

**MELIORATING**, *ppr.* Improving; advancing in good qualities.

The pure and benign light of revelation has had a *meliorating* influence on mankind.

*Washington.*

**MELIORA'TION**, *n.* The act or operation of making better; improvement.

**MELIOR'ITY**, *n.* The state of being better. [*Not in use.*] *Bacon.*

**MELL**, *v. i.* [*Fr. mêler.*] To mix; to meddle. [*Not in use.*] *Spenser.*

**MELL**, *n.* [*L. mel.*] Honey. [*Not English.*]

**MELL'ATE**, *n.* [*L. mel, honey, Gr. μέλι, W. mel.*]

A combination of the mellitic acid with a base.

**MELLIF'EROUS**, *a.* [*L. mel, honey, and fero, to produce.*] Producing honey.

**MELLIFICA'TION**, *n.* [*L. mellifico.*] The making or production of honey.

**MELLIF'UENCE**, *n.* [*L. mel, honey, and fluo, to flow.*]

A flow of sweetness, or a sweet smooth flow.

*Watts.*

**MELLIF'UENT**, } *a.* Flowing with honey;  
**MELLIF'UOUS**, } *cy; smooth; sweetly*  
flowing; as a *mellifluous* voice.

**MEL'LIT**, *n.* In *farriery*, a dry scab on the heel of a horse's fore foot, cured by a mixture of honey and vinegar.

**MEL'LITE**, *n.* [*L. mel.*] Honey stone; a mineral of a honey color, found only in very minute regular crystals. *Clearland.*

**MELLIT'IC**, *a.* Pertaining to honey stone.

**MEL'LOW**, *a.* [*Sax. mellewe; G. mehl, D. Dan. meel, meal; G. mehlig, mellich, mellow, mealy; Dan. mœlagtig, mellow; L. mollis, Fr. mol, molle, soft, Gr. μαλακός; W. mall, soft, melting, insipid, evil, and as a noun, a malady. The Welsh unites the word with L. malus. These words are evidently allied to mild and melt, and meal would seem to be connected with mill. I am not certain which is the primary word. See Class Ml. No. 2. 4. 9. 12.]*

1. Soft with ripeness; easily yielding to pressure; as a *mellow* peach or apple; *mellow* fruit.

2. Soft to the ear; as a *mellow* sound; a *mellow* pipe.

3. Soft; well pulverized; not indurated or compact; as *mellow* ground or earth.

4. Soft and smooth to the taste; as *mellow* wine.

5. Soft with liquor; intoxicated; merry.

*Addison.*

6. Soft or easy to the eye.

The tender flush whose *mellow* stain imbues Heaven with all freaks of light. *Percival.*

**MEL'LOW**, *v. t.* To ripen; to bring to maturity; to soften by ripeness or age.

On foreign mountains may the sun refine  
The grape's soft juice and *mellow* it to wine.

*Addison.*

2. To soften; to pulverize. Earth is *mellowed* by frost.

3. To mature; to bring to perfection.

This episode—*mellowed* into that reputation which time has given it. *Dryden.*

**MEL'LOW**, *v. i.* To become soft; to be ripened, matured or brought to perfection. Fruit, when taken from the tree, soon *mellows*. Wine *mellows* with age.

**MEL'LOWNESS**, *n.* Softness; the quality of yielding easily to pressure; ripeness, as of fruit.

2. Maturity; softness or smoothness from age, as of wine.

**MEL'LOWY**, *a.* Soft; unctuous. *Drayton.*

**MELOCOTO'NE**, *n.* [*Sp. melocoton, a peach-tree grafted into a quince-tree, or the fruit of the tree; It. melocotogno, quince-tree; L. malum cotoneum, quince-apple. Cotoneum is probably our cotton, and the fruit so named from its pubescence.*]

A quince. But the name is sometimes given to a large kind of peach.

**MELO'DIOUS**, *a.* [*See Melody.*] Containing melody; musical; agreeable to the ear by a sweet succession of sounds; as a *melodious* voice; *melodious* strains.

And music more *melodious* than the spheres.

*Dryden.*

**MELO'DIOUSLY**, *adv.* In a melodious manner; musically.

**MELO'DIOUSNESS**, *n.* The quality of being agreeable to the ear by a sweet succession of sounds; musicalness.

**MEL'ODIZE**, *v. t.* To make melodious.

**MEL'ODRAME**, *n.* [*Gr. μέλος, a song, and drama.*]

A dramatic performance in which songs are intermixed.

