

the defendant to the plaintiff's declaration and demand. That which the plaintiff alleges in his declaration is answered and repelled or justified by the defendant's *plea*. Pleas are *dilatory*, or *pleas to the action*. *Dilatory* pleas, are to the jurisdiction of the court, to the disability of the plaintiff, or in abatement. Pleas to the *action* are an answer to the merits of the complaint, which confesses or denies it. Pleas that deny the plaintiff's complaint or demand, are the general issue, which denies the whole declaration; or special pleas in bar, which state something which precludes the plaintiff's right of recovery.

2. A cause in court; a lawsuit, or a criminal process; as the *pleas* of the crown; the court of common *pleas*.

The supreme judicial court shall have cognizance of *pleas* real, personal and mixed.

Laws of Mass.

3. That which is alleged in defense or justification; an excuse; an apology; as the tyrant's *plea*.

When such occasions are,

No *plea* must serve; 'tis cruelty to spare.

Denham.

4. Urgent prayer or entreaty.

PLEACH, *v. t.* [Fr. *plisser*, or from the root of *L. plico*, Gr. *πλέω*.] To bend; to interweave. [Not in use.] *Shak.*

PLEAD, *v. i.* [See *Plea*.] In a general sense, to argue in support of a claim, or in defense against the claim of another.

2. In law, to present an answer to the declaration of a plaintiff; to deny the plaintiff's declaration and demand, or to allege facts which show that he ought not to recover in the suit. The plaintiff declares or alleges; the defendant *pleads* to his declaration. The king or the state prosecutes an offender, and the offender *pleads* not guilty, or confesses the charge.

3. To urge reasons for or against; to attempt to persuade one by argument or supplication; as, to *plead* for the life of a criminal; to *plead* in his favor; to *plead* with a judge or with a father.

O that one might *plead* for a man with God, as a man *pleadeth* for his neighbor! Job xvi.

4. To supplicate with earnestness.

5. To urge; to press by operating on the passions.

Since you can love, and yet your error see,
The same resistless power may *plead* for me.

Dryden.

PLEAD, *v. t.* To discuss, defend and attempt to maintain by arguments or reasons offered to the tribunal or person who has the power of determining; as, to *plead* a cause before a court or jury. In this sense, *argue* is more generally used by lawyers.

2. To allege or adduce in proof, support or vindication. The law of nations may be *pleaded* in favor of the rights of ambassadors.

3. To offer in excuse.

I will neither *plead* my age nor sickness in excuse of faults.

Dryden.

4. To allege and offer in a legal plea or defense, or for repelling a demand in law; as, to *plead* usury; to *plead* a statute of limitations.

Ch. Kent.

5. In Scripture, to plead the cause of the righteous, as God, is to avenge or vindicate

them against enemies, or to redress their grievances. Is. li.

PLEADABLE, *a.* That may be pleaded; that may be alleged in proof, defense or vindication; as a right or privilege *pleadable* at law.

Dryden.

PLEADED, *pp.* Offered or urged in defense; alleged in proof or support.

PLEADER, *n.* [Fr. *plaideur*.] One who argues in a court of justice.

Swift.

2. One that forms pleas or pleadings; as a special *pleader*.

3. One that offers reasons for or against; one that attempts to maintain by arguments.

So fair a *pleader* any cause may gain.

Dryden.

PLEADING, *ppr.* Offering in defense; supporting by arguments or reasons; sup-
plicating.

PLEADING, *n.* The art of supporting by arguments, or of reasoning to persuade.

PLEADINGS, *n.* In law, the mutual alterations between the plaintiff and defendant, or written statements of the parties in support of their claims, comprehending the declaration, count or narration of the plaintiff, the plea of the defendant in reply, the replication of the plaintiff to the defendant's plea, the defendant's rejoinder, the plaintiff's sur-rejoinder, the defendant's rebutter, the plaintiff's sur-rebutter, &c. till the question is brought to issue, that is, to rest on a single point.

PLEASANCE, *n.* *plez'ance*. [Fr. *plaisance*. See *Pleasure*.] Gayety; pleasantry; merriment. *Obs.* *Spenser. Shak.*

PLEASANT, *a.* *plez'ant*. [Fr. *plaisant*. See *Pleasure*.]

