

1. To fly away with a rapid motion; to dart along; to move with celerity through the air. We say, a bird *flits* away, or *flits* in air; a cloud *flits* along.
2. To flutter; to rove on the wing.

Dryden.

3. To remove; to migrate; to pass rapidly, as a light substance, from one place to another.

It became a received opinion, that the souls of men, departing this life, did *fit* out of one body into some other.

Hooker.

4. In *Scotland*, to remove from one habitation to another.
5. To be unstable; to be easily or often moved.

And the free soul to *flitting* air resigned.

Dryden.

FLIT, *a.* Nimble; quick; swift. *Obs.* [See *Fleet*.]

FLITCH, *n.* [*Sax. flisce*; *Fr. fleche*, an arrow, a coach-beam, a flitch of bacon.] The side of a hog salted and cured.

Dryden. Swift.

FLITTER, *v. i.* To flutter, which see.

Chaucer.

FLITTER, *n.* A rag; a tatter. [See *Fritter*.]

FLITTERMOUSE, *n.* [*Flit*, *flitter* and *mouse*.]

A bat; an animal that has the fur of a mouse, and membranes which answer the purpose of wings, and enable the animal to sustain itself in a fluttering flight.

FLITNESS, *n.* [*from flit*.] Unsteadiness; levity; lightness.

Bp. Hopkins.

FLITTING, *ppr.* Flying rapidly; fluttering; moving swiftly.

FLITTING, *n.* A flying with lightness and celerity; a fluttering.

FLITTY, *a.* Unstable; fluttering.

More.

FLIX, *n.* [*Qu. from flax*.] Down; fur.

[Not used.]

Dryden.

FLIXWEED, *n.* The *Sisymbrium sophia*, a species of water-cresses, growing on walls and waste grounds.

Encyc.

FLO, *n.* An arrow. [Not in use.]

Chaucer.

FLÔAT, *n.* [*Sax. flota*; *G. floss*; *D. vlot*, *vlood*; *Dan. flode*; *Sw. flotte*; *Fr. flotte*; *Sp. flota*; *It. flotta*; *Russ. flot*.]

1. That which swims or is borne on water; as a *float* of weeds and rushes. But particularly, a body or collection of timber, boards or planks fastened together and conveyed down a stream; a raft. [The latter word is more generally used in the U. States.]

2. The cork or quill used on an angling line, to support it and discover the bite of a fish.

Encyc. Wallon.

3. The act of flowing; flux; flood; the primary sense, but obsolete.

Hooker.

4. A quantity of earth, eighteen feet square and one deep.

Mortimer.

5. A wave. [*French flot*; *Lat. fluctus*.]

FLÔAT, *v. i.* [*Sax. floatan*, *flotan*; *G. fliesen*; *D. vloeten*, *vloten*; *Fr. flotter*; *Dan. floder*. Either from the noun, or from the root of the *L. fluo*, to flow.]

1. To be borne or sustained on the surface of a fluid; to swim; to be buoyed up; not to sink; not to be aground. We say, the water is so shallow, the ship will not *float*.

2. To move or be conveyed on water; to swim. The raft *floats* down the river.

Three blustering nights, borne by the southern blast,

I floated, Dryden.

3. To be buoyed up and moved or conveyed in a fluid, as in air.

They stretch their plumes and *float* upon the wind.

Pope.

4. To move with a light irregular course.

Qu. Locke.

FLÔAT, *v. t.* To cause to pass by swimming; to cause to be conveyed on water. The tide *floats* the ship into the harbor.

2. To flood; to inundate; to overflow; to cover with water.

Proud Paeolus *floats* the fruitful lands.

Dryden.

FLOATAGE, *n.* Any thing that floats on the water.

Encyc.

FLOAT-BOARD, *n.* A board of the wheel of undershot mills, which receives the impulse of the stream, by which the wheel is driven.

FLOATED, *pp.* Flooded; overflowed.

2. Borne on water.

FLOATER, *n.* One that floats or swims.

Eusden.

FLOATING, *ppr.* Swimming; conveying on water; overflowing.

2. Lying flat on the surface of the water; as a *floating* leaf.

Martyr.

FLOATING-BRIDGE, *n.* In the U. States, a bridge, consisting of logs or timber with a floor of plank, supported wholly by the water.

2. In *war*, a kind of double bridge, the upper one projecting beyond the lower one, and capable of being moved forward by pulleys, used for carrying troops over narrow moats in attacking the outworks of a fort.

