

**METROPOLIS**, *n.* [L. from Gr. *μητρόπολις*; *μητήρ*, mother, and *πολις*, city. It has no plural.]

Literally, the mother-city; that is, the chief city or capital of a kingdom, state or country, as Paris in France, Madrid in Spain, London in Great Britain. In the United States, Washington, in the District of Columbia, is the *metropolis*, as being the seat of government; but in several of the states, the largest cities are not the seats of the respective governments. Yet New York city, in the state of that name, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania, are the chief cities, and may be called each the *metropolis* of the state in which it is situated, though neither of them is the seat of government in the state.

**METROPOLITAN**, *a.* Belonging to a metropolis, or to the mother church; residing in the chief city.

**METROPOLITAN**, *n.* The bishop of the mother church; an archbishop.

**METROPOLITAN**, *n.* A metropolitan. [Vol used.]

**METROPOLITIC**, } *a.* Pertaining to  
**METROPOLITICAL**, } a metropolis;  
chief or principal of cities; archiepiscopal.

**METTLE**, *n.* *met'l.* [usually supposed to be corrupted from *metal*. But it may be from W. *mezul* or *methwel*, mind, connected with *mezu*, to be able, and coinciding with the root of the Eng. *moody*; D. *moed*, courage, heart, spirit; G. *muth*, mind, courage, mettle; Sax. Sw. *mod*; Dan. *mod* or *mood*; Goth. *mod*, angry. The Sax. *modig*, L. *animus*, *animosus*, furnish an analogy in point. The radical sense of *mind*, is to advance, to push forward, whence the sense of briskness, ardor.]

**Spirit**; constitutional ardor; that temperament which is susceptible of high excitement. It is not synonymous with *courage*, though it may be accompanied with it, and is sometimes used for it.

The winged courser, like a generous horse,  
Shows most true *mettle* when you check his course.

**MET'TLED**, *a.* High spirited; ardent; full of fire.

**MET'TLESOME**, *a.* Full of spirit; possessing constitutional ardor; brisk; fiery; as a *mettlesome* horse.

**MET'TLESOMENESS**, *n.* The state of being high spirited.

**MEW**, *n.* [Sax. *mæw*; Dan. *mæge*; D. *meeuw*; G. *mewe*; Fr. *mouette*.] A sea-fowl of the genus *Larus*; a gull.

**MEW**, *n.* [Fr. *mue*; Arm. *muz*; W. *mud*, a *mew* and *mute*; D. *muile*. See the verb *to mew*, to shed fethers.]

A cage for birds; an inclosure; a place of confinement.

**MEW**, *v. t.* [from the noun.] To shut up; to inclose; to confine, as in a cage or other inclosure.

More pity that the eagle should be *mew'd*.

Close *mew'd* in their sedans, for fear of air.

**MEW**, *v. t.* [W. *mûe*, a shedding of fethers; It. *mutare*, to mew; Fr. *muer*; Arm. *muza*; G. *mausen*; D. *muilen*, to mew or molt, to *mutiny*; Sp. *muda*, change, alteration, a

*mute* letter, time of molting or shedding fethers, roost of a hawk; Port. *mudar*, to change, to mew or cast fethers or a slough; *muda*, a dumb woman, the mewing or molting of birds. The W. *mud*, a mew, is also removal, a pass or move, a change of residence, and *mute*; and the verb *mutare* is to change, to remove, comprehending the L. *muto* and *moto*. We have then clear evidence that *mew*, a cage, *mew*, to molt, and the L. *muto*, *moto*, and *mutus*, and Eng. *mutiny*, are all from one root. The primary sense is to press or drive, whence to move, to change, and to shut up, that is, to press or drive close; and this is the sense of *mute*. *Mutiny* is from motion or change.]

To shed or cast; to change; to molt. The hawk *mewed* his fethers.

Nine times the moon had *mew'd* her horns—  
Dryden.

**MEW**, *v. i.* [W. *mewian*; G. *miauen*; coinciding probably with L. *mugio*.] To cry as a cat.

**MEW**, *v. i.* To change; to put on a new appearance.

**MEW'ING**, *ppr.* Casting the fethers or skin; crying.

**MEWL**, *v. i.* [Fr. *miauler*; It. *miagolare*; Sp. *maullar* or *mayer*; coinciding in elements with L. *mugio*, to low; G. *mucken*; Dan. *mukker*, to mutter; Gr. *μυχαμαί*, to bleat; Ir. *meigiollam*; W. *migiaw*.] To cry or squall, as a child.