1. Pleasing; agreeable; grateful to the mind or to the senses; as a *pleasant* ride; a *pleasant* voyage; a *pleasant* view. Light is *pleasant* to the eye; an orange is *pleasant* to the taste; harmony is *pleasant* to the ear; a rose is *pleasant* to the smell.

How good and how *pleasant* it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Ps. cxxxiii.

2. Cheerful; enlivening; as *pleasant* society or company.

3. Gay; lively; humorous; sportive; as a *pleasant* companion.

4. Trifling; adapted rather to mirth than use.

Locke.

5. Giving pleasure; gratifying.

This word expresses less than *delightful*, to the mind, and *delicious*, to the taste.

PLEASANTLY, *adv.* *plez'antly*. In such a manner as to please or gratify.

2. Gayly; merrily; in good humor.

Clarendon.

3. Lightly; ludicrously.

Broome.

PLEASANTNESS, *n.* *plez'antness*. State of being pleasant or agreeable; as the *pleasantness* of a situation.

Sidney.

2. Cheerfulness; gayety; merriment; as the *pleasantness* of youth.

PLEASANTRY, *n.* *plez'antry*. [Fr. *plaisanterie*.] Gayety; merriment.

The harshness of reasoning is not a little softened and smoothed by the infusions of mirth and *pleasantry*.

Addison.

2. Sprightly saying; lively talk; effusion of humor.

The grave abound in *pleasantries*, the dull in repartees and points of wit.

Addison.

PLEASE, *v. t.* *s* as *z*. [Fr. *plaire*, *plaisant*, from *L. placere*, *placeo*; Arm. *pligea*, *plige-out*; It. *piacere*; Sp. *placer*; Corn. *plezia*; formed perhaps on the root of *like*. Class I.g.]

1. To excite agreeable sensations or emotions in; to gratify; as, to *please* the taste; to *please* the mind.

Their words *pleased* Hamor, and Shechem, Hamor's son. Gen. xxxiv.

Leave such to trifle with more grace than ease,

Whom folly *pleases*, and whose follies *please*.

Pope.

2. To satisfy; to content.

What next I bring shall *please*

Thy wish exactly to thy heart's desire.

Milton.

3. To prefer; to have satisfaction in; to like; to choose.

Many of our most skillful painters were *pleased* to recommend this author to me.

Dryden.

To be *pleased* in or with, to approve; to have complacency in. Matt. iii.

To *please* God, is to love his character and law and perform his will, so as to become the object of his approbation.

They that are in the flesh cannot *please* God.

Rom. viii.

PLEASE, *v. i.* *s* as *z*. To like; to choose; to prefer.

Spirits, freed from mortal laws, with ease Assume what sexes and what shapes they *please*.

Pope.

2. To condescend; to comply; to be pleased; a word of ceremony.

Please you, lords,

In sight of both our battles we may meet.

Shak.

The first words that I learnt were, to express my desire that he would *please* to give me my liberty.

Swift.

Please expresses less gratification than *delight*.

PLEASED, *pp.* Gratified; affected with agreeable sensations or emotions.

PLEASEMAN, *n.* An officious person who courts favor servilely; a pickthank. *Shak.*

PLEASER, *n.* One that pleases or gratifies; one that courts favor by humoring or flattering compliances or a show of obedience; as *men-pleasers*. Eph. vi. Col. iii.

PLEASING, *ppr.* Gratifying; exciting agreeable sensations or emotions in.

PLEASING, *a.* Giving pleasure or satisfaction; agreeable to the senses or to the mind; as a *pleasing* prospect; a *pleasing* reflection; *pleasing* manners.

2. Gaining approbation. 1 John iii.

PLEASING, *n.* The act of gratifying.

PLEASINGLY, *adv.* In such a manner as to give pleasure.

Dryden.

PLEASINGNESS, *n.* The quality of giving pleasure.

PLEASURABLE, *a.* *plezh'urable*. [from *pleasure*.]

Pleasing; giving pleasure; affording gratification.

Planting of orchards is very profitable as well as *pleasurable*.

Bacon.

PLEASURABLY, *adv.* With pleasure; with gratification of the senses or the mind.

Harris.

PLEASURABLENESS, *n.* The quality of giving pleasure.

Fellham.

PLEASURE, *n.* *plezh'ur*. [Fr. *plaisir*; Arm. *pligeadur*; It. *piacere*; Sp. *placer*; Port. *prazer*. See *Pleasure*.]