

Griev'd with each step, tormented with each stay. *Fairfax.*

4. Restraint of passion; moderation; caution; steadiness; sobriety.

With prudent stay, he long deferr'd  
The rough contention. *Obs. Philips.*

5. A fixed state.

Alas, what stay is there in human state!  
*Dryden.*

6. Prop; support.

Trees serve as so many stays for their vines.  
*Addison.*

My only strength and stay!  
The Lord is my stay. *Ps. xviii.*

The stay and the staff, the means of supporting and preserving life. *Is. iii.*

7. Steadiness of conduct. *Todd.*

8. In the rigging of a ship, a large strong rope employed to support the mast, by being extended from its upper end to the stem of the ship. The fore-stay reaches from the foremost head towards the bowsprit end; the main-stay extends to the ship's stem; the mizen-stay is stretched to a collar on the main-mast, above the quarter deck, &c. *Mar. Dict.*

Stays, in seamanship, implies the operation of going about or changing the course of a ship, with a shifting of the sails. To be in stays, is to lie with the head to the wind, and the sails so arranged as to check her progress.

To miss stays, to fail in the attempt to go about. *Mar. Dict.*

STAY'ED, *pp.* Staid; fixed; settled; sober. It is now written staid, which see.

STAY'EDLY, *adv.* Composedly; gravely; moderately; prudently; soberly. [*Little used.*]

STAY'EDNESS, *n.* Moderation; gravity; sobriety; prudence. [*See Staidness.*]

2. Solidity; weight. [*Little used.*]

STAY'ER, *n.* One that stops or restrains; one who upholds or supports; that which props. *Camden.*

STAY'PLACE, *n.* A lace for fastening the bodice in female dress. *Swift.*

STAY'LESS, *a.* Without stop or delay. [*Little used.*]

STAY'MAKER, *n.* One whose occupation is to make stays. *Spenser.*

STAYS, *n. plu.* A bodice; a kind of waistcoat stiffened with whalebone or other thing, worn by females. *Gay.*

2. Stays, of a ship. [*See Stay.*]

3. Station; fixed anchorage. *Sidney.*

4. Any support; that which keeps another extended.

Weavers, stretch your stays upon the weft.  
*Dryden.*

STAY-SAIL, *n.* [*stay and sail.*] Any sail extended on a stay. *Mar. Dict.*

STAY-TACKLE, *n.* [*stay and tackle.*] A large tackle attached to the main-stay by means of a pendant, and used to hoist heavy bodies, as boats, butts of water and the like. *Mar. Dict.*

STEAD, } [*Goth. stads; Sax. Dan. sted; G. statt; D. stede.* See Stay.]

1. Place; in general.

Fly this fearful stead. *Spenser.*  
[*In this sense not used.*]

2. Place or room which another had or might have, noting substitution, replacing or filling the place of another; as,

David died and Solomon reigned in his stead.

God hath appointed me another seed in stead of Abel, whom Cain slew. *Gen. iv.*

3. The frame on which a bed is laid.

Sallow the feet, the borders and the stead.  
*Dryden.*

[But we never use this word by itself in this sense. We always use *bedstead.*]

To stand in stead, to be of use or great advantage.

The smallest act of charity shall stand us in great stead. *Atterbury.*

STEAD, STED, in names of places distant from a river or the sea, signifies place, as above; but in names of places situated on a river or harbor, it is from Sax. *stathe*, border, bank, shore. Both words perhaps are from one root.

STEAD, *v. l. sted.* To help; to support; to assist; as, it nothing steads us. *Obs.*

2. To fill the place of another. *Obs. Shak.*

STEAD/FAST, } [*stead and fast.*] Fast

STED/FAST, } *a.* fixed; firm; firmly fixed or established; as the *stedfast* globe of earth. *Spenser.*

2. Constant; firm; resolute; not fickle or wavering.

Abide *stedfast* to thy neighbor in the time of his trouble. *Eccles.*

Him resist, *stedfast* in the faith. *1 Pet. v.*

3. Steady; as *stedfast* sight. *Dryden.*

STEAD/FASTLY, } *adv.* Firmly; with constancy or steadiness of mind.

