

**CHAP'TREL**, *n.* [from *chapter*.] The capitals of pillars and pilasters, which support arches, commonly called impost. *Mozon.*

**CHAR**, *n.* A fish.

**CHAR**, *n.* In *England*, work done by the day; a single job, or task. In *New England*, it is pronounced *chore*, which see. I know not the origin of the word. In *Sax. cerre, cyrr*, signifies a time, a turn, occasion, from *ceran, cyrran*, to turn, or return.

**CHAR**, *v. t.* To perform a business. *May.*

**CHAR**, *v. i.* To work at others houses by the day, without being a hired servant; to do small jobs. *Bailey. Johnson.*

**CHAR-WOMAN**, *n.* A woman hired for odd work, or for single days. *Johnson.*

[*Char-man and Char-woman are, I believe, not used in America.*]

**CHAR**, *v. t.* [Russ. *charju* or *charyu*, to roast, or burn; or *gorju*, to burn, or be burnt; and with a prefix, *sgoraju* or *sgoraju*, to burn; Fr. *charrier*, ashes. Qu. Heb. Ch. Erb. 777. Class Gr. No. 22. 23. This seems to be the root of *L. carbo*. See *Char.*]

1. To burn or reduce to coal or carbon; to reduce to charcoal, by expelling all volatile matter from wood. This is done by burning wood slowly under a covering of turf and earth.

2. To expel all volatile matter from stone or earth, by heat.

The stone or earth *charred* from all foreign visible ingredients. *Kirwan.*

**CHAR'ACT**, *s. n.* [See *Character*.] An inscription. [*Not in use.*]

**CHAR'ECT**, *s. n.* [*Not in use.*]

**CHARACTER**, *n.* [L. *character*; Fr. *caractere*; Sp. *caracter*; It. *carattere*; Gr. *χαρακτῆρ*, from the verb *χαράσσειν*, *χαράσσειν*, to scrape, cut, engrave.]

1. A mark made by cutting or engraving, as on stone, metal or other hard material; hence, a mark or figure made with a pen or style, on paper, or other material used to contain writing; a letter, or figure used to form words, and communicate ideas.

Characters are *literal*, as the alphabetical figures; *numerical*, as the arithmetical figures; *emblematical* or *symbolical*, which express things or ideas; and *abbreviations*, as C. for *centum*, a hundred; lb. for *libra*, a pound; A. D. Anno Domini; &c.

2. A mark or figure made by stamping or impression, as on coins.

3. The manner of writing; the peculiar form of letters used by a particular person.

You know the *character* to be your brother's. *Shak.*

4. The peculiar qualities, impressed by nature or habit on a person, which distinguish him from others; these constitute *real character*, and the qualities which he is supposed to possess, constitute his *estimated character*, or reputation. Hence we say, a *character* is not formed, when the person has not acquired stable and distinctive qualities.

5. An account, description or representation of any thing, exhibiting its qualities and the circumstances attending it; as, to give a *bad character* to a town, or to a road.

6. A person; as, the assembly consisted of various *characters*, eminent *characters*, and low *characters*.

All the *characters* in the play appeared to advantage.

The friendship of distinguished *characters*. *Roscoe.*

7. By way of eminence, distinguished or good qualities; those which are esteemed and respected; and those which are ascribed to a person in common estimation. We enquire whether a stranger is a man of *character*.

8. Adventitious qualities impressed by office, or station; the qualities that, in public estimation, belong to a person in a particular station; as when we ask how a magistrate, or commander supports his *character*.

9. In *natural history*, the peculiar discriminating qualities or properties of animals, plants and minerals.

These properties, when employed for the purpose of discriminating minerals, are called *characteracters*. *Cleaveland.*

**CHARACTER**, *v. t.* To engrave; to inscribe. *Milton. Shak.*

2. To describe; to distinguish by particular marks or traits. *Milford.*

**CHARACTERED**, *pp.* Engraved; inscribed; distinguished by a particular character. *Milford.*

**CHARACTERISM**, *n.* The distinction of character. *Bp. Hall.*

2. A particular aspect or configuration of the heavens. *Encyc.*

**CHARACTERISTIC**, *a.* [Gr. *χαρακτῆρ*, from *χαράσσειν*.]

That constitutes the character; that marks the peculiar, distinctive qualities of a person or thing.

