

3. To encircle, as a garland.

The flow'rs that *wreath* the sparkling bowl.
Prior.

4. To encircle as with a garland; to dress in a garland.

And with thy winding ivy *wreaths* her lance.
Dryden.

WREATH, *v. i.* To be interwoven or entwined; as a bower of *wreathing* trees.

Dryden.

WREATHED, *pp.* Twisted; entwined; interwoven.

WREATHING, *ppr.* Twisting; entwining; encircling.

WREATHY, *a.* Twisted; curled; spiral; as a *wreathy* spire.

WRECK, *n.* [Dan. *wrag*, a *wreck*, *shipwreck*; Sw. *wrak*, refuse; Sax. *wree*, *wrecca*, an exile, a *wretch*; D. *wrak*, broken, a *wreck*. This word signifies properly that which is cast, driven or dashed, or that which is broken.]

1. Destruction; properly, the destruction of a ship or vessel on the shore. Hence,
2. The ruins of a ship stranded; a ship dashed against rocks or land and broken, or otherwise rendered useless by violence and fracture.
3. Dissolution by violence; ruin; destruction.

The *wreck* of matter and the crush of worlds.
Addison.

4. The remains of any thing ruined; dead weeds and grass.

5. In *metallurgy*, the vessel in which ores are washed the third time.

6. *Wreck*, for *wreak*, is less proper. [See also *Rack*.]

WRECK, *v. t.* [Sw. *wraka*, to throw away.]

1. To strand; to drive against the shore, or dash against rocks, and break or destroy. The ship *Diamond* of New York, was *wrecked* on a rock in Cardigan Bay, on the coast of Wales.

2. To ruin; as, they *wreck* their own fortunes.

3. *Wreck*, for *wreak*, is improper.

WRECK, *v. i.* To suffer wreck or ruin.
Milton.

WRECKED, *pp.* Dashed against the shore or on rocks; stranded and ruined.

WRECKFUL, *a.* Causing wreck.

WRECKING, *ppr.* Stranding; running on rocks or on shore; ruining.

WREN, *n.* [Sax. *wrenna*; Ir. *drean*.] A small bird of the genus *Motacilla*.

WRENCH, *v. t.* [G. *verrenken*; D. *verwringen*. See *Wring*. Qu. Ir. *freanc*.]

1. To pull with a twist; to *wrest*, twist or force by violence; as, to *wrench* a sword from another's hand.

2. To strain; to sprain; to distort.

You *wrenched* your foot against a stone.
Swift.

WRENCH, *n.* A violent twist, or a pull with twisting.

2. A sprain; an injury by twisting; as in a joint.

3. An instrument for screwing or unscrewing iron work.

4. Means of compulsion. [Not used.]

5. In the plural, sleights; subtilties.

Bacon.
Chaucer.

WREST, *v. t.* [Sax. *wrestan*; G. *reissen*, to *wrest*, to snatch or pull, to burst, to tear; Dan. *wrister*. Qu. L. *restis*, a rope.]

1. To twist or extort by violence; to pull or force from by violent wringing or twisting; as, to *wrest* an instrument from another's hands.

2. To take or force from by violence. The enemy made a great effort, and *wrested* the victory from our hands.

But fate has *wrested* the confession from me.
Addison.

3. To distort; to turn from truth or twist from its natural meaning by violence; to pervert.

Wrest once the law to your authority.
Shak.

Thou shalt not *wrest* the judgment of the poor.
Ex. xxiii.

Which they that are unlearned and unstable *wrest*, as they do also the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. 2 Pet. iii.

WREST, *n.* Distortion; violent pulling and twisting; perversion.

2. Active or moving power. [Not used.]

Hooker.

3. An instrument to tune.

WRESTED, *pp.* Pulled with twisting; distorted; perverted.

WRESTER, *n.* One who wrests or perverts.

WRESTING, *ppr.* Pulling with a twist; distorting; perverting.

WRESTLE, *v. i. res'l.* [Sax. *wrastlian* or *wraxlian*; D. *worstelen*. If *wraxlian* is the true orthography, this word belongs to Class Rg; otherwise it is from *wrest*.]

