

**MAST**, *n.* [Sax. *mæste*, acorns, food; Goth. *mats*, food, meat; Ir. *mais*, *meas*, an acorn; *maise*, food; W. *mes*, acorns, a portion, a meal; *mesen*, an acorn. This may be the American *maiz*, and signify food in general, from eating, chewing, masticating, or primarily a nut kernel, or acorn, the food of the primitive tribes of men. It seems to be radically the same word as *meat*.]

The fruit of the oak and beech, or other forest trees; nuts; acorns. [*It has no plural.*]

**MASTED**, *a.* Furnished with a mast or masts.

**MASTER**, *n.* [Fr. *maitre*, for *maister*; Russ. *master*; D. *meester*; G. *meister*; Sw. *måstare*; Dan. *mester*; Arm. *meastr*; It. *sp. maestro*; L. *magister*, compounded of the root of *magis*, *major*, greater, and the Teutonic *ster*, Sax. *steoran*, to *steer*. See *Steer*. The word then signifies a chief director. See *Minister*.]

1. A man who rules, governs or directs either men or business. A man who owns slaves is their *master*; he who has servants is their *master*; he who has apprentices is their *master*, as he has the government and direction of them. The man who superintends and directs any business, is *master*, or *master workman*.

O thou my friend, my genius, come along,  
Thou *master* of the poet and the song.

*Pope.*

Nations that want protectors, will have *masters*.

*Ames.*

2. A director, head, or chief manager; as the *master* of a feast.

3. The owner; proprietor; with the idea of governing. The *master* of a house may be the owner, or the occupant, who has a temporary right of governing it.

It would be believed that he rather took the horse for his subject, than his *master*.

*Dryden.*

4. A lord; a ruler; one who has supreme dominion.

Cesar, the world's great *master* and his own.

*Pope.*

5. A chief; a principal; as the *master* root of a plant.

One *master* passion swallows up the rest.

*Pope.*

6. One who has possession, and the power of controlling or using at pleasure.

When I have made myself *master* of a hundred thousand drachmas—

*Addison.*

7. The commander of a merchant ship.

8. In *ships of war*, an officer who takes rank immediately after the lieutenants, and navigates the ship under the direction of the captain.

9. The director of a school; a teacher; an instructor. In this sense the word is giving place to the more appropriate words teacher, instructor and preceptor; at least it is so in the United States.

10. One uncontrolled.

Let every man be *master* of his time.

*Shak.*

11. An appellation of respect.

*Master* doctor, you have brought those drugs.

*Shak.*

12. An appellation given to young men.

Where there are little *masters* and misses in a house—

*Swift.*

13. A man eminently or perfectly skilled in any occupation, art or science. We say, a man is *master* of his business; a great

*master* of music, of the flute or violin; a *master* of his subject, &c.

14. A title of dignity in colleges and universities; as *Master* of Arts.

15. The chief of a society; as the Grand *Master* of Malta, of free-masons, &c.

16. The director of ceremonies at public places, or on public occasions.

17. The president of a college. *England.*

*Master in chancery*, an assistant of the lord chancellor, chosen from among the barristers to sit in chancery, or at the rolls.

*Encyc.*

*Master of the rolls*, an officer who has charge of the rolls and patents that pass the great seal, and of the records of the chancery.

*Encyc.*

To be *master* of one's self, to have the command or control of one's own passions.

The word *master* has numerous applications, in all of which it has the sense of director, chief or superintendent.

As a title of respect given to adult persons, it is pronounced *mister*; a pronunciation which seems to have been derived from some of the northern dialects. [*supra.*]

**MASTER**, *v. t.* To conquer; to overpower; to subdue; to bring under control.

Obstancy and willful neglect must be *mastered*, even though it costs blows.

*Locke.*

Evil customs must be *mastered* by degrees.

*Calamy.*

2. To execute with skill.

I will not offer that which I cannot *master*.

*Bacon.*

3. To rule; to govern.

—And rather father thee than *master* thee.

