

of the sun or a star in order to find the latitude. *Encyc.*

OBSERVATOR, *n. s* as *z*. [Fr. *observateur*.] *Hale.*

1. One that observes or takes notice. *Dryden.*

2. A remarker.

OBSERVATORY, *n. s* as *z*. [Fr. *observatoire*.] A place or building for making observations on the heavenly bodies; as the royal observatory at Greenwich.

OBSERVE, *v. t.* *obzerv'*. [L. *observo*; *ob* and *servo*, to keep or hold. The sense is to hold in view, or to keep the eyes on. See Class Sr. No. 31. 38. 45. and Class Dr. No. 32.]

1. To see or behold with some attention; to notice; as, to *observe* a halo round the moon; I *observed* a singular phenomenon; we *observe* strangers or their dress. I saw the figure, but *observed* nothing peculiar in it.

2. To take notice or cognizance of by the intellect. We *observe* nice distinctions in arguments, or a peculiar delicacy of thought.

3. To utter or express, as a remark, opinion or sentiment; to remark. He *observed* that no man appears great to his domestics.

4. To keep religiously; to celebrate.

A night to be much *observed* to the Lord. *Ex. xii.*

Ye shall *observe* the feast of unleavened bread. *Ex. xii.*

Ye *observe* days, and months, and times, and years. *Gal. iv.*

5. To keep or adhere to in practice; to comply with; to obey; as, to *observe* the laws of the state; to *observe* the rules and regulations of a society.

Teaching them to *observe* all things whatsoever I have commanded you. *Matt. xxviii.*

6. To practice.

In the days of Enoch, the people *observed* not circumcision or the sabbath. *White.*

OBSERVE, *v. i.* *obzerv'*. To remark. I have heard the gentleman's arguments, and shall hereafter *observe* upon them.

2. To be attentive.

OBSERVED, *pp. s* as *z*. Noticed by the eye or the mind.

2. Kept religiously; celebrated; practiced.

OBSERVER, *n. s* as *z*. One who observes; one that takes notice; particularly, one who looks to with care, attention or vigilance.

Careful *observers* may foretell the hour, By sure prognostic, when to dread a shower. *Swift.*

Creditors are great *observers* of set days and times. *Franklin.*

2. A beholder; a looker on; a spectator.

*South.*

3. One who keeps any law, custom, regulation or rite; one who adheres to any thing in practice; one who performs; as a great *observer* of forms; an *observer* of old customs. *Bacon.*

4. One who fulfills or performs; as, he is a strict *observer* of his word or promise. *Prior.*

5. One who keeps religiously; as an *observer* of the sabbath. *Atterbury.*

OBSERVING, *ppr. s* as *z*. Taking notice by the eye or the intellect.

2. Remarking.

3. Keeping; adhering to in practice; fulfilling.

4. *a.* Giving particular attention; habitually taking notice; attentive to what passes. He is an *observing* man.

OBSERVINGLY, *adv. s* as *z*. Attentively; carefully; with close observation. *Shak.*

OBSSESS', *v. t.* [L. *obsideo*, *obsessus*; *ob* and *sedeo*, to sit.] To besiege. [*Not used.*]

*Etyol.*

OBSSESSION, *n.* [L. *obsessio*.] The act of besieging; the first attack of Satan antecedent to possession. [*Little used.*]

*Burton.*

OBSIDIAN, *n.* A mineral of two kinds, translucent and transparent. The translucent has a velvet black color; the transparent is of a dark blue. These occur massive in porphyry, gneiss or granite, generally invested with a gray opaque crust. *Dict. Nat. Hist. Ure. Kirwan.*

The fracture of obsidian is vitreous or pearly; hence the two varieties, *vitreous obsidian* and *pearlstone*. *Jameson.*

OBSIDIONAL, *a.* [L. *obsidionalis*; *ob* and *sedeo*, to sit.] Pertaining to a siege. *Brown.*

OBSIGNATE, *v. t.* [L. *obsigno*; *ob* and *signo*, to seal.] To seal up; to ratify. [*Little used.*]

*Barrow.*

OBSIGNATION, *n.* The act of sealing; ratification by sealing; confirmation.

*Taylor.*

OBSIGNATORY, *a.* Ratifying; confirming by sealing.

*Ward.*

OBOLES/CENT, *a.* [L. *obsolesco*, to go out of use.]

Going out of use; passing into desuetude.

All the words compounded of *here* and a preposition, except *hereafter*, are obsolete or *obsolescent*. *Campbell.*

OBSOLETE, *a.* [L. *obsoletus*.] Gone into disuse; disused; neglected; as an *obsolete* word; an *obsolete* statute; applied chiefly to words or writings.

