

T E N

TEN'DRIL, *n.* [Fr. *tendron*, from *tenir*, to hold.]

A clasp or clasper of a vine or other climbing or creeping plant; a filiform spiral shoot, that winds round another body. *Tendrils* or *claspers* are given to plants that have weak stalks. *Ray.*

They are also given to creeping vines which require support on the earth.

TEN'DRIL, *a.* Claspings; climbing; as a tendril. *Dycr.*

TEN'EBROUS, } *a.* [L. *tenebrosus*, from *tenebra*, darkness.]

TENE'BRIOUS, } *a.* [L. *tenebrosus*, from *tenebra*, darkness.]

Dark; gloomy. *Young.*

TENE'BROUSNESS, } *n.* Darkness; gloom.

TENE'BROS'ITY, } *n.* Darkness; gloom.

TEN'EMENT, *n.* [Fr.; Low L. *tenementum*, from *teneo*, to hold.]

1. In common acceptation, a house; a building for a habitation; or an apartment in a building, used by one family.

2. A house or lands depending on a manor; or a fee farm depending on a superior. *Cyc.*

3. In law, any species of permanent property that may be held, as land, houses, rents, commons, an office, an advowson, a franchise, a right of common, a peerage, &c. These are called free or frank tenements. The thing held is a *tenement*, and the possessor of it a *tenant*, and the manner of possession is called *tenure*. *Blackstone.*

TENEMENT'AL, *a.* Pertaining to tenanted lands; that is or may be held by tenants. *Tenemental* lands they distributed among their tenants. *Blackstone.*

TENEMENT'ARY, *a.* That is or may be leased; held by tenants. *Spelman.*

TENER'ITY, *n.* Tenderness. [Not in use.]

TENESMUS, *n.* [L. literally a straining or stretching.]

A painful, ineffectual and repeated effort, or a continual and urgent desire to go to stool. *Coar. Cyc.*

TEN'ET, *n.* [L. *tenet*, he holds.] Any opinion, principle, dogma or doctrine which a person believes or maintains as true; as the *tenets* of Plato or of Cicero. The *tenets* of christians are adopted from the Scriptures; but different interpretations give rise to a great diversity of *tenets*.

TEN'FOLD, *a.* [ten and fold.] Ten times more.

Fire kindled into *tenfold* rage. *Milton.*

TEN'NANTITE, *n.* [from *Tennant*.] A subspecies of gray copper; a mineral of a lead color, or iron black, massive or crystalized, found in Cornwall, England. *Ure.*

TEN'NIS, *n.* [If this word is from L. *teneo*, Fr. *tenir*, it must be from the sense of holding on, continuing to keep in motion.] A play in which a ball is driven continually or kept in motion by rackets.

TEN'NIS, *v. t.* To drive a ball. *Spenser.*

TEN'ON, *n.* [Fr. from *tenir*, L. *teneo*, to hold.]

In building and cabinet work, the end of a piece of timber, which is fitted to a mortise for insertion, or inserted, for fastening two pieces of timber together. The form of a *tenon* is various, as square, dove-tailed, &c.

TEN'OR, *n.* [L. *tenor*, from *teneo*, to hold; that is, a holding on in a continued course; Fr. *teneur*; It. *tenore*; Sp. *tenor*.]

T E N

1. Continued run or currency; whole course or strain. We understand a speaker's intention or views from the *tenor* of his conversation, that is, from the general course of his ideas, or general purport of his speech.

Does not the whole *tenor* of the divine law positively require humility and meekness to all men? *Sprat.*

2. Stamp; character. The conversation was of the same *tenor* as that of the preceding day.

This success would look like chance, if it were not perpetual and always of the same *tenor*. *Dryden.*

3. Sense contained; purport; substance; general course or drift; as close attention to the *tenor* of the discourse. Warrants are to be executed according to their form and *tenor*. *Locke.*

Bid me tear the bond.

—When it is paid according to the *tenor*. *Shak.*

4. [Fr. *tenor*.] In music, the natural pitch of a man's voice in singing; hence, the part of a tune adapted to a man's voice, the second of the four parts, reckoning from the base; and originally the air, to which the other parts were auxiliary.

5. The persons who sing the *tenor*, or the instrument that plays it.

TENSE, *a.* *tens*. [L. *tensus*, from *tendo*, to stretch.]

Stretched; strained to stiffness; rigid; not lax; as a *tense* fiber.

For the free passage of the sound into the ear, it is requisite that the tympanum be *tense*. *Holder.*

TENSE, *n.* *tens*. [corrupted from Fr. *temps*, L. *tempus*.]