*Todd.*

**MEL'ODY**, *n.* [*Gr. μελωδία; μέλος, a limb, or a song, and ὠδή, an ode; L. melos.*]

An agreeable succession of sounds; a succession of sounds so regulated and modulated as to please the ear. To constitute melody, the sounds must be arranged according to the laws of rhythm, measure, or the due proportion of the movements to each other. *Melody* differs from *harmony*, as it consists in the agreeable succession and modulation of sounds by a single voice; whereas *harmony* consists in the accordance of different voices or sounds. *Melody* is vocal or instrumental. *Hooker.*

To make melody in the heart, to praise God with a joyful and thankful disposition, ascribing to him the honor due to his name. *Eph. v.*

**MEL'ON**, *n.* [*Fr. from L. melo; Sp. melon; It. melone, a melon; Gr. μήλον, an apple; D. meloen; G. melone; Dan. Sw. melon; Slav. mlun. This word has the elements of mellow, L. mollis, W. mall.*]

The name of certain plants and their fruit, as the water-melon, the musk-melon.

**MEL'ON-THISTLE**, *n.* A plant of the genus *Cactus*.

**MEL'ROSE**, *n.* [*mel and rose.*] Honey of roses. *Fordyce.*

**MELT**, *v. t.* [*Sax. meltan; Gr. μέλδω; D. smelten; G. schmelzen; Sw. smälta; Dan. smelter; whence Eng. smelt, smalt. We have in these words decisive evidence that s, in smelten, &c. is a prefix. Melt, in English, is regular, forming melted for its past tense and passive participle. The old participle molten, is used only as an adjective. This verb belongs to a numerous class of words in Ml, denoting soft or softness. See Class Ml. No. 10. 18. 19.]*

1. To dissolve; to make liquid; to liquefy; to reduce from a solid to a liquid or flowing state by heat; as, to melt wax, tallow or lead; to melt ice or snow.

2. To dissolve; to reduce to first principles. *Burnet.*

3. To soften to love or tenderness.

For pity melts the mind to love. *Dryden.*

4. To waste away; to dissipate.

In general riot melted down thy youth.

*Shak.*

5. To dishearten. *Josh. xiv.*

**MELT**, *v. i.* To become liquid; to dissolve; to be changed from a fixed or solid to a flowing state.

And whiter snow in minutes melts away.

*Dryden.*

2. To be softened to love, pity, tenderness or sympathy; to become tender, mild or gentle.

Melting with tenderness and mild compassion. *Shak.*

3. To be dissolved; to lose substance.

—And what seem'd corporal,

Melted as breath into the wind. *Shak.*

4. To be subdued by affliction; to sink into weakness.

My soul melteth for heaviness—strengthen thou me. *Ps. cxix.*

5. To faint; to be discouraged or disheartened.

As soon as we heard these things, our heart melted. *Josh. ii.*

**MELT'ED**, *pp.* Dissolved; made liquid; softened; discouraged.

**MELT'ER**, *n.* One that melts any thing.

*Derham.*

**MELT'ING**, *ppr.* Dissolving; liquefying; softening; discouraging.

2. *a.* Tending to soften; softening into tenderness; as *melting* eloquence.

**MELT'ING**, *n.* The act of softening; the act of rendering tender. *South.*

**MELT'INGLY**, *adv.* In a manner to melt or soften.

2. Like something melting. *Sidney.*

**MELT'INGNESS**, *n.* The power of melting or softening.

**MEL'WEL**, *n.* A fish.

**MEM'BER**, *n.* [*Fr. membre; L. membrum.*]

1. A limb of animal bodies, as a leg, an arm, an ear, a finger, that is, a subordinate part of the main body.

2. A part of a discourse, or of a period or sentence; a clause; a part of a verse. Harmony in poetry is produced by a proportion between the *members* of the same verse, or between the *members* of different verses.

3. In *architecture*, a subordinate part of a building, as a frieze or cornice; sometimes a molding.

4. An individual of a community or society. Every citizen is a *member* of the state or body politic. So the individuals of a club, a corporation or confederacy, are called its *members*. Students of an academy or college are its *members*. Professed christians are called *members* of the church.

5. The appetites and passions, considered as tempting to sin. *Rom. vii. Col. iii.*

**MEM'BERED**, *a.* Having limbs.

**MEMBERSHIP**, *n.* The state of being a member.

2. Community; society. *Beaumont.*

**MEM'BRANE**, *n.* [*Fr. from L. membrana; Ir. meambrum. The last component part of this word is found in the Ethiopic and Amharic; Eth. ለረሃ ቸ bereana, parchment, vellum, from ለረሀ barah, to shine*