*Stedfastly* believe that whatever God has revealed is infallibly true. *Wake.*

STEAD/FASTNESS, } *n.* Firmness of standing; fixedness in place.

2. Firmness of mind or purpose; fixedness in principle; constancy; resolution; as the *stedfastness* of faith. He adhered to his opinions with *stedfastness*.

STEAD/ILY, } *adv.* With firmness of standing or position; without tottering, shaking or leaning. He kept his arm *steddily* directed to the object.

2. Without wavering, inconstancy or irregularity; without deviating. He *steddily* pursues his studies.

STEAD/INESS, } *n.* Firmness of standing or position; a state of being not tottering or easily moved or shaken. A man stands with *steddiness*; he walks with *steddiness*.

2. Firmness of mind or purpose; constancy; resolution. We say, a man has *steddiness* of mind, *steddiness* in opinion, *steddiness* in the pursuit of objects.

3. Consistent uniform conduct.

*Steddiness* is a point of prudence as well as of courage. *L'Estrange.*

STEAD/Y, } [*Sax. stedig.*] Firm in standing or position; fixed; not tottering or shaking; applicable to any object.

2. Constant in mind, purpose or pursuit; not fickle, changeable or wavering; not easily moved or persuaded to alter a purpose; as a man *steddy* in his principles, *steddy* in his purpose, *steddy* in the pursuit of an object, *steddy* in his application to business.

3. Regular; constant; undeviating; uniform; as the *steddy* course of the sun.

Steer the ship a *steddy* course. A large river runs with a *steddy* stream.

4. Regular; not fluctuating; as a *steddy* breeze of wind.

STEAD/Y, } *v. l.* To hold or keep from shaking, reeling or falling; to support; to make or keep firm. *Steddy* my hand.

STEAK, *n.* [*Dan. steeg, steg,* a piece of roast meat; *steger*, to roast or dress by the fire, to broil, to fry; *Sw. stek*, a steak; *steka*, to roast or broil; *G. stück*, a piece.]

A slice of beef or pork broiled, or cut for broiling. [As far as my observation extends, this word is never applied to any species of meat, except to beef and pork, nor to these dressed in any way except by broiling. Possibly it may be used of a piece fried.]

STEAL, *v. l. pret. stole*; *pp. stolen, stole.* [*Sax. stalan, stelan*; *G. stehlen*; *D. steelen*; *Dan. sticler*; *Sw. stöla*; *Ir. tiallam*; probably from the root of *L. tollo*, to take, to lift.]

1. To take and carry away feloniously, as the personal goods of another. To constitute stealing or theft, the taking must be felonious, that is, with an intent to take what belongs to another, and without his consent. *Blackstone.*

Let him that stole, steal no more. *Eph. iv.*

2. To withdraw or convey without notice or clandestinely.

They could insinuate and steal themselves under the same by submission. *Spenser.*

3. To gain or win by address or gradual and imperceptible means.

Variety of objects has a tendency to steal away the mind from its steady pursuit of any subject. *Watts.*

So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. *2 Sam. xv.*

STEAL, *v. l.* To withdraw or pass privily; to slip along or away unperceived.

Fixed of mind to fly all company, one night she stole away. *Sidney.*

From whom you now must steal and take no leave. *Shak.*

A soft and solemn breathing sound  
Rose like a steam of rich distill'd perfumes,  
And stole upon the air. *Milton.*

2. To practice theft; to take feloniously. He steals for a livelihood.

Thou shalt not steal. *Ex. xx.*

STEAL'ER, *n.* One that steals; a thief.

STEAL'ING, *ppr.* Taking the goods of another feloniously; withdrawing imperceptibly; gaining gradually.

STEAL'INGLY, *adv.* Silly; privately, or by an invisible motion. [*Little used.*]

STEALTH, *n. stelh.* The act of stealing; theft.

The owner proveth the stealth to have been committed on him by such an outlaw. *Spenser.*

2. The thing stolen; as cabins that are dens to cover stealth. [*Not in use.*]

3. Secret act; clandestine practice; means unperceived employed to gain an object; way or manner not perceived; used in a good or bad sense.

Do good by stealth, and blush to find it fame. *Pope.*

The monarch blinded with desire of wealth,  
With steel invades the brother's life by stealth. *Dryden.*