

*recht*, Fr. *etroit*, It. *stretto*, in which the palatal letter is lost; but the Spanish retains it in *estrecho*, *estrechar*. It is lost in the Port. *estreito*. It is customary to write *straight*, for direct or right, and *strait*, for narrow, but this is a practice wholly arbitrary, both being the same word. *Straight* we use in the sense in which it is used in the south of Europe. Both senses proceed from *stretching*, *straining*.]

1. Right, in a mathematical sense; direct; passing from one point to another by the nearest course; not deviating or crooked; as a *straight line*; a *straight course*; a *straight piece of timber*.

2. Narrow; close; tight; as a *straight garment*. [See *Straight*, as it is generally written.]

3. Upright; according with justice and rectitude; not deviating from truth or fairness.

**STRAIGHT**, *adv.* Immediately; directly; in the shortest time.

I know thy generous temper well;  
Fling but th' appearance of dishonor on it,  
It *straight* takes fire, and mounts into a blaze.

*Addison.*

**STRAIGHTEN**, *v. t.* *stra'itn.* To make straight; to reduce from a crooked to a straight form.

*Hooker.*

2. To make narrow, tense or close; to tighten.

3. To reduce to difficulties or distress.

**STRAIGHTENED**, *pp.* Made straight; made narrow.

**STRAIGHTENER**, *n.* He or that which straightens.

**STRAIGHTENING**, *ppr.* Making straight or narrow.

**STRAIGHTLY**, *adv.* In a right line; not crookedly.

2. Tightly; closely.

**STRAIGHTNESS**, *n.* The quality or state of being straight; rectitude.

*Bacon.*

2. Narrowness; tension; tightness.

**STRAIGHTWAY**, *adv.* [*straight and way*.] Immediately; without loss of time; without delay.

He took the damsel by the hand, and said to her, Talitha cumi— And *straightway* the damsel arose. Mark v.

[*Straightways* is obsolete.]

**STRAIKS**, *n.* Strong plates of iron on the circumference of a cannon wheel over the joints of the fellics.

**STRAIN**, *v. t.* [Fr. *etrcindre*; It. *strignere*; Sp. *estrñir*; L. *stringo*. This word retains its original signification, to stretch. *Strain* is the L. *stringo*, as *straight* is *strictus*, in different dialects.]

1. To stretch; to draw with force; to extend with great effort; as, to *strain* a rope; to *strain* the shrouds of a ship; to *strain* the chords of an instrument.

2. To cause to draw with force, or with excess of exertion; to injure by pressing with too much effort. He *strained* his horses or his oxen by overloading them.

3. To stretch violently or by violent exertion; as, to *strain* the arm or the muscles.

4. To put to the utmost strength. Men in desperate cases will *strain* themselves for relief.

5. To press or cause to pass through some porous substance; to purify or separate from extraneous matter by filtration; to

filter; as, to *strain* milk. Water may be *strained* through sand.

*Bacon. Arbuthnot.*

6. To sprain; to injure by drawing or stretching.

Prudes decay'd about may tack,  
*Strain* their necks with looking back.

*Swift.*

7. To make tighter; to cause to bind closer. To *strain* his fetters with a stricter care.

*Dryden.*

8. To force; to constrain; to make uneasy or unnatural.

His mirth is forced and *strained*. *Denham.*

**STRAIN**, *v. i.* To make violent efforts.

To build his fortune I will *strain* a little.

*Shak.*

*Straining* with too weak a wing. *Pope.*

2. To be filtered. Water *straining* through sand becomes pure.

**STRAIN**, *n.* A violent effort; a stretching or exertion of the limbs or muscles, or of any thing else.

2. An injury by excessive exertion, drawing or stretching.

*Grew.*

3. Style; continued manner of speaking or writing; as the genius and *strain* of the book of Proverbs.

*Tillotson.*

So we say, poetic *strains*, lofty *strains*.

4. Song; note; sound; or a particular part of a tune.

Their heavenly harps a lower *strain* began.

*Dryden.*

5. Turn; tendency; inborn disposition.

Because heretics have a *strain* of madness, he applied her with some corporal chastisements.

*Hayward.*

6. Manner of speech or action.

Such take too high a *strain* at first. *Bacon.*

7. Race; generation; descent.

He is of a noble *strain*. [Not in use.]

*Shak.*

8. Hereditary disposition.

Intemperance and lust breed diseases, which propagated, spoil the *strain* of a nation. [Not in use.]

