

fitted exactly to the bore of another body so as to prevent the entrance or escape of air, and is usually applied to the purpose of forcing some fluid into or out of the canal or tube which it fills, as in pumps, fire-engines and the like.

PIT, *n.* [Sax. *pit* or *pyt*; D. *put*; W. *pyd*; Ir. *pit*; L. *puteus*; Sans. *put*, *puttu*; W. *pylaw*, a well or spring, an oozing fluid. It is uncertain whether this word originally signified a hollow place dug in the earth, or a natural spring of water and its basin.

See Ar. **ط** to spring, and Class Bd. No. 58. 59. 63.]

1. An artificial cavity made in the earth by digging; a deep hole in the earth.

Bacon. Shak.

2. A deep place; an abyss; profundity.

Into what *pit* thou seest

From what height fallen. Milton.

3. The grave. Ps. xxviii. and xxx.

4. The area for cock-fighting; whence the phrase, to fly the *pit*. Locke. Hudibras.

5. The middle part of a theater. Dryden.

6. The hollow of the body at the stomach. We say, the *pit* of the stomach.

7. The cavity under the shoulder; as the *arm-pit*.

8. A dint made by impression on a soft substance, as by the finger, &c.

9. A little hollow in the flesh, made by a pustule, as in the small poeks.

10. A hollow place in the earth excavated for catching wild beasts; hence in Scripture, whatever ensnares and brings into calamity or misery, from which it is difficult to escape. Ps. vii. Prov. xxii. and xxiii.

11. Great distress and misery, temporal, spiritual or eternal. Is. xxxviii. Ps. xl.

12. Hell; as the bottomless *pit*. Rev. xx.

PIT, *v. t.* To indent; to press into hollows.

2. To mark with little hollows, as by various pustules; as the face *pitted* by the small poeks.

3. To set in competition, as in combat.

Federalist, Madison.

PITAHYA, *n.* A shrub of California, which yields a delicious fruit, the *Cactus Pitajaya*. Encyc.

PITAPAT, *adv.* [probably allied to *beat*.] In a flutter; with palpitation or quick succession of beats; as, his heart went *pitapat*.

PITAPAT, *n.* A light quick step.

Now I hear the *pitapat* of a pretty foot, through the dark alley. Dryden.

PITCH, *n.* [Sax. *pie*; D. *pik*; G. *pech*; Sw. *beck*; Dan. *beg* or *beeg*; Ir. *pie* or *pech*; W. *pyg*; Sp. *pez*; It. *pee*; Ir. *poir*; L. *pir*; Gr. *πύρα* or *πύρα*; most probably named from its thickness or inspissation, from the root of *πύρα*, *πύρα*, *πύρα*, L. *figo*. See Class Bg. No. 23. 24. 33. 66.]

1. A thick tenacious substance, the juice of a species of pine or fir called *abies picea*, obtained by incision from the bark of the tree. When melted and pressed in bags of cloth, it is received into barrels. This is white or Burgundy pitch; by mixture with lampblack it is converted into black pitch. When kept long in fusion with vinegar, it becomes dry and brown, and forms

colophony. The smoke of pitch condensed forms lampblack. Fourcroy.

2. The resin of pine, or turpentine, inspissated; used in calking ships and paying the sides and bottom.

PITCH, *n.* [from the root of *pike*, *peak*, W. *pie*. See the Verb.]

1. Literally, a point; hence, any point or degree of elevation; as a high *pitch*; low-est *pitch*.

How high a *pitch* his resolution soars.

Shak.

Alcibiades was one of the best orators of his age, notwithstanding he lived when learning was at its highest *pitch*. Addison.

2. Highest rise.

Shak.

3. Size; stature.

So like in person, garb and *pitch*. Hudibras.

4. Degree; rate.

No *pitch* of glory from the grave is free.

Waller.

5. The point where a declivity begins, or the declivity itself; descent; slope; as the *pitch* of a hill.

6. The degree of descent or declivity.

7. A descent; a fall; a thrusting down.

8. Degree of elevation of the key-note of a tune or of any note.

PITCH, *v. t.* [formerly *pight*; W. *picaw*, to dart, from *pie*, a point, a pike; D. *pikken*, to peck, to pick, to pitch; G. *pichen*; Fr. *ficher*; Arm. *ficha*; coinciding with L. *figo*, to fix, and uniting *pike*, *pique* with *fix*, Sp. *picar*, It. *piccare*, to prick or sting.]

