

WHIR, *v. t.* To hurry.

WHIRL, *v. t.* *hwurl*. [Sax. *hwyrfan*; D. *wervelen*; G. *wirbeln*, to whirl, to *warble*; Dan. *hvirreler*, Sw. *hvirfla*, to whirl; Dan. *hvirvelbeen*, whirl-bone, vertebra; *hvirvel-soe*, whirl-sea, a whirlpool; Sw. *hvirfvel*, Icc. *whirla*, a whirl. We see that *whirl* and *warble* are dialectical forms of the same word, and both probably from the root of L. *verto* and Eng. *veer*.]

To turn round rapidly; to turn with velocity. He *whirls* his sword around without delay.

Dryden.

WHIRL, *v. i.* To be turned round rapidly; to move round with velocity; as the *whirling* spindles of a cotton machine or wheels of a coach.

The wooden engine flies and *whirls* about.

Dryden.

2. To move hastily.

—But *whirl'd* away, to shun his hateful sight.

Dryden.

WHIRL, *n.* [G. *wirbel*; Dan. *hvirvel*.] A turning with rapidity or velocity; rapid rotation or circumvolution; quick gyration; as the *whirl* of a top; the *whirl* of a wheel; the *whirl* of time; the *whirls* of fancy.

Creech. Pope.

2. Any thing that moves or is turned with velocity, particularly on an axis or pivot.

3. A book used in twisting.

4. In *botany*, a species of inflorescence, consisting of many subsessile flowers surrounding the stem in a ring. It is also written *whorl* and *wherl*.

Martyn.

WHIRL-BAT, *n.* [*whirl* and *bat*.] Any thing moved with a whirl as preparatory for a blow, or to augment the force of it. Poets use it for the ancient cestus.

The *whirl-bat* and the rapid race shall be

Reserv'd for Cesar.

Dryden.

WHIRL-BLAST, *n.* [*whirl* and *blast*.] A whirling blast of wind.

Entick.

WHIRL-BONE, *n.* [*whirl* and *bone*.] The patella; the cap of the knee; the kneecap.

Ainsworth.

WHIRLED, *pp.* Turned round with velocity.

2. In *botany*, growing in whirls; bearing whirls; verticillate.

WHIRLIGIG, *n.* [*whirl* and *gig*.] A toy which children spin or whirl round.

Johnson.

2. In *military antiquities*, an instrument for punishing petty offenders, as sutlers, brawling women, &c.; a kind of wooden cage turning on a pivot, in which the offender was whirled round with great velocity.

Cyc.

WHIRLING, *ppr.* Turning or moving round with velocity.

WHIRLING-TABLE, *n.* A machine contrived to exhibit and demonstrate the principal laws of gravitation, and of the planetary motions in curvilinear orbits.

Cyc.

WHIRL-PIT, *n.* A whirlpool. [Not used.]

WHIRLPOOL, *n.* [*whirl* and *pool*.] An eddy of water; a vortex or gulf where the water moves round in a circle. In some cases, a whirlpool draws things to its center and absorbs them, as is the case with the Maelstrom off the coast of Norway.

WHIRLWIND, *n.* [*whirl* and *wind*.] A violent wind moving in a circle, or rather

in a spiral form, as if moving round an axis; this axis or the perpendicular column moving horizontally, raising and whirling dust, leaves and the like.

WHIRRAW. [See *Hoora*.]

WHIR/RING, *n.* The sound of a partridge's or pheasant's wings.

[NOTE.—*Whir* is used by the common people in New England in an adverbial manner, to express the rapid flight or the sound of any thing thrown. See *Whir*.]

WHISK, *n.* [G. D. *wisch*, a wisp.] A small bunch of grass, straw, hair or the like, used for a brush; hence, a brush or small besom.

2. Part of a woman's dress; a kind of tippet.

Child.

WHISK, *v. t.* To sweep, brush or wipe with a whisk.

2. To sweep along; to move nimbly over the ground.

Hudibras.

WHISK, *v. i.* To move nimbly and with velocity.

Purchas.

WHISK/ER, *n.* [from *whisk*.] Long hair growing on the human cheek.

Pope.

WHISK/ERED, *a.* Formed into whiskers; furnished with whiskers.

WHISK/ET, *n.* A basket. [Local.]

WHISK/ING, *ppr.* Brushing; sweeping along; moving with velocity along the surface.

WHISKY, *n.* [Ir. *uisge*, water, whence *usquebaugh*; W. *wysg*, a stream.]

A spirit distilled from grain. In the north of England, the name is given to the spirit drawn from barley. In the United States, whisky is generally distilled from wheat, rye or maize.

