

L.

L A B

L, the twelfth letter of the English Alphabet, is usually denominated a *semi-vowel*, or a *liquid*. It represents an imperfect articulation, formed by placing the tip of the tongue against the gum that incloses the roots of the upper teeth; but the sides of the tongue not being in close contact with the roof of the month, the breath of course not being entirely intercepted, this articulation is attended with an imperfect sound. The shape of the letter is evidently borrowed from that of the oriental *lamed*, or *lomad*, nearly coinciding with the Samaritan **L**.

L has only one sound in English, as in *like*, *canal*. At the end of monosyllables, it is often doubled, as in *fall*, *full*, *tell*, *bell*; but not after diphthongs and digraphs; *foul*, *fool*, *prowl*, *groul*, *foal*, &c. being written with a single *l*.

With some nations, *l* and *r* are commutable; as in Greek, *λῖον*, *L. lilium*; *It. scorta*, an escort, *Sp. Port. escolla*. Indeed, *l* and *r* are letters of the same organ.

By some nations of Celtic origin, *l*, at the beginning of words, is aspirated and doubled in writing, as in the *W. lled*, *L. latus*; *llan*, a lawn; *llawr*, a floor; *Sp. llamar*, *L. clamo*.

In some words, *l* is mute, as in *half*, *calf*, *walk*, *talk*, *chalk*.

In our mother tongue, the Anglo-Saxon, *l* is sometimes preceded by *h*, and aspirated, as in *hlaf*, loaf; *hladan*, to lade or load; *hlol*, lot; *hlinian*, *hleanian*, to lean, *Gr. κλῖνω*, *L. clino*. In the latter word, the Saxon *h* represents the Greek *κ* and Latin *c*, as it does in many other words.

In English words, the terminating syllable *le* is unaccented, the *e* is silent, and *l* has a feeble sound; as in *able*, *eagle*, pronounced *abl*, *eagl*.

As a numeral, **L** denotes 50, and with a dash, **L**, 50,000. As an abbreviation, in Latin, it stands for *Lucius*; and **L.L.S.** for a sesterce, or two *libre* and a half.

Encyc.

LA, *exclam.* [perhaps corrupted from *look*, but this is doubtful.]

Look; see; behold. *Shak.*

LA, in *music*, the syllable by which Guido denotes the last sound of each hexachord.

Encyc.

LAB, *n.* A great talker; a blabber. *Obs.*

Chaucer.

LAB'ADIST, *n.* The Labadists were followers of Jean de Labadie, who lived in the 17th century. They held that God can and does deceive men, that the observance of the sabbath is a matter of indifference, and other peculiar or heretical opinions.

Encyc.

LABDANUM. [See *Ladanum*.]

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LABEFAC'TION, *n.* [*L. labefactio*, from *labefacio*; *labo*, to totter, and *facio*, to make.]

A weakening or loosening; a failing; decay; downfall; ruin.

LAB'EFY, *v. t.* To weaken or impair. [*Not used.*] *Dict.*

LA'BEL, *n.* [*W. llab*, a strip; *labeled*, a label.]

1. A narrow slip of silk, paper or parchment, containing a name or title, and affixed to any thing, denoting its contents. Such are the *labels* affixed to the vessels of an apothecary. *Labels* also are affixed to deeds or writings to hold the appended seal. *Harris.*

2. Any paper annexed to a will by way of addition; as a codicil. *Encyc.*

3. In *heraldry*, a fillet usually placed in the middle, along the chief of the coat, without touching its extremities. It is adorned with pendants, and used on the arms of the eldest son, to distinguish him from the younger sons, while the father is living. *Encyc.*

4. A long thin brass rule, with a small sight at one end, and a center-hole at the other, commonly used with a tangent line on the edge of a circumferentor, to take altitudes, &c. *Encyc.*

LA'BEL, *v. t.* To affix a label to.

LA'BELED, *pp.* Furnished with a label.

LA'BELING, *ppr.* Distinguishing by a label.

LA'BENT, *a.* [*L. labens*.] Sliding; gliding. *Dict.*

LA'BIAL, *a.* [*Fr. from L. labium*, a lip. See *Lip*.]

Pertaining to the lips; formed by the lips; as a *labial* articulation. Thus *b*, *p*, and *m* are *labial* articulations, and *oo*, *Fr. ou*, *It. u*, is a *labial* vowel.

LA'BIAL, *n.* A letter or character representing an articulation of the lips; as *b*, *f*, *m*, *p*, *v*.

LA'BIATE, } *a.* [*from L. labium*, lip.]

LA'BIATED, } *a.* In *botany*, a *labiate* corol is irregular, monopetalous, with two lips, or monopetalous, consisting of a narrow tube with a wide mouth, divided into two or more segments arranged in two opposite divisions or lips. A *labiate* flower has a *labiate* corol. *Martyn. Encyc.*

LA'BILE, *a.* [*Low L. labilis*.] Liable to err, fall or apostatize. [*Not used.*] *Chcyne.*

LABIODENT'AL, *a.* [*labium*, a lip, and *dens*, a tooth.]

Formed or pronounced by the cooperation of the lips and teeth; as *f* and *v*. *Holder.*

LA'BOR, *n.* [*L. labor*, from *labo*, to fail.] Exertion of muscular strength, or bodily exertion which occasions weariness; particularly, the exertion of the limbs in occupations by which subsistence is obtained, as in agriculture and manufactures, in distinction from exertions of strength in

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play or amusements, which are denominated *exercise*, rather than *labor*. Toilsome work; pains; travail; any bodily exertion which is attended with fatigue. After the *labors* of the day, the farmer retires, and rest is sweet. Moderate *labor* contributes to health.

What is obtained by *labor*, will of right be the property of him by whose *labor* it is gained.

Rambler.

2. Intellectual exertion; application of the mind which occasions weariness; as the *labor* of compiling and writing a history.

3. Exertion of mental powers, united with bodily employment; as the *labors* of the apostles in propagating christianity.

4. Work done, or to be done; that which requires wearisome exertion.

Being a *labor* of so great difficulty, the exact performance thereof we may rather wish than look for.

Hooker.

5. Heroic achievement; as the *labors* of Hercules.

6. Travail; the pangs and efforts of childbirth.

7. The evils of life; trials; persecution, &c. They rest from their *labors*— *Rev. xiv.*

LA'BOR, *v. i.* [*L. laboro*.] To exert muscular strength; to act or move with painful effort, particularly in servile occupations; to work; to toil.

Six days shalt thou *labor*, and do all thy work— *Ex. xx.*

2. To exert one's powers of body or mind, or both, in the prosecution of any design; to strive; to take pains.

Labor not for the meat which perisheth. *John vi.*

3. To toil; to be burdened.

Come unto me all ye that *labor*, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. *Matt. xi.*

4. To move with difficulty.

The stone that *labors* up the hill.

Glanville.

5. To move irregularly with little progress; to pitch and roll heavily; as a ship in a turbulent sea. *Mar. Dict.*

6. To be in distress; to be pressed.

—As sounding cymbals aid the *laboring* moon. *Dryden.*

7. To be in travail; to suffer the pangs of childbirth.

8. To journey or march.

Make not all the people to *labor* thither. *Josh. vii.*

9. To perform the duties of the pastoral office. *1 Tim. v.*

10. To perform christian offices.

To *labor under*, to be afflicted with; to be burdened or distressed with; as, to *labor under* a disease or an affliction.

LA'BOR, *v. t.* To work at; to till; to cultivate.

The most excellent lands are lying fallow, or only *labored* by children. *Tooke.*

2. To prosecute with effort; to urge; as, to *labor* a point or argument.