

formerly fought by English and Scotch combatants on their frontiers.

Acre-tax, a tax on land in England, at a certain sum for each acre, called also *acre-shot*.

A' CRED, a. Possessing acres or landed property. *Pope.*

ACRID, a. [Fr. *acré*; L. *acer*.]

Sharp; pungent; bitter; sharp or biting to the taste; acrimonious; as *acid salts*.

ACRIDNESS, n. A sharp, bitter, pungent quality.

ACRIMONIOUS, a. Sharp; bitter; corrosive; abounding with acrimony.

2. *Figuratively*, severe; sarcastic; applied to language or temper.

ACRIMONIOUSLY, adv. With sharpness or bitterness.

ACRIMONY, n. [L. *acrimonia*, from *acer*, sharp.] The latter part of the word seems to denote likeness, state, condition, like *head, hood*, in *knighthood*, in which case it may be from the same root as *manco*, Gr. *μακρῶς*.

1. Sharpness; a quality of bodies, which corrodes, dissolves, or destroys others; as, the *acrimony* of the humors. *Baron.*

2. *Figuratively*, sharpness or severity of temper; bitterness of expression proceeding from anger, ill-nature, or petulance. *South.*

ACRISY, n. [Gr. *ἀκρίς*, priv. and *κρίσις*, judgment.]

A state or condition of which no right judgment can be formed; that of which no choice is made; matter in dispute; injudiciousness. [Little used.] *Bailey.*

ACRITUDE, n. [See *Acrid*.]

An acid quality; bitterness to the taste; biting heat.

ACROAMATIC, a. [Gr. *ακροαματικός*, from *ακροαῖναι*, to hear.]

Abstruse; pertaining to deep learning; an epithet applied to the secret doctrines of Aristotle. *Enfield.*

ACROATIC, a. [Gr. *ακροατικός*.]

Abstruse; pertaining to deep learning; and opposed to *exoteric*. Aristotle's lectures were of two kinds, *acrotic*, *acroamatic*, or *esoteric*, which were delivered to a class of select disciples, who had been previously instructed in the elements of learning; and *exoteric*, which were delivered in public. The former respected being, God, and nature; the principal subjects of the latter were logic, rhetoric, and policy. The abstruse lectures were called *acrotics*.

ACROCERAUNIAN, a. [Gr. *ακροαία*, a summit, and *κεραυός*, thunder.]

An epithet applied to certain mountains, between Epirus and Illyrium, in the 41st degree of latitude. They project into the Adriatic, and are so termed from being often struck with lightning. *Encyc.*

ACROMION, n. [Gr. *ακρός*, highest, and *ὤμος*, shoulder.]

In anatomy, that part of the spine of the scapula, which receives the extreme part of the clavicle. *Quincy.*

ACRONIC, a. [Gr. *ακρός*, extreme, and *ἀκρονικός*, night.]

In astronomy, a term applied to the rising of a star at sun set, or its setting at sun rise. This rising or setting is called *acronical*. The word is opposed to *cosmical*.

Bailey. Encyc. Johnson.

ACRONICALLY, adv. In an acronical manner; at the rising or setting of the sun.

ACROSPIRE, n. [Gr. *ακρός*, highest, and *σπίρα*, a spire, or spiral line.]

A shoot, or sprout of a seed; the plume, or plumule, so called from its spiral form.

ACROSPIRED, a. Having a sprout, or having sprouted at both ends. *Mortimer.*

ACROSS, prep. *akross*. [a and cross. See Cross.]

1. From side to side, opposed to *along*, which is in the direction of the length; athwart; quite over; as, a bridge is laid *across* a river.

2. Intersecting; passing over at any angle; as a line passing *across* another.

ACROS TIC, n. [Gr. *ακρῶς*, extremity or beginning, and *εἶρος*, order, or verse.]

A composition in verse, in which the first letters of the lines, taken in order, form the name of a person, kingdom, city, &c., which is the subject of the composition, or some title or motto.

ACROS TIC, a. That relates to, or contains an acrostic.

ACROSTICALLY, adv. In the manner of an acrostic.

ACROTELEUTIC, n. [Gr. *ακρός*, extreme, and *τελευτή*, end.]