FLOATSTONE, *n.* Swimming flint, pumice, quartz, a mineral of a spongy texture, of a whitish gray color, often with a tinge of yellow. It frequently contains a nucleus of common flint.

Cleveland.

FLOATY, *a.* Buoyant; swimming on the surface; light.

Raleigh.

FLOODCULENCE, *n.* [*L. flocculus*, *floccus*.]

See *Flock*.]

The state of being in locks or flocks; adhesion in small flakes.

Higgins, Med. Rep.

FLOODCULENT, *a.* Coalescing and adhering in locks or flakes.

Isay the liquor is broken to *floodulence*, when the particles of herbaceous matter, seized by those of the lime, and coalescing, appear large and *flocculent*.

Hun.

FLOCK, *n.* [*Sax. floce*; *L. floccus*; *G. flock*; *D. vloek*; *Dan. flok*; *Sw. flock*, a crowd; *ulle-lok*, wool-lock; *Gr. κλωξ, κλωξ*; *Russ. flock*. It is the same radically as *flake*, and applied to wool or hair, we write it *lock*. See *Flake*.]

1. A company or collection; applied to sheep and other small animals. A *flock* of sheep answers to a herd of larger cattle. But the word may sometimes perhaps be applied to larger beasts, and in the plural, flocks may include all kinds of domesticated animals.

2. A company or collection of fowls of any kind, and when applied to birds on the wing, a flight; as a *flock* of wild-geese; a *flock* of ducks; a *flock* of blackbirds. In

the U. States, *flocks* of wild-pigeons sometimes darken the air.

3. A body or crowd of people. [*Little used*. *Qu. Gr. κλωξ*, a troop.]

4. A lock of wool or hair. Hence, a *flock*-

FLOCK, *v. i.* To gather in companies or crowds; applied to men or other animals. People *flock* together. They *flock* to the play-house.

Friends daily flock.

Dryden.

FLOCKING, *ppr.* Collecting or running together in a crowd.

FLOG, *v. t.* [*L. flego*, to strike, that is, to lay on; *L. flagrum*, *flagellum*, *Eng. flail*; *Goth. bligguan*, to strike; *Gr. κλωξ, κλωξ*, *L. plaga*, a stroke, *Eng. plague*. We have *lick*, which is probably of the same family; as is *D. slag*, *G. schlag*, *Eng. slag*.]

To beat or strike with a rod or whip; to whip; to lash; to chastise with repeated blows; a colloquial word, applied to whipping or beating for punishment; as, to *flog* a schoolboy or a sailor.

FLOGGED, *pp.* Whipped or scourged for punishment; chastised.

FLOGGING, *ppr.* Whipping for punishment; chastising.

FLOGGING, *n.* A whipping for punishment.

FLOOD, *n. flud.* [*Sax. flod*; *G. fluth*; *D. vloed*; *Sw. flod*; *Dan. flod*; *from flow*.]

1. A great flow of water; a body of moving water; particularly, a body of water, rising, swelling and overflowing land not usually covered with water. Thus there is a *flood*, every spring, in the Connecticut, which inundates the adjacent meadows. There is an annual *flood* in the Nile, and in the Mississippi.

2. The flood, by way of eminence, the deluge; the great body of water which inundated the earth in the days of Noah. Before the *flood*, men lived to a great age.

3. A river; a sense chiefly poetical.

4. The flowing of the tide; the semi-diurnal swell or rise of water in the ocean; opposed to *ebb*. The ship entered the harbor on the *flood*. Hence *flood-tide*; young *flood*; high *flood*.

5. A great quantity; an inundation; an overflowing; abundance; superabundance; as a *flood* of bank notes; a *flood* of paper currency.

6. A great body or stream of any fluid substance; as a *flood* of light; a *flood* of lava. Hence figuratively, a *flood* of vice.

7. Menstrual discharge. Harvey.

- FLOOD**, *v. t.* To overflow; to inundate; to deluge; as, to *flood* a meadow.

Mortimer.

FLOODED, *pp.* Overflowed; inundated.

FLOODGATE, *n.* A gate to be opened for letting water flow through, or to be shut to prevent it.

2. An opening or passage; an avenue for a flood or great body.

FLOODING, *ppr.* Overflowing; inundating.

FLOODING, *n.* Any preternatural discharge of blood from the uterus.

Cyc.

FLOOD-MARK, *n.* The mark or line to which the tide rises; high-water mark.

FLOOK, [See *Fluke*, the usual orthography.]