Generosity is often a *characteristic* virtue of a brave man.

It is followed by *of*.

Generosity is *characteristic* of true bravery.

**CHARACTERISTIC**, *n.* That which constitutes a character; that which characterizes; that which distinguishes a person or thing from another.

Invention is the *characteristic* of Homer. *Pope.*

2. In *grammar*, the principal letter of a word, which is preserved in most of its tenses, in its derivatives and compounds.

The *characteristic* of a logarithm, is its index or exponent.

The *characteristic triangle* of a curve, in geometry, is a rectilinear right-angled triangle, whose hypotenuse makes a part of the curve, not sensibly different from a right line. *Encyc.*

**CHARACTERISTICALLY**, *adv.* In a manner that distinguishes character.

**CHARACTERISTICALNESS**, *n.* The state or qualities of being characteristic.

**CHARACTERIZE**, *v. t.* [Gr. *χαρακτῆρ*, &c.] To give a character, or an account of the personal qualities of a man; to describe by peculiar qualities.

2. To distinguish; to mark, or express the character; to exhibit the peculiar qualities of a person or thing; as, humility *characterizes* the true christian; the hero is *characterized* by bravery and magnanimity.

The system of mediation has *characterized* the entire scheme of divine dispensation. *Thodley.*

3. To engrave or imprint. [*Little used.*]

4. To mark with a peculiar stamp, or figure. European, Asiatic, and African faces are all *characterized*. *Arbutnot.*

**CHARACTERIZED**, *pp.* Described or distinguished by peculiar qualities.

**CHARACTERIZING**, *pp.* Describing or distinguishing by peculiar qualities.

**CHARACTERLESS**, *a.* Destitute of any peculiar character. *Shak.*

**CHARACTERY**, *n.* Impression; mark; distinction. [*Not used.*]

**CHARADE**, *n.* [Said to be from the name of the inventor.]

A composition, in which the subject must be a word of two syllables, each forming a distinct word; and these syllables are to be concealed in an enigmatical description, first separately and then together. Example.

My first, when a Frenchman in learning English, serves him to swear by. My second is either hay or corn. My whole is the delight of the age. *Gar-ric.*

**CHARCOAL**, *n.* [*char* and *coal*. See *Char*.] Coal made by charring wood; the remains of wood burnt under turf, and from which all watery and other volatile matter has been expelled by heat. It makes a strong heat, and is used in furnaces, forges, private families, &c. It is black, brittle, light and inodorous, and not being decomposable by water or air, will endure for ages without alteration.

**CHARD**, *n.* [Fr. *charde*; L. *carduus*.] The leaves of artichokes tied and wrapped all over, except the top, in straw, during autumn and winter. This makes them grow white and lose some of their bitterness. *Chambers.*

*Charls of beet* are plants of white beet transplanted, producing great tops, which, in the midst, have a large, white, thick, downy, cotton-like main shoot, which is the true chard. *Mortimer.*

**CHARGE**, *v. t.* *charj.* [Fr. *charger*; Arm. *carga*; Sp. *cargar*; It. *caricare*, or *carcare*; Port. *carregar*. It would seem from the Welsh that this word is from *car*, a cart or other vehicle, and that the noun *charge* or *cargo* was first formed, and therefore ought in arrangement to precede the verb. If the verb was first formed, the primary sense would be to load, to throw or put on or in. I think the fact to be otherwise. See *Carj.*]

1. To rush on; to fall on; to attack, especially with fixed bayonets; as, an army *charges* the enemy.

2. To load, as a musket or cannon; to thrust in powder, or powder and ball or shot.

3. To load or burden; to throw on or impose that which oppresses; as, to *charge* the stomach with indigestible food; or to lay on, or to fill, without oppressing; as, to *charge* the memory with rules and precepts; to *charge* the mind with facts.

4. To set or lay on; to impose, as a tax; as, the land is *charged* with a quit rent; a rent is *charged* on the land.

5. To lay on or impose, as a task.

The gospel *chargeth* us with piety towards God. *Tillotson.*

6. To put or lay on; as, to *charge* a building with ornaments, often implying superfluity.

7. To lay on, as a duty; followed by *with*.