

SPRIGHTLESS, *a.* Destitute of life; dull; shaggy; as virtue's *sprightless* cold.

Cowley.

SPRIGHTLINESS, *n.* [from *sprightly*.] Liveliness; life; briskness; vigor; activity; gayety; vivacity.

In dreams, with what *sprightliness* and alacrity does the soul exert herself.

Addison.

SPRIGHTLY, *a.* Lively; brisk; animated; vigorous; airy; gay; as a *sprightly* youth; a *sprightly* air; a *sprightly* dance.

The *sprightly* Sylvia trips along the green.

Pope.

And *sprightly* wit and love inspires.

Dryden.

SPRING, *v. i.* pret. *sprung*, [sprang, not wholly obsolete;] pp. *sprung*. [Sax. *sprangan*; D. G. *springen*; Dan. *springer*; Sw. *springa*; from the root *Brg*, or *Rg*; *n* probably being casual. The primary sense is to leap, to shoot.]

1. To vegetate and rise out of the ground; to begin to appear; as vegetables.

To satisfy the desolate ground, and cause the bud of the tender herb to *spring* forth. Job xxxviii.

In this sense, *spring* is often or usually followed by *up*, *forth* or *out*.

2. To begin to grow.

The teeth of the young not *sprung*—

Ray.

3. To proceed, as from the seed or cause.

Much more good of sin shall *spring*.

Milton.

4. To arise; to appear; to begin to appear or exist.

When the day began to *spring*, they let her go. Judges xxi.

Do not blast my *springing* hopes.

Roue.

5. To break forth; to issue into sight or notice.

O *spring* to light; auspicious babe, be born.

Pope.

6. To issue or proceed, as from ancestors or from a country. Aaron and Moses *sprung* from Levi.

7. To proceed, as from a cause, reason, principle or other original. The noblest title *springs* from virtue.

They found new hope to *spring*

Out of despair.

Milton.

8. To grow; to thrive.

What makes all this but Jupiter the king,

At whose command we perish and we *spring*.

Dryden.

9. To proceed or issue, as from a fountain or source. Water *springs* from reservoirs in the earth. Rivers *spring* from lakes or ponds.

10. To leap; to bound; to jump.

The mountain stag that *springs* From highth to highth, and bounds along the plains—

Philips.

11. To fly back; to start; as, a bow when bent, *springs* back by its elastic power.

12. To start or rise suddenly from a covert. Watchful as fowls when their game will *spring*.

Otway.

13. To shoot; to issue with speed and violence.

And sudden light

Spring through the vaulted roof—

Dryden.

14. To bend or wind from a straight direction or plane surface. Our mechanics say, a piece of timber or a plank *springs* in seasoning.

To *spring* at, to leap towards; to attempt to reach by a leap.

To *spring* in, to rush in; to enter with a leap or in haste.

To *spring* forth, to leap out; to rush out.

To *spring* on or upon, to leap on; to rush on with haste or violence; to assault.

SPRING, *v. t.* To start or rouse, as game; to cause to rise from the earth or from a covert; as, to *spring* a pheasant.

2. To produce quickly or unexpectedly.

The nurse, surpris'd with fright, Starts up and leaves her bed, and *springs* a light.

Dryden.

[I have never heard such an expression.]

3. To start; to contrive or to produce or propose on a sudden; to produce unexpectedly.

The friends to the cause *sprung* a new project

Swift.

[In lieu of *spring*, the people in the U. States generally use *start*; to *start* a new project.]

4. To cause to explode; as, to *spring* a mine.

Addison.

5. To burst; to cause to open; as, to *spring* a leak. When it is said, a vessel has *sprung* a leak, the meaning is, the leak has then commenced.

6. To crack; as, to *spring* a mast or a yard.

7. To cause to close suddenly, as the parts of a trap; as, to *spring* a trap.

To *spring* a butt, in seamen's language, to loosen the end of a plank in a ship's bottom.

To *spring* the luff, when a vessel yields to the helm, and sails nearer to the wind than before.

Mar. Dict.

To *spring* a fence, for to leap a fence, is not a phrase used in this country.

