

pressed; compact; hard; solid; as *firm* flesh; *firm* muscles; some species of wood are more *firm* than others; a cloth of *firm* texture.

2. Fixed; steady; constant; stable; unshaken; not easily moved; as a *firm* believer; a *firm* friend; a *firm* adherent or supporter; a *firm* man, or a man of *firm* resolution.

3. Solid; not giving way; opposed to *fluid*; as *firm* land.

FIRM, *n. ferm.* A partnership or house; or the name or title under which a company transact business; as the *firm* of Hope & Co.

FIRM, *v. t. ferm.* [L. *firmo*.] To fix; to settle; to confirm; to establish.

And Jove has *firm'd* it with an awful nod.

Dryden.

This word is rarely used, except in poetry.

In prose, we use *confirm*.

FIRMAMENT, *n. ferm'ament*. [L. *firmamentum*, from *firmus*, *firmo*.]

The region of the air; the sky or heavens. In scripture, the word denotes an expanse, a wide extent; for such is the signification of the Hebrew word, coinciding with *regio*, *region*, and *reach*. The original therefore does not convey the sense of solidity, but of stretching, extension; the great arch or expanse over our heads, in which are placed the atmosphere and the clouds, and in which the stars appear to be placed, and are really seen.

And God said, Let there be a *firmament* in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. Gen. i. 6.

And God said, Let there be lights in the *firmament*. Ibid. i. 14.

FIRMAMENTAL, *a. ferm'ental*. Pertaining to the firmament; celestial; being of the upper regions.

Dryden.

FIRMAN, *n. An* Asiatic word, denoting a passport, permit, license, or grant of privileges.

FIRMED, *pp. ferm'ed*. Established; confirmed.

FIRMING, *ppr. ferm'ing*. Settling; making firm and stable.

FIRMITUDE, *n. ferm'itude*. Strength; solidity. [Not in use.]

Bp. Hall.

FIRMITY, *n. ferm'ity*. Strength; firmness. [Not used.]

Chillingworth.

FIRMLESS, *a. ferm'less*. Detached from substance.

Does passion still the *firmless* mind control?

Pope.

FIRMLY, *adv. ferm'ly*. Solidly; compactly; closely; as particles of matter *firmly* cohering.

2. Steadily; with constancy or fixedness; immovably; steadfastly. He *firmly* believes in the divine origin of the scriptures. His resolution is *firmly* fixed. He *firmly* adheres to his party.

FIRMNESS, *n. ferm'ness*. Closeness or denseness of texture or structure; compactness; hardness; solidity; as the *firmness* of wood, stone, cloth or other substance.

2. Stability; strength; as the *firmness* of a union, or of a confederacy.

3. Steadfastness; constancy; fixedness; as the *firmness* of a purpose or resolution; the *firmness* of a man, or of his courage; *firmness* of mind or soul.

4. Certainty; soundness; as the *firmness* of notions or opinions.

FIRST, *a. furs't*. [Sax. *first* or *fyrst*, Sw. *forste*, Dan. *forste*, first; G. *furst*, D. *vorst*, Dan. *fyrsste*, a prince, that is, *first* man. It is the superlative of *fore*, *fyre*, before, advanced, that is, *forest*, *fyrest*, from Sax. *faran*, to go, or a root of the same family. See *Fare* and *For*.]

1. Advanced before or further than any other in progression; foremost in place; as the *first* man in a marching company or troop is the man that precedes all the rest. Hence,

2. Preceding all others in the order of time. Adam was the *first* man. Cain was the *first* murderer. Monday was the *first* day of January.

3. Preceding all others in numbers or a progressive series; the ordinal of one; as, I is the *first* number.

4. Preceding all others in rank, dignity or excellence. Demosthenes was the *first* orator of Greece. Burke was one of the *first* geniuses of his age. Give God the *first* place in your affections.

FIRST, *adv. furs't*. Before any thing else in the order of time.

Adam was *first* formed, then Eve. 1 Tim. ii.

2. Before all others in place or progression. Let the officers enter the gate *first*.

3. Before any thing else in order of proceeding or consideration. *First*, let us attend to the examination of the witnesses.