*Tillotson.*

9. Rank; character. [Not in use.]

*Dryden.*

**STRAINABLE**, *a.* Capable of being strained. [Not in use.]

*Bacon.*

**STRAINED**, *pp.* Stretched; violently exerted; filtered.

**STRAINER**, *n.* That through which any liquid passes for purification; an instrument for filtration.

The lacteals of animal bodies are the *strainers* to separate the pure emulsion from its feces.

*Arbuthnot.*

[This doctrine is now questioned.]

**STRAINING**, *ppr.* Stretching; exerting with violence; making great efforts; filtering.

**STRAINING**, *n.* The act of stretching; the act of filtering; filtration.

**STRAINT**, *n.* A violent stretching or tension. [Not in use.]

*Spenser.*

**STRAIT**, *a.* [See *Straight*.] Narrow; close; not broad.

*Strait* is the gate, and narrow is the way that leadeth to life, and few there be that find it. Matt. vii.

2. Close; intimate; as a *strait* degree of favor.

*Sidney.*

3. Strict; rigorous.

He now, forsooth, takes on him to reform

Some certain edicts, and some *strait* decrees.

*Shak.*

4. Difficult; distressful.

5. Straight; not crooked.

**STRAIT**, *n.* [See *Straight*.] A narrow pass or passage, either in a mountain or in the ocean, between continents or other portions of land; as the *straits* of Gibraltar; the *straits* of Magellan; the *straits* of Dover. [In this sense, the plural is more generally used than the singular, and often without any apparent reason or propriety.]

2. Distress; difficulty; distressing necessity; formerly written *straight*. [Used either in the singular or plural.]

Let no man who owns a providence, become desperate under any calamity or *strait* whatsoever.

*South.*

Ulysses made use of the pretense of natural infirmity to conceal the *straits* he was in at that time in his thoughts.

*Broome.*

**STRAIT**, *v. t.* To put to difficulties. [Not in use.]

*Shak.*

**STRAITEN**, *v. t.* *stra'itn.* To make narrow.

In narrow circuit, *straiten'd* by a foe.

*Milton.*

2. To contract; to confine; as, to *straiten* the British commerce.

*Addison.*

3. To make tense or tight; as, to *straiten* a cord.

*Dunciad.*

4. To distress; to perplex; to press with poverty or other necessity; as, a man *straitened* in his circumstances.

5. To press by want of sufficient room.

Waters when *straitened*, as at the falls of bridges, give a roaring noise.

*Bacon.*

**STRAIT-HANDED**, *a.* [*strait and hand*.] Parsimonious; sparing; niggardly. [Not much used.]

**STRAIT-HAND/EDNESS**, *n.* Niggardliness; parsimony.

*Hall.*

**STRAIT-LACED**, *a.* [*strait and lace*.]

1. Griped with stays.

We have few well-shaped that are *strait-laced*.

*Locke.*

2. Stiff; constrained. Hence,

3. Rigid in opinion; strict.

**STRAITLY**, *adv.* Narrowly; closely.

2. Strictly; rigorously. [For this, *strictly* is now used.]

3. Closely; intimately.

**STRAITNESS**, *n.* Narrowness; as the *straitness* of a place; *straitness* of mind; *straitness* of circumstances.

*Bacon.*

2. Strictness; rigor; as the *straitness* of a man's proceedings.

*Shak.*

3. Distress; difficulty; pressure from necessity of any kind, particularly from poverty.

4. Want; scarcity; or rather narrowness; as the *straitness* of the conveniences of life.

*Locke.*

**STRAIT-WAISTCOAT**, } *n.* An apparatus

**STRAIT-JACKET**, } to confine the limbs of a distracted person.

**STRAKE**, *pret.* of *strike*. *Obs.* [See *Strike*.]

**STRAKE**, *n.* [Sp. *traca*.] A streak. [Not used unless in reference to the range of planks in a ship's side. See *Streak*.]

2. A narrow board. [Not used.]

3. The iron band of a wheel. [In the United States, this is called a *band*, or the *tire* of a wheel.]

**STRAM**, *v. i.* [Dan. *strammer*, to stretch, to spread.] To spread out the limbs; to sprawl. [*Local and vulgar*.]

**STRAMASH**, *v. t.* [It. *stramazcare*.] To strike, beat or bang; to break; to destroy.

[*Local and vulgar*.]

*Grose.*

**STRAMINEOUS**, *a.* [L. *stramineus*, from *stramen*, straw.]