1. To strive with arms extended, as two men, who seize each other by the collar and arms, each endeavoring to throw the other by tripping up his heels and twitching him off his center.

Another, by a fall in *wrestling*, started the end of the clavicle from the sternum.

Wiseman.

2. To struggle; to strive; to contend.

We *wrestle* not against flesh and blood. Eph. vi.

WRESTLER, *n.* One who wrestles; or one who is skillful in wrestling.

WRESTLING, *ppr.* Striving to throw; contending.

WRESTLING, *n.* Strife; struggle; contention.

WRETCH, *n.* [Sax. *wrecca*, one who is driven, an exile. See *Wreck* and *py*. Class Rg. No. 48.]

1. A miserable person; one sunk in the deepest distress; as a forlorn *wretch*.

2. A worthless mortal; as a contemptible *wretch*.

3. A person sunk in vice; as a profligate *wretch*.

4. It is sometimes used by way of slight or ironical pity or contempt.

Poor *wretch* was never fidgeted so.
Drayton.

5. It is sometimes used to express tenderness; as we say, *poor thing*.

WRETCHED, *a.* Very miserable; sunk into deep affliction or distress, either from want, anxiety or grief.

The *wretched* find no friends.
Dryden.

2. Calamitous; very afflicting; as the *wretched* condition of slaves in Algiers.

3. Worthless; paltry; very poor or mean; as a *wretched* poem; a *wretched* cabin.

4. Despicable; hatefully vile and contemptible. He was guilty of *wretched* ingratitude.

WRETCHEDLY, *adv.* Most miserably; very poorly. The prisoners were *wretchedly* lodged.

2. Unhappily; as two wars *wretchedly* entered upon.

3. Meanly; despicably; as a discourse *wretchedly* delivered.

WRETCHEDNESS, *n.* Extreme misery or unhappiness, either from want or sorrow; as the *wretchedness* of poor mendicants.

We have, with the feeling, lost the very memory of such *wretchedness* as our forefathers endured—
Raleigh.

The prodigal brought nothing to his father but his rags and *wretchedness*.
Dwight.

2. Meanness; despicableness; as the *wretchedness* of a performance.

WRETCHLESS, for *reckless*, }
WRETCHLESSNESS, for *recklessness*, }
are improper.

WRIG, for *wriggle*. [Not in use.]

WRIGGLE, *v. i.* [W. *rhuglaw*, to move briskly; D. *wriggelen* or *wrikken*.]

To move the body to and fro with short motions.

Both he and his successors would often *wriggle* in their seats, as long as the cushion lasted.
Swift.

WRIGGLE, *v. t.* To put into a quick reciprocating motion; to introduce by a shifting motion.

Wriggling his body to recover
His seat, and cast his right leg over.
Hudibras.

WRIGGLER, *n.* One who wriggles.

WRIGGLING, *ppr.* Moving the body one way and the other with quick turns.

WRIGHT, *n.* [Sax. *wryhta*; from the root of *work*.]

An artificer; one whose occupation is some kind of mechanical business; a workman; a manufacturer. This word is now chiefly used in compounds, as in *shipwright*, *wheelwright*.

WRING, *v. t.* pret. and *pp.* *wringed* and *wrung*. The latter is chiefly used. [Sax. *wriegan*; G. *riegen*; D. *wringen*; Dan. *wrienger*; Sw. *wringa*; Dan. *riinger*. The sense is to strain.]

1. To twist; to turn and strain with violence; as, to *wring* clothes in washing.

2. To squeeze; to press; to force by twisting; as, to *wring* water out of a wet garment.

3. To writhe; as, to *wring* the body in pain.

4. To pinch.

The king began to find where his shoe did *wring* him. *Obs.*
Bacon.

If he had not been too much grieved and *wrung* by an uneasy and strait fortune—
Obs.
Clarendon.

5. To distress; to press with pain.

Didst thou taste hut half the griefs,
That *wring* my soul, thou couldst not talk
thus coldly.
Addison.

6. To distort; to pervert.

How dare these men thus *wring* the Scriptures?
Whitgift.

7. To persecute with extortion.

These merchant adventurers have been often wronged and *wringed* to the quick.
Hayward.

8. To bend or strain out of its position; as, to *wring* a mast.

Mar. Dict.