1. To throw or thrust, and primarily, to thrust a long or pointed object; hence, to fix; to plant; to set; as, to *pitch* a tent or pavilion, that is, to set the stakes.

Dryden.

2. To throw at a point; as, to *pitch* quoits.

3. To throw headlong; as, to *pitch* one in the mire or down a precipice.

4. To throw with a fork; as, to *pitch* hay or sheaves of corn.

5. To regulate or set the key-note of a tune in music.

6. To set in array; to marshal or arrange in order; used chiefly in the participle; as a *pitched* battle.

7. [from *pitch*.] To smear or pay over with pitch; as, to *pitch* the seams of a ship.

PITCH, *v. i.* To light; to settle; to come to rest from flight.

Take a branch of the tree on which the bees *pitch*, and wipe the hive. Mortimer.

2. To fall headlong; as, to *pitch* from a precipice; to *pitch* on the head. Dryden.

3. To plunge; as, to *pitch* into a river.

4. To fall; to fix choice; with *on* or *upon*.

Pitch upon the best course of life, and custom will render it the most easy. Tillotson.

5. To fix a tent or temporary habitation: to encamp.

Laban with his brethren *pitched* in the mount of Gilead. Gen. xxxi.

6. In navigation, to rise and fall, as the head and stern of a ship passing over waves.

7. To flow or fall precipitously, as a river.

Over this rock, the river *pitches* in one entire sheet. B. Trumbull.

PITCHED, *pp.* Set; planted; fixed; thrown headlong; set in array; smeared with pitch.

PITCHER, *n.* [Arm. *picher*; Basque, *pegar*; from its spout, or from throwing.]

1. An earthen vessel with a spout for pouring out liquors. This is its present signi-

fication. It seems formerly to have signified a water pot, jug or jar with ears.

Shak.

2. An instrument for piercing the ground.

Mortimer.

PITCH-FARTHING, *n.* A play in which copper coin is pitched into a hole; called also chuck-fartling, from the root of *chuck*.

PITCH-FORK, *n.* [W. *pieforç*.] A fork or farming utensil used in throwing hay or sheaves of grain, in loading or unloading carts and wagons.

PITCH/INESS, *n.* [from *pitch*.] Blackness; darkness. [Little used.]

PITCH/ING, *ppr.* Setting; planting or fixing; throwing headlong; plunging; daubing with pitch; setting, as a tune.

2. *a.* Declivous; descending; sloping; as a hill.

PITCH/ING, *n.* In navigation, the rising and falling of the head and stern of a ship, as she moves over waves; or the vertical vibration of a ship about her center of gravity.

Mar. Dict.

PITCH/ORE, *n.* Pitch-blend, an ore of uranium.

PITCH/PIPE, *n.* An instrument used by choristers in regulating the *pitch* or elevation of the key or leading note of a tune.

Spectator.

PITCH/STONE, *n.* A mineral, a subspecies of quartz, which in luster and texture resembles pitch, whence its name. It is sometimes called *resinite*. Its colors are, several shades of green; black with green, brown or gray; brown, tinged with red, green or yellow; sometimes yellowish or blue. It occurs in large beds and sometimes forms whole mountains.

Cleveland.

PITCH/Y, *a.* Partaking of the qualities of pitch; like pitch.

Woodward.

2. Smeared with pitch.

Dryden.

3. Black; dark; dismal; as the *pitchy* mantle of night.

Shak.

PIT/COAL, *n.* Fossil coal; coal dug from the earth.

PIT/EOUS, *a.* [See *Pity*.] Sorrowful; mournful; that may excite pity; as a *piteous* look.

2. Wretched; miserable; deserving compassion; as a *piteous* condition.

3. Compassionate; affected by pity.

Prior. Pope.

4. Pitiful; paltry; poor; as *piteous* amends.

Milton.

PIT/EOUSLY, *adv.* In a piteous manner; with compassion.

Shak.

2. Sorrowfully; mournfully.

PIT/EOUSNESS, *n.* Sorrowfulness.

2. Tenderness; compassion.

PIT/FALL, *n.* A pit slightly covered for concealment, and intended to catch wild beasts or men.

PIT/FALL, *v. t.* To lead into a pitfall.

Milton.

PIT-FISH, *n.* A small fish of the Indian seas, about the size of a smelt, of a green and yellow color. It has the power of protruding or retracting its eyes at pleasure.

Dict. Nat. Hist.

PITH, *n.* [Sax. *piþa*; D. *pil*, pith, kernel.] 1. The soft spongy substance in the center of plants and trees.

Bacon. Encyc.