and distinguish the beauties and faults of writing. In a more general sense, a person skilled in judging with propriety of any combination of objects, or of any work of art; and particularly of what are denominated the *Fine Arts*. A critic is one who, from experience, knowledge,

habit or taste, can perceive the difference between propriety and impropriety, in objects or works presented to his view; between the natural and unnatural; the high and the low, or lofty and mean; the congruous and incongruous; the correct and incorrect, according to the established rules of the art.

2. An examiner; a judge.

And make each day a critic on the last. *Pope.*

3. One who judges with severity; one who censures or finds fault. *Pope. Watts. Swift.*

CRITIC, *a.* Critical; relating to criticism, or the art of judging of the merit of a literary performance or discourse, or of any work in the fine arts. [See *Critical*.]

CRITIC, *v. i.* To criticise; to play the critic. [*Little used*.] *Temple.*

CRITICAL, *a.* [*L. criticus*; *Gr. κριτικός*. See *Critic*.]

1. Relating to criticism; nicely exact; as a critical dissertation on Homer.

2. Having the skill or power nicely to distinguish beauties from blemishes; as a critical judge; a critical auditor; a critical ear; critical taste.

3. Making nice distinctions; accurate; as critical rules.

4. Capable of judging with accuracy; discerning beauties and faults; nicely judicious in matters of literature and the fine arts; as, Virgil was a critical poet.

5. Capable of judging with accuracy; conforming to exact rules of propriety; exact; particular; as, to be critical in rites and ceremonies, or in the selection of books.

6. Inclined to find fault, or to judge with severity.

7. [See *Crisis*.] Pertaining to a crisis; marking the time or state of a disease which indicates its termination in the death or recovery of the patient; as critical days, or critical symptoms.

8. Producing a crisis or change in a disease; indicating a crisis; as a critical sweat.

9. Decisive; noting a time or state on which the issue of things depends; important; as regards the consequences; as a critical time or moment; a critical juncture.

10. Formed or situated to determine or decide, or having the crisis at command; important or essential for determining; as a critical post. *Mitford.*

CRITICALLY, *adv.* In a critical manner; with nice discernment of truth or falsehood, propriety or impropriety; with nice scrutiny; accurately; exactly; as, to examine evidence critically; to observe critically.

2. At the crisis; at the exact time.

3. In a critical situation, place or condition, so as to command the crisis; as a town critically situated. *Mitford.*

CRITICALNESS, *n.* The state of being critical; incidence at a particular point of time.

2. Exactness; accuracy; nicety; minute care in examination.

CRITICISE, *v. a.* s. a. z. To examine and judge critically; to judge with attention to beauties and faults; as, to criticise on a literary work, on an argument or discourse.

2. To write remarks on the merit of a performance; to notice beauties and faults.

Cavil you may, but never criticise. *Pope.*

3. To animadvert upon as faulty; to utter censure; as, to criticise on a man's manners, or his expenses. *Locke.*

CRITICISE, *v. t.* To notice beauties and blemishes or faults in; to utter or write remarks on the merit of a performance; as, to criticise the writings of Milton.

2. To pass judgment upon with respect to merit or blame; as, to criticise an author; to criticise the conduct.

CRITICISED, *pp.* Examined and judged with respect to beauties and faults.

CRITICISING, *pp.* Examining and judging with regard to beauties and faults; remarking on; animadverting on.

CRITICISM, *n.* The art of judging with propriety of the beauties and faults of a literary performance, or of any production in the fine arts; as the rules of criticism.

2. The act of judging on the merit of a performance; animadversion; remark on beauties and faults; critical observation, verbal or written. We say, the author's criticisms are candid, or they are severe.

CRITIQUE, *n.* [*Fr. critique*.] A critical

CRITIC, *n.* examination of the merits of a performance; remarks or animadversions on beauties and faults.

Addison wrote a critique on *PARADISE LOST*.

2. Science of criticism; standard or rules of judging of the merit of performances.

If ideas and words were distinctly weighed, and duly considered, they would afford us another sort of logic and *critic*. *Locke.*

CRIZEL, *n.* [*See Crisp*.] A kind

CRIZELING, *n.* of roughness on the surface of glass, which clouds its transparency. *Encyc.*

CROAK, *v. i.* [*Sax. cræclan*; *Goth. brukan*; *L. croco*, *croco*; *Sp. croazar*; *It. crociare*; *Fr. croasser*; *Arm. croaz*; *G. krachen*; *D. kranjen*, to caw; and *kruchen*, to growl; *Ir. greg*, *grag*, *grag*; coinciding in elements with *W. creg*, *crig*, hoarse, *crig*, to make rough or hoarse; *Sax. hrog*, rough, and *hroecian*, to rue; *Gr. κροῖς*, *κροῖς*, and *κροῖς*, *κροῖς*. These all appear to be of one family, and from the root of rough, and creak, *W. rhag*. See *Crow*.]

1. To make a low, hoarse noise in the throat, as a frog or other animal.

2. To caw; to cry as a raven or crow.

3. To make any low, muttering sound, resembling that of a frog or raven; as, their bellies *croak*. *Locke.*

4. In contempt, to speak with a low, hollow voice.

CROAK, *n.* The low, harsh sound uttered by a frog or a raven, or a like sound.

CROAKER, *n.* One that croaks, murmurs or grumbles; one who complains unreasonably.

CROAKING, *pp.* Uttering a low, harsh sound from the throat, or other similar sound.

CROAKING, *n.* A low, harsh sound, as of a frog, or the bowels.

CROATS, *n.* Troops, natives of Croatia.

CROALITE, *n.* [*from crocus*, saffron.]

A mineral, a variety of zeolite, of an orange or brick red color. It is sometimes