

SES'ELI, *n.* [L. *Gr. seselis.*] A genus of plants; meadow saxifrage; hartwort.

*Encyc.*

SESQUIAL'TER, } *a.* [L. from *sesqui*,  
SESQUIAL'TERAL, } the whole and  
half as much more, and *alter*, other.]

1. In *geometry*, designating a ratio where one quantity or number contains another once, and half as much more; as 9 contains 6 and its half. *Bentley.*

2. A *sesquialteral floret*, is when a large fertile floret is accompanied with a small abortive one. *Martyn.*

SESQUIDU'PLICATE, *a.* [L. *sesqui*, supra, and *duplicatus*, double.]

Designating the ratio of two and a half to one, or where the greater term contains the lesser twice and a half, as that of 50 to 20.

SESQUIPEDAL, } *a.* [L. *sesqui*, one  
SESQUIPEDALIAN, } and a half, and  
*pedalis*, from *pes*, a foot.]

Containing a foot and a half; as a *sesquipedalian* pigmy. *Arbutnot.*

Addison uses *sesquipedal* as a noun.

SESQUIPLICATE, *a.* [L. *sesqui*, one and a half, and *plicatus*, *plio*, to fold.]

Designating the ratio of one and a half to one; as the *sesquuplicate* proportion of the periodical times of the planets. *Cheyne.*

SESQUITER'TIAN, } *a.* [L. *sesqui*, one  
SESQUITER'TIONAL, } and a half, and  
*tertius*, third.]

Designating the ratio of one and one third.

*Johnson.*

SES'QUITONE, *n.* In *music*, a minor third, or interval of three semitones. *Busby.*

SESS, *n.* [L. *sessio.*] A tax. [*Little used or not at all. See Assessment.*]

SES'SILE, *a.* [L. *sessilis.* See *Set.*] In botany, sitting on the stem. A *sessile* leaf issues directly from the stem or branch, without a petiole or footstalk. A *sessile* flower has no peduncle. *Sessile* pappus or down has no stipe, but is placed immediately on the seed. *Martyn.*

SES'SION, *n.* [Fr. from L. *sessio*, from *sedeo*. See *Set.*]

1. A sitting or being placed; as the ascension of Christ, and his *session* at the right hand of God. *Hooker.*

2. The actual sitting of a court, council, legislature, &c.; or the actual assembly of the members of these or any similar body for the transaction of business. Thus we say, the court is now in *session*, meaning that the members are assembled for business.

3. The time, space or term during which a court, council, legislature and the like, meet daily for business; or the space of time between the first meeting and the prorogation or adjournment. Thus a *session* of parliament is opened with a speech from the throne, and closed by prorogation. The *session* of a judicial court is called a term. Thus a court may have two *sessions* or four *sessions* annually. The supreme court of the United States has one annual *session*. The legislatures of most of the states have one annual *session* only; some have more. The congress of the United States has one only.

4. *Sessions*, in some of the states, is particularly used for a court of justices, held for

granting licenses to innkeepers or taverners, for laying out new highways or altering old ones and the like.

*Quarter sessions*, in England, is a court held once in every quarter, by two justices of the peace, one of whom is of the quorum, for the trial of small felonies and misdemeanors.

*Sessions of the peace*, a court consisting of justices of the peace, held in each county for inquiring into trespasses, larcenies, forestalling, &c. and in general, for the conservation of the peace.

*Laws of New York.*

SESS'-POOL, *n.* [*sess* and *pool.*] A cavity sunk in the earth to receive and retain the sediment of water conveyed in drains. *Sess-pools* should be placed at proper distances in all drains, and particularly should one be placed at the entrance. *Encyc.*

SESTERCE, *n.* [Fr. from L. *sestertius.*] A Roman coin or denomination of money, in value the fourth part of a denarius, and originally containing two asses and a half, about two pence sterling or four cents. The *sestertium*, that is, *sestertium pondus*, was two pounds and a half, or two hundred and fifty denarii; about seven pounds sterling, or thirty one dollars. One qualification of a Roman knight was the possession of estate of the value of four hundred thousand sesterces; that of a senator was double this sum.

Authors mention also a copper *sesterce*, of the value of one third of a penny sterling.

