

*To serve in*, as used by Shakspeare, for *to bring in*, as meat by an attendant, I have never known to be used in America.

*To serve out*, to distribute in portions; as, to *serve out* provisions to soldiers.

*To serve a writ*, to read it to the defendant; or to leave an attested copy at his usual place of abode.

*To serve an attachment*, or *writ of attachment*, to levy it on the person or goods by seizure; or to seize.

*To serve an execution*, to levy it on lands, goods or person by seizure or taking possession.

*To serve a warrant*, to read it, and to seize the person against whom it is issued.

In general, to *serve a process*, is to read it so as to give due notice to the party concerned, or to leave an attested copy with him or his attorney, or at his usual place of abode.

*To serve an office*, to discharge a public duty. [This phrase, I believe, is not used in America. We say, a man *serves in* an office, that is, serves the public in an office.]

SERVE, *v. i. serv.* To be a servant or slave.

The Lord shall give thee rest from thy sorrow, and from thy fear, and from the hard bondage wherein thou wast made to *serve*. Is. xiv.

1. To be employed in labor or other business for another. Gen. xxix.
2. To be in subjection. Is. xliii.
3. To wait; to attend; to perform domestic offices to another. Luke x.
4. To perform duties, as in the army, navy or in any office. An officer *serves* five years in India, or under a particular commander. The late secretary of the colony, and afterwards state, of Connecticut, was annually appointed, and *served* in the office sixty years.
5. To answer; to accomplish the end. She feared that all would not *serve*. Sidney
6. To be sufficient for a purpose. This little brand will *serve* to light your fire. Dryden.
7. To suit; to be convenient. Take this, and use it as occasion *serves*.
8. To conduce; to be of use. Our victory only *served* to lead us on to further visionary prospects. Swift.
9. To officiate or minister; to do the honors of; as, to *serve* at a public dinner.

SERVED, *pp.* Attended; waited on; worshipped; levied.

SERVICE, *n.* [Fr. *It. servizio*; Sp. *servicio*; from L. *servitium*.]

1. In a general sense, labor of body or of body and mind, performed at the command of a superior, or in pursuance of duty, or for the benefit of another. Service is *voluntary* or *involuntary*. Voluntary service is that of hired servants, or of contract, or of persons who spontaneously perform something for another's benefit. Involuntary service is that of slaves, who work by compulsion.
2. The business of a servant; menial office. Shak.
3. Attendance of a servant. Shak.
4. Place of a servant; actual employment of a servant; as, to be out of *service*. Shak.
5. Any thing done by way of duty to a superior. This poem was the last piece of *service* I did for my master king Charles. Dryden.

6. Attendance on a superior. Madam, I entreat true peace of you, Which I will purchase with my duteous *service*. Shak.
7. Profession of respect uttered or sent. Pray do my *service* to his majesty. Shak.
8. Actual duty; that which is required to be done in an office; as, to perform the *services* of a clerk, a sheriff or judge.
9. That which God requires of man; worship; obedience. God requires no man's *service* upon hard and unreasonable terms. Tillotson.
10. Employment; business; office; as, to qualify a man for public *service*.
11. Use; purpose. The guns are not fit for public *service*.
12. Military duty by land or sea; as military or naval *service*.
13. A military achievement. Shak.
14. Useful office; advantage conferred; that which promotes interest or happiness. Medicine often does no *service* to the sick; calumny is sometimes of *service* to an author.
15. Favor. To thee a woman's *services* are due. Shak.
16. The duty which a tenant owes to his lord for his fee. Personal *service* consists in homage and fealty, &c.
17. Public worship, or office of devotion. Divine *service* was interrupted.
18. A musical church composition consisting of choruses, trios, duets, solos, &c.
19. The official duties of a minister of the gospel, as in church, at a funeral, marriage, &c.
20. Course; order of dishes at table. There was no extraordinary *service* seen on the board. Hakewill.
21. In *seaman's language*, the materials used for serving a rope, as spun yarn, small lines, &c.
22. A tree and its fruit, of the genus *Sorbus*. The wild *service* is of the genus *Cratægus*. Service of a *writ, process*, &c. the reading of it to the person to whom notice is intended to be given, or the leaving of an attested copy with the person or his attorney, or at his usual place of abode. Service of an *attachment*, the seizing of the person or goods according to the direction. The *service* of an *execution*, the levying of it upon the goods, estate or person of the defendant.