*Shak.*

**MASTER**, *v. i.* To be skillful; to excel.

*Obs.* *Spenser.*

**MASTERDOM**, *n.* Dominion; rule. [*Not used.*]

*Shak.*

**MASTERFUL**, *a.* Having the skill of a *master*; also, imperious; arbitrary.

*Obs.*

**MASTER-HAND**, *n.* The hand of a man eminently skillful.

*Pope.*

**MASTER-JEST**, *n.* Principal jest.

*Hudibras.*

**MASTER-KEY**, *n.* The key that opens many locks, the subordinate keys of which open only one each.

*Dryden.*

**MASTERLESS**, *a.* Destitute of a *master* or owner.

*Spenser.*

2. Ungoverned; unsubdued.

**MASTER-LODE**, *n.* In mining, the principal vein of ore.

*Encyc.*

**MASTERLY**, *a.* Formed or executed with superior skill; suitable to a *master*; most excellent; skillful; as a *masterly* design; a *masterly* performance; a *masterly* stroke of policy.

2. Imperious.

**MASTERLY**, *adv.* With the skill of a *master*.

Thou dost speak *masterly*.

*Shak.*

"I think it very *masterly* written," in

Swift, is improper or unusual.

**MASTER-PIECE**, *n.* A capital performance; any thing done or made with superior or extraordinary skill.

This wondrous *master-piece* I fain would see.

*Dryden.*

2. Chief excellence or talent.

Dissimulation was his *master-piece*.

*Clarendon.*

**MASTERSHIP**, *n.* Dominion; rule; supreme power.

2. Superiority; preeminence.

Where noble youths for *mastership* should strive.

*Dryden.*

3. Chief work; *master-piece*. [*Not used.*]

*Dryden.*

4. Superior skill.

*Shak.*

5. Title of respect; in irony.

How now, signior Launce, what new with your *mastership*.

*Shak.*

6. The office of president of a college, or other institution.

**MASTER-SINEW**, *n.* A large sinew that surrounds the hough of a horse, and divides it from the bone by a hollow place, where the wind-galls are usually seated.

*Fur. Dict.*

**MASTER-STRING**, *n.* Principal string.

*Rowe.*

**MASTER-STROKE**, *n.* Capital performance.

*Blackmore.*

**MASTER-TOOTH**, *n.* A principal tooth.

*Bacon.*

**MASTER-TOUCH**, *n.* Principal performance.

*Tatler.*

**MASTER-WORK**, *n.* Principal performance.

*Thomson.*

**MASTER-WÖRT**, *n.* A plant of the genus *Imperatoria*.

**MASTERY**, *n.* Dominion; power of governing or commanding.

If divided by mountains, they will fight for the *mastery* of the passages of the tops—

*Raleigh.*

2. Superiority in competition; preeminence.

Every man that striveth for the *mastery*, is temperate in all things. 1 Cor. ix.

3. Victory in war.

It is not the voice of them that shout for *mastery*. Ex. xxxii.

4. Eminent skill; superior dexterity.

He could attain to a *mastery* in all languages.

*Tillotson.*

5. Attainment of eminent skill or power.

The learning and *mastery* of a tongue being unpleasant in itself, should not be cumbered with other difficulties.

*Locke.*

**MASTFUL**, *a.* [from *mast*.] Abounding with mast, or fruit of oak, beech and other forest trees; as the *mastful* chesnut.

*Dryden.*

**MAS'TIC**, } [*Fr. mastic*; *It. mastic*; *D.*

**MAS'TICH**, } *n.* *mastik*; *Sp. almaciga*; *Port. almeciga*; *Ir. maisteog*; *L. mastiche*; *Gr. μαστιχη*.]

1. A resin exsuding from the mastic-tree, a species of *Pistacia*, and obtained by incision. It is in white farinaceous tears, of a faint smell, and is used as an astringent and an aromatic. It is used also as an ingredient in drying varnishes.

*Fourcroy. Encyc.*

2. A kind of mortar or cement.

*Addison.*

**MAS'TICATE**, *v. t.* [*L. mastic*. *Qu. W.* *mesigaw*, from *mes*, mast, acorns, food.]

To chew; to grind with the teeth and prepare for swallowing and digestion; as, to *masticate* food.

**MAS'TICATED**, *pp.* Chewed.

**MAS'TICATING**, *ppr.* Chewing; breaking into small pieces with the teeth.

**MAS'TICA'TION**, *n.* The act or operation of chewing solid food, breaking it into small pieces, and mixing it with saliva; thus preparing it for deglutition, and more easy digestion in the stomach.

*Mastication* is a necessary preparation of solid aliment, without which there can be no good digestion.

*Arbuthnot.*