Among ecclesiastical writers, an appellation given to any thing added to the end of a psalm, or hymn; as a doxology.

ACROTER, n. [Gr. *ακροτήρ*, a summit.]

In architecture, a small pedestal, usually without a base, anciently placed at the two extremes, or in the middle of pediments or frontispieces, serving to support the statues, &c. It also signifies the figures placed as ornaments on the tops of churches, and the sharp pinnacles that stand in ranges about flat buildings with rails and balusters. Anciently the word signified the extremities of the body, as the head, hands, and feet. *Encyc.*

ACROTHYMION, n. [Gr. *ακρός*, extreme, and *θύμος*, thyme.]

Among physicians, a species of wart, with a narrow basis and broad top, having the color of thyme. It is called *Thymus*. *Celsus.*

ACT, v. i. [Gr. *αἶω*, Lat. *ago*, to urge, drive, lead, bring, do, perform, or in general, to move, to exert force; Cantabrian, eg. force; W. gni; Ir. *eigean*, to force; Ir. *aig*, to act or carry on; *euchdam*, do or act; *actain*, to ordain; *eucht*, *acht*, deed, act, condition; F. *agir*; It. *agire*, to do or act.]

1. To exert power; as, the stomach *acts* upon food; the will *acts* upon the body in producing motion.

2. To be in action or motion; to move.

He hangs between in doubt to act or rest. *Pope.*

3. To behave, demean, or conduct, as in morals, private duties, or public offices. As, we know not why a minister has *acted* in this manner. But in this sense, it is most frequent in popular language; as, how the man *acts* or *has acted*.

To *act up to*, is to equal in action; to fulfil, or perform a correspondent action; as, he has *acted up to* his engagement or his advantages.

ACT, v. t. To perform; to represent a character on the stage.

Act well your part, there all the honor lies. *Pope.*

2. To feign or counterfeit. *Obs. or improper.* With *acted* fear the villain thus pursued. *Dryden.*

3. To put in motion; to actuate; to regulate movements.

Most people in the world are *acted* by levity. *South. Locke.*

[In this latter sense, obsolete and superseded by *actuate*, which see.]

ACT, n. The exertion of power; the effect, of which power exerted is the cause; as, the *act* of giving or receiving. In this sense, it denotes an operation of the mind. Thus, to discern is an *act* of the understanding; to judge is an *act* of the will.

2. That which is done; a deed, exploit, or achievement, whether good or ill.

And his miracles and his *acts* which he did in the midst of Egypt. *Deut. xi.*

3. Action; performance; production of effects; as, an *act* of charity. But this sense is closely allied to the foregoing.

4. A state of reality or real existence, as opposed to a possibility.

The seeds of plants are not at first in *act*, but in possibility, what they afterwards grow to be. *Hooker.*

5. In general, *act* denotes *action* completed; but preceded by *in*, it denotes incomplete action.

She was taken in the very *act*. *John viii.*

In *act* is used also to signify incipient action, or a state of preparation to exert power; as, "In *act* to strike," a *poetical use*.

6. A part or division of a play, to be performed without interruption; after which the action is suspended to give respite to the performers. Acts are divided into smaller portions, called *scenes*.

7. The result of public deliberation, or the decision of a prince, legislative body, council, court of justice, or magistrate; a decree, edict, law, judgment, resolve, award, determination; as, an *act* of parliament, or of congress. The term is also transferred to the book, record, or writing, containing the laws and determinations. Also, any instrument in writing to verify facts.

In the sense of *agency*, or power to produce effects, as in the passage cited by Johnson, from Shakespeare, the use is improper.

To try the vigor of them and apply Allayments to their *act*.

Act, in English Universities, is a thesis maintained in public, by a candidate for a degree, or to show the proficiency of a student. At Oxford, the time when masters and doctors complete their degrees is also called the *act*, which is held with great solemnity. At Cambridge, as in the United States, it is called *commencement*. *Encyc.*

Act of faith, *atto de fide*, in Catholic countries, is a solemn day held by the Inquisition, for the punishment of heretics, and the absolution of accused persons found innocent; or it is the sentence of the Inquisition.

Acts of the Apostles, the title of a book in the New Testament, containing a history of the transactions of the Apostles.

Acta Diurna, among the Romans, a sort of