In grammar, time, or a particular form of a verb, or a combination of words, used to express the time of action, or of that which is affirmed; or tense is an inflection of verbs by which they are made to signify or distinguish the time of actions or events.

The primary simple tenses are three; those which express time *past*, *present*, and *future*; but these admit of modifications, which differ in different languages. The English language is rich in *tenses*, beyond any other language in Europe.

TENSENESS, *n.* *tens'ness*. The state of being tense or stretched to stiffness; stiffness; opposed to *laxness*; as the *tenseness* of a string or fiber; *tenseness* of the skin. *Sharp.*

TENS'IBLE, *a.* Capable of being extended. *Bacon.*

TENS'ILE, *a.* Capable of extension. *Bacon.*

TENS'ION, *n.* [Fr. from L. *tensio*, *tendo*.]

1. The act of stretching or straining; as the *tension* of the muscles.

2. The state of being stretched or strained to stiffness; or the state of being bent or strained; as, different degrees of *tension* in chords give different sounds; the greater the *tension*, the more acute the sound.

3. Distension.

TENS'IVE, *a.* Giving the sensation of tension, stiffness or contraction; as a *tensive* pain. *Floyer.*

TENS'OR, *n.* In anatomy, a muscle that extends or stretches a part.

TENSURE, the same as *tension*, and not used. *Bacon.*

T E N

TENT, *n.* [W. *tcnt*, from *ten*, *tyu*, stretched; Fr. *tente*; Sp. *tienda*; L. *tentorium*, from *tendo*, to stretch.]

1. A pavilion or portable lodge consisting of canvas or other coarse cloth, stretched and sustained by poles; used for sheltering persons from the weather, particularly soldiers in camp. The wandering Arabs and Tartars lodge in *tents*. The Israelites lodged in *tents* forty years, while they were in the desert.

2. In surgery, a roll of lint or linen, used to dilate an opening in the flesh, or to prevent the healing of an opening from which matter or other fluid is discharged. *Cyc.*

TENT, *n.* [Sp. *tinto*, deep colored, from L. *tinctus*.]

A kind of wine of a deep red color, chiefly from Galicia or Malaga in Spain.

TENT, *v. i.* To lodge as in a tent; to tabernacle. *Shak.*

TENT, *v. t.* To probe; to search as with a tent; as, to *tent* a wound.

I'll *tent* him to the quick. *Shak.*

2. To keep open with a tent. *Wiseman.*

TENT'ACLE, *n.* [Tech. L. *tentacula*.] A filiform process or organ, simple or branched, on the bodies of various animals of the Linnean class Vermes, and of Cuvier's Mollusca, Annelides, Echinodermata, Actinia, Medusæ, Polypi, &c. either an organ of feeling, prehension or motion, sometimes round the mouth, sometimes on other parts of the body.

TENT'AGE, *n.* An encampment. [Unusual.] *Drayton.*

TENTA'TION, *n.* [Fr. from L. *tentatio*; *tento*, to try.] Trial; temptation. [Little used.] *Brown.*

TENT'ATIVE, *a.* [Fr.] Trying; essaying.

TENT'ATIVE, *n.* An essay; trial. *Berkeley.*

TENT'ED, *a.* Covered or furnished with tents; as soldiers.

2. Covered with tents; as a *tented* field.

TENTER, *n.* [L. *tendo*, *tentus*, to stretch.]

A hook for stretching cloth on a frame. To be on the *tenters*, to be on the stretch; to be in distress, uneasiness or suspense. *Hudibras.*

TENTER, *v. t.* To hang or stretch on tenters. *Bacon.*

TENTER, *v. i.* To admit extension. *Bacon.*

Woolen cloths will *tenter*.

TENTER'ED, *pp.* Stretched or hung on tenters.

TENTER-GROUND, *n.* Ground on which tenters are erected.

TENTER'ING, *ppr.* Stretching or hanging on tenters.

TENTH, *a.* [from *ten*.] The ordinal of ten; the first after the ninth.

TENTH, *n.* The tenth part.

2. Tithes; the tenth part of annual produce or increase. The *tenth* of income is payable to the clergy in England, as it was to the priests among the Israelites.

3. In music, the octave of the third; an interval comprehending nine conjoint degrees, or ten sounds, diatonically divided. *Busby.*

TENTH'LY, *adv.* In the tenth place.

TENTIG'INOUS, *a.* [L. *tentigo*, a stretching.] Stiff; stretched. [Not in use.] *Diet.*