1. Before all others in rank. He stands or ranks *first* in public estimation. *At first*, at the *first*, at the beginning or origin. *First* or *last*, at one time or another; at the beginning or end.

And all are fools and lovers *first* or *last*.

Dryden.

FIRST-BEGOTTEN, *a.* First produced; the eldest of children.

Milton.

FIRST-BORN, *a.* First brought forth; first in the order of nativity; eldest; as the *first-born* son.

2. Most excellent; most distinguished or exalted. Christ is called the *first-born* of every creature. Col. i.

FIRST-BORN, *n.* The eldest child; the first in the order of birth.

The *first-born* of the poor are the most wretched. Is. xiv.

The *first-born* of death is the most terrible death. Job. xviii.

FIRST-CREATED, *a.* Created before any other.

Milton.

FIRST-FRUIT, } *n.* The fruit or produce of first natured and collected in any season. Of these the Jews made an oblation to God, as an acknowledgment of his sovereign dominion.

2. The first profits of any thing. In the church of England, the profits of every spiritual benefice for the first year.

3. The first or earliest effect of any thing, in a good or bad sense; as the *first-fruits* of grace in the heart, or the *first-fruits* of vice.

FIRSTLING, *a.* First produced; as *firstling* males. Deut. xv.

FIRSTLING, *n.* The first produce or offspring; applied to beasts; as the *firstlings* of cattle.

2. The thing first thought or done. [Not used.]

The very *firstlings* of my heart shall be the *firstlings* of my hand. Shaks.

FIRST-RATE, *a.* Of the highest excellence; preeminent; as a *first-rate* scholar or painter.

2. Being of the largest size; as a *first-rate* ship.

FISC, *n.* [L. *fiscus*; Fr. *fisc*; Sp. *fisco*; It. *id.* *Fiscus*, *pecus*, signifies a basket or hanaper, probably from the twigs which composed the first baskets, Eng. *whisk*. The word coincides in elements with *basket*, and *L. fascia*, twigs being the primitive bands.]

The treasury of a prince or state; hence, to *confiscate* is to take the goods of a criminal and appropriate them to the public treasury.

FISCAL, *a.* Pertaining to the public treasury or revenue.

The *fiscal* arrangements of government.

Hamilton.

FISCAL, *n.* Revenue; the income of a prince or state.

2. A treasurer.

Swiuburne.

FISH, *n.* [Sax. *fisc*; D. *visch*; G. *fisch*; Dan. and Sw. *fisk*; Sp. *pez*; It. *pesce*; Fr. *poisson*; verb. *pêcher*, *pescher*; Arm. *pesk*; W. *pysg*; L. *pisces*; It. *taga*. This animal may be named from its rapid motion. In W. *fyg* is hasty, impetuous.]

An animal that lives in water. *Fish* is a general name for a class of animals subsisting in water, which were distributed by Linne into six orders. They breathe by means of gills, swim by the aid of fins, and are oviparous. Some of them have the skeleton bony, and others cartilaginous. Most of the former have the opening of the gills closed by a peculiar covering, called the gill-lid: many of the latter have no gill-lid, and are hence said to breathe through apertures. Cetaceous animals, as the whale and dolphin, are, in popular language, called fishes, and have been so classed by some naturalists; but they breathe by lungs, and are viviparous, like quadrupeds. The term *fish* has been also extended to other aquatic animals, such as shell-fish, lobsters, &c. We use *fish*, in the singular, for fishes in general or the whole race.

2. The flesh of fish, used as food. But we usually apply *fish* to land animals.

FISH, *v. t.* To attempt to catch fish; to be employed in taking fish, by any means, as by angling or drawing nets.

2. To attempt or seek to obtain by artifice, or indirectly to seek to draw forth; as, to *fish* for compliments.

FISH, *v. t.* To search by raking or sweeping; as, to *fish* the jakes for papers.

Swift.

1. In *seamanship*, to strengthen, as a mast or yard, with a piece of timber.

Mar. Dict.

2. To catch; to draw out or up; as, to *fish* up a human body when sunk; to *fish* an anchor.

FISH, *n.* In ships, a machine to hoist and draw up the flukes of an anchor, towards the top of the bow.

2. A long piece of timber, used to strengthen a lower mast or a yard, when sprung or damaged.