

FELT, *pret. of feel.*

FELT, *n.* [Sax. *felt*; G. *felt*; D. *vilt*; Fr. *feutre*, fr. *feutrer*; Arm. *feltro*, fr. *feutrir*; It. *feltro*. This may be derived naturally from the root of *fill* or *full*, to stuff and make thick, or from the root of *L. pellicis*, Eng. *fell*, a skin, from plucking or stripping. *L. vellus*, vellus, Eng. *wool*. In Ir. *falt*, W. *gualt*, is hair.]

1. A cloth or stuff made of wool, or wool and hair, filled or wrought into a compact substance by rolling and pressure with lees or size.

2. A hat made of wool.

3. Skin.

To know whether sheep are sound or not, see that the felt be loose.

FELT, *v. t.* To make cloth or stuff of wool, or wool and hair, by felling.

FELTHER, *v. t.* To clot or meet together like felt.

FELTMAKER, *n.* One whose occupation is to make felt.

FELUCA, *n.* [It. *feluca*; Fr. *felouque*; Sp. *feluca*.]

A boat or vessel, with oars and lateen sails, used in the Mediterranean. It has this peculiarity, that the helm may be applied to the head or stern, as occasion requires.

FELWÖRT, *n.* A plant, a species of Gentian.

FEMALE, *n.* [Fr. *féelle*; L. *femella*; Arm. *femell*; Fr. *femme*, woman. See *Feminine*.]

1. Among animals, one of that sex which conceives and brings forth young.

2. Among plants, that which produces fruit; that which bears the pistil and receives the pollen of the male flowers.

FEMALE, *a.* Noting the sex which produces young; not male; as a *female* bee.

2. Pertaining to females; as a *female* hand or heart; *female* tenderness.

To the generous decision of a female mind, we owe the discovery of America.

3. Feminine; soft; delicate; weak.

*Female* rhymes, double rhymes, so called from the French, in which language they end in *e* feminine.

FEMALE-FLOWER, *n.* In botany, a flower which is furnished with the pistil, pointal, or female organs.

FEMALE-PLANT, *n.* A plant which produces female flowers.

FEMALE-SCREW, *n.* A screw with grooves or channels.

FEME-COVERT, *n.* [Fr.] A married

FEMME-COVERT, *n.* woman, who is under covert of her baron or husband.

FEME-SOLE, *n.* An unmarried woman.

FEMME-SOLE, *n.* A woman who uses a trade alone, or without her husband.

FEMINALITY, *n.* The female nature.

FEMINATE, *a.* Feminine. [Not in use.]

FEMININE, *a.* [Fr. *feminin*; L. *femininus*, from *femina*, woman. The first syllable may be and probably is from *veem* or *weem*, by the use of *f* for *v*; the *b* not being radical. The last part of the word is probably from *man*, quasi, *femman*, womb-man.]

1. Pertaining to a woman, or to women, or to females; as the *female* sex.

2. Soft; tender; delicate.

Her heavenly form  
Angelic, but more soft and feminine. Milton.

3. Effeminate; destitute of manly qualities.

4. In grammar, denoting the gender or words which signify females, or the terminations of such words. Words are said to be of the feminine gender, when they denote females, or have the terminations proper to express females in any given language. Thus in *L. dominus*, a lord, is masculine; but *domina*, is mistress, a female.

Milton uses *feminine* as a noun, for *female*.

FEMINITY, *n.* The quality of the female sex. [Not used.]

FEMINIZE, *v. t.* To make womanish. [Not used.]

FEMORAL, *a.* [L. *femoralis*, from *femur*, the thigh.]

Belonging to the thigh; as the *femoral* artery.

FEN, *n.* [Sax. *fen* or *fenn*; D. *veen*; Arm. *fenna*, to overflow; W. *fyngu*, to abound, to produce; hence L. *fons*, Eng. *fountain*.]

Low land overflowed, or covered wholly or partially with water, but producing sedge, coarse grasses, or other aquatic plants; boggy land; a moor or marsh.

