

Y.

Y A R

Y A W

Y E A

Y, the twenty fifth letter of the English Alphabet, is taken from the Greek *v*. At the beginning of words, it is called an articulation or consonant, and with some propriety perhaps, as it brings the root of the tongue in close contact with the lower part of the palate, and nearly in the position to which the close brings it. Hence it has happened that in a great number of words, *g* has been changed into *y*, as the Sax. *gear*, into *year*; *geornian*, into *yearn*; *gyllan*, into *yell*; *gealew*, into *yellow*.

In the middle and at the end of words, *y* is precisely the same as *i*. It is sounded as *i* long, when accented, as in *defy*, *rely*; and as *i* short, when unaccented, as in *vanity*, *glory*, *synonymous*. This latter sound is a vowel. At the beginning of words, *y* answers to the German and Dutch *j*.

Y, as a numeral, stands for 150, and with a dash over it, **Ȳ**, for 150,000.

YACHT, *n.* *yot*. [D *jagt*; G. *jacht*, from *jagen*.] It is properly a boat drawn by horses.]

A vessel of state used to convey princes, ambassadors and other great personages from one place to another. The royal yachts are rigged as ketches, except the principal one, which is equipped as a ship. The smaller yachts are rigged as sloops.

Mar. Dict.

YAGER, *n.* *yaw'ger*. [G. *jäger*, from *jagen*, to chase.] A horseman.

YA'HOO, *n.* A word used by Chesterfield, I suppose for a savage, or a person resembling a savage.

YAK, *n.* A species of ox, with cylindric horns curving outwards, long pendent hair, and villous horse-like tail; the grunting ox of Pennant. This ox is found in Thibet. *Cyc.*

YAM, *n.* A large esculent root growing in tropical climates.

YAMBOO, *n.* A kind of plant producing fruit like a plum.

YAN'KEE, *n.* A corrupt pronunciation of the word *English* by the native Indians of America. *Heckewelder.*

YAN'OLITE, *n.* A mineral, called also axinite or thimerstone, whose crystals resemble an ax. *Urc.*

YAP, to bark, is not a legitimate word.

YAP'ON, *n.* The cassine or South Sea tea. The flex cassine or youpon, is a shrub growing in the S. States, used as a tea and a medicine. *Mease.*

Y'ARD, *n.* [Sax. *geard*, *gerd*, *gyrd*, a rod, that is, a shoot.]

1. A measure of three feet or thirty six inches. It is just seven ninths of the Paris ell.

2. [Sax. *gyrdan*, to inclose; Dan. *gierde*, a hedge, an inclosure; *gierder*, to hedge in, Sw. *gård*.] An inclosure; usually, a small inclosed place in front of or around

a house or barn. The yard in front of a house is called a *court*, and sometimes a *court-yard*. In the United States, a small yard is fenced round a barn for confining cattle, and called *barn-yard* or *cow-yard*.

3. In ships, a long slender piece of timber, nearly cylindrical, suspended upon the mast, by which a sail is extended.

Yard of land, in old books, a certain quantity of land, but different in different countries. In some counties it was 15 acres, in others 20 or 24, and even 40.

Dock-yard, a place where ships are laid up.

Prison yard, primarily an inclosure about a prison, or attached to it. Hence *liberty of the yard*, is a liberty granted to persons imprisoned for debt, of walking in the yard, or within any other limits prescribed by law, on his giving bond not to go beyond those limits. *U. States.*

Y'ARD, *v. t.* To confine cattle to the yard; as, to yard cows. [*A farmer's word.*]

Y'ARD-ARM, *n.* [*yard and arm.*] Either half of a ship's yard, from the center or mast to the end.

Y'ARD-STICK, *n.* [*yard and stick.*] A stick three feet in length, used as a measure of cloth, &c.

Y'ARD-WAND, *n.* [*yard and wand.*] A measure of a yard; now *yard-stick*.

YARE, *a.* [Sax. *gearw*, prepared; from the root of *gear*. See *Eager*.]