SERVICEABLE, *a.* That does service; that promotes happiness, interest, advantage or any good; useful; beneficial; advantageous. Rulers may be very *serviceable* to religion by their example. The attentions of my friends were very *serviceable* to me when abroad. Rain and manure are *serviceable* to land.

2. Active; diligent; officious. I know thee well, a *serviceable* villain. [Unusual.] Shak.

SERVICEABLENESS, *n.* Usefulness in promoting good of any kind; beneficialness. All action being for some end, its aptness to be commanded or forbidden must be founded upon its *serviceableness* or disserviceableness to some end. Norris.

2. Officiousness; readiness to do service. Sidney.

SERVIENT, *a.* [L. *serviens*.] Subordinate. [Not in use.] Dyer.

SERVILE, *a.* [Fr. from L. *servilis*, from *servio*, to serve.]

1. Such as pertains to a servant or slave; slavish; mean; such as proceeds from dependence; as *servile* fear; *servile* obedience.
2. Held in subjection; dependent. Ev'n fortune rules no more a *servile* land. Pope.
3. Cringing; fawning; meanly submissive; as *servile* flattery. She must bend the *servile* knee. Thomson.

SERVILELY, *adv.* Meanly; slavishly; with base submission or obsequiousness.

2. With base deference to another; as, to copy *servilely*; to adopt opinions *servilely*.

SERVILENESS, { *n.* Slavery; the condition of a slave or bondman.

SERVILITY, { To be a queen in bondage, is more vile Than is a slave in base *servility*. Shak.

2. Mean submission; baseness; slavishness.
3. Mean obsequiousness; slavish deference; as the common *servility* to custom; to copy manners or opinions with *servility*.

SERVING, *ppr.* Working for; acting in subordination to; yielding obedience to; worshipping; also, performing duties; as *serving* in the army.

SERVING-MAID, *n.* A female servant; a menial.

SERVING-MAN, *n.* A male servant; a menial.

SERVITOR, *n.* [It. *servitore*; Sp. *servidor*; Fr. *serviteur*; from L. *servio*, to serve.]

1. A servant; an attendant. Hooker.
2. One that acts under another; a follower or adherent. Davies.
3. One that professes duty and obedience. Shak.
4. In the university of Oxford, a student who attends on another for his maintenance and learning; such as is called in Cambridge, a sizer. Encyc.

SERVITORSHIP, *n.* The office of a servitor. Boswell.

SERVITUDE, *n.* [Fr. from L. *servitudo* or *servitus*; It. *servitù*. See *Serve*.]

1. The condition of a slave; the state of involuntary subjection to a master; slavery; bondage. Such is the state of the slaves in America. A large portion of the human race are in *servitude*.
2. The state of a servant. [Less common and less proper.]
3. The condition of a conquered country.
4. A state of slavish dependence. Some persons may be in love with splendid *servitude*. South.
5. Servants, collectively. [Not in use.] Shak.

SESAME, { *n.* [Fr. *sesame*; It. *sesamo*; L. *sesama*; Gr. *σάμμις*, *σαμύρα*.]

SESAMUM, { Oily grain; a genus of annual herbaceous plants, from the seeds of which an oil is expressed. One species of it is cultivated in Carolina, and the blacks use the seeds for food. It is called there *bene*. Encyc. Beloe.

SES-BAN, *n.* A plant; a species of *Æschynomene* or Bastard sensitive plant. Encyc.