A long canal the muddy *fen* divides.

FEN-BERRY, *n.* A kind of blackberry.

FEN-BORN, *a.* Born or produced in a fen.

FEN-CRESS, *n.* [Sax. *fen-cerse*.] Cress growing in fens.

FEN-CRICKET, *n.* [Gryllotalpa.] An insect that digs for itself a little hole in the ground.

FEN-DUCK, *n.* A species of wild duck.

FEN-FOWL, *n.* Any fowl that frequents fens.

FEN-LAND, *n.* Marshy land.

FEN-SUCKED, *a.* Sucked out of marshes; as *fen-sucked* fogs.

FENCE, *n.* [See *Fend*.] A wall, hedge, ditch, bank, or line of posts and rails, or of boards or pickets, intended to confine beasts from straying, and to guard a field from being entered by cattle, or from other encroachment. A good farmer has good fences about his farm; an insufficient fence is evidence of bad management. Broken windows and poor fences are evidences of idleness or poverty or of both.

2. A guard; any thing to restrain entrance; that which defends from attack, approach or injury; security; defense.

A fence betwixt us and the victor's wrath.

3. Fencing, or the art of fencing; defense.

4. Skill in fencing or defense.

FENCE, *v. t.* To inclose with a hedge, wall, or any thing that prevents the escape or entrance of cattle; to secure by an inclosure. In New England, farmers, for the most part, fence their lands with posts and rails, or with stone walls. In England, lands are usually fenced with hedges and ditches.

He hath fenced my way that I cannot pass. Job xix.

2. To guard; to fortify.

So much of adder's wisdom I have learnt,  
To fence my ear against thy sorceries.

FENCE, *v. i.* To practice the art of fencing; to use a sword or foil, for the purpose of learning the art of attack and defense.

To fence well is deemed a useful accomplishment for military gentlemen.

2. To fight and defend by giving and avoiding blows or thrusts.

They fence and push, and, pushing, loudly roar.

Their dewlaps and their sides are bathed in gore.

3. To raise a fence; to guard. It is difficult to fence against unruly cattle.

FENCED, *ppr.* Inclosed with a fence; guarded; fortified.

FENCEFUL, *a.* *fens'ful*. Affording defense.

FENCELESS, *a.* *fens'less*. Without a fence; uninclosed; unguarded.

2. Open; not inclosed; as the *fenceless* ocean.

FENCE-MONTH, *n.* The month in which hunting in any forest is prohibited.

FENCER, *n.* One who fences; one who teaches or practices the art of fencing with sword or foil.

FENCIBLE, *a.* Capable of defense.

2. *n.* A soldier for defense of the country; as a regiment of *fencibles*.

FENCING, *ppr.* Inclosing with fence; guarding; fortifying.

FENCING, *n.* The art of using skilfully a sword or foil in attack or defense; an art taught in schools.

2. The materials of fences for farms.

FENCING-MASTER, *n.* One who teaches the art of attack and defense with sword or foil.

FENCING-SCHOOL, *n.* A school in which the art of fencing is taught.

FEND, *v. t.* [The root of *defend* and *offend*. The primary sense is to fall on, or to strike, to repel.]

To keep off; to prevent from entering; to ward off; to shut out.

With fern beneath to fend the bitter cold.

It is usually followed by *off*; as, to *fend off* blows.

To fend off a boat or vessel, is to prevent its running against another, or against a wharf, &c., with too much violence.

FEND, *v. t.* To act in opposition; to resist; to parry; to shift off.

FENDED, *pp.* Kept off; warded off; shut out.

FENDER, *n.* That which defends; an utensil employed to hinder coils of fire from rolling forward to the floor.

2. A piece of timber or other thing hung over the side of a vessel to prevent it from striking or rubbing against a wharf, also to preserve a small vessel from being injured by a large one.

FENDING, *ppr.* Keeping or warding off.

FENERATE, *v. i.* [L. *fenero*.] To put to use; to lend on interest. [Not used.]

FENERATION, *n.* The act of lending on