

**STEALTHY**, *a. stelh'y.* Done by stealth; clandestine; unperceived.

Now wither'd murder with his *stealthy* pace  
Moves like a ghost. *Shak.*

**STEAM**, *n.* [Sax. *steam*, *stem*; D. *stoom*.]

The vapor of water; or the elastic, aeriform fluid generated by heating water to the boiling point. When produced under the common atmospheric pressure, its elasticity is equivalent to the pressure of the atmosphere, and it is called *low steam*; but when heated in a confined state, its elastic force is rapidly augmented, and it is then called *high steam*. On the application of cold, steam instantly returns to the state of water, and thus forms a sudden vacuum. From this property, and from the facility with which an elastic force is generated by means of steam, this constitutes a mechanical agent at once the most powerful and the most manageable, as is seen in the vast and multiplied uses of the steam engine.

Steam is invisible, and is to be distinguished from the cloud or mist which it forms in the air, that being water in a minute state of division, resulting from the condensation of steam. *D. Olmsted.*

2. In popular use, the mist formed by condensed vapor.

**STEAM**, *v. i.* To rise or pass off in vapor by means of heat; to fume.

Let the crude humors dance

In heated brass, *steaming* with fire intense.

*Philips.*

2. To send off visible vapor.

Ye mists that rise from *steaming* lake. *Milton.*

3. To pass off in visible vapor.

The dissolved amber—*steamed* away into the air. *Boyle.*

**STEAM**, *v. t.* To exhale; to evaporate.

[*Not much used.*] *Spenser.*

2. To expose to steam; to apply steam to for softening, dressing or preparing; as, to *steam* cloth; to *steam* potatoes instead of boiling them; to *steam* food for cattle.

**STEAM-BOAT**, } A vessel propelled  
**STEAM-VESSEL**, } *n.* through the water by steam.

**STEAM-BOILER**, *n.* A boiler for *steaming* food for cattle. *Encyc.*

**STEAMED**, *pp.* Exposed to steam; cooked or dressed by steam.

**STEAM-ENGINE**, *n.* An engine worked by steam.

**STEAMING**, *ppr.* Exposing to steam; cooking or dressing by steam; preparing for cattle by steam, as roots.

**STEAN**, for *stone*. [*Not in use.*]

**STEARIN**, *n.* One of the proximate elements of animal fat, as lard, tallow, &c. The various kinds of animal fat consist of two substances, *stearin* and *clain*; of which the former is solid, and the latter liquid.

*D. Olmsted.*

**STEATITE**, *n.* [Gr. *steap*, *steatos*, fat.] Soapstone; so called from its smooth or unctuous feel; a species of rhomboidal mica. It is of two kinds, the common, and the pagodite or lard-stone. It is sometimes confounded with talck, to which it is allied. It is a compact stone, white, green of all shades, gray, brown or marbled, and sometimes herborized by black dendrites. It is found in metalliferous veins, with the ores of copper, lead, zinc, silver and tin.

*New Dict. of Nat. Hist. Urc.*

**STEATITIC**, *a.* Pertaining to soapstone; of the nature of steatite, or resembling it.

**STEATOCELE**, *n.* [Gr. *steap*, fat, and *κῆλη*, a tumor.]

A swelling of the scrotum, containing fat.

*Cyc.*

**STEATOMA**, *n.* [Gr.] A species of tumor containing matter like suet.

*Coxe.*

**STED**, **STEDFAST**. [See *Stead*.]

**STEED**, *n.* [Sax. *stede*. Qu. *stud*, a stone-horse.]

A horse, or a horse for state or war. [This word is not much used in common discourse. It is used in poetry and descriptive prose, and is elegant.]

Stout are our men, and warlike are our *steeds*.

*Waller.*

**STEEL**, *n.* [Sax. *style*; D. *staal*; G. *stahl*; Dan. *staal*; Sw. *stål*; probably from setting, fixing, hardness; G. *stellen*.]

1. Iron combined with a small portion of carbon; iron refined and hardened, used in making instruments, and particularly useful as the material of edged tools. It is called in chemistry, carburet of iron; but this is more usually the denomination of plumbago.

2. *Figuratively*, weapons; particularly, offensive weapons, swords, spears and the like.

Brave Macbeth with his brandish'd *steel*.

*Shak.*

—While doubting thus he stood,

Receiv'd the *steel* bath'd in his brother's blood.

*Dryden.*

3. Medicines composed of steel, as steel filings.

After relaxing, *steel* strengthens the solids.