Ready; dextrous; eager. *Obs.* *Shak.*

YARELY, *adv.* Readily; dextrously; skillfully. *Obs.* *Shak.*

Y'ARN, *n.* [Sax. *gearn*; G. *lee*. Sw. *garn*; D. *garen*.]

1. Spun wool; woolen thread; but it is applied also to other species of thread, as to cotton and linen.

2. In rope-making, one of the threads of which a rope is composed. It is spun from hemp.

Y'ARR, *v. i.* [Low L. *hirrio*; Celtic, *gar*, W. *garw*, rough.]

To growl or snarl, as a dog. [*Not in use.*]

Ainsworth.

YAR'RISH, *a.* Having a rough dry taste. [*Local.*]

YAR'ROW, *n.* [Sax. *gearwe*; Sp. *yaro*.] A plant of the genus *Achillea*; the milfoil, or plant of a thousand leaves.

YATE, in the north of England, is used for *gate*.

YAW, *n.* The African name of a raspberry. *Cyc.*

YAW, *v. i.* To rise in blisters, breaking in white froth, as cane juice in the sugar works. [*Qu. yaw*. See *Yew*.]

West Indies.

2. In navigation, to deviate from the line of her course, as a ship. *Mar. Dict.*

YAWL, *n.* A small ship's boat, usually rowed by four or six oars.

YAWL, *v. i.* To cry out. [*See Yell.*]

YAWN, *v. i.* [Sax. *geonan*, *gynian*; G. *gähnen*; W. *ageku*; Gr. *χαῖναι*.]

1. To gape; to oscitate; to have the mouth open involuntarily through drowsiness or dullness.

The lazy, yawning drone. *Shak.*
And while above he spends his breath,
The yawning audience nod beneath. *Trumbull.*

2. To open wide; as, wide yawns the gulf below.

3. To express desire by yawning; as, to yawn for fat livings. *Hooker.*

YAWN, *n.* A gaping; an involuntary opening of the mouth from drowsiness; oscitation.

One person yawning in company will produce a spontaneous yawn in all present.

N. Chipman.

2. An opening wide. *Addison.*

YAWN'ING, *ppr.* Gaping; opening wide.

2 *a.* Sleepy; drowsy; dull. *Shak.*

YAWN'ING, *n.* The act of gaping or opening wide.

YAWS, *n.* A severe cutaneous disease, which is indigenous in Africa, and from Africa it has been introduced into the W. Indies. It is said to be so named from *yaw*, a raspberry. It is called by nosologists *frambesia*, from the French *framboise*, a raspberry. It is propagated solely by the infection of the matter of the pustules, applied to a part of the body where the skin is broken. It affects a person but once. *Cyc.*

YCLAD', *pp.* Clad. [This word and the following retain the *y*, which is the remains of the Saxon *ge*, prefixed to verbs. But it is obsolete, except in poetry, and perhaps in burlesque only.]

YCLEP'ED, *pp.* of Sax. *ge-elypian*, *elepan*, to call. [*See Yclad.*] Called; named. It is obsolete, except in burlesque.

YDRAD', *pp.* Dreaded. *Obs.* *Spenser.*

YE, *pron.* [Sax. *ge*.] The nominative plural of the second person, of which *thou* is the singular. But the two words have no radical connection. *Ye* is now used only in the sacred and solemn style. In common discourse and writing, *you* is exclusively used.

But *ye* are washed, but *ye* are sanctified. *Cor. vi.*

YEA, *adv.* *yā*. [Sax. *gea*, *geac*; G. D. Dan. *ja*; Sw. *jaka*, to consent. Class Cg. No. 25. 26.]

1. Yes; a word that expresses affirmation or assent. Will you go? *yea*. It sometimes introduces a subject, with the sense of indeed, verily, truly, it is so.

Yea, bath God said, *ye* shall not eat of every tree in the garden? *Gen. iii.*

Let your communication be *yea*, *yca*; nay, nay. *Matt. v.*

2. It sometimes enforces the sense of something preceding; not only so, but more.

Therein I do rejoice; *yca*, and will rejoice. *Phil. i.*