*Dryden. Swift.*

2. In *botany*, obscure; not very distinct.

*Eaton.*

OBSOLETE/NESS, *n.* The state of being neglected in use; a state of desuetude.

*Johnson.*

2. In *botany*, indistinctness.

OBSTACLE, *n.* [Fr. from L. *obsto*, to withstand; *ob* and *sto*.]

That which opposes; any thing that stands in the way and hinders progress; hindrance; obstruction, either in a physical or moral sense. An army may meet with *obstacles* on its march; bad roads are *obstacles* to traveling; prejudice is an *obstacle* to improvement; want of union is often an insuperable *obstacle* to beneficial measures.

OBSTANCY, *n.* [L. *obstantia*; *ob* and *sto*.] Opposition; impediment; obstruction. [*Not used.*]

*B. Jonson.*

OBSTETRIC, *a.* [L. *obstetric*, a midwife; *ob* and *sto*, to stand before.]

Pertaining to midwifery, or the delivery of women in childbed; as the *obstetric* art.

OBSTETRICAL, *v. i.* [See *Obstetric*.] To perform the office of a midwife. [*Little used.*]

*Evelyn.*

OBSTETRICAL, *v. t.* To assist as a midwife. [*Little used.*]

*Waterhouse.*

OBSTETRICATION, *n.* The act of assisting as a midwife.

2. The office of a midwife.

*Hall.*

OBSTETRICIAN, *n.* One skilled in the art of assisting women in parturition.

*Med. Repos.*

OBSTETRICS, *n.* The art of assisting women in parturition; midwifery. *Encyc.*

OBSTINACY, *n.* [L. *obstinatio*, from *obsto*, to stand against, to oppose; *ob* and *sto*.]

1. A fixedness in opinion or resolution that cannot be shaken at all, or not without great difficulty; firm and usually unreasonable adherence to an opinion, purpose or system; a fixedness that will not yield to persuasion, arguments or other means. *Obstinacy* may not always convey the idea of unreasonable or unjustifiable firmness; as when we say, soldiers fight with *obstinacy*. But often, and perhaps usually, the word denotes a fixedness of resolution which is not to be vindicated under the circumstances; stubbornness; pertinacity; persistency.

2. Fixedness that will not yield to application, or that yields with difficulty; as the *obstinacy* of a disease or evil.

OBSTINATE, *a.* [L. *obstinatus*.] Stubborn; pertinaciously adhering to an opinion or purpose; fixed firmly in resolution; not yielding to reason, arguments or other means.

I have known great cures done by *obstinate* resolutions of drinking no wine. *Temple.*

No ass so meek, no ass so *obstinate*. *Pope.*

2. Not yielding or not easily subdued or removed; as an *obstinate* fever; *obstinate* obstructions; an *obstinate* cough.

OBSTINATELY, *adv.* Stubbornly; pertinaciously; with fixedness of purpose not to be shaken, or not without difficulty; as a sinner *obstinately* bent on his own destruction.

Inflexible to ill and *obstinately* just.

*Addison.*

OBSTINATENESS, *n.* Stubbornness; pertinacity in opinion or purpose; fixed determination. *Hall.*

OBSTIPATION, *n.* [L. *obstipo*; *ob* and *stipo*, to crowd.]

1. The act of stopping up; as a passage.

2. In *medicine*, costiveness.

OBSTREPEROUS, *a.* [L. *obstreperus*, from *obstrepo*, to roar; *ob* and *strepo*.]

Loud; noisy; clamorous; vociferous; making a tumultuous noise.

The players do not only connive at his *obstreperous* approbation, but repair at their own cost whatever damages he makes. *Addison.*

OBSTREPEROUSLY, *adv.* Loudly; clamorously; with tumultuous noise.

OBSTREPEROUSNESS, *n.* Loudness; clamor; noisy turbulence.

OBSTRUCTION, *n.* [L. *obstructus*, *obstringo*; *ob* and *stringo*, to strain.]

Obligation; bond.

*Milton.*

OBSTRUCT', *v. t.* [L. *obstruo*; *ob* and *struo*, to set.]

1. To block up; to stop up or close; as a way or passage; to fill with obstacles or impediments that prevent passing; as, to *obstruct* a road, highway or channel; to *obstruct* the canals or fine vessels of the body.

2. To stop; to impede; to hinder in passing; as, the bar at the mouth of the river *obstructs* the entrance of ships; clouds *obstruct* the light of the sun.