*Arbuthnot.*

4. Extreme hardness; as heads or hearts of *steel*.

**STEEL**, *a.* Made of steel; as a *steel* plate or buckle.

**STEEL**, *v. t.* To overlay, point or edge with steel; as, to *steel* the point of a sword; to *steel* a razor; to *steel* an ax.

2. To make hard or extremely hard.

O God of battles, *steel* my soldiers' hearts.

*Shak.*

Lies well *steel'd* with weighty arguments.

*Shak.*

3. To make hard; to make insensible or obdurate; as, to *steel* the heart against pity; to *steel* the mind or heart against reproof or admonition.

**STEEL'ED**, *pp.* Pointed or edged with steel; hardened; made insensible.

**STEELINESS**, *n.* [from *steely*.] Great hardness.

**STEEL'ING**, *ppr.* Pointing or edging with steel; hardening; making insensible or unfeeling.

*Ch. Relig. Appcal.*

**STEEL'Y**, *a.* Made of steel; consisting of steel.

Braech'd with the *steely* point of Clifford's lance.

*Shak.*

Around his shop the *steely* sparkles flew.

*Gay.*

2. Hard; firm.

That she would unarm her noble heart of that *steely* resistance against the sweet blows of love.

*Sidney.*

**STEELYARD**, *n.* [*steel* and *yard*.] The Roman balance; an instrument for weighing bodies, consisting of a rod or bar marked with notches, designating the number of pounds and ounces, and a weight which is movable along this bar, and which is

made to balance the weight of the body by being removed at a proper distance from the fulcrum. The principle of the steelyard is that of the lever; where an equilibrium is produced, when the products of the weights on opposite sides into their respective distances from the fulcrum, are equal to one another. Hence a less weight is made to indicate a greater, by being removed to a greater distance from the fulcrum.

**STEEN**, } A vessel of clay or stone. [*Not*  
**STEAN**, } *n.* *in use.*]

**STEENKIRK**, *n.* A cant term for a neck-cloth. [*Not now in use.*]

**STEEP**, *a.* [Sax. *steap*; allied to *stoop* and *dip*.]

Making a large angle with the plane of the horizon; ascending or descending with great inclination; precipitous; as a *steep* hill or mountain; a *steep* roof; a *steep* ascent; a *steep* declivity.

**STEEP**, *n.* A precipitous place, hill, mountain, rock or ascent; any elevated object which slopes with a large angle to the plane of the horizon; a precipice.

We had on each side rocks and mountains broken into a thousand irregular *steeps* and precipices.

*Addison.*

**STEEP**, *v. t.* [probably formed on the root of *dip*.]

To soak in a liquid; to macerate; to imbue; to keep any thing in a liquid till it has thoroughly imbibed it, or till the liquor has extracted the essential qualities of the substance. Thus cloth is *steeped* in lye or other liquid in bleaching or dyeing. But plants and drugs are *steeped* in water, wine and the like, for the purpose of tincturing the liquid with their qualities.

**STEEP**, *n.* A liquid for steeping grain or seeds; also, a runnet bag. [*Local.*]

**STEEP'ED**, *pp.* Soaked; macerated; imbued.

**STEEP'ER**, *n.* A vessel, vat or cistern in which things are steeped.

*Edwards' W. Indies.*

**STEEP'ING**, *ppr.* Soaking; macerating.

**STEEPLE**, *n.* [Sax. *stapel*, *stypel*.] A turret of a church, ending in a point; a spire. It differs from a tower, which usually ends in a square form, though the name is sometimes given to a tower. The bell of a church is usually hung in the steeple.

They, far from *steeple*s and their sacred sound—

*Dryden.*

**STEEPLED**, *a.* Furnished with a steeple; adorned with steeples or towers. *Fairfax.*

**STEEPLE-HOUSE**, *n.* A church. [*Not in use.*]

**STEEPLY**, *adv.* With steepness; with precipitous declivity.

**STEEPNESS**, *n.* The state of being steep; precipitous declivity; as the *steepness* of a hill, a bank or a roof.

*Bacon.*

**STEEP'Y**, *a.* Having a steep or precipitous declivity; as *steep* crags; a *poetical* word.

No more, my goats, shall I behold you climb

The *steep* cliffs.

*Dryden.*

**STEER**, *n.* [Sax. *steor*, *styre*; D. *stier*.] A young male of the ox kind or common ox. It is rendered in Dutch, a bull; but in the United States, this name is generally given to a castrated male of the ox kind, from two to four years old.

With solemn pomp then sacrific'd a *steer*.

*Dryden*