Thomson.

To *spring* an arch, to set off, begin or commence an arch from an abutment or pier.

SPRING, *n.* A leap; a bound; a jump; as of an animal.

The pris'ner with a *spring* from prison broke.

Dryden.

2. A flying back; the resilience of a body recovering its former state by its elasticity; as the *spring* of a bow.

3. Elastic power or force. The soul or the mind requires relaxation, that it may recover its natural *spring*.

Heav'n's! what a *spring* was in his arm.

Dryden.

4. An elastic body; a body which, when bent or forced from its natural state, has the power of recovering it; as the *spring* of a watch or clock.

5. Any active power; that by which action or motion is produced or propagated.

—Like nature letting down the *springs* of life.

Dryden.

Our author shuns by vulgar *springs* to move The hero's glory—

Pope.

6. A fountain of water; an issue of water from the earth, or the basin of water at the place of its issue. *Springs* are temporary or perennial. From *springs* proceed rivulets, and rivulets united form rivers. Lakes and ponds are usually fed by *springs*.

7. The place where water usually issues from the earth, though no water is there. Thus we say, a *spring* is dry.

8. A source; that from which supplies are drawn. The real christian has in his own breast a perpetual and inexhaustible *spring* of joy.

The sacred *spring* whence right and honor stream.

Davies.

9. Rise; original; as the *spring* of the day. 1 Sam. ix.

10. Cause; original. The *springs* of great events are often concealed from common observation.

11. The season of the year when plants begin to vegetate and rise; the vernal season. This season comprehends the months of March, April and May, in the middle latitudes north of the equator.

12. In seamen's language, a crack in a mast or yard, running obliquely or transversely. [In the sense of *leak*, I believe it is not used.]

13. A rope passed out of a ship's stern and attached to a cable proceeding from her bow, when she is at anchor. It is intended to bring her broadside to bear upon some object. A *spring* is also a rope extending diagonally from the stern of one ship to the head of another, to make one ship sheer off to a greater distance.

Mar. Dict.

14. A plant; a shoot; a young tree. [Not in use.]

Spenser.

15. A youth. [Not in use.]

Spenser.

16. A hand; a shoulder of pork. [Not in use.]

Beaum.

SPRING'AL, *n.* A youth. [Not in use.]

Spenser.

SPRING'-BOK, *n.* [D. *spring* and *bok*, a buck or he-goat.] An African animal of the antelope kind.

Barroic.

SPRINGE, *n.* *springj*. [from *spring*.] A gin; a noose; which being fastened to an elastic body, is drawn close with a sudden spring, by which means it catches a bird.

SPRINGE, *v. t.* To catch in a springe; to ensnare.

Beaum.

SPRING'ER, *n.* One who springs; one that rouses game.

2. A name given to the grampus.

3. In architecture, the rib of a groin or concentrated vault.

SPRING'-HALT, *n.* [*spring* and *halt*.] A kind of lameness in which a horse twitches up his legs.

Shak.

SPRING'-HEAD, *n.* A fountain or source. [Useless.]

Herbert.

SPRING'INESS, *n.* [from *springy*.] Elasticity; also, the power of springing.

2. The state of abounding with springs; wetness; spunginess; as of land.

SPRING'ING, *ppr.* Arising; shooting up; leaping; proceeding; rousing.

Springing use, in law, a contingent use; a use which may arise upon a contingency.

Blackstone.

SPRING'ING, *n.* The act or process of leaping, arising, issuing or proceeding.

2. Growth; increase. Ps. lxxv.

3. In building, the side of an arch contiguous to the part on which it rests.

SPRING'GLE, *n.* A springe; a noose. [Not in use.]

Carew.

SPRING'-TIDE, *n.* [*spring* and *tide*.] The tide which happens at or soon after the new and full moon, which rises higher than common tides.

Mar. Dict.

SPRING'-WHEAT, *n.* [*spring* and *wheat*.] A species of wheat to be sown in the spring; so called in distinction from *winter* wheat.

SPRING'Y, *a.* [from *spring*.] Elastic; possessing the power of recovering itself when bent or twisted.