*Sesterce* was also used by the ancients for a thing containing two wholes and a half; the *as* being taken for the integer. *Encyc.*

SET, *v. t.* pret. pp. *set.* [Sax. *setan*, *setan*, *settan*, to set or place, to seat or fix, to appease, to calm, L. *sedo*; to compose, as a book, to dispose or put in order, to establish, found or institute, to possess, to cease; G. *setzen*, to set, to risk or lay, as a wager, to plant, to appoint, to leap or make an onset; D. *zetten*; Sw. *sätta*; Dan. *seller*; W. *sodi*, to fix, to constitute; *gosodi*, to set, to lay, to put, to establish, to ordain; *gosod*, a setting or placing, a *site*, a statute, an onset or assault; L. *sedo*, *sedeo* and *sido*, coinciding with *sil*, but all of one family. From the Norman orthography of this word, we have *assess*, *assise*. See *Assess*. Heb. Ch. יָרַד and שָׁחַ to set, to place; Syr.  $\Delta\Delta\omega$  to found, to establish. Class Sd. No. 31. 56. The primary sense is to throw, to drive, or intransitively, to rush.]

1. To put or place; to fix or cause to rest in a standing posture. We *set* a house on a wall of stone; we *set* a book on a shelf. In this use, *set* differs from *lay*; we *set* a thing on its end or basis; we *lay* it on its side.

2. To put or place in its proper or natural posture. We *set* a chest or trunk on its bottom, not on its end; we *set* a bedstead or a table on its feet or legs.

3. To put, place or fix in any situation. God *set* the sun, moon and stars in the firmament.

I do *set* my bow in the cloud. Gen. ix.

4. To put into any condition or state.

The Lord thy God will *set* thee on high. Deut. xxviii.

I am come to *set* a man at variance against his father. Matt. x.

So we say, to *set in order*, to *set at ease*, to *set to work*, or *at work*.

5. To put; to fix; to attach to.

The Lord *set* a mark upon Cain. Gen. iv.

So we say, to *set* a label on a vial or a bale.

6. To fix; to render motionless; as, the eyes are *set*; the jaws are *set*.

7. To put or fix, as a price. We *set* a price on a house, farm or horse.

8. To fix; to state by some rule.

The gentleman spoke with a *set* gesture and countenance. *Carew.*

The town of Berne has handsome fountains planted at *set* distances from one end of the street to the other. *Addison.*

9. To regulate or adjust; as, to *set* a time-piece by the sun.

He *sets* his judgment by his passion.

*Prior.*

10. To fit to music; to adapt with notes; as, to *set* the words of a psalm to music.

*Set* thy own songs, and sing them to thy lute. *Dryden.*

11. To pitch; to begin to sing in public.

He *set* the hundredth psalm. *Spectator.*

12. To plant, as a shrub, tree or vegetable. *Prior.*

13. To variegate, intersperse or adorn with something fixed; to stud; as, to *set* any thing with diamonds or pearls.

High on their heads, with jewels richly *set*, Each lady wore a radiant coronet. *Dryden.*

14. To return to its proper place or state; to replace; to reduce from a dislocated or fractured state; as, to *set* a bone or a leg.

15. To fix; to place; as the heart or affections.

*Set* your affections on things above. Col. iii. —Minds altogether *set* on trade and profit. *Addison.*

16. To fix firmly; to predetermine.

The heart of the sons of men is fully *set* in them to do evil. Eccles. viii.

Hence we say, a thing is done of *set* purpose; a man is *set*, that is, firm or obstinate in his opinion or way.

17. To fix by appointment; to appoint; to assign; as, to *set* a time for meeting; to *set* an hour or a day. *Bacon. South.*

18. To place or station; to appoint to a particular duty.

Am I a sea or a whale, that thou *settest* a watch over me? Job vii.

19. To stake at play. [*Little used.*]

*Prior.*

20. To offer a wager at dice to another. [*Little used.*]

21. To fix in metal. And him too rich a jewel to be *set* In vulgar metal for a vulgar use. *Dryden.*

22. To fix; to cause to stop; to obstruct; as, to *set* a coach in the mire. The wagon or the team was *set* at the hill. In some of the states, *stall* is used in a like sense.

23. To embarrass; to perplex.

They are hard *set* to represent the bill as a grievance. *Addison.*

24. To put in good order; to fix for use; to bring to a fine edge; as, to *set* a razor.

25. To loose and extend; to spread; as, to *set* the sails of a ship.