WHIS/PER, *v. i.* [Sax. *hweispran*; Dan. *hvisker*; Sw. *hviska*, to buzz, to *whisper*; allied to *whistle*, *cheeze*, and L. *fistula*. The word seems by its sound to be an onomatopoeia, as it expresses a sibilant sound or breathing.]

1. To speak with a low hissing or sibilant voice. It is ill manners to *whisper* in company.

The hollow *whisp'ring* breeze—

Thomson.

2. To speak with suspicion or timorous caution.

3. To plot secretly; to devise mischief.

All that hate me *whisper* together against me.

Ps. xli.

WHIS/PER, *v. t.* To address in a low voice. He *whispers* the man in the ear. [But this is elliptical for *whispers to*.]

2. To utter in a low sibilant voice. He *whispered* a word in my ear.

3. To prompt secretly; as, he came to *whisper* Woolsey.

Shak.

WHIS/PER, *n.* A low soft sibilant voice; or words uttered with such a voice.

The *whisper* cannot give a tone.

Soft *whispers* through th' assembly went.

Dryden.

2. A cautious or timorous speech.

3. A hissing or buzzing sound.

WHIS/PERED, *pp.* Uttered in a low voice; uttered with suspicion or caution.

WHIS/PERER, *n.* One who whispers.

2. A tattler; one who tells secrets; a conveyor of intelligence secretly.

Bacon.

3. A backbiter; one who slanders secretly.

Prov. xvi.

WHIS/PERING, *ppr.* Speaking in a low voice; telling secretly; backbiting.

WHIS/PERING, *n.* The act of speaking with a low voice; the telling of tales, and exciting of suspicions; a backbiting.

WHIS/PERINGLY, *adv.* In a low voice.

WHIST, *a.* [Corn. *huist*, silence.] Silent; mute; still; not speaking; not making a noise.

The winds with wonder *whist*,

Smoothly the waters kiss'd.

Milton.

[This adjective, like some others, always follows its noun. We never say, *whist* wind; but the wind is *whist*.]

Whist is used for *be silent*. *Whist, whist*, that is, *be silent or still*.

WHIST, *n.* A game at cards, so called because it requires silence or close attention. It is not in America pronounced *whisk*.

WHIS/TLE, *v. i.* *hweis't*. [Sax. *hwistlan*; Sw. *hvissta*; Dan. *hvidsler*; L. *fistula*, a whistle; allied to *whisper*.]

1. To utter a kind of musical sound, by pressing the breath through a small orifice formed by contracting the lips.

While the plowman near at hand,

Whistles o'er the furrow'd land.

Milton.

2. To make a sound with a small wind instrument.

3. To sound shrill, or like a pipe.

The wild winds *whistle*, and the billows roar.

Pope.

WHIS/TLE, *v. t.* To form, utter or modulate by whistling; as, to *whistle* a tune or air.

2. To call by a whistle; as, he *whistled* back his dog.

WHIS/TLE, *n.* [Sax. *hwistle*; L. *fistula*.]

1. A small wind instrument.

Bacon.

2. The sound made by a small wind instrument.

3. Sound made by pressing the breath through a small orifice of the lips.

4. The mouth; the organ of whistling. [Fulgur.]

5. A small pipe, used by a boatswain to summon the sailors to their duty; the boatswain's call.

Mar. Dict.

6. The shrill sound of winds passing among trees or through crevices, &c.

7. A call, such as sportsmen use to their dogs.

WHIS/TLED, *pp.* Sounded with a pipe; uttered in a whistle.

WHIS/TLE-FISH, *n.* A local name of a species of *Gadus*, with only two fins on the back; the *Mustela fluviatilis*.

Cyc.

WHIS/TLER, *n.* One who whistles.

WHIS/TLING, *ppr.* Uttering a musical sound through a small orifice of the lips; sounding with a pipe; making a shrill sound, as wind.

WHIS/TLY, *adv.* Silently.

WHIT, *n.* [Sax. *whit*, a creature, also a thing, something, any thing. This is probably from the root of L. *viro*, *victum*.] A point; a jot; the smallest part or particle imaginable. It is used without a preposition. He is not a *whit* the wiser for experience.

It does not me a *whit* displease.

Cowley.

The regular construction would be by a *whit*, or *in a whit*. In these phrases, a *whit* may be interpreted by *in the least*, *in the smallest degree*.

WHITE, *a.* [Sax. *hwit*; Sw. *hvit*; Dan. *hvid*; D. *wit*; G. *weiss*.]