**MEWL'ER**, *n.* One that squalls or mewls.

**MEZE'REON**, *n.* A plant of the genus *Daphne*; the spurge olive.

**MEZZO**, in music, denotes middle, mean.

**MEZZORELIEVO**, *n.* [It. *mezzorilievo*.] Middle relief.

**MEZZOTINT'O**, *n.* [It. *mezzo*, middle, half, and *tinto*, L. *tinctus*, painted.]

A particular manner of engraving or representation of figures on copper, in imitation of painting in Indian ink. To perform this the plate is scratched and furrowed in different directions; the design is then drawn on the face, then the dents and furrows are erased from the parts where the lights of the piece are to be; the parts which are to represent shades being left.

**MI'ASM**, } [Gr. from *μιαίνω*, to pollute.]

**MIASMA**, } *n.* Infecting substances floating in the air; the effluvia or fine particles of any putrefying bodies, rising and floating in the atmosphere, and considered to be noxious to health.

**MIASMAT'IC**, *a.* Pertaining to miasma; partaking of the qualities of noxious effluvia.

**MICA**, *n.* [L. *mica*, a grain or particle; *mico*, to shine.]

A mineral of a foliated structure, consisting of thin flexible lamels or scales, having a shining surface. The scales are sometimes parallel, sometimes interwoven, sometimes wavy or undulated, sometimes representing filaments. It is called also *talck*, *glimmer*, *muscovy-glass*, and *glist*.

Jameson subdivides mica into ten subspecies, viz. mica, pinita, lepidolite, chlorite, green earth, talck, nacrite, potstone, straitite and figure stone.

**MICA'CEOUS**, *a.* Pertaining to mica; resembling mica or partaking of its properties.

**MIC'AREL**, *n.* A species of argillaceous earth; a mineral of a brownish or blackish red color, commonly crystalized in rhomboidal prisms, or in prisms of six sides.

**MICE**, *plu.* of mouse.

**MICHAELITE**, *n.* A subvariety of siliceous sinter, found in the isle of St. Michael.

**MICHAELMAS**, *n.* The feast of St. Michael, a festival of the Romish church, celebrated Sept. 29; hence,

2. In colloquial language, autumn.

**MICHE**, *v. i.* [allied perhaps to Sw. *maka*, to withdraw; Sax. *smugan*, to creep. *Meeking* or *meaching*, is still used by some of our common people in the sense of mean, cowardly, retiring.]

1. To lie hid; to skulk; to retire or shrink from view.

2. To pilfer. *Obs.*

**MICH'ER**, *n.* One who skulks, or creeps out of sight; a thief.

**MICH'ERY**, *n.* Theft; cheating.

**MICH'ING**, *ppr.* Retiring; skulking; creeping from sight; mean; cowardly.

**MICK'LE**, *a.* [Sax. *micel*, *mucel*; Scot. *myche*, *mekyl*, *muckle*; Sw. *mycken*; Sp. *mucho*; Gr. *μεγας*, *μεγαλν*. See *Much*.]

**Much**; great. [Obsolete, but retained in the Scottish language.]

**MI'CO**, *n.* A beautiful species of monkey.

**MICROCOSM**, *n.* [Gr. *μικρος*, small, and *κοσμος*, world.]

Literally, the little world; but used for man, supposed to be an epitome of the universe or great world.

**Microcosmic salt**, a triple salt of soda, ammonia and phosphoric acid, obtained from urine.

**MICROCOSMICAL**, *a.* Pertaining to the microcosm.

**MICROCOSM'IC**, *n.* [Gr. *μικρος*, small, and *ακουω*, to hear.]

An instrument to augment small sounds, and assist in hearing.

**MICROGRAPHY**, *n.* [Gr. *μικρος*, small, and *γραφω*, to describe.]

The description of objects too small to be discerned without the aid of a microscope.

**MICROMETER**, *n.* [Gr. *μικρος*, small, and *μετρον*, measure.]

An instrument for measuring small objects or spaces, by the help of which, the apparent magnitude of objects viewed through the microscope or telescope, is measured with great exactness.

**MICROPHONE**, *n.* [Gr. *μικρος*, small, and *φωνη*, sound.]

An instrument to augment small sounds; a microacoustic.

**MICROSCOPE**, *n.* [Gr. *μικρος*, small, and *σκοπεω*, to view.]

An optical instrument consisting of lenses or mirrors, which magnify objects, and thus render visible minute objects which cannot be seen by the naked eye, or enlarge the apparent magnitude of small visi-